

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMON COUNCIL AD HOC COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 21, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Michael Corsello
Thomas Livingston; Doug Hempstead; Nick Sacchinelli

STAFF: Robert Barron, Finance Director

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 8:00PM and called the roll. A quorum was present.

**1. OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL IMPACT OF THE MAYOR'S PROPOSED
REORGANIZATION.**

Mr. Barron presented the financial aspects of Mayor Rilling's proposed government reorganization and said that it is now four plans, as an additional one was added Monday. He said that the budget increases vary from \$36,600 to \$261,600, depending on how many positions are added and salaries adjusted, and increased operational efficiencies are factored in, but it's a conservative estimate. He said that the expected savings from combining the Recreation and Parks Department with the Department of Public Works would be \$96,260 and that according to Mr. Hughes with this proposed organizational structure he would not have to outsource tree removal for a savings of \$ 54,660 and would not have to hire part time seasonal employees for park maintenance at a savings of \$41,600. He said these are the initial known savings and that they believe there is a great more quantifiable savings but these are the two that are being offered initially because there is a commitment from the staff involved. He said that the \$96,260 savings is only seen in proposals one, two and four and that because in proposal three the two

departments are not combined. Mr. Hempstead asked if any current positions will be disappearing. Mr. Barron said “yes”

Mr. Barron presented spreadsheets for each of the four proposals, plus two summary documents and said that Norwalk currently runs with 18 departments with 629 full-time employees earning \$53.2 million, and that under each proposal; there would be nine departments with 630 to 631 FTE employees.

Mr. Barron stated that the goal to have the reorganization implemented is by July 1st and that it aims to align city resources and employees in to a more rational and efficient organizational structure that represents the needs and functions of a modern city, reducing the Mayor’s direct reports from 20 to nine. Mr. Livingston asked if the reorganization was not approved by July 1st if it would create problems if the changes were implemented during the fiscal year. Mr. Barron said it wouldn’t and that as soon as whatever scenario is approved we will transfer the money into the new organizational structure as needed but from an operational standpoint we lose the ability to get people in position and start realizing savings and to hire for the new positions. Mr. Kydes said that there are a lot of positions that will be coming on board that would be at the pleasure of the Mayor and people may be hesitate to do that in an election year. Mr. Igneri asked Mr. Barron if he is assuming with the new positions that the person would be in place on July 1st. Mr. Barron said “yes” and the analysis is for each scenario and the current is 12 months worth of funding for each position. Mr. Igneri said so if this is not done by the July 1st the actual dollar impact will be less. Mr. Barron said “yes” as well as the current scenario.

Mr. Hempstead asked why the Redevelopment Agency isn’t listed. Ms. King said that there are currently four employees in Development that are supervised by the Redevelopment Agency but paid for by city grants, and that the proposals would keep them in the city budget but they’d be supervised by the city and that the position of the former Economic Development Director Elizabeth Stocker who was working out of the Mayor’s office but paid for out of Redevelopment will be moving to Business Development and Tourism position that the Mayor had recommended, and focused on working with businesses, trying to attract businesses and doing a lot of tourism work and the position is being re-imagined to be much broader than the former position, and that a new position be created for Economic Development Director which would be much broader than the former position. She said the final Redevelopment employee who is paid out of a city grant is the Fair Housing Officer and there is a proposal to combine that position with the existing Fair Rent Officer. Mr. Hempstead asked why Redevelopment isn’t being moved to be under economic development. Ms. King said they are a quasi-governmental agency and the goal is to rearrange the Mayor’s direct reports and that this was an effort to bring in the Mayor’s span of control over the employees that he currently

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supervises to form them into more manageable groupings by type of work and in the exercise we did not take a look at reorganizing boards, commissions, authorities etc. as during this process. She said that a letter to the editor was written last week by Bruce Kimmel who suggested that Board of Education functions and city functions could be combined and said that there probably are efficiencies that we could achieve working with the Board of Education combining certain committees and functions, but this is step one in the process which is to get the employees who are currently reporting to the Mayor in a more organized and logical setup, and once we get that going we could tackle the other things that could probably improve upon.

2. REVIEW OF ALTERNATIVE PROPOSALS FOR PUBLIC WORKS AND RECREATION AND PARKS

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Executive session began at 8:35PM.

Executive session ended at 10:00PM.

There were no votes or actions taken.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

The meeting adjourned at 10:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd

Telesco Secretarial Services

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