

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 7:32 p.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll as follows:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett Mr. Johan Lopez	Mr. Joshua Goldstein Ms. Barbara Smyth
District A:	Ms. Nicol Ayers	Mr. Jalin Sead
District B:	Mr. Dajuan Wiggins	Ms. Darlene Young
District C:	Ms. Jenn McMurrer	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. Niedzielski Eichner). 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: December 12, 2023

The following correction was made to page 4. The reappointment of Ms. Ash should read motion passed with one (1) vote in opposition (Ms. Dunn).

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations, appointments or reappointments announced this evening.

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS:

REAPPOINTMENTS:

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling advised a Code Red alert was sent notifying everyone of the anticipated storm. He asked residents to be very careful and not drive through puddles, especially if the road is closed off by the Norwalk Police Department or the Department of Public Works. Residents who wish to participate in the annual Christmas Tree Collection should follow their recycling collection schedule. January 9th is Law Enforcement Appreciation Day; the Mayor thanked everyone involved in law enforcement for their service in keeping the community safe. He added that the Norwalk Police Department is made up of professional and dedicated individuals.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Burnett announced the annual Dr. Martin Luther King event being held on Monday, January 15th honoring Dr. King's birthday. The event will be held at the west campus at Norwalk Community College beginning at 8:00 a.m. and followed by breakfast. A program in celebration of Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday will take place on Monday, January 15th at 5:00 p.m. at Norwalk Community College.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or reappointments announced this evening.

RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS: Michelle Sawyer, Board of Ethics, Regular

**** MS. MURRAY MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MICHELLE SAWYER AS A REGULAR MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF ETHICS.**

Ms. Murray and Mr. Frayer spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCUSSION:

SETTLEMENT: JANET TRIFERO V. CITY OF NORWALK EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. PUBLIC SAFETY & GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, APPLICATIONS, AND AMENDMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY WITH CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION, DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND HOMELAND SECURITY (DESPP/DEMHS) FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT GRANT PROGRAM (EMGP) AND REGIONAL HOMELAND SECURITY PLANNING AND FUNDING ACTIVITIES.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SIGN MUTUAL BENEFIT AND USE AGREEMENT (MBUA) FORMS TO UTILIZE THE FOLLOWING STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONTRACTS, AS NEEDED, IN THE EVENT OF LARGE-SCALE DISASTER RESPONSES THAT PROVIDE THE OPPORTUNITY FOR FEMA REIMBURSEMENT. DISASTER DEBRIS RESPONSE MANAGEMENT SERVICES

A. APPROVED VENDOR: ASHBRIIT

B. STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONTRACT # 22PSX 0119

DISASTER DEBRIS MONITORING SERVICES

C. APPROVED VENDOR: TETRATECH

D. STATE OF CONNECTICUT CONTRACT # 22PSX 0118

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHIEF OF POLICE ASSOCIATION TO BE A MEMBER OF THE FAIRFIELD COUNTY MUTUAL POLICE ASSISTANCE COMPACT (FAIRFIELD COUNTY BLUE PLAN).

4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNERS, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO INTERACTION INSIGHT CORPORATION FOR THE SOLE SOURCE, UNDER GSA CONTRACT # GS-35F-0415V FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF THE PHASE 2 EVENTIDE NEXLOG 740 (PHASE 2 MOTOROLA P25 AIS INTEGRATION) CALL RECORDER SYSTEM IN THE AMOUNT OF \$80,258.74.

ACCOUNT NO. 0919 3610 5777 C0615

5. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, SHARON CONNERS, TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO THE SOLE SOURCE AND BIDDER, CIRMOZO GROUP LLC, FOR THE PURCHASE OF FYRSTCERT SOFTWARE DESIGNED TO DIGITALLY TRACK SIGNATURES AND DIGITAL RECORDS OF THE

**STATE OF CONNECTICUT POLICE OFFICER STANDARD TRAINING
COUNCIL RT50 FORMS AT THE RATE OF \$8,310.40 FOR THE FIRST YEAR
(205 USERS AT \$41.88 = \$8,585.40 AND ANNUAL INSTRUCTION AT \$225)
WITH ANTICIPATED REOCCURRING COST IN THE FOLLOWING FISCAL
YEAR AT APPROXIMATELY \$6,275.40.**

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH MATTHEW NITTOLY,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE SIDE-BY-SIDE CHARTER SCHOOL, TO
HAVE THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT PROVIDE SCHOOL
RESOURCE OFFICER PROGRAM AND SERVICES.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO IMPLEMENT THE
NON-UNIT PERSONNEL BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION POLICY, AS
WELL AS THE ORDINANCE SALARY SCHEDULE.**

B. FINANCE & CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: DECEMBER 2023

**2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX
COLLECTIONS DATED: DECEMBER 2023**

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

**4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO AUTHORIZE A SINGLE
SOURCE PURCHASE ORDER TO AMCS GROUP INC. FOR A SOFTWARE
PLATFORM TO MANAGE THE TRUCK SCALES AND CUSTOMER
ACCOUNTS AT THE CITY TRANSFER STATION AND YARD WASTE SITE;
PRICING NOT TO EXCEED \$72,900.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND THIS
SERVICE FOR ONE EXTRA YEAR.**

ACCOUNT NO. 01 4042 5299 01 1370 5742

C. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN
AGREEMENT WITH JS ENDURANCE FOR THE USE OF VETERAN'S
MEMORIAL PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR
THEIR GARAVEL SONO HALF MARATHON 5K & KIDS FUN RUN EVENT
TO BE HELD ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 6, 2024, FROM 8:30 AM TO 12:45 PM.
SETUP TIME AT 7:45 AM WITH TEAR-DOWN BY 2:00 PM.
APPROXIMATELY 1,500+ PEOPLE.**

**2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS FOR THE SOLE SOURCE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW PLAYGROUND AT BROOKSIDE SCHOOL, PRICING FROM STATE CONTRACT # 17PSX0081, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$187,425.15 FROM THE STATE OF CT DEEP PARKS BEAUTIFICATION GRANT.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5796 C0832**

**2B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDER TO M.E. O'BRIEN & SONS FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF A NEW PLAYGROUND AT BROOKSIDE SCHOOL, IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,425.00 FROM THE STATE OF CT DEEP PARKS BEAUTIFICATION GRANT.
ACCOUNT NO. 0923 6030 5796 C0832**

D. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE TO INCREASE THE FEE PROPOSED ADJUSTMENTS TO THE PUBLIC WORKS RATES AND FEES SET BY THE DEPARTMENT OF OPERATIONS AND PUBLIC WORKS FEE SCHEDULE AS PER ATTACHED.

E. LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A LEASE AMENDMENT WITH FAMILY AND CHILDREN'S AGENCY FOR THE USE OF PORTIONS OF THE SECOND FLOOR AND THIRD FLOOR OF BEN FRANKLIN CENTER FOR ITS CHILDREN AFTERSCHOOL PROGRAMS AND ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES FOR A PERIOD OF 5 YEARS. LEASE PAYMENTS SHALL BE AS FOLLOWS:

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025: \$3.00/SF
SEPTEMBER 1, 2025 TO AUGUST 31, 2026: \$3.25/SF
SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 TO AUGUST 31, 2027: \$3.50/SF
SEPTEMBER 1, 2027 TO AUGUST 31, 2028: \$3.75/SF
SEPTEMBER 1, 2028 TO AUGUST 31, 2029: \$4.00/SF**

REMAINING TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT TO REMAIN UNCHANGED.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

E. LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO Approve naming of the patio at Oak Hills Park tennis facilities in honor of Mr. Arthur Goldblatt, local attorney, long-time Norwalk resident and dedicated supporter of tennis in the community with special interest in promoting tennis and education with urban kids.**

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of naming the patio at Oak Hills Park tennis facilities in honor of Mr. Goldblatt. She said he was a founder of the Grass Roots Tennis program that provided opportunities for youth.

Mr. Burnett also spoke in support of this item and said Mr. Goldblatt was passionate about making a difference in the lives of young people. He taught them how to focus and how to transfer those skills to the classroom. Many graduates of the Grass Roots Tennis program became very successful.

Ms. Young said that what Mr. Goldblatt started turned into a real gem for the City and its young people. The Grass Roots Tennis program became a path to college and in addition, they raised some really good tennis players. She expressed her thanks to Ms. Denise Brown, Oak Hills Park Authority who moved this forward.

Ms. Brown spoke on behalf of the Oak Hills Park Authority and the Tennis Friends of Oak Hill Park and said Mr. Goldblatt and his family would be very happy. She expressed her thanks to everyone who supported this initiative and said a dedication will take place in the spring.

Mayor Rilling said he echoed everyone's comments. He said he knew Mr. Goldblatt for many years and he was a stalwart citizen. He said that over 4,000 young people from Norwalk went through the program and every single participant at least graduated from high school; others went on to college and/or played professional tennis.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A SUBGRANT AGREEMENT AND ALL OTHER RELATED HUD GRANT REQUIREMENTS/DOCUMENTS/AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED WITH RIVERBROOK REGINAL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, INC. (YMCA) FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NORWALK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET, AS NECESSARY IN ANTICIPATION OF THE RECEIPT AND EXPENDITURE OF HUD GRANT IN THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$1,750,000.00. THE CITY WILL HAVE FULL RESPONSIBILITIES IN COMPLIANCE WITH HUD GRANT REQUIREMENTS.**

Ms. Smyth reviewed the history of the agreement with the YMCA prior to the pandemic. She said that the YMCA received funds and to be sure those funds stay with the building, HUD requires a subgrant agreement.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. AYERS)**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH SILVER PETRUCELLI + ASSOCIATES FOR ARCHITECTURAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE PROPOSED NORWALK COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$662,751.00. FUNDS FOR THIS AGREEMENT ARE AVAILABLE FROM ARPA FUNDS. ACCOUNT NO. 134030 5796 ABL01**

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE OFFICE OF BUILDING MANAGEMENT TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT FOR ADDITIONAL SERVICES AS MAY BE REQUIRED FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000.00. ACCOUNT NO. 134030 5796 ABL01

Ms. Smyth reviewed the item and said it went through the usual RFP process with Silver Petrucelli +Associates coming in as the lowest qualified bidder.

Mr. Wiggins expressed concern with the process and said that going forward they should try to find and bring out diversity for all projects. He said that as a City, they need to be more intentional and bring more minority and women owned businesses to the forefront. He said he would abstain, but going forward, they should look at this.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (MS. AYERS AND MR. WIGGINS)**

F. ECONOMIC & COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. GOLDSTEIN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE TRANSFER OF \$150,000.00 OF GGP FUNDING FROM ACCOUNT NUMBER 510000-5796-GGP08 TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY FOR THE COMPLETION OF THE SOUTH NORWALK COMMUNITY PLAN.**

Mr. Goldstein reviewed the item. He said this is a change order on an existing study that will balance the important community needs and this item will help fund that effort.

Ms. Young explained that this item is a result of the Norwalk Redevelopment Agency and the Economic and Community Development department listening to the residents and hearing their concerns.

Mr. Sead expressed his thanks to Mr. Bidoli and Ms. Vonashek. He also expressed his thanks to Ms. Young and acknowledged her long time fight for South Norwalk.

Ms. Smyth expressed her thanks and commended Mr. Bidoli for his community engagements. She added that what excites her about this Study is that it may make recommendations for issues that have plagued the community.

Mr. Goldstein explained that there is not going to be an RFP process, because they are engaging with someone who knows the community. He noted they had a conversation about the amount of investment in South Norwalk over the past five years.

Ms. Vonashek said that on behalf of the Economic and Community Development department, they are very proud of the work they have been able to do on behalf of the residents of the community. She said the presentation at the last meeting of the Economic and Community Development Committee highlighted the investments made in South Norwalk.

Mayor Rilling talked about the lack of investing in Norwalk, following the Flood of 1955 and noted that now there are new efforts in the Wall Street area. He expressed his appreciation to Mr. Bidoli and Ms. Vonashek for all they do.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

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 suspension of the rules this evening.

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