

**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.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and led the assembly with the pledge of allegiance.

City Clerk King read the notice that this meeting is being video taped and audio recorded for public broadcast, and assisted listening devices are available.

I. ROLL CALL

City Clerk King called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant	
	Mr. Michael Corsello	Mr. Nick Sacchinelli
	Mr. Bruce Kimmel, Council President	
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Steve Serasis
District B:	Ms. Faye Bowman	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D:		Michael DePalma
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Mr. John Igneri

Mayor Harry Rilling; Attorney Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel; Donna King, City Clerk; 12 present. Absent: Doug Hempstead, Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco, Travis Simms

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting – April 26, 2106

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING
OF APRIL 26, 2016 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH ELEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR, NONE OPPOSED
AND ONE ABSTENTION (CORSELLO).**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

Mayor Rilling asked if there was anyone who wished to speak and hearing none, closed the public participation portion of the meeting at 7:40 p.m.

MAYOR:

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS: None

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling noted the following upcoming events:

May 11: Walk Bridge Info Sessions 4:30-6:30 & 7:00-9:00 p.m. City Hall Community Room

May 13: International Human Relations day at Side by Side School

May 13: Young Astronauts Space Shuttle Launch Simulation at Columbus School 10:00 a.m.

May 14: Seminar on Fraud & Scams along with Direct Solar Energy w/LED light bulb

May 14: Norwalk High School - Clean-up of school grounds- Parents/Students Volunteers

May 22: Shea McGrath Memorial -Calf Pasture Beach/2pm City Hall Honor Wall Dedication

Mayor Rilling congratulated Shannon O'Toole Giandurco and her husband Joseph on the birth of their first child, Emily Rose, and welcomed them into the Council family.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Kimmel reported that two public hearings were held and a workshop earlier tonight was conducted on the City Charter Revision. The Common Council will begin evaluation and deliberations on May 24.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Mr. Kimmel asked Ms. Melendez to present the consent calendar and noted that the next meeting consent calendar would be read by Mr. Sacchinelli.

Ms. Melendez noted that there were two items on the agenda in error as they were approved last month.

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO AMEND THE AGENDA TO REMOVE THE ORDINANCE COMMITTEE ITEMS 7C1 AND 7C2.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS PRESENTED FOLLOWS:**

VII. C1a, C1b, C2a, C2b, B2, B3, D1.

**** MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Consent Calendar items:

Items on the Consent Calendar are in bold as follows:

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

C. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1a. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to Insalco Corporation for the purchase classroom furniture for Norwalk Early Childhood Center based on State Contract pricing. Cost shall be or total not to exceed \$125,285.91. Acct. #09155010 5777 C0555 & #09165010 5799 C0555.

1b. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue increases to the Purchase Order for a total not to exceed \$2,500.

**2a. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to ePlus for the purchase of IT Network Equipment for Norwalk Early Childhood Center based on State Contract pricing. Cost shall be for a total not to exceed \$53,337.43.
Accounts #09175010 5777 C01 12 & #09165010 5799 C0555**

2b. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue increases to the Purchase Order for a total not to exceed \$2,500.

B. PLANNING COMMITTEE

2. Approve the CDBG Citizen Participation Plan.

3. Approve the applications listed in the attached memo for referral to the State for inclusion in the 2016 NAA tax credit program.

D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**1. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to VSI Sales LLC for the purchase f replacement 45' Mast Arm for a sum not to exceed \$16,726.00.
Account No.: 16 13 43 54 14**

The following agenda items were deliberated on the Council floor:

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. Planning Committee:

Mr. Bonenfant stated that he would recuse himself from Item B1 due to a conflict--as one of the companies on the list is a business client of his.

***Mr. Bonenfant left the chambers at 7:55 p.m. and returned following the vote on the item.**

B. Planning Committee

1. Authorize the Mayor to execute any and all documents associated with the submission of the PY42 AAP to HUD by May 15, 2016 and all documents consistent with the approved 2015-2019 Consolidated Plan and PY42 Annual Action Plan.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED THE ITEM FOR APPROVAL.**

There were no questions or comments from the Council.

**** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4a. Approve the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency as the borrower of the Section 108 loan funds for the purpose of the Globe Theater Redevelopment Project.

4b. Approve the attached 2013, 2014 and 2015 certified financial statements of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency as evidence of the NRA's financial capacity to repay the Section 108 loan and as additional security for the guaranteed loan as required by HUD,

4c. Approve as to form, the attached Common Council Consent Resolution to be approved by the Common Council prior to the Redevelopment Agency closing on a loan with the Wall Street Theater Company Inc. which will not be unreasonably withheld.

Mr. Serasis stated that he would recuse himself from Items B4a. B4b. B4c. due to a conflict, as he will be presenting a business proposal on the item.

***Mr. Serasis left the chambers at 7:56 p.m. and returned at 8:05 p.m. following the vote on the item.**

Mr. Kydes read the item and noted that there was a correction to the supporting documentation and noted the wording 'has reviewed' should read 'approved.'

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO AMEND THE SUPPORTING DOCUMENTAION ON THE ITEM AS NOTED.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Sheehan from the Redevelopment Agency came forward to field questions from the Council.

Mr. Bonenfant asked about the City's liability for the loan of \$1,666,000. Mr. Sheehan explained the structure of the pledge of future Block grants as security and that there was a section that outlined the agency's ability to repay the note of \$90,000 over a 20-year term.

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**MAY 10, 2016
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Planning Committee – continued

Mr. Bonenfant asked if this is looked upon unfavorably to re-pay a loan that the owner defaulted on, and asked about where the money if the Agency would have to repay this. Mr. Sheehan replied that it is part of liquid assets provided on the documents as the agency's ability to repay.

Mr. Sheehan explained that it is highly unlikely and the structure is where the block grant is the final resource in the list of guarantors. He further explained that since the 1970's the City has received Block grants every year. He added that the funding source is investor market and the guarantee of paying the Block grant as future insurance to investors.

Mr. Kimmel asked how many years this has been an item for discussion, and. Mr. Sheehan responded at least seven years. Mr. Kimmel shared his experience over the years with discussions over jeopardizing Block grants and added that in this case there is no transfer of funds until a certificate of occupancy is issued. He further explained that they did not want to risk the construction financing and the business plan formulation is a minimal risk. He added that this is a much better scenario and we are in a better position than the past on this convoluted issue.

Ms. Bowman asked about the City's position of liability and risk of losing grants. Mr. Sheehan explained that the city is not in a default position, it is the Redevelopment Agency.

**** MOTION TO APPROVE THE ITEM AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE – none

IX. SUSPENSION OF RULES – none

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL – none

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE - none

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES – none

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

M. Knox;

Telesco Secretarial Services

ATTEST _____
Donna King, City Clerk Date:

City of Norwalk
Common Council Meeting
May 10, 2016
Page 5 of 5

**CITY OF NORWALK
CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION
COMMON COUNCIL
JOINT WORKSHOP
MAY 10, 2016**

ATTENDANCE:

Charter Revision Commission: William Fitzgerald, Chair; Glenn Iannaccone;
Stephen Keogh; Jerry Petrini; Mary Roman

Common Council: Mayor Harry Rilling; Faye Bowman; John Ignieri;
Bruce Kimmel; John Kydes; Thomas
Livingston; Eloisa Melendez; Michael Corsello
6:17 p.m.); Michael DePalma (6:50 p.m.);
Richard Bonenfant (6:57 p.m.);
Michelle Maggio (7:01 p.m.);
Nicholas Sacchinelli (7:22 p.m.);
Steven Serasis (7:22 p.m.)

STAFF: Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel;
Stuart Wells, Registrar of Voters

Mayor Rilling opened the workshop at 6:10 p.m. and said there would be no public participation this evening. Several public hearings were already held and this evening will be used to review what was discussed at those public hearings.

Mr. Fitzgerald provided an overview of the Charter Revision process and said that it is important to remember that they had an 11-week window to create a report; he noted that it was not easy. They met several times and conducted an exhaustive search of each city in Connecticut to see how each proceeded with terms. He said that they had a great asset in Mr. Wells. In addition, he said that the Law Department was amazing. He said that it took hours to look at each aspect of the changes.

Mr. Petrini said that they listened to a lot of people during the public hearings speak about what they wanted. The Commission decided not to go outside the box; they were given topics and added gender neutral language.

Mr. Corsello joined the workshop at 6:12 p.m.

Mr. Petrini said that four questions were put forward.

Charter Revision Commission
Common Council
Joint Workshop
May 10, 2016
Page 1

Mr. Kimmel described the voting process and said that the Common Council can only make a recommendation. Mr. Fitzgerald said that if something is sent back to the Charter Revision Commission, they would have to hold a public hearing on that issue alone and he is concerned that the end result is that it will not make it to the ballot in November.

Mr. Petrini provided insight into the deliberations and how they came to their findings. He said that they did an in-depth investigation and it was a great experience.

Mr. Fitzgerald gave an overview of term limits and compensation from other towns, followed by a discussion.

Mr. DePalma joined the workshop at 6:50 p.m.

Mr. Kydes asked if at the May 24th Common Council meeting if each question would be answered individually and if that was possible. Mr. Kimmel said that eight votes were required to send it back to the Charter Revision Commission. Mr. Petrini said that the Common Council will have to approve this as a whole, but if it fails or there are any changes, it will have to go back to the Charter Revision Commission.

Mr. Kimmel read Ms. Beltz-Jacobson's opinion and said the Common Council's role is advisory only and that the entire report will have to go back to the Charter Revision Commission if the Common Council wants to change one word. Mr. Petrini said that the Report is whole or nothing.

Mr. Bonenfant joined the workshop at 6:57 p.m.

The discussion continued about the report.

Ms. Maggio joined the workshop at 7:01 p.m.

Mr. Coppola said that if on May 24th the Common Council wants to make changes, he suggested having the Law Department create an opinion.

Mr. Corsello asked if they can vote on each item. Mr. Keogh said that he did not have an answer; what happens on May 24th is a determination whether there are no recommendations or the Common Council votes to make recommendations.

A discussion took place about whether or not the Common Council will be able to vote on each item separately. Mr. Coppola said that he will find out if they have to vote on all items.

Mr. Kydes asked about voter turnout. Mr. Wells said that they expect voter turnout to drop when the Mayor is not on the ballot.

Discussions took place about voter turnout and Common Council compensation.

Mr. Keogh noted that it costs money to serve and to maintain contact with constituents.

Mr. Sacchinelli joined the workshop at 7:22 p.m.

Mr. Serasis joined the workshop at 7:22 p.m.

Mr. Keogh discussed compensation for Common Council members.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Charter Revision Commission for their hard work.

There were no further comments and the workshop adjourned at 7:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services