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 on 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 Maritza Alvarado
at malvarado@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

**ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**
**OF THE COMMON COUNCIL**
**REGULAR MEETING**
**VIA TELECONFERENCE**
**JANUARY 5, 2023**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; Barbara Smyth; David Heuvelman; Joshua Goldstein; Bryan Meek; Thomas Livingston

STAFF: Sabrina Godeski, Director of Business Development and Tourism;
Jim Travers, Director of Transportation, Mobility and Parking
Jessica Vonashek, Chief of Community and Economic Development;
Mike Yeosock, Principal Engineer

## CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

## 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 the Minutes of December 1, 2023 Meeting.

The following correction was made to page 5: Mr. Livingston asked why they were not up zoning.

** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**
** **MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. MEEK)**

## II. NEW BUSINESS

A. TRANSPORTATION, MOBILITY, AND PARKING

** **MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO INCREASE THE FUSS AND O'NEILL CONTRACT BY $60,000 FOR ADDITIONAL TRANSPORTATION ENGINEERING AND RELATED DESIGN SERVICES FOR EAST WALL STREET IMPROVEMENTS. (JIM TRAVERS & GARRETT BOLELLA)**
**ACCT: 0922-4120-5777-C0232 ($40,000)**
**0923-4120-5777-C0824 ($20,000)**

Mr. Travers reviewed this item that came over from Public Works for a unified look. He reviewed the changes to the plan that included streetlights. The plan has been advanced to 90%. This action will move it to the last portion to get the plans done. This will result in a very unified corridor.

Mr. Travers said they are looking at the traffic signal pattern as part of this project. They will look at an adaptive system in the entire corridor. In addition, they are looking at a grant to expand this further.

** **MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

2. UPDATE ON THE TRANSPORTATION MASTER PLAN. (Presentation – Mike Yeosock)

Mr. Yeosock gave an update in the Transportation Master Plan and added it will get the City's investment in the City for the next 20 years. They are working with consultants to revise the traffic in the City. They are reviewing the issues in the City and looking at opportunities to improve the traffic issues. An on-line survey was set up as well as an information booth at the NICE Festival last summer.

Mr. Yeosock described the initiatives, including working with the districts on issues with the buses.

Mr. Yeosock revies various initiatives, including looking at restricting truck access on residential streets, speed mitigation and improving school drop off areas. To accomplish all of this they created a tool box so they can take a problem and identify potential funding sources. These initiatives are being looked at through and equity and environmental justice lens.

Mr. Yeosock said they are trying to make neighborhoods more walkable, and they are developing a concept plan for long term activities. They are applying for a grant to create new streetscapes from Burnell Boulevard. to New Canaan Avenue. They are also looking at turning Calf Pasture Beach Parkway into a bike lane and looking at creating a left turn from North Main Street to Martin Luther Kind Drive. Sidewalk plans have been developed for Riverside Avenue, Linden Street and George Avenue.

Mr. Kydes commended Mr. Yeosock for obtaining grants and said he looked forward to future updates.

B. BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

1. Review of the Arts and Cultural District proposal and approval process. (Presentation - Sabrina Godeski)

Ms. Godeski gave a presentation and said the goals were laid out in the POCD. She reviewed the goals and said the Arts and Cultural District would be able to raise funds and apply for grants to be used in this specific district. She presented a comparison of the existing model and the proposed Art and Cultural district. She also presented the proposed geographical area in the Urban Core and reviewed the steps to implement the proposed model. The Arts Commission would be replaced by the Arts and Cultural Commission. They would oversee the City's art and culture.

Mr. Livingston asked Ms. Godeski how she envisioned this working. Ms. Godeski explained that this District would be involved in various forms of art, such as music. She said that if this Committee was on board, they could discuss the geography at the next meeting.

Ms. Smyth expressed her support for this change. She said she appreciates how intertwined the arts and culture are. This will create something special in that area. This is a way to celebrate who they are in the City. She reiterated her support for this.

Ms. Vonashek said they need to have a walkable district. Another piece of the geography would be to initially adopt the urban cores as the district they want the City to adopt.

Mr. Goldstein said this is great and a welcome change. He asked if there was an underlying Statute passed a few years ago. He also asked if there are other cities in Connecticut who have done this well. He said he would want to get a sense of some models and be mindful that there is diversity on the Commission. Ms. Vonashek offered to forward other models.

Mr. Heuvelman asked if they could see a lay out of the action order and in what order they are needed. He said this is an enrichment for Norwalk.

Ms. Godeski said the first step would be to ratify the geography. Mr. Heuvelman asked if the State Art Commission could give the Committee a presentation.

## III. **<u>OLD BUSINESS</u>**

There was no old business discussed this evening.

## **<u>ADJOURNMENT</u>**

****	MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADJOURN**
****	MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi
Telesco Secretarial Services