

**CITY OF NORWICH**  
**PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE**

February 26, 2009

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman  
Ald. Carey  
Ald. Deierlein

Also:

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

Absent:

None

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Ald. Bresina called the February meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 7:01 AM on February 26, 2009, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

**Approval of Minutes**

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2009, Committee meeting. Seconded by Ald. Carey, duly approved ayes all.

**Visitors**

Walt Rogers of Walter O. Rogers Insurance Agency LLC asked the Committee to readdress a request for a curb cut at 26 Fair Street to allow more parking. He explained the mechanics of the proposed change. Ald. Carey asked if there is parking available behind the building. Mr. Rogers responded that there could be, but there is no automobile access to the rear because the driveway for the property is a shared driveway and too narrow to allow access to the rear of the building, while the driveway on the other side belongs to the adjoining property. Chief Joseph Angelino commented that parking in front of the building will be difficult because of the amount of parking on the street. Mr. Rogers said that the spaces would be clearly defined and signs would be posted. DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson noted that the sidewalk must not be angled, as is a driveway apron. The Committee suggested that Mr. Rogers continue his attempts to contact the owner of the adjoining property to propose access to the rear of the building and asked that he keep the Committee informed of his progress. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence stated he would assist Mr. Rogers in contacting the property owner.

**Correspondence**

**Norwich High School – Mock Crash**

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend Common Council receive and approve a request received from Kelly Collins-Colosi and the Norwich High School SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions) to arrange a mock crash with Police and Fire Department assistance on Friday, May 22, 2009 at 1 PM, with a rain date of Tuesday, May 26, 2009. Seconded by Ald. Carey, duly approved ayes all. Chief Angelino explained that a mock crash is held every two years for high school juniors and seniors before the prom and is always well attended. The students act the parts and the Police and Fire Departments assist and narrate. It is performed during normal hours.

**Norwich-Oxford Little League**

Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend Council receive and approve a request from Andrea J. MacIntosh of the Norwich-Oxford Little League for a parade to be held on Saturday, May 2, 2009 from East Main Street to Norwich High School beginning at 9:30 AM through the end of the parade, with police escort. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.

## **Department Head Reports**

**Fire Department** Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that the volunteer firefighters have offered to provide \$10,000 toward the purchase of a new brush truck with a crew cab, to replace an older vehicle that only seats two, which often results in a second vehicle being sent to brush fires to bring additional personnel. Current State bid prices for such a vehicle are approximately \$22,000. The Committee discussed the balance of the Department's Capital Reserves following the purchase of a new pumper apparatus. In response to a question from Ald. Carey, Chief Chawgo said the vehicle responds to brushfires almost daily in early spring and late fall. The current brush truck is also used by the Police Department. Chief Chawgo will investigate this further for other possible funding sources (the City is curtailing any non-essential equipment expenditures during the uncertain economic times).

Chief Chawgo also mentioned that the firehouse training room is being prepared for FASNY training.

**EMO** A. Jones discussed problems with ice jams that could lead to flooding. He distributed photographs of ice jams and a graph that showed the new stream gauges reacting immediately to rises in the water level. A. Jones then noted that the National Weather Service has designated Norwich a StormReady community the last eight years. In response to a question from Ald. Deierlein, A. Jones responded that this does not lead to any financial benefit, but can help with ISO rating. Ald. Carey asked about the new flood map. A. Jones replied that FEMA is behind schedule and a draft will likely not be ready before the end of the year.

## **DPW**

### **Liquid Chlorine Bids**

Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for liquid chlorine to the low bidder, Jones Chemicals Inc. of Merrimack, NH, at \$60/150# cylinder, and awarding the bids for bulk sodium hypochlorite at \$.996/gal. and 55-gallon drums at \$1.074/gal. to the low bidder, Slack Chemical Co., Inc., of Carthage, NY. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.

### **Filter Media Bid**

Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for filter media to the sole bidder, Anthrafilter (U.S.) Inc. of Niagara Falls, NY, for a total bid amount of \$13,175.55. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all. C. Ivarson commented that his anticipated cost had been in the range of \$14,000.

### **Manpower**

C. Ivarson noted that a new guide, not yet adopted by the NYS DEC, would require seven full-time employees at the WWTP. Ald. Carey suggested that he prepare a projection to demonstrate the budgetary impact of such a requirement.

