

**CITY OF NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING**

NOVEMBER 28, 2023

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

**ALL COMMON COUNCIL ACTIONS TAKEN AT THIS MEETING TO APPROVE
EXPENDITURES AND CONTRACTS OR TO ACCEPT BIDS AND
OTHER PROPOSALS REQUIRING THE EXPENDITURE OF CITY FUNDS ARE
SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions can be found at norwalkct.gov/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 provide "live comments" will need to register in advance and 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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. 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.

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 read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:32 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as follows:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Mr. Johan Lopez	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalen Sead
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Jenn McMurrer	Ms. Melissa Murray
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Doug Sutton
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were 15 Common Councilmembers present. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor, Harry Rilling; City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: November 14, 2023

The following correction was made to page 5:

He thanked Ms. Young and Majority Leader and Mr. Meek as Minority Leader should read:

He thanked Ms. Young as Majority Leader and Mr. Meek as Minority Leader.

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH SIX (6) ABSTENTIONS (MR. LOPEZ; MS. SMYTH;**
MR. SEAD; MR. WIGGINS; MS. MURRAY; MS. DUNN AND MR. SUTTON)

Special Meeting: November 21, 2023

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS**
PRESENTED
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. DUNN)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted. Speakers are Norwalk residents unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Diane Lauricella congratulated everyone on the recent election. She addressed items 7A3A and 7A3B and noted that the amendment for 2023 was not included in the meeting packet. She said she was told by Mr. Stowers, Director of Recreation and Parks that the amendment was

mostly about drainage. She said she would like to see wording related to the electrical service and that it must be renewal energy because the site is in the sun. In addition, she asked that sooner rather than later they have a neutral party evaluate natural turf and artificial turf.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

Mayor Rilling announced the resignation of Ashley Gulyas from the Commission on the Status of Women because she was elected to the Board of Education.

APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments announced this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling reported that the City's second annual Holiday Extravaganza held last Saturday was a huge success. He invited the community to join him at City Hall on December 1, 2023, for a Tree Lighting Celebration. He also invited the public to join him and Rabbi Hecht on December 7, 2023 at 5:00 p.m. at Stew Leonard's for a Menorah Lighting Ceremony. Mayor Rilling announced the second annual Wall Street Wonderland Celebration taking place this Saturday, December 2nd from 3:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations, appointments or reappointments announced this evening.

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

**1. AUTHORIZATION TO DISCUSS CLAIMS:
IN RE AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAM PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION, MDL NO. 2-18-MN-2873-RMG. CITY OF CAMDEN, ET AL. V. 3M COMPANY, CASE NO. 2:23-CV-01314-RMG IN RE AQUEOUS FILM-FORMING FOAM PRODUCTS LIABILITY LITIGATION, MDL NO. 2-18-MN-2873-RMG. CITY OF CAMDEN, ET AL. V. DUPONT, CASE NO. 2:23-CV-03230-RMG EXECUTIVE SESSION**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK'S RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR 31ST ANNUAL FITNESS FUN RUN TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2ND, 2023, FROM 10:00 AM TO 11:00 AM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3RD, 2023. SETUP TO BEGIN AT 8:30 AM WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 700 PEOPLE.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK'S RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION & PARKS FOR THEIR 3RD ANNUAL JINGLE BELL 5K TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9TH, 2023, FROM 9:30 A.M. TO 11:30 A.M. SETUP TO BEGIN AT 8:30 A.M. WITH TEARDOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 300 PEOPLE.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY & GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE TOWN OF NEW

**CANAAN FOR ACCEPTANCE OF NEW CANAAN POLICE DEPARTMENT
PRISONERS FOR HOLDING PENDING ARRAIGNMENT DURING THE
RENOVATION OF NEW CANAAN POLICE STATION.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FIRST AMENDMENT TO THE APRIL 24, 2020, AGREEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC., REGARDING THE BROAD RIVER PARK, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$108,000.00 IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED SCOPE OF SERVICES DATED AUGUST 15, 2023.**

ACCOUNT NO. 0921 6030 5777 C0658

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$10,800.00 FOR PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERING SERVICES WITH STANTEC CONSULTING SERVICES, INC., REGARDING THE BROAD RIVER PARK.

ACCOUNT NO. 0921 6030 5777 C0658

Ms. Valdares, Chief of Operations and Public Works reviewed the item and said they need to do this extra work because there is a lot of drainage under the baseball field. They need to add this extra design work so they can evaluate the impact of the drainage and mitigate flooding in the area. In addition, they need larger pipes under the field and need to change the elevation of the field which will help with drainage in the area.

In response to Ms. Dunn's question, Ms. Valdares said they are not changing the course of where the outfall goes; they are changing the size of the pipe under the baseball field. She added that the pipes drain to the River. She added that the River is not part of the scope of the study.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she saw the possibility of doing water retention under the field and asked if that was already incorporated into the initial design. Ms. Valdares said that is something they would take into consideration.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner noted that the proposal is based on the infield being turf and the outfield being grass. She asked if making the entire field grass would change the scope of the plan. Ms. Valdares said they designed a couple of models and will get cost estimates. They will take into consideration what is best for drainage.

Ms. Young asked about the electrical design and using renewable energy. Ms. Valdares said if they are going to light the field, they would be using all LED lights. Ms. Young asked about the field material. Ms. Valdares explained that they understand the concerns, and once they have a model and prices, they will make a presentation to the Recreation and Parks Committee.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. DUNN)**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions presented this evening.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions postponed to a specific date this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspension of the rules this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:58 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk