

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

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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.

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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 Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Mr. Johan Lopez (7:39 P.M.)	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead

District B: Mr. Dajuan Wiggins Ms. Darlene Young
District C: Ms. Nicole Eaddy Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D: Ms. Heather Dunn Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E: Mr. James Frayer

At Roll Call there were thirteen (13) Common Councilmembers present and two (2) absent (Mr. Lopez and Ms. Shanahan). A Quorum was present.

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. Public Hearing: November 12, 2024

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. Special Meeting: November 12, 2024

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Correct the spelling of Ms. Stoll's name.

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant expressed concern about enforcement of the proposed park curfew and rules. He noted that Cranbury Park is overrun by dogs of all sizes on and off leash. He said someone is going to get mauled if there is no intention to enforce the rules.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

a. GEOFFREY S. SWEITZER, OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
APPOINTMENT**

B. STEVEN G. MUNROE, CONSERVATION COMMISSION, ALTERNATE

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

C. BECCA STOLL, BIKE/WALK COMMISSION

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
APPOINTMENT**

D. ANTHONY SANTELLA, BOARD OF HEALTH

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. REAPPOINTMENTS

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
REAPPOINTMENTS**

A. KEITH LYON, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

B. DANIELLE SANCHICK, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
REAPPOINTMENTS**

C. NICHOLAS PAPPAS, BIKE/WALK COMMISSION

D. EMILY BURNAMAN, BIKE/WALK COMMISSION

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling announced the City of Norwalk's Annual Tree Lighting Celebration will be on Friday, December 6th at 5:30 p.m. at City Hall. He also talked about the upcoming annual holiday events, the Holiday Extravaganza taking place on December 7th , from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and the Wall Street Wonderland event taking place on December 14th from 4:00 p.m.to 7:00 p.m. He noted these events are free and show case Norwalk's local talent. Mayor Rilling invited the community to the annual Pancake Breakfast with Frosty on Saturday, December 7th , from 8:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. in the Community Room.

Mayor Rilling announced the remembrance ceremony for the victims of the Pearl Harbor attack on Saturday, December 7th at 9:00 a.m. in the American Legion Post 12 building on 60 County Street in Norwalk. He noted that no one from Norwalk lost their life during the December 4, 1941 attack at Pearl Harbor.

Mayor Rilling wished wishing everyone a happy and healthy Thanksgiving.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Ms. Young, as the outgoing Council President expressed her thanks for allowing her to serve in this position. She thanked the Majority Leader, Ms. Niedzielski Eichner and the Minority Leader, Ms. Dunn.

Ms. Young highlighted the many accomplishments that took place over the last year.

Ms. Young expressed her thanks to Mayor Rilling and Attorney Coppola and the Law Department.

1. Election of Council President

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO NOMINATE MS. SMYTH AS COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

There were no other nominations.

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of the nomination.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

At this point, Ms. Young turned the meeting over to Ms. Smyth.

Mayor Rilling and Ms. Smyth expressed their thanks to Ms. Young.

2. Announcement of Majority Leader

Ms. Smyth announced the appointment of Mr. Goldstein as Majority Leader.

3. Announcement of Minority Leader

Ms. Smyth announced the appointment of Ms. Dunn as Minority Leader.

B. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments announced this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

Ms. Smyth announced that the Consent Calendar was being read by Ms. Wennerstrand.

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS

1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024

2. NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER 2024

3. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER 2024

4. APPROVE ARPA TRANSFER REQUEST FOR 133710-5796-ATM01
SOUNDVIEW PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 FROM 133110-5796-

APD02 PD HQ PARKING FOR THE PURPOSE OF ERECTING A RETAINING WALL AND INSTALLING A VITALLY MISSING SECTION OF SIDEWALK ALONG SOUNDVIEW AVENUE.

- 5. RESOLUTION: REQUESTING AUTHORIZATION TO TRANSFER ANY UNENCUMBERED AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) - CORONAVIRUS STATE FISCAL RECOVERY FUND (CSFRF) FUNDS TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS FOR PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM (ACCT #134010- 5796-APW10), PROVIDED THAT THE TRANSFER AND EXPENDITURE OF SUCH FUNDS OCCUR NOT LATER THAN DECEMBER 31, 2026.**
- 6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A THREE-YEAR PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH TOTAL COMMUNICATION, INC. FOR CISCO PHONE LICENSES, WITH AN ANNUAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$92,095.14 AND A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$276,285.44. CITY ACCOUNT # 0924 1370 5777 C0375/BOE ACCOUNT # 0924 5010 5777 C0112**
- 7. AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A THREE-YEAR PURCHASE AGREEMENT WITH BLACKWOOD ASSOCIATES, INC. FOR ZSCALER VPN LICENSES. THE ANNUAL AMOUNT SHALL NOT EXCEED \$27,154, WITH A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$89,262. ACCOUNT # 011370- 574C, CITY IT CYBERSECURITY.**

B. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

- 1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS WITH CITY OF NORWALK BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM FOR THE USE OF WASHINGTON STREET PLAZA FOR THEIR HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH, 2024 FROM 4:00 P.M. TO 8:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 9:00 A.M. SATURDAY WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 10:00 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 3,000 PEOPLE.**
- 2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB AND LONGSHORE-SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR AMC DOG SHOW TO BE HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 5TH 2025, FRIDAY, JUNE 6TH 2025, SATURDAY, JUNE 7TH 2025 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 8TH 2025 FROM 7:00 AM. TO 10:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 9:00 A.M. TUESDAY, JUNE 3RD WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 12:00 P.M. MONDAY, JUNE 9TH. APPROXIMATELY 450 PEOPLE.**

- 4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH FREEMAN COMPANIES FOR PROJECT #4376, CRANBURY PARK TRAIL DEVELOPMENT, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$48,000 FROM ACCOUNT # 09246030 5799 C0846.**

D. ORDINANCE

- 3. APPROVE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 58A, BLIGHT PREVENTION, SECTIONS 58A-1 AND 58A-4.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

C. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

APPROVE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, 74-13 CURFEW AS PRESENTED.

Mr. Robert Stowers, Director of Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs reviewed the item. He noted the times are included to help the Police with enforcement. Common Council members asked about park hours and enforcement. Mr. Stowers explained it is good for people to know that parks will be closed by a certain time. He added that generally, people will honor those hours and Police have enforcement power.

Mr. Wiggins cautioned that some people may be allowed to walk through a park while others would not be allowed, and said this leaves room for discrimination. Mr. Stowers explained the Police would not be stationed at the park, but would only go there if they get a call.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner suggested this may be a question for Police Chief Walsh. Ms. Smyth said this will be something to keep an eye on and suggested getting reports from the Police about what actually happens.

Mr. Sead said he would be voting no, because he feels there are mixed messages. They need to work on the message detailing what people can and can not do.

Mr. Wiggins asked if they could table this item.

Ms. Ayers said a conversation about the financial impact is needed, regarding using staff to monitor the parks when they open early.

Ms. Dunn said she would like to look at the impact from drinking and driving due to drinking in the parks.

Mr. Frayer asked if there are any details of Police investigations and apprehensions at the Parks, where the Police had to release someone because there was no Ordinance in place.

Mr. Stowers explained the Police have had to remove people during events and hears that people drink and smoke in the parks. He said this proposed Ordinance is for the safety of the residents and aligns with other parks.

Mr. Wiggins said ne was very concerned and asked about enforcement. He suggested tabling this item so they could have a conversation with the Police Chief.

- ** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO TABLE THIS ITEM AND SEND IT BACK TO THE RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION WITH THE CHIEF OF POLICE**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. COMMUNITY SERVICES

- ** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS TO FUND THE MULTI-SYSTEM COORDINATION PROGRAM IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 FROM THE AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT (ARPA) ADMINISTERED BY THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT. FUNDING SOURCE: ARPA ACCOUNT 140000-5796- ACMF5 (\$200,000).

Ms. Ayers introduced the item.

Mr. Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services reviewed the item. He described how the funding will be been used.

Mr. Wiggins said this was a great opportunity for the City. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner expressed appreciation for the coordination approach. Ms. Smyth expressed support for this item. She thanked Ms. Ayers and Mr. Daniels.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. ORDINANCE

- ** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

1. APPROVE REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 90, DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS, SECTIONS 90-1 THROUGH 90-12.

Mr. Goldstein introduced the item.

Ms. Dunn expressed concern over the educational requirement. Ms. Smyth said this person needs to be a visionary who led Public Works departments. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she shared Ms. Dunn's concern.

A discussion took place regarding the educational requirement in the Ordinance.

Mr. Goldstein explained that the idea is to give the City flexibility in hiring an individual; it is a multifaceted position.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MS. DUN)**

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. YOUNG MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:59 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk