

COMMON COUNCIL

January 21, 2020

Mayor Shawn Sastri presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on January 21, 2020, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Shawn Sastri
Ald. Matthew Caldwell
Ald. Brian Doliver
Ald. Nancy Allaire
Ald. Linda Kays-Biviano
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Robert D. Jeffrey

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Director of Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Fire Chief Jan Papelino
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
EMO A Jones
City Attorney Steve Natoli
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Media Representative: None

Absent

Supervisor James McNeil

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to approve the minutes of the special meeting of December 3 and December 10 and the regular meeting of December 17, 2020. Seconded by Ald. Doliver and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum

Christine Carnrike, 29 Jones Ave., referenced the statement regarding the Lead Line Replacement Program. She wondered why the City would enter into a contract with another contractor for replacement of the lead pipes on private property, which would then be prevailing wage. In addition, this would place the City in liability for the work done. Regarding the sale of the City Hall building, she referenced the public hearing where only 4 persons spoke which was enough to end the idea of the sale. She felt 4 opinions were not enough to end the sale. The \$400,000 renovations in the '90's was not money well spent, as there are multiple issues with the City Hall building, and hoped consolidation was a plan going forward. When speaking with Mayor Sastri, she cautioned against the filling of the Assistant DPW Superintendent position, as that position was not funded in the 2020 budget for good reason, saying positions in Police and Fire should be top priority. Referring to the RFP process discussed at the last meeting, she stated those are only proposals, not sealed bids. With a major project at the hospital, as well as others impacting infrastructure, she encouraged Code Enforcement to provide the project plans to the DPW. She also said she was looking forward to the updated listing of licensed Plumbers and Electricians, saying as a property owner she expects to use Licensed persons from Broome County. She also mentioned the placement of the podium is blocking the public's view of the Council.

Mayor Sastri asked if she had a concern over the proposed RFP process. Ms. Carnrike said no, only that there had been much discussion over it at the meeting and the process had been in place since Supervisor Jeffrey had been an Alderman and felt there was no need to change it. Mayor Sastri questioned the reasoning of going into executive session if they are not sealed. Ald. Doliver stated he is willing to try a new way; the process can revert back if it does not work.

Mayor's Remarks

Mayor Sastri reported that a resident had been downtown picking up garbage and cigarette butts resulting in 35 pounds of trash. He said this is what Norwich is about - people doing good things and not expecting recognition. He thanked the resident, who wished to remain anonymous, for taking pride in his community and hoped we can all build on this. He

also thanked the City employees who donated items and volunteered in the Helping Hands event for the community which was held at the YMCA.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Youth Board Minutes – January
- ◆ Youth Board Report – 4th Quarter
- ◆ Civil Service Minutes – October, November
- ◆ Human Resources Report – November, December
- ◆ Fire Department Report – December
- ◆ Finance Report – December

Ald. Jeffrey realized the Fire Department was down 3 people and asked Chief Papelino to do his best to keep overtime down. J. Papelino is maximizing his use of the Fire Assistant to help reduce the overtime. Ald. Zieno asked if Oxford's plan was mentioned in the County EMS discussions since they have many calls. J. Papelino was told Oxford will be putting on paid daytime staff, however he does not believe that has happened yet. Ald. Jeffrey asked how the talks at the County were going. J. Papelino stated some progress has been made as the Supervisors attending are beginning to understand the problem. Ald. Jeffrey asked if an ultimatum from the City would help and J. Papelino thought it could.

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

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Caldwell reported some communications which have been referred to the proper department.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver reported a few communications, one with a recurring Codes issue on Guernsey St. that will be forwarded to Codes. He stated he would like to revisit the issue of tractor trailers parking on residential City streets which predominately happens in Ward 2. He also referenced a letter received from Dr. Holmes regarding the condition of sidewalks. The Planning Commission has been working on this and hopes a solution can be found.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported one communication regarding no signage for Dunne Dr. A resident of Cole Dr. indicated that there is no street sign for Dunne Dr. where Wales Dr. turns into what is called Dunne Dr. GPS directions do not recognize Dunne Dr. E. Pepe will check to make sure the street was officially dedicated as Dunne Dr.

Ward 4

Ald. Kays-Biviano reported she had been asked about the approved STOP signs on Locust. Ald. Caldwell said the signs had been approved, however the ground is currently frozen and will be done most likely in the Spring. Ald. Kays-Biviano had been asked about what the City's plan was for the 33 Mitchell St. property. D. DuFour stated that if the taxes are not paid on the property by January 23, 2020, the City will take ownership and a solution can then proceed with advisement by the City Attorney. J. Papelino reminded the Council that the previous Alderman, Bryan McCracken, has a party that may be interested in the property. McCracken asked for and received much information regarding the property in order to pass it along to the interested party. Ald. Doliver stated that McCracken suggested a repair to the building, to "moth ball" the property, in order to make it more attractive to buyers. McCracken thought it would take around \$20,000 to do the quick repair in order to make it safe.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported that he was present at the Mayor's informal coffee meeting with residents on Saturday morning. One issue brought up was the possibility of putting a blockade up at the 33 Mitchell St. property. Sidewalks were also discussed; using a machine to grind down the uneven edges of sidewalks was recommended. There were also complaints about sidewalks not being cleared of snow.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey reported communications regarding the lack of snow removal and other debris from sidewalks. A resident had complemented the new Assessor, saying what a good job she was doing and that she was very

informative. Another resident had inquired about the Sidewalk Program. He mentioned he was returning from Syracuse one night with the roads being terrible until he reached Norwich. He complemented the DPW for doing a great job.

Ald. Doliver **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Motions

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to authorize the Mayor to sign a memorandum of understanding with the CSEA Unit #6404 to modify the agreement by adding the job title of Custodian. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, and duly adopted, 6 – 0, on a roll call vote.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #5 - 2020 APPOINTMENT OF CUSTODIAN

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

WHEREAS, the position of Custodian has been vacant; and

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has recommended the appointment of Robert Brown of Norwich, NY from the position of Custodian; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Robert Brown of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is granted a provisional appointment to the position of Custodian in the DPW, effective January 22, 2020, and further be it

RESOLVED, that Robert Brown of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is appointed at the rate of \$18.36 and subject to any action as may be necessary by the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

Payment of January 2020 Bills

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to pay the January 2020 bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>1/21/2020</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$144,393.81	\$128,882.84	\$273,276.65
Sewer Fund	18,304.06	3,622.23	21,926.29
Water Fund	23,537.98	12,702.46	36,240.44
Trust	37,137.84	-	37,137.84
TOTALS	\$223,373.69	\$145,207.53	\$368,581.22

Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano and duly adopted 6 - 0.

Executive Session

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session to discuss potential litigation at 7:03 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 8:08 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to adjourn at 8:10 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.