

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.gov/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 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.gov to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:34 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as follows:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett Mr. Johan Lopez Ms. Barbara Smyth	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Melissa Murray	

District D: Ms. Heather Dunn Mr. Doug Sutton

District E: Mr. James Frayer Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fourteen (14) Common Councilmembers present and one Common Councilmember absent (Ms. McMurrer). 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 9, 2024

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present who wished to comment this evening.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

Mayor Rilling announced the resignation of Kathryn Knight Sellschop, Conservation Commission, Alternate

APPOINTMENTS:

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

KATHRYN KNIGHT SELLSCHOP, CONSERVATION COMMISSION,
REGULAR A**

Ms. Shanahan spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

NATHAN SUMPTER, POLICE COMMISSION**

Ms. Smyth, Ms. Ayers, Mr. Goldstein and Mr. Sutton spoke in support of this appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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

RABBI ITA PASKIND, FIRE COMMISSION**

Mr. Goldstein spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

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

ALAN KIBBE, HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

MATTHEW GIFFORD, HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION

Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS**

MARK JACKSON, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

LISA WILSON GRANT, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. Frayer spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling thanked everyone for attending the State of the City Address this evening where he shared his goals and priorities. The complete recording can be found on the City of Norwalk's YouTube Page. He thanked the residents of Norwalk for the opportunity to serve the City.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

**** MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE CORPORATION COUNSEL TO RETAIN ATTORNEY STEVEN MEDNICK TO PROVIDE LEGAL COUNSEL TO THE CITY TO ADVISE THE COMMON COUNCIL AND A CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION IN CONNECTION WITH THE NEXT MANDATED CHARTER REVISION IN 2025.**

Ms. Niedzielski Eichner spoke in support of this item. Ms. Murray expressed her gratitude to Attorney Mednick for his guidance. Mr. Burnett said he worked closely with Attorney Mednick and noted that he can clearly explain each item in layman's terms. He asked for an anticipated dollar amount. Attorney Coppola explained that Attorney Mednick is paid on an hourly basis. He has been working with the Law Department in an efficient manner to minimize costs. His discount rate to the City is \$260.00 per hour. He recommended getting an estimate in a few months.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING APPOINTMENT
ESTHER MURILLO, ASSISTANT CITY CLERK**

Mr. Frayer and Ms. Young spoke in support of this appointment.

Ms. Murillo said she was looking forward to working with everyone.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

Ms. Young announced that Mr. Wiggins would be reading this evening's Consent Calendar.

**** MR. WIGGINS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.1, VII.A.2, VII.A.3, VII.A.4, VII.A.5, VII.B.1A, VII.B.1B, VII.B.2A, VII.B.2B

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

**1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE
DATED: JANUARY 2024**

**2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX
COLLECTIONS DATED: JANUARY 2024**

**3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX
COLLECTOR'S REPORTS DATED: DECEMBER 2023**

**4. APPROVE ARPA TRANSFER REQUEST FOR NORWALK COMMUNITY
RECOVERY FUND PROGRAM -- ARPA ACCOUNT NO. 132010 5796 ACS03 IN
THE AMOUNT OF \$1,170,000.62 FROM 134010-5796 APW01 DRG2021-1
DREAMY HOLLOW BETTS \$372,013.56; 134010-5796-APW06 STORMWATER
MANAGEMENT PLAN \$48,462.06; 134010-5796-APW07 COASTAL
RESILIENCY CITYWIDE \$350,000.00; 34010-5796-APW11 MUNICIPAL SOLID
WASTE DISPOSAL \$78,553.00; 133710-5796-AEC12 DIGITIZATION
DOCUMENTATION \$190,972.00; 133710-5796-AEC13 BUSINESS NAVIGATION
ONLINE \$130,000.00.**

**5. APPROVE ARPA TRANSFER REQUEST FOR NORWALK COMMUNITY
CARVER -- ARPA ACCOUNT NO. 132010 5796 ACS04 IN THE AMOUNT OF
\$500,000.00 FROM 131310-5796-AFG01 ARPA GENERAL PURPOSE
\$400,000.00; 131310-5796-AFN01 FIBER OPTIC CABLE \$71,677.50; 133710-5796-
AEC12 DIGITIZATION DOCUMENTATION \$28,322.50.**

B. COMMUNITY SERVICES COMMITTEE

**1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY
AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT FUNDS
FROM THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN THE
AMOUNT OF \$495,935.38, FOR THE PERIOD BEGINNING MARCH 1, 2022,
THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026, FOR THE ENHANCED DETECTION,
RESPONSE, SURVEILLANCE, AND PREVENTION OF COVID-19.**

**1B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY
AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR
AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ENHANCED
DETECTION, RESPONSE, SURVEILLANCE, AND PREVENTION OF COVID-**

19 ACTIVITIES FOR THE PERIOD MARCH 1, 2022, THROUGH MARCH 31, 2026.

2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH CARVER FOUNDATION, INC. TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES WHOSE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL-AGED CHILDREN ATTEND NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000. ARPA ACCOUNT NO. 132010 5796 ACS04.

2B. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS, OR AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH THE LOCAL PREVENTION COUNCIL IN THE AMOUNT OF \$20,000.00 TO THE FIDUCIARY POSITIVE DIRECTIONS, 90 POST ROAD W, WESTPORT, CT 06880 C/O THE NORWALK PARTNERSHIP. ACCOUNT NO. 012010 5A0620

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

Due to a potential conflict of interest Ms. Murry recused herself and left the Common Council Chambers.

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE ARPA TRANSFER REQUEST FOR MAYOR INITIATIVE -- ARPA ACCOUNT NO. 130100 5796 AMD01 IN THE AMOUNT OF \$450,000 FROM 133710-5796-AEC14 ADMINISTRATOR FOR ARPA \$304,250; 133710-5796-AEC10 INNOVATION GRANTS FOR START UP \$130,000 133710-5796-AEC2 DIGITIZATION DOCUMENTATION \$15,750.**

Mr. Burnett explained this reallocated funding is going to the Sustainability initiative that is moving Norwalk to becoming the greatest city in Connecticut.

Ms. Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development provided details on this request. She said they are excited to be moving forward with making Norwalk the greenest city in Connecticut. Part of this funding will be used to bring on an individual to lead the efforts the Mayor spoke about in his State of the City speech. She summarized the various initiatives and added that the Office of Sustainability will allow them to think differently on how to drive those initiatives.

Ms. Vonashek noted the Office of Sustainability will sit in the Mayor's office. She said that during their community outreach, they heard concerns about sidewalks, trees and flooding.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Murray returned to the Common Council Chambers.

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions presented this evening.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions postponed to a specific date this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no suspensions of the rules this evening.

Ms. Young addressed the comment that was attempted by a caller earlier this evening during the public participation portion of the meeting. She said they were all here to do the business of the City. She noted this is the most diverse Common Council in history and they should be proud of that. She said there are no words and nobody is going to stop them from doing the work of the City. Ms. Young said they have to be diligent and support each other. She expressed her thanks to the Norwalk Police Department.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ADJOURN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk