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 and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings

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.

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 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 idixon@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	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	
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were thirteen (13) Common Councilmembers present and one (1) absent (Mr. Wiggins who joined the meeting while it was in progress). A Quorum was present.

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

II. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Special Meeting: September 9, 2024

** **MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED**
** **MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. GOLDSTEIN AND MS. SHANAHAN)**

Regular Meeting: September 10, 2024

The following correction was made to the minutes:

Add Mr. Goldstein to the attendance.

** **MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE 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.

Ms. Moina Noor, President of the Norwalk Public Library addressed the lease for 3 Belden Avenue. She said the City and the Library are in the early stages of hiring an architect for the Library expansion. She said in the meantime, the welcome Makers space next door and asked to consider the Library's interest.

Mr. Vladmir Mariano, Fairfield County Makers Guild spoke in support of the licensing agreement between the Library and Makers Guild. He shared the history of the partnership with the Library.

Mr. Ralph Bernabe spoke in support of the 3 Belden Avenue property and the Makers Guild.

Mr. Steven Hertz spoke in support of the 3 Belden Avenue and the Makers Guild.

IV. **MAYOR**

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: Theresa Quell, Board of Health

Mayor Rilling announced the resignation and expressed his gratitude to Ms. Quell for her service to the City and wished her well on the next chapter of her life. Mr. Burnett also expressed his gratitude to Ms. Quell for her commitment. He acknowledged that during her time on the Board of Health, the Health Department became one of the first to be accredited. Ms. Young acknowledged Ms. Quell's many years of service on the Board of Health.

APPOINTMENTS:

** **MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF DONALD REMSON TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Mr. Frayer spoke in support of the appointment.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The Town Clerk, Mr. McQuaid administered the Oath of Officed to Mr. Remson.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling invited the public to attend the Touch-a-Truck and Open House event this Saturday, from 9:00 am to 12:00 pm, at the Norwalk Public Works Operation Center. Visitors are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items in support of the Open Door Shelter.

Mayor Rilling spoke about Norwalk's Youth Mental Health Gap Analysis in partnership with Norwalk Public Schools, Silver Hill Hospital, the Norwalk Community Health Center and Norwalk ACTS. It is being initiated to assess needs and develop a sustainable system for long term support. He reminded everyone that with the General Election happening soon. There will

be 14 days of Early Voting prior to Election Day, November 5. To learn more, visit the City website. Mayor Rilling explained the importance of voting and urged everyone to vote.

On Friday Governor Lamont received confirmation that President Biden approved a major disaster declaration which authorizes federal funding to help those affected by the flooding that impacted our State on August 18th. Impacted residents and business owners can begin applying for assistance at www.disasterassistance.gov, or by calling FEMA or using the FEMA app.

Lastly, Mayor Rilling mentioned that a ribbon-cutting ceremony and walking tour of the new sidewalks on Rowayton Avenue at the entrance of Pinkney Park will be happening on September 25, 2024. This project aims to enhance quality of life and reduce the City's carbon footprint. The Mayor thanked the Transportation, Mobility and Parking Department and everyone on the Council who helped to make this effort possible.

V. **COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

Ms. Young announced that live Common Council meetings will be offered in several different languages. She expressed thanks to all who made this happen.

A. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS

There were no appointments or resignations announced this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

VII.A.1, VII.A.2, VII.B.1, VII.B.3, VII.B.4, VII.B.5, VII.B.6, VII.B.7, VII.B.8, VII.E.1, VII.E.2, VII.E.3, VII.E.4, VII.F.1, VII.F.2

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

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO APPROVE THE USE OF WASHINGTON STREET PLAZA AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS BY CITY OF NORWALK FOR THEIR HALLOWEEN NIGHTFAIR TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 26TH 2024 FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. RAIN DATE ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH FROM 2:00 P.M. TO 10:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 8:00 A.M. SATURDAY WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 12:00 AM MIDNIGHT. APPROXIMATELY 6,000 PEOPLE.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR WALK TO END ALZHEIMER'S TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27TH, 2024 FROM 7:00 A.M. TO 1:00 P.M. SET-UP TIME BY 6:00 A.M. SATURDAY WITH TEAR-DOWN BY SUNDAY 1:30 P.M. APPROXIMATELY 2,500 PEOPLE.

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS

1. CLAIMS COMMITTEE REPORT: SEPTEMBER 2024

3. MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED AUGUST 2024

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO GOVCONNECTION, INC, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $385,223.54 FOR NETWORK DISTRIBUTION AND ACCESS SWITCHES. ACCOUNT NO. 0925 1370 5777 C0375 CITY TECHNOLOGY.

5. REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF $100,000 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REPLACEMENT BOAT FOR THE HARBORMASTER TO MANAGE AND OVERSEE THE OPERATION OF THE NORWALK HARBOR, NORWALK ISLANDS AND A PORTION OF THE LONG ISLAND SOUND AND AUTHORIZE THE ISSUE OF BONDS, NOTES OR TEMPORARY NOTES IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $100,000 TO FINANCE SAID APPROPRIATION. ACCOUNT 09254010-5777- AEC26 HARBOR REPLACEMENT BOAT

6. REQUESTING A REDUCTION IN THE AMOUNT OF $100,000 TO THE APPROPRIATION IN ACCOUNT # 0925-3760-5777-C0704 (ARTS & CULTURE PLAN). DEAUTHORIZES BONDS IN THE AMOUNT OF $100,000.

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS NEEDED TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE PURSUANT TO PUBLIC ACT 24-81, FROM THE CONNECTICUT SECRETARY OF STATE A GRANT IN THE AMOUNT OF $23,726.31 FOR THE REGISTRAR OF VOTERS TO IMPLEMENT EARLY VOTING IN THE CITY OF NORWALK. THIS GRANT WILL BE IN PLACE FOR THE PERIOD 7/1/24 THROUGH 6/30/2025.

8. RESOLUTION: APPROVE ARPA TRANSFER REQUEST IN THE FOLLOWING AMOUNTS, AND IN CONFORMANCE WITH COMMON COUNCIL APPROVAL OF ITEMS 2A AND 2B ON THE OCTOBER 24, 2023 AGENDA:

FROM:
BUSINESS COVID ASSISTANCE 133710-5796-AECO5 $85,000
ADMINISTRATOR FOR ARP 133710-5796-AEC14 $32,517

TO:
MOBILITY & SIDEWALK 133710-5796-AEC02 $117,517

E. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS FOR SUBMISSION OF THE PY49 CAPER TO HUD.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT FOR A FIVE-YEAR EXTENSION OF THE CONTRACT DESIGNATING THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY AS THE ADMINISTRATOR OF THE CITY'S ANNUAL CDBG ENTITLEMENT GRANT.

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASE OF A 2024 PACKMAN LANDING CRAFT FOR THE HARBORMASTER FROM MUNSON BOATS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED ONE HUNDRED NINETY-EIGHT THOUSAND, ONE HUNDRED FORTY-NINE DOLLARS ($198,149) VIA SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT.
ACCT: 134010-5796-AEC26

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER AN AGREEMENT WITH ARC DOCUMENTS SOLUTIONS, LLC FOR DOCUMENT DIGITIZATION AND CATALOGING IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED $284,995.50.
ACCT: 133710-5796-AEC12
0922 3730 5777 C0801

F. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS AND OTHER DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE 6 BUTLER ST. NORWALK, CT IN AN AMOUNT OF $1,400,000 PLUS STANDARD CLOSING COSTS. ACCOUNT NO. 140000-5796-ACMF1.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A LICENSE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF TWO ROOMS (468 SQ. FT, 1ST FLOOR; 324 SQ. FT. BASEMENT) AT 3 BELDEN AVENUE, NORWALK, CT FOR 3 YEARS, WITH 2 OPTIONS TO EXTEND FOR A PERIOD OF 1YEAR EACH FOR LICENSING FEE OF $4.50 PER SQ. FT

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. **COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS

2. Narrative on Tax Collections dated September 2024

Mr. Burnett asked Ms. Biagiarelli, Tax Collector to provide an update on the fiscal year tax collection rate and the recent Tax Sale. She said that each month she provides a year to date report of where they stand with collections along with a narrative regarding their enforcement. Ms. Biagiarelli reported that the tax collection rate is 98.94%which is in excess of what was projected.

