

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING
MARCH 3, 2026
BY ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Monique Cipriano at mcipriano@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wennerstrand called the meeting to order at 7:00p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Chair Wennerstrand called the Roll: Anne Wennerstrand, Jim Frayer, Jan Degenshein, Richard Dellinger, Dajuan Wiggins, Darlene Young (7:03p.m.), Jesse Buccolo (7:03p.m.)

At Roll Call there were five (5) Committee members present, constituting a quorum. Darlene Young and Jesse Buccolo arrived at 7:03p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Anne Wennerstrand, Chair; Jim Frayer, Jan Degenshein, Richard Dellinger, Dajuan Wiggins, Darlene Young (7:03p.m.), Jesse Buccolo (7:03p.m.)

STAFF: Vanessa Valadares, Chief of Operations and Public Works; James Meehan, Principal Engineer; Thomas Szabo, Waste Programs Manager; Paul Sotnik, Senior Civil Engineer; Drew Berndlmaier, Senior Civil Engineer; Daniel Stanton, Senior Civil Engineer

OTHERS: Councilmember Nicole Eaddy, Councilmember Jalin Sead

Chair Wennerstrand made a few remarks before the meeting. She acknowledged that March is Women’s History Month and last week was National Engineering Week. She extended appreciation and acknowledgment to the terrific female engineer at the helm of this public works department and all the engineering staff. She then introduced the senior engineers: Paul Sotnik, Drew Berndlmaier and Daniel Stanton. She introduced Tom Szabo, who is the waste programs manager, the Principal Engineer, James Meehan and the administrative staff Dilene Byrd and Monique Cipriano.

III. PUBLIC HEARING

A. PUBLIC HEARING FOR THE HONORARY NAMING OF KNIGHT STREET TO CUTIE MAE JORDAN WAY. THE PUBLIC HEARING SHALL BE CONDUCTED IN ORDER TO HEAR ALL PARTIES INTERESTED IN COMMENTING ON THE PROPOSED HONORARY STREET NAMING AND TO TAKE SUCH ACTION ON SAID NAMING THAT THE COMMITTEE MAY DEEM ADVISABLE.

Public Hearing for the Honorary Naming of Knight Street to Cutie Mae Jordan Way. The Public Hearing shall be conducted in order to hear all parties interested in commenting on the proposed Honorary Street naming and to take such action on said naming that the Committee may deem advisable.

Diane Lauricella of 21 Little Fox Lane. She is in support of the honorary naming of Knight Street to be named Honorary Cutie Mae. She has heard wonderful stories about Cutie Mae. She said, in deference to Women’s Month, she thinks it’s quite fitting and a great idea.

Andre Baker Jr. 84 South Main Street. He is the owner of Baker Funeral Services. He has served on the Bridgeport City Council. He said he would review street naming’s and took that job seriously. He said Cutie Mae Jordan truly deserves this honor and she meets all the criteria. She has accomplished so much in the community and done so much for Norwalk. He suggested a QR Code be placed on the pole, so people could pull up their history. Supports the honorary street naming.

Erika Foster Senteo. She is the Justice Minister of the 1st Congregational Church on the Green in Norwalk. She shared Cutie Mae’s contributions to their church. She said in

1993 at the request of their then pastor, Reverend Henry K. Yordon, Cutie Mae established a gospel choir and music ministry at the 1st Congregational Church. Under Cutie Mae's leadership, the choir became one of the most recognized and respected choirs in the city. The choir frequently performed at city events and churches throughout the region. She retired in 2015 and still stepped up to assist when they were in need of a gospel choir director and managed to get them back on track. On September 12, 2021, the 1st Congregational Church proclaimed the first annual Gospel Choir Appreciation Day, which was also known as Cutie Mae Jordan Day, in recognition of her lifelong dedication to teaching the word of God through gospel music. She said that Cutie Mae Jordan represents the best of Norwalk. She represents faith, excellence, mentorship, perseverance, and community leadership and a street bearing her name would serve not only as a tribute to her extraordinary life but also as a visible reminder to future generations of the power of service, music, and unwavering commitment to one's calling. She hopes they vote in the affirmative.

Ilya DeNunzio of 5 Michaels Street. He said that he has the honor of getting to know Cutie Mae Jordan through some family members. She is a true woman of God and shows her leadership. She shows her faith and excellence through the City of Norwalk. He said it is a true blessing for her to have this privilege and honor to have her name on Knight Street.

Chair Wennerstrand closed the public hearing at 7:09p.m.

IV. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. REGULAR MEETING: FEBRUARY 3, 2026

There were no changes, deletions, or omissions to the minutes as presented.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM**

****MR. WIGGINS ABSTAINED**

****MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENSTION**

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Diane Lauricella of 21 Little Fox Lane. She said she is a professional waste management consultant and a former investigator. She is looking at metrics as she is familiar with waste management professionals and volunteers who are passionate about recycling and food waste management across the state. She spoke about the bulky waste and feels there are missed opportunities. She believes that instead of hauling away bulky waste, they can train and teach the residents to be more

discriminated against on what they throw away as waste and instead look at what could be recycled. She would like to hear more about that. She is requesting they form a swap shop opportunity both popup and permanent. She also would like a year-long mattress collection center on Smith Street or anywhere in the city. She thinks Eyecycle is a gimmick, and they could do better with a company that is closer to Norwalk. Ms. Lauricella feels social media are not enough. She would like them to be more creative about getting the word out to the residents.

Kyle Jordan of 28 MLK Drive. He is speaking on behalf of Cutie Mae Jordan. He is the grandson of Cutie May. He initiated the honorary street naming. Cutie Mae Jordan began her journey on Knight Street. He gave some background information about Cutie Mae. Mr. Jordan stated that having this honor will inspire so many others. Her resume blew him away. He hadn't realized the impact she had on others until he was older. She has spoken life into people. Cutie Mae has song at the pentagon. Mr. Jordan said his grandmother encourages him daily.

Mack Allen, resident of Bridgeport. He felt compelled to speak on her behalf. He is her son-in-law. He said that there has never been a place in the State of Connecticut where someone hasn't heard of Cutie Mae Jordan and spoke so highly of her and Norwalk. He had never met anyone so magnetic. Many people have stated to him, that if it weren't for Ms. Cutie Mae Jordan, they would have been dead or in prison. Due to her training and teachings in the choir, many of those people that were in the choir have now become musicians or teachers, are now reaching out to the community and young people because of what she has done and that is a great reflection on the City of Norwalk. She is an inspiration to others. He said as an outsider, looking at that would be a tremendous honor and accolade, especially for a 90-year-old woman who is still vibrant and strong.

Sean Owens, resident of Virginia. She is the daughter of Cutie May Jordan. She was asked to sing the national anthem at the Pentagon in 2007. Her contributions to Norwalk include an invitation from the Board of Education to come and sing and play for young people, especially in elementary schools. She would volunteer her time and sing at nursing homes and senior housing as well. She always has a kind and uplifting word for everyone. Ms. Owens is proud to be her daughter. She has given so much to Norwalk. She said her parents got married on Christmas in 1955, the first Sunday in 1956, her parents went to Bethel AME Church on Knight Street and joined the church that day. That is why Knight Street has been the perfect street since it all began there. She supports and hopes they approve the honorary naming of Cutie Mae Way.

Chair Wennerstrand closed public participation at 7:25p.m.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. APPROVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF KNIGHT STREET TO CUTIE MAE JORDAN WAY.

Ms. Young spoke in support of the honorary street naming. She said she is a great woman that has left her mark on a great city and she is still around to do so. She said that her life, legacy and love will live in the hearts of so many people. She is thankful that as a city they have the opportunity to honor people who have touched the lives of so many people in different ways.

Mr. Degenshein spoke in support of the honorary street naming. He said the largest measure of a street name honoring is the inspiration that person will have on future generations and Cutie Mae definitely fits that category.

Mr. Sead spoke in support of the honorary street naming. He said she is a great asset to the community. He said that it is said it takes a village to raise a child, but Cutie Mae raised a village. She was his grandmother's choir director. She has mentored and comforted so many people with her voice during funerals or other celebratory events. He said she has done so much for the community and it would be an honor to have her name on Knight Street.

Ms. Valadares mentioned that the rules are different for people that are still living and there must be a 2/3rd plus one vote in favor to pass.

Chair Wennerstrand spoke in support of the honorary street naming. She doesn't know her personally but has heard so much about her. She sounds like such an inspiration. She was moved by her bio, three days after the MLK assassination, April 7, 1968, she sang on the Norwalk Green with over 3,000 people there, the Battle Hymn of the Republic, and MLK's favorite hymns Precious Lord and We Shall Overcome. This connects to our history and our future.

****MS. YOUNG MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

Chair Wennerstrand stated the next step in this matter will be to forward the item to the full council for a vote at their next meeting. The next City Council Meeting will be on Tuesday, March 10, 2026 at 7:30p.m. They are looking for a 2/3 plus one (1) majority vote for this. Chair Wennerstrand invited them to speak during public participation for the honorary naming.

B. 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH YIELD INDUSTRIES, LLC FOR CITY PURCHASING

DEPARTMENT PROJECT 4489 - PROJECT BR2026-1 – REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR BRIDGE NO. 102-025 – BONNYBROOK TRAIL OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK AND BRIDGE NO. 102-029 – BONNYBROOK TRAIL OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED

\$334,350.00.

ACCOUNT NO.

09 24 4021 5777 C0315

09 25 4021 5777 C0315

09 26 4021 5777 C0315

2. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH YIELD INDUSTRIES, LLC FOR CITY PURCHASING DEPARTMENT PROJECT 4489 - PROJECT BR2026-1 – REHABILITATION PROJECT FOR BFORGE NO. 102-025 – BONNYBROOK TRAIL OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK AND BRIDGE NO. 102-029 – BONNYBROOK TRAIL OVER HOLY GHOST FATHERS BROOK, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$33,435.00.

ACCOUNT NO.

09 24 4021 5777 C0315

09 25 4021 5777 C0315

09 26 4021 5777 C0315

Chair Wennerstrand read Item B1 and Item B2 together.

Mr. Meehan reported that there are two (2) bridges to be repaired on Bonnybrook Trail Road. They have advertised and received the bids. These repairs are for structural repairs of the two (2) bridges. There are a few repairs to the headwalls on the bridges. There is a procedure called repointing where some stones are out of place and need to be reset or reconfigured. The topography has to be regraded as well. Guiderails are deteriorating and need to be replaced. This is funded through capital funds. The bridges have no historic significance.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

C. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND ALCAIDE, INC., DBA A&J CONSTRUCTION FOR PROJECT PM2025-2 PAVING AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS (LOCIP REIMBURSEMENT), FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$215,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO.

09 26 4021 5777 C0021

Mr. Meehan reported that they are looking to finish the corner work on Grumman and Newtown Avenue. LOCIP Reimbursement is a state grant that is awarded annually and the funding varies each year.

****MR. DEGENSHEIN MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

D. 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR PROJECT BID NO. 4493, PROJECT RD2026-1 ROADWAY PAVING AND SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR ROTON AVENUE AND PINE POINT ROAD (MCKINLEY STREET TO NEARWATER ROAD) FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$1,203,301.25.

ACCOUNT NO.

<u>09 19 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 21 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 20 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 22 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 22 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 24 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 23 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 24 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 21 4021 5777 C0440</u>
<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0440</u>
<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0440</u>	

2. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT WITH BURNS CONSTRUCTION COMPANY, INC. FOR PROJECT BID NO. 4493, PROJECT RD2026-1 ROADWAY PAVING AND SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR ROTON AVENUE AND PINE POINT ROAD (MCKINLEY STREET TO NEARWATER ROAD)FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$180,495.19.

ACCOUNT NO.

<u>09 19 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 21 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 20 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 22 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 22 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 24 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 23 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 24 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0318</u>
<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 21 4021 5777 C0440</u>
<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0021</u>	<u>09 25 4021 5777 C0440</u>
<u>09 26 4021 5777 C0440</u>	

Chair Wennerstrand read Item D1 and Item D2 together.

Mr. Meehan reported that they have completed the drainage work on Rowayton Avenue and are looking to pave the road and, as part of the complete streets, they will install sidewalks. Construction should begin in April and complete in September. The bids came in lower than their engineering numbers and all the numbers were confirmed and accurate. This project is also funded through capital funds. The Committee began a discussion about timing for construction, weather-dependent issues, coordinating with the water company and replacing trees. He spoke about green infrastructure.

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

E. 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND INSTRUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE DRAINAGE EASEMENTS FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK FROM PROPERTY OWNERS LOCATED AT 13 HEATHER LANE AND 15 HEATHER LANE, PER DRAINAGE EASEMENT MAP 13 HEATHER LANE AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT MAP 15 HEATHER LANE.

2. REFERRAL TO PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSION FOR REVIEW AND REPORT: ACQUIRE A DRAINAGE EASEMENT FOR PURPOSES OF MAINTAINING NEWLY INSTALLED STORM DRAINAGE, PER DRAINAGE EASEMENT MAP 13 HEATHER LANE AND DRAINAGE EASEMENT MAP 15 HEATHER LANE.

Chair Wennerstrand read Item E1 and Item E2 together.

Mr. Stanton explained the 8-24 referral process to the committee. The project has been completed. They have acquired the easements prior to beginning the work. They are requesting to finalize the easement. The 8-24 is a general state requirement.

****MR. FRAYER MOVED THE ITEM
MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY

F. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, BARBARA C. SMYTH, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT TO THE FEBRUARY 6, 2024 AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS INC. FOR PROJECT PSC2023-1 ON-CALL SURVEYING AND MAPPING SERVICES. THE AMENDMENT IS TO EXTEND THE AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR AT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$200,000.00.

**ACCOUNT NO.
09 26 4021 5777 C0318
09 26 4021 5777 C0021**

09 26 4021 5777 C0302
09 26 3750 5777 C0824
01 41 50 5585

Mr. Meehan reported that they do not have a licensed surveyor on staff, so they contract out surveying services and would like to extend this contract for another year. There is an inflation rate attached to each year's extension.

Ms. Valadares stated that they are paid an hourly rate and what changes every year is the hourly rate. She explained how they derived at the amount. They share this contract with TMP as well.

****MR. DELLINGER MOVED THE ITEM**
****MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. REPORTS

A. TREE OPERATIONS AND PROGRAMMING

Ms. Valadares went over the tree report with the committee.

B. MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE & RECYCLING REPORT

Mr. Szabo went over the solid waste and recycling report with the committee. The new program began on July 1st, and they do not serve as many units as they were before. They are not collected from commercial buildings and so the numbers have decreased. They are still comparing from last year, but the baseline is not true because last year they collected from everyone and now they are not. Once they have done this for more than a year, they will be able to retrieve more accurate numbers. Food scrap has been running steadily. The Rowayton location is the biggest contributor. March will be the first bulky waste collection month for the northeast portion of the city. There were about 70 residents that signed up for this service, which is on par with last year. The Eyecycle event is coming up. They advertise via social media, the city's facebook, newspapers and the city's website. Pamphlets went out with the new garbage carts. Any resident can sign up on the website, they will be able to receive calls or emails related to a certain service. They do not yet have the option to blast emails to residents.

C. ONGOING PROJECTS STATUS

Mr. Meehan gave an overview of the ongoing projects' status. A discussion ensued about the flooding in the Broad River Area. It was decided to have a presentation

available to the committee at the next meeting about flooding.

VIII. DISCUSSION

Chair Wennerstrand commented on last week's blizzard. She acknowledges Ms. Valadares and her staff's stellar response to the snow removal.

Ms. Valadares stated that the drivers really do all the hard work. She began to explain how staffing works for a storm. They have enough salt for the next storm, and they are currently working on obtaining more salt for future use.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Young moved to adjourn.
Motion passed unanimously.
Meeting was adjourned at 8:26p.m.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

A. TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2026
PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
7:00 P.M. REGULAR MEETING
BY WAY OF VIDEOCONFERENCE/TELECONFERENCE