

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 FUNDS ARE SUBJECT TO THE AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance led by The Girl Scout Troup along with opening ceremony of national anthem and the Girl Scout Pledge. Mayor Rilling presented a proclamation, which was read by a scout member.

I. ROLL CALL

City Clerk King called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Richard Bonenfant	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	
	Mr. Glenn Iannaccone	Mr. Bruce Kimmel	Ms. Sharon Stewart
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. David Watts	
District B:	Ms. Phaedrel Bowman	Mr. Travis Simms	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Michelle Maggio	
District D:	Ms. Shannon O'Toole-Giandurco	Mr. Jerry Petrini	
District E:	Mr. John Igneri		

Mayor Harry Rilling; Attorney Mario Coppola, Corporation Counsel;
Donna King, City Clerk. Fourteen (14) members present. Absent: Mr. David McCarthy.

City Clerk King read the notice that this meeting is being video taped and audio recorded for public broadcast, and assisted listening devices are available.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - Regular Meeting – February 24, 2015

**** MR. HEMSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE MEETING OF FEBRUARY 24, 2015 AS SUBMITTED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Note: Public comments are not verbatim and represent summarizations of statements made unless otherwise noted.

1. William Fitzgerald, 14 Flicker Lane, Norwalk stated he was Chair of the Board of Ethics and was here to speak on the need for re-appointments. He listed names of regular and alternate members whose terms expire today, and he is concerned that a quorum may not exist for next week's regularly scheduled monthly meeting. He stated that there was one member with a three year term that served only one year and that position is vacant. He asked that the Council take this issue seriously and work diligently to make the reappointments as requested.

2. Jim DelGreco, Elmwood Avenue, Norwalk spoke in support of Item 7A-b the stairs and noted that he is a commuter and takes those stairs on a daily basis. He noted that this is a connection to Rte 1 and the SONO train for many residents and in particular the Golden Hill Neighborhood. He noted the improvements are needed for much repair to the lighting and step grade to the stairs off of Martin Luther King Drive and Flax Hill Road. He spoke of how they are used by many commuters in that neighborhood, and there is need for safety improvements especially for women that have to walk that area in the dark. He noted that transit oriented development is key to growing the City grand list and improving the tax base and property values.

3. Michael G. Mushak, Elmwood Avenue stated he was a resident and co-chairman of the Norwalk Bike/Walk Task Force, and wanted to speak in support of several appointments and reappointments. He listed Andy Garfunkel, Gregory Burnett, Dana Laird and Carol Gavrielidis. Mr. Mushak stated that he wanted to echo comments made to improve the quality of pedestrian life in the Golden Hill Neighborhood. He added that he was in support of the project for recommended improvements to the stairs off of Flax Hill. He gave a history of the stairwell and cited six years of studies, review and, capital budget funding for the project that was part of the transit oriented development process. He stated some accusations made by a Common Council member who is not here this evening that this thing did not get approved. He spoke about multiple meetings that could have been vetted compared to a Rowayton \$3 million project that did not even put in sidewalks as needed. He said he was very upset at the way that Council member handled things.

Mr. Watts asked for a point of order that public comments were not to include personal attacks. Mayor Rilling asked to refrain from such comments and to speak in favor of the stairs. Mr. Mushak stated that the stairs are in a very dense part of the city and near transit-oriented development that serves 2 ½ times more people than other parts of the City. He added that the stairs are dark and dangerous, steep and need to be improved as part of the urban core element to better the quality of pedestrian life in that area.

Mayor Rilling asked if any member of the public wished to speak, and hearing none, closed the public participation portion of the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

RESIGNATIONS/APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS:

APPOINTMENTS:

Andy Garfunkel – Facilities Construction Commission
Stan Remson – Facilities Construction Commission
Gregory Burnett – (from Public Member to BET Rep)
Tony Aitoro – Harbor Management
Dana Laird – Historical Commission

The following Council members made comments in recognition of the character and qualifications and experience in support of those appointees:

Michelle Maggio/David Watts: Andy Garfunkel; Jerry Petrini: Stan Remson;
Bruce Kimmel: Gregory Burnett; Glenn Iannaccone /John Ignieri: Dana Laird

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
ANDY GARFUNKEL TO THE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION
WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 11/01/2019.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
STAN REMSON TO THE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION WITH
A TERM TO EXPIRE 11/01/2019.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
GREGORY BURNETT TO THE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION
(FROM PUBLIC MEMBER TO BET REP) WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE
11/01/2019.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
TONY AITORO TO THE HARBOR MANAGEMENT COMMISSION WITH A
TERM TO EXPIRE 12/31/2018.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. IANNACCONO MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF
DANA LAIRD TO THE HISTORICAL COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO
EXPIRE 12/31/2019.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REAPPOINTMENTS:

Josephine Deupree – Board of Assessment Appeals
Jane Ready – Board of Assessment Appeals
Arline Cioffi – Board of Assessment Appeals (ALT)
Harriet Petrides – Board of Assessment Appeals (ALT)
Matthew Caputo – Conservation Commission
William Nightengale – Conservation Commission
Steve Kerschner – Facilities Construction Commission
Alan Mathis – Fair Housing
Timothy Buzzee – Human Relations
Carol Gavrielidis – Human Relations

The following Council Members made comments in recognition of the qualifications, experience and community service in support of appointees: Richard Bonenfant: Josephine Deupree/ Jane Ready/Steve Kershner; John Kydes: Arline Cioffi; Harriet Petrides; Doug Hempstead: Matthew Caputo, Timothy Buzzee William Nightingale; John Igneri: Alan Mathis; Michelle Maggio: Carol Gavrielidis

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS: JOSEPHINE DEUPREE, JANE READY WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE 11/01/2018.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS AS ALTERNATE MEMBERS TO THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT APPEALS: ARLINE CIOFFI, HARRIET PETRIDES WITH TERMS TO EXPIRE 11/01/2016.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENTS TO THE CONSERVATION COMMISSION: MATTHEW CAPUTO, TERM TO EXPIRE 1/01/2019; WILLIAM NIGHTINGALE, TERM TO EXPIRE 1/01/2020.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. BONENFANT MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF STEVE KERSCHNER TO THE FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 11/01/2019.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. IGNERI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF ALAN MATHIS TO THE FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 09/01/2017.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY BUZZEE TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 09/01/2017.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF CAROL GAVRIELIDIS TO THE HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION WITH A TERM TO EXPIRE 09/01/2017.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mayor Rilling acknowledged those in attendance invited them to come forward to be sworn in to their positions by the City Clerk.

MAYOR REMARKS

Mayor Rilling stated that there was as a special recognition put forth by Council Member Eloisa Melendez and introduced Jahmerikah Green Younger. Ms. Melendez read the recognition where as Brien McMahon High School Senior from the Basketball team, he coordinated a response to the violence and events in Ferguson, Missouri following the shooting of an unarmed African American teen. Jahmerikah created t-shirts “Norwalk One” ‘Stop the Violence’ dedicated and worn at the Norwalk High Brien McMahon Basketball game to with an effort to unite Norwalk in a city-wide response. Mr. Green Younger was presented with a certificate to acknowledge his efforts and actions on behalf of the City. He and Coach Ken Dustin were recognized by the Common Council members and audience with applause.

Mayor Rilling announced that Beauty & The Beast Production at Brien McMahon is another stellar performance in keeping with the “Broadway like” levels that they have reached. He encouraged public to attend the performances this coming weekend on Friday and Saturday, March 13 and 14.

Mayor Rilling listed the following upcoming events:

- March 11: Stepping Stones 15 year anniversary celebration
- 11: Side by Side School Dare Graduation
- 14: LUC Community Forum Saturday, 2 p.m. at South Norwalk Community Center
- 21: Norwalk Seaport Lighthouse Gala
- INTAKES Concert at City Hall Concert Hall

COUNCIL PRESIDENT

GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS: Adoption of Revised Council Rules

Mr. Petrini explained that the rules were the same as 2013 with a minor change reflected in No. 11 on legislative procedures. He noted that the rules were distributed to members for review and the new version is the one in which governs the council. He added Item 11 refers to an older version of Mason’s Manual procedure that we use to govern all our meetings, and we all have a newer version of Mason’s Manual – 2010

Mr. Watts stated that he was extremely disappointed that the Council members were not issued the rule books and that the City Clerk dropped the ball on this. He added that it was a travesty not having the books available for elected officials to know the rules and procedures. He spoke about how Council Members have right to speak whether or not members agree, and as displayed tonight we cannot allow public comments to make personal attacks on Council members.

Mr. Petrini stated that with regard to Rule 23, he does not want to censor any Council Member. He wants to ensure that members get one chance to speak before anyone is allowed to speak a second time that and to make sure we follow the rules. He noted that he will deny that the rules disallow an elected official the right to speak.

Mr. Bonenfant stated that the issuance of rule books cannot be pointed to one person, and it is something that should have been issued. He noted that the books were expensive not a budgeted item that was a time-consuming ordering process.

Mr. Hempstead stated that he agreed and noted that this is something that should be budgeted for during Council election years as part of items needed for new members. He noted there are books in the Caucus rooms available for reference.

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO ADOPT THE REVISED COUNCIL RULES.
** MOTION TO APPROVE PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

CONSENT CALENDAR

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED THE CONSENT CALENDAR AS FOLLOWS:
VII. A1, A2, A3, A4, A5a, A5b, A7, A8, A9, A10a, A10b, A11, A12a, A12b;
B2, B3, C1, D2a, D2b, D3a, D3b, D4, D5, D6, F1.
** MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR PASSED
UNANIMOUSLY.**

Items on the Consent Calendar are in bold as follows:

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY

1. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept grant funds from the Department of Justice under the Justice Assistance Grant, Violent Crime Prevention Grant program, in the amount of \$32,000.00.

2. Authorize the Police Chief, Thomas E. Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement all programs through the Justice Assistance Grant, Violent Crime Prevention Grant pursuant to such grant funding.

3. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept grant funds from the Connecticut Department of Transportation, in the amount of \$20,902.00, with the City of Norwalk Police Department responsible for \$5,225.00 for the April 2015 enforcement period. And to accept grant funds in the amount of \$20,902.00, with the City of Norwalk Police Department responsible for \$5,225.00 for the August 2015 enforcement period.

4. Authorize the Police Chief, Thomas E. Kulhawik to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement all programs through Connecticut Department of Transportation Distracted Driving Grant, pursuant to such grant funding.

**Consent Calendar
Health, Welfare Public Safety -- continued**

5. a. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, Gerald Foley, to execute a purchase order for a Fair and Impartial Policing Train the Trainer seminar, hosted at the Norwalk Police Department, in accordance with the City's Procurement Guidelines, sole source request, not to exceed \$17,500, from Asset forfeiture account # 030000-2662.

b. Authorize Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the training seminar.

7. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, Gerald Foley, to execute a purchase order for the procurement of ten (10) portable Motorola radios and accessories, from Northeastern Communications, Inc., in accordance with the City's Procurement Guidelines, not to exceed \$27,000, from account # 013022-5743.

8. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, Gerald Foley, to execute a purchase order for labor and equipment to relocate radio receivers and replace comparators for the police/fire radio system, in accordance with City's Procurement Guidelines, not to exceed \$90,000, from capitol accounts #09153610-5777-C0541 and 09133610-5777-C0517.

9. Authorize the Police Chief Thomas Kulhawik, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments and amendments thereto as may be necessary to implement the work agreement.

10a. Authorize Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept grant funds from the March of Dimes for the Comenzando Bien program for the period January 1, 2015 to December 31, 2015.

b. Authorize Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments or amendments as may be necessary to implement the Comenzando Bien Program for the period January 1, 2015, to December 31, 2015

11. Authorize Mayor, Harry Rilling, to execute any and all documents for the services of on the Mark, LLC in the amount of \$13,000.00 Account # 0120-30-5258.

12. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling to enter into an agreement with Sav-Mor Cooling and Heating, Inc. for project #3502 Basement HVAC Upgrade – Norwalk Health Department for a sum not to exceed \$138,809.00. Account # 091420-12-5777.

b. Authorize the Director of Health to issue change orders with Sav-Mor Cooling and Heating, Inc for project #3502 Basement HVAC Upgrade – Norwalk Health Department for a sum not to exceed \$20,821.00. Account # 091420-12-5777.

Consent Calendar --continued

FINANCE COMMITTEE

2. RESOLUTION, requesting the closeout of the Westport Avenue Addition/Renovation Project in the amount of \$400,000. (Account No. 0914-3110-5777-C0525).

3. RESOLUTION, authorizing a Special Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$35,000 to fund a study of fire protection and emergency services in the Westport Avenue/Cranbury neighborhood. (Account No. 0915-3110-5777-C0556).

C. LAND USE & BUILDING MANAGEMENT

1. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a Purchase Order to M.E. O'Brien & Sons, Inc. for the purchase of new playground equipment as part of the Rowayton School Improvement Project for a total not to exceed \$63,045.00. Account #09045010 5777 B0322.

PUBLIC WORKS

2a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an Agreement with Deering Construction, Inc. for Project No. PM 2015-1 Pavement Management Program for a sum not to exceed \$3,877,103.00.

2b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to execute Orders on Contract with Deering Construction, Inc. for Project No. PM 2015-1 Pavement Management Program for a sum not to exceed \$387,710.30. Account Nos. 0913 4021 5777 C0021; 0914 4021 5777 C0021; 0915 4021 5777 C0021; 030000-2602; 0913 4027 5777 C0302; 0914 4027 5777 C0302; 0915 4027 5777 C0302; 0914 4021 5777 C0318; 0915 4021 5777 C0318

3a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with Deering Construction, Inc. for Project DPW 2015-1 Crescent Street Retaining Wall Repairs for a sum not to exceed \$37,000.00.

b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to execute Orders on Contract with Deering Construction, Inc. for Project DPW 2015-1 Crescent Street Retaining Wall Repairs for a sum not to exceed \$3,700.00. Account No. 0911 0404 2100 5777 C0481.

4. Approve the discontinuance and abandonment of a portion of Smith Street beginning at the northerly terminus at Wall Street and continuing south as indicated on a map prepared by William W. Seymour & Associates, P.C. entitled "Property Survey Depicting A Portion Of Smith Street To Be Abandoned By City Of Norwalk, Norwalk Connecticut," dated December 17, 2014, last revised January 7, 2015, at a scale of 1" = 30' on file in the Department of Public Works for the Head of the Harbor – South Wall Street Area - Redevelopment project.

**Consent Calendar
Public Works – continued**

5. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute all required documents, including a general release, to release and/or transfer any interests that the City may have in property comprising the abandoned portion of Smith Street, pursuant to Section 1.2 of the Option To Purchase Agreement By and Between the City of Norwalk and Head Of The Harbor South, LLC, Redeveloper for the Wall Street Area – Development Parcel 3 (South), dated August 28, 2014.

6. Authorize the Mayor to execute an amendment to the Agreement with Deering Construction, Inc. for Project PM2014-2, Bituminous Concrete Permanent Pavement Repairs, for a sum not to exceed \$35,000.00. Account No. 030000-2602.

F. CORPORATION COUNSEL

Authorization to Settle Claim: Nicholas Spano V. CITY OF NORWALK, BOE

COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

HEALTH, WELFARE, PUBLIC SAFETY

6. Authorize the Purchasing Agent, Gerald Foley, to execute a purchase orders for the procurement of thirty-five (35) Taser body worn cameras, along with docking/charging stations, accessories and cloud storage, acquired in accordance with the City's Procurement Guidelines, sole source request, initial purchase not to exceed \$32,000. Additionally, yearly maintenance fees not to exceed \$10,000 each year. From donation account #03000-2663, provided funds are available.

Ms. Maggio moved the item for discussion and explained that it was vetted through Committee with questions fielded by the Police Chief and Deputy Chief Zecca. She added that they provided a thorough explanation of camera usage and described how they are activated. She noted that storage of tapes from the body cameras was discussed relative to a separate cloud storage with records retained as required. She added that donated funds are being used.

