

COMMON COUNCIL

Special Meeting

April 5, 2016

Mayor Christine Carnrike presided at a special meeting of the Common Council held at 6:00 PM on April 5, 2016, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Christine Carnrike
Ald. Matthew Caldwell
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Thomas LoPiccolo

Supervisor Robert Jeffrey

Also:

City Chamberlain/City Clerk John Zielinski
Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Deputy City Chamberlain Dee DuFour
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Police Chief Rodney March
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
EMO A. Jones
City Assessor Brian Fitts
City Attorney Patrick Flanagan

Absent:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Supervisor James McNeil

Media Representative Shawn McGrath

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Carnrike at 6:00p.m.

Appointments by the Common Council:

Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the following appointments by the Common Council:

Assessment Board of Review

- ☐ *Melody McCallum, 54 Borden Avenue, appointment to fill the remainder of Mary Pat Lanfair's term expiring September 30, 2019.*

Traffic Commission

- ☐ *Richard Natoli, 12 Clinton Street, appointment to fill the remainder of Shawn Sastri's term expiring December 31, 2017.*
- ☐ *Linda Hanson, 5 Taylor Avenue, appointment as an Alternate to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2018.*

Ald. LoPiccolo seconded the motion, duly adopted, ayes all.

Appointments to Boards and Commissions by the Mayor:

Mayor Carnrike reported the following Mayoral Appointments:

Civil Service Commission

- ☐ *John Blenis Jr., 53 Front Street, re-appointment to a six-year term expiring May 31, 2022.*

Zoning Board of Appeals

- ☐ *Linda Natoli, 12 Clinton Street, appointment as an Alternate to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2018.*

Finance

Announcement / Notice of intent to apply for USDA-RD Community Facility Project Loans / Grants – J. Zielinski reported that it is the City's intention to apply for a combination of loans and grants not to exceed \$1.5 million dollars

through the Community Facilities Project Program to purchase needed vehicles and equipment rather than to borrow through the issuance of serial bonds. There is a 20% to 30% grant component using this program, whereas using Serial Bonds would require 100% repayment of the bonds.

RESOLUTIONS

RESOLUTION #20 - 2016

DECLARING CITY OWNED REAL PROPERTY AT 106-108 EAST MAIN STREET AS SURPLUS

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

WHEREAS, the City has determined that it has no probable use for the City owned vacant land located at 106-108 East Main Street, further identified as Tax Map Parcel Number 136.5-5-11, "the parcel"; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council authorized the solicitation of proposals for the purchase of the parcel on February 16, 2016; and

WHEREAS, a proposal for the purchase of the parcel has been received; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City owned vacant land located at 106-108 East Main Street, further identified as Tax Map Parcel Number 136.5-5-11, be and hereby is declared surplus.

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

RESOLUTION #21- 2016

AUTHORIZING THE REMOVAL OF THREE DANGEROUS TREES AT 31 ELM STREET

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich Code Enforcement Department has determined that three trees located on a vacant privately owned property at 31 Elm Street (tax map parcel # 136.64-2-4) are dead and in danger of falling onto a structure at an adjacent property; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 409-10 of the Code of the City of Norwich concerning property maintenance standards requires that dead and dying trees be kept pruned and trimmed to prevent a hazardous condition; and

WHEREAS, the Code Enforcement Department has tried diligently to engage the owner of record and the mortgagee of record to have the trees removed; and

WHEREAS, Chapter 409-14 of the Code of the City of Norwich allows tree removal costs to be applied to the property tax charges of the offending property; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has authorized the solicitation of an estimate from a private tree service contractor according to the Code of the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a proposal for removal of the three trees has been received from Kuhn's Tree Service, LLC, dated February 24, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the proposed action is appropriately categorized as a Type 2 Action according to the applicable provisions of the NYS Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, acting under the advice of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to enter into a contract with Kuhn's Tree Service, LLC of Norwich, NY, in an amount not to exceed \$1,782.00 (One Thousand, Seven Hundred, Eighty-Two Dollars and No Cents) for the removal of three dead trees at 31 Elm Street in the city of Norwich.

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

Discussion: Ald. Caldwell stated that Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence has worked very hard on trying to solve this problem and Ald. Caldwell did not see a different solution to this issue. J. Lawrence described the trees as hundreds of feet tall with dead limbs falling on the neighbor's property. He distributed pictures to the Council and read the City Ordinance to the Council. Ald. Deierlein asked if it is the City's responsibility and J. Lawrence replied that they have tried numerous times to work with the property manager and the mortgage bank to no avail as the home is in the process of foreclosure which makes communication and responsibility more complicated. If the tree removal is not paid for by the property owner, it will be added to the taxes of the property.

Adjournment

Ald. Doliver **moved** to adjourn at 6:13 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.