

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

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Members of the public who wish to provide public comment are encouraged to submit those via email in advance of the meeting. For these comments to be read into the record, they should be submitted at least three hours in advance of the meeting start time. Please email Donna King at dking@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. and led all in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. King read the notice.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett	Ms. Dominique Johnson
	Mr. Manny Langella	Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
	Ms. Barbara Smyth	

Common Council
Via Teleconference
May 26, 2020
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District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Mr. Ernest Dumas
District C:	Mr. John Kydes	Mr. George Theodoridis
District D:	Mr. George Tsiranides	Mr. Tom Keegan
District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan

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

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

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

May 12, 2020

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 3: Aske should be asked; Mary should be May

Page 11: Thee should be there

- ** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED**
- ** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to speak this evening.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling announced that the City of Norwalk was moving into Phase I of the re-opening plan in response to COVID-19. He said the plan includes the restoration of vehicular access to Calf Pasture Beach and Shady Beach for Norwalk residents. The outdoor restaurant seating online permit process was streamlined and they approved 47 applications. The new walk up window in City Hall has been successful.

Mayor Rilling explained that he updates the Common Council on a regular basis regarding COVID-19 and likes to invite staff to give an update. Norwalk's Chief of Community Services Lamond Daniels gave a presentation on the City's initiatives and its collaboration with several agencies to address food insecurity in Norwalk. He said that no Norwalk residents should go without food and presented a list of food access initiatives.

Mr. Daniels reviewed the department's community involvement and said they are always looking for volunteers.

Mayor Rilling thanked Mr. Daniels and the Common Council for their support of this position in the re-organization. He said the City is looking at all it can do to feed people who need food. He also said he wants to prevent people from being evicted if they are unable to pay their rent.

Ms. Young commented that Mr. Daniels is the right person for this job. He has risen to the top and has compassion for people.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Ms. Smyth thanked Mr. Daniels for his presentation and for his work ensuring the needs of Norwalk residents are met.

RESIGNATION AND APPOINTMENTS RESIGNATIONS:

APPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were none this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VII.A.1, VII.B.1, VII.B.2, VII.B.3, VII.B.4, VII.B.5, VII.B.7, VII.C.1

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AMENDMENT TO ATLAS PYROVISION ENTERTAINMENT GROUP, INC. FOR THE ANNUAL FIREWORKS DISPLAY TO EXTEND THEIR CONTRACT TO INCLUDE THE JULY 3, 2021 WITH A RAIN DATE OF JULY 5, 2021 AND JULY 3, 2022 WITH A RAIN DATE OF JULY 5, 2022 DISPLAY FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$43,500.00 FOR EACH YEAR. ALL REMAINING TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT TO REMAIN UNCHANGED. ACCOUNT #014103-5298.

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MAY 14, 2020

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED MAY 14, 2020

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: APRIL 2020

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & HOMELAND SECURITY GRANT FOR THE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE GRANT WHICH IS APPROXIMATELY \$65,000.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO SUBMIT AN APPLICATION TO THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT FOR GRANT FUNDS PROVIDED UNDER THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT'S LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND FOR LOCAL CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM (\$647,076- 2020 ENTITLEMENT).

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A CONTRACT WITH SHIPMAN & GOODWIN LLP TO PROVIDE BOND COUNSEL SERVICES, WITH PRICING FOR SERVICES BASED UPON THE PROPOSAL SUBMITTED BY SHIPMAN & GOODWIN TO THE CITY ON JANUARY 28, 2020 AS AMENDED BY THE MAY 1, 2020 EMAIL FROM BRUCE CHUDWICK. ACCOUNT #301340-5523.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO A TEMPORARY RIGHT OF ACCESS AND ENTRY AGREEMENT WITH SONO TOD, LLC TO ENTER OVER A CERTAIN PORTION OF 30 MONROE STREET FOR CONSTRUCTION ACCESS PURPOSES.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

Due to a potential conflict of interest, Mr. Keegan left the meeting.

**** MS SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

1. AUTHORIZATION FOR DISCUSSION: SETTLEMENT: JASMINE TURNER V. NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT EXECUTIVE SESSION

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

Mr. Keegan returned to the meeting.

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

6. Approval of Budget:

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2020-21 PARKING AUTHORITY BUDGET**

Ms. Hebert, Chief of Transportation Mobility Parking reviewed the FY 2020-2021 Parking Authority Budget. She noted the Parking Authority has been meeting twice a month since March.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FY 2020-21 WPCA Budget**

Mr. Kolb, Senior Environmental Engineer reviewed the FY2020-2021 WPCA budget. He noted that the WPCA is an Enterprise Fund. They are self-funded and there are no bonding requests. He explained that Suez is their new contract operator and they took over the operation on May 18th. He reviewed the two-year procurement process.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

**** MR. BURNETT MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING RESOLUTION:**

8. RESOLUTION: APPROVE SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATIONS TOTALING \$1,642,470 TO INCREASE THE AVAILABLE FUNDS IN BOARD OF EDUCATION CAPITAL PROJECT NUMBER 09-205010-C0112, INSTRUCTIONAL TECHNOLOGY, FOR THE PURCHASE OF E-

TABLET COMPUTERS FOR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS IN GRADES K THROUGH 8.

Mr. Burnett explained that this is an additional appropriation whereby every student will have some type of IT for distance learning. In addition, the teachers, if necessary, will also have some type of IT.

Mr. Hamilton, Norwalk Public Schools, Chief Financial Officer explained that everyone is dealing with these unprecedented circumstances. Norwalk Public Schools were thrown into a distance learning environment, without notice. By all measures, the District had done an outstanding job providing education to the students. Through major efforts, they were able to make available Chrome books to many students. He said that for many of the younger grades, they have been relying on photo copying the learning packets, but that has been problematic.

Mr. Hamilton said they are preparing for summer school to start on July 6th. They are also preparing that as this pandemic plays out for the possibility that they will be in a distance learning environment or a hybrid. He said they will be doing some remote learning and some in-school learning.

Ms. Barbara Myer-Mitchell, Chair of the Board of Education Finance Committee added that the Chrome books will allow them to respond to what develops in the fall. In addition, this enables the District to be a leader in the State and provide equality for the students.

Mr. Keegan said he was struggling with this appropriation. He asked how many Chrome books are in inventory, how many students are in the District and how many students need Chrome books. Mr. Valenzisi, Chief of Digital Learning and Development explained that this appropriation will fill the gap with a 15% overage.

Mr. Keegan asked about internet access since the Chrome books would be going into the homes. He expressed concern for students who may not have internet access. Mr. Valenzisi explained that he has been working with Altise and they connected the tablets to WiFi. In addition, he is working with Spring. They currently have over 300 hot spots for students who need that. He noted there are “dead spots” in the City.

Mr. Keegan asked if they’ve researched the success rate in other schools that used tablets. He said he was not sure if this was a \$1.6 million experiment. Mr. Valenzisi said the curriculum has been vetted. He said that at a younger grade levels, the need a way for the teachers to connect to the students.

Mr. Hamilton said this is not the first place this has been tried. Suburban neighborhoods had one to one devices for students and the reports from those communities is that this was very successful.

Ms. Smyth said she uses her laptop, but asked about notebooks for teachers. Mr. Valenzisi said everyone has the devices they need.

Mr. Heuvelman commended the Norwalk Public Schools for what they have been doing. He said they are doing amazing stuff and he want to see this request move forward. He asked if this request gives the District enough resources. He also asked if the relationship with Altise will continue.

Mr. Valenzisi said he believed this request was enough. He said they are changing the way they work and everyone has to operate differently. They are looking at internet access for all students.

Mr. Langella noted this could be the new normal. He said he wants to be sure there is a good understanding of the inventory. Mr. Valenzisi said that information is provided so each teacher can see which device each student has. They know what serial number is issued to each student.

Ms. Johnson asked about the plans for de-briefing for distance learning. Ms. Myer Mitchell said the Board of Education is working hard on what the re-entry will look like. Mr. Valenzisi said he has been an advocate for distance learning and does not want to move backwards.

Mayor Rilling said the Norwalk Public School system made tremendous progress because the City of Norwalk made significant investments and the Norwalk Public Schools implemented their strategic plan. He noted this will help enhance students' ability to read at grade level.

Mayor Rilling said he firmly supports this. Norwalk Public Schools have been the highest achieving urban school system for the last three years.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MR. LANGELLA; MR. SACCHINELLI; MS. SMYTH; MR. HEUVELMAN; MR. ROBERTS; MR. DUMAS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MR. THEODORIDIS; MR. KEEGAN; MR. TSIRANIDES; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

X. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none.

XI. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

There were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. KEEGAN MOVED TO ADJOURN
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned by voice vote at 9:00 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk