

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 called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting 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.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Mr. Michael Corsello
	Mr. Colin Hosten	Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	
District A:	Ms. Eloisa Melendez	Mr. Chris Yerinides
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Mr. Ernest Dumas
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Ms. Beth Siegelbaum
District D:	Mr. Douglas Hempstead	Mr. George Tsiranides
District E:	Mr. John Igneri	Mr. Thomas Livingston

At Roll Call there were fifteen (15) Common Council members present.

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: September 10, 2019

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 12: correct the spelling of Mr. Igneri's name

Page 13: First paragraph, third sentence should read – Mr. Livingston thanked Ms. Melendez for her leadership.

**** MR.IGNERI MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Lisa Brinton spoke about the Plan of Conservation and Development and said it did not include three fundamental goals. She asked if the City has the infrastructure to support the growing population. She said that more people mean more City expenses. She asked that the City take all economics into consideration.

Ms. Anna Keegan, Acting Director of Human Relations spoke in support of the plastic straw ordinance. She said that for a number of people with disabilities, plastic straws are necessary; the other mandates are not feasible. The ordinance reduces waster and protects people with disabilities.

Mr. Samuel Pride, ADA Committee spoke in support of the plastic straw ordinance and said that he was speaking from the viewpoint of someone who did not have a disability and now as a person with a disability. It is uncomfortable for someone with a disability to have to reveal that disability and that is the reason he is supporting this ordinance.

Mr. Richard Bonenfant spoke about the Plan of Conservation and Development. He said that after two years of meetings, it is almost like the results were written ahead of time. He said he understood the market forces, but asked when to say when. He expressed concern about accessory apartments.

Ms. Olivia Riccho spoke in support of the plastic straw ordinance. She presented straws she recently picked up during a clean-up.

Ms. Betty Ball, Skip the Plastic Norwalk spoke in support of the plastic straw ordinance. She gave an overview of plastic straw use. She said other materials are neither biodegradable or recyclable. She recommended that the City launch an educational campaign.

Ms. Rachel Precious spoke in support of the plastic straw ordinance. She said her organization holds beach clean up days and presented data from those clean ups. As an Ocean Farmer, she said she sees the impact every day. She said she values the community stance on environmental issues that make Norwalk stand out.

No other members of the public wished to speak.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

Lamond Daniels, Chief of Community Services

Mayor Rilling put forward Mr. Daniels for Chief of Community Services.

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Ms. Young recused herself and left the Common Council Chambers.

Mr. Daniels introduced himself, noting he attended Naramake Elementary School. He reviewed his background.

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LAMOND DANIELS, CHIEF OF COMMUNITY SERVICES**

Mr. Hempstead said he was impressed with Mr. Daniels' resume, but did not support the position being created; however, Mr. Daniels is very qualified and he supports this appointment.

Mr. Livingston spoke in support of the appointment and said that he likes that Mr. Daniels has experience in the public and private sector.

Ms. Smyth spoke in support and said she was very impressed by Mr. Daniels' experience and expertise.

Mayor Rilling spoke in support and said that Mr. Daniels is the right person for this position.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. Young returned to the Common Council Chambers.

REAPPOINTMENTS:

**** MR. HOSTEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REAPPOINTMENTS:**

JO BENNETT, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

JULIUS GAMBLE, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

PETER HALLADAY, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

KAREN TOBIN, HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. Hosten, Mr. Burnett and Mr. Hempstead spoke in support of the reappointments.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Ms. King administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Halladay.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that this Saturday, September 28, 2019, a Victory Ride around Norwalk and a Ceremony at Calf Pasture Beach will be held for the Norwalk Revolution 15U to celebrate their 2019 World Series Championship. Also, on the same day, the inaugural Norwalk Film Festival will be held.

Rosh Hashanah will begin at sundown of Sunday, September 29, 2019. Mayor Rilling wished those celebrating a Sweet New Year. On October 4, 2019, the NAACP Annual Freedom Fund Dinner will be held at Giovanni's and the Triangle Community Center Gala will be held at the Loading Dock. On October 5, 2019, the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Roaring 20's Gala will be held. Lastly, the annual Police Cadets awards will be held in the Norwalk Concert Hall on October 7, 2019.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Kydes wished Ms. Siegelbaum and Mr. Burnett a happy birthday.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MR. YERINIDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.1a, VII.A.1b, VII.B.1, VII.B.2, VII.B.3, VII.B.7, VII.C.2, VII.C.3, VII.D.1, VII.D.2

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH A.V. TUCHY, INC. FOR PROJECT #3948 WINDOW AND DOOR REPLACEMENT AT RIPKA'S BEACH CAFÉ – CALF PASTURE BEACH NOT TO EXCEED \$104,940.00. ACCOUNT #'S 0920-6030-5777-C0365 (\$95,000) AND 0918-6030-5777-C0365 (\$9,940).

1B. AUTHORIZE THE DIRECTOR, RECREATION AND PARKS TO ISSUE CHANGE ORDER TO A.V. TUCHY, INC. FOR PROJECT #3948 WINDOW AND DOOR REPLACEMENT AT RIPKA'S BEACH CAFÉ – CALF PASTURE BEACH FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$10,000.00. ACCOUNT #0918-6030-5777-C0365.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: SEPTEMBER 12, 2019.

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED SEPTEMBER 12, 2019.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: AUGUST 2019.

7. AUTHORIZED THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AND AGREEMENT WITH FIS FOR THE INTEGRATED PAYABLES SERVICE TO PROCESS ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS VIA ACH AND VIRTUAL CARDS.

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE

2. AUTHORIZE MAYOR RILLING TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PLANIMETRICS TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING SERVICES: CONSULTANT SERVICES FOR BUILDING ZONE REGULATIONS ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATIONS” IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$20,000.

3. APPROVE THE SOLE SOURCE PROCUREMENT APPROVING SNYDER GROUP TO UPDATE THE NORWALK TOMORROW WEBSITE.

D. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

1. APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 32, CODE OF ETHICS: § 32-9 – SPECIFIC VIOLATIONS § 32-13 – EFFECT OF VIOLATION § 32-14 – TIME LIMITS ON COMPLAINTS § 32-15 – PROPOSED REVISIONS

2. APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 32, CODE OF ETHICS: § 32-11 – SUBSEQUENT EMPLOYMENT

3. APPROVE NEW ORDINANCE: USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS BY FOOD OR BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS EFFECTIVE APRIL 20, 2020.

4. APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 103, TAXATION, ARTICLE III – TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS: § 103-6 – ELIGIBILITY § 103-7 – FILING OF APPLICATION § 103-12 – AMOUNT OF BENEFITS; ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

4. RESOLUTION: APPROVE SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$250,000 TO FUND A NEW CAPITAL PROJECT TO COMPLETE AN UPDATED RECREATION AND PARKS MASTER PLAN AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$250,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION.

5. RESOLUTION: AUTHORIZE THE CLOSURE OF THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS: 09-16-6030-5777-C0568, BRIEN MCMAHON TURF FIELDS WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$12,976; 09-17-6030-5777-C0568, BRIEN MCMAHON TURF FIELDS WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$101,372; AND 09-19-6030-5777-C0623, TESTA FIELD TURF REPLACEMENT WITH AVAILABLE BALANCE OF \$133,150.

Mr. Burnett reviewed the items. He noted that this plan will put the City in a good position for accreditation and raise the standards of parks to a first-class level. The cost will be offset by the closure of various projects.

Mr. Hempstead spoke in opposition to the plan. He said other studies were done in the past, but there was no money to implement the plans. He added that this was pre-mature.

Mr. Hosten said that it seems like a lot of money, but said that he sees this as an investment. Parks and Recreation has an impact on the quality of life.

Mr. Livingston spoke in support of the plan and said a comprehensive master plan for the parks has not been done in 26 years.

**** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) VOTE IN OPPOSITION (MR. HEMPSTEAD)**

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A 12 MONTH AGREEMENT WITH EVENT APPROVALS, INC., FOR EPROVAL SPECIAL PERMIT SOFTWARE INCLUDING INSTALLATION, TRAINING AND CONFIGURATION SERVICES, PER PROPOSAL EST-000013, DATED 02-SEPTEMBER-2019, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$28,100, ACCOUNT 09201370-5777-C0375 (APPROVED IT CAPITAL PROJECT; NO SPECIAL APPROPRIATION REQUIRED), WITH OPTION TO RENEW AT SAME ANNUAL RATE FOR 24 ADDITIONAL MONTHS, AND FORWARD ONTO THE COUNCIL FOR FURTHER ACTION.

Mr. Burnett explained the item and said this will save time and be customer service friendly. In addition, it provides for electronic approvals and efficiency.

Mr. Livingston said this goes a long way to address frustration in the permit process. Mr. Igneri said this is a very efficient customer service process. Mr. Kydes added that this process will save a lot of time.

Mayor Rilling said that this is something that has been a work in progress. Mr. Dachowitz created a team to address the permitting process. He said Ms. Donna King has been working on this for a year; this process should be easier to navigate.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

C. PLANNING COMMITTEE

**** MR. KYDES MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**1. APPROVE THE PLAN OF CONSERVATION & DEVELOPMENT
(CITYWIDE PLAN) WITH THE FOLLOWING RECOMMENDED CHANGES:**

**A. MODIFICATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY, PAGES 180, 182, 188,
191, 192 AND 202 TO REFLECT THE INCLUSION OF THE VISION ZERO
INITIATIVE.**

B. OTHER REQUESTED MODIFICATIONS.

Mr. Kydes explained that it has taken close to two years to get to this point. There has been a lot of public outreach and he said he believes this is a well-drafted plan.

Mr. Hempstead said he never met a master plan he liked and he never met a master plan he didn't like. He noted that it is an advisory plan and said he had some concerns about implementation. Mr. Hempstead expressed concern about the lack of senior housing and said that it can not be addressed by having an accessory apartment. He said the other concern is that there does not seem to be a strategy to evaluate what is happening in Norwalk now. He said he does not know what the impact from the mall and the additional apartment buildings will be on Norwalk. He said there need to be some studies on those impacts.

Mr. Hempstead said this plan is more specific than the last plan. This is a large wish list and a lot of things will not be done because there is no money.

Mr. Hosten said the plan was not perfect, but it is more thorough and thoughtful over the last one. He said he likes that there are action items and appreciates the environmental sustainability. He asked Mr. Kleppin about housing. Mr. Kleppin said the State saw the document and had no comment. Mr. Livingston said he supported the plan and is happy that it is broad in detail. He said they need to be sure to follow up on the action items. Mr. Kleppin talked about the implementation of the plan and it is tied to the capital budget.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Kleppin and everyone who volunteered to serve on the committee. He said so many people had the opportunity for input. It is a living and breathing document and it will be changed as needed. Mayor Rilling said this plan, compared to the one completed in 2008 is more comprehensive.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

3. APPROVE NEW ORDINANCE: USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC STRAWS AND STIRRERS BY FOOD OR BEVERAGE ESTABLISHMENTS EFFECTIVE APRIL 20, 2020.

Ms. Melendez thanked the members of the Ordinance Committee, especially Mr. Livingston and the members of the community who helped them work on the ordinance. She said that some members of the community need plastic straws. They are a safe option for people with disabilities. The effective date, if passed, is April 22, 2020, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Mr. Livingston thanked Ms. Melendez for her leadership. This ordinance strikes a reasonable balance.

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the ordinance. Mr. Hempstead said this is a start, but wants to be sure this will not create a market to deforest the trees. He asked about eliminating plastic water bottles and caps. Mr. Yerinides said that Norwalk is transitioning to reusable items and creating a culture where people have to watch the waste.

Mayor Rilling thanked the Ordinance Committee members and those who spoke out. He said Norwalk is a small corner of the world, but is leading the way. The young people are teaching and holding us accountable for making the world a better place. Ms. Melendez added that she received input from Norwalk students.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

4. APPROVE PROPOSED REVISIONS TO CHAPTER 103, TAXATION, ARTICLE III – TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS: § 103-6 – ELIGIBILITY § 103-7 – FILING OF APPLICATION § 103-12 – AMOUNT OF BENEFITS; ANNUAL ADJUSTMENT

Ms. Melendez reviewed the item and said it is reviewed every year. Mr. Burnett said the Finance Committee reviewed this proposal and fully supports it. He noted that this proposal increases the number of residents eligible for the tax relief program which could make a difference between someone staying in their home and in the community.

The application process starts on February 1, 2020 to May 15, 2020 and will be promoted. Mayor Rilling thanked the Common Council and said that each year they visit this. He said he believes we need to have tax reform in the state of Connecticut. The property tax is a regressive

tax and people are leaving Connecticut because of taxing. The tax structure is governed by the State. He said they have to start looking as a state, how to make the state less tax reliant.

X. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MS. MELENDEZ MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk