

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

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.org/meetings Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:42 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. Dominique Johnson	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner

City of Norwalk
Common Council
Special Meeting
February 8, 2022
Via Teleconference
Page 1

Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
District D:	Ms. Heidi Alterman	Mr. Thomas Keegan
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

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

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022-23 OPERATING BUDGET

Mayor Rilling explained that the purpose of this special meeting was for a review of the proposed 2022-23 operating budget by Mr. Dachowitz. He said this is a work in progress and thanked Mr. Dachowitz, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Lam for their hard work in putting the budget together. He also thanked Mr. Burnett and Mr. Livingston.

Mayor Rilling said he knows this has been a difficult time; people have lost jobs and are unable to make payments. He said they are trying to be fair and equitable so that they do not overtax the citizens or underserve the children. The department heads have been very responsible and living within their budgets. Last year he asked them to come back to the Board of Estimate and Taxation with a ½% reduction. Everybody came back with a reduction. He said this is not the final budget; this is the first iteration.

Mr. Dachowitz shared his screen and presented the Mayor and CFO joint recommended budget. He reviewed the schedule and said the Board of Estimate and Taxation sets the final budget and tax levy. He explained that economics is about setting priorities.

The share of the proposed \$412 million budget is 40% for the City and 60% for the Board of Education. He reviewed how the ARPA and ESES funds were divided. Funds were designated to help ameliorate a tax increase, flood mitigation, Community Services, Economic and Community Development and for high speed fiber optic cabling.

Mr. Dachowitz explained that last year, the City and the Board of Education entered into an efficiency study with Evergreen Technology. He reviewed the scope of services and

said they believe they can make their target date of delivering their final report in March. The goal is to get that information to the Common Council to help them make their decision.

The recommended operating budget is \$412 million with \$216 million for the Board of Education which represents a \$7.8 million increase over last year which is a 3.75% increase and \$196.2 million for the City which represents a \$7 million increase which is a 3.69% increase over last year.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the budget line by line. He reviewed the rainy day fund and said the current year budget did use rainy day funds. He said there should not be a ceiling on a rainy day fund. He noted that because of the rainy day fund, the City was able to handle Covid. He said it is a very major factor in the City's bond rating. He said he worries about the AAA bond rating and how a strong rainy day fund works in the City's favor.

Mr. Dachowitz said they have to get enough tax to fund \$412 million and to have to increase that amount, they need to be covered for various situations, such as the senior tax credits. He described how the mill rate for each district is determined.

Mr. Dachowitz congratulated the members of the Pension Board for doing a phenomenal job.

Mr. Dachowitz said he and Mayor Rilling feel this budget is balanced, fair and affordable to Norwalk single family home owners.

He asked if there were any questions. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner asked about the percentage difference between taxing districts. Mr. Dachowitz explained that the City is divided by the full grand list and the Sixth taxing district has a different grand list. He said that if a district has twice the value of the grand list, they are going to pay twice the tax.

Mr. Goldstein asked about the ARPA funds and what the plans are to reduce taxes once fy 2022-2023 passes. Mr. Dachowitz said if they have an increase in expenses each year and the supplement to the budget with the one time funding source goes away, they will have to ask the taxpayers for a tax increase the next year.

III. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk

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

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.org/meetings Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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.org 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	Mr. Joshua Goldstein
	Ms. Dominique Johnson	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner

Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
District D:	Ms. Heidi Alterman	Mr. Thomas Keegan
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

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

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: January 25, 2022

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED**
**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. GOLDSTEIN)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Alderman read a letter submitted by Ms. Daisy Sebastian regarding the plans for the new Norwalk High School. Mayor Rilling stated that they can only allow comments on agenda items.

Additional letters about the new Norwalk High School will be submitted to the City Clerk.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were none this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
THOMAS FARKAS TO THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS**

Mr. Keegan spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

To commemorate Black History month, Mayor Rilling read a proclamation highlighting the contributions and accomplishments of African Americans. Mr. Burnett added remarks about the origin and importance of Black History month.

Mayor Rilling said that during the month of February schools will have programs honoring Black Americans.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Livingston announced the formation of two Ad Hoc Committees – an Ad Hoc Sustainability Resiliency Committee to be headed by Ms. Shanahan and an Ad Hoc Affordable Housing Committee to be headed by Mr. Burnett.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE 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 Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to enter an Agreement J. S. Endurance for the use of Veterans Park Memorial and immediate surrounding grounds for their SONO Half Marathon/5K & Kid Run to be held on Sunday, October 2, 2022 from 8:30 AM to 12:00 PM. Set-up to begin Friday, September 30, 2022 at 8:30 AM with teardown no later than Sunday, October 30, 2022 at 3:00 PM. Approximate attendance 1800 people.

B. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

2. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with Fleet Auto Supply, under RFP project number 4123 for the up-fit of police vehicles each year for an amount not to exceed, 200,000 per year for an initial term of 3 years with 2 optional 1 year renewals. Account # 0922 3010 5777 C0665

3. Approval of the elimination of the Ordinance bonus pool

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement between the City of Norwalk and Tighe & Bond, Inc., for Professional Engineering Services for the Project 4177/DRG2022-1 Design and Permitting for Lockwood Lane & Heather Lane Storm Drainage Improvements, on an hourly basis, for a sum not to exceed \$ 256,000.00.

Account No. 09 22 4021 5777 C0440

01 0 30 5258

3. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Amendment to the April 13, 2021 Agreement between the City of Norwalk and The Grasso Companies, LLC. for Project PM2021-1 Pavement Management Program. The Amendment is to extend the Agreement for a period of one (1) year at a sum not to exceed \$1,535,029.39, with an option of a potential amendment, after the new fiscal year funds become available.

Account No. 09 20 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 22 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4027 5777 C0302

09 22 4021 5777 C0302

09 20 4021 5777 C0503

09 21 4021 5777 C0503

09 22 4021 5777 C0503

09 20 4021 5777 C0649

09 22 4021 5777 C0649

09 19 4021 5777 C0318

09 21 4021 5777 C0318

City of Norwalk

Common Council

Regular Meeting

February 8, 2022

Via Teleconference

Page 4

02 0 00 2602

5. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Amendment to the agreement between the City of Norwalk and Tighe & Bond, Inc., for Construction Inspection/Observation Services, to extend the agreement for the first of two optional additional terms, of one (1) year, billable on an hourly basis, for an amount not to exceed \$200,000.00.

Account No. 09 21 4021 5777 C0440

09 22 4021 5777 C0440

09 20 4062 5777 C0361

09 22 4062 5777 C0361

09 19 4021 5777 C0021

09 20 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 22 4021 5777 C0021

09 14 4021 5799 C0315

09 22 4021 5777 C0315

09 19 4021 5777 C0318

09 21 4021 5777 C0318

09 22 4021 5777 C0318

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with Gill & Gill Architects, LLC to provide Architectural Design Services for the Nathan Hale & West Rocks Bathroom Renovations project for a total not to exceed \$19,440 Acct. #09225010 5777 C0807.

1b. Authorize to establish a contingency for additional services as may be required for a total not to exceed \$5,000.
Acct. #09225010 5777 C0807.

2a. RESOLVED, that the Norwalk Land Use & Building Management Committee is hereby established as the building committee with regard to the Roton Middle School, Asbestos Abatement Project.

2b. RESOLVED, that the Norwalk Common Council hereby authorizes at least the preparation of schematic drawings and outline specifications for the Roton Middle School, Asbestos Abatement project.

2c. RESOLVED, that the City of Norwalk Common Council authorizes the City of Norwalk Board of Education to apply to the Commissioner of Administrative Services and to accept or reject a grant for the Roton Middle School, Asbestos Abatement project.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Johnson said that some people were wearing orange to bring awareness to teen dating abuse.

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

**** MS. MCMURRER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO EXECUTE THE PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO MHQ INC. UNDER THE STATE CONTRACT, CT 12PSX0194, FOR THE PURCHASE OF TEN (10) 2022 FORD UTILITY INTERCEPTOR HYBRID POLICE VEHICLES FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$367,976.00. ACCOUNT # 0922 3010-5777-C0665.**

This is an initiative that was brought up during the last Common Council. Councilmembers spoke in support of this item.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Police Department.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A NO-COST AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND HELPSY, FOR CURBSIDE COLLECTION OF TEXTILES IN THE CITY OF NORWALK.**

Mr. Carr, Chief of Operations and Public Works provided details of the program. There is zero cost to the City and would be a revenue generator. The program can be launched before Earth Day.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL NECESSARY DOCUMENTS FOR THE NATIONAL FISH AND WILDLIFE FOUNDATION – FIVE STAR AND URBAN WATERS RESTORATION GRANT RELATED TO THE CITY OF NORWALK PARTICIPATION AS A PARTNER IN THE GRANT.**

Ms. Smyth reviewed the item and said it was a great group effort. Ms. Young asked how this initiative will increase the tree canopy in South Norwalk. Mr. Carr said he did not have statistics but the City commissioned a Tree Management Plan. Mr. Sotnik said that thanks to the Common Council and the capital budget, they have been able to plant more and more trees. Ms. Young said they are on the right track.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this weekend.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

ATTEST:_____

Irene Dixon, City Clerk

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

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.org/meetings



Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.



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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.



Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.



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.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

****SPECIAL MEETING****

I. ROLL CALL 15

II. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022-23 OPERATING BUDGET

NO ACTION TAKEN

III. ADJOURNMENT 7:30 PM

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

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.org/meetings Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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 on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:42 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. Dominique Johnson	Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner

City of Norwalk
Common Council
Special Meeting
February 8, 2022
Via Teleconference
Page 1

Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. David Heuvelman
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Jenn McMurrer
District D:	Ms. Heidi Alterman	Mr. Thomas Keegan
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

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

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. PRESENTATION OF THE 2022-23 OPERATING BUDGET

Mayor Rilling explained that the purpose of this special meeting was for a review of the proposed 2022-23 operating budget by Mr. Dachowitz. He said this is a work in progress and thanked Mr. Dachowitz, Mr. Ellis and Ms. Lam for their hard work in putting the budget together. He also thanked Mr. Burnett and Mr. Livingston.

Mayor Rilling said he knows this has been a difficult time; people have lost jobs and are unable to make payments. He said they are trying to be fair and equitable so that they do not overtax the citizens or underserve the children. The department heads have been very responsible and living within their budgets. Last year he asked them to come back to the Board of Estimate and Taxation with a ½% reduction. Everybody came back with a reduction. He said this is not the final budget; this is the first iteration.

Mr. Dachowitz shared his screen and presented the Mayor and CFO joint recommended budget. He reviewed the schedule and said the Board of Estimate and Taxation sets the final budget and tax levy. He explained that economics is about setting priorities.

The share of the proposed \$412 million budget is 40% for the City and 60% for the Board of Education. He reviewed how the ARPA and ESES funds were divided. Funds were designated to help ameliorate a tax increase, flood mitigation, Community Services, Economic and Community Development and for high speed fiber optic cabling.

Mr. Dachowitz explained that last year, the City and the Board of Education entered into an efficiency study with Evergreen Technology. He reviewed the scope of services and

said they believe they can make their target date of delivering their final report in March. The goal is to get that information to the Common Council to help them make their decision.

The recommended operating budget is \$412 million with \$216 million for the Board of Education which represents a \$7.8 million increase over last year which is a 3.75% increase and \$196.2 million for the City which represents a \$7 million increase which is a 3.69% increase over last year.

Mr. Dachowitz presented the budget line by line. He reviewed the rainy day fund and said the current year budget did use rainy day funds. He said there should not be a ceiling on a rainy day fund. He noted that because of the rainy day fund, the City was able to handle Covid. He said it is a very major factor in the City's bond rating. He said he worries about the AAA bond rating and how a strong rainy day fund works in the City's favor.

Mr. Dachowitz said they have to get enough tax to fund \$412 million and to have to increase that amount, they need to be covered for various situations, such as the senior tax credits. He described how the mill rate for each district is determined.

Mr. Dachowitz congratulated the members of the Pension Board for doing a phenomenal job.

Mr. Dachowitz said he and Mayor Rilling feel this budget is balanced, fair and affordable to Norwalk single family home owners.

He asked if there were any questions. Ms. Niedzielski Eichner asked about the percentage difference between taxing districts. Mr. Dachowitz explained that the City is divided by the full grand list and the Sixth taxing district has a different grand list. He said that if a district has twice the value of the grand list, they are going to pay twice the tax.

Mr. Goldstein asked about the ARPA funds and what the plans are to reduce taxes once fy 2022-2023 passes. Mr. Dachowitz said if they have an increase in expenses each year and the supplement to the budget with the one time funding source goes away, they will have to ask the taxpayers for a tax increase the next year.

III. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:32 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk