

**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 and/or Zoom, or a recording in the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at norwalkct.gov/meetings.

Members of the public may call in to participate. Callers will not be able to see the meeting participants. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, dial *9 on the phone and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to provide "live comments" may also 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. All speakers must state their name and address. Comments must be on a topic on the agenda, and are limited to three minutes. Anyone disrupting the orderly conduct of the meeting, including by using threatening, hateful, or sexually-explicit language, will be removed. Please find the information using the link above.

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 included into the record, they must be submitted by 12:00 p.m. the day of the meeting. Please email Irene Dixon at idxon@norwalkct.gov with the subject line "Public Comment" to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:31 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	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. Nicole Eaddy	Ms. Anne Wennerstrand
District D:	Ms. Heather Dunn	Mr. Douglas W. Sutton
District E:	Mr. James Frayer	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fourteen (14 Common Councilmembers present and one (1) Common Council member 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

A. Regular Meeting: February 25, 2025

The following corrections and additions were made to the minutes:

page 10, paragraph two. should state "She announced the state legislature approved \$829,000 in special education funding that will be for this fiscal year.

Ms. Ayers expressed her thanks to all the department heads because they have done all the hard work. They have gone line by line and understood the impact of every dollar. They have had to cut and to our understanding they have done it and are still doing it and still looking at the budget to see where they can tighten up to do what is best for the citizens.

Ms. Ayers addressed those individuals that were here today and said she wished they had stayed and not left but she understood. She said words matter and what she hears is people saying is cut she said they are not cutting anything. The law will not allow cuts to the Board of Education budget. She said the cap is really a 4% increase above what they got last year. She said she did not know where that narrative came from. She said she wanted to take this opportunity to say they are not cutting funds that are already in our school system. She said she is a parent and her child has received various services throughout the years and she has had many positive experiences in Norwalk public schools as well as some negative but she had more positive experiences in Norwalk public schools than negative. She said she chalked that up to some wonderful professional outstanding administrators, teachers, janitors, lunch people and security guards who chose each day to walk in those buildings taking care of the precious gift which is our children. She said she also has to be honest and said they do prioritize the school system. She explained that everybody may or may not know how they prioritize the school system. Ms. Ayers said that last year they knew they were in a crunch so this committee came together with the mayor's office and made a special appropriation for special education. They prioritized the schools by building new schools and updating schools. She explained bills were passed to increase security cameras and cover the SROs.

Ms. Ayers said that outside of the Board of Education budget, this body prioritizes and supports schools more than the average person realizes. She described an agenda item that directly gives services to the Norwalk Public Schools. As a City and as the administration under Mayor Rilling this Common Council has prioritized the students because they understand the importance of what they need to be successful. She said they all want the students to grow, but she added she has a problem with the narrative that has been brought forth.

Ms. Ayers talked about the narrative over removing nurses from the schools. She said she did not think that was lawful and that they could not cut nurses in a schools where they have children with everything from asthma to seizures; however, that is what is being told to the parents. She said as a parent, she would be scared too, but that is the narrative that went out. She said the other narrative that went out was over class size increases. Ms. Ayers said she thought there was a State Statute that class sizes can only be a certain size. In addition, there are multiple unions in the school system that ensures the teachers are not being taken advantage of.

Ms. Ayers said they have to stop trying to get people to come out by scaring them. The truth is the City is getting less taxes and are asking to do more with less. She said they are not backing down from that challenge, but they are realistic in what they can do. It is not like they don't want to give the schools more money, because essentially, they are giving them more money. They are getting 4% more than they got last year, but it's the school systems decision of what they do with that.

Ms. Ayers said if she was not in this position, she would attend every Board of Education meeting. The conversation needs about keeping critical individuals in place. She said there is a line item in the Board of Education's budget – fringe benefits. She said she wanted to understand fringe benefits and said it is a good chunk of change. She asked if they could fund some people they were asked to cut if they took out fringe benefits.

Ms. Ayers said she recognizes the heart of the parents and they need to look at this at the micro level. She said the Common Council makes decisions across the City for the benefit of everyone. Ms. Ayers said that during the Finance Claims Committee she heard people say they it was ok to pay an additional \$200.00. She noted that \$200.00 is extra above the tax increase. She asked about those citizens who are struggling to pay what they already have to pay. She said they have to consider what everyone can pay and try to find a happy medium.

Ms. Ayers said this is her first time where she is not raising an amendment to raise the budget for the Board of Education. She said she can't ask for an amendment when they do not know what is coming down the road. She said they have to think about the next four years. Ms. Ayers said she supported the recommended cap that has been presented.

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS AMENDED**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. 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. Romney Donald introduced herself and described her daughter's academic achievements.

Ms. Donald explained that she has faced mistreatment from within the City from local politicians, community leaders and within the workforce housing program. She said these are not isolated incidents, but reflect broader patterns of inequity that need to be addressed.

Ms. Donald addressed two agenda items – the tax abatement for Meadow Gardens and the appointment of Mr. Habansky as the new Chief of Economic and Community Development.

Ms. Donald said these decisions will impact Norwalk Black residents and she wants to ensure they are made with transparency and accountability. Affordable housing remains a crisis, but she said she rarely sees data on who is actually benefiting from workforce housing in section -8 programs. She said that nearly one half of the Black households in CT are rent burdened. She said the Norwalk Black population is steadily declining despite the City's overall population growth. Gentrification is forcing Black families out and affordable housing initiatives often serve those already at an advantage.

Ms. Donald asked that the public data be released to show who is actually benefiting. With the appointment of the new Chief of Economic and Community Development she hopes to see a focus on inclusive growth. A 2022 study showed that Black business owners in gentrifying cities dropped by nearly 50% when redevelopment projects favored wealthier newcomers.

Ms. Donald asked how this administration will ensure that economic development will support Black residents rather than price them out. She also asked how it will support Black owned businesses, home ownership pathways and workforce opportunities.

Ms. Donald said Norwalk's DEI Officer resigned last year, during Black History Month due to alleged mistreatment by City officials. She said that was met with silence not just from leadership but from organizations that typically advocate for racial equity. She said that national data shows White women benefit from DEI programs, while Black communities continue to struggle. She asked how Norwalk will ensure equity remains a local priority.

Ms. Donald pointed out that the Democratic Committee's website hasn't been updated in years.

Ms. Donald said Norwalk has an opportunity to lead by example but that requires transparency, accountability and a commitment to inclusive policies. She asked how the City will ensure that Black residents are not left behind in housing and economic opportunities. She expressed her appreciation for the time and effort that goes into these discussions.

Mr. Wilber Joseph introduced himself and said he wanted to address the hiring of Mr. Habansky as the new Chief of Economic and Community Development. He highlighted a critical issue with accessibility at the upcoming Norwalk Recreation Center at 98 South Main Street. He said this \$15.5 renovation is an incredible opportunity but wants to ensure the Black community will have access to this. He noted that the previous center was a cornerstone for the community and its absence left a void. He said they must ensure this facility serves those who need it the most.

Mr. Joseph urged Mr. Habansky and the Common Council to consider how the City will ensure affordability and asked if the programs will reflect cultural events, workshop development and youth mentorship. He asked if there will be a community advisory board with Black representation. Mr. Joseph asked if outreach will be handled with proactive efforts to engage Black residents. He asked how inclusivity will be maintained and if staff and volunteers will receive cultural training to foster a welcoming environment.

Mr. Joseph said the appointment of Mr. Habansky is a chance to reaffirm the City's commitment to equitable growth and asked the Common Council to prioritize his questions.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

1. APPOINTMENTS

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

A. STEVE FERGUSON, FIRE COMMISSION

Ms. Young and Mr. Burnett spoke in support of the appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling reported they broke ground for the new recreation center in South Norwalk. He expressed his thanks to all involved. He said this is going to be an amazing place for everyone in the community to come and enjoy.

