

**CITY OF NORWICH**  
**JOINT MEETING of the**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and**  
**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES**  
April 2, 2013

Present:

Ald. Bryan McCracken  
Ald. Terry Bresina  
Ald. Paul Laughlin  
Ald. Daniel Palmer

Also:

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

Absent:

Ald. John Deierlein  
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn

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Ald. Terry Bresina called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. McCracken **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of March 5, 2013. Seconded by Ald. Palmer, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

**Dairy Day Parade** Ald. Palmer **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Karen Hoffman, Dairy Day Parade Chair, to hold the 13th Annual Dairy Day Parade and Celebration on Saturday, June 15, 2013, with the Milk Run 5k road race beginning at 9:00 a.m. and the parade starting at 10:30 a.m, with attendant street closings and police assistance. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

**Fire Department** Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that the Department is investigating purchasing a used or demonstration model aerial ladder truck. They have conducted tests at various buildings in the City and in order to meet ISO requirements will need a 100' ladder. The Department wants a truck built by a single manufacturer to simplify warranty coverage for repairs. A used truck will cost from \$300,000 to \$400,000, a new truck would cost over \$1 million. Chief Chawgo recommends purchase of a demonstration vehicle, which would cost from \$600,000 to \$700,000. He and Director of Finance William Roberts are exploring methods of financing such a purchase. Ald. Palmer asked about charging fees to non-profit entities to help defray this expense. W. Roberts explained that any contributions in lieu of taxes from non-profits are purely voluntary, and several non-profit entities do in fact contribute to the City approximately \$55,000 per year. Ald. Laughlin noted that many fire departments are downsizing. Chief Chawgo remarked that acquiring an aerial ladder truck could lead to downsizing the Department's rolling stock, including the heavy rescue vehicle. Ald. Palmer asked what financing options are being explored. W. Roberts explained that such vehicles are rated by their period of probable usefulness, and while a ladder truck may have a practical useful life of thirty years, it is rated for twenty years and must be paid off in that period of time. Mayor Maiurano remarked that the City is looking at many ways to raise funds for this expenditure and should be prepared when the time comes.

**EMO** EMO A. Jones noted that the app developed for Emergency Services is now publicly available, has received good comments, and he can demonstrate it for any who are interested.

DPW

**2013 Grinding & Paving Bid** DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported that four bids were received for the 2013 Grinding and Paving project. Ald. Laughlin **moved** to recommend Council accept the qualifying lowest bid from Suit-

Kote, of Cortland, NY, in the amount of \$123,986.72. Seconded by Ald. Palmer, approved ayes all. C. Ivarson reported that the City will receive an additional \$29,000 in CHIPS funds and requested approval to add Rexford Street from the railroad tracks to Silver Street, leaving approximately \$2,000 to roll over to next year. Ald. Palmer **moved** to recommend Council add Rexford Street to the 2013 paving project. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all.

**Sanitary Sewer Cleaning & Televis Bid** C. Ivarson reported the four bids were received for the Sanitary Sewer Televis project. He noted a large range in the bidding, and that the two lower bids were from companies that actually toured the site. Ald. McCracken **moved** to recommend Council accept the bid of the lowest qualified bidder, National Water Main Cleaning Co. of Canton, MA, in the amount of \$13,756.75. Seconded by Ald. Palmer, approved ayes all.

**Surplus Equipment** C. Ivarson requested that the old bucket truck be declared surplus when the new bucket truck is received, along with a tar kettle, and twenty obsolete traffic lights and controllers. Ald. Laughlin **moved** to recommend Council declare the old bucket truck, tar kettle, traffic lights and controllers surplus. Seconded by Ald. McCracken, approved ayes all. Ald. McCracken asked about the disposal of the surplus equipment. C. Ivarson replied that the bucket truck will be sold, if possible, and the other equipment disposed of.

**DO Analyzer** C. Ivarson reported that a dissolved oxygen analyzer is required for the wastewater treatment plant, which will cost approximately \$15,000. This has been budgeted for but requires approval as it exceeds the \$10,000 limit for equipment.

**DPW Radios** C. Ivarson reported that the DPW radios must be upgraded to be in compliance with TriCounty standards. This will cost approximately \$11,000. This has been budgeted for but requires approval as it exceeds the \$10,000 limit for equipment.

**WWTP Measured Track** C. Ivarson reported that the measured track at the wastewater treatment plant has sustained damage from vehicles. Cost of restoration will come from the Materials & Supplies line item, but this may lead to a shortage in that item before the end of the year.

C. Ivarson also noted that most DPW trucks are approximately 40 years old and will require replacement in the near future.

**Community & Economic Development Projects & Funds** Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported that the State has adopted the 421-m Tax Exemption Program, which allows municipalities to designate certain areas as districts to promote multifamily and mixed-use development by allowing a partial tax exemption. The exemption allows that buildings in the designated districts would not be reassessed after construction or renovation for twenty years. T. Dreyer stressed that such designation would be limited to districts defined by the Council and would not be City-wide. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence asked if such districts would be income-regulated. T. Dreyer replied that 20% of units would be assigned for families at 90% of median income. Ald. McCracken remarked that this could be a good incentive to restore certain properties. Mayor Maiurano commented that the twenty-year requirement seemed excessive, but the program could be useful to encourage restoration of certain properties. Ald. Bresina remarked that it is best for the Council to act quickly, noting that some opportunities in the past to restore derelict properties and return them to the tax rolls were lost by delay.

**Executive Session** Ald. Palmer **moved** to enter executive session at 6:47 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular corporation. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. McCracken **moved** to exit executive session at 7:07 pm. Seconded by Ald. Palmer, approved ayes all.

#### **Adjournment**

Ald. McCracken **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Palmer, approved ayes all.