

**CITY OF NORWICH**  
**JOINT MEETING of the**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and**  
**FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES**  
May 3, 2011

Present:

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

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  
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer  
Mayor Joseph Maiurano  
EMO A. Jones

Absent:

None

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Ald. Terry Bresina called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:07 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to approve the minutes of the Joint Committee meeting of April 5, 2011. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

**Correspondence**

**Colorscape Chenango** Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Peggy Finnegan to hold the annual Colorscape Chenango Arts Festival with attendant street closings from Friday, September 11, through Sunday, September 13, 2011. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

**Dairy Day Parade** Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Marge Davis to hold the Dairy Day Parade on Saturday, June 18, 2011, beginning at 11:00 a.m., with the 5K "Milk Run" road race beginning at 9:30 a.m., with police assistance. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

**BID Cruise-In** Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Pegi LoPresti of the BID to hold the annual Cruise-In on Friday, May 27 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. in East Park with blocking of certain parking areas. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

**Valley Heights Christian Academy Walk-A-Thon** Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to approve a request from Eric Schimke of Valley Heights Christian Academy to hold its annual Walk-A-Thon on Saturday, May 14, 2011, with police escort. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

**Memorial Day Parade** Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a request from Frank Revoir of the American Legion to hold its annual Memorial Day Parade on Monday, May 30, 2011, from 9:30 a.m. to the end of the parade. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

**Department Head Reports**

**Fire Department** Ald. Jeffrey asked about the Department's financial status, ambulance recovery fees, and if any overtime was incurred because of flooding. Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo replied that overtime was minimal. Director of Finance William Roberts stated that ambulance recovery revenues have been good, but it is too early to project totals; Ald. Jeffrey asked that a report be prepared for the June meeting. Ald. Jeffrey asked the status of Engine 231. Chief Chawgo said the engine is being inspected. Chief Chawgo remarked that the recent Volunteer Open House yielded 708 applications from interested parties.

**Police Department** Police Chief Joseph Angelino reported that overtime has been kept low but may increase over the summer. The Department is keeping fuel costs in check by using bike and foot patrols. Ald. Carey asked about the

proposal to receive payments from special events for officer duty, with a possible hourly rate of \$50, and asked if the State could declare such work not be considered overtime. Chief Angelino explained that much of the work would not be overtime, because on-duty officers would be assigned to those positions, other officers would be on flex time, and only officers brought in beyond their standard shifts would be paid overtime. He assured the Committees that the City would not lose money on such assignments.

**EMO** EMO A. Jones reported on the flooding from last week's rains. FEMA will be doing a damage assessment; if losses reach FEMA thresholds, FEMA funds may be available. The Red Mill Bridge on Pleasant Street was damaged (following the meeting, the bridge collapsed during heavy rains). The County owns the bridge and will decide if it should be repaired. A. Jones noted that Canasawacta Creek on Wednesday was running at 8 feet, rose to 17 feet at 2 a.m., at 5:30 a.m. went from 12 feet to 32 feet, and rose 11.2 feet in one hour. Ald. Jeffrey thanked A. Jones for his work.

DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported that South Broad Street Park was silted and the grass would probably die. Prentice Street may have sunk. The access road at Black Bridge was washed out. At the 16" water main, large rocks placed there have slid away, but the Department can repair this. Kurt Beyer Pool was not flooded, though the surrounding area was.

**Code Enforcement** Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence reported that a contractor asked if the City would be waiving permit fees for replacement of furnaces and hot water tanks damaged by the flood, as was done in 2006. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Council waive permit fees for replacement of furnaces and hot water tanks damaged by the flood. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey, in regard to a presentation by Dave Leidy of Usource, a utilities bidding procurement company, made at the March Committee meeting, noted that the Codes office supplied breakdowns of gas/electricity usage at City buildings and remarked on the wide variance in supply costs for energy at different buildings. W. Roberts responded that he is still researching other such sources. Ald. Carey asked for square footage of all City buildings so that energy efficiencies could be explored.

Ald. Jeffrey remarked that several multifamily properties in Ward 6 have not yet mowed, despite the constant rain and flood. He suggested that the height of grass requiring mowing as specified in the Code be lowered to force property owners to mow more frequently.

**Finance** W. Roberts reported that final costs of bid alternates and change orders for the City Hall and Firehouse modifications have been fixed, requiring a transfer of \$16,367. C. Ivarson reviewed the changes and bid alternates and noted that the outside Firehouse wall will need to be waterproofed every three or four years. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approve a transfer of funds to cover final costs on the City Hall and Firehouse modifications. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about tax-sale properties. W. Roberts responded that the City Attorney is working on those.

### **Community Development**

**Sidewalk Program** Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported that nine properties have signed up for the sidewalk replacement program and urged Aldermen to contact residents. Ald. Jeffrey commented that many multifamily residences with absentee landlords have sidewalks in need of repair and should be considered businesses. Mayor Maiurano suggested that Aldermen go to property owners and urge them to sign up for the program. T. Dreyer reminded the Committees that addresses could be forwarded to him and he would send letters to landlords urging them to participate in the program.

