

**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 ARE
SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:39 p. m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. King, City Clerk read the notice stating that the meeting was being videotaped and audio recorded for the public broadcast and that assisted listening devices were available.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. King called the Roll. The following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant Mr. Douglas Hempstead	Mr. Michael Corsello Mr. Bruce Kimmel
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Steven Serasis
District B:	Mr. Travis Simms	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio
District D:	Ms. Shannon O'Toole Giandurco	Mr. Michael DePalma
District E:	Mr. John Igneri	Mr. Thomas Livingston

At Roll Call there were thirteen (13) Common Council members present and two (2) absent (Ms. Bowman and Mr. Sacchinelli).

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling; Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola and City Clerk, Donna King.

ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting December 13, 2016

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

MAYOR

RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Resignations: There were no resignations announced this evening.

Appointments:

Moina Noor, Public Library Board

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MOINA NOOR TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Mr. Kimmel spoke in support of this appointment.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Chris Yerinides, Fair Rent Commission

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF CHRIS YERINIDES TO THE FAIR RENT COMMISSION**

Ms. Melendez said that Mr. Yerinides is very devoted to Norwalk and knows that he will be a great asset to the Commission. Mr. Serasis said that he has known him for a long time and he is very politically involved.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Kari Fairchild, Pension Board

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF KARI FAIRCHILD TO THE PENSION BOARD**

Mr. Igneri said that he has known Ms. Fairchild for a while. She has a very impressive resume and understands the financial markets. Ms. Maggio said that she was super impressed by her resume and feels that she will be a great asset to the Pension Board.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Raeanne Bromark, Oak Hills Park Authority

**** MR. CORSELLO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
RAEANNE BROMARK TO THE OAK HILLS PARK AUTHORITY**

Mr. Corsello said that Ms. Bromark is very accomplished in the business community. She is a golfer and a member of the Oak Hills Park Women's Association. Ms. Maggio said that she would support this appointment, but suggested that in the future, the Committee members have more time for further discussion.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH THREE (3) ABSTENTIONS (MR.
BONENFANT; MR. HEMPSTEAD AND MS. O'TOOLE GIANDURCO)**

Reappointments:

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING
REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF HEALTH**

VINCENT J. AMORUCCIO, BOARD OF HEALTH

MATTHEW LLOYD BROVENDER, BOARD OF HEALTH

JANET W. KARPLAK, BOARD OF HEALTH

KENNETH R. LALIME, BOARD OF HEALTH

TERRY TAVELLA QUELL, BOARD OF HEALTH

EDWARD J. TRACEY, BOARD OF HEALTH

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Tabor Hamilton, Public Library Board

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF
TABOR HAMILTON TO THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BOARD**

Mr. Kydes said that he has known Mr. Hamilton for a number of years and he has been an asset to the City.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

SUZANNE H. BETTS, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

ERIC M. CHANDLER, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

HOLLY BARBARA CUZZONE, HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Mr. Livingston said that as the Common Council representative he has had the pleasure of working with these individuals and they are all great candidates.

Mr. Hempstead said that this group runs like a well-programmed computer; they all deserve to be reappointed.

Mr. Serasis said that when he served on the Historical Commission many years ago, he was impressed by their dedication. He said that it was a pleasure to re-appoint people with such interest in our City.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Ms. Noor, Mr. Yerinides, Ms. Fairchild, Mr. Chandler, Ms. Betts and Ms. Quell.

MAYOR'S REMARKS

Mayor Rilling announced that a gentleman asked him to announce that everyone is invited to the Norwalk Aquatic Club 14th annual Zeus Pat Spinola Age Group Qualifier Meet.

The City will launch a new website tomorrow. It should be easier to navigate.

Mayor Rilling announced upcoming events, including Justice Sunday, which will take place on Sunday, January 15th where Dr. Moore and Officer Ramirez will be honored.

The annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration will take place on Monday, January 15th

The Mayor's Ball will take place on January 27th; tickets are going fast. The event is for a good cause.

Mayor Rilling highlighted the accomplishments of the Norwalk Packers. He will present a proclamation honoring them.

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Mr. Igneri wished everyone a happy new year.

CONSENT CALENDAR

** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:

RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
7A1; 7A2; 7A4; 7A5

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

- A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
1. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH JS ENDURANCE FOR THE USE OF VETERANS PARK AS START & FINISH FOR THE 2017 SONO HALF MARATHON TO BE HELD SATURDAY, OCTOBER 14, 2017 FROM 9:00 AM – 1:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE FRIDAY, OCTOBER 13, 2017 AT 12:00 NOON WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 12:00 NOON ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2017. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 2,000.**
 2. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CORPORATE FUN RUN INC., FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK PAVILION I AND PARK FOR A CORPORATE FUN RUN FAIRFIELD COUNTY 5K TO BE HELD THURSDAY, JULY 27, 2017 FROM 10:00 A.M. – 9:30 A.M. ESTIMATE ATTENDANCE 600 – 700.**
 4. **AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE MARITIME ROWING CLUB TO USE A PORTION OF THE PARKING AREA ADJACENT TO THE SOUTH MARINA DOCKS AS WELL AS A PORTION OF THE LOT FOR BOAT STORAGE (TEMPORARY FENCE) AND TO USE THE EXISTING DOCK AREA FOR LAUNCHING. THIS WILL BE TEMPORARY FROM MARCH 31 – JULY 31, 2017 DUE TO DISPLACEMENT BY THE WALK BRIDGE. THE MARITIME ROWING CLUB WILL MOVE UP THE**

NORWALK RIVER UPON COMPLETION OF THEIR PERMITS AND DOCKS AUGUST 1, 2017.

- 5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RACE COASTAL ENGINEERING, LLC FOR THE CONSTRUCTION PHASE SERVICES FOR VETERANS PARK BOAT RAMP & PARKING AREA IMPROVEMENTS FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$40,000. ACCOUNT #0917-6030-5777-C0367.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

- ** MR. SIMMS MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH NORWALK GRASSROOTS TENNIS AND EDUCATION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF FUNDS (MINIMUM \$400,000) FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A NEW TENNIS CENTER AT SPRINGWOOD ELY PARK AND TO NAME THE FACILITIES AS “WILLIAM RIPPE TENNIS CENTER.”. TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT SHALL BE AS OUTLINED IN MIKE MOCCIAE’S MEMO DATED JANUARY 4, 2017**

Mr. Hempstead asked if the City will be responsible for repairs to the tennis courts. Mr. Mocciae explained that the agreement will be the same as the one for Devon’s Place; the City will be responsible for it once it is built. He asked about timing in the event the tennis courts have to be moved.

Mr. Lo said that the Board of Educaiton is scheduled to look at the plans that include building a new school at that site. Ultimately, the Common Council will discuss in April if the plan for the school goes forward. The donation has timing limitations. The intent is to meet the schedule Grass Roots has, but there may be a need for flexibility.

Mr. Hempstead noted that the City has not built a new school from scratch. He said that he is trying to figure out if the July 2017 date is realistic. He asked how to protect the agreement and get flexibility on the date.

Mr. Mocciae said that the Board of Education will do a separate engineering of the site. Mr. Hempstead said that he was worried about putting a drop dead date of July.

Ms. Caron Calder, President said that they are aware of the issues with the school, funding and the timing. They do not want the funder to go away and they have some flexibility. Their goal is to get this done this year.

Mr. Lo explained that this approval is for planning purposes. If this is approved, they would go for a special appropriation to move money from planning to the construction account. Mayor Rilling noted that the City approved \$250,000 for the tennis courts. Ms. Calder said that the funding is needed to move the hill so they can move the courts and exist with a school.

Mr. Hempstead asked if they could move the date from July to September. Mr. Calder said that she did not know. Mr. Serasis asked if there was danger of losing the donation.

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said that she and Mr. Bonenfant have concerns. She would like to see what the Board of Education approves next Tuesday. She said that she understands that no one wants to lose the funding, but would feel better waiting one to two weeks.

Mr. Kimmel said that he listened carefully as this item went through committee. Today this vote is to accept the funding. He said that he listened carefully and does not feel the City is on the hook; this is a great program. Mr. Kimmel said that he does not see what can go wrong and asked why this should be delayed. He said that this is almost like looking a gift horse in the mouth; these are tennis courts for kids.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he gets the basic concept that they need to expand the facility. He said that it comes down to if they expand the school. People do not want engineering done twice. Ms. Calder said that they do not intend to engineer the site twice. Mr. Bonenfant said that the school expansion takes priority. Ms. Calder said that they will follow the school plan.

Mr. Livingston said that he sees a great need for the tennis courts and suggested moving forward.

Mr. Serasis said that its location will depend upon if the school is built or not. If the school is built, the tennis courts will be built on ledge. He said that he worked with Grass Roots and they are a great program for the kids in the neighborhood.

Mr. Kydes said that the goal is for Grass Roots to be an extension of the afterschool program at the school. He said that there would be limited recreation space if a school is built. He said that if the school is not built it will create open space.

Mr. Hempstead asked if they could get a longer period of time so that they do not lose the funding. Ms. Calder said that was possible.

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO AMEND THE LAST SENTENCE OF MR. MOCCIAE'S MEMO TO READ AS FOLLOWS:**

EVERY EFFORT WILL BE MADE TO COMPLETE THE IMPROVEMENTS BY DECEMBER 31, 2017

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Rilling thanked Grass Roots for all they do.

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO DESIGNATE GREENSKIES RENEWABLE ENERGY, LLC AS THE "PREFERRED SOLAR DEVELOPER" FOR THE INSTALLATION OF PHOTOVOLTAIC PANELS ON CITY HALL ROOF. THE FINALIZED TERMS FOR THE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT TO BE SUBMITTED TO LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE AND THE COMMON COUNCIL FOR FINAL APPROVAL**

Mr. Livingston explained that this will allow the City to install solar panels at City Hall. He described how Greenskies was chosen and noted that this is not a final agreement. Mr. Hempstead said that he had concerns about some of the language. Mr. Coppola said that he felt it would be prudent to make changes that were discussed.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO AMEND THE MOTION AS FOLLOWS:**

IF THE CITY IS UNABLE TO FINALIZE THE TERMS FOR THE POWER PURCHASE AGREEMENT THE PURCHASING DEPARTMENT WILL RE-ENTER THE RFP PROCESS

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Kydes said that he is pleased that they are going with Greenskies. He noted that a lot of communities are going solar.

**** MOTION AS AMENDED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were none this evening.

MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this evening.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk