

**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.**

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Moccia called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance, and asked members to remain standing following the pledge.

Mayor Moccia announced the recent passing of a resident of Norwalk, Mr. Tim Schiebel, who was a former head of the Parks & Recreation Department. He commented that Tim was a “larger than life” figure involved in many programs in the area of sports and City activities, and he extended his condolences to the family and called for a moment of silence in his memory.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Wink called the roll. The following Council Members were present:

|                   |                       |                    |
|-------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Council at Large: | Mr. Douglas Hempstead | Mr. Fred Bondi     |
|                   | Mr. Richard McQuaid   | Mr. John Tobin     |
|                   | Ms. Joanne Romano     |                    |
| District A:       | Mr. Richard Bonenfant | Mr. David Jaegar   |
| District B:       |                       | Mr. Travis Simms   |
| District C:       | Ms. Laurel Lindstrom  | Mr. Nicholas Kydes |
| District D:       | Mr. Clyde Mount       | Ms. Kelly Straniti |
| District E:       | Mr. Andrew Conroy     | Ms. Nora King      |

Mayor Richard A. Moccia

Attorney Robert Maslan, Corporation Counsel

Ellen Wink, City Clerk

Fourteen members were present; one member was absent (Hilliard)

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular meeting – January 11, 2011

**\*\* MR. KYDES MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES FROM THE  
JANUARY 11, 2011 MEETING AS SUBMITTED.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

City Clerk Wink stated that there were no sign ups for public comments.

IV. MAYOR

Mayor Moccia thanked those Council Members for coming early for the presentation of the Draft Greater Norwalk Ten Year Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness. He stated that it is not an easy task to end homelessness, as this a huge problem across this Country and crosses all economic barriers, and there are many people that came from affluent homes that are homeless now, and some are homeless for reasons beyond their control. He added that other Fairfield County cities such as Bridgeport, Stamford and Danbury already have their homelessness plans, which were put in quite a while ago and there is much to be learned from those cities as we put in our plan. He stated that the presentation was very informative and there were great questions, and he encouraged members that had more questions, to email them and they will be addressed.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

\*\* **MR. MCQUAID MOTIONED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR THE  
CONSENT CALENDAR: VII.A.3; B.1, B.2, B.3, B.4; C.1a, 1b,C.2, C.3, C.4,  
C.6, C.7; D.1, E.1**

\*\* **THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

*Note: The following items on consent are listed in bold type:*

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

3. **Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to sign a Hold Harmless Agreement with the South Norwalk Boat Club for winter berthing of the fire department boat. This is a renewal of last year's agreement.**

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. **Accept and approve the Report of the Claims Committee dated: January 6, 2011.**
2. **FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: Monthly Tax Collector's Report dated: December 31, 2010.**
3. **FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: Narrative on Tax Collections dated January 13, 2011.**

4. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue purchase orders to ePlus Technology for the supply, engineering, installation and training for a storage area network system for the City of Norwalk and Board of Education per RFP #2917 response and quotation 21174384 for an amount not to exceed \$125,000.00, accounts (BOE: 09105010-5777-C0112, \$60,000 and City 09070600-5777-C0375, \$65,000.

**C. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

1. A. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for the use of Calf Pasture Beach for their "Light the Night Walk" to be held Friday, October 14, 2011 from 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM. Set up Friday, October 14, 2011 at 11:00 AM with tear down by 10:30 PM. Estimated attendance 500+.

B. Approve the use of the Show Mobile by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for their event held at Calf Pasture Beach Friday, October 14, 2011.

2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the Norwalk Karting Association for the use of Calf Pasture Beach for their Spring & Fall Racing Season.

Spring: March 26, April 2, 9, 16, 21, 30, May 7, 15, 21(no rain date), 2011

Fall: October 1(no rain date), October 8(no rain date), October 15, 22, 29, 2011  
November 5, 12, 19, 26, 2011 - Estimated attendance 100+.

3. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with Tri-fitness for the use of Calf Pasture Beach for their "Tri-fitness Women's Triathlon" to be held Sunday, August 28, 2011 from 6:30 AM – 9:30 AM. Set up to take place Saturday, August 27, 2011 at 5:00 PM with tear down Sunday, August 28, 2011 at Noon. Estimated attendance 400..

4. A. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for the use of Calf Pasture Beach for their "Walk to Cure Diabetes" to be held on Sunday, October 9, 2011 from 6:00 AM – 1:00 PM. Estimated attendance 1,100.

B. Approve the use of the show Mobile for the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation for their event held at Calf Pasture Beach, October 9, 2011.

6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to apply for the National Trust Preservation Funds (NTPF) on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks regarding a Master Plan for the Gallaher Estate in Cranbury Park. The grant range is \$500 - \$5,000. The match is a 1-1 match account #09116030-5777-C0366. Grant application for \$5,000.

