

COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT COUNCIL CHAMBERS AND VIA TELECONFERENCE

JUNE 27, 2023

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

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:35 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

Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A: Ms. Nicol Ayers

Mr. David Heuvelman

District B: Ms. Diana Revolus (8:00 p.m.) Ms. Darlene Young

District C: Ms. Jenn McMurrer

District D:

District E: Mr. James Frayer Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were eight (8) Common Councilmembers present and seven (7) absent. 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 12, 2023

**** MR. HEUVELMAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. FRAYER AND MS. SHANAHAN)**

Regular Meeting: June 13, 2023

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MR. FRAYER AND MS. MCMURRER)**

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, Norwalk Public Library spoke in support of the acquisition of 3 Belden Avenue and expressed her appreciation to the City and the First Taxing District. She said this acquisition represents a major step of achieving the goal of creating a new Library. She added that the main library was renovated over 40 years ago. Currently the Library Board is finalizing the building plan.

Ms. Elise Washer, Norwalk River Watershed spoke in support of purchasing the Stephen Mather parcels. She explained the significance of the parcels to the number of animal species seen or

expected to occur there. She added that the property is important to the water quality and to the wetlands.

Mr. Alex Knopp congratulated Mr. Frayer on his position on the Common Council. He spoke in support of acquiring the 3 Belden Avenue property, which has been under discussion since 2018. He said this acquisition is necessary and essential to the Library. He said that at the last meeting, Mayor Rilling said he was working on parking for the Library and wished him success. He thanked the Commissioners of the First Taxing District.

Ms. Diane Lauricella asked for corrections to the June 13th minutes under public comments. She said her comments should be that the City should purchase 11 Belden Avenue and then sell the bank building.

Ms. Lauricella referenced the use of the Land Trust funds and where chapter 35, article 1, section 4 talks about the duties of the Commission. She said they can use this fund to upgrade properties and then become open space. She said the funds are not equitably distributed and the Conservation Commission based their decision on advice from staff. Ms. Lauricella said it is your duty to look at the Ordinance upon which this is written. She said that Ms. Shanahan is the Chair and hopes to have a conversation with her. She said they need to be equitable to the urban core.

Mr. Kevin Tepast, Land Trust spoke in favor of the grant for the Stephen Mather parcels. He said the purpose is to sustain open space. He added that migratory birds need space and without it the environment will degrade.

Ms. Laura Mira spoke in support of purchasing the Stephen Mather parcels and described the benefits to the community and environment.

IV. **MAYOR**

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

Mayor Rilling announced the following resignation.

Elizabeth Tardif, Arts Commission

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

Ms. Revolut joined the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

**** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF
CHITSAMAY LAM, COMPTROLLER**

Ms. Young and Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the reappointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Rilling congratulated Ms. Lam on her reappointment.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rillings reported that the City will hold its second Public Workshop virtually on Thursday, June 29, 2023, for the Resilient South Norwalk Project. The impact of climate change on our community and potential mitigation ideas to address flooding will be discussed.

The 2023 Independence Day Concert and Fireworks performance will take place at Calf Pasture Beach on July 3rd. City Hall will be closed on July 4, 2023. He noted the new traffic pattern at the Beach.

Mayor Rilling proudly announced that Norwalk was recognized by *CT Insider*, *Fortune Magazine* and *Livability.com* on the state and national level for highest quality of life, livability and being family friendly. He expressed this thanks to everyone.

Mayor Rilling welcomed and congratulated James Frayer on his appointment as Common Council member for District E.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING OFFICER TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO MTE EQUIPMENT SOLUTIONS, INC. IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$30,742.80, SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OFF THE MA FA 116 PRICING CONTRACT FOR A 2023 SAND STAR III IN-FIELD PREP MACHINE FROM ACCOUNTS # 014150-5585 AND 0923-6030-5777-C0771.

