COMMON COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING SEPTEMBER 26, 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

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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.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

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

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large: Mr. Gregory Burnett Mr. Edwin Camacho

	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Ms. Barbara Smyth	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman (7:52 p.m.)
District B:	Mr. Diane Revolus	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:		
District D:	Mr. Bryan Meek	
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were eleven (11) Common Councilmembers present and four (4) absent (Mr. Heuvelman; Mr. Kydes; Ms. McMurrer and Ms. Alterman). 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: September 12, 2023

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** 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. Tanner Thompson spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Salgado to the Bike Walk Commission.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant spoke about the Recreation and Parks Master Plan. He said the Plan it is not complete until there is a way to enforce the rules, specifically picking up after dogs in the parks.

Ms. Donna Smirniotopoulos questioned the reasoning behind the City entering into a contract for a park design for a park affiliated with Meadow Gardens, a Housing Authority property and the subject of a demolition. She also asked where the residents would go once Meadow Gardens was demolished.

Ms. Diane Lauricella requested that if the Meadow Street park was within Meadow Gardens that the item be sent back to Committee. She said that Meadow Gardens is going to be demolished and the money could be spent on other items. Ms. Lauricella also spoke about the Recreation and Parks Master Plan and said the format used by the Consultant was hard to read. She requested that an independent review be made about artificial turf and natural fields.

Ms. Lauricella asked that the amount being spent for the holiday extravaganza be reduced. She said everyone is tightening their belts and the item needs to go back to Committee. The amount far exceeds what the City can afford.

IV. **MAYOR**

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS: Manuel Salgado, Bike Walk Commission

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. SALGADO TO THE BIKE WALK COMMISSION**

Ms. Ayers spoke in support of the appointment.

Mr. Meek thanked Mr. Salgado for stepping forward. He noted that Mr. Salgado was new to Norwalk and hoped he had an opportunity to explore areas such as the Cranbury area where safe access is needed. He wished Mr. Salgado well on his appointment. Mr. Salgado expressed his thanks and said he was happy to answer any questions.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling acknowledge Yom Kippur and wished our Jewish community well on the Day of Atonement. A citywide celebration will be held at the Norwalk Public Library for Hispanic Heritage Month. In support of National Diaper Awareness Week, a diaper donation box has been placed in the lobby of City Hall. In addition, Mayor Rilling unveiled a parking spot dedicated to expectant mothers.

On September 28, 2023, a Complete Streets Public Workshop will be held; a Community Cannabis Forum will take place on October 3, 2023. This year's Touch a Truck and Open House Event is scheduled for October 21, 2023, at the Public Works Center.

V. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Burnett announced that a special joint meeting of the Finance and Claims Committee of the Common Council and Board of Education to be held on October 18, 2023, at the Center for Global Studies.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

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

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Mr. Burnett announced that Mr. Frayer would be reading this evening's Consent Calendar.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:**

**VIIA.1, VII.B.2, VII.B.5, VII.B.6., VII.B.8, VII.B.9, VII.C.1, VII.C.2, VII.C.3, VII.C.4, VII.C.5,
VII.C.6, VII.D.1, VII.D.2, VII.E.1A, VII.E.1B**

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

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

A. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ALL FORWARDING DOCUMENTATION REQUIRED BY HUD TO SUBMIT THE PY48 CAPER.

B. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH WOLFPIT ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY THE WOLFPIT PTA FOR THEIR PUMPKIN FEST EVENT ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2023, FROM 10:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SET-UP TIME AT 6:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 6:00 PM. RAIN DATE SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2023.
APPROXIMATELY 300 + PEOPLE.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BLUE & YELLOW UKRAINE FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR VETERANS DAY 5K EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023, FROM 8:00 AM TO 10:00 AM. SET-UP TIME AT 6:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 11:00 AM. RAIN DATE SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2023. APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR THE USE OF 50 WASHINGTON STREET AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 2023, FROM 3:00 PM TO 8:00 PM. SET-UP FROM 8:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 10:00 PM.
APPROXIMATELY 200 PEOPLE.

8. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A 5-YEAR RENTAL AGREEMENT WITH ERIC MONTGOMERY FOR THE CARETAKER APARTMENT, LOCATED AT THE REAR OF THE FODOR HOMESTEAD AT 328 FLAX HILL ROAD, NORWALK, CT.

9. RESOLVED, THAT THE CITY OF NORWALK, CT MAY ENTER INTO WITH AND DELIVER TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION, ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS WHICH IT DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE FOR A GRANT OF $1,000,000.00 FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK'S DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS; AND BE IT

FURTHER RESOLVED THAT HARRY W. RILLING AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORWALK IS AUTHORIZED AND DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND DELIVER ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, AND TO DO AND PERFORM ALL ACTS AND THINGS WHICH HE DEEMS TO BE NECESSARY OR APPROPRIATE TO CARRY OUT THE TERMS OF SUCH DOCUMENTS.

C. FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: SEPTEMBER 2023

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: SEPTEMBER 2023

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED: AUGUST 2023

4. REQUEST A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,727.32 TO INCREASE THE AUTHORIZATION FOR ACCOUNT 09243110-5777-C0486 (FIRE DEPARTMENT-VEHICLES). THIS CAPITAL APPROPRIATION SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH $10,727.32 OF AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY. THE $10,727.32 OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY SHALL BE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS AND TERMS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL BOND RESOLUTIONS THAT AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF THE BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FOR THE PROJECT. ACCOUNT NO. 09243110 5777 C0486

5. REQUESTING DEAUTHORIZATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $10,727.32 FROM THE AVAILABLE BALANCE IN ACCOUNT 09213110-5777-C0667 (FIRE DEPARTMENT-MOBILE RADIO UPGRADE).

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ANDEW TECHNOLOGY (UKG) FOR A TIME AND ATTENDANCE SYSTEM MIGRATION PROJECT NOT TO EXCEED $225,025.00 (CAPITAL BUDGET ACCOUNT 09241340-5777-C0089 AND 011340-5258).

D. PUBLIC SAFETY & GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG).

2. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, JAMES WALSH, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE FISCAL YEAR 2023 PROJECT JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT (JAG).

E. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT FUNDS FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE AMOUNT OF $300,385.00 FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2023, THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2027.

1B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE PUBLIC HEALTH WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD OCTOBER 1, 2023, THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2027.

Mr. Heuvelman joined the meeting during the reading of the Consent Calendar (7:52 p.m.)

** **MOTON PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

B. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

** **MS. YOUNG MOVED TO ACCEPT AND APPROVE OF THE 2023 RECREATION AND PARKS TEN YEAR MASTER PLAN AND STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPED IN CONCERT WITH KIMLEY-HORN CONSULTANTS.**

Mr. Stowers, Director of Recreation and Parks reviewed and described the purpose of the Master Plan. He also reviewed the process that was used to create the Master Plan. He noted that the draft has been on line for a couple of months.

Mr. Nick Kahn, of Kimley-Horn Consultants gave a presentation and addressed the changes, including the reference to artificial turf. The mention of artificial turf was removed from the Master Plan. The foundation of the Master Plan comes from community engagement. He reviewed the top eight priorities and the top 10 needs. The projects are located throughout the City.

Mr. Kahn presented the strategic plan with 10 visionary goals and 51 measurable objectives.

Mr. Kahn fielded questions from the members of the Common Council. Mr. Burnett asked if by approving the Master Plan, are they committing the financial amount included in the outline. Mr. Stowers explained that this action was to approve the direction of the Master Plan. Some of the easier items to implement can come out of the capital budget. This is a guide to use going forward. Mr. Burnett asked about accreditation. Mr. Stowers said the Master Plan is a requirement for accreditation.

Ms. Smyth thanked Mr. Stowers for his leadership. She asked if there were any plans for more dog parks. She noted that enforcement is an issue. Mr. Stowers said that as more people move to Norwalk, they have dogs. He said it may be necessary to have an advocacy group to identify where dog parks should go. He said a lot of towns require developers to provide funding for pocket parks.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner expressed her thanks to Mr. Stowers for his focus on maintenance needs. She commended him for being very realistic about how much they are going to need to invest in the City.

Mr. Stowers acknowledged the input from the public. He noted that when they bring a project forward, it has to have facility costs incorporated into the cost.

Mr. Goldstein said the Master Plan was a visionary document. As Norwalk grows, it will need new parks. He asked about the synthetic turf being removed from the Master Plan. Mr. Stowers said there is a memo in the draft plan that indicates all the changes in the Master Plan.

Ms. Shanahan said that Mr. Stowers was very responsive to the pubic and it is reflected in the Master Plan.

Mr. Frayer said he admired the structure of the Master Plan and said it was a good tool for building the budget.

Mr. Goldstein acknowledged the incredible job the Recreation and Parks department does.

Ms. Young said that Mr. Stower's year and a half in Norwalk have been very impressive. She said parks are what makes the City beautiful and that she is excited for the next step. She added that the Master Plan was crucial to Accreditation. She said she was glad that swimming was added to the Master Plan.