Ms. Biagiarelli explained the importance of keeping collections high and provided details of consequences of an individual does not pay their taxes.

Ms. Biagiarelli reported that a Tax Sale is conducted every two to three years. She said at the beginning of this years Tax Sale process, they started with 225 properties. Of the 225 properties, six filed for bankruptcy; there were seven left and the rest paid. This is the 10th year and their collections total $49 million. This year's tax sale brought in $6.6 million.

In addition, Tax Sales are done 'in house", which saves the City money as well as the property owner.

Mayor Rilling acknowledged the work done by the Tax Office and said they may be the only Tax Collection office that conducts the Tax Sales "in house". Ms. Biagiarelli said that if they hired an attorney to run the Tax Sales, it would cost $5,000 per property.

Mr. Goldstein said Ms. Biagiarelli has one of the hardest jobs in City Hall. He asked where the funds from the Tax Sale go. She said the funds go into the General Fund, except what is collected for the Blight Enforcement Division. She added that if the property sells for more than the amount, they do not keep that money.

Ms. Young expressed her appreciation to Ms. Biagiarelli and her team and said she hopes her way of thinking about the people continues.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner asked what happens to the remainder of the money collected. Ms. Biagiarelli described the process, noting the Superior Court Judge decides who is entitled to the over bid.

Ms. Smyth thanked Mr. Burnett for inviting Ms. Biagiarelli. She said she appreciated her clear explanation of what she does.

Mayor Rilling expressed his thanks to Ms. Biagiarelli and said the high collection rate takes the burden off of the tax payers.

C. ORDINANCE

**** MR. SEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING**

1. APPROVE RESOLUTION CONCERNING SPORTECH VENUES, INC. D/B/A WINNERS, 24 BURNELL BOULEVARD, NORWALK, CT (PURSUANT TO GENERAL STATUTES § 12-574A(C))

RESOLUTION RE: SPORTECH VENUES, INC. D/B/A WINNERS APPROVING OFF-TRACK PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING ON SUNDAYS

WHEREAS, SPORTECH VENUES, INC. D/B/A WINNERS ("WINNERS") CURRENTLY OPERATES AN OFF-TRACK BETTING FACILITY AT 24 BURNELL BOULEVARD IN NORWALK, CONNECTICUT;

WHEREAS, WINNERS IS NOT CURRENTLY OPEN ON SUNDAYS FOR PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING;

WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. § 12-574A(C), THE DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER PROTECTION AND THE GAMING POLICY BOARD PERMIT WINNERS TO OPERATE IN NORWALK ON SUNDAYS FOR PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING ONLY UPON APPROVAL OF THE LEGISLATIVE BODY OF THE MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH SUCH FACILITY IS LOCATED; AND

WHEREAS, IT HAS BEEN DETERMINED THAT THE CITY HAS NO OBJECTION TO WINNERS OPERATING PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING ON SUNDAYS AND THAT SUCH OPERATIONS ARE LIKELY TO INCREASE TAX REVENUE FOR THE CITY AND CREATE ADDITIONAL JOBS WITHIN THE CITY.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL THAT:

SPORTECH VENUES, INC. D/B/A WINNERS IS HEREBY AUTHORIZED TO BE OPEN ON SUNDAYS FOR PARI-MUTUEL WAGERING AT ITS LOCATION AT 24 BURNELL BOULEVARD IN NORWALK CONNECTICUT, PURSUANT TO CONN. GEN. STAT. § 12-574A(C).

