

**CITY OF NORWALK
BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION
AUGUST 6, 2018**

ATTENDANCE: Edwin Camacho, Chairman (6:34 p. m.); Mayor Harry Rilling; James Feigenbaum; James Frayer; Troy Jellerette; Artie Kassimis

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

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 6:33 p. m. A quorum was present.

Mr. Camacho arrived to the meeting at 6:34 p. m.

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

July 9, 2018 – Special Meeting

Page 1 Change “2. Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$5,718” to “Resolved, that a sum not to exceed \$7,500”

Page 2 Change “Mr. Kassimis moved that a sum not to exceed \$5,719 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the_14” to “Mr. Kassimis moved that a sum not to exceed \$7,500 be and the same is hereby transferred from Increased Revenues from the 2017”

Page 5 Change “RPF” to “RFP”

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2018 MINUTES AS AMENDED.
** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2. SPECIAL APPROPRIATIONS AGENDA (SECTION A) (NONE)

No items were brought forward.

3. TRANSFER AGENDA (SECTION B)

Mr. Barron presented the FY 2017-18 Reserve Summary and Transfer Request report. He stated that the report contained a contingency amount of \$3,189,549. He stated that due to surpluses in various departments, we only have to transfer in \$1,424,136 of the contingency.

Mr. Barron stated that he Fire Department had a deficit of \$654,654. They are asking to reserve \$12,453 for the upcoming year so we have to transfer in \$667,107. The Police Department had a deficit of 701,455. They are asking to reserve \$39,713. We have to transfer in \$741,168.

Mr. Barron stated that the library bargaining unit contracts were settled in FY 2017-18. Back wages for FY 2016-17 along with the current 2017-18 increases were paid. Approximately \$140,800 was reserved

and held in the Contingency account for increases in Regular wages. Also, two vacancies went unfilled throughout the year totaling \$119,700.

- ** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2017-18 RESERVE SUMMARY AND TRANSFER REQUEST.**
- ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

4. OTHER BUSINESS (SECTION C)

1. RESOLUTION, Approve a special capital appropriations totaling \$5.0 million to increase the available funds for the Facilities Master Plan for Norwalk High School. Project #09185010-C0610, and authorizing the issuance of \$5.0 million of General Obligation Bonds of the City of Norwalk to meet said appropriation.

2. RESOLUTION: Approve the reduction of \$5.0 million of appropriations for Jefferson School, project #09195010-5777-C0618, from \$23.902 million to \$18.902 million.

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$5.0 MILLION TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL. PROJECT #09185010-C0610, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$5.0 MILLION OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF NORWALK TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION.**

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO AMEND THE RESOLUTION TO READ AS: "APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$5.0 MILLION TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL. PROJECT #09185010-C0610"**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MAYOR RILLING MOVED TO APPROVE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$5.0 MILLION TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR THE FACILITIES MASTER PLAN FOR NORWALK HIGH SCHOOL. PROJECT #09185010-C0610 AND APPROVE THE REDUCTION OF \$5.0 MILLION OF APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE JEFFERSON SCHOOL, PROJECT 09195010-5777-CO618, FROM \$23.902 MILLION TO \$18.902 MILLION.**

Mr. Tom Hamilton came forward in support of the item. He stated that the Norwalk High School project is being undertaken in phases over the next several years, based on whether the work will be eligible for State reimbursement, the type of State grant application that must be filed, and based on the timing of when the work will be ready to be placed out to bid. It has now been determined that the original allocation of \$6.5 million for this project will not be sufficient to complete all of the work that is necessary at this building. The Board of Education is requesting a special capital appropriation in the amount of \$5.0 million in order to undertake the additional necessary work.

Mr. Hamilton stated that the items that will be funded with the additional \$5.0 million include a complete cafeteria redesign. A Learning Commons and Maker Space will be constructed in the existing Library. The Auditorium will be upgraded. ADA improvements and renovation will be done for the

building's courtyards. Safety and landscaping improvements will be made to the school entrance, stairwells and hallways. Improvements will be made to the athletic facility. There will also be various programmatic renovations and improvements.

Mr. Hamilton stated that it appears unlikely that the Jefferson School Project can be completed on the original schedule and will need to be deferred until the Ponus project is completed. He stated that we are requesting that the City temporarily reduce the appropriation for the Jefferson School project by the same amount to be bonded at current levels. He stated that we appreciate the Mayor's agreement to recommend restoration of full funding for the Jefferson renovation project in a future capital budget, when the Jefferson project can proceed based on the revised project phasing schedule.

**** THE MOTION DID NOT PASS WITH THREE VOTES IN FAVOR AND THREE IN OPPOSITION (MR. FRAYER, MR. JELLERETTE, AND MR. KASSIMIS.**

3. 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 recused himself from the item.

**** MR. KASSIMIS 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.**

Mayor Rilling stated that we would like to acquire the building and bring it up to code. The elevator, roof, security system, and other items need fixing.

Mayor Rilling stated that the City currently owns a one-half interest in the property at 98 South Main Street. He stated that the property was obtained from the bankruptcy trustee on behalf of NEON. Mayor Rilling stated that the City now seeks to obtain the other one-half interest in the property from the South Norwalk Community Center. He stated that the existing South Norwalk Community Center would not be receiving the \$300,000. An entirely new agency will be created. The board of directors will be made of 11 individuals.

Mayor Rilling stated that the new agency will be providing social services at a higher level than what SNCC is currently providing. He stated that we hope to bring in additional tenants that provide social services. RFPs will be issued to attract the new tenants. He stated that at some point, a social service organization could purchase the building from the City.

Mr. Alan Lo stated that we have a Certificate of Occupancy for the building, but there are significant improvements that need to be made to the building. Security, energy management system, interim mechanical repair, lighting, and other improvements will need to be made.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH FOUR VOTES IN FAVOR AND ONE VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. JELLERETTE).**

Mayor Rilling exited the meeting at 8:00 p. m.

4. Approval of FY 2017-18 Reserve for Encumbrances

Mr. Barron stated that each year, the Board of Education can request that 1% of the prior year appropriation to be carried forward for use in the next year. He stated that the 1% is \$1,840,843. He stated that the BOE would like to encumber \$717,257.

Mr. Barron stated that the Total City Reserve is \$1,239,272. \$343,907 of the total City Reserve is for the Headstart Program. We have a new Headstart provider. The \$343,907 needs to be carried into this year in order to make the first quarterly payment of \$120,000.

**** MR. KASSIMIS MOVED TO APPROVE THE CITY SIDE OF THE APPROVAL OF FY 2017-18 RESERVE FOR ENCUMBRANCES IN THE AMOUNT OF \$1,239,272.53.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5. ADDITIONAL INFORMATION (SECTION D)

Special Appropriation Status of Contingency

Financial reports

- **Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2017-18**
- **Year-to-date Capital Budget Report – FY 2018-19**
- **Year-to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**
- **Year –to-date Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19**
- **Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2017-18**
- **Year-to-date Operating Revenue Report – FY 2018-19**
- **Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2017-18**
- **Year-to-date BOE Operating Expenditure Report – FY 2018-19**

Salary accounts

- **Police – FY 2017-18**
- **Police – FY 2018-19**
- **Fire – FY 2017-18**
- **Fire – FY 2018-19**
- **Public Works – FY 2017-18**
- **Public Works – FY 2018-19**

Mr. Barron stated that the Oak Hills Park Authority is in the process of closing out the year and do not yet have the final numbers.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p. m.

Respectfully submitted,

Tom Blaney
Telesco Secretarial Services