

**CITY OF NORWALK  
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION  
JULY 9, 2018**

**ATTENDANCE:** Edwin Camacho, Chairman; Mayor Harry Rilling; James Feigenbaum;  
James Page; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette; Artie Kassimis

**STAFF:** Robert Barron, Director of Finance; Donna King, City Clerk

**CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Camacho called the meeting to order at 6:32 p. m. A quorum was present.

**1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**\*\* MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE THE JUNE 4, 2018 MINUTES AS SUBMITTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED WITH FIVE VOTES IN FAVOR AND TWO ABSTENTIONS (MR. PAGE  
AND MR. KASSIMIS).**

**2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (SECTION A)**

**1. Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$5,719 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues to the Fire Department as a Grant to the Assist to Firefighters for Certification and Education. The funds will be allocated to the revenue account #01-3130-4807 and expenditure account #01-3031-5120.**

Chief Gino Gatto stated that the Fire Department received the reimbursement of the Assist to Firefighters Grant in the amount of \$5,718. The AFG Grant is for the "Fire Officer Education for Certification". It is run by FEMA through the West Haven Fire Department.

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$5,719 BE AND THE SAME IS  
HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM INCREASED REVENUES TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS A  
GRANT TO THE ASSIST TO FIREFIGHTERS FOR CERTIFICATION AND EDUCATION. THE  
FUNDS WILL BE ALLOCATED TO THE REVENUE ACCOUNT #01-3130-4807 AND  
EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT #01-3031-5120.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**2. Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$5,719 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the First County Bank to the Recreation and Parks Department as a donation towards the 2017 Summer Concert Series. The funds will be allocated to the revenue account #01-6021-4505 and expenditure account #01-6021-5258.**

Mr. Barron stated that the Recreation & Parks Department is requesting a Special Appropriation to increase revenues and expenditures by \$7,500. The department received, in August 2017, the amount of \$7,500 from First County Bank for the concert series.

**3. Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$7,500 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the First County Bank to the Recreation and Parks Department as a donation towards the 2018 Summer Concert Series. The funds will be allocated to the revenue account #06-6021-4505 and expenditure account #01-6021-5258.**

Mr. Barron stated that the Recreation & Parks Department is requesting a Special Appropriation to increase revenues and expenditures by \$7,500. The department received, in April 2018, the amount of \$7,500 from First County Bank for the concert series.

\*\* Mr. Kassimis moved that a sum not to exceed \$5,719 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the \_\_\_14 First County Bank to the Recreation and Parks Department as a donation towards the 2017 Summer Concert Series. The funds will be allocated to the revenue account #01-6021-4505 and expenditure account #01-6021-5258 and that a sum not to exceed \$7,500 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the First County Bank to the Recreation and Parks Department as a donation towards the 2018 Summer Concert Series. The funds will be allocated to the revenue account #06-6021-4505 and expenditure account #01-6021-5258.

\*\* The motion passed unanimously.

### **TRANSFER AGENDA (SECTION B)**

#### *Corporation Counsel*

Mr. Barron stated that a transfer in the amount of \$9,112 is needed to cover a shortfall in subscription services relating to a new law in Connecticut regarding attorney's annual certification in ethics and an agreement with Thompson Reuters Westlaw that was approved by the Common Council on April 25, 2018.

#### *Comptroller*

Mr. Barron stated that this transfer in the amount of \$4,700 is needed to cover a postage meter deficit through the end of Fiscal Year 2017-18.

#### *Public Works*

Mr. Barron stated that this transfer in the amount of \$4,500 is needed to cover the installation of two work stations in the Traffic Engineering Division.

Mr. Barron stated that a transfer in the amount of \$50,000 is needed to cover the GIS Inventory of all the Light Poles in the Eversource Service Territory in Norwalk.

Mr. Paul Sotnik came forward in support of the item. He stated that an inventory of the existing street lights in Eversource service territory will be completed. As part of the audit, an electronic streetlight map for use in City GIS will be produced that will include exact pole location. The lights will be changed from High Pressure to LED lights.

#### *Registrar of Voters*

Mr. Barron stated that a transfer in the amount of \$20,000 is needed to cover a deficit in Temporary Poll Workers wage account from the District A Primary on September 12, 2018.

Mr. Barron stated that a transfer in the amount of \$860 is needed to cover a deficit in the supplies account due to last Fall's primary election which was not included in the budget.

#### *Planning & Zoning*

Mr. Barron stated that a transfer in the amount of \$10,000 is needed to cover an upgrade of the Zoning Inspector's position from a NMEA Grade 19 to a NMEA grade 21.

Mr. Michael Wrinn came forward in support of the item. He stated that the upgrade is consistent with the actual job duties and responsibilities of the position. The position requires the oversight of several staff members who process the over the counter zoning permits, the conduction inspections, and the investigation and processing of violations. He stated that this internal structural change, coupled with the additional funds provided in our upcoming budget add an administrative assistant in the coming fiscal year, will improve efficiency and productivity with the department and provide better customer service to the public.

**\*\* MR. FRAYER MOVED TO APPROVE ALL OF THE TRANSFER REQUESTS AS PRESENTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

### **4. OTHER BUSINESS (SECTION C)**

**2. RESOLUTION, Approve a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$133,915 from the capital fund balance to increase the available funds for the purchase of SCBA air packs for the Fire Department.**

Chief Gatto stated that the request of \$133,915 is to cover a shortfall for the purchase of SCBA air packs. The additional funds will be drawn down from the balance in the Capital Fund. In the 2017-18 Capital Budget, the Fire Department was approved \$360,000 for the purchase of the SCBA air packs. There are several reasons for needing the additional money. Chief Gatto stated that the NFPA 1981 was revised in 2013. This revision has several operational changes, and new

regulators are required. He stated that the new SCBA masks and regulators for each member are required with the new air packs.

**\*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$133,915 FROM THE CAPITAL FUND BALANCE TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE PURCHASE OF SCBA AIR PACKS FOR THE FIRE DEPARTMENT.**

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

**1. RESOLUTION, Approve a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$500,000 of which \$300,000 will cover the City's purchase of the remaining one half interest of the building located at 98 South Main Street, and \$200,000 will cover estimated future capital improvements and repairs to the property.**

Mr. Camacho stated that he would recuse himself from this item.

Mayor Rilling stated that the City currently owns a one half interest in the property at 98 South Main Street. The property was obtained from the bankruptcy trustee on behalf of NEON. He stated that the City now seeks to obtain the other one half-interest in the property from the South Norwalk Community Center for \$300,000. Mayor Rilling stated that the building will need \$200,000 in capital improvements in order to bring the building up to code.

Mayor Rilling stated that in August of 1987, the City quitclaimed the property to both NEON and SNCC as tenants in common. The deed provided that the City conveyed the Property to these organizations to insure that these organizations have a facility to carry our social services which they were organized. Mayor Rilling stated that as a condition of the deed provided for a reverter clause which provided that the title to the property shall revert back to the City of NEON or SNCC ceased to use the property solely to provide social service programs to the residents of Norwalk.

Mayor Rilling stated that in 2014, NEON ceased providing social services and no longer used the property. In 2015, NEON filed for bankruptcy. Mayor Rilling stated that the City and bankruptcy trustee reached a settlement whereby the City was able to obtain a one half ownership of the property.

Mayor Rilling stated that City officials have been involved in negotiations with SNCC for the City to try purchasing SNCC's interest in the property. After years of refusing to sell its interest, SNCC agreed a few months ago to sell. He stated that during negotiations, the City agreed to purchase SNCC's interest for \$300,000. As part of the deal, SNCC will be able to maintain an office of approximately 700 square feet for a five year lease term.

Mayor Rilling stated that as part of the deal, SNCC has agreed to change the structure of its organization with the goal of restructuring the organization in a manner that will make it more welcoming to the entire Norwalk Community. It will become more effective at providing necessary community activities, and social services to the community.

Mayor Rilling stated that an RPF will be issued seeking tenants to fill the building with organizations that service the community.

- \*\* MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO , APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$500,000 OF WHICH \$300,000 WILL COVER THE CITY'S PURCHASE OF THE REMAINING ONE HALF INTEREST OF THE BUILDING LOCATED AT 98 SOUTH MAIN STREET, AND \$200,000 WILL COVER ESTIMATED FUTURE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS AND REPAIRS TO THE PROPERTY.**
- \*\* THE MOTION FAILED WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. FRAYER, MR. JELLERETTE, AND MR. FEIGENBAUM).**

Mayor exited the meeting at 8:06 p. m.

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

**Special Appropriation**

**Status of Contingency**

**Financial reports**

**Oak Hills Financial Status – May 2018**

**Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date Operating Revenues Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**

**Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**

**Tax Collector's Narrative - May 2018**

**Tax Collector's Report - June 2018**

**Salary accounts**

**Police**

**Fire**

**Public Works**

Mr. Barron stated that Oak Hills YTD July 2017 –May 2018, revenues are about \$51,000 better than the same period of the previous year. Total Expenses are \$62,000 higher than the same period of the previous year. Net Operating Income is \$11,317 worse than the same period of the previous year.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

City of Norwalk

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

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney  
Telesco Secretarial Services