

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
January 8, 2019

Present:

Mayor Christine Carnrike
Ald. Matthew Caldwell
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Linda Kays-Biviano
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Robert D. Jeffrey

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Fire Chief Jan Papelino
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
EMO A Jones
City Attorney Steve Natoli

Media Representative: Grady Thompson

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Absent

Supervisor James McNeil

Ald. Jeffrey called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:48 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the December 4, 2018 meeting. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Guest Speaker – Hannah Baker distributed information to the Committee, updated them on her efforts to establish a dog park in the City, requested the park be approved, and the City be the recipient of Foundation donations as she cannot. Her efforts have resulted in raising \$4,000 to date. She requested a map with property lines of Greenway park and there was discussion of signage wording and requirements and if there were benches the City had that were either extra or in need of repair. Fundraising continues – BlueOx is selling pinups, Robin King at Pet Street Station is coordinating 2 basket raffles, a continuous bottle and can drive, as well as a Go Fund Me page. Chobani has provided a CAD drawing and have agreed to help with the engineering as well as ordering the materials. NBT will be providing matching funds but is waiting for the City's approval of the park. Ald. Caldwell had an idea on the benches and will get in touch with her. Ald. Zieno suggested the dog park be named The Baker Dog Park. Ald. Zieno asked about the costs of the dog park. Ms. Baker stated that the cost is about \$20,000, however Chobani's generous participation has dropped that to \$9K to \$10K. The type of fencing was discussed. Ald. Caldwell **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive the request and set a Public Hearing in February. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Ald. Zieno **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve the request from Dollars for Scholars for police assistance at the 5K race being held on Saturday, April 6, 2019 from 8:45 a.m. – 10:15 a.m. The race route will remain the same as the last 5 years. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department

NHS Girls' Basketball Team Bottle Drive – J. Papelino reported that the Girls Basketball Team took place over the weekend at the Firehouse and it looked to be very successful.

NFD Mutual Aid to CFD – J. Papelino reported that Stephen Zelsnack from the Cortland Fire Department, who was the uncle of 2 of our Firefighters, passed away and the Norwich Fire Department participated in mutual aid along with other Fire Departments so that the Cortland Fire Personnel could attend the calling hours and funeral.

Donations in Memory of George Podenak – J. Papelino stated that Mr. George Podenak passed away a few weeks ago and named the Fire Department as a beneficiary of donations received. J. Papelino thanked his family for the donations received.

2351- NVFA Purchasing a Winch & Install – J. Papelino reported the Volunteer Fire Association is purchasing a winch for the brush truck at a cost of \$2,500.

Hurst Rescue Equipment Service – J. Papelino reported that the Hurst rescue equipment, known as “The Jaws of Life”, had not had maintenance on it since 2012. In mid-December maintenance was performed which was “pricey”. Routine maintenance is important to avoid costlier repairs.

Volunteer Cancer Policy – J. Papelino reported that it is now mandated that a Cancer Policy is offered under certain conditions and had to be in place January 1, 2019.

Code Enforcement

Part Time Codes Position – J. Papelino reported that a job description needs to be done and posted for Ordinance Inspector which had been approved and included in the 2019 Budget. There is one person who has expressed interest.

Reviewing Plans for McDonald’s Renovation – J. Papelino reported that McDonald’s is doing a total renovation and Amy Donnison has been there to view the plans.

Dialysis Center Plumbing and Floor – J. Papelino reported there have been many people asking questions about the Dialysis Center’s progress. He stated the floors and plumbing are all in and completion will probably be in May. The center will save many people from having to go out of town for treatment.

45 Silver St.- J. Papelino reported the tile flooring is in but needs grout, the front and rear slabs have been poured, and counters in the kitchen need to be re-ordered.

55 Hillview Drive Codes Inquiry – J. Papelino reported that the property owner at 55 Hillview Drive inquired whether there were any ordinances for honey bee hives.

Draft of Potential Animal Ordinance Amendment – J. Papelino stated that there were many emails with questions and comments regarding the proposed Animal Ordinance from the Council. It is still a work in progress and the wording can be changed. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to forward this to the Common Council with any changes being done by then. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein. Ald. Caldwell thought the ordinance was too broad and didn’t think it was right. He questioned if it could be enforced and if the language was right. Ald. Jeffrey reported a situation where the feeding of cats was ceased and they went away – eliminate the food source and the cats will disperse. Motion was approved, ayes all.

CMT – J. Papelino reported that the EMS service, CMT, was sold to AMR which is the biggest privately held ambulance service in the United States. It is unknown what the effect of this would be, and A. Jones stated there are certain approvals such as the transfer of the Certificate of Need that need to occur. A. Jones also stated that AMR does answer 911 calls throughout their service areas and doesn’t expect them to do any differently here. They also staff municipal ambulances.

DPW

Water Filtration Plant – E. Pepe reported that the new Filter Plant is ready to go but cannot be run until the pending permits from the DEC are received. The new Filter Plant is at the affluent level of the old plant, however, the DEC now has much more stringent permit requirements. They are working on a solution at this time and waiting on the final results.

Fuel Card Bid Award – E. Pepe announced Mirabito Energy Products was the low bidder for the Fuel Card System and would like to forward this to the Common Council to award the bid. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Common Council award the Fuel Card bid to Mirabito Energy Products. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

2019 Paving – E. Pepe announced the 2019 Paving schedule to the Common Council as NYSEG has completed the list of gas main repairs for this year. He estimates the total cost at \$225,000 with NYSEG paying 100%. Ald. Doliver asked about Academy St. where work was done last year but not repaved. E. Pepe estimates CHIPS money will be \$192,000 which can be used to pave portions of additional streets such as River St., Division St. and the rest of Midland Dr. If funds allow, bid alternates included in the bid could include Adams St., Berry St., Lee Ave., and Waite St.

Tree Down – Ald. Zieno reported that a tree from property the City is currently in the process of taking for unpaid taxes had fallen onto the neighbor's fence. The DPW quickly took care of the tree, however the property owner is not satisfied as the fence is now in need of repair. He explained that the homeowner would not submit to his insurance as the deductible would be more than the fence repair. Ald. Zieno felt that since this is such a small amount, the City should pay for the repair. D. DuFour relayed instances in the recent past where the City insurance company denied claims regarding trees. Since the City insurance company denied the claim much discussion took place: the legalities of paying for something we are not required to do and the insurance company recommends we do not do; the fact this could set a precedent; and yes this is a small amount but what if in the future a larger claim is denied by our insurance company and we have now set a precedent? Mayor Carnrike said she would call the property owner and let them know the issue was discussed.

Other Items -

Vendor and Peddler Ordinance for Non-Profits – The Council was reminded that this is to allow single non-profits to legally fundraise within the City limits without having to move every 10 minutes. Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve the proposed addition of a non-profit section of the Vendor and Peddler Ordinance. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Vendor and Peddler Ordinance Regarding Annual Permit Holders and Special Events – Ald. Caldwell explained that the B.I.D. has, once again, requested the change of the Annual Vendor's license to exclude the vendors from using their spots during special events. Ald. Zieno stated that by doing so could drastically hurt the Annual license holder's bottom line. He suggested allowing special events to decide who will be in those spots, but lower the City's Annual License fee so it would not be cost prohibitive for those vendors to participate in the special events. Ald. Kays-Biviano pointed out that Colorscape charges over \$200 per vendor with food vendors being charged even more than that. Ald. Deierlein asked what the crux of the matter is and D. DuFour stated she believes the B.I.D. feels there are some Annual vendors that they do not want at their special events. Ald. Caldwell believes that vendors for special events want exclusivity of a product, and the special event cannot control that with the Annual vendors. Ald. Deierlein asked if any Annual vendors were in the audience at which point Mr. John Quattrocchi, who is an Annual license holder, spoke. First, he expressed concern that no one had reached out to the vendors until Ald. Caldwell called yesterday to inform him of tonight's meeting. In addition, as a small business owner operating in the downtown area, never once has the B.I.D. reached out to him and now they want to exclude him from events. He pointed out that many of the vendors for special events are from out of the area and now the City and B.I.D. are looking to limit the businesses that are operated by area residents. This is just another level of bureaucracy. He would rather see the Annual vendor fee raised versus letting B.I.D. dictate who can vend when and where. Ald. Zieno said that B.I.D. spun Colorscape into its own group, they don't run the Gus Macker Tournament, and they were formerly in charge of Pumpkinfest. He was unsure why B.I.D. is asking for the change since they are not in charge of those (special) events any longer. Mayor Carnrike said in her view this is like telling Nina's they could not sell pizza because there is vendor selling pizza (at a special event). Ald. Deierlein said B.I.D. should come and state their case at the next meeting.

Executive Session – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to enter executive session at 8:36 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to exit executive session at 9:12 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all

Adjournment - Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn the Joint Committee Meeting at 9:13 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all