

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
January 8, 2013

Present:

Ald. Bryan McCracken
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Daniel Palmer

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resource Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Code Enforcement Office/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
EMO A. Jones
Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Shawn Magrath, Media Representative

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of December 3, 2012. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Little League Parade Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a request from Robert Mason of the Youth Bureau to hold the Norwich/Oxford Little League parade on Saturday, April 27, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. to the end of the parade, with police assistance and closing of East Main Street from Tops Plaza to Midland Drive and Midland Drive from East Main Street to the ball fields. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, accepted ayes all.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that a firefighter will be retiring with more than 20 years of service, effective January 18, 2013, and asked for approval to proceed with filling the vacancy. Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest explained that the Department has 90 days to refill the position or some of the hours will be lost to cover overtime. Ald. Schermerhorn stated it was in the best interests of the City to refill the position. Ald. McCracken asked if lists of preferred candidates were prepared. D. DeForest replied that Civil Service lists will be used initially. Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to proceed with filling the vacancy in the Fire Department. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

EMO EMO A. Jones explained that ten years ago the City was recognized by the National Weather Service as a StormReady community. This status is based on the community's hazardous weather preparedness and is considered for renewal every three years. The City was the first community in New York State to be declared StormReady, and its status has been renewed again. StormReady status means that the City has the ability to receive and disseminate information regarding hazardous weather to the public and also provides public education on hazardous weather preparedness. A. Jones reported that the Governor has created four committees regarding hazardous weather preparedness and some of their suggested initiatives should be announced during the State of the State address. A. Jones sits on a State board and will work closely with these committees. Mayor Maiurano thanked A. Jones for his service and remarked that the City is fortunate to have him, as well as the Police and Fire Departments and the DPW, who have coordinated perfectly during the hazardous weather the City has experienced over the past several years.

Code Enforcement Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence reported that the King Street demolition is complete and the lot is cleared and resoiled. The Rental Inspection program has begun. He and Mayor Maiurano met with the County Health Department regarding new initiatives on lead-paint mitigation, and some funds may be made available for landlords. The Codes Office will be working with the Fire Department to perform evaluations of hazardous conditions at various abandoned buildings in the City.

Human Resources D. DeForest reported that a problem was detected with some of the W-2s distributed to employees and officials and those will be corrected and re-issued.

Finance Director of Finance William Roberts reminded the Committees that the Council adopted Resolution #104-2012 on December 11, 2012, establishing a Water Filtration Facilities Capital Project, authorizing application for funding and pursuing and negotiating professional bonding services of a Financial Advisor and Bond Counsel. A Financial advisor and Bond Counsel have been consulted and a resolution may be ready for the Common Council to consider at its January meeting.

DPW

DOH Regulations DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported that the DOH has revised its licensing requirements, now requiring licenses for surface and groundwater supply management, treatment, and distribution. These licenses were held by C. Ivarson in the past, and he successfully petitioned to have his licenses reinstated. However, he warned that future managers will require a total of six licenses, and Civil Service requirements should be changed accordingly. Further, new rules regarding phosphorus, phosphates, and nitrogen loads are going into effect. Phosphorus and phosphate loads can be managed with additional chemical treatments, but nitrogen limits cannot be met. However, he has negotiated to receive credit for nitrogen limits by removing additional phosphorus. The cost will be an additional \$50,000 - \$60,000 per year.

Sidewalk Program C. Ivarson asked the Aldermen to contact residents and urge them to enroll in the 2013 Sidewalk Program. Twenty sidewalks were done in 2012. Ald. Schermerhorn noted that many properties in his ward are rental properties and asked that landlords be contacted again.

Training C. Ivarson presented a schedule of training, conferences, and seminars for the Water and Wastewater Departments in 2013, with attendant costs. These cover certifications and renewals required. Some of these are held at the City's facilities, but many are out of town and require travel.

Adjournment

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 6:25 p.m. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all.