

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
December 7, 2021

Present:

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

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
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Media Representative: Sarah Genter, The Evening Sun

Absent

Ald. Robert D. Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Ald. Caldwell called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 7:17 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes – Ald. Allaire **moved** to approve the minutes of the October 5 and November 1, 2021. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Dollars For Scholars – Ald. Zieno **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a request from Dollars for Scholars for Police assistance at their annual 5K run/walk on Sunday, May 15, 2022 from 8:45 a.m. to 10:15 a.m. The route will remain the same as the last 5 years which is Marconi, Midland, Hale, East River Rd., East Main and finishing on Midland. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Fat Bike Race – Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve a request from Chris Olds of the Chenango Greenway Conservancy to hold the Fatnango Fat Bike Extravaganza at Weiler Park on Sunday, February 13, 2022 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire. The Greenway Conservancy will still make application for use of the park and the corresponding fee and additional insurance certificate. The property used for the race, other than the park property, is already under license by the Conservancy. There was discussion of any damage to Park grounds due to weather conditions and Mr. Olds stated that if conditions warrant, the event will be postponed.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department

New Recruit Training Progress – J. Papelino reported that 1 recruit has completed training and another still has some EMS training to complete.

EMS Mutual Aid – J. Papelino reported 22 mutual aid calls, among them are: Oxford-9; Sherburne-4; Mt. Upton-1; DeRuyter-1

Thanksgiving Day Fires – J. Papelino reported responding to two fires on Thanksgiving morning, one on Lee Ave., the other on Jones Rd. and a Mutual Aid call to a Guildford fire.

Fire Department P.A. system – J. Papelino received a refreshed quote of \$6,664 from Otsego Telephone for a new P.A. system at the Firehouse and includes 15 speakers, 4 paging horns and 4 single line phones. The current system from Frontier does not go throughout the station. D. DuFour stated that a transfer would be necessary from Planning-Personal Services. Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve the transfer of funds for the P.A. system. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Code Enforcement

Chenango Memorial - J. Papelino reported that a Certificate of Occupancy walk-through is scheduled for Thursday.

Code violations - J. Papelino reported that the owner and resident of 18 Griffin St. were no-shows at Court. The judge allowed them 10 more days to clean up the property, at which point the City can then proceed with clean up if necessary and the fees will be added to the property taxes.

90 North Broad St. – J. Papelino reported that they have received engineering drawings for a Family Dollar Store at 90 North Broad Street.

Valley View- North Wing – J. Papelino reported that Valley View Nursing Home is doing significant renovations on the North Wing. A walk-through was done and some issues were discovered and they have been working with the Manager to remedy them.

Ald. Caldwell asked about the ongoing Frontier telephone issue with the Code Enforcement line. J. Papelino said that they believe the issue has finally been resolved after a year and several different technicians working on it.

DPW

Prentice St Pump Station Pump Replacement – E. Pepe reported that the 30-year old pump on Prentice St. needs to be replaced at a cost of \$10,826.60. Ald. Doliver **moved** to approve the purchase. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all. The purchase does not need to go to Council per the procurement policy.

MEO1 Refill – E. Pepe stated that the current MEO2 is moving to the position of Wastewater Attendant and would like to replace the MEO2 position with an MEO1 and asked for permission to fill the position. This was included in the 2022 Budget process. Ald. Doliver **moved** to refill with an MEO1 position. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Extend Fall Pickup - E. Pepe announced that the Fall pickup is being extended to December 31st from December 1st.

Ald. Zieno asked about the tree removal at 16 Grove Ave. E. Pepe said there are many trees scheduled for removal and are prioritizing the removal of them.

Police Department

School Safety Officer – R. Marsh reported that the NCSD Superintendent had reached out to him to discuss the consideration of a full-time School Resource Officer in the future. For now, the Superintendent said he would like to consider a hybrid position of School Safety Officer (armed and with body camera) that would be at the school two and a half hours per day Monday through Friday to the end of this school year. He thought he could make that work with current staffing levels. He explained he currently has an Officer working in the Evidence Room and that that Officer could go to the school for the two and a half hours. Many things would need to be worked out if a full-time School Resource Officer would continue in the following school year. Mayor Sastri asked what indicates the school needs a Resource Officer. R. Marsh stated that NCSD is one of the only schools in the area that does not have a School Resource Officer and felt it is overdue considering events that have happened around the country. The position had been discussed several years ago, but at that time the school was unwilling to pay for it – that has changed. The Officer would still be able to leave the school to respond an emergency call. For a full-time position there is a lot of training necessary, however in the short-term online training would be sought. Applications will be accepted and interviewed by Police and School Officials. There will not be a rotation of Officers - only one Officer would be selected in order to build a relationship with students. Discussion included that other schools Resource Officers are full-time and are either Retired Sheriff's or State Police; if eventually full-time what would the officer do when school is not in session; some parents are uncomfortable with Police in the school; possible overtime; what are the actual duties and what is the school trying to accomplish; conducting another Active Shooter Drill; what happens if the selected Officer is out of work; feedback to/from school; liability issues; job description duties; and the need for a written agreement with more details spelled out from the school. Mayor Sastri suggested reaching out to the other districts in the County to see how they are handling this and take a look at their agreements. R. Marsh stated that the school's attorney is drafting an agreement for review. It was discussed to have an Officer presence in and around the schools for brief visits until an agreement was reached.

BWC Contract Renewal – R. Marsh reported the contract with Exon for body worn cameras is expiring soon. The amount of \$60,000 was put into Equipment Reserves for the purchase of new BWC's. The quote from Axon for 20 cameras, docking stations, storage and licensing is for \$53,025. Ald. Zieno moved to approve the purchase and transfer of funds for the Body Worn Cameras. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all.

Finance Department

Gift to the City – D. DuFour received notification the Mr. Colman Merithew has bequeathed the sum of \$15,000 in his Last Will and Testament to the City of Norwich for the sole purpose of improving City-owned property and not to be used in the purchase of new property. Ald. Kays-Biviano **moved** to accept the generous gift from Mr. Merithew. Seconded by Ald. Doliver, approved ayes all.

Other Items

Traffic Commission Recommendation to Extending the speed zone for the NHS on Midland Dr. starting at Midland and Maydole St. – Ald. Doliver explained that the Traffic Commission recommends that the school speed limit on Midland Dr. move farther down near Maydole St. rather than its current location which is much closer to the school. Ald. Zieno was not in favor of extending the school speed limit that far into a residential areas. Ald.-elect Fred Gee who is on the Traffic Commission said that State Law states a school speed limit can appear ¼ mile before the school. That would be too far, but they felt that placing it near Maydole St. would slow traffic well before the crosswalk where many students are crossing. Ald. Zieno felt that moving the sign on Burr closer to Marconi would make more sense. He also suggested that signage with flashing lights would be a more appropriate fix than moving the speed limit. Ald.-elect Bill Loomis said that at the end of the school day there is chaos with cars parked 3 deep into the road. Ald. Doliver **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve the Traffic Commissions recommendation of extending the speed limit to Maydole St.. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved 4 – 1 with Ald. Zieno voting nay. Ald. Allaire **moved** to recommend the Traffic Commission investigate the cost of signs with flashing lights. Seconded by Ald. Zieno, approved ayes all.

Executive Session – Ald. Doliver **moved** to enter executive session at 8:41 p.m. to discuss the Employment History of a Particular Individual and Contract Negotiations. Seconded by Ald. Zieno, approved ayes all.

Ald. Caldwell **moved** to adjourn the executive session at 9:18 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all

RESOLUTION # 101 - 2021 TERMINATION OF EMPLOYEE

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

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee has made certain recommendations and,

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed the personnel history of Employee #154690; now, therefore
be it

RESOLVED, that the employment of Employee #154690 be terminated effective immediately.

Seconded by Ald. Doliver, and duly adopted, 5 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Adjournment

Ald. Allaire **moved** to adjourn the Joint Committee Meeting at 9:21 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Kays-Biviano, approved ayes all