

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**REGULAR MEETING JULY 11, 2023
COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND
VIA ZOOM**

**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 "live comments" will need to register in advance and 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. Please find the information using the link above.

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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 idxon@norwalkct.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:32 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. Barbara Smyth

Mr. Edwin Camacho
Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
District B:	Ms. Diana Revolus	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
District D:	Mr. Bryan Meek	
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan (7:50 p.m.)

At Roll Call there were thirteen (13) Common Councilmembers present and two (2) absent (Ms. Alterman and Ms. Shanahan). 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: June 20, 2023

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MR. MEEK; MR. FRAYER AND MR. CAMACHO)**

Regular Meeting: June 27, 2023

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR (4) ABSTENTIONS (MR. CAMACHO MR. MEEK; MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER; MR. GOLDSTEIN)**

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. Lynelle Jones asked the members of the Common Council to not vote to approve the Waterfront Industrial Zones Study. She said this is completely opposite of what is being told to the City leaders about climate change. She said the Study does not fully address storm water.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRISTOPHER WHITE TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION**

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS TO THE ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION**

**STEPHEN RUST, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
NORI GRUDIN, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
NAOMI CLARK, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
AVA JACOBS, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
MELISSA MATUSKA, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
BOB ABRIOLA, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
BRIAN KASPR, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
DANNY LOFTUS GEORGE, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION
MARC ALAN, ARTS AND CULTURAL COMMISSION**

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner and Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling thanked Congressman Himes for procuring \$4.5 million to complete the Norwalk River Valley Trail. This is going to be the largest trail in Connecticut.

Mayor Rilling joined the Norwalk Health Department and several volunteers at the Norwalk Meal Blitz to raise awareness of the Summer Meals Program that provides free meals to children under 18. He expressed his gratitude to the 13 local providers.

CT Summer at the Museum is back with over 120 museums statewide participating. Mayor Rilling also announced Norwalk was listed by *Fortune Magazine* as the 29th best place in the country to live and raise a family. He said that everyone shares in this honor.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

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

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT VIA SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT WITH STANTEC INC. TO COMPLETE PROJECT REVIEW, CLOSEOUT, AND REQUISITION REQUESTS TO THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANT REIMBURSEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 FOR NRV T PHASE 2.

ACCOUNT NO. 0923 3750 5777 C0777

0922 3750 5777 C0777

0923 4120 5777 C0824

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO AAA BAND RENTALS, LLC. FOR NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL AND BRIEN

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**MCMAHON HIGH SCHOOL BAND INSTRUMENTS REPLACEMENT
PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$290,193.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 09245010 5777 C0685**

**3. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: OF COMMON COUNCIL ACTION OF JUNE
13, 2023, ITEM VII.E.2A & 2B WITH ACCOUNT NUMBERS CORRECTED TO
READ AS FOLLOWS:**

**A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN
AGREEMENT WITH RE-TECH LLC. FOR BELDEN AVENUE LIBRARY -
LITERACY VOLUNTEERS' OFFICE IMPROVEMENTS FOR A TOTAL NOT
TO EXCEED \$89,000.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 09206210 5777 C0660**

**B. AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE
CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED
\$8,900.00 FUNDS AVAILABLE FROM ACCOUNT NO. 09206210 5777 C0660,
09237100 5777 C0476**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all
documentation to ratify and approve the Waterfront Industrial Zones Study.**

Mr. Kydes expressed his thank to all involved. Mr. Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning reviewed the Study. Mr. Camacho asked him to speak on the issues raised by the public. Mr. Kleppin explained there were two areas of concern – Commerce Street and along Water Street. He said they came up with a compromise proposal. The idea is to have more waterfront access.

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner said it was important to highlight the South Norwalk Climate Resilience Study public meeting coming up.

Ms. Shanahan joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

Mr. Meek asked if the Study was non-binding. Mayor Rilling said this is an approval to study.

Ms. Ayers asked about Commerce Street and asked if the Study talks about pollution in that area. Mr. Kleppin said it does not discuss that specifically, but talks about the types of allowable uses. The goal is to deindustrialize the Zone.

Mr. Burnett said he received a few notes with concerns about Brownfields. Mr. Kleppin said there are no listed sites in the Study area. He said there may be Brownfields, but if the property changes hands, that would trigger the CT Transfer Act.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE FUSS AND O'NEILL CONTRACT BY \$200,000 FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND RELATED DESIGN SERVICES FOR WALL STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 3750 5777 C0800**

Mr. Kydes reviewed the item and said that construction is expected to begin in the fall of 2024.

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

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE WSP CONTRACT BY \$25,000 FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE PHASE 4 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PROJECT.
ACCOUNT NO. 0921 4120 5777 C0232**

Mr. Kydes reviewed the item and said this is to add two traffic lights that will streamline the traffic on Wall Street and West Avenue.

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

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A 3-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RENT-A-CHRISTMAS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$138,584 (\$46,195 PER YEAR) FOR THE WALL STREET AND SOUTH NORWALK HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA CHRISTMAS TREES INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE.
ACCOUNT NO. 133710 5796 AEC16
09243780 5777 C0680**

Mr. Kydes reviewed the request for Christmas trees. Ms. Ayers said these are the things that make Norwalk special to children.

Mr. Meek commented that if the City can pay almost \$50,000 for Christmas trees, it can afford a Library parking lot.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A 1-YEAR CONTRACT WITH STAR INC., LIGHT THE WAY WITH 4 OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR A PERIOD OF 1 YEAR EACH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000 PER YEAR FOR LITTER CLEAN-UP SERVICES WITHIN THE WALL STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT VIA SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT.
ACCOUNT NO. 01 3720 5258**

Mr. Kydes reviewed the item and said this is a request to hire three people from STAR for clean up services. Ms. Young said she was excited to see this back. Mr. Heuvelman said that STAR is an asset to the City. Mayor Rilling noted they do really good work.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH RELIABLE EXCAVATING CO., INC. FOR THE NORWALK CONCERT HALL TERRACE AND STAIRS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$148,000.00. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM
ACCOUNT NO. 0923/247100 5777 C0439**

**AND TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$14,800.00.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923/247100 5777 C0439**

Ms. Smyth reviewed the item and said the terrace stairs are in disrepair. This repair will increase safety. Mr. Meek said this warrants repair, but it seems to be premature to pay \$150,000 for this job without the full ADA scope of the project

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions presented 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 8:12 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk