

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
March 6, 2012

Present:

Ald. Robert Carey
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Thomas LoPiccolo

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Mayor Joseph Maiurano
EMO A. Jones

Absent:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn

Ald. Terry Bresina called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:05 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of February 7, 2012. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

10th Annual VHCA Walk-A-Thon Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Eric Schimke of the Valley Heights Christian Academy to conduct its 10th annual Walk-A-Thon from 9:15 a.m. until the end of the event on Saturday, May 19, 2012, from the Fire Station on East Main Street along East Main to the fairgrounds, with police escort.. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo and duly approved ayes all.

Spring Craft Festival Police Chief Joseph Angelino anticipates no problems with the Spring Craft Festival proposed by the BIDMA and Norwich Merchants Association. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence explained that his Department will conduct a walk-through prior to the event, and there will be an aisle kept open on the sidewalk between the displays at the curb and storefronts. Most of the displays will be on tables that can be quickly moved in case of emergency. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Roz DeRensis of Norwich B.I.D., with the participation of the Norwich Merchants Association, to hold a Spring Craft Festival on Saturday, May 12, 2012, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. on South Broad Street, and designation as a Special Event. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

Youth Bureau Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason presented materials exploring options for imposing a fee schedule for use of Kurt Beyer Pool to help offset repair costs. He noted that collecting cash at the site would pose problems of hiring personnel and safeguarding cash. Season passes could be implemented and purchased at City Hall. The Committees discussed the possibility of a concession stand at the pool. R. Mason noted that there is a vendor spot designated by ordinance at the park which is licensed annually; if any concession stand were contemplated, the ordinance would need to be revised and that spot eliminated. Ald. Bresina asked about anticipated public response to a fee system. R. Mason replied that he could not predict the response, but the City of Oneonta is also investigating these measures and he is in contact with them regularly. Ald. Carey revisited the idea of asking the Towns that contract with the City for the Youth Programs if they would be willing to contribute funds to maintain the pool. Mayor Maiurano stated he would set up meetings with the Towns to discuss this. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to postpone further discussion until meetings are conducted with the various Towns. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Police Department

Return of Officer from Military Duty Chief Angelino noted that an officer who has been deployed on military duty for two years will be returning to the Department in May. This will help reduce overtime.

Department of Justice Grant Application Chief Angelino reminded the Committees that he applied for a Department of Justice grant under the stimulus program, but that application was denied. He applied again, but the City's crime rate was too low and the application was again denied. He will be applying a third time. The grant would fund 75% of the salary of a new officer for three years. This will be important, as several officers are reaching retirement in 2014 and if replacements are not hired and do not complete schooling before then, overtime costs will increase greatly.

Finance Director of Finance William Roberts reported that five properties which incurred certain fees because of Codes violations were sold before those fees could be collected. Normally, such unpaid fees can be assessed against the property taxes (additional penalties cannot be so assessed); however, these properties were sold before the fees could be collected, and the new owners cannot be charged these fees. The Finance Department will adapt its procedures so that when purchasers of such properties request a tax search, notification that such charges are outstanding will be given, and purchasers may then be able to recoup those costs from sellers at closing. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approved a transfer of approximately \$2,000 for unrecovered Codes costs on certain properties. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

DPW

Bulk Water Rates DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported that the Council sets rates for the sale of bulk raw, chlorinated water to large-volume users. He recommended keeping last year's rate as no costs have changed and the City has not yet sold any bulk water to any users. Ald. Carey **moved** that the bulk water rate be raised 3%, to \$5.78 per 100 cubic feet, or \$0.0077 per gallon. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Gas Line Replacements - 2012 C. Ivarson reported NYSEG has proposed gas line replacements on five City streets in 2012. One will be on private property on Lackawanna Avenue. Another will be on Maple Street, which is undergoing major renovations. Two are located on Walnut and Diamond Streets under the streets, and NYSEG will repave. Two more are proposed to be located between curb and sidewalk on Cortland and Waite Streets. C. Ivarson noted that such placement has in the past led to damage in five places because of drilling through lateral lines; such placement also makes City access to sewer lines difficult or impossible. Ald. Carey **moved** that C. Ivarson should contact NYSEG and state that that the line on Cortland Street be placed under the street, which NYSEG must then repave; and the line on Waite Street should be placed under the sidewalk, which NYSEG must then replace. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all. Ald. Bresina asked if the City would have any liability in the case of the line to be replaced on private property on Lackawanna Avenue. C. Ivarson said he would ask the City Attorney to investigate that.

BID Manpower Request C. Ivarson reported the Norwich BID has requested the City hire an additional summer worker for certain projects in East and West Parks. Because the DPW already performs most of the work in these parks, he will contact BID and suggest that any additional work required be scheduled by the Department without hiring an additional summer worker.

SPDES Permit C. Ivarson explained that seasonal flow rates of water into the Wastewater Treatment Plant are regulated by the DEC according to the plant's capacity. Such rates are adjusted for wet and dry seasons. He presented to the Committees the section of the regulations regarding these rates. He noted that the March-April and September floods caused the flow rates to exceed those set by the DEC for the Norwich facility. The DEC has revised the flow rates for last September because of the flood, but has not yet revised flow rates to account for the flooding in March-April. Both the September and March-April floods were designated disasters by State and Federal authorities. He will continue discussions with the DEC to have those rates revised. If such revision is rejected, he will discuss revising the designation of the plant's capacity. If these options are rejected, financial penalties may be brought against the City.

Canasawacta Creek C. Ivarson reported he requested permission from the DEC to do work on eroding banks at Canasawacta Creek from the DEC in 2005 and 2009, but was denied both times. He will apply for such permit again, as the banks are in poor condition. He proposes using concrete slabs to shore up the banks. Cost may be up to \$14,000.

Adjournment

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.