

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 "live comments" will need to register in advance and use the Zoom meeting platform. All participants will be muted upon entering the meeting. To speak, click the "raise your hand indicator" and you will be called on by the host of the meeting during the public comment section. Please find the information using the link above.

Members of the public who wish to view the meeting, but are not participating, can view a live stream on the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. This stream is delayed by approximately 20 seconds. Please find the information using the link above. The meeting recording and minutes will be posted on the City of Norwalk website within seven (7) days after the meeting.

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.

**CITY OF NORWALK
COMMON COUNCIL
MARCH 23, 2021
VIA TELECONFERENCE**

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

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

Council at Large:	Mr. Gregory Burnett Mr. Manny Langella Ms. Barbara Smyth	Ms. Dominique Johnson Mr. Nicholas Sacchinelli
District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
District B:	Ms. Darlene Young	Ms. Diana Revolus
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, City Clerk, Donna King and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: March 9, 2021

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 8:

they all agreed as a panel should read: why they all agreed as a panel

He said a lot of changes have taken place since then, and that this is a very appropriate time o look should be: He said a lot of changes have taken place since then, and that this is a very appropriate time to look

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED
** MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. THEODORIDIS)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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

Ms. Iliana Zuniga requested that Led By Us engage with people who are victims of inequality and injustice. She asked that all humans living in the City of Norwalk be

considered. She asked Led By Us to reach out to the undocumented and all who are unable to get involved because of language barriers. She said the pandemic widened the inequality gap. Ms. Zuniga requested that people who are bilingual in Spanish and Haitian Creole be available. She noted that a thorough report is nothing without action.

Mr. Jalin Sead spoke in support of the agreement with Led By Us. He urged them to go inside of the community – go into the streets and housing projects. He suggested talking to people who may not be aware of this initiative. He stressed the importance of talking to the community.

Ms. King read letter of support for the agreement with Led By Us from:

Ms. Farrah Marin
Ms. Jolie Yong
Mr. Patrick McDonald

Ms. Heidi Alderman spoke in support of the agreement with Led By Us. She said she hoped this commission works with Equity Study from Temple University. She said that Dr. Estrella has been wonderful from the school system and hoped she would be asked for her opinion.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

There were none this evening.

MAYOR’S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling thanked the Common Council for moving forward with the Led By Us proposal. He said he read the Blue Ribbon Commission’s study from 1993 and said it was a job well done, but it was not followed. He said this had to be done.

Mayor Rilling praised Mr. Daniels for doing an excellent job on the proposal. He said he had an opportunity to meet with the Led By Us team and has total confidence in the team. He said they will reach deep into the community to listen and find out what they need.

Mayor Rilling reported that the City continues to hold Covid 19 vaccine clinics and is actively reaching out to Communities of Color to get as many people vaccinated as possible. He thanked the Health Department, Mr. Daniels and the volunteers for the wonderful job they are doing to help the community, noting that this would not be possible without the volunteers, including Ms. Young, Mr. Heuvelman and Ms. Johnson.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

Mr. Sacchinelli announced that the Consent Calendar would be read by Mr. Burnett this evening.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE HGACBUY INTERLOCAL CONTRACT FOR THE CITY OF NORWALK TO PARTICIPATE IN THE HOUSTON-GALVESTON AREA COUNCIL (H-GAC) COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM. THE AGREEMENT ALLOWS THE CITY TO PURCHASE PRODUCTS AND SERVICES THAT HAVE BEEN CONTRACTED AFTER HAVING BEEN SUBJECTED TO EITHER A COMPETITIVE BID (IFB) OR COMPETITIVE PROPOSAL (RFP) PROCESS.

2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE, VIA SOLE SOURCE ORDER TO KASSBOHRER ALL TERRAIN VEHICLES, INC. FOR THE PURCHASE OF ONE (1) CHERRINGTON MODEL 5500 BEACH CLEANER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$124,010.00. ACCOUNT #09216030-5777-C0486. APPROVED FY2021 CAPITAL FLEET PURCHASE.

B. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MARCH 11, 2021

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED MARCH 11, 2021.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: FEBRUARY 2021

4. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO AGREE TO THE CONNECTICUT GREEN BANK COMMERCIAL-PROPERTY

**ASSESSED CLEAN ENERGY (C-PACE) PROGRAM ASSESSMENT
BILLING AND COLLECTING CHANGE.**

**5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO TERMINATE
CONTRACT WITH HILLTOP SECURITIES, INC. FOR PROJECT NO.
3986 FINANCIAL ADVISORY SERVICES FOR BOND SALE.**

**6. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE A
CONTRACT WITH BILL LINDSAY AT MUNISTAT SERVICES, INC.
TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL ADVISORY CONSULTING SERVICES FOR
THE FISCAL YEAR 2021 THROUGH 2024. ACCOUNT #301340-5523.**

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**1. APPROVAL OF AND VOTE ON NEW POSITION DESCRIPTION FOR
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR AND REASSIGNMENT OF GRANTS
COORDINATOR RESPONSIBILITIES.**

**2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE
ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND
ACCEPT THE SCHOOL READINESS GRANT WHICH INCLUDES THE
QUALITY ENHANCEMENT GRANT FOR THE PERIOD JULY 1, 2021
TO JUNE 30, 2022.**

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

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

C. COMMUNITY SERVICES AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

**** MS. SMYTH MOVED TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W.
RILLING, TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT WITH LED BY US &
ASSOCIATES FOR THE CONSULTANT FOR THE EQUITY AND
JUSTICE FOR ALL COMMISSION FOR A PERIOD OF ONE YEAR FOR
A TOTAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$150,000.00. ACCOUNT
NUMBER TO BE TBD.**

Ms. Smyth noted that there is a commitment for \$50,000 from the Fairfield County Community Foundation. She expressed gratitude to Ms. James for that donation.

Ms. Smyth thanked all who spoke and submitted letters; the compelling words are noted. She said she was honored to be on the Selection Committee. Having been a teacher, she saw the results of inequity every day and how important it is to do this work. Ms. Smyth said they did not want just talk, they want and need action and feel that Led By Us is the right consultant to do that.

Ms. Smyth thanked Mayor Rilling. She said that after the George Floyd murder, she had a conversation with Mayor Rilling and he proposed creating a Justice For All Commission. It took a long time to get it to this point, but this is a good delay.

Ms. Smyth thanked Mr. Daniels for his very fine leadership. She stressed the importance of listening to the youth and not dismissing what they have to say. She said she also wanted to be sure Led By Us works with various groups to enact real meaningful change.

Mr. Daniels highlighted the summary of work and noted that it can't be done by the City alone. This will be a collaboration with various organizations, individuals and constituents. He asked Mr. Ayala to give an overview of who they are. He introduced the Led By Us team and said their work will not be done in a silo. He encouraged everyone to watch the Community Services and Personnel Committee meeting video to see the Led By Us presentation.

Mr. Kelvin Ayala, Director of Real Estate Development, said that Led By Us is a consultant firm based on responsible urban revitalization. They look to empower the community to create transformative change. He introduced Ms. Natalie Pryce, Business and Workforce Development and Ms. Kim Bianca Williams, Director of Community Development.

Mr. Ayala said the reason for the name Led By Us, is because they all had to navigate difficult journeys and deal with inequities in their career path. They were not invited to be at the table and it got to the point where they were tired of navigating those waters. Mr. Ayala said they came together to create Led By Us. Mr. Ayala said he and his team lived this and succeeded. They stand by their name and the work they do.

Mr. Daniels noted that Ms. Pryce is a daughter of the City of Norwalk. Ms. Pryce said she is in Norwalk every week because her parents live here. She said she has strong ties to Norwalk and loves the diversity.

Ms. Williams spoke about her concern for the youth. She said she is an Adjunct Professor at three universities and deals constantly with youth. She noted that it is extremely important to acknowledge the voice of the youth. Ms. Williams said she is excited to be able to engage that audience. Ms. Williams is also an active member of the Bridgeport community.

Mr. Burnett said they received several questions since the press conference last Wednesday. This input is welcome because it highlights that the Norwalk residents want to be involved in this process. He said they have to proceed on what they can and must

do. This commission is going to challenge several people to think and act differently. Mr. Burnett said he sees this as an investment.

Ms. Revolus said she was happy as long as Led By Us was going to go into the community with intention. She stressed that the community leadership is on the ground and not all of the leaders are in the Churches. She asked Led By Us to not be afraid to speak to the real movers and shakers in the community.

Mr. Roberts thanked Mr. Daniels, the staff and Mayor Rilling. He said that last year a Town Hall meeting was held with over 300 people in attendance and that Mayor Rilling kept his word. He said that now is the time to go to the streets. Mr. Roberts said this is near and dear to his heart. Everyone needs to be held accountable. In order to get comfortable, you need to get uncomfortable.

Ms. Young said that at this point, it is time to say, let's go. She said this is a great consulting group and they have their marching orders. Ms. Young said she is encouraged by this and is ready to follow Led By Us.

Ms. Smyth said that she believes from her heart, that this work will be the single most important work conducted in the City. Celebrating our diversity will enrich our lives and our City.

Mr. Ayala thanked everyone on the Common Council for their passion. He said their task is to help the City create, form and put together the Commission. The goal is to identify Norwalkers from all walks of life. He added that their job is to formulate the Commission.

Ms. Revolus said this is a call out to Norwalk. She asked people to make their presence known and to please be a part of this. Now is the time for the community to come out and be involved.

Mayor Rilling said it takes courage for people to open their doors. He said we have a great City, and we do a lot of good, but it is important to hear where we can do better.

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

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were none this evening.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were none this evening.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Donna King, City Clerk