

COMMON COUNCIL

Special Meeting
September 27, 2016

Mayor Christine Carnrike presided at a special meeting of the Common Council on September 27, 2016, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

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

Also:

City Chamberlain/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence

Absent:

Supervisor James McNeil
Supervisor Robert Jeffrey

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Carnrike at 6:02 p.m.

Public Hearing - Authorizing of Application 2016 Restore NY Grant Round 4

Mayor Carnrike opened a public hearing at 6:02 p.m. to hear comments relative to the application 2016 Restore NY Grant Round 4. There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 6:03 p.m.

Correspondence

YMCA Halloween Parade – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to receive and approve a request by the Norwich Family YMCA for police assistance with their annual Halloween Parade on October 29, 2016 at 11:00 a.m. in conjunction with the Annual Norwich Pumpkin Festival. The parade route will begin on South Broad St., starting at Beebe Ave. and ending on North Broad St. and Fair St. behind the Howard Johnson hotel. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #74 - 2016

FINDING OF CONSISTENCY WITH CITY COMPREHENSIVE PLAN AND CITY FINANCIAL CAPABILITY CONCERNING 2016 RESTORE NY ROUND 4 GRANT APPLICATION

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

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted September 27, 2016, the City of Norwich Common Council authorized an application to the fourth round of the Restore NY Communities Initiative grant program for the purpose of demolishing a dilapidated vacant multi-family residential structure at 45 Silver Street and to reconstruct a new single-family dwelling in its place; and

WHEREAS, City officials and staff have reviewed the above project proposal for consistency with the City's Comprehensive Plan, adopted May 20, 2014, which serves as the City's local revitalization and urban development plan; and

WHEREAS, the total project cost is estimated to be \$145,420.00 and the amount to be requested from the grant is \$120,000, the City's cash/in-kind contribution is expected to be \$25,420.00; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes that the proposed funding is appropriate for the above project and believes that the project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council believes the proposed project will develop and enhance the community's commercial and residential infrastructure in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has adequate community development funds to finance the City's portion of project costs; and

WHEREAS, the value of in-kind labor services devoted to the project as well as expenses which have already been incurred may be counted as part of the City's contribution to the project; and

WHEREAS, residual proceeds which may result from the eventual sale of the City-owned project property shall be returned to the City treasury for use in future community development activities; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Norwich Common Council hereby finds the proposal expressed for the City's Restore NY Round 4 grant application to be consistent with the City's Comprehensive Plan adopted May 20, 2014, which serves as the City's local revitalization and urban development plan; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Norwich Common Council hereby authorizes funding from community development sources in the amount of \$25,420 to serve as the local match for the City's application to the fourth round of the Restore NY Communities Initiative grant program; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the City's grant application shall include the value of in-kind services that will be contributed to the project.

Seconded by Ald. Zieno and duly adopted, 6 - 0, on a roll

Discussion: J. Lawrence stated that \$15,000 has already been spent on the property, and another \$10,000 more would be needed to meet the grant matching requirement.

RESOLUTION #75 - 2016 AUTHORIZING OF APPLICATION 2016 RESTORE NY GRANT ROUND 4

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich desires to stabilize residential neighborhoods and restore vacant properties to productive residential use, it is considered to be in the public interest for the City to acquire ownership or other satisfactory form of site control of severely damaged or otherwise derelict properties for the purpose of restoring existing structures or reconstructing new residences in their place, and

WHEREAS, an opportunity exists for the City to apply for a 90/10 matching grant (90% state funds / 10% local funds) to fund the restoration or reconstruction of such properties; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required concerning the grant application; and

WHEREAS, City staff has identified a City-owned property at 45 Silver Street, which is believed to be an eligible candidate for redevelopment under the Restore NY program; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project will facilitate effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources; and

WHEREAS, appropriate reviews according to the provisions of the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) will be conducted prior to approval of the grant application by the Empire State Development Corporation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of Norwich be and hereby is authorized to file an application for funds from the Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) in an amount not to exceed \$120,000, and upon approval of said request to execute, under the direction of the City Attorney, a project agreement and any related documents with the ESDC for such financial assistance for the City of Norwich to proceed with the redevelopment of the subject property at 45 Silver Street that is the subject of the grant.

Seconded by Ald. Doliver, and duly adopted, 6 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Discussion: Ald. Zieno asked if the \$145,000 is enough to do the job. J. Lawrence responded it would be as long as the \$120,000 is received from ESDC. Roughly, demolition would be about \$20,000 and construction costs of \$100,000. The

City will once again partner with BOCES in the construction of the home. Ald. Zieno asked if the cost is similar to the previous projects of this type. J. Lawrence reported that this project is cheaper due to the fact that this is a one story home, where the others were two stories. The applications will be reviewed by ESDC in October, by the State in November.

Finance

D. DuFour presented the Finance Department's tentative 2017 budget to the Common Council. Items discussed included the reinstatement of the Deputy Clerk's position back into the budget that had been removed from the 2016 budget; the possible purchase of new financial software; and filling a vacant position within the finance office.

DPW

C. Ivarson presented the DPW's tentative 2017 budget to the Common Council. Items discussed included the many projects that will go unfunded in 2017 such as the salt barn, garage roof repair, the air compressor and tank, a single axle dump truck with a plow and safety releases on doors. Also discussed was the severe lack of man power, street paving and a raise in the leachate charge to the County.

C. Ivarson also reported that he is working with the Core of Engineers and DEC to obtain permits to clean out Canasawacta Creek. There are four areas along the creek that need to be addressed. C. Ivarson also presented the Council with amendments to the contract for the water tank project due to the extended time of the project. One was for adjusted salaries in the amount of \$5,000 which he viewed as not an issue. However, an additional \$25,000 for engineering services is also being requested which he feels is way too much money. He also mentioned that he did have a third party inspect the tank. It was found that the tank was epoxy-coated on the inside wall, probably to seal a shrinkage crack when the concrete was curing. The tank will not leak, but no one was notified that a crack had formed. There is a forever warranty on the tank.

Executive Session

Ald. Doliver **moved** to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to exit executive session at 9:14 p.m. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn at 9:14 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.