

COMMON COUNCIL

Special Meeting

January 28, 2019

Mayor Christine Carnrike presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on January 28, 2019, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

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
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Media Representative: none

Absent

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Carnrike at 6:30 p.m.

Public Hearing – Establishment of a Dog Park Within Greenway Park - Mayor Carnrike opened the Public Hearing at 6:30 p.m. for the proposed creation of a dog park within Greenway Park.

Ms. Hannah Baker explained her vision for the park and the progress on her efforts to secure funds and assistance for the park. Ald. Zieno asked if the Army Corps Engineer had been contacted for any concerns. A Jones from Chenango County Emergency Management had been contacted and there are no concerns. Several members of the community were in attendance and spoke during the public hearing. Some questions asked were who is responsible for the cleanup of dog waste, what happens if a dog bites another dog or person, do the dogs have to have current shots and who would enforce that, will there be areas separated for large and small dogs. Ms. Baker responded to those concerns stating that dog owners needed to be responsible for taking care of their dogs including cleanup and making sure they are current on their shots. Signage will be posted at the park with all rules and, although not “patrolled” by the City, they can be fined by The City for non-compliance.

A few members in attendance (among them Sarah Stewart and Jen Post, residents of Norwich) who have utilized dog parks in other areas said they have never seen an issue at the parks. The people who utilize the parks are there for the benefit of their dogs and follow the rules and clean up after their animals. The people that tend to become regular users of a dog park generally tend to help enforce the rules and exert “peer pressure” for others to follow the rules. Another person stated that she has been to dog parks where persons don’t clean up after their animals. Ms. Taylor, a local dog trainer felt a dog park is very needed.

A question was asked regarding the potential loss of the playground equipment. Ms. Baker responded that some of the equipment may be relocated within the park. Chris Sprague, Parks Commission Chair, stated that the Parks Commission has been trying for some time to find a place to put a dog park separate from any current park. With no other option or available property, this is probably the best solution. The best solution would be to replace and relocate the merry-go-round, swing set, and bouncy toys within the park but would be contingent upon the funds for replacement.

Robert M. Jeffrey, Ward 4, 5, 6 Supervisor and Executive Director of the Northeast Classic Car Museum stated that many people coming to Norwich to visit the museum have asked if there is a dog park in the area and felt the addition of a dog park would be of great value to the City.

Dave Lawson stated that the DEC should be contacted to make sure there is not an issue with the chain link fence set-back. Dave Sheldon from Chobani reported they had pulled all the flood maps and there should be no issue according to their research.

There being no comments, the hearing was closed at 6:47 p.m.

Motion

Establishment of a Dog Park in the City of Norwich - Ald. Caldwell **moved** to authorize the establishment of a dog park at Greenway Park located on River St. provided that capital funding for the project comes from fund raising programs and authorizes Ms. Hannah Baker to continue with her fundraising efforts for the creation of the dog park. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Zieno **moved** to name the dog park The Baker Dog Park. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Bullthistle Brewery at the Fat Bike Race – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the request from the Bullthistle Brewery to serve beer tastings at the Fat Bike Race special event on Saturday, February 16, 2019 pending their permit from the NYS Liquor Authority. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Mayor Carnrike stated that during the Joint Committee following this meeting, the January Reports from Department Heads have been removed from the agenda. Those items will be discussed at the regular Department Head meeting. Joint Committee meetings will be reserved for items concerning department needs, projects, funding and vacancies and other items needing a motion for action.

Adjournment

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn at 6:51 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.