

COMMON COUNCIL

July 21, 2015

In the absence of Mayor Joseph Maiurano, Ald. Walter Schermerhorn presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 7:00 PM on July 21, 2015, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Ald. Bryan McCracken
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Kecia Funaro-Burton
Ald. Thomas LoPiccolo
Supervisor Robert Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Also:

City Chamberlain/City Clerk John Zielinski
Deputy City Chamberlain Dee DuFour
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
City Attorney Patrick Flanagan
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake

Absent:

Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Ald. John Deierlein

Prior to the meeting, Kecia Funaro-Burton was sworn in as Ward 5 Alderwoman.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Ald. Schermerhorn at 7:01 p.m.

Approval of minutes

Ald. Doliver **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 16, 2015, and the special meeting of July 7, 2015. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum Robert Jeffrey, City Supervisor, 17 York Street, addressed concerns about the award of a SAFER grant to the City of Norwich Fire Department. He asked the Council to consider the City's financial obligations after the term of the grant, noting the cost of benefits and especially of contributions to the State Retirement System. He noted that in 2011 the cost per fire fighter for salary and benefits was over \$100,000, and pension contributions are significantly higher now. In 2011 the City owed no money to the pension fund; now the City is in debt to the pension fund for approximately \$1.2 million. In 2011 the City had over \$600,000 in unappropriated fund balance, now there is approximately \$182,000. The City has never stayed under the State's property tax cap, which has been extended for another four years, while the County and school district have been able to stay under the tax cap.

Supervisor Jeffrey suggested that 45 Silver Street be torn down, and commented on the drop in the City's tax equalization rate. He also reported that residents want more proactive code enforcement.

Ald. Schermerhorn replied that the City has not yet committed to accepting the SAFER grant and is still reviewing it. City Chamberlain John Zielinski stated they have reviewed the grant and spoken with the grant coordinator for clarification of certain points. The grant will be discussed at the August Joint Committees meeting.

Mayoral Appointments

Ald. Schermerhorn announced the appointment of Ald. Funaro-Burton to the Public Works/Public Safety Committee, and Ald. Doliver as Chair of that Committee.

CORRESPONDENCE

Color Dash 5k Ald. McCracken **moved** to receive and approve a request from Ann Coe to hold the 2nd Annual Color Dash 5k in conjunction with Colorscape Chenango beginning at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 12, 2015, following the same route as the Turkey Trot but beginning at NBT Bank Operations. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- Traffic Commission Minutes of June 10, 2015

Ald. Doliver **moved** to receive and file the department, board, and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all. Ald. McCracken asked if there was anything to note in the Traffic Commission minutes. Ald. Doliver replied that matters regarding parking regulations have been tabled until the September Joint Committees meeting.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. McCracken reported that he received several complaints which have been forwarded to the appropriate department heads for resolution.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver reported that he received no communications from constituents during the last month.

Ward 4

Ald. Schermerhorn reported that all matters had been referred to the appropriate department heads for resolution.

Ward 6

Ald. LoPiccolo reported that he received some complaints which have been resolved.

Ald. McCracken **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #49-2015

AUTHORIZING CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES FOR BANKING TRANSACTIONS WITH NBT BANK, N.A.

Ald. LoPiccolo introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich ("City") maintains several accounts with NBT Bank, N.A. of Norwich, New York ("Bank") as a designated official depository of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance was appointed on June 16, 2015, effective July 6, 2015, and an addition in authorized signatures for the City's related transactions with the Bank will therefore be required to maintain uninterrupted continuity of operations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective July 22, 2015, City Chamberlain/City Clerk John S. Zielinski be and hereby is authorized to open depository and disbursement accounts, sign and endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds, or enter into and execute Funds Transfer and/or ACH agreements with the Bank on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Ald. Funaro-Burton and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #50-2015

AUTHORIZING CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES FOR BANKING TRANSACTIONS WITH COMMUNITY BANK

Ald. McCracken introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich ("City") maintains accounts with Community Bank, N.A., through its Norwich, New York branch ("Bank"), as a designated official depository of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance was appointed on June 16, 2015, effective July 6, 2015, and an addition in authorized signatures for the City's related transactions with the Bank will therefore be required to maintain uninterrupted continuity of operations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective July 22, 2015, City Chamberlain/City Clerk John S. Zielinski be and hereby is authorized to open depository and disbursement accounts, sign and endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds, or enter into and execute Funds Transfer and/or ACH agreements with the Bank on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Ald. Doliver and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #51-2015

AUTHORIZING CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES FOR BANKING TRANSACTIONS WITH KEY BANK

Ald. LoPiccolo introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich ("City") maintains accounts with Key Bank National Association, through its Baldwinsville, New York branch ("Bank"), as a designated official depository of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance was appointed on June 16, 2015, effective July 6, 2015, and an addition in authorized signatures for the City's related transactions with the Bank will therefore be required to maintain uninterrupted continuity of operations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective July 22, 2015, City Chamberlain/City Clerk John S. Zielinski be and hereby is authorized to open depository and disbursement accounts, sign and endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds, or enter into and execute Funds Transfer and/or ACH agreements with the Bank on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Ald. Doliver and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #52-2015 **AUTHORIZING CHANGES IN AUTHORIZED SIGNATURES FOR BANKING TRANSACTIONS WITH M&T BANK**

Ald. Funaro-Burton introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich ("City") maintains accounts with M&T Bank, through its Norwich, New York branch ("Bank"), as a designated official depository of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Finance was appointed on June 16, 2015, effective July 6, 2015, and an addition in authorized signatures for the City's related transactions with the Bank will therefore be required to maintain uninterrupted continuity of operations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective July 22, 2015, City Chamberlain/City Clerk John S. Zielinski be and hereby is authorized to open depository and disbursement accounts, sign and endorse checks and orders for payment of money or otherwise withdraw or transfer funds, or enter into and execute Funds Transfer and/or ACH agreements with the Bank on behalf of the City.

Seconded by Ald. McCracken and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #53-2015 **AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS - NEIGHBORHOOD REVITALIZATION**

Ald. McCracken introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, from 2008 to 2010 the City built three (3) homes through the City's Restore NY II Program, funded in part through a grant from the Empire State Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2012 the City renovated 24 East Main Street through the City's Restore NY III Program, funded in part through a grant from the Empire State Development Corporation; and

WHEREAS, from 2010 to 2013 the City worked with BOCES on a project to rehabilitate property at 49 Front Street funded solely by CD56 - Neighborhood Revitalization; and

WHEREAS, CD56 - Neighborhood Revitalization was created to fund the City's Restore NY II & III Programs after grants were received and to fund the 49 Front Street Project, but the Restore Programs and Front Street Project exceeded the fund's balance and it was forced to borrow from other Community Development funds; and

WHEREAS, CD56 - Neighborhood Revitalization does not have the means to generate the monies (Restore Programs - \$66,543.62 and Front Street Project - \$83,654.82) to repay those other Community Development funds; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that transfers from the appropriate Community Development funds be made to CD56 allowing this fund to repay other Community Development funds; the net effect of these transfers will result in a positive fund balance for CD56; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfers within the Community Development fund:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CD52-07-9950.1	Neighborhood Revitalization - Gen Imp	\$45,000
CD53-9950.1	Mitchell St. Rehab Project	\$95,000

<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
CD56-5031	Neighborhood Revitalization	\$140,000

Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Discussion: Ald. McCracken asked for clarification of the transfer. J. Zielinski explained that this is a transfer from two Community Development grant funds with surpluses to a fund with a deficit caused by overruns in the rehabilitation of five properties in the City. The balance in CD56 after the transfer will be approximately \$8,000. Ald. McCracken asked if CD56 will be used for expenses at 45 Silver Street. J. Zielinski replied that other transfers would be required, as that will exceed the \$8,000 in CD56, and that Community Development funds are very tight at present.

RESOLUTION #54-2015 AMENDING FEE SCHEDULE – ELECTRIC USAGE, EAST SIDE PARK

Ald. McCracken introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, it is desired to make fees for electricity usage in East Side Park equitable; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety/Public Works and Finance/Personnel Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fees Schedule of the City of Norwich be revised as follows:

Electric Charge for East Side Park	\$50.00 <u>\$25.00</u> per Occasion
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Deleted material is ~~struck through~~; new material is Underlined;

and, further be it

RESOLVED, that this revision to the fees schedule shall take effect immediately upon adoption of this resolution.

Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #55-2015 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF NATURAL GAS ENGINE

Ald. LoPiccolo introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the natural gas engine which drives well # 3 has sustained damage which is irreparable; and

WHEREAS, the cost of replacing the existing engine with a new apparatus is not reasonably affordable under the City's very tight fiscal constraints; and

WHEREAS, a rebuilt engine has been located at a price of \$36,697 from Kraft Power Corporation of Syracuse, NY; and

WHEREAS, deductions and credits have reduced that price to \$8,593.14; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the purchase of a rebuilt natural gas engine through Kraft Power Corporation of Syracuse, NY, be and hereby is authorized in an amount not to exceed \$8,593.14.

Seconded by Ald. Doliver, and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #56-2015 AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF CONTROL PANEL – DUNNE DRIVE BOOSTER PUMP STATION

Ald. Doliver introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, modifications are required to meet NYSDOH requirements for potable water pressure in the upper sections of the City of Norwich water distribution system served by the Dunne Drive water tank; and

WHEREAS, three proposals have been received for construction of a new control panel for the Dunne Drive Booster Pump Station; and

WHEREAS, the low proposal did not meet specifications; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the construction of a control panel for the Dunne Drive Booster Pump Station contracted with AquaLogics Systems, Inc. of Syracuse, NY, be and hereby is authorized in an amount not to exceed \$22,150.

Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Payment of July 2015 Bills Ald. LoPiccolo **moved** to pay the July 2015 bills after proper audit and certification. Seconded by Ald. Doliver and duly adopted ayes all.

July Bills

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>7/21/15</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$ 212,471.60	\$ 72,798.03 0.60	\$ 285,269.63 0.60
Sewer Fund	19,133.18	25,370.67	44,503.85
Water Fund	18,243.55	8,174.65	26,418.20
Trust Fund	27,676.26	-	27,676.26
Debt Service	205,593.58	-	205,593.58
Comm. Dev. – Small Cities	3,605.11	-	3,605.11
Comm. Dev. – Special Grants	-	600.00	600.00
Econ. Dev.	139.00	-	139.00
Capital Projects	38,631.82	662.52	39,294.34
TOTALS	\$ 525,494.10	\$ 107,605.87	\$ 633,100.57

Adjournment

Ald. Doliver **moved** to adjourn at 7:21 p.m. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all.