

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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**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMON COUNCIL
FEBRUARY 9, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. King read the announcement and called the Roll:

Common Council

February 9, 2021

Page 1

Via Teleconference

The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett Mr. Manny Langella Ms. Barbara Smyth	Ms. Dominique Johnson Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Mr. George Theodoridis
District D:	Mr. George Tsiranides	Mr. Tom Keegan
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fifteen (15) Common Council members present. A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Donna King and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: January 26, 2021

The following correction was made: the Moment of Silence was for Mr. Curtis Law.

**** MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS
CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak this evening.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

Common Council
February 9, 2021
Page 2
Via Teleconference

Stephanie Thomas, Zoning Commission, Regular
Nick Kantor, Zoning Commission, Alternate

Mayor Rilling announced the resignations of Ms. Thomas and Mr. Kantor from the Zoning Commission.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENTS:**

**JENNIFER BALLIETT, CONSERVATION COMMISSION
FARRAH MARIN, CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Mr. Kydes, Ms. Revolus, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Roberts and Ms. Young spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

ILIANA ZUNIGA, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Ms. Johnson, Mr. Roberts and Ms. Revolus spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT**

NICK KANTOR, ZONING COMMISSION, REGULAR

Mr. Kydes spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENT**

NORMAN WEINBERGER, BOARD OF HEALTH

Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the reappointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling said that each February we celebrate Black History Month. He read a proclamation celebrating February as Black History month, followed by remarks from Mr. Burnett, who shared the history behind Black History Month, noting it began in 1926 as a week-long celebration. In 1976, this celebration was officially recognized as a month-long celebration. He said that Connecticut is the first state to offer an elective in Black and Hispanic studies. He said that Black History is American History. Ms. Revolut said that with knowledge comes respect. She said you give respect to a community when you learn about them. Ms. Young said that with knowledge comes responsibility. She said she would love to make Black History a part of the curriculum and not just an elective.

Mayor Rilling talked about the free food distribution at Calf Pasture Beach every Wednesday starting at 9:00 a.m. He said it is heartbreaking to see the difficulties the people in the City are experiencing. Covid testing is taking place every day at Veteran's Park and at Norwalk Community College. Mayor Rilling announced that starting February 11, 2021, individuals who are 65 and older will be eligible to receive the COVID Vaccine. Mayor Rilling gave a huge shout out to Ms. D'Amore and the staff at the Norwalk Health Department. He urged everyone to continue to wear their mask, wash their hands and practice social distancing.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE 2021 CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DUI GRANT IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$61,400.00.

1B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS E. KULHAWIK, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE 2021 CT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION DUI GRANT IN THE AMOUNT UP TO \$61,400.00 PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.

2. AUTHORIZE THE CITY'S PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT MHQ, INC. UNDER CONTRACT #12PSX0194, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TWELVE (12) 2021 FORD UTILITY INTERCEPTOR AWD FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$428,993. ACCOUNT # 09213010-5777-C0665.

3A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW ENGLAND RADIO CONSULTANTS, LLC FOR CONSULTING AND IMPLEMENTATION SERVICES ADDRESSING THE "CUSTOMER RESPONSIBILITIES" AND "ASSUMPTIONS" AS OUTLINED IN THE STATEMENT OF WORK WITHIN THE MOTOROLA SOLUTIONS, STATE TIE-IN NORWALK RADIO SYSTEM PROJECT, PER SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT REQUEST FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000; FROM ACCOUNT # 09193610 5777 C0615.

3B. AUTHORIZE CHIEF THOMAS KULHAWIK TO EXECUTE CHANGE ORDER (S) TO THE ABOVE AGREEMENT FOR THE AMOUNT NOT EXCEED \$5,000. ACCOUNT # 09193610 5777 C0615.

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER, ON THE BEHALF OF THE NORWALK FIRE DEPARTMENT, TO NORCOMCT 7 GREAT HILL RD. NAUGATUCK, CT. 06770 FOR SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE OF 25 APX8500 ALL BAND MP MOBILE RADIOS NOT TO EXCEED \$177,402.00 FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ACCOUNT # 5777-CO667.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH MORRIS AND MCDANIEL, MANAGEMENT CONSULTANTS, 117 SOUTH SAINT ASAPH STREET, ALEXANDRIA,

VA. 22314 TO DEVELOP AND ADMINISTER A FIREFIGHTER ENTRY LEVEL EXAM, NOT TO EXCEED THE AMOUNT OF \$ 75,000.00.

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDED CONTRACT 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 JANUARY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2021.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE THE TITLE VI - COMPLAINT PROCEDURE AS THE OFFICIAL POLICY FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROJECT D.P.W. 2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.

ACCOUNT NO.

01 40 30 5258

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0234

09 21 4021 5777 C0315

09 21 4021 5777 C0440

09 19 4021 5777 C0471

09 20 4021 5777 C0471

09 21 4021 5777 C0471

09 17 4021 5777 C0526

09 19 4021 5777 C0617

09 20 4021 5777 C0617

09 21 4021 5777 C0617

09 20 4027 5777 C0643

09 21 4027 5777 C0643

09 21 6030 5777 C0365

09 19 6030 5777 C0367

09 15 6030 5777 C0546

09 20 6030 5777 C0657

09 21 6030 5777 C0321

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC. FOR PROJECT D.P.W. 2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.

ACCOUNT NO.

01 40 30 5258

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0234

09 21 4021 5777 C0315

09 21 4021 5777 C0440

09 19 4021 5777 C0471

09 20 4021 5777 C0471

09 21 4021 5777 C0471

09 17 4021 5777 C0526

09 19 4021 5777 C0617

09 20 4021 5777 C0617

09 21 4021 5777 C0617

09 20 4027 5777 C0643

09 21 4027 5777 C0643

09 21 6030 5777 C0365

09 19 6030 5777 C0367

09 15 6030 5777 C0546

09 20 6030 5777 C0657

09 21 6030 5777 C0321

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE & BOND, INC. FOR PROJECT D.P.W. 2021-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$50,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR TWO (2) ADDITIONAL TERMS OF ONE (1) YEAR EACH.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 30 5258

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0234

09 21 4021 5777 C0315

09 21 4021 5777 C0440
09 19 4021 5777 C0471
09 20 4021 5777 C0471
09 21 4021 5777 C0471
09 17 4021 5777 C0526
09 19 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4021 5777 C0617
09 21 4021 5777 C0617
09 20 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 4027 5777 C0643
09 21 6030 5777 C0365
09 19 6030 5777 C0367
09 15 6030 5777 C0546
09 20 6030 5777 C0657
09 21 6030 5777 C0321

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ACQUIRE AN EASEMENT AT 473 CONNECTICUT AVENUE FOR PURPOSES OF CONSTRUCTING, OPERATING, MAINTAINING, REPAIRING AND REPLACING A PUMP STATION.

6. APPROVE THE EAST NORWALK VILLAGE DISTRICT STANDARDS AS PART OF THE CITY OF NORWALK DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS STANDARD DETAIL DRAWING.

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH INNOVATIVE ENGINEERING SERVICES, LLC. TO PROVIDE BUILDING SYSTEMS COMMISSIONING SERVICES FOR THE NEW CRANBURY ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$45,400.00. ACCT. #09215010 5777 C0786

2B. AUTHORIZE TO ESTABLISH A CONTINGENCY FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$4,500.

4. AUTHORIZE TO INCREASE THE CONTINGENCY ALLOWANCE FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES FOR ANTINOZZI ASSOCIATES FOR ARCHITECTURAL AND OTHER SUB CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PROJECT FOR AN

ADDITIONAL NOT TO EXCEED \$45,000. ACCOUNT # 0919/205010 5777 C0619

5A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH UNIVERSAL BUILDING SERVICES, LLC FOR CITY HALL AIR HANDLER UNIT #1 REFURBISHMENT PROJECT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$78,900.00. FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE FROM ACCOUNT #0917/18 7100 5777 C0439

5B. AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$7,890.00

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MS. REVOLUS; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN ASSISTANCE AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM AT NORWALK, CT FOR THE LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM IMPROVEMENT PROJECT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,500,000.00. ACCOUNT #09206310 5777 C0186**

Mr. Livingston reviewed the item. He said this is not an approval of new funding. The project is a major overhaul of the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum. He said the Mansion will have to shut down for two years. The total project cost is estimated to be in excess of \$8 million. He noted the significance of the Mansion.

Mr. Keegan apologized to all associated with the Mansion and said it is a wonderful asset to the City. He said he has to vote no on this. He said the City is entering into a budget season and they have to be careful about what capital projects they are spending money on. He said these choices are made more difficult due to the \$50 million appropriation to Norwalk High School. He said that sadly, he has to vote no. He said that later this year, they will have to make other choices or keep \$50 million in the budget for a new high school. Mr. Keegan said he did not know if there was a way to remove an item from the capital budget that was already approved.

Mr. David Westmoreland, representing Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum explained they have been working on this project for the last two years. This is a lose it or use it grant. He said they tried to make this project as small as possible. The City allocated the \$2.5 million a few years ago and no other work can be done to the Mansion without this work.

Mr. Burnett said he will support this expenditure for this project, but agreed with Mr. Keegan that there needs to be a re-prioritization of what is needed to spend money on.

Ms. Smyth said she heard Mr. Keegan and Mr. Burnett's comments. She said this is funding that was previously approved. Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum has done a great deal of work to get ready for this project. It is not right to take away funding that was already promised.

Mayor Rilling said that essential items will be prioritized. He added that they all agree that these are very difficult times.

**** MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH FOURTEEN (14) IN FAVOR (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MS. REVOLUS; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN) AND ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. KEEGAN)**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO THE AGREEMENT WITH NEWFIELD CONSTRUCTION INC. AS THE CONSTRUCTION MANAGER (CM) FOR THE JEFFERSON ELEMENTARY SCHOOL – RENOVATE AS NEW PROJECT, TO ACCEPT THE GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$24,856,821.00. ACCT. # 0919/205010 5777 C0619**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$1,242,841.00.

Mr. Livingston reviewed the item. This is the approval to guarantee the maximum price. The budget was over \$33 million and this is coming in at \$24,856,821.00. The construction project is scheduled to start in March.

Mr. Livingston said this is part of the continued investment in the City's schools. He noted that the Cranbury Elementary School project is moving ahead. Mayor Rilling said they have been left with a poor infrastructure in the schools. The children deserve more. There is an absolute need to invest in the schools.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MS. YOUNG; MS. REVOLUS; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were none this evening.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk

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**COMMON COUNCIL
SPECIAL MEETING
FEBRUARY 9, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:35 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Common Council
Special Meeting
February 9, 2021
Page 1
Via Teleconference

Ms. King called the Roll.

The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large: Mr. Gregory Burnett Ms. Dominique Johnson
 Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
 Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A: Mr. David Heuvelman

District B: Ms. Darlene Young Ms. Diana Revolus

District C: Mr. John Kydes

District D:

District E: Mr. Thomas Livingston Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were ten (10) Common Council members present and five (5) absent (Mr. Langella; Mr. Roberts; Mr. Theodoridis; Mr. Keegan and Mr. Tsiranides). A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Donna King and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Dachowitz presented the 2021-2022 operating budget. He said the budget books will be delayed, because Ms. Fogel had a medical emergency and will be out for several weeks.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the budget process and the timeline. The final budget and tax levy are set on May 3, 2021. He noted it is a lengthy process.

Mr. Dachowitz explained the laws of economics and how they apply to this budget. He said there are many good requests, on both sides, but they have to make choices and trade offs. He reviewed the law of diminishing returns and said he tries to get the best return on the investment.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the City wide and Norwalk Public Schools operating budget. He said the total recommended budget is \$400.6 million. Included in the City's budget are expenditures on behalf of the Board of Education. He said the City is spending money on behalf of the Board of Education and that is not appropriate. He said that

about \$29 million is on behalf of the Board of Education. The City's net expenditures are \$159.1 million.

Mr. Dachowitz highlighted the split of operating expenditures between the City and the Norwalk Public Schools. He said the schools use 61% of the local taxes. He said there are challenges in establishing budgets for the Norwalk Public Schools and is recommending an increase of \$4.2 million or 2% over last year's approved amount of \$208.4 million. Connecticut State law prohibits a City government from reducing a school budget below the prior year total. The Mayor, Board of Estimate and Taxation and Common Council are only allowed to establish an upper amount on Norwalk Public school expenditures.

Mr. Dachowitz discussed the Norwalk Public Schools and City operations efficiency study. He said they already conducted a cybersecurity review and noted that recommendations have already been implemented. He thanked Ms. Connor for developing the RFP for the efficiency study and noted that it was a very complex RFP. He described the RFP process and said it was narrowed down to four finalists and they were about to make a selection; however, they took a pause to bring Dr. Estrella up to speed. He said he hopes a firm will be selected shortly.

Mr. Dachowitz gave an example of Board of Education staffing and enrollment and said that was why this study was needed. He said there is a tendency on the projection to be higher than the enrollment. There is a forecasting inconsistency and that he does not understand the numbers. He said an expert could understand these numbers.

Ms. Smyth asked if there is an explanation if students are disengaged due to Covid. Mr. Dachowitz said he took the numbers, but does not have an explanation.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed operating budget expenditures by department. He highlighted the contingency line.

The total recommended FY 2022 budget is \$4.6 million which is 3.9% over last fiscal year.

Mr. Kydes asked if there was a dollar amount for the insurance increase. Mr. Dachowitz will get those figures.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the unrestricted/unassigned fund balance (rainy day fund). He said that this year they plan to draw down \$8 million. He noted that this year, they expected to draw down \$6 million, but they did not have to draw down all of the money. They did not draw down \$5.1 million. The Board of Education and the City gave them \$4 million of the surplus and put it into a non-expiring account. In addition, \$1 million went to certain departments.

Mr. Dachowitz said he hopes this year, they will not have to draw down the entire \$8 million. He said the residents are under financial pressure and he tried to accommodate them by giving relief on the mill rate and tax bills. Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the proper use of a fund balance.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the tax levy by district. He said this is a very tough budget year; he feels this budget is balanced and fair. Mr. Dachowitz will send the presentation to the Common Council members.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Dachowitz and Ms. Fogel. He said this is a very difficult budget year. He said they have to be very fiscally responsible. He said he is going to tell all department heads that they can't look at any increased over Mr. Dachowitz's recommendations unless it is critical.

III. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:_____

Donna King, City Clerk

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****SPECIAL MEETING****

AGENDA

- I. **ROLL CALL** 12, Mr. Langella, Mr. Roberts and Mr. Theodoridis absent
- II. **PRESENTATION OF THE 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET** **NO ACTION TAKEN**
- III. **ADJOURNMENT** 7:36 PM

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I. ROLL CALL

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Special Meeting
February 9, 2021
Page 1
Via Teleconference

Ms. King called the Roll.

The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Ms. Dominique Johnson
	Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli	
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

District A: Mr. David Heuvelman

District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
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District C: Mr. John Kydes

District D:

District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan
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At Roll Call there were ten (10) Common Council members present and five (5) absent (Mr. Langella; Mr. Roberts; Mr. Theodoridis; Mr. Keegan and Mr. Tsiranides). A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Donna King and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE 2021-22 OPERATING BUDGET

Mr. Dachowitz presented the 2021-2022 operating budget. He said the budget books will be delayed, because Ms. Fogel had a medical emergency and will be out for several weeks.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the budget process and the timeline. The final budget and tax levy are set on May 3, 2021. He noted it is a lengthy process.

Mr. Dachowitz explained the laws of economics and how they apply to this budget. He said there are many good requests, on both sides, but they have to make choices and trade offs. He reviewed the law of diminishing returns and said he tries to get the best return on the investment.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the City wide and Norwalk Public Schools operating budget. He said the total recommended budget is \$400.6 million. Included in the City's budget are expenditures on behalf of the Board of Education. He said the City is spending money on behalf of the Board of Education and that is not appropriate. He said that

about \$29 million is on behalf of the Board of Education. The City's net expenditures are \$159.1 million.

Mr. Dachowitz highlighted the split of operating expenditures between the City and the Norwalk Public Schools. He said the schools use 61% of the local taxes. He said there are challenges in establishing budgets for the Norwalk Public Schools and is recommending an increase of \$4.2 million or 2% over last year's approved amount of \$208.4 million. Connecticut State law prohibits a City government from reducing a school budget below the prior year total. The Mayor, Board of Estimate and Taxation and Common Council are only allowed to establish an upper amount on Norwalk Public school expenditures.

Mr. Dachowitz discussed the Norwalk Public Schools and City operations efficiency study. He said they already conducted a cybersecurity review and noted that recommendations have already been implemented. He thanked Ms. Connor for developing the RFP for the efficiency study and noted that it was a very complex RFP. He described the RFP process and said it was narrowed down to four finalists and they were about to make a selection; however, they took a pause to bring Dr. Estrella up to speed. He said he hopes a firm will be selected shortly.

Mr. Dachowitz gave an example of Board of Education staffing and enrollment and said that was why this study was needed. He said there is a tendency on the projection to be higher than the enrollment. There is a forecasting inconsistency and that he does not understand the numbers. He said an expert could understand these numbers.

Ms. Smyth asked if there is an explanation if students are disengaged due to Covid. Mr. Dachowitz said he took the numbers, but does not have an explanation.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed operating budget expenditures by department. He highlighted the contingency line.

The total recommended FY 2022 budget is \$4.6 million which is 3.9% over last fiscal year.

Mr. Kydes asked if there was a dollar amount for the insurance increase. Mr. Dachowitz will get those figures.

Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the unrestricted/unassigned fund balance (rainy day fund). He said that this year they plan to draw down \$8 million. He noted that this year, they expected to draw down \$6 million, but they did not have to draw down all of the money. They did not draw down \$5.1 million. The Board of Education and the City gave them \$4 million of the surplus and put it into a non-expiring account. In addition, \$1 million went to certain departments.

Mr. Dachowitz said he hopes this year, they will not have to draw down the entire \$8 million. He said the residents are under financial pressure and he tried to accommodate them by giving relief on the mill rate and tax bills. Mr. Dachowitz reviewed the proper use of a fund balance.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the tax levy by district. He said this is a very tough budget year; he feels this budget is balanced and fair. Mr. Dachowitz will send the presentation to the Common Council members.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Dachowitz and Ms. Fogel. He said this is a very difficult budget year. He said they have to be very fiscally responsible. He said he is going to tell all department heads that they can't look at any increased over Mr. Dachowitz's recommendations unless it is critical.

III. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

ATTEST:_____

Donna King, City Clerk