

**COMMON COUNCIL  
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**FEBRUARY 26, 2019  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

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.

Mayor Rilling announced that Boy Scout Troop 97 would be presenting the colors and leading those present in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Following the Presentation of the Colors and the Pledge of Allegiance, Ms. King read the notice stating that the meeting was being audio recorded and videotaped with subtitles for public broadcast. She asked everyone to speak clearly, one at a time, into the microphone and said that assisted listening devices were available.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

**I. ROLL CALL**

Ms. King called the Roll. The Following Common Council members were present:

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Colin Hosten
	Mr. Nicolas Sacchinelli	Ms. Barbara Smyth
	Mr. Michael Corsello (7:37p.m)	
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Chris Yerinides
District B:	Mr. Ernest Dumas	
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Beth Siegelbaum
District D:	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	Mr. George Tsiranides
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	

At Roll Call there were twelve (12) Common Council members present and three (3) absent (Mr. Corsello, Mr. Igneri and Ms. Young). Mr. Corsello arrived at 7:37 p.m.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling; Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola and City Clerk, Donna King.

## **II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

Special Meetings: February 13, 2019 – Budget Presentation  
February 13, 2019 – Council Meeting

### **February 13, 2019 – Budget Presentation**

#### **\*\* MR. KYDES MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019 COMMON COUNCIL BUDGET PRESENTATION SPECIAL MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 1, under **ROLL CALL**, paragraph 1, line 1, please change the following from:

“present and three (8) eight absent (Ms. Siegelbaum, Mr. Dumas, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Holsten, Mr. Tsiranides, Mr. Corsello, Ms. Melendez, and Mr. Sacchinelli).”

To:

“present and eight (8) absent (Ms. Siegelbaum, Mr. Dumas, Mr. Burnett, Mr. Hosten, Mr. Tsiranides, Mr. Corsello, Ms. Melendez, and Mr. Sacchinelli).”

#### **\*\* THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019 COMMON COUNCIL BUDGET PRESENTATION SPECIAL MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED WITH SIX (6) IN FAVOR (BURNETT, HEMPSTEAD, KYDES, LIVINGSTON, SMYTH AND YERINIDES) AND SIX (6) (DUMAS, HOSTEN, MELENDEZ, SACCHENELLI, SIEGELBAUM AND TSIRANIDES) ABSTAINING.**

### **February 13, 2019 – Council Meeting.**

#### **\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019 COMMON COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING.**

The following corrections were noted:

Page 14, paragraph 2, line 2, please change the following from: “tried to create a nepotism that permits” to: “tried to create a mechanism that permits”

#### **\*\* THE MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY 13, 2019 COMMON COUNCIL SPECIAL MEETING AS AMENDED PASSED WITH EIGHT (8) IN FAVOR (BURNETT, DUMAS, HEMPSTEAD, KYDES, LIVINGSTON, MELENDEZ, SMYTH AND YERINIDES) AND FOUR (4) (HOSTEN, SACCHENELLI, SIEGELBAUM AND TSIRANIDES) ABSTAINING.**

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

*Public participation comments are not verbatim and represent a summarization of statements unless otherwise noted.*

Ms. Lisa Brinton – Highland Avenue

Ms. Lisa Brinton came forward and commented on the pending City Operating Budget of \$367.6 million, where 95.5% will be funded by Norwalkers. She pointed out that each year fewer income tax dollars were coming back to the City from Hartford and that trend is apparently set to continue. Ms. Brinton expressed concerns about what would happen if the State shifted the teachers pensions obligations back to the City.

Ms. Brinton said that she was present to waive the yellow caution flag to the Common Council over what she considered to be fuzzy math regarding the 3.3% increase in the City Budget. She questioned the wisdom of drawing down \$6 million which accounts for 10% of the Rainy Day Fund. She wished to know why this was necessary since the Mayor recently stated that the Grand List had increased by 16%.

Ms. Brinton went on to expressed concern and made recommendations regarding chaotic and contradictory policies regarding ordinances and the strategies on land use, the latest being tax credits being proposed for the innovation district. The School education budget constitutes more than 60% of the budget.

Student enrollment has increased by 500 students while the free and reduced lunch has grown 10% from 47% to 57% in five years. In the 2004-05 it was 23%.

She concluded her remarks by asking whether the budget and land use policies were practical, sustainable and integrated.

Mayor Rilling Closed the Public Participation portion of the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

### **IV. MAYOR**

#### **A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**RESIGNATIONS:** There were no resignations this evening.

**APPOINTMENTS:** Jo Deupree, Board of Assessment Appeals Alternate  
Jane Ready, Board of Assessment Appeals Alternate

**\*\* MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE ALTERNATE APPOINTMENTS.**

Mr. Burnett went on to say that both Ms. Deupree and Ms. Ready have extensive experience as realtors while Ms. Murray has a long history of public service.

Mayor Rilling said that he would like to thank all three of the appointees for their willingness to serve and appreciated them, particularly as this is a re-evaluation year.

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

Mayor Rilling and Ms. King then administered the oath of office to Ms. Murray and congratulated her.

**REAPPOINTMENTS:** There were no reappointments this evening.

**MAYORS REMARKS:**

Mayor Rilling announced that the NHS girls basketball team is currently undefeated and ranked Number 1 in the State. He said that this goes beyond just playing basketball. Mr. Rick Fuller holds the team accountable and the team has a collective grade point average is 3.0. He added that Ms. Murray just informed him that the team just defeated the Greenwich team earlier this evening

Mayor Rilling then spoke about the start of the new budget year process. The BET will continue to meet with the Department heads and will create a fair budget. He thanked Mr. Hamilton, Ms. Lam and the others who have worked on budget.

The Annual Norwalk St. Patrick's Day Parade will be held on March 9th at 9 a.m. The Parade will commence at Veteran's Park and conclude at O'Neill's Pub. Grand Marshal will be Bill Ireland, III. The Irish Dancers will be performing at O'Neill's at the end of the parade.

**V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

**A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

**RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS**

**RESIGNATIONS:** There were no resignations this evening.

**APPOINTMENTS:** There were no appointments this evening.

**REAPPOINTMENTS:** There were no reappointments this evening.

**B. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

Mr. Livingston announced that Mr. Burnett would be reading the Consent Calendar into the record.

**VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

**\*\* MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS AS THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

**A. FINANCE COMMITTEE**

- 1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2019.**
- 2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: FEBRUARY 14, 2019.**
- 3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTORS REPORT DATED: JANUARY 2019.**
- 4. AUTHORIZE A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$75,000 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS FOR SIDEWALK AND CURBING PROJECT 09194021-5777 C0318 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$75,000 OF GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY OF NORWALK TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION. THIS ALSO ELIMINATES \$75,000 OF UNISSUED BOND AUTHORIZATION OF THE CUDLIPP AVENUE SIDEWALK PROJECT 09124021-5777-C0504.**

**B. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE.**

- 1. APPROVE THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK BY LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR A TREASURE HUNTERS ADVENTURE TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 2, 2019 FROM 2:00 PM-4:00 PM WITH SET UP TO BEGIN AT 11:00 AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY JUNE 2, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LOCKWOOD-MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR OLD-FASHIONED FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM-4:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 7:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,500.**

**3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LUPUS FOUNDATION OF AMERICA FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE WALK TO END LUPUS NOW CT-NORWALK TO BE HELD SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019 FROM 2:00 PM-6:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 7:00 PM ON SUNDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 750-900.**

**4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTER, INC. FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THEIR READY SET WALK AND KEEP MOVING CHARITY WALK TO BE HELD SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019 FROM 9:00 AM-12 NOON. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 1:00 PM ON SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 29, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 200.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH BOUNDLESS GLOBAL, LLC FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR A BACK PACK GIVE AWAY TO BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019 FROM 12 NOON-5:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:30 AM WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, AUGUST 10, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100.**

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH RALLYE FOR PANCREATIC CANCER INC. FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THEIR RALLYE FOR PANCREATIC CANCER CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019 FROM 10:00 AM-5:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 9:00 AM WITH THE TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019 (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 12, 2019). ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 450.**

**7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK EXCHANGE CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM FOR THEIR ANTIQUE CAR SHOW TO**

**BE HELD SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 FROM 7:00 AM-4:00 PM WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019. SET UP TO BEGIN ON THURSDAY, APRIL 25, 2019 (RAIN DATE THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019) AT 8:00 AM WITH THE TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 6:00 PM ON SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 2019 (RAIN DATE SUNDAY, MAY 5, 2019). ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.**

**8. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION TO USE VETERANS PARK FOR THE ANNUAL OYSTER FESTIVAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019 FROM 6:00 PM-11:00 PM, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM-11:00 PM, SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2019 FROM 11:00 AM-8:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 8:00 AM ON FRIDAY, AUGUST, 23RD 2019 WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 30,000.  
(CALENDAR AMENDED TO ADD THE WORD “NORWALK” TO NORWALK SEAPORT ASSOCIATION)**

**9. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH NEW ENGLAND AUTO MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR FATHERS DAY CAR SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019 FROM 8:00 AM-3:00 PM. SET UP TO BEGIN AT 4:00 PM ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019, WITH TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SUNDAY, JUNE 16, 2019. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 100-200.  
(CALENDAR AMENDED TO INCLUDE “SATURDAY, JUNE 15, 2019”)**

**10. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK KARTING ASSOCIATION FOR THE USE OF CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR THE SPRING AND FALL 2019 SEASON TO BE HELD ON THE DATES TO BE DETERMINED FROM 7:00 AM-5:00 PM.  
(CALENDAR AMENDED TO INCLUDE “THE DATES TO BE DETERMINED”).**

**11. TECHNICAL CORRECTION ITEM NO. VII.A.5 ON THE COMMON COUNCIL AGENDA OF JANUARY 22, 2019 WHICH READS AS FOLLOWS:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK YMCA CAMP SUNRISE FOR USE OF THE SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR THEIR SUMMER CAMP TO TAKE**

**PLACE MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2019-AUGUST 16, 2019  
FROM 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

**NEW ACTION AUTHORIZATION REQUEST:**

**AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE RIVERBROOK REGIONAL YOUNG MEN'S CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION, INC. FOR USE OF THE SILVERMINE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR THEIR SUMMER CAMP TO TAKE PLACE MONDAY-FRIDAY, JUNE 24, 2019-AUGUST 16, 2019 FROM 7:30 AM-6:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150.**

**\*\* THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT CALENDAR WITH NOTED CORRECTIONS AS NOTED PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**VII.A.5**

**FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**RESOLUTION:**

**WHEREAS, Section I-289 of the Norwalk Charter requires that a majority of the Common Council vote to establish a specific spending limitation on locally funded expenditures during the process of establishing the next fiscal year's operation budget.**

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWALK THAT:**

**The maximum limit on total appropriations for the City of Norwalk for fiscal year beginning July 1, 2019 shall be no more than \$351,020,774. This appropriation cap represents total expenditures of \$367,624,642 less estimated intergovernmental grants of \$16,603,868.**

**Be it further resolved that the results of this vote and resolution, together with the attached 2019-20 Budget Guide, be forwarded by the City Clerk of Norwalk to the Board of Estimate and Taxation.**

Mr. Burnett read the Resolution into the record. Mr. Burnett said that as Chairman of the Finance/Claims Committee, the Committee's goal is to keep taxes as low as possible

There will be a draw down from the General Fund Balance for non-reoccurring, one time expenditures and it is important not to impact the City's AAA bond rating. The



Finance/Claims Committee will continue to work with the BET on the budget. He also thanked Mr. Hamilton for his work on the budget process.

Mr. Kydes said that the budget process is very complicated. He said that there is some mis-understanding in the general public about the Board of Education. He explained that the City can not give the BOE less funding that it has previously. Last year, the BOE received \$190 million. Mr. Kydes said that the 4.2% increase equals a \$7.9 million dollar increase that will bring the total to \$198.5 million dollars. This will be the largest BOE budget increase in the State. He said that while he will be supporting the budget and the \$6 million draw down, but cautioned everyone that this may not be possible next year. He then encouraged the BOE to spend the money wisely.

Mr. Livingston said that he would also be supporting the budget. This coming summer, the Common Council members will be joining the Board of Education members during their annual retreat for the first time.

Mr. Livingston reminded everyone that last year, the City had increased their revenues through the tax liens and so the actual amount from the City's budget would only be approximately \$700,000.

Mr. Hempstead said that there have been disagreements about the fund balance. There have been times when The City had to draw down the fund balance. He added that there is a State law that whatever the City gives the BOE one year becomes the base for their budget. He said that he felt that bonding for sidewalks, which causes more debt, while giving the BOE more money was wrong. He pointed out that there would be a time when the falling fund balance and the falling taxes revenue will intersect with the rising tax costs and rising budget needs.

Ms. Smyth said that as a teacher, a parent and Common Council Member, she felt that this was a wise move. The Fund Balance has increased over the past few years.

Mr. Hosten said that he felt this was a wise move because the fund has increased and it should be used as tax relief in a re-evaluation year. However, he acknowledged that there would come a point when the Fund Balance and the budget would collide.

Mayor Rilling then gave a breakout of the difference between taxes from 2013 and 2018. (See Attached).

Mayor Rilling said that he meets with Dr. Adamowski once a month for lunch and they discuss ways that they can save money. During a re-evaluation year, it is difficult explain to residents why their property values dropped so much in 2013 but now it is increased in some cases by 20% or more. He said that he has always known that the Fund Balance was really the Taxpayers Money.

**VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

There were no resolutions from the Council to consider at this time.

**IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE**

There were no motions to postpone to another date to consider at this time.

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were no suspensions of the rules at this time. .

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN.**

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

S. L. Soltes  
Telesco Secretarial Services