2. TECHNICAL CORRECTION: AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH ACTIVE NETWORK, LLC FOR THE PURCHASE OF RECREATION MANAGEMENT SOFTWARE IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$53,799.70 FOR YEAR 1, \$28,875.00 FOR YEAR 2, \$20,319.00 FOR YEAR 3, \$31,835.00 FOR YEAR 4 (EXTENSION) AND \$33, 427.00 FOR YEAR 5 (EXTENSION). FUNDING FOR YEAR 1 THROUGH ARPA ACCOUNT; YEAR 2, 3, 4 AND 5 THROUGH THE RECREATION AND PARKS OPERATING BUDGET.

3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO KOMPAN, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$383,176.32 FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF A NEW PLAYGROUND FOR VETERANS PARK, OFF THE OMNIA PURCHASING CONTRACT # 2017001135. FUNDING FROM THE DEEP BEAUTIFICATION GRANT ACCOUNT # 0923-03-5796-C0832.

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE NPS FACILITIES DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS TO THE NATHAN HALE MIDDLE SCHOOL HVAC PROJECT WITH SAL SABIA ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS, INC. CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$92,460. (COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZED THE CONTRACT ON JUNE 13, 2023) FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE IN ACCT. #09235010 5777 C0652.

C. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. RESOLUTION: REQUESTING FOR BUILDING MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,420,000 FROM THE ARPA (AMERICAN RESCUE PLAN ACT) FUND. ACCOUNT: 131310-5796-AFD01 ARPA GENERAL EXPENSE ACQUISITION OF 3 BELDEN AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE GRANT ASSIGNMENT CERTIFICATION, SFY 2024 ASSIGNING STATE OF CONNECTICUT 13B-38BB ELDERLY AND DISABLED DEMAND RESPONSIVE MUNICIPAL GRANT PROGRAM APPORTIONED FUNDS TO

**OPERATION OF TRANSPORTATION SERVICES COORDINATING ENTITY,
NORWALK TRANSIT DISTRICT.**

D. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH HUMAN SERVICES COUNCIL, FOR (1) CHILDREN'S CONNECTION \$ 16,310.00 (2) DR. ROBERT E. APPLEBY SCHOOL BASED HEALTH CENTERS \$23,690.00 UNDER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT IN THE TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$40,000.00 ACCOUNT # 012010-5A0620.

3. AMENDED - ACTION ITEM #3: AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH THE CARVER, INC. FOR ENRICHMENT SUMMER CAMP PROGRAMS FOR PUBLIC SCHOOL CHILDREN UNDER THE COMMUNITY SERVICES DEPARTMENT FOR THE PERIOD ENDING JUNE 30, 2023 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$46,000 & THE PERIOD ENDING JULY 1, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$150,000 FOR A TOTAL AMOUNT OF \$196,000.00 ACCOUNT # 012010-5A0620.

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ACCEPT AND EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH DCF GRANT FUNDS ESTIMATED AT \$35K, TO SUPPORT THE YOUTH SERVICES, JUVENILE REVIEW BOARD PROGRAM. NO MATCH IS REQUIRED. THE GRANT IS NON-COMPETITIVE.

F. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. WHEREAS, PURSUANT TO CGS SECTION 32-285A THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IS AUTHORIZED TO EXTEND FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS; AND WHEREAS, IT IS DESIRABLE AND IN THE PUBLIC INTEREST THE CITY OF NORWALK MAKE AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE FOR \$5,139,240 IN ORDER TO UNDERTAKE THE LOCKWOOD & HEATHER LANE DRAINAGE IMPROVEMENTS AND TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE, COMMON COUNCIL FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK

1. THAT IT IS COGNIZANT OF THE CONDITIONS AND PREREQUISITES FOR THE STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IMPOSED BY SECTION 32-285A OF THE CONNECTICUT GENERAL STATUTES

2. THAT THE FILING OF AN APPLICATION FOR STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE BY CITY OF NORWALK IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$5,139,240 IS HEREBY APPROVED AND THAT HARRY W. RILING, AS MAYOR OF THE CITY OF NORWALK, IS DIRECTED TO EXECUTE AND FILE SUCH APPLICATION WITH THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, TO PROVIDE SUCH ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, TO EXECUTE SUCH OTHER DOCUMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED, TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR STATE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IF SUCH AN AGREEMENT IS OFFERED, TO EXECUTE ANY AMENDMENTS, DECISIONS, AND REVISIONS THERETO, AND TO ACT AS THE AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF CITY OF NORWALK.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE 3 BELDEN AVENUE, NORWALK, CONNECTICUT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,400,000.00, PLUS CUSTOMARY DUE DILIGENCE COSTS, CLOSING COSTS AND ADJUSTMENTS, AND TITLE INSURANCE COST. ACCOUNT: 131310-5796-AFD01 ARPA GENERAL EXPENSE RE: ACQUISITION OF 3 BELDEN AVENUE, NORWALK, CT.**

Ms. Smyth said this is a very important purchase to the City and will immediately provide 30 parking spaces for the Library. She said that it is her hope that the City will continue to negotiate with Mr. Milligan for the parking site.

Ms. Young expressed her thanks to the First Taxing District and their willingness to partner with the City.

Mayor Rilling recognized the importance of the parcel. He acknowledged Mr. Coppola for his hard work in negotiating this purchase. He added that there are discussions about the parcel that is currently being leased.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Due to a potential conflict of interest Ms. Shanahan recused herself and left the Common Council Chambers.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO** Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments there to as may be necessary to grant funds from the Open Space Capital Budget Funds to the Norwalk Land Trust, Inc. for acquisition of 12, 14 and 16 Stephen Mather Road in the amount of \$200,000. Acct. #0911/12/15/17/18-6030-5775-C0372

Ms. Smyth explained there was a long discussion about the concerns of equity. She said this purchase of the property will protect and preserve open space and wetlands. She said as they recognize the severity and impact of storms anything that can be done to decrease impervious surfaces is a good thing.

Mr. Heuvelman said he will be voting for this item, but is very concerned about the equity piece. The City needs to look at the urban core and find a solution to bring green space to the urban core especially in Districts A and B. He said this is a qualified acquisition but they can't just have a nonprofit find these properties.

Ms. Young said that when they talk about the tree canopy, they need to think outside the box and move the needle.

Mr. Frayer said this is a very unique property and noted that it has a historical background.

Ms. McMurrer said it is important to have a balance of creating and protecting green spaces. They cannot build without having green spaces for citizens.

Ms. Revolus said she would vote yes because part of Connecticut is the feel of a back yard. She added that she would like to see more green space in Districts A and B.

Ms. Ayers said that several colleagues talked about virtual agriculture that is done in urban cities. She suggested looking toward young people who are innovative in STEM. She urged everyone to be innovative.

Mayor Rilling thanked the members of the Common Council and said the equity matter needs to be addressed. He expressed his thanks to Ms. Cherichetti and noted that the City is fortunate to have her.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Shanahan returned to the Common Council Chambers.

D. 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 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, 2023 TO JUNE 30, 2024 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$399,996. ACCOUNT #012010-5298.**

Mr. Heuvelman reviewed the item. Ms. Ayers said she would be voting in the negative for this item because of the resources that have been allocated and due to the data and information. Mr. Daniels, Chief of Community Services explained this is the third year of the program and said this investment garnered support from private philanthropy. This item is a request for approval of the agreement. Ms. Smyth said she worked at Norwalk High School and saw the incredible work done for the kids who were in crisis.

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

E. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SIGN A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT AND LIBERATION PROGRAMS TO PROVIDE A PART-TIME CLINICIAN TO OUR CURRENT BEHAVIORAL HEALTH UNIT. THIS PARTNERSHIP WILL EXPAND OUR CURRENT B.H.U. SERVICES BY ADDING THE C.L.E.A.R. (COMMUNITY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR ADDICTION AND RECOVERY PARTICIPANTS) PROGRAM TO THE CITY OF NORWALK. THE GOAL OF THIS PROGRAM IS TO BUILD A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE LIBERATION PROGRAM FOR THE PREVENTION OF OVERDOSES AND TO PROVIDE CLINICIANS FOR ADDICTION SERVICES. THIS IS A NO-COST PROGRAM FOR THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT AND WILL PROVIDE MUCH-NEEDED SERVICES TO THE CITY.**

Ms. McMurrer reviewed the item. Mayor Rilling commended the Police and noted that oftentimes when people are in crisis they need assistance.

**** 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 8:39 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk