

**COMMON COUNCIL
NORWALK, CONNECTICUT**

**APRIL 28, 2009
8:00 P.M. COMMON 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.

Mayor Moccia called the meeting to order and led the Assembly in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. He asked for a moment of silence to honor the memory of City Attorney Don Reid and spoke about his many accomplishments. Mr. Serasis asked Mayor Moccia to ask for a moment of silence to honor the memory of Mario Salamone who was active in local youth sports, especially in basketball.

I. ROLL CALL

Ms. Roman called the Roll. The following Councilmembers were present:

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| Amanda Brown | Carvin Hilliard |
| Fred Bondi | Nicholas Kydes |
| Michael Geake | Laurel Lindstrom |
| Richard McQuaid | Douglas Hempstead |
| Anna Duleep | Kelly Straniti |
| Richard Bonenfant | Andrew Conroy |
| Steven Serasis | William Krummel |
| Rev. Phyllis Bolden | |

There were fifteen (15) Councilmembers present.

II. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

Regular meeting – April 14, 2009

**** MR. BONDI MOVED THE MINUTES OF APRIL 14, 2009**

The following corrections were made to the minutes:

Page 7: fourth paragraph, first sentence should read: *Ms. Lindstrom said that she wants the DPW to sit with the DOT.....*

Page 9: Item B. Mr. Bondi said that the agenda item should include...*and to reinstate the 3-ton free policy.* Mr. Krummel said that the motion as presented was taken from the agenda and suggested that addition be added to the end of item b for clarification. Mr. Bondi agreed.

**** MOTION TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS CORRECTED PASSED WITH ONE (1) ABSTENTION (MS. BROWN)**

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. Todd Bryant, Morgan Avenue, President of the Norwalk Preservation Trust spoke in support of item AII. He said that he was happy that this is coming to fruition and that this is a strong indicator that Norwalk is not going to let historical structures be demolished. This plan will save the City money and will give a maintenance plan going forward. Mr. Bryant said that he supports this item and hopes it passes tonight.

Mr. Richard McGreggor said that he was going to be retiring from the Park Department on Thursday, but will continue to record the Common Council meetings. He thanked everyone for his 32 years with the City. Mr. McGreggor said that it has been an enjoyable and good 32 years and told everyone to keep up the good work.

IV. MAYOR

Mayor Moccia said that a coffee was held this morning to honor the retirees.

A. RESIGNATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Resignations:

Ellen G. Wink – *Redevelopment Agency*

Mayor Moccia announced Ms. Wink's resignation from the Redevelopment Agency.

Appointments:

Lisa Cooper – *Redevelopment Agency*

Mayor Moccia said that he recommended appointing Ms. Cooper to the Redevelopment Agency. He said that she has a deep understanding of how the City works.

**** REV. BOLDEN MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF LISA COOPER TO THE REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

Rev. Bolden said that Ms. Cooper was an outstanding individual who is professional and well rounded. He said that she was very happy to speak to her appointment.

Mr. Hilliard said that he was acquainted with Ms. Cooper and she never offends anyone; she is very active and very intelligent. He said that he fully supports her appointment.

Mr. Serasis said that he has known Ms. Cooper for 6-7 years and has worked closely with her through the After School Alliance. She is very steady and a voice of reason. Mr. Serasis said that he echoes all of the other sentiments and respects her very much.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Mr. Bondi noted that Ms. Cooper is a Democrat. Mr. Krummel said that she is a very good choice.

Ellen G. Wink – *City Clerk*

Mayor Moccia said that this appointment will take effect on May 1, 2009.

**** MR. KYDES MOVED TO APPROVE THE APPOINTMENT OF ELLEN WINK AS CITY CLERK**

Mr. Kydes said that Ms. Wink is a very dedicated individual and very knowledgeable about how the City works. He said that it was an honor to make this motion.

**** MR. HEMPSTEAD SECONDED THE APPOINTMENT**

Mr. Hempstead said that Ms. Wink is a go-getter and very efficient. She is a very good choice, has a lot of experience and has been in the health care field. Mr. Hempstead told Ms. Wink that she has very big shoes following Ms. Roman.

Ms. Straniti said that Ms. Wink is a bundle of energy and a wonderful, charming person. She said that she believes the office will be happy with her.

Mr. Bonenfant thanked Mayor Moccia for putting two people on from District A.

Rev. Bolden said that she has known Ms. Wink for a long time. She said that Ms. Wink is a kind and friendly person and is happy that the Mayor's office will have her. Rev. Bolden told Ms. Wink that she has big sneakers to fill.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

Reappointments:

There were no reappointments announced this evening.

B. REMARKS

Mayor Moccia said that a dinner for the retirees was held on Friday and a coffee today. He said that they will be missed. Mayor Moccia said that the City has been fortunate to have people who do a great job serving the public. The people leaving, leave a legacy to

the taxpayers and to the City. Mayor Moccia said that he hoped they all have happy successful lives and wished them well with gratitude.

Mayor Moccia spoke about the Swine Flu. He said that he has had meeting with various departments and they are prepared. The latest update is that as of this afternoon there are two cases being evaluated in the State of Connecticut. Both the Police and Fire Chief were at that meeting. Mayor Moccia told people to wash their hands and if they are sick to stay home. Dr. Corda will pass that information to the schools. In addition, Mayor Moccia told people not to panic.

Mr. Bondi announced that a fund raiser for the earthquake victims in Italy will be held on May 1st. The proceeds will go to the Red Cross who will distribute the funds to the earthquake victims.

V. COUNCIL PRESIDENT

Rev. Bolden welcomed everyone to the Norwalk Common Council meeting. She asked people to remember the earthquake victims in Italy and in Mexico. She talked about the Arbor Day activities that took place at Cranbury School.

A. GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS

Mayor Moccia thanked Rev. Bolden and Mr. McQuaid for filling in for him while he was away.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR

**** REV. BOLDEN MOVED THE FOLLOWING CONSENT CALENDAR:**

VI. AGENCIES, BOARDS & COMMISSIONS

A. BOARD OF ESTIMATE & TAXATION

1. RESOLVED, that a sum not to exceed \$49,000 be and the same is hereby transferred from contingency to the Department of Public Works to pay for the purchase and rental of uniforms. (Account 01-4021-5276).

VII. COMMON COUNCIL COMMITTEES

A. LAND USE AND BUILDING MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an Amendment to the License Agreement with the United Haitian American Society of Norwalk for the use of Conference Room #124 in City Hall, to extend the agreement to April 1, 2010. All remaining terms of the Agreement to remain unchanged.

2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute any and all documents with Connecticut Trust for Historic Preservation to accept and expend matching grant funds in

the amount of \$25,000 for the preparation of a Preservation Plan of City owned historic buildings and real estates. (Finance Department confirmed the availability of matching funds in Capital Budget Acct. #09096310-5777 C0456 – Preservation Plan)

B. FINANCE COMMITTEE

1. Accept and Approve the Report of the Claims Committee Dated:
April 9, 2009
2. For informational purposes only: Narrative on Tax Collections dated April 15, 2009.
3. For informational purposes only: Monthly Tax Collector's Report Dated:
March 31, 2009
5. Approve FY 2009-10 Parking Authority Budget.
6. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to submit an application to the State of Connecticut for grant funds provided under the State of Connecticut's Local Capital Improvement Fund for 2009 Entitlement (\$632,914).

C. RECREATION, PARKS & CULTURAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with the YMCA of Norwalk for the use of the grounds of Tracey Field for a Summer Camp to be held June 29, 2009 through August 21, 2009 Monday- Friday from 7:00am -6:00pm. Estimated attendance 150.
2. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with NEON Inc. for the use of Nathaniel Ely grounds for a Summer Camp to be held July 6, 2009 through August 21, 2009 Monday – Friday from 8:00am – 5:00pm. Estimated attendance 150.
- 3a. Approve the use of Mathews Park by the Norwalk Arts Commission under the Department of Recreation and Parks to host a “Party in the Park” (live music, Artisans) to be held Saturday, June 20, 2009 from 12:00noon – 10:00pm. Estimated attendance 3,000.
- 3b. Approve the use of the Show Mobile by the Norwalk Arts Commission for the “Party in the Park” to be held Saturday, June 20, 2009
4. Approve the use of the Show Mobile for the March of Dimes “March for Babies” to be held on Sunday, April 27, 2009 from 6:00am-4:00pm at Calf Pasture Beach.
5. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia to enter into an agreement with Coffee Creations for the operation of a concession stand at Veteran's Park. Project # 2784 for a total of \$11,100 over a three year period starting April, 2009 – October, 2012.

D. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE

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1. NMEA Tentative Agreement EXECUTIVE SESSION (*Consent to remove from the agenda*)

E. HEALTH, WELFARE & PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

1. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A. Moccia, to execute an agreement with Jacques Personnel Agency to conduct a Fire Department Entry Level Examination for a sum not to exceed \$15,000.00 account #01-31-140-4509.

2. Authorize the Mayor Richard A. Moccia to recognize the creation of a Disaster volunteer reserve program in the City of Norwalk. This Civil Preparedness volunteer corps will be organized, trained and activated under the Norwalk Fire Department- Office of Emergency Management to respond to natural or human- caused emergencies in the City and will operate and receive protection under Title 28 of Connecticut General Statute.

3. Authorize the Purchasing Agent to execute a purchase order to Colt Defense LLC, on the behalf of the Norwalk Police Department, for the sole source purchase of ten, Colt Model 6940, Law Enforcement Carbines for a total amount not to exceed \$ 11,000. Funds to be taken from Account # 0300002660 – *to be taken from the Asset Forfeiture funds*

4a. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A Moccia, to execute any and all documents necessary to apply for and accept grant funds from the Connecticut Association of Directors of Health for the period June 1, 2009 to May 31, 2011, *in the amount of \$193,783 from the Health Equity initiative.*

4b. Authorize the Mayor, Richard A Moccia, to execute any and all agreements, documents, instruments or amendments as may be necessary to implement the Health Equity Initiative for the period June 1, 2009, to May 31, 2011.

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

**** MR. HILLIARD MOVED THE FOLLOWING ITEM:**

4. Approve FY 2009-10 WPCA Operating Budget.

Mr. Hilliard said that he forwarded this item to the Common Council to give them an opportunity to vote. He said that he is personally against this. It is easy to administer because all single family homes pay one price. Mr. Hilliard said that is not fair to the smaller home owners.

Mr. Hempstead said that he agrees with Mr. Hilliard and will abstain from voting on this item.

Mr. Bonenfant said that he serves on the Finance Committee and complemented the Chair for moving this item forward although he is personally against it. Mr. Bonenfant said that this is the best way.

Mr. Conroy said that from the onset of this they looked for an easy way to implement this. He said that he did not feel it was terribly unfair, and feels they should stick with what they have.

Mr. Krummel said that he has the pleasure of service on the board of the WPCA and it is a very professional operation. He said that he has gotten a number of responses from the people on the board as well as OMI. Mr. Krummel said that he appreciated the effort put into the study of the sewer rate structure. He read portions of the report that concerned Mr. Hilliard. Mr. Krummel noted that there are hardship exemptions that are limited to residents living in low income housing and to elderly customers.

Mr. Krummel said that the CT. Department of Environmental Protection encourages consumption based billing. He said that he expects that with this report the WPCA will make an effort to introduce consumption based billing. The study is lacking in that the examples given do not show the difference between residential, commercial and industrial discharges. Mr. Krummel said that if they had another example of consumption based billing they would see that there is some relief for some residents.

Mr. Hilliard said that he disagrees. A smaller house should not be billed the same as a larger house. He said that he understands that a flat fee is easier, but no other utility is billed that way.

**** MOTION PASSED BY ROLL CALL VOTE WITH TEN (10) IN FAVOR (MR. BONDI; MS. BROWN; MR. MCQUAID; MS. DULEEP; MR. BONENFANT; MR. KYDES; MS. LINDSTROM; MS. STRANITI; MR. CONROY; MR. KRUMMEL) AND TWO (2) ABSTENTIONS (REV. BOLDEN; MR. HEMPSTEAD) AND THREE (3) VOTES IN OPPOSITION (MR. GEAKE; MR. SERASIS AND MR. HILLIARD)**

X. SUSPENSION OF THE RULES

**** REV. BOLDEN MOVED TO SUSPEND THE RULES TO ADD AN ITEM TO THE AGENDA TO PRESENT A RESOLUTION HONOR RETIRING CITY CLERK, MARY ROMAN**

**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

VIII. RESOLUTIONS FROM COMMON COUNCIL

Rev. Bolden read a resolution from the Common Council honoring retiring City Clerk, Ms. Roman.

Ms. Roman thanked the members of the Common Council and announced that she would be working in Parks and Recreation to help with the Beach stickers.

Mr. McQuaid said that Ms. Roman served the City greatly; he knew her from her banking days and wished her the best. Ms. Roman told Mr. McQuaid that he is the only one who knows where the Time Capsule is.

Mr. Hempstead told Ms. Roman that she is a class act and that her enthusiasm is contagious. He told Ms. Roman that she is a shining star for the human race.

Mr. Kydes said that he knows Mrs. Roman from his junior high school days. He also knew Mr. Roman. Mr. Kydes said that it was a pleasure working with Ms. Roman and told her that she keeps the City humming and God bless and God speed.

Mr. Bonenfant thanked Ms. Roman for everything she has done for him and the City. He said that he was almost ready to challenge her to a run around the block.

Mr. Conroy told Ms. Roman that she has been a class act and a pleasure to know.

Ms. Straniti thanked Ms. Roman for her service. She said that it has been a pleasure to have her in the office. Ms. Straniti told Ms. Roman that she admires her sense of fashion and style.

Mr. Bondi said that he and Ms. Roman are old friends. He said that Mr. Roman was his teacher. Mr. Bondi said that he felt that Ms. Roman was a friend and there is nothing better than having a friend like her.

Rev. Bolden said that she remembers Ms. Roman from the bank. She was always so kind. Rev. Bolden said that she appreciates all of the help she gave her and wished her the best and for God to bless her real good.

Mr. Maslan said that it has been a pleasure and that he hoped she instructed her successor where the old files are located.

Mr. Geake told Ms. Roman that it has been good sitting next to her for two Tuesdays a month.

Mr. Hilliard told Ms. Roman that she was very helpful to him when he first got on the Council. He said that he really appreciated that and wished her the best.

Ms. Lindstrom told Ms. Roman that she has known her a long time and is always helpful. She said that Ms. Roman was always able to locate documents quickly. She wished her the best of luck.

Ms. Duleep told Ms. Roman that she goes back longer with her mother. She said that Ms. Roman is approachable and that is important at City Hall. Ms. Duleep said that Ms. Roman sets a fabulous example and believes that everyone will join her in thanking Ms. Roman for assisting with the Beach sticker distribution. Ms. Duleep said that she echoes Ms. Straniti's comments and told Ms. Roman that her fashion choices have not gone unnoticed.

Ms. Brown said that she remembers the first time she met Ms. Roman. She said that Ms. Roman knew exactly where to find the document she was looking for. Ms. Brown said that although she is happy for Ms. Roman, she is so sad that the wealth of knowledge and expertise is leaving. She told Ms. Roman that she is a treasure and thanked her for her example.

Mr. Serasis said that he echoed all of the comments. He said that Ms. Roman was very professional and very patient and nice when people came into the office. Mr. Serasis said that he appreciated Ms. Roman's patience and noted that she showed him how to use the green book.

Mr. Krummel said that he has not filed anything in his green book. He told Ms. Roman that she represents the City to him and it has been a warm, pleasant experience. Mr. Krummel said that partisanship never had a place with Ms. Roman and that is rare. He said that he appreciated that.

Mayor Moccia said that he echoed everything said. A person like her does not pass through here too often. Ms. Roman asked Mayor Moccia for an indoor track.

IX. MOTIONS POSTPONED TO A SPECIFIC DATE

There were none.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

**** MR. BONDI MOVED TO ADJOURN**
**** MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY**

There was no further business and the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

ATTEST: _____
Mary Roman, City Clerk