

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
June 2, 2015

Present:

Ald. Bryan McCracken
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Thomas LoPiccolo

Also:

Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
EMO A. Jones
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Finance Administrative Office Manager Dee DuFour
Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Media Representative Shawn Magrath

Absent:

None

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:09 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. McCracken **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of May 5, 2015. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Waite Street Block Party Ald. Doliver **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive and approve a request from Jeffrey A. Thornton to hold a neighborhood block party with closure of the eastern side of Waite Street from 5 p.m. Friday, August 28 through 6 a.m. Monday, August 31, 2015. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Curb Cut Request – 16 Pellett Street Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive and approve a request from Patricia B. Giltner to extend a curb cut at 16 Pellett Street. DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson stated there would be no problem with the request. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Norwich City Band Ald. Laughlin **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive and approve a request from Chris Robb to hold Norwich City Band concerts on Friday evenings from July 10 through August 14, with chairs, lights, and electricity. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Bike Night – D’Abbraccio’s Ald. Laughlin **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive and approve a request from D’Abbraccio’s to hold Bike Nights on Tuesday evenings from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. through the summer, with partial closure of the City parking lot behind the restaurant. Police Chief Rodney Marsh stated the restaurant had checked with neighboring businesses and received their signatures agreeing to the partial closure. Ald. McCracken noted that the dumpster behind the restaurant has not been enclosed as required by City Code. He requested that this be rectified before the Council approves the request at its June meeting. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence said he would contact them. The motion was seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

DPW

GHD Presentation on Water Tank Project C. Ivarson introduced Damien Vanetti of GHD Consulting Services Inc., who reported to the Committees the results of lead testing at the site of the Wheeler Avenue water tank construction project. Mr. Vanetti stated that some areas revealed contamination up to three feet deep, so that additional soil will have to be removed during construction. Costs had been estimated for two scenarios, the first requiring removal to a specialized landfill, the second for treatment as solid waste. Pilot tests will need to be done, and

the engineers will work with the contractor regarding this. Additional time and effort will be required because of the test results. Ald. McCracken asked if any of the remediation would be done onsite. Mr. Vanetti replied that any soil remediation done onsite would be done in containers. Ald. LoPiccolo asked how much this would extend the project. Mr. Vanetti said it would perhaps add six weeks to the project, though overlap of various work could shorten that somewhat. Ald. Deierlein asked about contamination at the property lines. Mr. Vanetti said the property lines were tested and no contamination was found there. C. Ivarson said that this work will require additional engineering, at a cost of approximately \$60,000, and the work would cost an additional \$500,000 to \$900,000. He has contacted USDA, which has stated there are funds available to lend at low interest rates. He is also investigating additional grants, but does not want to jeopardize a USDA grant already received for \$750,000. C. Ivarson stated a resolution to approve a fourth amendment for the project will be presented at the June Common Council meeting, and that bids on the project will be opened on June 30 and the results presented to the Committees at the July meeting. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council authorize a fourth amendment for the water tank construction project. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Water Projects Updates C. Ivarson reported that he is still working with the DEC to resolve issues with backwash at the reservoir. All information has been transmitted and he is waiting to hear how to proceed.

Bridge Repair – Canasawacta Creek C. Ivarson reported that two grants have been received for a total of \$20,000 to repair the bridge at Canasawacta Creek; this will just cover the cost of repairs. Ald. McCracken asked how much annual maintenance on the bridge costs. C. Ivarson replied that he does not have numbers for that specific item, which falls under Parks, but that \$27,000 is budgeted for maintenance of all the City parks. Ald. McCracken asked the life expectancy of the repairs. C. Ivarson stated that the last construction has lasted 25 years. Ald. LoPiccolo **moved** to recommend the Common Council authorize appropriation of grant funds for repair of the bridge at Canasawacta Creek. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Natural Gas Engine Repair C. Ivarson reported that the natural gas engine has leaks. Repairs will cost approximately \$15,000, which will be a line-item expense. Ald. LoPiccolo **moved** to approve the repairs. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

New DEC and DOH Regulations C. Ivarson reported that the DOH has changed fluoride requirements. He will try to meet the new requirements with the current equipment; however, he has been informed that funds will be made available for replacement of fluoride equipment, and he will explore that possibility when more information is received.

NYSEG C. Ivarson reported that NYSEG has approached him with an extensive street-work schedule for 2016 in conjunction with street paving. The estimated cost for NYSEG's requested portion is \$424,990; the total for all paving would be \$491,150. He has asked them repeatedly for a five-year plan, and received it just prior to the meeting, so has not yet reviewed it. He has told NYSEG that the City does not have the funds available, but that they are welcome to do the work as long as they meet the City's standards and repave curb to curb.

Hotboxes C. Ivarson is waiting to hear from the local asphalt plant about their reopening. He has investigated purchasing hotboxes, which keep asphalt hot during transport. He has learned of slide-in hotboxes which fit into a dump truck but can be removed so that the truck can be used for other purposes as well. He has not researched prices yet, and is looking for used units. Ald. Doliver asked if hotboxes were required only in summer. C. Ivarson said they can be used in winter for cold patching as well; keeping the asphalt hot improves the patch. Ald. Deierlein asked if he had approached the Town of Norwich about purchasing such a unit together. C. Ivarson said he would speak with them. Ald. McCracken also suggested contacting the County. Mr. Fowlston, in the audience, said that the County only has one trailer hotbox.

Joseph Biviano spoke out from the audience and asked why an item regarding discussion of the City's peddling ordinance had been removed from the agenda. Ald. Doliver said that the Committees had simply been going to review the City's ordinance at the request of the B.I.D., and that the item was removed after public outcry.

Human Resources Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest reported that the Committees had approved filling a water meter reader position. A current employee has requested a lateral transfer to that position, which will leave an MEO I position vacant. Ald. Laughlin **moved** to approve filling the vacant MEO I position. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all. C. Ivarson also remarked that the City has been searching for a lab tech/lead operator for ten years. A viable candidate has been located, and that name will be presented at a future meeting pending further research. He noted

that the City must have a licensed operator in place when he leaves, or face fines of \$36,000 per day. D. DeForest stated she hopes to have a resolution for appointing the Director of Finance at the June Council meeting.

Finance Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council authorize the appropriation of grant funds received from the R.C. Smith Foundation and the Greater Norwich Foundation for the Norwich City Band. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all.

Community Development

Shelter Planning BOA Step 2 Ald. Doliver **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a resolution authorizing Shelter Planning as administrator for Step 2 of the BOA project. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

SEORA Circulation – Unguentine Building Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported that a potential project has been broached for the Unguentine Building. As the deadline for funding for such projects falls in July, it is important to begin the process as early as possible, and the first step is to begin a SEQRA circulation. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a SEQRA circulation regarding the Unguentine Building project. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin. Ald. McCracken asked what funding was being sought. T. Dreyer replied that it would be a Main Street grant. Ald. McCracken asked about other potential funding sources. T. Dreyer stated that this project could be eligible for other grant funds. The property is currently in estate, and certain steps will be required in order for it to move forward. Ald. McCracken asked if the area would be expanded. T. Dreyer stated that the project could be designated a target project or as part of the B.I.D., in which case other businesses in the B.I.D. could participate in the grant application.

LED Lighting Conversion T. Dreyer reported that he has held discussions with the Town of Sherburne about the possibility of converting the City's street lighting to LED lighting. C.T. Male Associates, an engineering firm, has submitted a proposal for a study of such a conversion. If such a project is implemented, up to 50% of cost of the study may be refunded by NYSESERDA. The study would cost an initial \$18,000. He is investigating whether Community Development funds may be used for this purpose. Ald. Deierlein asked about the cost of such conversion. T. Dreyer replied that LED lights are about twice as expensive as the current lamps, and that new armatures would be required, as well as a new tariff arrangement with NYSEG. LED lights are projected to last 20 years, have a low defect rate, and energy costs should be approximately half of current costs. Ald. McCracken asked if the study could end up costing more than \$18,000. T. Dreyer said that the company estimated an overage of \$350 for incidental expenses, and that the City could control those costs. C. Iverson noted that this is a good idea, but NYSEG will charge a premium for new lights and this will also require additional manpower for the City to maintain the lights. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a study for an LED streetlight conversion. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Other Items

STP Test Results D. DeForest reported that, due to concerns of contamination in the former sewage treatment plant, testing was carried out on air quality, temperature, and humidity. Results showed that the building fell within safe limits for airborne mold, temperature and humidity were found to be adequate. There is a problem with damaged pipe insulation, the interior is fiberglass, the exterior contains asbestos. C. Iverson stated that instead of encapsulating the pipe as suggested, it would be better to remove the asbestos in that area. Cost will be approximately \$4,000 to remove the asbestos and then re-insulate the pipe. This will be charged to the Sewer Fund. Ald. Deierlein asked what other uses the building could be put to. C. Iverson said all his engineering plans are in an adjacent underground pump room. Ald. Doliver **moved** to approve this repair. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:52 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.