Ms. Valdares, Chief of Operations and Public Works said that if the Master Plan was approved, it would give them a plan and direction. She added that they will have to be creative in finding funding for the Master Plan.

Ms. Revolus asked if the Heritage Wall falls under Recreation and Parks. She said she talked to the DEA Officer about showcasing the history of Norwalk. Mr. Stowers explained that is State property and it is a matter of collaboration with the State. They can work together to make it a better area.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MEEK)**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR THE USE OF 50 WASHINGTON STREET AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR A NIGHT-FAIR ON WASHINGTON STREET EVENT TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 28, 2023, FROM 5:00 PM TO 10:00 PM. SET-UP TIME AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 11:00 PM. APPROXIMATELY 100+ PEOPLE.**

Ms. Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development and Tourism described the events. She said the area businesses are excited about these events. She described the street access for residents during the events.

Ms. Young said she was really excited about these events taking place in South Norwalk.

Ms. Revolus asked about the dog events. She said some people are deathly afraid of dogs and asked how this was going address so those individuals could attend these events. Ms. Godeski said they thought about that and specifically programmed the dog event so it was separated. She said there was a lot of feedback asking for dog friendly events.

Mr. Meek asked if there were any ROI metrics on these events and if they increased foot traffic for the business in the area. Ms. Godeski said they have qualitative responses from the business owners that the events help their businesses. She added that they are soliciting sponsorship opportunities to help with the costs.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MEEK)**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK FOR THE USE OF 50 WASHINGTON STREET AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR A NIGHT-FAIR BRUNCH EVENT TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 29, 2023, FROM 11:00 AM TO 4:00 PM. SET-UP TIME AT 10:00 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 8:00 PM.**
APPROXIMATELY 100+ PEOPLE.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MEEK)**

**** MS YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH LANGAN FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $103,250.00, PROJECT # 4289, FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR MEADOW STREET PARK.**
ACCOUNT NO. 134010 5796 ARP01

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $13,950.00, PROJECT # 4289, FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION ADMINISTRATION SERVICES FOR MEADOW STREET PARK.
ACCOUNT NO. 134010 5796 ARP01

Mr. Stowers reviewed the items and said this is part of the continuing effort to renew play grounds. Langan was selected to build this project because they are the contractors for the new housing development. He said this is Park property and they have to maintain City properties that are adjacent to the Norwalk Housing Authority. The park is in bad shape. Mr. Stowers explained that Mr. Hughes, Superintendent of Parks and Public Property and Mr. Bovilsky, Executive Director of Norwalk Housing Authority have been working together, but the City is responsible for this property. This is part of he on going upgrade of all playgrounds.

Ms. Revolus said that what is overlooked is how important these parks are to the surrounding community. She said she understood the argument against the renovation, but they are very pivotal to the surrounding community and hopes that people can see that.

Mr. Meek said there is no doubt the park needs TLC, but with all the other design events, asked why they should put $100,000 into the design instead of making the repairs. He said that seems to be a lot of money for a design and would love to see it refurbished. Mr. Stowers said the cost is for the design and construction.

Ms. Ayers cautioned people and said that not long ago, they saw extensive plans for parks and playgrounds in more affluent areas and people like that. She said that now they are saying that children are not worthing and that is problematic. She said that if it is ok for your child to have a state of the art playground, then it is ok for other children to have a state of the art playground.

Ms. Young said she echoed Ms. Ayers' comments. She said she trusts the leadership of the City to do the right thing.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she hoped the construction fees take traffic safety into consideration.

Mr. Frayer said the Park is in dire shape and needs to be upgraded. He added that $100,000 does not seem to be enough. Mr. Stowers said that more will be added. Mr. Frayer said he was 100% behind this.

Mr. Goldstein said that if a nice park is built in another area, South Norwalk should also get one. He said that this is a commitment to equity and wholeheartedly supports this.

Mr. Ken Hughes explained that the cost will be a little higher.

Ms. Revolus asked if safety and traffic have been discussed. Mr. Stowers said they talked to Langon about that.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH SPORT TECH CONSTRUCTION CORP., IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $299,000.00 FOR THE ROWAYTON SCHOOL TENNIS AND PICKLEBALL COURT RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT # 4299.**
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5796 C0832

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS WITH SPORT TECH CONSTRUCTION PROJECT #4299 FROM ACCOUNT # 0923-6030-5796-C0832 IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $29,000.00

Mr. Stowers reviewed the items. He noted there are a lot of people looking for Pickleball courts and the existing courts are not usable.

Ms. Revolus asked if this was a trend or will it truly be a life long sport. Mr. Stowers said he first encountered Pickleball in 2004 and it began in Washington. He thought it would be a trend, but it appears that it is here to stay.

Mr. Meek said he pulled these items off consent because the packet materials did not add up. He said he was just looking for the real numbers, because the packet numbers are about $800,000 short.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH HINDING TENNIS, LLC, PROJECT NUMBER # 4305, TENNIS-PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $718,994.00.**
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5777 C0321
0924 6030 5777 C0321
0923 6030 5777 C0364
0923 6030 5777 C0364

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ISSUE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH HINDING TENNIS, LLC, TENNIS PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS, FOR ADDITIONAL REQUESTED ITEMS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $36,220.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5777 C0321
0924 6030 5777 C0321
0923 6030 5777 C0364
0923 6030 5777 C0364

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS TO HINDING TENNIS, LLC, PROJECT # 4305, TENNIS-PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $71,800.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5777 C0321
0924 6030 5777 C0321
0923 6030 5777 C0364
0923 6030 5777 C0364

Mr. Meek noted that the backup only provides details for 11Band the details in the backup do not add up.

Mr. Stowers thanked Mr. Hughes, the Recreation and Park staff and Ms. Young and the Recreation and Park Committee for all their work on the Park Master Plan. He said that Mr. Hughes has been a wonderful partner.

Mr. Hughes said that Mr. Meek was correct. He said that 11B is the pickleball renovation amended to the contract. He said he can provide the bids to the Common Council members tomorrow. He described the projects at various sites. Overall, the project will add 13 pickleball courts.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO AMEND 11B AS FOLLOWS:**

AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ISSUE AN AMENDMENT TO THE CONTRACT WITH HINDING TENNIS, LLC, TENNIS PICKLEBALL AND BASKETBALL COURT RENOVATIONS, FOR ADDITIONAL REQUESTED ITEMS, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $36,220.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5777 C0321
0924 6030 5777 C0321
0923 6030 5777 C0364
0923 6030 5777 C0364

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Ayers said that since Mr. Hughes said he was going to provide more support documentation she asked about the protocol for tabling this item. She also asked if this was a time sensitive document. Mr. Hughes said he could forward the bid document tonight.

Ms. Valdares, Chief of Operations and Public Works explained that another two weeks would mean another six weeks until they have a contract. She said that if they table this item tonight, they may not be able to complete this contract this year.

Ms. Ayers said it was hard to make a final decision if the math does not match. She said she realizes it is a typo. Ms. Valdares explained the process that takes place after the approval and said the Purchasing and Legal departments will not approve it if the amounts are not correct. She said this was approved in the fiscal year budget.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she was not comfortable voting for a $700,000 item without backup.

Mr. Meek said he will vote yes on this item based on the unit cost, but would still like to see the back up materials.

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. AYERS) AND ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER)**

E. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH THE ALLIANCE FOR COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT, INC. LOCATED AT 108 MAIN STREET, NORWALK, CT 06851 AND PERSON TO PERSON, INC. LOCATED AT 76 SOUTH MAIN STREET, NORWALK, CT 06854 TO ADMINISTER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT ARPA COVID-19 RENT RELIEF PROGRAM FOR NORWALK RESIDENTS WITH EACH ORGANIZATION RECEIVING $250,000.00 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF $500,000.00.**
ACCOUNT NO. 132010 5796 ACS01

Mr. Heuvelman said that Mr. Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services and Ms. Ana Vivian Estrella, Human Services Director were present to answer any questions. He added that this is a needed item that will help people who were impacted by covid 19.

Ms. Estrella presented slides describing the program. She said the funds are meant to stabilize the household payments and would go to the landlord or the mortgage broker. The funds only go to Norwalk residents who established residency before March 1, 2020. Materials describing the program were included in the meeting packet.

Ms. Ayers thanked the Community Services department for hearing the needs of the community. The ALICE population (Asset Limited, Income Constrained, Employed) is a growing population who do not normally qualify for subsidies. She said that she hoped that in the near future, the City will be able to find additional funs for the ALICE population.

Mr. Goldstein said that this is a very important economic issue facing Norwalk and the region as a whole. He added that this population has fallen through the cracks. He said that as the cost of housing increases, there will be a need to be vigilant about this.

Ms. Young noted that rental assistance is not new in Norwalk, but this is probably one of the best ways to spend the ARPA dollars.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VIII. **RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

There were no resolutions from Common Council members 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. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:53 p.m.

ATTEST: ____________________________
Irene Dixon