

COMMON COUNCIL

September 15, 2020

Mayor Shawn Sastri presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on September 15, 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 Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Fire Chief Jan Papelino arrived 6:33 p.m.
Police Chief Rodney Marsh arrived 6:33 p.m.
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. Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the special meeting of August 4, 2020 and the regular meeting of August 18, 2020. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum

Many residents of Henry St. and Guernsey St. were present to address the safety issues pertaining to their neighborhood. Residents who spoke were David Conner, Jeff and Debi Squires, Sara Paltz, Rea French, Jeff Rassmussen, Chauntel Titus, Joanne Cutter, Denise Bullock and 2 who did not identify themselves, all having the same concerns. The group stated that because of the huge drug problem in their neighborhood they consistently find needles everywhere, vehicles and people all hours of the day and night with certain houses having 30-40 persons arriving every night, people walking through their backyards, fights, and cars "peeling out". In addition, there have been instances of persons urinating in public, foul language, a needle purposefully being stuck in the ground with the needle pointing up, garbage left out, and persons who have lost consciousness laying outside. They also relayed the stories of a woman with a knife going up and down the street and another who was impaired, naked and eating grass. Code Enforcement and the Police have been responding to the numerous calls, however the Code issues keep returning and because of bail reform those who have been arrested are right back the next day. Absentee landlords were brought up as well as the inability of landlords to evict these people due to COVID restrictions. The number of robberies is also a problem, particularly as thieves are working together to keep watch for Police and have a signaling system. Their safety and that of their children and grandchildren is of great concern, their frustration level is high. and they want to know what else can be done. Children cannot play outside and grandchildren are no longer allowed to visit. They have formed a neighborhood watch. One member asked if there were any resources for these [drug addicted] people. Ald. Doliver stated it is a County-wide issue; there is no homeless shelter or rehab facility in our area. Ald. Kays-Biviano stated that Mitchell St. has similar problems. The Council and Mayor understood their concerns and frustration and stated that we are now seeing the results of the bail reform and the best recourse is to contact Senators and Congressman. With the graduation of new Officers from the Academy, the Police Department will have a full roster soon and perhaps that could lead to more patrols in the area. Mayor Sastri thanked all for coming and the City will continue to have conversations about their concerns.

Public Hearing

Mayor Sastri opened the public hearing at 7:29 p.m. to hear public comment relative to Proposed Ordinance No. (C) of 2020 - Amending Chapter 99 of the City Code regarding Records Management. Hearing no comment the Public hearing was closed at 7:29 p.m.

Speakers - Shawn Smith – Shawn Smith of Interconnect Wireless is working with Frontier in order to improve broadband in the area. He stated that they are filling in the gaps of internet where Frontier cannot provide service. With many working and going to school from home, internet access is crucial. He is asking for a reasonable lease with the City to place a small, non-penetrating antenna on the water tower located on Wales (Dunne) Dr. which will be aimed toward South Plymouth. He referenced the recent report by Congressman Brindisi which stated South Plymouth has the slowest internet speed in Chenango County at .9 Mbps. E. Pepe stated he has contacted the Department of Health to make sure there is no issue. Once they have the go ahead from the DOH, Interconnect Wireless will send a contract to the City Attorney for his approval and the agreement will be placed on the Joint Committee agenda for approval at the Common Council meeting. J. Papelino asked if the solar farm would interfere with the signal and Mr. Smith said it would not.

Correspondence

- ◆ **Curb Cut at 37 Waite St.** – Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to approve the request for a curb cut at 37 Waite St. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **Halloween Trunk-or-Treat** – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the request from Minty's Candies & Treats to close East Park Place to traffic on October 31, 2020 from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. for a free Trunk-or-Treat type event for the children of Norwich. Details are still being worked on, but the event will adhere to CDC guidelines. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Traffic Commission – August
- ◆ Parks Commission – June
- ◆ Planning Commission – July and August

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

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Caldwell reported some communications regarding outstanding items in the process of being resolved. He thanked the Fire and Police Departments for their efforts and answering questions with these challenging times.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver thanked the Police, Fire and Code Enforcement Departments for their assistance on Henry and Guernsey Sts. He was sure progress will be made and felt neighborhood watches will become more prevalent. We don't have all the answers and just need to continue to work on this.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported no communications.

Ward 4

Ald. Kays-Biviano reported a curb cut request and a few reports of loud and fast cars on Silver and Mitchell Sts. She also expressed relief that the building on Mitchell and State Sts. has been demolished.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported no communications.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey thanked the DPW for patching Brown Ave. He thanked the Police and Fire Dept. for the temporary No Paring signs on Birdsall St.

Mayor Sastri congratulated Ald. Jeffrey on being nominated as Emerging Professional through Commerce Chenango.

Ald. Caldwell also thanked Ald. Jeffrey and his family for assisting in pulling weeds on South Broad St. and then continuing on to North Broad St. Ald. Doliver added that he has seen Paul Eaton and others cleaning up downtown as well. Ald. Kays-Biviano said a young man named Rashid has also been cleaning up Silver and Mitchell Sts. He told her he likes to help keep the City clean for which she thanked him. Ald. Caldwell hoped this will spur others to do the same. Mayor Sastri said he had met with Ann Coe of the B.I.D. and one of the things they discussed was doing a Spring and Fall cleanup.

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Motions

- ◆ **Waive Fire Inspection Fees** – Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the waiving of Fire Inspection fees until December 31, 2020 for the purpose of providing some relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **Waive Rental Inspection Fees** - Ald. Allaire **moved** to approve the waiving of Rental Inspection fees until December 31, 2020 for the purpose of providing some relief due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **Wheelchair sign for Hayes Street** – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the installation of wheelchair signs at each end of Hayes St. between Locust St. and Elm St. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #61 -2020

ADOPTING REVISED RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE LGS-1

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

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed Ordinance No. (C) of 2020 on August 18, 2020, to amend the §99-2 Adoption of State Schedule; Disposal of Records; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 15, 2020, in connection with said proposed ordinance now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. (C) of 2020 to amend the §99-2 Adoption of State Schedule; Disposal of Records, as presented to the Common Council on August 18, 2020 be and hereby is adopted, and is hereby designated as Ordinance No. 3 of 2020.

ORDINANCE NO. (3) OF 2020

ADOPTING REVISED RECORDS RETENTION AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE LGS-1

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

§99-2 Adoption of state schedule; disposal of records.

In accordance with Article 57-A of the state Arts and Cultural Affairs Law:

A.

The City does hereby adopt Records Retention and Disposition Schedule ~~MU-1~~ LGS-1 as developed by the State Archives and Records Administration of the State Education Department;

B.

Only those records will be disposed of that are described in such schedule and only after they have met the minimum retention period set forth in such schedule; and

C.

Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative, fiscal, legal or historical value to merit retention beyond established time periods.

New material is underlined, old material is struck through.

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

RESOLUTION #62 -2020

AUTHORIZATION FOR SUPERINTENDENT OF PUBLIC WORKS TO EXECUTE GRANT AGREEMENT FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NUTIRENT REMOVAL STUDY

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

WHEREAS, a grant from the NYS Environmental Facilities Corporation (EFC) for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Removal Study was applied for; and

WHEREAS, a grant was awarded for the study by the EFC in the amount of \$30,000; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the DPW Superintendent is authorized to execute a Grant Agreement with the NYS Environmental Corporation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Removal Study and any and all other contracts, documents, and instruments necessary to bring about the project and to fulfill the City of Norwich's obligations under the Grant Agreement.

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

RESOLUTION #63 -2020

AUTHORIZATION AND APPROPRIATION OF LOCAL MATCH FOR THE WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT NUTIRENT REMOVAL STUDY

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

WHEREAS, a grant from the NYS Environmental Corporation for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Removal Study was awarded in the amount of \$30,000; and

WHEREAS, a GIGP local match is a minimum of 10% of eligible costs and the EPG local match is a minimum of 20% of the grant award; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council authorizes and appropriates a minimum 20% local match as required by the Engineering Planning Grant Program for the City of Norwich Wastewater Treatment Plant Nutrient Removal Study. Under the EPG program, this local match must be at least 20% of the EPG grant award of \$30,000; and further be it

RESOLVED, the source of the local match, and any amount in excess of the required match, shall be Capital Reserves HR-42 Sewer Equipment. The maximum local match shall not exceed \$6,000 based upon a total estimated maximum project cost of \$36,000. The DPW Superintendent may increase this local match through the use of in-kind services without further approval from the City of Norwich.

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

RESOLUTION #64 -2020

AUTHORIZATION FOR PURCHASE OF FERNO AMUBLANCE STRETCHER

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

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has recognized a need for an assisted lift stretcher to reduce stress and injuries to staff; and

WHEREAS, a reduction in injuries may lead to a decrease in overtime hours; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has made certain recommendations; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the \$23,864.76 purchase of a Ferno stretcher with Pro cot retention system and integrated charging system and stair chair model 59T EZ Glide is approved; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the \$23,864.76 will be paid from A3401.2101 Ambulance Equipment.

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

RESOLUTION #65 -2020 **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LEXIPOL**

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

WHEREAS, the State of New York has mandated certain requirements regarding Police Reform; and

WHEREAS, the Police policies used by the City of Norwich Police Department need to be reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has made certain recommendations to comply with those mandates; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council authorizes entering into an agreement with Lexipol for the purpose of reviewing Police policies on a continual basis and to provide training.

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

Payment of September 2020 Bills

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to pay the September 2020 bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>9/15/2020</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$127,590.34	\$40,854.53	\$168,444.87
Sewer Fund	11,891.85	3,709.92	15,601.77
Water Fund	20,246.72	4,383.98	24,630.70
Trust	27,391.56	-	27,391.56
Debt Service		-	
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants		-	
Capital Projects	2,149.78	-	2,149.78
TOTALS	\$189,270.25	\$48,948.43	\$238,218.68

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

Adjournment

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.