

COMMON COUNCIL

August 15, 2017

Mayor Christine Carnrike presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:00 PM on August 15, 2017, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Christine Carnrike
Ald. Matthew Caldwell
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Jennifer Morris

Supervisor James McNeil
Supervisor Robert Jeffrey

Also:

City Chamberlain/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
DPW Assistant Superintendent George Carnrike
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
City Attorney Patrick Flanagan

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Carnrike at 6:05 p.m.

RESOLUTION #66 - 2017

APPOINTMENT OF FIREFIGHTER IN THE NORWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has recommended the appointment of Jordan Zelsnack of Cortland , NY, to such position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Jordan Zelsnack, of Cortland, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department, effective August 21, 2017, contingent upon successfully passing the required medical and psychological examinations and further be it

RESOLVED, that the appointment is contingent upon Jordan Zelsnack relocating his residence to within ten (10) miles of the central fire station within 90 days of his appointment.

Seconded by Ald. Deierlein and duly adopted, 5 - 1, on a roll call vote with Ald. Caldwell voting nay.

Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo performed the swearing-in ceremony with Firefighter Zelsnack's family in attendance.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of July 18, 2017. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum

Bob Jeffrey, 17 York St., thanked the fire responders who answered a call to the Classic Car Museum on Saturday night. The purpose of government is to provide services. The City of Norwich has been providing services outside the City limits to Towns who do not have contracts with the City and it is not fair that the City residents are paying for those services. He stated Ambulance Recovery is budgeted at \$690,000; that figure should be closer to \$1,000,000.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Water and Waste Water Reports – July

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to receive and file the department, board, and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Caldwell reported he received some communications that have been or in the process of being resolved.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver reported no communication.

Ward 4

Ald. Schermerhorn reported some communications that has been forwarded to the appropriate Department Head.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported communications regarding downed tree limbs that was forwarded and resolved. Ald. Zieno also thanked the DPW, Fire, Fire Police and Police for rapid responses during and after storms.

Ward 6

Ald. Morris reported some communications that have been resolved.

Mayor Carnrike also reported some communications that have been forwarded to the appropriate department. She has had numerous calls regarding the condition of the road on Plymouth St. Calls have even been made to Sen. Seward's office. She has been assured that Plymouth St. will be on the schedule for 2018.

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Zieno approved ayes all.

Motions

Receive Proposed Ordinance No. (A) of 2017 and Set Public Hearing – Signs Ald. Caldwell **moved** to receive Proposed Ordinance No. (A) of 2017 regarding Signs and set a public hearing to receive public comment for 6 p.m. on September 19, 2017. Seconded by Ald. Zieno, approved ayes all.

ORDINANCE NO. (A) OF 2017

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 465 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Norwich, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Article VIII Terminology, Section 35, Definitions of Chapter 465 of the Code of the City of Norwich shall be amended as follows:

IDENTIFICATION SIGN - A sign whose copy is limited to the name and address of a building, institution, or person and/or to the activity or occupation being identified on the premises, one business phone number and/or a business email address or business website address where the sign is located.

[New Material is underlined.]

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Curb Cut at 35 Gold St. – Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the curb cut request at 35 Gold St. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Freeze the 2017 Non-Unit Compensation Schedule for 2018 – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to freeze the 2017 Non-Unit Compensation Schedule for the 2018 budget. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Non-Unit Health Insurance – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to authorize changes is the health insurance plan for Department Heads and Non-Unit employees to match the benefits as outlined in the May 17, 2017 CSEA – Admin White memorandum of understanding effective August 1, 2017. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Refill the 2 Vacant Firefighter Positions - Ald. Morris **moved** for discussion the refilling of the 2 vacant Firefighter positions. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn. Ald. Caldwell's view is that they have the opportunity to do something different. His recommendation, as he hires and appoints these positions at the County, would be to recruit ALS/BLS trained personnel only as most calls are for EMS services and not for fires. He stated there are plenty of ALS/BLS trained people in the County that would be willing to work part time without benefits. Ald. Morris asked what the timeline would be for that option. Ald. Caldwell responded that the ALS/BLS only position would need to be classified with the Civil Service Commission, then to Common Council, and then recruitment could begin which could happen at the end of October at the earliest, but realistically not till much later. Union negotiations may also be a factor. Mayor Carnrike asked how this would solve the current issue and Ald. Caldwell said it does not. Discussion ensued until Ald. Schermerhorn called for a vote to see where everyone stands on this issue. Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to refill the 2 vacant Firefighter positions. Seconded by Ald. Morris, approved 5 -1 on a roll call vote with Ald. Caldwell voting nay.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #67 - 2017 **AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH TOWNS FOR YOUTH RECREATION SERVICES**

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

WHEREAS, the City has reached agreements with the Towns of North Norwich, Norwich, Plymouth, Preston and Pharsalia to provide youth recreation services to the residents of such towns for a lump sum per town, without individual charges being made to such participants; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign agreements with the Towns of North Norwich, Norwich, Plymouth, Preston and Pharsalia to provide youth recreation services to residents of such towns during the 2018 fiscal year.

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

RESOLUTION #68 -2017 **AUTHORIZING CLOSE OUT OF RBC CAPITAL PROJECT (H41) AND TRANSFER TO CAPITAL RESERVE**

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

WHEREAS, the Wastewater Capital Project - RBC has been completed and must be closed out; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds in the 2017 Capital Reserve Budget:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
H41-909	Wastewater Capital Project - RBC	\$320,316.27
<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR42-909	Sewer Equipment Capital Reserve	\$320,316.27

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

Payment of August 2017 Bills

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to pay the August 2017 bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>8/15/2017</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$180,621.96	\$51,463.61	\$ 232,085.57
Sewer Fund	30,910.39	29,319.46	60,229.85
Water Fund	18,613.48	11,652.14	30,265.62
Trust	24,288.80		24,288.80
Debt Service	166,306.10	-	166,306.10
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	493.00	160.00	653.00
Capital Projects	9,366.64	-	9,366.64
TOTALS	\$430,600.37	\$92,595.21	\$523,195.58

Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted 6 - 0.

Executive Session

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to enter executive session to discuss labor negotiations at 6:38 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to exit executive session at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Doliver **moved** to adjourn at 6:50 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.