

COMMON COUNCIL

June 16, 2020

Mayor Shawn Sastri presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on June 16, 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 arrived 6:40
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

Absent

Supervisor James McNeil

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Sastri at 6:36 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the special meeting of May 5 and the regular meeting of May 19, 2020. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum

William Ballin III, 33 Waite St. and President of the Norwich Firefighter's Association Local 1404, asked for clarification from the Council regarding clarification on unresolved issues with Firefighter benefits relating to injuries and what is covered. He stated that a member had recently been denied benefits stating it was not in performance of his duties. A Firefighter is required to complete 100 hours annually of in-service training as well as attend the Fire Academy to become certified. The union would like clarification on why members would be denied those benefits during required training. Members are covered under Worker's Comp, however there is an additional 207A illness and injury benefit for Firefighters (207C for Police). Mr. Ballin stated there is precedent for receiving the benefit during training.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Finance Department Report – May
- ◆ Fire Department Report – May

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to receive and file the department, board, and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Mayoral Appointments

Mayor Sastri announced the following Mayoral Appointments

Civil Service Commission

- ◆ Mary Politano, 24 Eric Street, re-appointed to a six-year term expiring May 31, 2026.

Housing Authority

- ◆ Jeffrey Abbott, 13 Brown Street, appointed to a five-year term expiring June 25, 2025.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Caldwell reported some correspondence from constituents that have been forwarded to the proper party. He thanked the Fire Department for their work at the fire on Guernsey St. last night. He also thanked the Police Department for their role in maintaining peace during the protest and acknowledging a difficult situation.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver reported many phone calls with most of his day spent of Guernsey St. due to the fire. He also thanked the Fire Department for their hard work. He hopes this dispels the theory of an all-volunteer Fire Department, as a number of additional units were called outside of Norwich and only one answered.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported receiving many calls from constituents regarding the off-site smoking of employees from Norwich Rehab. The Director of the facility addressed the situation and it has improved in the last three weeks.

Ward 4

Ald. Kays-Biviano reported a call from the Nursing Home regarding facemasks. Ald. Kays-Biviano delivered some cloth masks from City Hall.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported a communication from a resident on East Main St. regarding the speed of the traffic. He contacted the Police Department and they promptly put up the speed trailer.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey reported many phone calls which he forwarded to Code Enforcement for resolution. He also thanked the Fire Department and said that having a paid Fire Department is one of the “perks” of living in the City of Norwich.

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

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #31 - 2020

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF BODY ARMOR FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT AND TRANSFER OF FUNDS

Ald. Kays-Biviano introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, there are six new Police Officers requiring body armor vests; and

WHEREAS, a quote has been received by the Police Department for six body armor vests; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, the purchase of six body armor for \$5,200 is authorized; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds in the 2020 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A5182.4020	Street Lights – Contracted Services	\$5,200

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3120.4070	Police – Clothing	\$5,200

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

Payment of June 2020 Bills

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

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>6/16/2020</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$867,708.85	\$41,438.52	\$909,147.37
Sewer Fund	16,263.61	8,999.42	25,263.03
Water Fund	13,064.80	11,639.12	24,703.92
Trust	29,483.54	-	29,483.54
TOTALS	\$926,520.80	\$62,077.06	\$988,597.86

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

Executive Session

Ald. Doliver **moved** to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual and contract negotiations at 6:51 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to exit executive session at 8:01 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 8:02 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.