

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
VIA TELECONFERENCE
NOVEMBER 2, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair: Bryan Meek, Barbara Smyth,
Darlene Young (7:10 p.m.)

OTHERS: Diana Revolus, Common Council member

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development and Tourism

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE
TO CREATE A NON-LAPSING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ACCOUNT TO
RECEIVE FUNDS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND DONATIONS FOR**

**NEIGHBORHOOD CLEANUPS THAT CAN ONLY BE USED ON FUTURE OR
CURRENT NEIGHBORHOOD IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVES.**

Ms. Godeski reviewed the item and explained that the point of the account is to accept donations and make sure they are tied specifically to neighborhood improvement initiatives.

Mr. Kydes will bring this item to the full Common Council.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE EXPENDITURE OF \$53,992.40 TO
PURCHASE 20 GARBAGE CAN SETS FROM RECYCLE AWAY, LLC. VIA
SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT.
ACCT: 530000-5776**

Ms. Godeski explained they replaced a few of the garbage stations in South Norwalk and on Wall Street and West Avenue and are replacing the black that had rusted. She said the dual stations would have black cans for regular garbage and blue cans for recycling. Ms. Godeski stated the new cans were improved and that they had rain guards and locking mechanisms, and contained the garbage better than the previous cans. She then explained this was a second phase of the project as some areas of Wall St., North Main, South Main, and West Avenue were done and the additional cans were there to slowly replace older cans.

Mr. Kydes asked if he was correct that the funding came from the nip bottles that are taxed separately. Ms. Godeski indicated yes. Ms. Smyth then asked Ms. Godeski how far into Norwalk those cans go. Ms. Godeski responded that they only go as far as the police station area and all the way up and down Washington Street. She then stated the older cans go deeper into South Norwalk along Ryan Park, new neighborhood streets, and on Wall Street, and West Avenue because there weren't enough stations to replace them all. The goal was to eventually replace them all with the dual can stations with the rain hood and locking mechanism.

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m. A Quorum was now present.

Ms. Godeski continued saying the current cans were fine but there were issues with rain and trash overflow. She said the goal was to replace all the cans and the advertisement signs but they were keeping some of the older cans because they're still in good condition.

Mr. Meek questioned the \$1350 per garbage can cost. Ms. Godeski explained they looked into multiple manufacturers and this is the only one that services the area. In addition, Public Works strongly recommended they have ones with both rain hoods and locking mechanisms which increase cost. She also indicated that the older cans were almost the same price.

Mr. Meek wanted to see what the garbage can looked like. Ms. Godeski said they are located all along Washington Street and offered to bring up an image as well. Mr. Meek stated he would look at them before the council meeting.

**** MOTON PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MEEK)**

B. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH ARC SOUND. STAGE. LIGHTING. FOR PURCHASING PROJECT 4323 STAGE, LIGHTING, AND SOUND SERVICES FOR NORWALK HOLIDAY EVENTS FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$30,000.**

ACCT: 0924-3780-5777-C0680

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM DIRECTOR TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON THE CONTRACT FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED

\$3,000, 10% OF THE TOTAL CONTRACT COST.

ACCT: 0924-3780-5777-C0680

Ms. Godeski indicated that they had gone out to bid for a sound stage and lighting services for two holiday events that had previously been paid for by the Parking Authority. She explained the City was taking over the management of these events in their entirety. Ms. Godeski indicated that they had bid for both the Wall Street and the south Norwalk, 50 Washington Street events. The bid included a sound stage, lighting DJs, barricades, generators and spotlights for repelling Santa. She indicated they received three bids. Ms. Godeski said the bid out of New York was astronomical requiring the purchasing of items that could be rented. She stated that the other two bids one of \$44,000 from the Norwalk Conservatory of the Arts and the \$30,000 for Ark were more on par with each other.

Ms. Godeski indicated \$30,000 dollars was recommended by the purchasing department and through the Business Development and Tourism Office and that they had worked with Ark before. She stated they were the most cost effective for what they were providing.

Ms. Smyth noted that the Parking Authority paid last year but the cost was significantly higher with Ark and they were getting quite a deal.

Ms. Godeski indicated that last year was around \$38,000. She stated Ark was questioned about the difference for the exact same event and Ark's response was they now know what to expect and what they are doing. She remarked that Ark added a bit more to the bill that they didn't necessarily need this time.

Ms. Godeski stated the Halloween event was so expensive because it had entertainment, the sound stage lighting, pyrotechnics, and items they had on stage for the DJs. She noted that all that accounted for a little less than half and was around the same price they were looking at. She went on to say when the entertainment, The Good Boys, Laid Back, and Luke and Brian Cabrera were added into the bill it accounted for the \$75,000. Ms. Godeski added that for this event they were using local talent, choirs from the schools and some dance academies. She noted they do make donations to those individuals, but aren't paying thousands of dollars. She finished by saying the entertainment was terrific and the event drew a lot of people. Ms. Smyth thanked Ms Godeski and reiterated that the event was terrific and drew a lot of people.

Mr. Meek posed a question about the Halloween event noting there were highway trucks and Police sitting in their cars and wanted to know who was picking up the overtime for those services. He asked if it came from local grants or out of departmental expenditures. Ms. Godeski stated they paid for all of that through the special events budget and doesn't come out of the Police operating budget. She further explained they were using ARPA dollars and capital dollars. Those are all included in that so that pays for EMS, police, any extra staff time from individual departments such as DPW, transportation, parking, mobility was done during normal working hours so there was no extra cost. Ms. Godeski continued saying, the police that were there for extra staff services were all paid through the separate events budgets. Mr. Meeks then asked if it was separate from the entertainment and vendors. Ms. Godeski indicated yes.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. MEEK)**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE COMPTROLLER'S OFFICE TO CREATE A NON-LAPSING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE FUNDS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND DONATIONS FOR SPECIAL EVENTS THAT CAN ONLY BE USED ON FUTURE OR CURRENT SPECIAL EVENT EXPENSES.**

At 7:15 pm Mr. Meeks left the meeting.

Ms Godeski explained that the account being created is for funds generated by ticket sales to recoup costs from an event and for planning future events. She referred to it as a lock box for donations received for special events and through special events that would go directly back into the account.

At 7:41 pm Mr. Meeks returned to the meeting.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE COMPTROLLER’S OFFICE TO
CREATE A NON-LAPSING SPECIAL REVENUE FUND ACCOUNT TO RECEIVE
FUNDS, SPONSORSHIPS, AND DONATIONS FOR THE ARTS AND CULTURAL
DISTRICT AND THE ARTS AND CULTURAL DISTRICT COMMISSION IN
ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY OF NORWALK ORDINANCE CHAPTER 17A:
ARTS AND CULTURE COMMISSION.**

Ms. Godeski indicated that the Arts and Cultural Commission ordinance went through the Common Council. She explained part of the ordinance creates a special fund account, a lock box for funds acquired through fund raising, and ticket sales within the Cultural District itself.

Ms. Godeski stated that the ordinance lays out parameters as to how much money before they have to go to council, and what they can spend that money on directly. She stated this process was putting the ordinance in reality and creating an actual account through the Comptrollers office.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

An unidentified participant indicated she was on a little late and gave kudos to Ms. Godeski and the team for an amazing first time Halloween. She stated it was a win win for the city and restaurants as well. Ms. Godeski thanked the group, thanked them for coming out to cut the

ribbon, saying she couldn’t have done it without them. She said they saw about 4000 people. Ms. Smyth added that these holiday events are what make the city groovy. Ms. Smyth then thanked Ms. Godeski and the team. Ms. Godeski responded that she appreciated it, and stated she couldn’t take all the credit and mentioned the work done by the events coordinator Anna and how she was a great addition to the team.

Mr. Meeks then thanked John Kydes for his service. Ms. Smyth also thanked Mr. Kydes for his service.

III. OLD BUSINESS

No old business was discussed.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted

City of Norwalk
Economic And Community Development
Committee of The Common Council
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China Mayhew
Telesco Secretarial Services

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