

**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**

To allow public access, anyone may access a meeting by telephone, Zoom, and/or the City of Norwalk YouTube channel. Specific instructions and links can be found at [norwalkct.org/meetings](http://norwalkct.org/meetings).

Members of the public can call in and listen to a meeting. They will not be able to speak or see any of the meeting participants. Each meeting will use a unique Meeting/Webinar ID. Please find the information using the link above.

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](mailto:dking@norwalkct.org) to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:31 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mayor Rilling asked for a moment of silence in memory of Mr. Mike Barbis. He reviewed his many accomplishments and contributions, including his 10 years as a member of the Board of Education.

## I. ROLL CALL

Ms. King called the Roll.

At Roll Call 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	

District A:	Mr. David Heuvelman	Mr. Kadeem Roberts
-------------	---------------------	--------------------

District B:	Ms. Darlene Young (7:46 p.m.)	Ms. Diana Revolus
-------------	-------------------------------	-------------------

District C:	John Kydes	
-------------	------------	--

District D:	Mr. George Tsiranides	Mr. Tom Keegan
-------------	-----------------------	----------------

District E:	Mr. Thomas Livingston	Ms. Lisa Shanahan
-------------	-----------------------	-------------------

At Roll Call fourteen (14) Common Council members were present and one (1) absent (Mr. Theodoridis ). 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: September 14, 2021

Ms. Shanahan's comments on page 10, should read as follows:

Ms. Shanahan explained that this item came off consent as there had been an in-depth discussion of this item during the Democratic caucus the evening prior. She had been asked to represent some points that were considered by the caucus.

First, everyone agreed that the Recs and Park Department needs to be fully funded to aid in maintaining our fields and parks.

Ms. Shanahan expressed the importance of women's sports in school and her full support for the BMHS girls' softball team finally receiving the new field that they deserve. That said, there are real concerns as to whether the turf fields are as safe as they have been represented to be.

The crumb rubber, petrol chemicals embedded in the product and the chemicals used to clean the fields pose toxicity threats to both our water ways and our children. Athletes report higher incidents of knee and concussion injuries on turf fields than on grass fields.

Most troubling is the conversion of green open space to plastic fields. Finally, the disposal of turf fields at the end of their useful life is now difficult. For these reasons, Ms. Shanahan said that she could not vote in favor of the installation of turf on these new fields.

**\*\* MS. REVOLUS MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS AMENDED  
\*\* MOTION PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MR. KYDES)**

### **III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No members of the public wished to participate this evening.

### **IV. MAYOR**

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

RESIGNATIONS: There were no resignations announced this evening.

APPOINTMENTS:

**\*\* MS. JOHNSON MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING  
APPOINTMENTS TO THE COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF  
WOMEN**

**SHARON R. BAANANTE  
CHANTAL COFFY  
CLAUDIA WERMAN CONNOR  
SARAH A. RENDON GARCIA  
SHANNON O'TOOLE GIANDURCO  
ANNA KEEGAN  
JASMINE PREZZIE**

**KRISTINA TESTA- BUZZEE  
IVONNE ZUCCO  
ILIANA ZUNIGA**

Ms. Johnson spoke in support of the appointments. She noted that Norwalk has the only commission of this type in the state of Connecticut.

Mayor Rilling gave an overview of the history of the former commission that was first created in the late 1980s and then disbanded. He said the Commission will be staffed by Ms. Escalera, Director of Human Services.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**\*\* MS. SMYTH MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF  
ROBERT STOWERS AS THE DIRECTOR OF RECREATION AND  
PARKS**

Ms. Smyth spoke in support of the appointment of Mr. Stowers. She said that the leadership of the Common Council met with Mr. Stowers, who comes from Seattle, WA and she is very pleased to put his name forward for consideration. She said she looks forward to working with him and found him to be someone who thinks outside the box.

Mr. Kydes spoke in support of Mr. Stower's appointment and said he believes he had the experience to lead the department of Recreation and Parks.

Ms. Young joined the meeting at 7:46 p.m.

Ms. Young said she was excited for Mr. Stowers to get started.

**\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Stowers expressed his thanks said he looked forward to coming to Norwalk. He gave an overview of his background and accomplishments.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling said the swearing in of the members of the newly reconstituted Commission on the Status of Women will take place on October 1, 2021. The public is invited to meet the new appointees.

City of Norwalk  
Common Council  
September 28, 2021  
Page 4  
Via Teleconference

The booster shots for the Pfizer vaccine are available for those who are 65 and older. Vaccine clinics continue to be available to residents throughout the City of Norwalk. Mayor Rilling said that the only way to beat the virus is for people to practice safe protocols.

The Brien McMahon High School Marching Band will host the Celebration of Sound on October 2, 2021. The Norwalk High School Marching Band will host the 24th Annual Cavalcade of Bands on October 9, 2021.

Mayor Rilling said he looks forward to working with the new Director of Recreation and Parks.

The Health Department will host a Walk at Calf Pasture Beach on September 30, 2021. Everyone will meet at the flagpole. In addition, Mayor Rilling invited the public to join him on Saturday mornings at 8:30 a.m. for his “Walk with Us” program. Information about the walk is available on the city website and Facebook. He noted that Norwalk has 43 walking routes.

Norwalk received funds from the American Rescue Plan. A proposal regarding how the funds are to be spent will be presented to the Common Council. Mayor Rilling said he expects that proposal will go to the Common Council in about 1 1/2 – 2 weeks.

## **V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT**

### **A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:**

Mr. Sacchinelli announced that this evening’s consent calendar would be read by Ms. Smyth.

### **B. CONSENT CALENDAR:**

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

**VII.B.1, VII.B.2, VII.C.1A, VII.C.1B, VII.C.2A, VII.C.2B, VII.C.2C, VII.C.3,**

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

#### **A. CORPORATION COUNSEL**

#### **VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

**B. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

**1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE THE AGREEMENT FOR USE OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PROPERTY, TEMPORARY WORK AREA AGREEMENT, SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT, AND ANY AND ALL OTHER DOCUMENTS WITH EVERSOURCE NECESSARY AND FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING EVERSOURCE WITH RIGHTS TO UNDERGROUND ITS ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION AND DISTRIBUTION LINES AT THE NORWALK POLICE STATION AND VETERAN'S PARK IN CONNECTION WITH THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT AND THE CITY'S COMPENSATION FOR SUCH RIGHTS.**

**2. THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE NORWALK PLANNING COMMISSION THAT 8-24 REFERRAL #08-21 – DPW – AGREEMENT FOR USE OF MUNICIPAL PUBLIC PROPERTY, TEMPORARY WORK AREA AGREEMENT AND SIDE LETTER AGREEMENT FOR EVERSOURCE TO USE CITY PROPERTY FOR ELECTRICAL TRANSMISSION LINE INSTALLATION IN ASSOCIATION WITH THE WALK BRIDGE PROJECT BE APPROVED.**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT THE REASONS FOR THIS ACTION ARE TO IMPLEMENT THE FOLLOWING PLAN OF CONSERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT GOALS, POLICIES AND ACTIONS:**

**1. THAT "NORWALK'S INFRASTRUCTURE AND PUBLIC FACILITIES ARE RESOURCE-EFFICIENT, WELL-MAINTAINED, COST EFFECTIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT" (CHAPTER 11: PUBLIC FACILITIES, INFRASTRUCTURE & SERVICES); AND**

**2. THAT "NORWALK HAS A COMPREHENSIVE AND BALANCED TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM, WITH SAFETY AND MULTIMODAL ACCESSIBILITY THE TOP PRIORITY OF CITYWIDE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING" (CHAPTER 10: TRANSPORTATION & MOBILITY NETWORKS); AND**

**3. THAT "PROTECT AND MANAGE NORWALK'S SENSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES AND ITS INLAND AND COASTAL WATERS TO ENHANCE WATER QUALITY, WILDLIFE HABITAT, BIODIVERSITY, PUBLIC HEALTH, AND ENRICHMENT OF COMMUNITY CHARACTER " (CHAPTER 8: SUSTAINABILITY & THE NORWALK ENVIRONMENT, GOALS & POLICIES).**

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT NOTICE OF THIS ACTION BE FORWARDED TO THE COMMON COUNCIL.**

**C. HEALTH AND PUBLIC SAFETY**

**1A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY, ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION UNDER THE HIGHWAY SAFETY GRANT FOR DISTRACTED DRIVING HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$50,000.00**

**1B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE 2021 DISTRACTED DRIVING HIGH VISIBILITY ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.**

**2A. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY, ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT GRANT FUNDS FROM FEMA UNDER THE 2021 PORT SECURITY GRANT.**

**2B. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS KULHAWIK, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE 2021 PORT SECURITY GRANT, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.**

**2C. AUTHORIZE THE, FIRE CHIEF, GINO GATTO, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT THE 2021 PORT SECURITY GRANT, PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.**

**3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO ADOPT THE ‘WESTERN CT COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS (WESTCOG) MULTI-JURISDICTION HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN UPDATE 2021-2026’ AS PREPARED BY THE WESTCOG AND APPROVED BY THE FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY (FEMA).**

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

## **VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

### **A. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

**\*\* MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:**

**1. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING CITY CODE SECTIONS:**

**• CHAPTER 30 - CAPITAL PROJECTS PROGRAM, SECTIONS 30-5, 30-6, 30-7, 30-8, 30-9, 30-10, 30-10.1, 30-11, 30-11.1, 30-12, AND 30-13.**

Mr. Livingston gave an overview of the history of Planning and Zoning Commissions. The Planning and Zoning Commissions were combined until they were separated in 1988. He said combining the Planning and Zoning Commissions has been discussed before. Mr. Livingston said that the reason to combine the commissions should be based on consistent policies and goals. This merger is consistent with the POCD (Plan of Conservation and Development).

**2. APPROVE THE FOLLOWING REVISIONS/AMENDMENTS TO THE FOLLOWING CITY CODE SECTIONS:**

**• CHAPTER 79 - PLANNING AND ZONING COMMISSIONS, SECTIONS 79-1, 79-2, 79-3, 79-4, 79-5, 79-6, 79-7, AND 79-8.**

Mr. Livingston reviewed the changes made to Chapter 79 which will be in effect on January 11, 2022.

Mr. Livingston said the biggest concern raised was about the workload. Changes to the capital budget process are intended to address those concerns. In addition, the changes will ensue that all capital items are consistent with the POCD. Any item that is not consistent with the POCD will need to have 2/3 approval.

Mr. Kleppin, Director of Planning and Zoning addressed the workload issue. He shared his screen and said that the majority of the work done by the Planning Commission can easily be absorbed by the Zoning Commission. He added that they can set a up sub committee to look at the capital budget process.



Mr. Schulman, Chair of the Zoning Commission said his only concern was related to the workload, but that concern has been addressed.

Mr. Kydes expressed thanks to Ms. Shanahan and Mr. Livingston and said that the next Common Council should look at this after it has been approved to see how it is going and to address anything, if needed.

Mayor Rilling expressed his thanks to Ms. Shanahan and Mr. Livingston.

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

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

There were none this evening.

**X. SUSPENSION OF RULES**

There were none this evening.

**XI. ADJOURNMENT**

**\*\* MR. TSIRANIDES MOVED TO ADJOURN  
\*\* MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Donna King, City Clerk