

**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 Irene Dixon at Idixon@norwalkct.org to provide written public comment prior to the meeting.

Mayor Rilling called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m. and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Dixon called the Roll

Council at Large: Mr. Gregory Burnett Ms. Dominique Johnson
 Ms. Nora Niedzielski Eichner Ms. Barbara Smyth

District A: Ms. Nicol Ayers Mr. David Heuvelman

District B: Ms. Darlene Young Ms. Diana Revolus

District C: Mr. John Kydes Ms. Jenn McMurrer

District D: Ms. Heidi Alterman Mr. Thomas Keegan

District E: Mr. Thomas Livingston Ms. Lisa Shanahan

At Roll Call there were fourteen (14) Common Council members present and one (1) absent (Mr. Goldstein). A Quorum was present.

Also present were Mayor Harry Rilling, City Clerk, Irene Dixon and Corporation Counsel, Mario Coppola.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting: January 11, 2022

**** MS. SHANAHAN MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES AS
PRESENTED
** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No members of the public wished to participate this evening.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS:

City of Norwalk
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Mayor Rilling announced the resignation of Ms. Barbara McCabe from the Bike Walk Commission and thanked her for her service on the Commission.

APPOINTMENTS: There were no appointments announced this evening.

REAPPOINTMENTS: There were no reappointments announced this evening.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

Mayor Rilling reported that they continue to monitor Covid and signs are starting to show Connecticut may be past the Omicron surge. Hospitalizations and test positivity rates are trending down. COVID-19 testing remains available seven days a week at Shady Beach. COVID-19 vaccine clinics continue at Veterans Park through February. There is limited wait time for tests. No appointment is necessary and there is no cost for the vaccine.

The City launched the Norwalk Community Recovery Fund. This one-time \$2 million competitive grant will support local nonprofit organizations delivering services to Norwalk residents. More information is available at norwalkct.org/ARPA. The City is tracking snow this weekend. City crews are on standby. If this develops into a major weather event, a snow emergency may be declared. If possible, Mayor Rilling asked residents to park off the street so the plows can go through.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS:

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA**

2. AUTHORIZE ALAN LO, THE CITY'S BUILDING AND FACILITIES MANAGER, IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S LAW DEPARTMENT, TO NEGOTIATE A PURCHASE PRICE FOR THE PARCEL SITES IDENTIFIED AND SET FORTH IN THE LEGAL MEMORANDUM, FILE NO. WD50400-0153 ISSUED BY ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN L. CALLAHAN DATED DECEMBER 29, 2021 (THE "MEMORANDUM"), ACQUISITION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, PER NEGOTIATION PARAMETERS SET FORTH IN SAID MEMORANDUM.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

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Mr. Livingston announced that Ms. Ayers will be reading this evening's Consent Calendar.

**** MS. AYERS MOVED TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI.A.1, VI.A.2, VII. A.1, VII.A.2, VII.B.1, VII.C.1, VII.C.2, VII.E.1, VII.E.2, VII.E.3, VII.E.4, VII.E.5, VII.E.6

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. CORPORATION COUNSEL

1. POTENTIAL EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS LEGAL MEMORANDUM, FILE NO. WD- 50400-0153 OF ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN L. CALLAHAN DATED DECEMBER 29, 2021, RE: LAND ACQUISITION

2. AUTHORIZE ALAN LO, THE CITY'S BUILDING AND FACILITIES MANAGER, IN COORDINATION WITH THE CITY'S LAW DEPARTMENT, TO NEGOTIATE A PURCHASE PRICE FOR THE PARCEL SITES IDENTIFIED AND SET FORTH IN THE LEGAL MEMORANDUM, FILE NO. WD50400-0153 ISSUED BY ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL, DARIN L. CALLAHAN DATED DECEMBER 29, 2021 (THE "MEMORANDUM"), ACQUISITION FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES, PER NEGOTIATION PARAMETERS SET FORTH IN SAID MEMORANDUM.

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB/LONGSHORE SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM PARK AND IMMEDIATE SURROUNDING GROUNDS FOR THEIR 88TH GREENWICH KENNEL CLUB/LONGSHORE SOUTHPORT KENNEL CLUB AKC DOG SHOW, OBEDIENCE, AND RALLY TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 11, 2022 FROM 8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM AND SUNDAY, JUNE 12, 2022 FROM 8:30 AM TO 6:30 PM. SET-UP TO BEGIN WEDNESDAY, JUNE 8, 2022 AT 6:00 AM WITH A TEAR-DOWN NO LATER THAN MONDAY JUNE 13, 2022 AT 6:30 PM.

APPROXIMATE ATTENDANCE 800 PEOPLE.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH TYRONE MARTYLEWSKI FOR THE LEASE AGREEMENT FOR CARETAKER'S COTTAGE AT CRANBURY PARK FOR THE PERIOD OF JULY 1, 2021 TO JUNE 30, 2026.

B. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

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

CHAPTER 45, ARTICLE II – SALE AND DISPENSING OF FOOD AND DRINK SECTION 21 – DEFINITIONS, FOOD-HANDLING ESTABLISHMENT - SECTIONS 45-21.

C. PUBLIC SAFETY AND GENERAL GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, HARRY W. RILLING, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL DOCUMENTS NECESSARY TO APPLY FOR AND ACCEPT GRANT FUNDS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE UNDER THE FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT, IN THE AMOUNT OF \$35,428.00.

2. AUTHORIZE THE POLICE CHIEF, THOMAS E. KULHAWIK, TO EXECUTE ANY AND ALL AGREEMENTS, DOCUMENTS, INSTRUMENTS AND AMENDMENTS THERETO AS MAY BE NECESSARY TO IMPLEMENT ALL PROGRAMS THROUGH THE FY2021 EDWARD BYRNE MEMORIAL JUSTICE ASSISTANCE GRANT PURSUANT TO SUCH GRANT FUNDING.

E. FINANCE AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: JANUARY 13, 2022

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED: JANUARY 13, 2022

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED: DECEMBER 2022

4. RESOLUTION:

REQUESTING A SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION IN THE AMOUNT OF \$72,000,000 TO PURCHASE PROPERTY AND CONSTRUCT A NEW NEIGHBORHOOD SCHOOL IN SOUTH NORWALK TO ACCOMMODATE 682 PREK – 5 STUDENTS. THE SPECIAL CAPITAL APPROPRIATION SHALL BE FUNDED THROUGH: (A) A REALLOCATION OF \$39,114,864 OF BOND PROCEEDS THAT WERE PREVIOUSLY ISSUED FOR PROJECT #0918-5010-5777-C0607 (NEW COLUMBUS SCHOOL AT ELY AVENUE) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$17,314,319 AND PROJECT #0919-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND PROJECT #0920-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) IN THE AMOUNT OF \$21,800,545; AND (B) THE REALLOCATION OF \$32,885,136 MILLION OF AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FROM PROJECT #0918-5010-5777-C0607 (NEW COLUMBUS SCHOOL AT ELY AVENUE), PROJECT #0919-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND PROJECT #0920-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES). THE \$32,885,136 OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY SHALL BE ISSUED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS AND TERMS SET FORTH IN THE ORIGINAL BOND RESOLUTIONS THAT AUTHORIZED THE ISSUANCE OF BONDS OR NOTES OF THE CITY FOR PROJECT #0918-5010-5777-C0607 (NEW COLUMBUS SCHOOL AT ELY AVENUE) AND PROJECT #0919-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND PROJECT #0920-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES).

5. RESOLUTION: CLOSE OUT OF PROJECT #0918-5010-5777-C0607 (NEW COLUMBUS SCHOOL AT ELY AVENUE) AND DEAUTHORIZE \$24,250,000 OF AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BONDS FOR PROJECT #0918-5010-5777-C0607 (NEW COLUMBUS SCHOOL AT ELY AVENUE).

6. RESOLUTION: CLOSE OUT OF PROJECT #0919-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND PROJECT #0920-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND DEAUTHORIZE \$12,592,530 OF AUTHORIZED BUT UNISSUED BONDS FOR PROJECT #0919-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES) AND PROJECT #0920-5010-5777-C0618 (NORWALK GLOBAL STUDIES).

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

A. RECREATION, PARKS AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

** MS. YOUNG MOVED TO Approve the following resolution:

Whereas, pursuant to the Urban Act Program 4-66c, the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development is authorized to extend financial assistance for economic development projects;

and Whereas, it is desirable and in the public interest that the City of Norwalk make an application to the State for \$5 million, in order to undertake the Cranbury Park Renovations and to execute an Assistance Agreement.

Now, therefore, be it resolved by the Common Council of the City of Norwalk;

1. That it is cognizant of the conditions and prerequisites for the state financial assistance imposed by the State of Connecticut, Department of Economic and Community Development, Urban Act Program 4-66c; and
2. That the filing of an application for State financial assistance by the City of Norwalk in an amount not to exceed \$5 million is hereby approved;
3. That Harry W. Rilling, Mayor, City of Norwalk, is directed to execute and file such application with the Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development, to provide such additional information, to execute such other documents as may be required, to execute an Assistance Agreement with the State of Connecticut for State financial assistance if such an agreement is offered, to execute any amendments, decisions, and revisions thereto, and to act as the authorized representative of the City of Norwalk.

Mr. Stower, Director of Recreation and Parks reviewed the scope of the project. He noted that this grant has to be spent in three years. He said there were 20 bidders in response the RFQ.

Mr. Kydes spoke in support of the project and thanked the State Legislators for getting this funding. Mr. Livingston asked about the trails. Mr. Stower said he believed there would be sufficient funding to do maintenance on some of the trails. Ms. Smyth thanked Senator Duff.

Mayor Rilling noted that Senator Duff acquired \$5 million grant for the Lockwood Mathews Mansion Museum.

Ms. Young thanked Mr. Stowers and Mr. Hughes and said she knows they will do a great job on this project.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

D. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

**** MR. LIVINGSTON MOVED TO ADOPT PROPOSED NORWALK PUBLIC SCHOOLS' FACILITIES IMPROVEMENT PLAN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOUTH NORWALK ELEMENTARY SCHOOL SUBJECT TO THE APPROVAL OF CAPITAL BUDGET FUNDS THROUGH SPECIAL APPROPRIATION PROCESS.**

Mr. Livingston explained that the City and Board of Education looked for a new South Norwalk school for a number of years. The City and the Board of Education developed an alternative plan. The \$72 million will come from closing out old projects. He said that the key takeaway is that most of the 800 students are bused throughout the City and out of their neighborhoods. The proposed plan will provide 650 seats at the South Norwalk school. Mr. Livingston said this is the latest in a number of school projects.

Mr. Burnett asked about the proposed timeline for the South Norwalk school. Mr. Alan Lo, explained that they expect it will take about three years from June 30th of this year.

Mayor Rilling congratulated all for working with the Board of Education on this project. He noted that it is challenging for the young people to be bused throughout Norwalk.

In response to Ms. Young's questions, Mr. Lo said that the school will be ready for the school year in the fall of 2025. He said that Dr. Estrella has been adamant about involving the community regarding the education model.

In response to Mr. Burnett's question, Mr. Lo explained that the State reimbursement for the school will be 22%, which is almost \$16 million.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY ROLL CALL VOTE (MR. BURNETT; MS. JOHNSON; MS. NIEDZIELSKI EICHNER; MS. SMYTH; MS. AYERS; MR. HEUVELMAN; MS. REVOLUS; MS. YOUNG; MR. KYDES; MS. MCMURRER; MS. ALTERMAN; MR. KEEGAN; MR. LIVINGSTON; MS. SHANAHAN)**

Ms. Young said that this is long overdue and expressed her thanks to the Common Council member, the children and their families. She also thanked Mr. Lo and the Land Use and Building Management Committee as well as the previous Council and the Board of Education. Ms. Young expressed concern about the education model.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none this evening.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

VI.A.2: Authorize Alan Lo, the City's Building and Facilities Manager, in coordination with the City's Law Department, to negotiate a purchase price for the Parcel Sites identified and set forth in the Legal Memorandum, File No. WD-50400-0153 issued by Assistant Corporation Counsel, Darin L. Callahan dated December 29, 2021 (the "Memorandum"), acquisition for school purposes, per Negotiation Parameters set forth in said Memorandum.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

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

There was no further business, and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Irene Dixon, City Clerk