

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
July 5, 2011

Present:

Ald. Robert Carey
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey

Absent:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn

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
EMO A. Jones
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason

Ald. Terry Bresina called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:06 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of June 7, 2011. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

Correspondence

Gus Macker Police Chief Joseph Angelino explained that, due to the renovations in East Park, vendors for Gus Macker would be setting up in East Park Place, already designated to be closed to traffic. The Committees asked that vendors be reminded that no stakes could be driven into the asphalt of the street. Chief Angelino stated he would so inform them.

Francis Avenue Clambake Ald. Carey stated that a letter would be received before the July Council meeting regarding the annual Francis Avenue Clambake, with a street closing, probably to be held on August 12.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department Director of Finance William Roberts informed the Committees that a bequest from the estate of Grace S. Fernald in the amount of \$10,000 has been received by the Fire Department for the purpose of purchasing ambulance equipment. He explained that this would be used to purchase three new stretchers, and the funds have been deposited into Capital Reserves. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to accept the bequest of \$10,000 from the estate of Grace S. Fernald for ambulance equipment. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all. Ald. Deierlein asked if the stretchers were due for replacement. W. Roberts confirmed that the current stretchers do need to be replaced. Ald. Jeffrey expressed concern at the level of Capital Reserves for the Department. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to table this motion until the August Committees meeting when Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo could be present. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked that the status of Engine 231 be discussed at the August Committees meeting. Ald. Carey stressed that the engine must be assessed properly and mileage determined.

Ald. Jeffrey asked whether items declared surplus at the April Council meeting had been disposed of.

Police Department Ald. Jeffrey asked about surveillance cameras to protect the new bandstand in East Park from vandalism. Chief Angelino stated that security cameras are included in the Park renovation, and that the B.I.D. is upgrading the security camera currently in place near North Broad Street. Another new camera will be placed at Silver and East Main Streets. Ald. Jeffrey suggested trimming some trees in East Park to improve visibility. DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson will ask the B.I.D. to perform that trimming. Some tree limbs have already been trimmed.

Chief Angelino announced that interviews have been held to fill the vacant Assistant Police Chief position and recommended that Sgt. Scott Burlison be promoted. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Common Council approve the promotion of Sgt. Scott Burlison to Assistant Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all. The Committees discussed the desirability of officers residing within the City.

EMO EMO A. Jones reported that FEMA made a flood declaration regarding the April flash flood. The City did not sustain much damage, but the FEMA funds will cover that damage and overtime expenses. The agency denied the State's application for assistance for individuals; the State will probably appeal. A declaration regarding the June flood, which caused damage in Greene and Bainbridge, is also being sought. Ald. Jeffrey asked how much the City will receive. A. Jones said that would depend on overtime expenses, but the City should receive several thousand dollars.

Code Enforcement Ald. Jeffrey broached the subject of property owners who do not keep lawns mowed, as well as residents violating City Code by holding lawn sales for longer than the specified times. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence presented legislation from other municipalities regarding penalties for repeat violations of Codes and asked that the Aldermen review and offer suggestions for revision of the Code.

J. Lawrence reported that he will be meeting with Catholic Charities and other organizations to present a talk entitled "Being a Good Neighbor," to encourage Code compliance and responsible stewardship.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the status of replacing broken sidewalks on Hale Street. J. Lawrence replied that he is awaiting a second bid before proceeding.

Ald. Jeffrey asked when repaving would be completed. C. Ivarson stated that the finish date for repaving is August 30.

DPW

Flow Meters - WWTP and Chemical House C. Ivarson reported that an electrical storm caused damage to several pieces of equipment, including the flow meters at the wastewater treatment plant and the chemical house on Borden Avenue. A new flow meter for the WWTP will cost approximately \$5,265 and for the chemical house approximately \$9,500, which should be covered by insurance. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approve a transfer of funds for purchase of a new flow meter for the WWTP and chemical house. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

RTU Replacement C. Ivarson reported that the RTU on Borden Avenue, installed in 1996, must be replaced due to damage from the electrical storm, as spare parts are no longer available for it. This will cost approximately \$10,666. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of a transfer of funds for the purchase of a new RTU. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

UV Disinfection - WWTP C. Ivarson reported that the State has requested chlorine gas no longer be used for disinfection, for safety reasons. This will be a good move for the City, as UV requires no chlorine, no pumps, and less manpower to handle. Other disinfection options would require a new building and tank installation. C. Ivarson will investigate the engineering and installation costs, but estimates the change will cost approximately \$400,000 - \$500,000.

Downtown Lighting C. Ivarson reported that the cost of converting the 31 decorative lights downtown for 250-Watt lighting will be approximately \$12,000. The Committees discussed options for upgrading the lighting and decided to wait until the 2012 budget year. C. Ivarson suggested replacing the old 150-Watt bulbs, which may have dimmed over time. The Committees concurred.

Backhoe Transmission C. Ivarson reported that the transmission of the backhoe failed and must be rebuilt, which will cost \$2,000 to \$5,000.

Energy Supplier Broker Ald. Carey reviewed the reasons for considering changing brokers for energy suppliers and that the Committees are waiting for more information on other potential options.

Entrance Signs C. Ivarson reminded the Committees that the Parks Commission presented a proposal for two entrance signs for the City, at a cost of \$9,700. The Commission has presented a new proposal for differently designed signs at a cost of \$6,200. The Committees agreed to return the proposal to the Parks Commission for a decision on which design to purchase. C. Ivarson stated that no response has been received from the two property owners where the signs could be optimally located, so that they will likely have to be placed on City property.

Other Items

Regional Computer Recycling & Recovery C. Ivarson presented a proposal from Regional Computer Recycling & Recovery, requesting use of space at a City facility to receive electronic items for recycling. He stated that he did not have the space or the manpower to handle this request. The Committees rejected the proposal.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about progress at 24 E. Main Street. J. Lawrence responded that sheet rock has been installed and outside restoration should begin soon. There has been only one minimal overage.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the Brown Avenue housing project. J. Lawrence replied that it is proceeding on schedule. W. Roberts stated that the bridge loan to the Housing Authority will close this week.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the construction on Front Street. J. Lawrence responded that the project is on hold until school resumes. The students did interior work throughout the winter.

Ald. Jeffrey asked if the third floor of the firehouse could be easily equipped with lighting, ceilings, electricity, and carpeting, because there is a demand locally for such large spaces to be rented for training and other functions. C. Ivarson replied that such work would probably cost from \$42,000 to \$45,000. He will present estimates at a future meeting.

Executive Session

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to enter executive session at 7:13 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey **moved** to exit executive session at 7:22 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Common Council accept a proposal from Martin E. and Donna J. Morse to purchase a delinquent tax property located at 46 Grove Avenue in Norwich. . Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all. The Committees requested that the contract for such purchase should direct that the property be kept single-family as proposed by the Morses, if legally possible.

Adjournment

Ald. Carey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 7:25 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.