THIS RESOLUTION IS EFFECTIVE UPON ENACTMENT.

Mr. Sead reviewed the item.

Ms. Dunn said she was opposed to this item; it does not move the City in a positive direction.

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

D. COMMUNITY SERVICES

** **MS. AYERS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH MID-FAIRFIELD CHILD GUIDANCE CENTER, INC., FOR CONTINUED IN-HOME MENTAL HEALTH AND FAMILY SUPPORT SERVICES FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2024 TO JUNE 30, 2025 IN THE AMOUNT OF $200,000 ACCOUNT# 012010-5298 AND $100,000 ACCOUNT# 132010-5796-ACS03.**

Ms. Ayers spoke in support of the item.

Mr. Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services provided an overview and explained why there was a need to this service.

Ms. Smyth thanked Mr. Daniels for coordinating the services he brought to the City. She also thanked Ms. Ayers and noted that these program are very important.

Mr. Goldstein said there is a crucial need for this program and it is their job to do their best to meet those needs.

Ms. Wiggins spoke about his constituents who are turned away from receiving services. Mr. Daniels explained that they are not turning away families.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said the City is not solving all the problems, but it can ensure the resources are available, making Norwalk the best it can be. She said the City did a good thing by hiring Mr. Daniels. She said he is a visionary.

Ms. Smyth said this is a problem that is not getting better; the kids are in crisis and need so much.

Ms. Dunn said she has heard people calling for help and saying there is no room. A lot of kids and families have a hard time asking for help. She said it is important to remove all roadblocks.

Mayor Rilling expressed his thanks to Mr. Daniels and to the wonderful partnership with the mid Fairfield Child Guidance Center.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VIII. **RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

A. APPOINTMENT AND DURATION OF THE 2024-2025 NORWALK CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION

** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:

1. WHEREAS, pursuant to C.G.S. §7-188(b) and §11-2 of the Charter, at its meeting on September 10, 2024, the Common Council of the City of Norwalk voted to initiate action to amend the Charter of the City of Norwalk; and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council seeks to establish and appoint a Charter Revision Commission in accordance with the provisions of C.G.S. §7-190 (2024-2025 Charter Revision Commission" or "Commission").

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of City of Norwalk that:

a) Pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(a) the following nine (9) members are appointed to serve as members of the 2024-2025 Commission:

Jo Bennett Edwin Camacho
Jim Clark Carl Dickens
Tyler Fairbairn Doug Hempstead
John Levin Richard McQuaid
Tanya Rhodes-Smalls

Not more than one-third of these appointees hold any other public office in the City of Norwalk and not more than a bare majority of appointees are members of one political party.

b) Pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(b), the Commission appointed herein, shall be authorized to consider such changes and other items and matters as it deems desirable or necessary to improve the governance of the City.

c) Pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(b), the Commission shall submit its draft report no later than May 30, 2025 in order to assure that the final report, proposed charter and questions will be submitted in order to be considered at referendum in the general election of 2025.

d) Pursuant to C.G.S. §7-190(c), the 2024-2025 Commission shall terminate upon acceptance or rejection of its final report by the Common Council.

Ms. Young explained this is the second phase of the Charter Revision. The Charter Revision Commission will be made up of five Democrats and four Republicans who are committed to Norwalk.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said she looks forward to hearing the recommendations from the Commission.

Ms. Young said they need to think about giving a guide and direction to the Commission members. She added that she felt this was a good balance of people.

Ms. Dunn said she loves this Commission and expressed thanks to all who agreed to step up. She said she is excited to hear their perspective. Ms. Young noted that Ms. Dunn had a lot of input.

Mayor Rilling said that since 1913, the Charter has remained virtually unchanged. They put together a process where this Charter will continue to be reviewed. He added that they always need to be sure it is always up to date. He said this is a really good team and noted that Mr. Hempstead knows the Charter inside and out. He said that former Mayor Jennie Cave always advised people to read the Charter.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

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

ATTEST:_____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk