

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION  
FEBRUARY 13, 2017**

**ATTENDANCE:** Gregory Burnett, Chairman; James Feigenbaum, Edwin Camacho, Mayor Harry Rilling; Anne Yang-Dwyer; James K. Page (6:47 p. m.)

**STAFF:** Robert Barron, Finance Director; Donna King, City Clerk; Lunda Asmani; Director of Management and Budgets

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Burnett called the meeting to order at 6:32 p. m. and asked City Clerk King to call the roll. There was a quorum present.

Mr. Barron requested that Other Business (Section C) be heard after the approval of minutes. Chairman Burnett approved the request.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 2, 2017**

Page 5            Change "Ms. Yank Dwyer" to "Ms. Yang Dwyer"  
                     Change "Mr. Yang Dwyer" to "Ms. Yang Dwyer"

**\*\*        MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JANUARY 2, 2017 AS AMENDED.**

**\*\*        THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO ABSTENTIONS (MR. CAMACHO AND MR. FEIGENBAUM).**

**OTHER BUSINESS SECTION C**

**b) RESOLUTION, authorizing a Special Appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 to the Norwalk Parking Authority for the purpose of conducting a study of the City of Norwalk's parking capacity needs.**

Mr. Barron stated that the study will aid in the development of a citywide strategic parking plan and provide the framework and vision for parking in Norwalk. He stated that the Mayor, the Redevelopment Agency and the Parking Authority are being approached by local business and residents requesting assistance with accommodating demand for parking on a regular basis. The requests are no longer being able to be handled on a case by case basis and must be handled in the context of an overall capacity plan for the City. He stated that the goal is to create a plan

that will serve to align policy-makers, city staff, residents, business and property owners so that parking goals reflect a common vision for the city as a whole.

M. Barron stated that a Special Appropriation in the amount of \$200,000 from the Fee In Lieu of Parking fund is in compliance with the requirements of the Connecticut General Statutes and the funding authorization process.

**\*\* MR. CAMACHO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$200,000 TO THE NORWALK PARKING AUTHORITY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING A STUDY OF THE CITY OF NORWALK'S PARKING CAPACITY NEEDS.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**a) Presentation of the FY 2017-18 Recommended Operating Budget**

Mr. Page entered the meeting at 6:47 p. m.

Mr. Barron stated that he met with City department heads and reviewed each department's budget requests. He stated that tonight he is presenting his budget recommendations for each department. Mr. Barron presented a spreadsheet for the Board's review. It listed budgets for the current year, requests for the upcoming year, and his recommendations. He gave an overview of Total Expenses and Inter-Governmental Grants.

Mr. Barron provided dollar amounts on property tax increases that would be necessary if department budgets increases went through as requested. Mr. Barron also reviewed what property tax changes would be necessary based on his recommendations.

Mr. Barron gave a summary of the budget proposal that was presented by the Governor. Mr. Barron stated that the Special Education Grant will be replacing the Excess Cost Grant. He stated that this is a change from receiving a fixed amount each year to a reimbursement grant. Mr. Barron reviewed changes to Board of Education, and LoCip Funding, and municipality cost burden of teachers' pensions that the Governor proposed. He stated that these numbers were in the proposal stage and can be expected to change.

Mr. Barron reviewed the funding that the Norwalk Board of Education has received from the City over the past ten years, as well as Board of Education forecasts that were presented last year. He stated that his recommendation for this year's Board of Education Budget is more in line with the previous forecasts than with the request that was put in this year.

Mr. Barron stated that the target for the City's fund balances is the median fund balance percentage of all of the Moody's AAA rated communities in Connecticut. He stated that his department budget recommendations keeps Norwalk on target to hit that median percentage.

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Discussion followed on possible interest rate increases and what effect that would have on the City's budget.

Mayor Rilling stated that providing a quality education for our children is a top priority. Property tax increases makes the budget process challenging. Many residents are on fixed incomes, and we don't want to see them leave our community. We will do what we can to work with the Board of Education in this challenging environment.

### **SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (SECTION A) NONE**

List of Resolutions  
Advertised Items – 0  
Report on Special Appropriations  
Justification/Back-up material

### **TRANSFER AGENDA (SECTION B) NONE**

### **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SECTION D)**

#### **Status of Contingency**

#### **Financial Reports**

Oak Hills Financial Status – December 2016  
Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2016-17  
Year to date City Operating Revenues Report – FY 2016-17  
Year-to-date City Operating Expenditure Report - FY 2016-17  
Year-to-date BOE Operating Budget Report - FY 2016-17  
Tax Collector's Narrative – December 2016  
Tax Collector's Report – January 2017

Mr. Burnett stated that he would like the Oak Hills Parking Authority to be invited to the next BET meeting.

#### **Salary Accounts**

Police  
Fire  
Public Works

Mr. Asmani stated that the Police Department and Fire Department revenues and expenses are consistent with their Year-to-Date budgets.

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**ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. CAMACHO MOVED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:53 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services