The Mayor's Ball is this Friday and tickets are sold out. He expressed his thanks to Ms. Dixon for all her work organizing the Ball.

Mayor Rilling noted the work going on that the new South Norwalk School. He said the steel is coming out of the ground at the new Norwalk High School.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were no resignations or appointments announced this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

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

1. APPOINTMENT OF ATTORNEY KATHLEEN ROYLE AS ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL.

Attorney Coppola introduced Attorney Royle. Attorney Royle reviewed her credentials and experience.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Smyth and Mr. Goldstein welcomed Attorney Royle.

Ms. Smyth announced that Mr. Lohan would be reading this evening's Consent Calendar.

**** MR. LOHAN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

3. AUTHORIZE THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO HAVE EVERSOURCE ELECTRIC INSTALL THREE (3) NEW STREET LIGHTS ON THE EXISTING UTILITY POLES ON THE WEST SIDE OF THEODORE LANE AND ONE (1) NEW STREET LIGHT ON THE EXISTING UTILITY POLE IN THE CUL-DE-SAC AT THE SOUTH END OF THEODORE LANE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ATTACHED PLAN, AT AN APPROXIMATE COST OF \$100.00 PER MONTH.

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO ACCEPT GRANT FUNDING UNDER THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECT NUMBER 0205-0712-AH, FY25 DISTRACTED DRIVING HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT.

5. AUTHORIZE THE CHIEF OF POLICE, JAMES WALSH, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS AND AGREEMENTS AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION HIGHWAY SAFETY PROJECT NUMBER 0205-0712-AH, FY25 DISTRACTED DRIVING HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT GRANT.

C. PUBLIC WORKS

1. APPROVE THE HONORARY NAMING OF THE PORTION OF WOODWARD AVENUE FROM SOUTH MAIN STREET TO BURRITT AVENUE TO BE NAMED REVEREND RAMON FIGUEROA WAY.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FIRST AMENDMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE & BOND, INC. FOR PROJECT DPW2024-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR ONE YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

09 21 4021 5777 C0021

09 22 4021 5777 C0021

09 23 4021 5777 C0021

09 24 4021 5777 C0021

09 25 4021 5777 C0021

09 24 4021 5777 C0302

09 25 4021 5777 C0302

09 24 4021 5777 C0315

09 25 4021 5777 C0315

09 19 4021 5777 C0318

09 24 4021 5777 C0318

09 25 4021 5777 C0318

09 24 4021 5777 C0440

09 25 4021 5777 C0440

09 24 4021 5777 C0471

09 25 4021 5777 C0471

09 23 7100 5777 C0583

09 25 7100 5777 C0583

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A SECOND AMENDMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND WESTON & SAMPSON ENGINEERS, INC., FOR PROJECT

DPW2024-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00/ANNUALLY, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

**09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 25 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 25 4021 5777 C0302
09 24 4021 5777 C0315
09 25 4021 5777 C0315
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0318
09 25 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0471
09 25 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 7100 5777 C0583
09 25 7100 5777 C0583**

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A FIRST AMENDMENT AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND AI ENGINEERS, INC FOR PROJECT DPW2024-1 ON-CALL ENGINEERING SERVICES. THE AGREEMENT IS FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1) YEAR, BILLABLE ON AN HOURLY BASIS, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00, WITH AN OPTION TO EXTEND FOR ONE (1) ADDITIONAL TERM OF ONE (1) YEAR.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

**09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 25 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 25 4021 5777 C0302
09 24 4021 5777 C0315
09 25 4021 5777 C0315
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0318
09 25 4021 5777 C0318**

**09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0471
09 25 4021 5777 C0471
09 23 7100 5777 C0583
09 25 7100 5777 C0583**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A
SECOND AMENDMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF NORWALK AND TIGHE &
BOND, INC. FOR PROJECT DPW2024-2 ON-CALL CONSTRUCTION
INSPECTION - OBSERVATION SERVICES FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO
EXCEED \$350,000.00, BILLABLE
ON AN HOURLY BASIS.**

ACCOUNT NO. 09 19 4021 5777 C0021

**09 21 4021 5777 C0021
09 22 4021 5777 C0021
09 23 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0021
09 25 4021 5777 C0021
09 24 4021 5777 C0302
09 25 4021 5777 C0302
09 24 4021 5777 C0315
09 25 4021 5777 C0315
09 19 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0318
09 25 4021 5777 C0318
09 24 4021 5777 C0440
09 25 4021 5777 C0440
09 24 4021 5777 C0471
09 25 4021 5777 C0471**

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A
PERMANENT SIDEWALK EASEMENT WITH NOREEN R NORMAND OF 31
RICHMOND HILL ROAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF SIDEWALKS ALONG
RICHMOND HILL ROAD FOR PROJECT PM2024-4 PAVING AT VARIOUS
LOCATIONS.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A
PERMANENT SIDEWALK EASEMENT WITH CONNIE C HERTZ & MARTIN
HERTZ OF 33 RICHMOND HILL ROAD FOR CONSTRUCTION OF
SIDEWALKS AND DRIVEWAY APRON ALONG RICHMOND HILL ROAD
FOR PROJECT PM2024-4**

8. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO AWARD A CONTRACT AGREEMENT WITH COLONNA CONCRETE AND ASPHALT PAVING, LLC, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,212,365.00 WITH A 10 % CONTINGENCY OF \$121,365.60 FOR PROJECT TMP2024-7 HOSPITAL HILL VILLAGE SAFETY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT.

ACCOUNT NO. 36 37 51 5799 G0067

09 24 3750 5777 C0649

09 25 3750 5777 C0649

9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN EXTENSION FOR A 1 (ONE) YEAR AGREEMENT WITH A. VITTI EXCAVATORS, LLC PROJECT TMP 2022-4 CONCRETE SERVICES ADAROW IMPROVEMENTS AT VARIOUS LOCATIONS FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500,000.00 WITH A CONTINGENCY OF 10% OF \$50,000.00.

ACCOUNT NO. 09 20 4120 5777 C0649

09 24 3750 5777 C0677

09 23 4120 5777 C0441

09 24 3750 5777 C0441

09 23 4120 5777 C0649

09 24 3750 5777 C0649

09 23 4120 5777 C0824

09 24 3750 5777 C0824

09 26 3750 5777 C0824

09 26 3750 5777 C0649

10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A TEMPORARY RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH LINDA MAKOWSKI TO ENTER OVER A CERTAIN PORTION OF 164 GRUMMAN AVENUE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACCESS, SLOPE MODIFICATION PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR PROJECT PM 2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

11. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A TEMPORARY RIGHT OF ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH NANCY D'ACUNTO TO ENTER OVER A CERTAIN PORTION OF 170 GRUMMAN AVENUE FOR CONSTRUCTION ACCESS, SLOPE MODIFICATION PURPOSES IN CONNECTION WITH THE SIDEWALK INSTALLATION FOR PROJECT PM 2023-5 PAVEMENT MANAGEMENT PROGRAM.

12. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH PARADIGM SOFTWARE, LLC.. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A SOFTWARE PLATFORM TO MANAGE THE TRUCK SCALES

AND CUSTOMER ACCOUNTS AT THE CITY TRANSFER STATION AND YARD WASTE SITE; IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$40,332.08 PLUS AN ANNUAL SUPPORT AND SERVICE FEE OF \$11,515.00 THAT WILL BE RENEWED ON AN ANNUAL BASIS.

ACCOUNT NO. 01 40 42 5299
01 13 70 5742
09 22 4021 5777 C0798

D. ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS RELATED TO RIGHT OF ENTRY AND ACCESS TO THE USPS POST OFFICE AT 2 BELDEN AVENUE; AND ALL OTHER AGREEMENTS AND DOCUMENTS REQUIRED THEREUNDER.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

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

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK HOUSING AUTHORITY, SOUND COMMUNITIES, INC. AND SC MEADOW GARDENS LLC FOR THE ABATEMENT OF REAL PROPERTY TAXES PURSUANT TO C.G.S. § 8-215 AND NORWALK CODE 58-1 ET. SEQ. AT A RATE OF FIVE PERCENT (5%) OF THE AGGREGATE RENTS COLLECTED WITH RESPECT TO THE MEADOW GARDENS AFFORDABLE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT EXCLUDING ANY RENTAL ASSISTANCE SUBSIDIES, AND REDUCED BY DIRECT COSTS OF UTILITIES AND TRASH PAYMENTS PAID BY THE DEVELOPER FOR SUCH FISCAL YEAR FOR THE FOLLOWING INITIAL TERM: (I) SIXTEEN (16) YEARS FROM THE DATE OF COMPLETION OF THE PROJECT AS REFLECTED BY THE ISSUANCE OF THE FIRST CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY OR TEMPORARY CERTIFICATE OF OCCUPANCY FOR THE LAST UNIT IN THE PROJECT, OR (II) EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS FROM THE DATE WHEN ALL PARTIES HAVE SIGNED THE AGREEMENT, WHICHEVER SHALL OCCUR FIRST, WHICH INITIAL TERM SHALL AUTOMATICALLY BE EXTENDED FOR AN ADDITIONAL TWELVE (12) YEARS ABSENT AN UNCURED DEFAULT.

Attorney Callahan explained that Meadow Gardens has been a long time option for affordable housing in Norwalk. This authorization is relative the financial aspects of this project. He fielded questions from Common Council members. Mr. Wiggins asked if there was an automatic extension after 50 years. Attorney Callahan said there is no defaulting. Mr. Lopez asked if the bank offered any concessions. Attorney Callahan said he had hoped people from HUD would be in attendance this evening. He said the City's relationship with the Housing Authority is transparent. Attorney Coppola said he would be very surprised if there is any negotiations. The abatement agreement always gets extended and this is probably underwritten.

Mr. Burnett asked Attorney Callahan to expand on the intent of the tax abatement and how it will help the residents of Meadow Gardens. Attorney Callahan explained it directly helps the residents by making the apartments affordable. Mr. Goldstein said this is a vital project and a genuine affordable housing issue. He suggested that if any issues come through that they go through the Committee process.

Mr. Wiggins said he approved of this item and suggested listening to the people. He said a lot of his friends can't afford to live here, although this project is moving in the right direction. He said minorities, particularly Black people are being pushed out of the City.

Ms. Eaddy asked if after 30 years, this property could potentially not be affordable if the Common Council does not approve it. Ms. Lisa Endo, Vice President of Development said they would not be able to due to financing through Freddie Mac.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Rilling said he wanted to give the Housing Authority a lot of credit.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT

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

1. CONFIRM THE APPOINTMENT AND HIRE OF JAY P. HABANSKY AS THE CHIEF OF ECONOMIC AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK.

AND TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN EMPLOYMENT CONTRACT WITH JAY P. HABANSKY, WITH COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS THEREUNDER CONSISTENT WITH § 35B-2.B. OF THE CODE.

Mr. Sead described his interview with Mr. Habansky and noted he had strong knowledge of the City and Planning and Zoning. They also talked about affordable housing. Ms. Dunn said she had major concerns. Mr. Burnett asked Mr. Habansky what he planned to focus on in the next 90-120 days. Mr. Habansky explained he will meet with the immediate staff to get a better understanding of who reports to him.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MS. DUNN)**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions from Common Council members 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.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further discussion, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk