

**CITY OF NORWALK
PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON
COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
FEBRUARY 27, 2025**

Attendance: Jalin Sead, Chair; Heather Dunn; Nicole' Eaddy; James Frayer; Douglas Sutton

Absent: Josh Goldstein; Nicol Ayers

Staff: Michele DeLuca, Deputy Director, Emergency Management; Melissa Lepore, Deputy Chief, Norwalk Police Department; Gino Gatto, Chief, Norwalk Fire Chief; Mark Conte, Asst. Fire Chief; Norwalk Fire Department

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Sead called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

II. ROLL CALL

Mr. Sead called the roll, and all members listed were in attendance. There was a quorum present.

III. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

A. SPECIAL MEETING: 12/9/24

**** MS. EADDY MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) IN FAVOR AND ONE (1) ABSTENTION-
MR. FRAYER.**

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no public participation this evening.

V. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNORS, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO THE SOLE BIDDER, BROWN HELICOPTER, INC. 10100 AILERON AVE, PENSACOLA, FLORIDA, 32506 FOR THE PURCHASE OF A REFURBISHED BOAT, METALSHARK 29 VIGILANT NOT TO EXCEED \$240,000. THE 25% MUNICIPAL GRANT MATCH OF \$60,000 HAS BEEN ALLOCATED FOR IN THE 2022-23 CAPITAL BUDGET. ACCOUNT NO: 33185-5738-G000S

Chief Gatto said that in 2021, the Fire Department applied for a Port Security Grant to purchase a used Coast Guard boat for \$240,000, and that \$180,000 is coming from the government, and \$60,000 is the matching portion from the city. It is a 2012 29-foot metal shark boat with a trailer. With the shipping cost, the total is \$220,157, which is still below what has been allocated.

Mr. Frayer asked if the boat had been surveyed. Chief Gatto said, "No." Mr. Frayer said he believes it would be prudent to have a survey done when purchasing a used boat. Chief Gatto said the motors have a 90-day warranty, and the boat's collar has a five-year warranty. Mr. Frayer emphasized that it would be prudent to have a survey done, especially since some of the dynamics will be changed, and there may be some issues with the boat's seaworthiness.

Mr. Frayer requested further information on the boat at the next meeting.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO TABLE THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

B. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC INSTALL THREE (3) NEW STREET LIGHTS ON THE EXISTING UTILITY POLES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THEODORE LANE AND ONE (1) NEW STREET LIGHT ON THE EXISTING UTILITY POLE IN THE CUL-DE-SAC AT THE SOUTH END OF THEODORE LANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN, AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$100 PER MONTH. ACCT NO. 014021-5241

Mr. Sotnik said they had received a request in the form of a neighborhood petition from some of the residents on Theodore Lane requesting four streetlights to be installed. There are currently no streetlights on Theodore Lane, and the petition stated that there have been various safety issues. He has reviewed the request with the Chief of Operations and Public Works, as well as reviewing it in the field and with Eversource and determined that the additional lights will work in this area and would provide a greater level of safety for both the pedestrians and vehicles, especially at the intersection of Murray Street and Theodore Lane.

Mr. Sotnik shared the layout of the plan.

Mr. Sotnik said the cost will be approximately \$25/month per pole for \$100/month. Mr. Sead asked if there is a cost for installation. Mr. Sotnik said the city has a contract with Eversource, and they will provide the installation at no cost to the city. There would only be a cost if new poles were installed. The city is only responsible for paying for electricity.

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE ITEM.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. DISCUSSION

A. CAPITAL BUDGET PLANNING AND PRIORITIES- POLICE AND FIRE DEPARTMENTS

Deputy Chief Lepore reported on the capital budget planning and priorities for the Police Department and said they have three projects. The first is for cars and vans, and is for the upkeep of the patrol cars, which had gotten backlogged due to supply issues, and COVID, and are trying to catch up, and are requesting \$950,000 for approximately 10 new patrol cars, which are frontline cars and run 24/7. The current cars will retire and have over \$150,000 miles on them.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the following request is to replace the fuel pumps. They are over 20 years old and have had a lot of usage and wear and tear. The request is for \$135,000.

Deputy Chief Lepore said the following request is for crisis response equipment for the crisis negotiating team. The request is for \$30,000.

Mr. Frayer asked if half of the requested cars can be purchased this year and the other half next year. Deputy Chief Lepore said they have been down many vehicles for the past two years and will depend on what is available. Mr. Sead noted that the prices will increase and be more expensive next year.

Mr. Sead acknowledges that it has been a tough budget year and appreciates the cuts the police department has made in the operating budget, but asked if they have everything they need. Deputy Chief Lepore said these are the three items they need for next year. Over the next five years, additional items have been requested for the building.

Chief Gatto reported on the capital budget planning and priorities for the Fire Department and said it consists of seven projects. The first one is for station 4 to do an addition and renovation to be an eight-person station instead of four. He said the same project was requested in 2024 for 2.5 million dollars and was cut from the budget. The following year, they requested 3 million dollars, and it was cut again, and now this year, a cost analysis was done, and the cost is now 4.1 million dollars, but they are hoping not to need the fire pump, so they are requesting 4 million dollars. Currently, there is one fire engine with four firefighters at that station, so if they are on a call and there is another call in that district, another engine covers it, so we are proposing to move a ladder truck from another station into this new renovated station and then move the rescue truck into the Broad River area which will be accessible to all of the major highways so the city will be more balanced as far as response time is concerned. Mr. Sead asked if that would require additional personnel. Chief Gatto said “no”

Chief Gatto said the following request is for the apparatus replacement plan, and they are proposing to replace the ladder truck at the Broad River station. The current truck, which is a 2009, would become a spare truck, and the current spare truck, which is a 1995 ladder truck, would go out to surplus. In fiscal year 2025, we requested a ladder truck for 2.5 million dollars, which was cut from the budget, and are asking it again this year for 2.9 million dollars. The delivery time for the fire apparatus is outrageously long and can take up to four years, but we do not pay for the truck until we take delivery. Mr. Frayer asked why it is being requested in this budget. Chief Gatto said that because we have to go to contract, the

purchasing agent requires the money to be in place before going into contract. Mr. Sead noted that by placing the order, the price is locked in, and the price increase will be avoided next year.

Mr. Fayer said that smaller trucks were previously discussed for the narrower streets, which are popular in Europe, and asked if any more thought was given. Asst Chief Conte said the way the tiller truck is designed for that reason, and the pumper engine trucks are as short as they can be made, and that is one of the main goals when the trucks are being designed.

Chief Gatto said the following request is SCBA harness replacement. The NFPA has changed its standards for breathing apparatuses, and a new one must be purchased for every seat. Asst. Chief Conte provided an overview of the latest standards and said that once we take delivery of these, this will be the final phase. They will be up to NFPA code and guaranteed for at least 10 years for the current code.

Chief Gatto said the following request is for the Fire Marshal vehicle replacement plan. The department has been replacing the Fire Marshal and Deputy Fire Marshal's cars with Ford Rangers and will replace them with two 2012 Ford Escapes. There is an eight-year vehicle replacement plan, which are the last two that need replacement.

Chief Gatto said the following request is for a generator replacement at the apparatus maintenance garage. The current generator, a 1989 model that powers the building and some equipment, must be replaced. The request is for \$125,000 for the replacement of the generator.

Chief Gatto said the emergency operations center's media equipment needs to be replaced. The request is for \$100,000.

Chief Gatto said the following request is for \$50,000 for building repairs.

Chief Gatto said the Finance Department recommended all requests except for the \$50,000 for the building repairs.

Mr. Sead asked if any other items need to be advocated to keep the city safe. Chief Gatto said they have made cuts to the operating budget as requested. Still, the capital budget requests are needed and would benefit the city, especially the renovation of station four and the new apparatus. Asst. Chief Conte said the items that we have requested are the priorities.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06 PM.

UPCOMING MEETING- MARCH 27, 2025

Respectfully submitted,

Dilene Byrd