

**CITY OF NORWALK  
PLANNING COMMITTEE  
APRIL 5, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: John Kydes, Chair; John Igneri; Eloisa Melendez;  
Thomas Livingston; George Tsiranides;  
Douglas Hempstead (7:04 p.m.); Faye Bowman (7:16 p.m.)

STAFF: Timothy Sheehan, Executive Director Norwalk Redevelopment  
Agency; Sabrina Church, Community Development Planner

**CALL TO ORDER  
ROLL CALL**

Mr. Kydes called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. and called the Roll.

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to speak this evening.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

REGARDING DRAFT PY44 ANNUAL ACTION PLAN

Ms. Church explained the Action Plan.

Mr. Hempstead joined the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

Ms. Church said this is the last opportunity for the Committee to make revisions before it goes to the Common Council.

No members of the public wished to speak at the public hearing.

Mr. Kydes closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 1, 2018

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS  
PRESENTED**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

## PROGRAMS

### A. NEIGHBORHOOD ASSISTANCE ACT TAX CREDIT PROGRAM FOR 2018

Ms. Church explained the program.

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE SCHEDULING A PUBLIC HEARING ON 2018 NAA – TAX CREDIT PROGRAM APPLICATIONS TO BE HELD DURING THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE ON MAY 3, 2018**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

### B. FY2018 CAPITAL BUDGET – CONSIDER ALLOCATIONS AND APPROVE ADVANCEMENT TO THE COMMON COUNCIL

The Committee members reviewed allocations with department directors as follows:

Police Department, Deputy Chief Susan Zecca explained that the portable radios would no longer be supported, and they need to move the funding to this current year. She thanked the Committee for moving the funding back to this year.

Fire Chief Geno Gatto said the radios are no longer supported by Motorola and are 12 – 15 years old.

Planning and Zoning Director, Steven Kleppin explained that they are requesting \$40,000 for an office upgrade. The last time significant upgrades were made was during the 1980s. He said he will be working with Mr. Lo to identify a vendor.

Public Works Director, Bruce Chimento and Principal Engineer, Lisa Burns explained that they reduced the pavement management and sidewalk replacement program to \$1,952,000.

Mr. Kydes said Mayor Rilling is on board with all the changes.

Ms. Burns said this year matches the Mayor's recommendation, but the out year will be different. Mr. Hempstead asked if there was money for footpaths. Mr. Chimento said they added that to their request, but it was removed.

Ms. Bowman joined the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Mr. Chimento said they are asking for two plow trucks and a high compactor garbage truck. He reviewed the request from the Parking Authority and said repairs need to be made at some of the parking garages. In addition, the Parking Authority is paying for the cost of the Library parking lot and taking over the Liberty Square parking lot.

Board of Education Chief Financial Officer, Thomas Hamilton said the Board of Education has a major capital improvement plan underway that was subject to a great deal of discussion last year. That plan includes building two new schools and renovating two other schools. He said the Mayor and the City's Finance Director recommended fully funding those projects.

Mr. Hamilton spoke about the District technology request. He said the Planning Commission recommended fully funding the request. Board of Education IT Director talked about their IT request for a little over \$1 million. He said \$500,000 is just for networking. He said there is an opportunity for digital equality for high school students through a grant from Sprint. He said the grant provides the students with the access point, but they need a device to connect to that access point.

Mr. Kydes asked Mr. Hamilton where in the capital budget he would take \$441,000 to pay for the Chrome books. Mr. Hamilton said he could not take it from anywhere. Mr. Livingston asked if the school buildings are a higher priority. Mr. Hamilton said that was a decision for the Board of Education. Mr. Kydes said \$441,000 is a significant amount and he would like to help, but does not want to take money away from a higher priority.

Mr. Hempstead suggested taking \$220,000 from each new school project to fund the IT request of \$441,000. The Board of Education's IT director said they may be able to re-allocate \$54,000 from their furniture line.

Ms. Bowman cautioned how it would look if classroom aids were cut, but then students were being given Chrome books.

Parks and Recreation Director, Kenneth Hughes said he would like design money for the athletic fields at West Rocks Middle School and at Broad River for subsequent years. He explained that he would like to create a destination for the soccer program.

Ms. Bowman asked about the status of Ryan Park. Mr. Sheehan said the Park is under the Redevelopment Agency.

Library Director, Chris Bradley, talked about funding for a golf cart/bookmobile. She said it would go to camps and to neighborhoods. She said the Mayor did not recommend funding, but she may have some capital funds she can use to purchase the golf cart/bookmobile. Mr. Hempstead asked if there is personnel to drive the cart. Ms. Bradley said the Children's Librarian could drive the cart. It can be parked at the Yankee Doodle garage at a charging station. Mr. Hempstead said he thought it was a great idea, but wanted to be sure it would fit in the garage.

IT Director, Karen DelVecchio, said it appeared there were no changes to their request for the technology refresh.

Human Relations Director, Adam Bovilsky, said he was asking for less this year, because he is looking at a major project in the future for approximately \$750,000. Mr. Hempstead asked if that was a firm amount. Mr. Bovilsky said he was not sure.

Mr. Sheehan said the Ryan Park project is funded and they are on site now doing environmental work and grading. The Park should be completed by the August.

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDATIONS:**

**PUBLIC WORKS:**

A-4 \$0  
B-2 \$0  
E-2 \$0  
F-2 \$1,1172  
F-3 \$0  
I-1 \$10,000  
J-1 \$1m  
j-3 \$0

**HUMAN RELATIONS**

**M-1 TRANSFER \$80,000 AND REDUCE THE AMOUNT BY \$30,000**

**RECREATION AND PARKS**

**G-11 MOVE \$11,000 TO THE WEST ROCKS SOCCER COMPLEX**

**G-13 MOVE \$67,000 FROM VETS PARK AND TRANSFER TO**

**G-10 PARKS GARAGE**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. BOWMAN)**

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT:**

**REMOVE \$190,000 FROM JEFFERSON SCHOOL AND \$210,000 FROM COLUMBUS SCHOOL AND TRANSFER \$210,000 TO TECHNOLOGY**

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Bowman asked if anyone could explain the Mayor's rationale on the schools when the South Norwalk schools will not be touched for two years. Mr. Livingston explained that Mr. Barron said the City approved the capital plan over a five year period and felt it was best to keep the allocation to those five years. It does not mean the money will be borrowed this year; it will just be allocated.

**\*\* MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. BOWMAN)**

**OLD BUSINESS**

No old business was discussed this evening.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was discussed this evening.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Rosemarie Lombardi  
Telesco Secretarial Services