

**CITY OF NORWALK
ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE
OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
JULY 6, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Lisa Shanahan; Barbara Smyth;
James Frayer (7:12 p.m.)

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Director of Economic and Community Development;
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Economic and Community Development;
Garrett Bolella and James Travers, Transportation, Mobility and Parking;
Steven Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Mr. Kydes called the Roll as indicated above.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted. Speakers are Norwalk residents unless otherwise noted.

Ms. Diane Lauricella spoke about the Waterfront Industrial Zones Study. She referenced the brownfields on page 44 and said the Study indicated there were no brownfields and said that was false. She said she was disappointed that after she talked about the sites, no one reached out to her for help. Ms. Lauricella said the EPA should know about the brownfield on Platt Street. She reiterated that the statement was false.

Ms. Lauricella said the east bank marina pocket has a pollution problem that was never addressed properly. She said this Study was not ready and asked that her suggestion be taken seriously. She said there were discussions about a map that included a brownfield/polluted sites that was deleted. She said they need to go back to make the report honest about the pollution issues.

Ms. Lauricella said she was not disavowing the City's industrial history and added that Oyster Shell Park was never properly closed.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant spoke about the Waterfront Industrial Zones Study and said that if this is an agenda to push the boatyards out and add apartments, he is not in favor of the Study. He also spoke about item two related to Transportation Engineering and Related Design Services for the Wall Street Corridor and said he wants to be able to get his car from one side of town to the other side of town without having to avoid Wall Street.

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

Mr. Frayer joined the meeting at 7:12 p.m.

A Quorum was now present.

I. ADMINISTRATION

A. Approval of the Minutes of June 1, 2023 Meeting.

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

II. NEW BUSINESS

A. PLANNING AND ZONING

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTATION TO RATIFY AND APPROVE THE WATERFRONT INDUSTRIAL ZONES STUDY. (STEVE KLEPPIN)**

Mr. Kleppin reviewed the request and addressed Ms. Lauricella's comments. He said that he did not doubt there were brownfields, but when the data bases were searched, there were none. He said they were not going to add anything that was not verifiable.

Mr. Kleppin shared his screen and reviewed the memo he provided to the Committee members as well as the map.

The Committee members expressed their thanks to Mr. Kleppin.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. FRAYER)**

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B. TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, AND PARKING

- ** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT VIA SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT WITH STANTEC INC. TO COMPLETE PROJECT REVIEW, CLOSEOUT, AND REQUISITION REQUESTS TO THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR GRANT REIMBURSEMENT IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,000 FOR NRV T PHASE 2. (JIM TRAVERS & GARRETT BOLELLA)**
ACCT: 0923-3750-5777-C0777
0922-3750-5777-C0777
0923-4120-5777-C0824

Mr. Travers reviewed the request to work with Stantec, Inc. who has been working on the design. This will walk them through the project close out.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE FUSS AND O'NEILL CONTRACT BY \$200,000 FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND RELATED DESIGN SERVICES FOR WALL STREET CORRIDOR IMPROVEMENTS. (JIM TRAVERS & GARRETT BOLELLA)**
ACCT: 0923-3750-5777-C0800

Mr. Bolella reviewed the request and explained they held a number of outreach meetings with the residents. He noted they have a lot of funding, but the project has grown in complexity. He said they hope to have the contractor on board by this fall.

In response to Mr. Kydes' question, Mr. Bolella said the plan is to eliminate back in parking. Mr. Travers added that they plan to look at this earlier in the project and return to parallel parking.

- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

- ** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE WSP CONTRACT BY \$25,000 FOR ADDITIONAL DESIGN SERVICES FOR THE PHASE 4 TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADE PROJECT. (JIM TRAVERS & GARRETT BOLELLA)**
ACCT: 0921-4120-5777-C0232

Mr. Bolella reviewed the request and said it is related to the grant funded project. All signals will have adaptive control systems. The funding is to be sure the designer can provide final drawings.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A 3-YEAR LEASE AGREEMENT WITH RENTA-CHRISTMAS IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$138,584 (\$46,195 PER YEAR) FOR THE WALL STREET AND SOUTH NORWALK HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA CHRISTMAS TREES INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE. (SABRINA GODESKI)
ACCT: 133710-5796-AEC16
09243780-5777-C0680**

Ms. Godeski reviewed the request. She said a new Special Events Coordinator was hired and this is the first request the Committee will see. Ms. Smyth said last year's events were fabulous. Ms. Godeski said this will be the first of many events.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. BUILDING AND CODE ENFORCEMENT

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE A 1-YEAR CONTRACT WITH STAR INC., LIGHT THE WAY WITH 4 OPTIONS TO EXTEND THE TERM FOR A PERIOD OF 1 YEAR EACH IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$13,000 PER YEAR FOR LITTER CLEAN-UP SERVICES WITHIN THE WALL STREET BUSINESS DISTRICT. (JESSICA VONASHEK)
ACCT: 01-3720-5258**

Ms. Vonashek reviewed the request. She noted that the City worked with Star Inc. for a number of years. Mr. Kydes asked if there were any issues with the unions. Ms. Vonashek said sh has not heard of any issues with the unions on this particular agreement.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Vonashek announced there will be a Farmer's Market at Ryan Park on July 30th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. There will be live music and lots of vendors.

III. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business discussed this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:49 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services