

**CITY OF NORWALK
SPECIAL MEETING/INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA TELECONFERENCE
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

JULY 30, 2024

This is an informational workshop in preparation for the upcoming appointment of a charter revision commission.

Informational workshop with speakers from around the state curated by Attorney Steve Mednick, for the purpose of discussing the process of creating a budget within their municipal government structures.

No votes or decisions will be taken during this meeting.

Ms. Young called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. Dixon called the Roll:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett (7:14 p.m.) Mr. Johan Lopez Ms. Barbara Smyth	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	
District C:	Ms. Nicole Eaddy	
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were eleven (11) Common Councilmembers present and three (3) absent (Mr. Burnett, Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Sutton). A Quorum was present.

Also present were Attorney Steve Mednick; City Clerk, Irene Dixon; Thomas Ellis, Director of Management and Budgets and Jared Schmitt, Chief Financial Officer.

Ms. Young introduced Mr. Mednick and thanked him for gathering this group of municipal representatives. She also expressed thanks to Mr. Ellis and Mr. Schmitt for their attendance.

Mr. Mednick explained that tonight's workshop will focus on the budget process. He described the different types of municipal government and reminded the members of the Common Council that there is no cookie cutter solution to government and noted it is especially true in the budget process.

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□ Ed Abrams, Chair, Board of Estimate – Norwalk

Mr. Mednick introduced Mr. Abrams who discussed the responsibilities of the Board of Estimate and Taxation and how the Board works.

Mr. Burnett joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

Mr. Schmitt added to Mr. Abrams' comments and said he hopes the Charter Review Commission looks at the whole picture and not just focus on the operating budget.

□ David Kooris, former member, Stamford Board of Finance

Mr. Mednick introduced Mr. Kooris who described the Stamford model, where it works and where it falls short.

□ Al Lucas, Director, Office of Legislative Service – New Haven

Mr. Mednick introduced Mr. Lucas who gave an overview of the history of New Haven's government and their current form of government. He also described their budget process.

□ Michael Milone, former Town Manager, Cheshire and Controller, New Haven

Mr. Mednick announced that Mr. Milone was unable to attend this evening's workshop due to a family emergency.

□ Dominique Baez, President of the Hamden Legislative Council Hamden Finance Commission

Mr. Mednick introduced Ms. Baez who described Hamden's budget process.

□ Julian Freund, Director of the Hartford Office of Management, Budget, Grants and Revenue

Mr. Mednick introduced Mr. Freund who reviewed Hartford's Charter review process. He added that their Charter was approved in 2022. He will share the deck he prepared with the members of the Common Council.

□ Shirley Surgeon, President, Hartford City Council

Mr. Mednick introduced Ms. Surgeon who shared her experience working on Hartford's Charter Revision as a Common Council member.

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Following the presentation, panelists fielded questions from members of the Common Council.

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

****SPECIAL MEETING**
Informational Workshop
The Budget Process:
Moderated by Attorney Mednick**

**Common Council Chambers
Tuesday, July 30, 2024
7:00 pm – 9:00 pm**

This is an informational workshop in preparation for the upcoming appointment of a charter revision commission.

I. CALL TO ORDER

7:00 pm

II. ROLL CALL

11 at Roll Call; Greg Burnett joined at 7:15 pm
Total attendees: 12
Mr. Wiggins and Mr. Sutton absent

III. INFORMATIONAL WORKSHOP

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

- David Kooris, former member, Stamford Board of Finance
- Ed Abrams, Chair, Board of Estimate - Norwalk
- Al Lucas, Director, Office of Legislative Service – New Haven
- Michael Milone, former Town Manager, Cheshire and Controller, New Haven
- Dominique Baez, President of the Hamden Legislative Council Hamden Finance Commission
- Shirley Surgeon, President, Hartford City Council
- Julian Freund, Director of the Hartford Office of Management, Budget, Grants and Revenue

NO ACTION OR VOTES TAKEN

IV. ADJOURNMENT

9:06 PM

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