

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
SEPTEMBER 12, 2022**

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

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

ATTENDANCE: Edwin Camacho, Chair; Ed Abrams; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette;
Artie Kassimis

STAFF: Mark Conte, Assistant Chief, Norwalk Fire Department;
Henry Dachowitz, Chief Financial Officer; Irene Dixon, City Clerk;
Thomas Ellis, Director of Management and Budgets; Gino Gatto, Chief
Norwalk Fire Department

Mr. Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. Ms. Dixon called the Roll as indicated above. A Quorum was present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

August 1, 2022 – Regular Meeting

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. ABRAMS)**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (Section A) None

3. TRANSFER AGENDA (Section B)

LEGISLATIVE

FROM	TO	AMOUNT
01-0200-5140 Wage & Salary f/t	01-0200-5258 Other Prof Svcs	\$9,440
01-0200-5311 Office Supplies	01-0200-5258 Other Prof Svcs	<u>\$3,560</u>
		\$13,000

Mr. Ellis reviewed the item and said the Common Council estimated the cost for outside Council services for the City of Norwalk Charter re-write to be \$75,000. However, they did not budget for this item.

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO APPROVE THE TRANSFER REQUEST**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

4. OTHER BUSINESS (Section C)

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTIONS:**

Ms. Dixon read the following resolutions:

1. RESOLUTION, REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$195,000 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ROOF REPLACEMENT AT STATION #5 AT MEADOW STREET.

Deputy Chief Conte reviewed the request for a roof replacement at Station #5. He explained that this is a 1971 building. This request will bring the roof and insulation up to Code. He said that he and Chief Gatto met with SNEW to discuss placing solar panels on the roof; however, they would need to replace the entire roof if they wanted to install solar panels. He described the current condition of the roof.

Mr. Frayer asked how they went so far over the bids. Deputy Chief Conte explained it is all the same scope of work. They increased the scope of work because they hired an architect. As a result, they went out with the architectural bid. The Board discussed the bids. The total contract with Goldseal is \$313,000 with a 10% contingency.

Mr. Jellerette noticed that on page 10 of the backup, the request is for \$195,900 rather than \$195,000 stated in the Resolution.

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS FOLLOWS:
1. RESOLUTION, REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$195,900 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT FOR ROOF
REPLACEMENT AT STATION #5 AT MEADOW STREET.
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Dachowitz noted that an RFP was done, and an architect was selected. He asked if they selected a winner before opening all the bids. Chief Gatto said they selected the low bidder.

Mr. Frayer asked if the Purchasing Department reviewed the bids. Mr. Dachowitz said that in his opinion, it is a combination of the Purchasing Department and the department expert.

**** MR. JELLERETTE MOVED TO PASS THE RESOLUTION AS AMENDED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**2. RESOLUTION, REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$25,000 FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE THREE NEW
VEHICLES.**

Mr. Camacho said the memo of September 12th details this request. The bid for three vehicles came in at \$75,000; however, due to inflation and supply chain issues, there is a shortfall of \$25,000.

Mr. Abrams asked if Ford offers electric vehicles. Chief Gatto said Ford is not taking orders for them anymore.

**** MR. ABRAMS MOVED TO PASS THE RESOLUTION
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (Section D)

Financial reports

- Oak Hills Park Budget – July, 2022

Mr. Ellis reported that Oak Hills is doing well and paid \$13,000 to the City. They are in the process of creating more user friendly reports that will go out on a monthly basis.

- Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2022-23

Mr. Dachowitz reported they finished raising the summer funding and the City got a favorable rate due to its AAA bond rating. He said they were looking to raise \$90 million and the underwriters agreed to issue \$82 million in bonds, but they achieved the \$90 million. They priced the deal on August 18th; in June the muni market was lagging.

Mr. Dachowitz explained that when he arrived in Norwalk, the City would borrow a lot less. There are authorized capital projects that they have not yet borrowed for. They can not borrow by budget, but instead they borrow by cash flow. This was a large borrow for the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Dachowitz explained that the money is available to be spent. He said he expects interest rates to keep going up and expects we will be facing a recession. Mr. Dachowitz said he is very concerned. As a result, they need to put out a tight budget. It is a balancing act. Mr. Dachowitz added that the rating agencies love Norwalk's Rainy Day fund.

Mr. Jellerette asked if the State reimbursement for the school projects is in effect now. Mr. Dachowitz said the reimbursement is in effect and that will be a very important component when they do their forecasting. The problem is the bigger projects, for example, the new Norwalk High School. They will have to bond at some point for the cash differential.

Mr. Jellerette said he was happy about the rating agencies rating and wants it to stay that way. Mr. Frayer thanked Mr. Dachowitz and the Finance staff, this Board, the Pension Board and the Finance Claims Committee. He said they are all very knowledgeable and he appreciates their guidance and support. He noted that there are interesting times coming up.

The remainder of the agenda is for informational purposes.

- Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2022-23
- Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2022-23
- Police Wages FY 2022-23
- Fire Wages FY 2022-23
- Public Works Wages FY 2022-23
- Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report FY 2022-23
- Tax Collector's Narrative – July 2022
- Tax Collector's Report – July 2022

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services