

**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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Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings

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**Informational Workshop
The Mayor's Role and Balancing the Council and the Mayor
Moderated by Attorney Mednick**

Mayor Rilling called the special meeting to order at 7:03 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. Johan Lopez
	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner	

Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A: Ms. Nicol Ayers (7:18 P.M.) Mr. Jalin Sead (7:20 P.M.)

District B: Mr. Dajuan Wiggins Ms. Darlene Young

District C: Ms. Nicole Eaddy

District D: Ms. Heather Dunn (7:14 p.m.) Mr. Douglas W. Sutton

District E:

At Roll Call there were eight (8) Common Councilmembers present and six (6) absent (Mr. Goldstein; Ms. Ayers; Mr. Sead; Ms. Dunn; Mr. Frayer and Ms. Shanahan. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor, Harry Rilling; City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Attorney Stephen Mednick.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no members of the public who wished to comment this evening.

III. INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

1. Informational workshop with speakers from around the state curated by Attorney Steve Mednick, for the purpose of discussing their various roles within their municipal government structures. No votes or decisions will be taken during this meeting.

Attorney Mednick made introductory comments and noted this was the last of three pre-Charter sessions. The theme of the three sessions is the balance of power. In addition, the function of the Charter needs to be laid out clearly.

- Harry Rilling, Mayor, City of Norwalk

Attorney Mednick introduced Mayor Rilling who described what the Mayor does and how it is related to the Common Council and Board of Estimate and Taxation. He described the responsibilities of the Common Council. He also described the Mayor's interaction with the department heads and other staff members. Mayor Rilling reviewed the budget process.

- Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, City of Waterbury

Mayor Pernerewski was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

- Ben Florsheim, Mayor, City of Middletown

Mayor Florsheim was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

- Tyisha Walker-Myers, President, Board of Alders, City of New Haven

Attorney Mednick introduced Ms. Walker-Myers who described the budgeting process in New Haven. She noted that the Mayor is not the presiding officer.

- Luke Bronin, Former Mayor, City of Hartford

Attorney Mednick introduced Mr. Bronin who explained that Hartford has a strong Mayor system. The Mayor and Common Council have a four year term.

Attorney Mednick opened the workshop for discussion.

Mr. Bronin strongly encouraged the City to consider moving to a four year term for Mayor and Common Council members. Ms. Walker-Myers said New Haven is moving from a two to a four year term for the Mayor and Alders.

Ms. Walker-Myers described the out reach used to notify residents about issues. She said they need to make sure the voters are informed. Attorney Mednick added that it is a matter of socializing the issue.

Ms. Walker-Myers said she felt a four year term would increase the number of people who wish to run for office. She said it is beneficial for the Alder and Mayor terms to run together. She said New Haven has been successful with 30 Alders. Mayor Rilling said Norwalk's Common Council structure works well.

Ms. Walker-Myers described their staff support structure. She noted that committee Chairs have direct contact with the departments.

In Hartford, Mr. Bronin said the Mayor and Council members each have an aid. In addition, their Council members have the ability to engage their own legal counsel.

Mr. Sead said it would be challenging to find people to make a four year commitment. Ms. Walker-Myers said they have had people leave, but have not had any challenges in filling those seats.

Ms. Walker-Myers and Mr. Bronin briefly described the financial staff structure in their respective cities.

Ms. Smyth asked about Common Council compensation. Hartford Common Council members receive \$15,000 per year and New Haven Alders receive \$5,000 per year. Mr. Bronin said that having a level of compensation will help recruit candidates to run for office.

NO ACTION OR VOTES TAKEN

Ms. Young expressed thanks to Attorney Mednick for putting together such great panels. She also thanked the Common Council members, Ms. Walker-Myers and Mr. Bronin.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

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SPECIAL MEETING

Informational Workshop

The Mayor's Role and Balancing the Council and the Mayor Moderated by Attorney Mednick

I. **ROLL CALL** 8 at Roll Call; Ms. Dunn 7:14 PM, Ms. Ayers 7:18PM, Mr. Sead 7:20 PM; Mr. Goldstein, Mr. Frayer and Ms. Shanahan absent

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT** 0

III. **INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP**

1. Informational workshop with speakers from around the state curated by Attorney Steve Mednick, for the purpose of discussing their various roles within their municipal government structures. No votes or decisions will be taken during this meeting.

- Harry Rilling, Mayor, City of Norwalk
- Paul Pernerewski, Mayor, City of Waterbury
- Luke Bronin, Former Mayor, City of Hartford
- Tyisha Walker-Myers, President, Board of Alders, City of New Haven
- Ben Florsheim, Mayor, City of Middletown

NO ACTION OR VOTES TAKEN

IV. **ADJOURNMENT** 8:18 PM

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