### **RBCs Update**

C. Ivarson reported that he and the City Attorney have met with the DEC and reduced the fine from \$10,000 to \$5,000, and reduced a potential fine from \$50,000 to \$25,000. He is awaiting a new package regarding the consent order. He also noted that the City will receive a \$500,000 federal appropriations grant from Congressman Arcuri to assist the \$4.5 million project. This is not a part of the stimulus program. The City is also working for a low-interest loan from the State Revolving Fund. Director of Finance William Roberts mentioned that there is a small chance of receiving additional grant funds under the stimulus program.

### **Street Paving 2009**

C. Ivarson said that the stimulus package has restored available CHIPS funds to 2008 levels. He therefore recommends that the original paving schedule be used for paving in 2009. Ald. Carey asked whether Sunset Drive would be included. C. Ivarson replied that Sunset is a special case because it has no base and there are not sufficient funds to repave it at this time. He will include in the paving contract a provision stipulating that if the stimulus funds do not materialize, the project will be cut back. Ald. Carey **moved** to approve proceeding with the bids for the scheduled paving. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.

### **Filter Energy Services**

C. Ivarson reported that Stearns & Wheeler has requested the City do a water filter efficiency study. The study will take 14 months and will involve approximately \$2,600 of in-kind services, with no cash expense to the Water Fund.

### **Water/Wastewater System**

Ald. Carey asked if a plan is in place to restore the City's entire water and wastewater system. C. Ivarson noted that approximately 70% of the water system and approximately 80% of the wastewater system is in poor condition. Ald. Carey asked about stimulus funds for restoring the system, and suggested the City needs to prepare over the next ten years for such a project and its attendant paving, sidewalks, and curbs.

### **Repairs to City Hall**

C. Ivarson reported that no outside grant money is available for repairs to City Hall and requested the Council's input on how to proceed.

## **Code Enforcement**

### **Waiver of Heating Permit Fees**

J. Lawrence reported that the Plumbing Board recommended extending the waiver of permit fees for installation of heating units. He stated that the City has issued four permits since January 1. Ald. Carey emphasized his position that the waiver for new heating units should not be extended past March 31. The Committee agreed.

### **Revenue**

J. Lawrence reported that revenue from building permits for 2009 to date was \$1,845, compared to \$364 in 2008, and for plumbing/heating in 2009 to date, \$1,095, compared to \$325 in 2008, for a total of \$2,940. Ald. Carey reiterated that the waiver should not be extended.

### **Revision of Abandoned Vehicles Ordinance**

J. Lawrence proposed a revision of the Abandoned Vehicles Ordinance to clarify procedures. He suggested a permit be issued for unregistered vehicles. Ald. Carey asked that this not be included in the revision. Ald. Deierlein questioned allowing any unregistered vehicles. After further discussion, Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Council receive and set a public hearing to discuss a revision to the abandoned vehicles ordinance, excluding the permit requirement. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

### **Revision of Garbage Ordinance**

J. Lawrence proposed a revision of the Garbage Ordinance to clarify procedures and allow for quicker response to violations. The Committee discussed procedures for ticketing offenses and whether setbacks should be set for dumpsters. J. Lawrence stated that setbacks should be discussed as part of the zoning ordinance and that he would bring this to the Planning Committee's attention. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Council receive and set a public hearing to discuss a revision to the garbage ordinance. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

### **Ordinance to Determine Policy for Street Naming and Addressing**

J. Lawrence presented an ordinance regarding the policy of street naming and addressing. He reported that the identical document was passed by motion of the Common Council on June 20, 2006, but should be adopted as an ordinance to be incorporated into the Code. Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Council receive and set a public hearing to discuss the ordinance to determine policy for street naming and addressing. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

### **Restore New York Update**

J. Lawrence reported that Delaware Engineering is developing plans for houses to be built on the three properties in the Restore New York program and they should be available within the month. He also noted that surveys of the properties are required to determine elevations to comply with FEMA requirements.

### **Rental Rehab Program**

J. Lawrence noted that the property at 91 N. Broad Street will be undergoing improvements as part of the Rental Rehab Program.

Mayor Maiurano commented that the City will be receiving funds for sidewalk improvement under the Safe Routes to Schools program.

J. Lawrence remarked that 63 complaints have been received to date in 2009 and 136 inspections have been done. Fire inspections were started following the certification of the ordinance inspection officer; 170 will be done per year for three years. J. Lawrence further noted that the three-year Rental Registry registration will expire in 2010 and that there is no fee to re-register as long as registration is completed within a predetermined period.

### **Adjournment**

Ald. Carey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:55 AM. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.