Mr. Kimmel asked how it will be handled to discern the usage or non-activation if it is intentionally or not turned on in error.

Police Chief Kulhawik came forward and clarified that camera usage is required not at all times but when situations occur or when responding to a call. He added that he will determine consequences of non-use or misuse and appropriate disciplinary action in accordance with police procedures and protocol.

Health, Welfare, Public Safety Item 6a -- continued

Chief Kulhawik noted that the data will be kept based on retention policies of 30 days or three years if used in court with administrative access to be determined by him, and will most likely be by the Deputy Chiefs. He added that the cameras will be used in shifts with half being deployed with officers on patrol and the other half charging and uploading data to a storage cloud. He clarified that failure to turn on the camera or follow other established protocol will result in the officer being disciplined according to policy. Chief Kulhawik presented a sample camera to the Council members for their inspection.

Ms. Bowman stated that this is great and it's a great way to improve public relations. She stated that she was present for the Committee review process and will support the item.

Mr. Simms stated that he wanted to echo Ms. Bowman's comments that this is a step in the right direction and cautioned to take seriously the no activation with consequences.

Mr. Kydes clarified that the recording device will not be recording all the time, but will be turned on for recording when responding to calls for service.

**** MS. MAGGIO MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDERS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF THIRTY-FIVE (35) TASER BODY WORN CAMERAS, ALONG WITH DOCKING/CHARGING STATIONS, ACCESSORIES AND CLOUD STORAGE, ACQUIRED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CITY'S PROCUREMENT GUIDELINES, SOLE SOURCE REQUEST, INITIAL PURCHASE NOT TO EXCEED \$32,000. ADDITIONALLY, YEARLY MAINTENANCE FEES NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000 EACH YEAR. FROM DONATION ACCOUNT #03000-2663, PROVIDED FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE.**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. RESOLUTION, requesting the reduction of the appropriation for the New Fire Headquarters Project from \$13,600,000 to \$13,030,908. (Acct No. 0912-3110-5777-C0466).

Mr. Kimmel moved the item for discussion and explained this was a package of four items leftover of unused funds from the Fire House project.

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE REDUCTION OF THE APPROPRIATION FOR THE NEW FIRE HEADQUARTERS PROJECT FROM \$13,600,000 TO \$13,030,908. (ACCT NO. 0912-3110-5777-C0466).**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Finance Committee -- continued

4. RESOLUTION, authorizing a Special Capital Appropriation in the amount of \$934,092 to fund renovations and to upgrade fire facilities at the New Canaan Avenue station, and to upgrade facilities at the remaining stations and at the repair facility at 100 Fairfield Avenue. (Account No. 0915-3110-5777-C0557).

Mr. Kimmel moved the item for discussion and explained this was not additional but represented leftover of unused funds from closed out accounts. Mr. Watts asked for clarification due to the large amounts of money of nearly \$1 million.

Chief McCarthy came forward and explained that as identified in the capital forecast, several major items are in need of maintenance after equipment failure and deactivation. He added that areas in need work include building foundation around the footings and living spaces with mold that impacts health and safety of fire fighters. He added that after Station One improvements, they are working with Building Facilities Management for upgrades to 100 Fairfield Avenue

**** MR. KIMMEL MOVED TO ADOPT THE RESOLUTION, AUTHORIZING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$934,092 TO FUND RENOVATIONS AND TO UPGRADE FIRE FACILITIES AT THE NEW CANAAN AVENUE STATION, AND TO UPGRADE FACILITIES AT THE REMAINING STATIONS AND AT THE REPAIR FACILITY AT 100 FAIRFIELD AVENUE. (ACCOUNT NO. 0915-3110-5777-C0557).**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

D. PUBLIC WORKS

- 1a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with M. Rondano, Inc. for Project NTOD 2014-2, Monroe Street Streetscape Project, for a sum not to exceed \$415,400.00
- b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue orders on contract to M. Rondano, Inc. for Project NTOD 2014-2, Monroe Street Streetscape Project, for a sum not to exceed \$41,540.00. Account No. To be provided by Norwalk Redevelopment Agency.

Mr. Petrini moved the item for discussion. Mr. Kimmel questioned why a project that includes lighting, sidewalk improvements and crosswalks would be so expensive. Mr. Alvord came forward to explained he could not say if it is overly expensive or not, but it was the lowest of the bids that came in.

Mr. Kimmel questioned the price, saying that some bids were in excess of \$600,000. Susan Sweitzer, of the Redevelopment Agency came forward to explain the supporting documentation. She said the work on Monroe Street included things not done as part of the state's project three years ago, when the road under the railroad bridge was lowered and other improvements were made. This will improve pedestrian safety on the Martin Luther King Drive end of the street.

Public Works Committee -- continued

Ms. Sweitzer added that lighting is very expensive and fixtures are now approximately between \$15,000 and \$20,000 and noted that it is not a big project in comparison to others.

Ms. Stewart stated that as a resident in that area, during the last time construction was done, it was terrible. She explained that workers ignored residents, blocking them in, parking in the parking spaces, dust and mud was terrible. Mr. Alvord explained that it was DOT and this time City workers would do the project, and would have a pre-construction meeting and have people hand out flyers.

There was discussion about flyers versus mailing and Mr. Alvord explained he found it more effective to have interns, a construction inspector or the contractor deliver flyers to the properties. Mr. Alvord said there would be some underground work and some excavation, but DPW would try to do it under the sidewalk. He said he wasn't sure when the work would begin, but the process of writing a contract and such typically takes a couple of months.

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT NTOD 2014-2, MONROE STREET STREETScape PROJECT, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$415,400.00; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO M. RONDANO, INC. FOR PROJECT NTOD 2014-2, MONROE STREET STREETScape PROJECT, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$41,540.00. ACCOUNT NO. TO BE PROVIDED BY NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY. ** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- 7a. Authorize the Mayor, Harry W. Rilling, to execute an agreement with Vaz Quality Works, LLC for Project NTOD 2014-1, Pedestrian Access Enhancements on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at Clay Street, for a sum not to exceed \$246,037.21.
- b. Authorize the Director of Public Works to issue orders on contract to Vaz Quality Works, LLC for Project NTOD 2014-1, Pedestrian Access Enhancements on Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Drive at Clay Street, for a sum not to exceed \$24,604.00.

Mr. Petrini moved the item for discussion. Mr. Kimmel said when he saw the agenda was confused because this was the third time it had gone to the DPW committee. It had already been on the Council agenda, it had been vetted by Redevelopment, and asked why the item had been listed as a discussion item, and if there was a suspension of the rules.

Mr. Alvord replied that in discussion with Mr. McCarthy, they weren't clear what the intent was as it was sent back to committee. He noted there was no guidance as to what the committee was to do, and Mr. McCarthy had said he wasn't quite sure either, then said to put it on as a discussion item.

Public Works Committee -- continued

Mr. Kimmel stated that he was very uncomfortable with the way this was handled and hopes it doesn't happen again as this was a really simple, focused project. He noted that he was very supportive of the project because it will help commuters and will improve the safety of a very dangerous pedestrian path, and less cars equals safer conditions. He said he was concerned that it includes \$30,000 for landscaping, which he said seemed high. He encouraged the monitoring of costs and to cut back.

Mr. Bonenfant read a statement from Mr. McCarthy, excerpts as follows:

The project was proposed by the Redevelopment Agency for the implementation of the Transit Oriented Development plan around the SONO Train Station...no as specific document as an identifiable project... a line suggesting that the two stairways (not just one) from MLK Blvd needed "rehabilitation" ... we will work to ensure that all such projects come before the committee well in advance of the point at which a bid package has been created; thus saving a lot of headaches. ...Not an issue with implementing enhanced safety, lighting, a phone, crosswalks...The issue is whether the city's precious capital budget dollars should be spent on replacing stair cases that are in reasonable shape when we have other staircases and infrastructure, sidewalks, retaining walls, and myriad ADA projects which are neither funded nor scoped for completion. Or, if a heating element would eliminate need to shovel the stairs... but no known cost estimates for ongoing use. ...No field research results that the stairs need to be replaced or will create more users than approx. 140...The prudent thing is to send this project back for redesign, address rehabilitation of both sets of stairs ... SoNo is a vital part of Norwalk. TOD is a valid strategy for this part of SoNo. ...Dumping all the money allotted into one set of stairs is not a great first step.

Ms. Bowman stated she supports this safety improvement taking precedent as South Norwalk deserves equal projects as Rowayton and others.

Mr. Simms said he agrees that the improvements are much needed, the stairs are very steep and mothers with baby strollers walk those stairs and it is a safety issue. He added that they are used by a greater number of residents than stated and hopes that improvements include art.

Mr. Hempstead gave an overview of the capital budget process and said while the project is part of an transit-oriented development aimed at improving access to the South Norwalk Train Station, the cost wouldn't leave dollars to replace the staircase off Hamilton Street. He added that he would prefer this item to be scaled down so that both projects can be done without the bells and whistles. He explained that the City has other areas and ADA compliance mandates to address.

Mr. Igeneri stated he supports this for safety reasons as the stairs are very dangerous.

Ms. Stewart stated that it's about time stuff like this is taking precedent and we are finally seeing some improvements coming our way in South Norwalk. She added that South Norwalk deserves equal projects as Rowayton and others

Public Works Committee -- continued

Ms. O'Toole Giandurco said she had a problem with the amount of money that's been put forward for this one set of stairs if the need is there for both to be fixed.

Ms. Melendez stated she agrees with Mr. Kimmel that here is a concern of the amount of dollars spent on the improvements, but she will be supporting the item.

Mr. Watts stated that it is the urban core element that we need to focus for improvements that are much needed and greater than the sum of its parts.

Mayor Riling stated that he supports the item and it is much needed repairs that are a good step in the right direction.

**** MR. PETRINI MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH VAZ QUALITY WORKS, LLC FOR PROJECT NTOD 2014-1, PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ENHANCEMENTS ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AT CLAY STREET, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$246,037.21; AND TO AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDERS ON CONTRACT TO VAZ QUALITY WORKS, LLC FOR PROJECT NTOD 2014-1, PEDESTRIAN ACCESS ENHANCEMENTS ON DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DRIVE AT CLAY STREET, FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$24,604.00. Account No. Norwalk Redevelopment Agency**

Mayor Rilling called for a roll call vote.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ELEVEN VOTES IN FAVOR, (BONENFANT, IANNACCONE, BOWMAN, IGNERI, IANNACCONE, KIMMEL, KYDES, PETRINI, SIMMS, STEWART, WATTS) THREE OPPOSED (HEMPSTEAD, MAGGIO, O'TOOLE-GIANDURCO) AND NO ABSTENTIONS.**

E. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. Re-designate the Wall Street Redevelopment Area as meeting the definition of a slum, blighted, deteriorated or deteriorating area per General Statutes of the State of Connecticut and CFR 570.208(b)(1).

Mr. Petrini stated he was recusing himself from the discussion as he is a property owner on Wall Street. *Mr. Petrini left the Council Chambers at 9:30 p.m. and returned following the vote.*

Mr. Hempstead moved the item for discussion and explained that this was a re-designation to be eligible for grants, CDBG, HUD funding and outside funding.

Planning Committee – continued.

Mr. Kimmel stated he was part of this back in 2004 and asked for an explanation of the wording of “slum” and the definition of terms used.

Ms. Strauss from the Redevelopment Agency came forward and explained that this was HUD’s definition and the wording was not inclusive but could be any of the descriptors.

- ** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO RE-DESIGNATE THE WALL STREET REDEVELOPMENT AREA AS MEETING THE DEFINITION OF A SLUM, BLIGHTED, DETERIORATED OR DETERIORATING AREA PER GENERAL STATUTES OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT AND CFR 570.208(B)(1).**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE – none

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES – None

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- ** MR. IANNACCONE MOVED TO ADJOURN.**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
M. Knox;
Telesco Secretarial Services

ATTEST

Donna King, City Clerk