

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
January 3, 2022

Present:

Mayor Brian Doliver
Ald. Matthew Caldwell
Ald. Fred Gee
Ald. Nancy Allaire
Ald. William Loomis
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 Anthony Testani
Fire Chief Jan Papelino

Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Media Representative: Sarah Genter

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Absent

Supervisor James McNeil

Ald. Jeffrey called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:46 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to approve the minutes of the December 7, 2021 meeting. Seconded by Ald. Gee, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department

EMS Mutual Aid – J. Papelino reported that since December 21, 2021 they have answered 19 Mutual Aid calls. Ald. Jeffrey questioned why Norwich would be responding to Cincinnatus. Papelino stated that Cortland should be responding and will be following up on this. He reported 3,283 calls in 2021, an increase over the 2,985 calls in 2020.

2007 Pierce Ladder in-service – J. Papelino reported that the new Ladder truck is now in service.

Fire Department Elections – J. Papelino reported Fire Department elections in December appointed Dale Smith as First Assistant and Rick Burton as Second Assistant.

AFG extension – J. Papelino reported that the AFG grant deadline has been extended to January 21, 2022. Three applications have been submitted for turnout gear, training for BLS members to become Paramedics and an ambulance.

Code Enforcement

46 Cortland St. – J. Papelino reported that 46 Cortland St. has been secured and an RFP will be out by the end of next week.

30 Cortland St. – J. Papelino reported that there have been a number of complaints about a tenant on the second floor. They worked with the Police and the landlord and the tenant has now been incarcerated.

68 East Main St. – J. Papelino reported the possibility of a convenience store at 68 East Main St. Although they have not seen plans, the current owner has two other stores. Ald. Zieno asked if there were any environmental studies. Papelino said it would be up to the owner to conduct any studies. Currently no permits are needed for the work being done so far.

18 Griffin St. – J. Papelino reported that 18 Griffin St. has been cleaned up and they will continue to monitor the property.

Status of Evictions – J. Papelino reported that 21 Henry St. and 61 Canasawacta St. were served on December 9th.

Ald. Caldwell asked if there were any EMS Mutual Aid calls into the City. J. Papelino reported there were and was probably less than 10 calls.

DPW

Water Main Replacement – E. Pepe reported that an application to USDA for \$6.5 million to replace the water mains had been submitted. Preliminary feedback from the USDA said most of the funds would be in the form of low interest loans with a small portion being grant funds. He met with former Mayor Sastri and D. DuFour to discuss this. Because the City already has \$500,000 in annual debt service for the new Filter Plant and Wheeler Tank projects it was decided to withdraw the application and try to narrow the scope of the water main project. Option 1 is to replace the water main on Broad St. from Prentice St. to Pleasant St. only at 1.09 miles costing \$3.7 million; Option 2 is to replace the water mains in the boundary of the DRI project which is Broad St. from Conkey Ave. to Pleasant St. and East Main St. from Broad St. to the railroad tracks at 0.87 miles costing \$2.9 million. His suggestion is Option 2. Ald. Allaire asked about infrastructure money. Mayor Doliver had contacted Congresswoman Tenney's office who said the first year would be other projects and infrastructure would be in year three. Pepe said the State is giving them a year, saying they can pave this year or the next depending on how this project goes. Mayor Doliver and D. DuFour both felt the City has a lot of debt on the Water side with the Filter Plant and Wheeler Water Tank projects. Ald. Jeffrey asked to keep the YMCA informed if there is a disruption to East Main St. due to Gus Macker. J. Papelino said they may be looking for an alternate site to hold Gus Macker. D. DuFour stated that former Mayor Sastri and Mayor Doliver have spoken to Kerri Greene of Commerce Chenango who said some funds may be available by applying through the DRI. E. Pepe said that whatever portion of water main replacement is not done prior to paving will probably wait another 20 years to avoid tearing up a freshly paved street. South Broad is the oldest water main having been installed in 1881; East Main closer to the bridge is newer with the portion closest to the East Park being older and more complicated to replace. There was discussion of the options suggested, doing the entire project (\$6.5 million) and timelines for completion. E. Pepe said that once started the timeline would be 3 months to completion for Options 1 or 2. E. Pepe stated there is \$450,000 in Reserves and \$670,000 in Covid money that can be used. Various ways to finance the project were discussed. D. DuFour explained there is currently \$6.9 million in outstanding principle from the other projects, the total fund is \$1.5 million and now you're talking about adding another \$6.5 million in debt (to do the entire project). She reminded this is a user-fee driven fund. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to the Common Council to spend up to \$3.7 million for water main replacement in the boundaries discussed. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved 5 – 1 with Ald. Zieno voting nay.

Executive Session – Ald. Caldwell **moved** to enter executive session at 7:35 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 8:58 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Zieno, approved ayes all.

Ald. Zieno **moved** to recommend the DPW Superintendent and the Director of Finance to move forward with the application for the USDA grant for water main replacement. Seconded by Ald. Caldwell, approved ayes all

Adjournment

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to adjourn the Joint Committee Meeting at 8:59 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all