**Emergency Home Repair Program** T. Dreyer stated that some emergency home repair loans cannot be prepared before a Committee meeting but, due to their emergency nature, should not be forced to wait an extra month in order to be presented to the Committees. He requested permission in certain circumstances to bring such requests directly to the Council. The Committees agreed that such a procedure would be acceptable. T. Dreyer then reported that in several situations emergency work has had to be performed immediately, requiring retroactive approval from the Council, and requested guidance on how to proceed in such situations. The Committees agreed that T. Dreyer and the Mayor may make such decisions as necessary, and if any questionable situation arises, a special meeting of the Common Council may be called to render a more timely decision.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the progress at 24 East Main. J. Lawrence replied that a delay had been incurred for approximately a week and a half, but that cost overruns have been minimal, approximately \$800, incurred because of

sidewalk work and because NYSEG required that power lines be placed underground. Ald. Jeffrey then asked about 49 Front Street. J. Lawrence stated that BOCES students are back at work, plumbing and electrical will be installed, and the roofing will be done, weather permitting.

Ald. Jeffrey then asked about the NYSEG property being rehabilitated. Mayor Maiurano responded that the crane has been removed, the property cleaned, and new soil will be brought in and grass sown.

## **DPW**

**Street Paving 2011 Bids** C. Iverson reported that two bids were received for the 2011 street paving project. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council award the 2011 street paving bid to the lowest qualified bidder, Suit-Kote of Cortland, NY, in the amount of \$127,845.17. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

**Skating Rink Flooring** C. Iverson reported that the carpet in the skating rink is in very poor condition and should be replaced. A proposal has been received from Giltner's to install a special matting that can withstand skate blades. This matting has a 20-year life and would cost approximately \$4,800, to be paid for as a Municipal Buildings line item. Ald. Jeffrey suggested that the R. C. Smith foundation be approached for possible funding, as this is a youth project. Mayor Maiurano said he would contact them.

**Street Cut Standards** C. Iverson presented a draft change to the City of Norwich Standards as regards sidewalk materials and street cuts, following a request from Ald. Jeffrey and the Committees. The proposed changes would add the following paragraph in the section regarding Saw Cutting:

The utility requesting more than one street cut shall enter into an agreement with the City to have the City mill and pave the entire street curb to curb the following year at a percentage of the Bid Price for the following years work. The City Common Council shall set the percentage, now set at 20 %.

and make the following change on page 3, paragraph 2:

Change to: walking area of concrete (asphalt for temporary work areas only)

Ald. Jeffrey reiterated remarks made at a prior meeting that the City should not bear the costs of private corporations doing business. C. Iverson reminded the Committees that any changes to the Standards would apply to all companies making street cuts and to the City as well, as standards must be conformed to equally by all. He reviewed street cuts to be made by utilities in 2012. He further suggested that funds be found to set aside for paving, as CHIPS funding may decrease due to State budget issues. The Committee discussed speaking with companies about the City's requirements. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve proposed changes to the City of Norwich Standards as regards sidewalk materials and street cuts. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

**NYSEG Temporary Easement** C. Iverson reported that NYSEG has requested a temporary easement to access an 8" gas main near the Chenango River on Hosbach Trail.

**Filter #4** C. Iverson reported that Filter #4 at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, installed in 1998, was planned to last ten years. The tank was installed in 1904. The concrete in the filter basin has rotted out, endangering the filter. He will attempt a workaround, but if the filter fails, the plant's capacity will be greatly reduced.

**Pool Project** C. Iverson recommended transferring funds budgeted for the vacant Parks position to pool reserves. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council approve a budget transfer of such funds to pool reserves. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

**Tennis Courts** C. Iverson reported that two proposals for renovation of the tennis courts have been received, one for approximately \$40,000 with a three-year guarantee, and one for \$27,600 with a one-year guarantee. Ald. Jeffrey suggested that, due to other financial commitments, the renovation be postponed until 2012. The Committees concurred.

**County Fairgrounds Water Main** C. Iverson reported that the County Fairgrounds management has requested the City donate labor for installation of a water main on their property. W. Roberts questioned whether it is legally permissible for the City to donate labor to a privately held property. He will investigate.

**RBCs Project** C. Ivarson reviewed a problem involving increased efficiency of new RBCs installed, increasing the weight of media on certain wheels, which has caused one shaft to break. Representatives of Delaware Engineering, Dave Ohman and Bill Brown, proposed installation of sidecars and blowers in the RBCs, which will blow air onto the wheels, removing excess weight to acceptable levels without decreasing removal of nitrogen and ammonia. Based on under-budget costs for the rest of the project, the net impact of this modification will be \$216,000, and the grand total final project cost will still be less than originally projected. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approve modifications to the secondary train of the RBCs under the project. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about lighting in the downtown area. C. Ivarson stated he would provide costs for changing the sockets in the decorative streetlights at the June Committee meeting.

**Executive Session**

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session at 7:55 p.m. to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey **moved** to exit executive session at 8:17 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

**Adjournment**

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.