

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION
JULY 10, 2017**

ATTENDANCE: Gregory Burnett, Chairman; Mayor Harry Rilling; Anne Yang-Dwyer; James Page; James Feigenbaum

STAFF: Robert Barron, Finance Director; Lunda Asmani; Director of Management and Budgets; Irene Dixon, Assistant City Clerk

CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Burnett called the meeting to order at 6:37 p. m. A quorum was present.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

June 5, 2017

- ** **MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF JUNE 5, 2017.**
- ** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH TWO VOTES IN FAVOR WITH THREE ABSTENTIONS (MAYOR RILLING, MR. BURNETT, AND MS. YANG-DWYER.**

Mr. Burnett stated that rules would be suspended and the minutes of May 1, 2017 would be added to the agenda.

May 1, 2017

Page 5 Correct "Mr. Page moved to adjourn." to "Mr. Feigenbaum moved to adjourn."

- ** **MS. YANG-DWYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE MAY 1, 2017 MINUTES AS AMENDED.**
- ** **THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE ABSTENTION (MAYOR RILLING.)**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA

No items were brought forward.

3. TRANSFER AGENDA

Fire Department

Mr. Asmani stated that expenses in the Fire Prevention overtime budget were exceeded as a result of a reduction in active staff from six to three. The reduction required the remaining three positions to work overtime to manage the work load.

- ** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRANSFER FROM WAGES & SALARIES – REGULAR TO WAGES & SALARIES PART- TIME IN THE AMOUNT OF \$5,000.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Mr. Asmani stated that the transfer is necessary in order to reimburse four firefighters for college tuition as per the City ordinance and the union contract.

- ** MR. PAGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE FIRE DEPARTMENT TRANSFER FROM THE OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$10,641, FROM THE SEMINAR & CONFERENCE FEES ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,100, AND FROM THE EDUCATIONAL SUPPLIES ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$2,175, TO THE TRAINING & EDUCATION ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$13,916.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Recreation & Parks Department

Mr. Asmani stated that the transfer is necessary in order to cover additional emergency tree work due to a tree that fell on a car at Columbus School.

- ** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO APPROVE THE RECREATION & PARKS DEPARTMENT TRANSFER FROM AGRICULTURAL SUPPLIES TO THE OTHER CONTRACTURAL SUPPLIES ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,000.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Historical Commission

Mr. Asmani stated that the transfer is to cover handyman services. The Historic Commission's part-time handyman retired in the fall of 2016 and the department has been using contractual labor.

- ** MR. PAGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION FROM THE WAGES & SALARIES PART-TIME ACCOUNT TO THE OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICES ACCOUNT IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,667.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. OTHER BUSINESS

A. RESOLUTION, approving a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$460,000 to fund the option to purchase agreement for 11 Belden Avenue and Wilton Avenue Property and authorizing the issuance of \$460,000 general obligation bonds of the city to meet said appropriation.

- ** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$460,000 TO FUND THE OPTION TO PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR 11 BELDEN AVENUE AND WILTON AVENUE PROPERTY AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$460,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION.**

Mr. Burnett stated that the resolution stated that the “Wilton Avenue Property” is included, but, in fact, it is not part of the agreement.

Mr. Barron stated that the agreement provides the city with an option to purchase the property for \$4,885,000 for a period of six years. He stated that the city will also receive a land lease to expand its parking area adjacent to the library.

Mayor Rilling stated that the agreement immediately secures critically needed parking for the library in addition to creating the opportunity to develop the entire property in the future.

Mr. Alex Knopp came forward in favor of the item. He stated that the City and the developer have agreed upon a mutual goal of coordinated revitalization of the area surrounding the library. He stated that the City is in the driver’s seat, because it has an option to exercise the option. Nothing commits the city to spending the \$4.8 million.

Ms. Yang-Dwyer stated that a number of provisions should be added to protect the interest of the city. As the agreement stands now, it does not protect the interests of the City.

The Board went into recess at 7:30 p. m. and returned at 7:58 p. m.

Mr. Burnett suspended discussion of the item.

B. RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UP TO \$30,000,000 CITY OF NORWALK GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE RESOLUTION WITH RESPECT TO THE AUTHORIZATION, ISSUANCE AND SALE OF UP TO \$30,000,000 CITY OF NORWALK GENERAL OBLIGATION REFUNDING BONDS.**

**** THE RESOLUTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

A. RESOLUTION, approving a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$460,000 to fund the option to purchase agreement for 11 Belden Avenue and Wilton Avenue Property and authorizing the issuance of \$460,000 general obligation bonds of the city to meet said appropriation.

Mr. Burnett opened the item for discussion.

Mr. Burnett continued discussion of the resolution.

**** MR. PAGE MOVED TO APPROVE THE AMENDED RESOLUTION “A RESOLUTION, APPROVING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$460,000 TO FUND THE OPTION TO PURCHASE AGREEMENT FOR 11 BELDEN AVENUE AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$460,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION SUBJECT TO CORPORATION COUNSEL INCLUDING ADDITIONAL PROVISIONS IN THE OPTION AGREEMENT WHICH, IN THE OPINION OF THE CORPORATION COUNSEL, PROVIDE ADDITIONAL PROTECTIONS TO THE CITY’S OPTION TO PURCHASE THE SUBJECT PROPERTY.**

Mr. Burnett stated that the amendment removed the Wilton Avenue Property from the resolution. He stated that the language of the amendment does not disagree with paragraph two of Mario Coppola's July 6, 2017 letter to the BET. Mr. Burnett stated that any additional revisions, additions and/or deletions amongst the lawyers during the process of completing a final draft shall not significantly change any of the principal terms.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr. Asmani presented a one page summary of Capital Projects, Revenues, Revenue Drivers, Expenditures, and Select Wage Accounts for 2016-17. Mr. Barron stated that these are not the final numbers for the year as some items that will be included in the final numbers still have to be booked.

ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. FEIGENBAUM MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:22 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services