COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING NOVEMBER 8, 2022

NORWALK, CONNECTICUT COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS & 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

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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 read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Irene Dixon at idixon@norwalkct.org 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

	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner	Ms. Barbara Smyth
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
District D:	Ms. Heidi Alterman	
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were twelve (12) Common Council members present and three (3) absent (Ms. Johnson, Ms. Revolus and Mr. Meek). A Quorum was present.

Also present were City Clerk, Irene Dixon, Assistant City Clerk, Jordan Schantz and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Regular Meeting: October 17, 2022 – Special Joint Meeting

** **MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
** **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. GOLDSTEIN)**

October 25, 2022

** **MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
** **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. SHANAHAN**

III. **PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public who wished to participate this evening. A letter submitted by Ms. Diane Lauricella regarding the Tree Master Plan Program – Inventory and Canopy Assessment will be distributed to the members of the Common Council.

IV. **MAYOR**

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

Mayor Rilling announced the resignation of Mr. Matthew Merluzzi from the Conservation Commission.

APPOINTMENTS:

Mayor Rilling announced the appointment of Ms. Vanessa Valadares as Chief of Operations and Public Works.

** **MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF VANESSA VALADARES AS CHIEF OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS.**

Ms. Smyth and several members of the Common Council spoke in support of this appointment. Mayor Rilling added that Norwalk has become a women-led city.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Valadares expressed her appreciation and confirmed her commitment to the residents.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced the opening of the Business Development office on Belden Avenue this week. He acknowledged that November is Native American Month. He invited the public to a Veteran's Day celebration on Friday at City Hall. Mayor Rilling urged everyone to vote.

Mayor Rilling announced that every Sunday a celebration is held to acknowledge a Veteran who passed away. This month it was held at Veterans Park. He noted that Norwalk is a Purple Heart city.

Mayor Rilling talked about the Wall Street corridor and said he asked the Parking team to invite the public to an open house on Monday at the Library.

V. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO GO INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION AT 7:49 P.M. TO DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ITEM**

1. AUTHORIZATION TO SETTLE CLAIM AS TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF NORWALK AND CITY OF NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY VS. ILSR OWNERS, LLC, ET AL, DOCKET NO. X08-FST-CV-18-6038249-S WHICH IS CURRENTLY PENDING IN THE STAMFORD-NORWALK JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT STAMFORD: (1) ILSR OWNERS, LLC; (2) POKO PARTNERS, LLC; (3) POKO MANAGEMENT CORPORATION; (4) POKO-IWSR DEVELOPERS, LLC; (5) IWSR MANAGERS, LLC; AND (6) RICHARD OLSON. ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

** **MOTON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The public was excused.
The members of the Common Council came out of Executive Session at 8:10 p.m.

During the Executive Session no motions were made, and no votes were taken.

** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZATION TO SETTLE CLAIM AS TO THE FOLLOWING DEFENDANTS IN THE MATTER OF CITY OF NORWALK AND CITY OF NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY VS. ILSR OWNERS, LLC, ET AL, DOCKET NO. X08-FST-CV-18-6038249-S WHICH IS CURRENTLY PENDING IN THE STAMFORD-NORWALK JUDICIAL DISTRICT AT STAMFORD: (1) ILSR OWNERS, LLC; (2) POKO PARTNERS, LLC; (3) POKO MANAGEMENT CORPORATION; (4) POKO-IWSR DEVELOPERS, LLC; (5) IWSR MANAGERS, LLC; AND (6) RICHARD OLSON.** ***EXECUTIVE SESSION***

** **MOTON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS:

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments announced this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Livingston announced that this evening's Consent Calendar would be read by Mr. Kydes.

** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:

VI. **REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

A. RECREATIONS, PARKS, AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SIGN AND EXECUTE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:

WHEREAS THE CITY OF NORWALK OPERATING THROUGH ITS DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS HAVE REQUESTED FUNDING FOR PARK IMPROVEMENTS THAT WOULD ENHANCE ITS GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE, AND SUSTAINABILITY; AND

WHEREAS THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IS AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR PARK SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS; AND

WHEREAS IT IS DESIRABLE AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THAT THE CITY OF NORWALK MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE FOR $4.5 MILLION AND TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK;

A. THAT IT IS COGNIZANT OF THE CONDITIONS AND PRE-REQUISITES FOR THE STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IMPOSED BY THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION; AND

B. THAT THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY THE CITY OF NORWALK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $4.5 MILLION IS HEREBY APPROVED;

C. THAT HARRY W. RILLING, MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, IS DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND FILE SUCH APPLICATION WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, TO PROVIDE SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, TO EXECUTE SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED, TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS OFFERED, TO EXECUTE ANY AMENDMENTS, DECISIONS, AND REVISIONS THERETO, AND TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CITY OF NORWALK.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AND ALL DOCUMENT, AND INSTRUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FFY 2023 COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, NOT TO EXCEED $50,000. ACCOUNT: TBD

1B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FFY 2023 COMPREHENSIVE DUI ENFORCEMENT GRANT NOT TO EXCEED $50,000. ACCOUNT: TBD

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AND ALL DOCUMENT, AND INSTRUMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FFY 2023 CLICK IT OR TICKET ENFORCEMENT GRANT, NOT TO EXCEED $10,000. ACCOUNT: TBD

2B. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, FFY 2023 CLICK IT OR TICKET ENFORCEMENT GRANT NOT TO EXCEED $10,000. ACCOUNT: TBD

3A. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNERS TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FARO TECHNOLOGIES, INC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF FARO FOCUS PREMIUM SCANNER AND RELATED EQUIPMENT AND SOFTWARE, AS

PER SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT REQUEST, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $110,000. ACCOUNT # 09233010 5777 C0809.

C. PUBLIC WORKS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH FRONTIER COMMUNICATIONS PARENT, INC. FOR THE EAST AVENUE ADVANCED UTILITY PROJECT NO. 0301-0515NP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $550,000.00.
ACCOUNT NO.09 12 4021 5777 C0471
09 22 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0234

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH WINDSTREAM COMMUNICATIONS INC. FOR THE EAST AVENUE ADVANCED UTILITY PROJECT NO. 0301-0515NP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $5,000.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 09 12 4021 5777 C0471
09 22 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0234

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH CROWN CASTLE INTERNATIONAL FOR THE EAST AVENUE ADVANCED UTILITY PROJECT NO. 0301-0515NP FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $170,000.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 09 12 4021 5777 C0471
09 22 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0234
09 22 4021 5777 C0234

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO CARGILL SALT FOR TREATED ROAD SALT FOR SNOW AND ICE CONTROL, PRICING NOT TO EXCEED $108.00 PER TON FOR NORMAL AND AFTER HOUR DELIVERIES EFFECTIVE FOR THE 2022-23 SNOW SEASON. ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 25 5322

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

2A. AUTHORIZE, THE MAYOR HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH GOLD SEAL ROOFING, LLC FOR THE MEADOW STREET FIRE STATION ROOFING REPLACEMENT PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED $313,000.00. ACCT. #0922/233110-5777-C0796

2B. AUTHORIZE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED $31,300.00

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDER TO CONNECTICUT BUSINESS SYSTEM (CBS) FOR 18 75" VIEWSONIC BOARDS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $61,264.00. ACCT. #09235010-5777-C0112.

4A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH HV CONTRACTOR CORPORATION FOR SECURITY AND OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS IN THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED $33,950.00. ACCOUNT #01 011340 5258

4B. AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED $3,395.00.

5. AUTHORIZE TO INCREASE THE CONTINGENCY ALLOWANCE FOR MOVING SERVICES FOR PRECISION PLACEMENT LLC. FOR THE JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL RENOVATE-AS-NEW PROJECT FOR AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $1,220.45. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCOUNT ACCT. #0919/20 5010 5777 C0619.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WITH CONNECTICUT LIGHT AND POWER COMPANY D/B/A EVERSOURCE ENERGY RELATING TO ENERGY INCENTIVES FOR THE CRANBURY SCHOOL PROJECT.

7A. APPROVE TO DESIGNATE VCP, LLC D/B/A VEROGY AS THE PREFERRED SOLAR/PHOTOVOLTAIC DEVELOPER FOR CRANBURY SCHOOL, NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL AND SOUTH NORWALK SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS.

7B. REFER THIS DESIGNATION TO THE BOARD OF EDUCATION FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATION OF TERMS AND EXECUTION OF CORRESPONDING POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENTS (PPA).

8A. RESOLVED, THAT THE NORWALK LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS THE BUILDING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.

8B. RESOLVED, THAT THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES AT LEAST THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.

8C. RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND TO ACCEPT OR REJECT A GRANT FOR THE NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.
9A. RESOLVED, THAT THE NORWALK LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE IS HEREBY ESTABLISHED AS THE BUILDING COMMITTEE WITH REGARD TO THE SILVERMINE AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.

9B. RESOLVED, THAT THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL HEREBY AUTHORIZES AT LEAST THE PREPARATION OF SCHEMATIC DRAWINGS AND OUTLINE SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE SILVERMINE AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.

9C. RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZES THE CITY OF NORWALK BOARD OF EDUCATION TO APPLY TO THE COMMISSIONER OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES AND TO ACCEPT OR REJECT A GRANT FOR THE SILVERMINE AIR CONDITIONING/IAQ PROJECT.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE PURCHASE ORDERS TO BLACKWOOD ASSOCIATES INC. FOR THE SUPPLY AND INSTALLATION OF IT SECURITY PLATFORM (EXTRAHOP REVEAL(X) 360 SOLUTION) FOR NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $ $106,639. ACCOUNT 09235010-5777-C0112**

Mr. Ralph Valenzisi, Assistant Superintendent for Digital Learning and Innovation gave a presentation to answer any questions. He said this is a capital expense but will come out of the operating budget in subsequent years.

Mr. Heuvelman questioned why there are two departments doing this work instead of one. He noted that it was recommended looking at this in the efficiency study. Mayor Rilling said that this is one of those things that takes a little longer. He believes the intent is to combine IT. Mr. Valenzisi said the Board of Education and the City do share a number of services for cost savings. Mr. Heuvelman said it is a potential cost savings for the City.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

E. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

** MR. KYDES MOVED TO Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute a contract between the City of Norwalk and PlanIT Geo, Inc. in an amount not to exceed $150,000 for the Tree Master Plan Program – Inventory and Canopy Assessment.
Acct. #133710 5796 AEC17 (ARPA)

Mr. Kydes reviewed the item and said it would be paid with ARPA funds. He expressed this thanks to all who were involved in this.

Ms. Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development reviewed the item and said this is a very big effort, with the City of Norwalk putting in $1 million in trees. She said the team did an amazing job working with Chief Valadares. She said there are eight deliverables.

Ms. Vonashek said they have been asked how this report is different from the 2018 West COG report. He explained the differences including that there was no public outreach in the 2018 study.

Mr. Livingston thanked Ms. Vonashek and the team and said this establishes a baseline and provides metrics by neighborhood. This approval will allow them to start planting this spring.

Ms. Shanahan thanked Ms. Vonashek and said this has been a dream to the conservation community in Norwalk. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner thanked Ms. Vonashek for responding to public comments. Ms. Vonashek said they are working with the Redevelopment Agency on a sustainability plan.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IX. **MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE**

There were none this evening.

X. **SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none this evening.

XI. **ADJOURNMENT**

** **MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

ATTEST:_____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk