

COMMON COUNCIL

January 19, 2021

Mayor Shawn Sastri presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on January 19, 2021, via Zoom.

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
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
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 6:37 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the special meeting of December 1 and the regular meeting of December 15, 2020. Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly approved ayes all.

Presentation – Community Advisory Board (for Police Reform)

Community Advisory Board (CAB) members Jen Westervelt, Adrienne Zornow, and Missy Beers presented the City of Norwich Police Department Collaborative Improvement Plan. Ms. Zornow began the presentation by going over the process CAB used in order to review the needs of the community, assess the Police Department, and create a collaborative plan that must be adopted, certified and sent to the State Budget Director by April 1, 2021. The CAB has met weekly since September 2020. First, internal polling was conducted to prioritize the 13 topic areas included in the guidebook from the Governor's office; out of the 13 areas, the 4 have not yet been addressed are Citizen Oversight & Other External Accountability, Internal Accountability for Misconduct, Reducing Racial Disparities & Build Trust, and Data, Technology & Transparency. Focus areas developed were Police Department Roles & Functions, Community Oriented Policing, and Department Culture & Accountability with short-term recommendations implemented within 18 months as well as long-term recommendations beyond 18 months. Ms. Westervelt continued with recommendations for Police Department Roles and Functions including creation of a new administrative position, filling a Detective position, reinstate a Parking Reinforcement/Animal Control position, using telemedicine for Mental Health evaluations as well as other help for individuals with mental health and substance abuse. Long-term would be to add part-time or full-time officers and implementing a streamlined approach to addressing community members impacted by mental illnesses and substance abuse. Discussion included how CAB proposed to fund the added positions (they did not have monetary figures), whether dispatch duties would be included in the administrative assistant, and some Civil Service issues. Ms. Beers continued with Community-Oriented Policing including regular rounds of bike and foot patrols, encourage ride-alongs, partner with the PBA in quarterly community engagements, annual Open House, explore establishing a school resource Officer or mentorship program, and continue the CAB beyond April of 2021. Other recommendations are to re-establish the Citizen's Police Academy, host community seminars on de-escalation strategies and community awareness when interacting with Police Officers. Ms. Zornow continued with Department Culture and Accountability stating that adding the recommended positions will allow for a better work/life balance for Officers, adopt the CAB-developed mission statement for the Police Department, ongoing training to include mental health first aid for law enforcement, verbal de-escalation and culture and diversity training, annually review the training budget line, change the shift-swapping policy and finalize the Chaplaincy program and develop a strategic communications plan. Ensuing discussion included the restrictive Civil Service rules as a barrier to hiring and the CAB's inability to recommend changes to the current Use of Force and Biased-Based Policing policies due to State or Federal Laws. Thanks were expressed to CAB for their hard work and commitment.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Community Advisory Board – December 1, 9, 16, and 23
- ◆ Parks Commission – September and October
- ◆ Water Commission – September and October
- ◆ Planning Commission – November and December
- ◆ Human Resources Report – October/November
- ◆ Fire Department Report - December

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

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Caldwell reported a few communications, one regarding a tree which the DPW responded to quickly.

Ward 2

Ald. Doliver reported a couple communications regarding an ongoing garbage issue which Code Enforcement has been responding to on a recurring basis.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire was thankful for the installation of a stop sign coming from the hospital. She also asked about the lack of street lights [in her ward] and wondered if NYSEG would be replacing them.

Ward 4

Ald. Kays-Biviano wondered on the progress of the Amazon lockers outside Norwich Copies Plus. The City Attorney reported he has spoken with Chris Hayes regarding different proposals.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported an issue during the recent snowstorm has been resolved. Another item is being referred to the proper department for resolution.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey thanked the Fire Department for their response on York St.; a code issue has been referred to the proper department; he thanked the Police Department for their patrols; a constituent questioned whether a proposal for the EV Charging stations has been received; status of NO PARKING sign on Griffin St.; he thanked Martha and Herb Ryan for the property development at 16 York St.

Ald. Caldwell stated that Fire Chief Papelino's father-in-law had passed away and to keep them in our thoughts.

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

Motions

- ◆ Continuity of Operations/Government Plan for Covid-19 Policy and Infectious Disease Control Policy - Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the revised Continuity of Operations/Government Plan for Covid-19 Policy and the Infectious Disease Control Policy. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.
- ◆ Change to 2021 Rules of Procedure - Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the change in Section 2 of the 2021 Rules of Procedure. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #1 - 2021
THE

AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR FLOW METER AT
WASTE WATER TREATMENT PLANT

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

WHEREAS, the internal flow meter at the Waste Water Treatment Plant inflates the flow which impacts the permitted flow number; and

WHEREAS, the purchase of a flow meter is needed to measure the recycle flow and reduce the inflated number; and

WHEREAS, the DEC has made certain recommendations and the Superintendent of Public works concurs with those recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the \$20,000 for the meter and electrical work would require a transfer from reserves; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfers in the 2021 Budget:

<u>From:</u>			
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Amount</u>
HR42	Sewer Equipment	Reserves	\$20,000
<u>To:</u>			
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>		<u>Amount</u>
G8130.2100	Waste Water Equipment		\$20,000

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

Payment of January 2021 Bills

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to pay the January 2021 bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>1/19/2021</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$141,105.94	\$48,793.27	\$ 189,899.21
Sewer Fund	16,522.35	18,597.84	35,120.19
Water Fund	24,488.69	8,394.12	32,822.81
Trust	30,997.73	-	30,997.73
Debt Service	2,106.08	-	2,106.08
TOTALS	\$215,220.79	\$75,785.23	\$291,006.02

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

Mayor Sastri reported he will not be seeking re-election this November.

Executive Session

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session to discuss the sale of property where price may be affected and the employment history of a particular individual at 7:49 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 8:45 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 8:46 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all.