

COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES MARCH 22, 2011
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT 8:00 P.M. DST. COUNCIL CHAMBERS

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 at 8:09 p.m. and led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance. The Mayor then requested a moment of silence in memory of Ms. DePanfilis, the mother of Judge DePanfilis, and also to acknowledge the recent passing of Grants Coordinator Katherine Pytleski's mother. The Mayor also pointed out that there were a number of Japanese Exchange Students present at the meeting and said the moment of silence would also be extended to include all those victims of the recent earthquake and devastating tsunami in Japan.

I. ROLL CALL:

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

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

Ms. Wink announced that all 15 Council members were present.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular Meeting:

February 22, 2011

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO TABLE THE MINUTES OF FEBRUARY 22, 2011 I ORDER TO VERIFY THAT ALL THE SPEAKERS DURING THE PUBLIC PARITICIPATION WERE INCLUDED IN THE MINUTES.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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**** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF MARCH 8, 2011 AS SUBMITTED.**
**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Dr. William Jassey came forward to address the council. He said that applaude goes to the Norwalk parents who have taken on a challenge by hosting 14 students from Chiba, Japan. He then asked a few of the hosting parents to stand up, along with Roton Principal Joe Vellucci and Ponus Ridge Principal Linda Sumpter among others.

Mr. Quinton Yonkers, a Norwalk eighth student came forward, and addressed the Council in Japanese and then gave the translation in English. He said that he was proud to be part of the Japanese Exchange program. Mr. Yonkers then listed the reasons why he was in the program and said that by traveling to the host countries, the students have cross-cultural experiences. He added that he was praying for the nation of Japan and for a rapid quick recovery from the two natural disasters that they recently experienced.

Mr. Kei Kuuhihara, a Japanese 8th grade student, came forward and addressed the Council in English. He spoke about how he has become friends with a Norwalk student. He spoke about how he was pleased to learn English and was looking forward to taking his experiences back to his country.

The Mayor then called the Japanese coordinator, Mrs. Yoko Hojo, forward and presented Mrs. Hojo with a proclamation declaring March 22nd, Yoko Hojo Day in Norwalk. Ms. Hojo thanked those present for the certificate and the honor. She said that the exchange program now had students all around the world.

Dr. Jassey then thanked everyone for their work and said that Norwalk had a Number One Mayor with a Number One Council that sponsored a Number One language program.

There were no additional speakers who wished to address the Council at this time.

IV. MAYOR

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

RESIGNATIONS: John Atkin, Water Pollution Control Authority

Mayor Moccia regretfully announced that Mr. Atkin had resigned from the Water Pollution Control Authority. He said that his office was working with the WPCA on reviewing applications.

APPOINTMENTS:

There were no appointments at this time.

MAYOR'S REMARKS:

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The Mayor then announced that at 6:00 p.m. there would be a Japanese Night at Ponus Ridge School and all were welcomed.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Council President McQuaid announced that the beginning of demolition of the old police station would take place at the Lockwood Mathews Park site at 1:30 p.m. on March 24th, 2011. All are invited to attend.

APPOINTMENT:

Ms. Straniti announced that there were a number of new members being appointed to the Board of Ethics.

Rev. Marlon V. Smith, Board of Ethics

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF REV. MARLON V. SMITH TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS.**

Mr. Hilliard said that Rev. Smith was his pastor and that he was pleased to present this nomination to the Council.

**** MR. SIMMS SECONDED.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Louis Seely, Board of Ethics

**** MS. STRANITI MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MR. LOUIS SEELY TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Edna Brooks, Board of Ethics

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF MS. EDNA BROOKS TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS.**

Mr. Hempstead said that he had known Ms. Brooks for a long time and felt that she would be an asset to the Board.

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

REAPPOINTMENT:

William Fitzgerald, Board of Ethics

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO APPROVE THE REAPPOINTMENT OF WILLIAM FITZGERALD TO THE BOARD OF ETHICS.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

The Mayor then declared a recess at 8:35 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:45 p.m.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR:

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEMS FOR THE CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI. REPORTS: DEPARTMENTS, BOARD AND COMMISSIONS

A. Board of Estimate and Taxation

FISCAL YEAR: 2010 – 2011

- 1. RESOLVED, THAT A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$280,664 BE AND THE SAME IS HEREBY TRANSFERRED FROM CONTINGENCY TO THE POLICE DEPARTMENT TO PURCHASE 8 CROWN VICTORIA POLICE CARS (ACCOUNT #01-3053-5731).**
- 2. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO CROWLEY FORD, LLC, TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PER BID #2968, FOR THE PURCHASE OF EIGHT (8) CROWN VICTORIA POLICE CARS FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$185,464.00 FROM ACCOUNT #01-3053-5731.**
- 3. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO FLEET AUTO SUPPLY, TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PER BID #2986, FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EMERGENCY LIGHTING AND INTERIOR FIT UP FOR EIGHT (8) CROWN VICTORIA POLICE CARS FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$69,000 FROM ACCOUNT #01-3053-5731.**
- 4. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO MOTOROLA INC., SOLE BIDDER PER BID #2976, FOR THE PURCHASE OF 8**

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MOTOROLA XTL5000 MOBILE RADIOS, FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,500.00 FROM ACCOUNT #01-3053-5731.

5. AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT, GERALD FOLEY, TO EXECUTE A PURCHASE ORDER ON BEHALF OF THE NORWALK POLICE DEPARTMENT TO THE LOW BIDDER, UTILITY COMMUNICATION, TERMS AND CONDITIONS AS PER BID #2976, FOR THE PURCHASE AND INSTALLATION OF EIGHT (8) MOTOROLA CDM1250 RADIOS, PHANTOM ANTENNAS AND VHF ANTENNAS, FOR THE AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,700.00 FROM ACCOUNT #01-3053-5731.

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. ACCEPT AND APPROVE THE REPORT OF THE CLAIMS COMMITTEE DATED: MARCH 10, 2011.

2. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: MONTHLY TAX COLLECTOR'S REPORT DATED FEBRUARY 28, 2011.

3. FOR INFORMATIONAL PURPOSES ONLY: NARRATIVE ON TAX COLLECTIONS DATED MARCH 10, 2011.

C. PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

1. TECHNICAL CORRECTION:

AS APPROVED ON MARCH 8, 2011:

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO TE W. I. CLARK CO. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2011 JOHN DEERE 624K LOADER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$184,160.00, LESS A TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE OF \$26,000.00. ACCOUNT NO. 0911 4031 5777 C0313

CORRECTED VERSION FOR APPROVAL:

AUTHORIZE THE PURCHASING AGENT TO ISSUE A PURCHASE ORDER TO THE W. I. CLARK CO. FOR THE PURCHASE OF A 2011 JOHN DEERE 624K LOADER FOR A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$184,160.00, LESS A TRADE-IN ALLOWANCE OF \$26,000.00. ACCOUNT NO. 0911 4031 5777 C031

D. PLANNING COMMITTEE

1. THE NORWALK REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY, OPERATING AS THE CITY'S CDBG ADMINISTRATOR, DEEMS KING'S DAUGHTERS AND SONS HOUSING, INC.'S APPLICATION TO THE FEDERAL ASSISTED LIVING CONVERSION 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.

E. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORWALK EXCHANGE CLUB FOR THE USE OF TAYLOR FARM TO HOLD THEIR ANNUAL ANTIQUE AUTO SHOW TO BE HELD SUNDAY, MAY 1, 2011 WITH A RAIN DATE OF SUNDAY, MAY 8, 2011 FROM 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM. SET UP TO TAKE PLACE THURSDAY, APRIL 28, 2011 AT 12:00 NOON AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN MONDAY, MAY 2, 2011 AT 12:00 NOON.

2. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE LOCKWOOD MATHEWS MANSION MUSEUM FOR THE USE OF THE GROUNDS IN MATHEWS PARK FOR THEIR 4TH ANNUAL FLEA MARKET TO BE HELD SUNDAY, AUGUST 28, 2011 FROM 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,000.

3. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE PANCREATIC CANCER AWARENESS NETWORK FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK FOR A WALK TO BE HELD SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2011 FROM 10:00 AM – 3:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 1,200.

5. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH STEPPING STONES MUSEUM FOR CHILDREN FOR THEIR USE OF THE GROUNDS AT MATHEWS PARK FOR AN EVENT BOOZOO'S FIRST ANNUAL CANINE CARNIVAL TO BE HELD SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2011 AND SUNDAY, JUNE 5, 2011 FROM 9:00 AM – 5:00 PM EACH DAY. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 2,500.

7. AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE WATER SPORTS CENTER TO USE THE VETERAN'S PARK LAUNCH RAMP FOR THEIR ANNUAL ST. LUKES INVITATIONAL REGATTA TO BE HELD SATURDAY, MAY 14, 2011 FROM 6:00 AM – 6:00 PM. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 350.

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**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE ABOVE ITEMS ON CONSENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

B. ORDINANCE COMMITTEE

- 1. Proposed amendment to City Code-Tax Relief for the Elderly and Disabled Homeowners, Section 103-12. The Board of Estimate and Taxation recommended this amendment on March 7, 2011. Ordinance will hold a public hearing on March 21, 2011.**

Ms. Straniti said that this had been in the Committee and that it would increase the amount of tax by \$150.00 a year and the income range would be expanded. Ms. Straniti said that there were numerous elderly residents who had lived in Norwalk all their lives, and now were struggling to live on fixed incomes. This will give some relief to the seniors. Outreach programs will be underway and the deadline for enrollment will be April 15th. Ms. Straniti said that she would be working with the Tax Assessor, the Tax Collector and the Senior Centers to make the residents aware of the new income ranges.

Mr. Kydes said that the discussion about the program to bring some additional tax relief to the elderly and disabled residents in Norwalk started about a year ago. He said that these residents are having difficulty paying their bills. After looking at several other municipalities, it was determined that Norwalk's program was a good one and will benefit those who need it. There will not be any additional burdens placed on the other property owners in Norwalk. With the help of the BET, the Ordinance Committee and the Mayor, this item has been fast tracked. Mr. Kydes then thanked everyone for their hard work. He said that the next key step would be to communicate the plan to the seniors and the disabled residents.

Mr. Jaeger then thanked everyone for their work on this. He said that the original intent was to have a model like Danbury did, but that it became apparent that financially, it was not possible right now. He said that he was thinking about various ways to expand the program.

Mr. McQuaid said that he wanted to thank Ms. Straniti and Mr. Kydes for their hard work on this issue.

Ms. King said that she was also supporting the issue 100%. She said that she remembered sitting down with Mr. Hempstead to discuss this. She said that she would like to see a tax deferral program developed in Norwalk also.

Mr. Conroy said that he remembered that former Council Members had suggested a number of years ago that programs like this be revisited periodically to insure that they remain effective and current.

**** THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING:**

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO CITY CODE-TAX RELIEF FOR THE ELDERLY AND DISABLED HOMEOWNERS, SECTION 103-12. THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND TAXATION

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RECOMMENDED THIS AMENDMENT ON MARCH 7, 2011. ORDINANCE WILL HOLD A PUBLIC HEARING ON MARCH 21, 2011.

PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

E. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

4. **Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the South Norwalk Community Center Inc. for their use of the school grounds at Columbus Magnet School for their 2011 Summer Camp. The program runs Tuesday, July 5, 2011 – Friday, August 12, 2011 Monday – Friday from 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Daily attendance 85.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED THE ITEM.**

Mr. McQuaid said that at the last Committee meeting, no one was present from the organization and therefore it was forwarded to the Council for approval. If anyone had any questions, Ms. Josie Castillo, the director of the South Norwalk Community Center was present. Ms. Castillo came forward and gave a brief overview of the program that has been running for 30 years.

**** THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE SOUTH NORWALK COMMUNITY CENTER INC. FOR THEIR USE OF THE SCHOOL GROUNDS AT COLUMBUS MAGNET SCHOOL FOR THEIR 2011 SUMMER CAMP. THE PROGRAM RUNS TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2011 – FRIDAY, AUGUST 12, 2011 MONDAY – FRIDAY FROM 8:00 AM – 3:00 PM. DAILY ATTENDANCE 85. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

6. **Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with PAWS (Pet Animal Welfare Society) for the use of Cranbury Park (Orchard Area) for their 4th Annual “Bark in the Park” to be held Saturday, September 17, 2011 from 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. Set-up to take place Saturday, September 17, 2011 at 8:00 AM and tear down no later than 5:00 PM on Saturday, September 17, 2011. Estimated attendance 150.**

Mr. Tobin recused himself from the meeting and left the room.

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED THE ITEM.**

**** THE MOTION TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR, RICHARD A. MOCCIA TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH PAWS (PET ANIMAL WELFARE SOCIETY) FOR THE USE OF CRANBURY PARK (ORCHARD AREA) FOR THEIR 4TH ANNUAL “BARK IN THE PARK” TO BE HELD SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 FROM 11:00 AM – 3:00 PM. SET-UP TO TAKE PLACE SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011 AT 8:00 AM AND TEAR DOWN NO LATER THAN 5:00 PM ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2011. ESTIMATED ATTENDANCE 150 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

RECESS

The Mayor announced a recess at 9:07 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 9:15 p.m.

A. FINANCE COMMITTEE

4. **Preapproval of NAC Equities LLC proposed Stipulation for Judgment, 57 West Rocks Road, Norwalk for \$60,022.74 and approve payment not to exceed \$60,022.74 upon execution of the agreement.**

**** COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCQUAID MOVED TO ENTER INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION TO DISCUSS A LEGAL SETTLEMENT.**

**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Council Members, Atty. Maslan and Mr. Hamilton entered into Executive Session to discuss a legal settlement at 9:15 p.m. They returned to public session at 9:22 p.m. No action was taken during the Executive Session.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE NAC EQUITIES LLC PROPOSED STIPULATION FOR JUDGMENT, 57 WEST ROCKS ROAD, NORWALK FOR \$60,022.74 AND APPROVE PAYMENT NOT TO EXCEED \$60,022.74 UPON EXECUTION OF THE AGREEMENT.**

A roll call vote was requested.

**** THE MOTION PASSED WITH 14 IN FAVOR (MCQUAID, STRANITI, HILLIARD, BONDI, ROMANO, TOBIN, HEMPSTEAD, JAEGER, BONENFANT, SIMMS, KYDES, LINDSTROM, MOUNT, AND CONROY) AND ONE OPPOSED (KING).**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

There were no resolutions from the Council at this time.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were no motions to postpone to a specific date at this time.

X. SUSPENSION OF RULES

There were no motions to suspend the rules.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD MOVED TO ADJORN.**

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**** THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon L. Soltes
Telesco Secretarial Services