7. **Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to apply for and receive the Johanna Favrot Fund for Historic Preservation Grant through the National Trust for Historic Preservation on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks regarding a Master Plan for the Gallaher Estate Cranbury Park. The grant is a 1-1 match with a minimum of \$2,500 - \$10,000. Match account #09116030-5777-C0366. Grant application for \$5,000.**

**D. PLANNING COMMITTEE**

1. **The Agency, operating as the City's CDBG Administrator, deems the Norwalk Housing Authority's Application to the federal Capital Fund Education and Training Community Facilities Program to be consistent with the City's current Consolidated Plan and seeks Council approval for the Mayor to execute the required Certificate of Consistency that must accompany this document when submitted to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) subject to the submission to the City of any award notifications and reports as required by HUD and presentation of an annual progress report to the City.**

**E. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE**

1. **Approve and adopt new Section 42A-5 of the Norwalk Code of Ordinances, which is entitled, "Approval of Rates and Fees," and will authorize the establishment of a schedule of fees for permits issued by and services performed by the Norwalk Fire Marshal's Office.**

**A. HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**

Mr. Bonenfant presented the following item and stated that there was a correction to item 2 on the agenda from 1,200 foot lengths to **100 foot lengths**. Mayor Moccia suggested items 1 and 2 be combined as one discussion, and he asked Fire Chief McCarthy to come forward to address questions.

1. **Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to Coastal Fire Systems, 410 Sunrise Highway, West Babylon NY 11704, for the purchase of seven (7) TFT pumper intake valves for a total cost not to exceed \$10,500. \$9,012.03 to be paid from capital account #09-1131105777C0478, and then the remaining \$1,487.97 from operating account #0131-20-5764.**
2. **Authorize the Purchasing Agent to issue a purchase order to Municipal Emergency Services, 66 Fireman's Way, Poughkeepsie NY 12603, for the purchase of fifty-five (55) 100 foot lengths of large diameter fire hose and assorted adapters, for a total not to exceed \$30,987.97 to be paid from capital account #09-1131105777C0478.**

Fire Chief McCarthy referred to the supporting documentation to discuss the details of the hose specifications and he highlighted that the department last upgraded its supply hoses in the early 1980s. He added that the hoses are now brittle, showing wear and need to be replaced, and based upon annual tests this change would result in a cost savings to those Norwalk homeowners living far from fire hydrants could get a reduction on their insurance. He stated that they made the decision last year to replace the hoses because of the age of the hose and the failure rate, and because of the opportunity to upgrade the fire insurance rating of the areas of the community that are not serviced by municipal water.

Mr. Bonenfant asked for an explanation of the insurance savings, and Chief McCarthy said the department has worked with the insurance services office and developed a plan to allow the department to deliver water from the nearest hydrants in those areas with the larger diameter hoses, and in some cases, that distance is just over 3,000 feet. He added that the areas include the Cranbury and West Norwalk neighborhoods that are beyond 1,000 feet of fire hydrants, and once this purchase is made, they will apply for revisions to the insurance rating, and those neighborhoods will receive the exact same insurance premium rate as the rest of the community.

There were no comments or further discussion on the item.

**\*\* MR.BONENFANT MOTIONED TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO COASTAL FIRE SYSTEMS, 410 SUNRISE HIGHWAY, WEST BABYLON NY 11704, FOR THE PURCHASE OF SEVEN (7) TFT PUMPER INTAKE VALVES FOR A TOTAL COST NOT TO EXCEED \$10,500. \$9,012.03 TO BE PAID FROM CAPITAL ACCOUNT #09-1131105777C0478, AND THEN THE REMAINING \$1,487.97 FROM OPERATING ACCOUNT #0131-20-5764.**

**AND TO AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY SERVICES, 66 FIREMAN'S WAY, POUGHKEEPSIE NY 12603, FOR THE PURCHASE OF FIFTY-FIVE (55) 100 FOOT LENGTHS OF LARGE DIAMETER FIRE HOSE AND ASSORTED ADAPTERS, FOR A TOTAL NOT TO EXCEED \$30,987.97 TO BE PAID FROM CAPITAL ACCOUNT #09-1131105777C0478.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

**C. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

Ms. Straniti presented the item and stated that she wanted to highlight that last year, they approved the master plan for Cranbury Park, however, it did not include the Gallaher Estate and she read the item as follows:

Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to apply for and receive the Historic Preservation Technical Assistance Grant (HPTAG) through the Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation on behalf of the Department of Recreation and Parks regarding a Master Plan for the Gallaher Estate in Cranbury Park. The Grant is a 1-1 match with a minimum of \$5,000 and a maximum of \$20,000. Match account #09116030-5777-C0366. Grant application for \$20,000.

Ms. Straniti stated that this grant was a vital addition to the Master Plan, and she commended the city's Department of Recreation and Parks, the City's grants coordinator, and the Friends of Cranbury Park for pursuing the grant. She stated that last year, they approved the master plan for Cranbury Park, however, it did not include the Gallaher Estate, which is a very important part of the park, not only the largest park in District D, but also in Norwalk, and they want to make sure to provide historical preservation of the estate there. She stated that the grant, if received, will help finalize the master plan for the mansion, which will in essence complete the whole park master plan and provide ways for the mansion to become self-sustaining economically. She added that this is a perfect example of private and public partnerships that turned out to work together really well, and they have seen over the past few years, time and time again, the wonderful things that have come out of that relationship.

Mayor Moccia thanked Katherine Pytleski, the City's grants coordinator, for pursuing the grant and asked if there were no further comments, called for a vote.

- \*\* MS. STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE AUTHORIZATION FOR THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE GRANT (HPTAG) THROUGH THE CONNECTICUT TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION ON BEHALF OF THE DEPARTMENT OF RECREATION AND PARKS REGARDING A MASTER PLAN FOR THE GALLAHER ESTATE IN CRANBURY PARK. THE GRANT IS A 1-1 MATCH WITH A MINIMUM OF \$5,000 AND A MAXIMUM OF \$20,000. MATCH ACCOUNT #09116030-5777-C0366. GRANT APPLICATION FOR \$20,000.**
- \*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

#### **VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL**

Mayor Moccia asked Mr. Hempstead to present the resolution, and he read the following:

Whereas, The State of Connecticut Educational Cost Sharing grant system is Connecticut's primary education equalization aid program; and

Whereas the ECS formula is designed to allocate grant funds to school districts to fairly reflect student need as a function of poverty, test performance and limited English proficiency as well as district wealth, and

Whereas, it is the contention of the Common Council of the City of Norwalk that, when compared with other Connecticut municipalities of similar sociological composition, the ECS grant allocation to the City of Norwalk is substantially smaller; and

Whereas, the Council sites as example the following data:

- The growth of Norwalk’s percentage of students from non-English Language homes from 24.3% in the year 2000-2001 to 35.0% in the year 2005-2006, and the growth in the percentage of non-English language speaking students from 7.7% to 12.5% during the same period (while the across the State comparable percentage increased from 3.7% to 5.2%).
- The growth in numbers of Norwalk children eligible for free or reduced priced meals from 23.1% in 2004-2005 to 39.9% in 2009-2010 (while the comparable State-wide percentages increased from 26.4% to 32.9%).
- The percentage of Norwalk’s educational costs derived from Connecticut Educational Cost Sharing Grants decreased from 11.7% to 11.1% between 2001 and 2008, ranking Norwalk second-to-last in the percentage category and last in actual revenue sharing dollars received among Connecticut’s cities as demonstrated in the following chart:

| District    | % of School Revenues Provided By State | 2007-2008 Budget (\$ millions) | State Portion (\$ millions) |
|-------------|----------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Bridgeport  | 68.2                                   | 268                            | 183                         |
| Danbury     | 69.2                                   | 119                            | 83                          |
| Hartford    | 63.2                                   | 364                            | 230                         |
| New Britain | 60.4                                   | 137                            | 83                          |
| New Haven   | 60.9                                   | 312                            | 189                         |
| Norwalk     | 11.1                                   | 160                            | 18                          |
| Stamford    | 8.8                                    | 234                            | 21                          |
| Waterbury   | 56.2                                   | 232                            | 130                         |

Pastoral communities without apparent urban challenges often receive comparatively higher ECS support than the City of Norwalk.

| District     | ECS % 2007-2008 |
|--------------|-----------------|
| Canterbury   | 46.5            |
| Canton       | 18.2            |
| Hebron       | 35.0            |
| Mansfield    | 33.3            |
| Watertown    | 35.6            |
| Wethersfield | 18.5            |
| Wolcott      | 44.7            |
| Woodstock    | 35.4            |
| Norwalk      | 11.1            |

and, Whereas, the Common Council of the City of Norwalk, lacking more conclusive argument that the allocation of grants resulting from State ECS formula has been adjusted to reflect rapid sociological and demographic changes of the past decade, and that these changes would increase Norwalk's portion of the State Grant allocation.

Now, therefore, be it resolved: The Norwalk Common Council respectfully requests, on behalf of the citizens of Norwalk, that Connecticut Education Cost Sharing Grants be reviewed and appropriately revised to reflect recent changes in sociological, economic and demographic information; and adjusted favorably to account for such changes.

Mr. Hempstead referred to the above charts and outlined the other Connecticut cities that receive a greater percentage of ECS grants from the state and he explained that this has been an ongoing disparity that the Planning Committee has been trying to address for a long time. He added that approval of this resolution will bring the issue to the legislative committees in Hartford in a formal appeal to affect a change for Norwalk, and with a new governor coming from Stamford that faces the same disparity, hopefully will bring understanding and plan of action for change.

Mr. Conroy stated that he was in full agreement with the resolution and added that he has supported efforts to highlight the situation and to address and correct this disparity.

Ms. King stated that she was also in full agreement with the resolution and added that residents need to lobby the legislators to support these efforts to highlight the situation and suggested that the Board of Education and parent groups rally together to address and correct this disparity.

Mr. Jaeger stated that based on his experiences in working in Hartford, he is well aware of the disparity and emphasized that this nothing new. He echoed the comments made by Ms. King and Mr. Hempstead and stated that he fully supports approval of this resolution will bring the issue to the legislative committees in Hartford in a formal appeal to affect a change for Norwalk.

Mr. Kydes stated that he also was in full support of the approval of this resolution and it is unfortunate that that our representatives have not gotten the attention of our lawmakers, and the issue has now reached critical mass. He added that it is very much needed in order to bring the issue to the legislative committees in Hartford in a formal appeal to fight the battle for Norwalk. He added that the time is now for the Board of Education and Teacher Unions to form a coalition and unite in the battle with the state to correct the formula for ECS funding and have our voices heard. He stated that the budgets continue to be extremely tight and this funding is needed to balance the educational support and that the unions have to work with the City management. Mayor Moccia asked Mr. Kydes to keep his comments relevant to the resolution and not to mix union budget issues, and Mr. Kydes reiterated the importance of a united front going to Hartford to lobby the legislators to bring understanding that Norwalk is not a rich city, and they have to change their perception.



Mr. Bondi suggested that it may be necessary for a group of Norwalk officials including the Board of Education, parents, and community stakeholders to take a bus to Hartford to lobby the next legislative session.

Ms. Lindstrom added that she too was in full support of the resolution and hopes that efforts to lobby the legislators result in a change to the state formula for ECS funding. She added that there are so many budget issues primarily due to this unequal share of funding, and she looks forward to a united effort from parents and stakeholders to keep the momentum going.

Ms. Romano stated that she wanted to echoed the comments made by other Council Members and stated that she fully supports approval of this resolution will bring the issue to the legislative committees in Hartford in a formal appeal to affect a change for Norwalk. She acknowledged Mr. Hempstead for his work with the resolution and she encourages the parents and teachers those involved with the PTO workshop that there is an important need to redistribute funds, and to remind the lawmakers that this is not the “gold coast”

Mr. McQuaid stated that at the recent PTO Council meeting many parents were overwhelmed at the disparity in ECS funding, and they were not aware that there are many ways to “skin the cat” in terms of meeting the budget.

Mayor Moccia thanked Mr. Hempstead for his work in developing this resolution and added that this is the most united the Council has been on any one issue. He added that he is in agreement with the comments made, he is glad that it is happening now, and he hopes that it will bring the issue to the legislative committees in Hartford in a formal appeal to end this disparity. He added that the response from Hartford in the past is suggest to put a toll in Fairfield County, and his reply is to put a toll in the towns that are receiving a greater share of the funding, and not to further hurt the cities that are receiving the lower and disproportionate share. He stated that in all fairness to Bob and Larry, this has to go to the leadership level at the congress to reach both the Senate Majority Leader and the Speaker of the House of Representatives to go where the power is to affect this much-needed change for Norwalk.

**\*\* MR. HEMPSTEAD MOTIONED TO APPROVE THE ABOVE  
RESOLUTION:**

**THE NORWALK COMMON COUNCIL RESPECTFULLY REQUESTS, ON  
BEHALF OF THE CITIZENS OF NORWALK, THAT CONNECTICUT  
EDUCATION COST SHARING GRANTS BE REVIEWED AND  
APPROPRIATELY REVISED TO REFLECT RECENT CHANGES IN  
SOCIOLOGICAL, ECONOMIC AND DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION;  
AND ADJUSTED FAVORABLY TO ACCOUNT FOR SUCH CHANGES.**

**\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

- IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE: None
- X. SUSPENSION OF RULES: None
- XI. ADDITIONAL COMMENTS

Mayor Moccia asked to make additional comments relative to the Mayor's Ball. He thanked the many friends, City officials, business representatives, local residents and special guests from the legislature for attending. He stated that over 500 guests were in attendance and once again, a good time was had by all. He added that this year the proceeds will go to benefit South Norwalk Charter Schools.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

- \*\* MS. ROMANO MOTIONED TO ADJOURN.  
\*\* THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Knox  
Telesco Secretarial Services