

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
February 7, 2012

Present:

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

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason

Absent:

None

Ald. Terry Bresina called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:03 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of January 3, 2012. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Visitor Roz DeRensis, new Director of the Norwich B.I.D., introduced herself to the aldermen and expressed B.I.D. support for the proposed crafts fair to be sponsored by the Merchants Association, tentatively scheduled for the first Saturday in May. Police Chief Joseph Angelino and Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence have spoken with Patrick McNeil of the Merchants Association to ensure that booths will allow for safe pedestrian traffic. Ms. DeRensis stated the event will benefit the Merchants Association and vendor fees will be paid to that organization.

Correspondence

Allegro Run for the Arts Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Victoria Calvert Kappel of the Chenango County Council of the Arts to hold the tenth annual Allegro Run for the Arts on Saturday, May 5, 2012, beginning at 9:00 a.m., with attendant street closings on West Main and Guernsey Streets. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Christmas to Remember Parade of Lights Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Michael McCormack to hold the Christmas to Remember Parade of Lights on Saturday, November 24, 2012, beginning at 5:30 p.m., with closure of North and South Broad Streets from Division to Fair Streets, and designation as a Special Event. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Fireman's Parade Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Mary Weidman of the Chenango County Agricultural Society to hold the 4-H and Fireman's Parade on Tuesday, August 7, from 6:00 p.m. with closure of Midland Drive and East Main Street to the fairgrounds. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that a resident of the Town of Norwich contacted the Fire Department because their insurance company raised their insurance rates, stating the Department's ISO rating had been changed. Chief Chawgo said the rating has not changed, but that the last ISO survey was done in 1997. He has requested a new survey be performed. The Department's current rating is 4; he hopes this will be lowered to 3 or 3-1/2, which should improve residents' insurance rates.

Police Department Chief Angelino reported that officers have dispatched several skunks, which were later found to have either distemper or rabies. He warned that the warm winter has kept many skunks from hibernating. Chief Angelino then reported that the State has not yet issued its bid for new police vehicles, and in the meantime the Department's older

vehicles have lately required many repairs. The Committees discussed when the bid may become available, the possibility of purchasing vehicles from out of state, and the virtues of the various makes and models available.

EMO Director of Finance William Roberts reported that EMO A. Jones held a final meeting with FEMA and closed out the small projects related to last year's flooding. The City will receive approximately \$31,000 from FEMA to cover equipment and overtime costs.

Finance

2011 Year-End Budget Transfer W. Roberts presented to the Committees the year-end budget transfers required to close out the 2011 fiscal year accounts. He reviewed the items and explained that all are covered by appropriate positive residual overages in corresponding line items. He noted that the year-end result should be favorable.

Unredeemed Tax Properties Tax Sale W. Roberts presented to the Committees a list of tax-delinquent properties unredeemed from the year 2010 tax sale. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve the sale of unredeemed tax properties with an extension of the redemption deadline to March 30, 2012. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

DPW

Kurt Beyer Pool Improvements C. Ivarson reported that one bid was received for the Kurt Beyer Pool Improvements project. Ald. Carey **moved** that the bid be received and reviewed by the engineer and City Attorney. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

E-Waste C. Ivarson reported that the City has no space available to receive waste electronic products such as computers, monitors, etc. The County is working on setting up such a space.

Dam Inspections C. Ivarson reported that new rules and regulations were put in effect in 2010 by the DEC regarding inspection of dams. The City is required to have a dam assessment done by professional engineers; there are few firms qualified and willing to perform such inspections, owing to liability issues, but GHD, formerly Stearns & Wheeler, will perform the inspection by August 19. The cost will be \$43,600. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve proceeding with dam inspection by GHD and a transfer of funds from Water Fund Capital Reserves to cover the cost of \$43,600. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

RBC Project C. Ivarson reported that the RBCs are still showing inordinate weight gain, despite improvements and the installation of air blowers. The supplier and engineers are investigating.

Screw Pumps C. Ivarson reported that he met with FEMA regarding the flood damage to the screw pumps, and Siemen's has recommended replacing two screw pumps.

Bucket Truck C. Ivarson reported that the boom of the 1983 bucket truck cracked and has been welded, but that this is not a safe condition and the truck will need to be replaced sometime in the next year.

Bar Screen Repair C. Ivarson reported that the bar screen at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, which removes heavy solids from waste, installed in 1992, needs to be replaced. The work will be performed in-house and parts will cost \$10,148.96. Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to recommend Council approve the transfer of \$10,148.96 from Wastewater Capital Reserves to Account No. G8130.4040 to cover cost of a new bar screen. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Gas Compressor C. Ivarson reported that a gas compressor has failed. This will be replaced under warranty, but a new spare needs to be purchased. Cost will be \$7,600. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a transfer of \$7,600 from Wastewater Capital Reserves to cover cost of a spare gas compressor. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Community & Economic Development

2012 Sidewalk Program Community Development Special Todd Dreyer reported that the City has funded a sidewalk replacement program since 2007. The Committees concurred that the program should be continued in 2012. Mayor Maiurano urged aldermen to speak to residents in their wards who may not be aware of the program.

2012 Paint Program T. Dreyer reported that the City has sponsored a rebate of \$7/gallon up to 20 gallons for residents who paint the exterior of their homes. This is funded from Community Development grant funds. In 2011, 33 residents applied for rebates on 275 gallons of paint, for a cost of approximately \$1,900. Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to recommend Council approve the Paint Program for 2012 and set aside \$5,000 for rebates. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Pool Project The Committees discussed the possibility of implementing a fee structure to help fund current and future repairs to Kurt Beyer Pool. Various ideas were discussed, and Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason was asked to explore ways of determining usage.

Executive Session Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to enter executive session at 7:09 p.m. to discuss the credit history of particular individuals. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey **moved** to exit executive session at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to recommend Council approve an economic development loan of \$25,000 to purchasers of a business at 28 South Broad Street. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Carey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.