

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

March 26, 2009

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman
Ald. Carey (arr. 8:12)
Ald. Deierlein

Absent:

None

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
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Mayor Joseph Maiurano

Ald. Bresina called the March meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 7:04 AM on March 26, 2009, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2009, Committee meeting. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, duly approved ayes all.

Visitors

None.

Correspondence

Allegro Run for the Arts

Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend Common Council receive and approve a request received from Victoria Calvert Kappel of the Chenango County Council of the Arts to conduct the annual Allegro Run from 8:00 a.m. until the end of the run on Saturday, May 2, 2009, with the following street closings: West Main Street from Elm to Broad Streets closed to traffic and parking from early morning until the end of the race (approximately 10:15 a.m.); Guernsey at West Main at the start of the race; no parking signs going south on Broad Street for a running lane; and the assistance of the Police Department at the intersections of Elm and West Main Streets, West Main and Canasawacta, and Canasawacta and Pleasant Streets. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, accepted ayes all.

B.I.D. – Easter Egg Hunt

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to receive and approve a request from Pegi LoPresti of the Norwich B.I.D., in conjunction with the Norwich Merchants Association and the Maydole Hose Company of the Norwich Fire Department, to hold an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 11, 2009, in East and West Parks, and to block off the parks from traffic from 8 AM to 11 AM. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

PriceChopper – Easter Egg Hunt

Police Chief Joseph Angelino received word that PriceChopper would like to hold an Easter Egg Hunt in the South Broad Street Park. Because no further information has been received as to possible dates or times, the Committee took no action on this item. Chief Angelino and Chief Tracy Chawgo will contact PriceChopper to discuss this matter.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department Fire Chief Chawgo reported that the Department has three new certified ALS providers and three more firefighters will be testing soon. Chief Chawgo is working on a potential

FEMA grant for communications equipment, fire prevention supplies, and possibly the purchase of a new brush truck. Chief Chawgo spoke about a law that stipulates a fire apparatus may respond to an emergency call driven by a person without a CDL, but the truck must be returned by a CDL driver. Many groups are lobbying to change this law. While it is not being enforced, it could pose a liability issue in the event of an accident. This is not currently an issue for the Department, but may impact the volunteer companies.

Chief Chawgo is meeting frequently with various regional EMS groups to encourage their independence. Many are lacking some vital emergency-response services, which the Norwich Fire Department then must cover.

Police Department Chief Angelino reported that he is applying for grants under the stimulus program. Police training generally runs from February through June.

Chief Angelino noted that police training is now held near Oneida, and several officers are enrolled.

Chief Angelino reminded the Committee that from April through the Christmas Parade, there are events scheduled in the City for almost every weekend that will require police involvement. Ald. Deierlein asked if the Department is reimbursed for its services by event organizers. Chief Angelino replied that all the events are now conducted by experienced organizers. Some events, such as the Gus Macker tournament, do pay nominal special-event fees, but with the current schedule of 12-hour shifts, overtime is reduced to a minimum. The largest event is the County Fair. Also, these events generate revenue for the City.

DPW

Salt Spreader Bid

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for salt spreaders to the low bidder, Chemung Supply Corp. of Elmira, NY, in the amount of \$9,998.00 for two spreaders. These will replace the spreaders used now, which are 22 years old. The Department will install the spreaders. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, duly approved ayes all.

2009 Street Rehab Program: Grinding and Paving Bid

Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for street paving to the sole bidder, Suit-Kote, of Cortland, NY, for a total bid amount of \$174,085.93. This amount is within budget if CHIPS funds are not cut. DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson noted that the contract stipulates changes in the paving schedule if CHIPS funds are cut back. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.

Dump Truck Bid

Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for a new dump truck to the lowest bidder meeting specifications, Oneonta Ford LLC, of Oneonta, NY, in the amount of \$52,661.00. He noted that the lowest bidder, Benedict Corp., did not meet the specifications. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all. C. Ivarson noted that because this price is over the amount budgeted, a transfer from capital reserves will be necessary.

Engineering Filter Plant

C. Ivarson recommended an addition to the existing contract with Stearns & Wheler to conduct a survey of the property in 1-foot increments, with soil boring, to ensure the site will support the buildings planned. This will keep the project on track with the stimulus program, and no further work should be done without an RFQ. Price of such work will be approximately \$42,000. C. Ivarson noted that USDA Rural Development has changed its grant limits from \$500,000 to \$2,000,000, and is making 0%-interest loans available. Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve such an addition to the contract with Stearns & Wheler. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all. Director of Finance William Roberts and C. Ivarson discussed the advisability of starting a capital project account for the filter plant project if adequate grant funding becomes available.

Miscellaneous DPW Items

C. Ivarson reported that three serious leaks were detected in the water system. Two have been repaired. The third leak cannot be repaired until the exact location has been ascertained, because it is somewhere under North Broad Street.

C. Ivarson has removed a request for a 2010 appropriations grant for the RBCs project, as requested by Congressman Arcuri's office. Congressman Arcuri's office has already committed to an appropriations grant for 2009 in the amount of \$500,000, and a second grant for this project is unlikely. Mayor Joseph Maiurano noted that the City is cooperating with the County on a request for grant funds for restoring the railroad line.

C. Ivarson asked for instruction on how to proceed with repairs to City Hall. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to refer the matter to the Finance/Personnel Committee for review. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

C. Ivarson presented a table detailing possible street repaving over the next three years under the CHIPS program.

As requested at the February Public Safety/Public Works Committee meeting, C. Ivarson presented a chart showing possible infrastructure needs, renovating the City's water system with associated curb, sidewalk, and paving work, over the next ten years. The General Fund total cost would be \$1,673,121, Water and Wastewater total cost would be \$ 8,749,625.

C. Ivarson then presented a table showing the possible cost impact if the NYS DEC adopts the Northeastern Guide for Staffing Needs at Wastewater Treatment Plants, necessitating the addition of three employees for a cost of \$106,641.60, without benefits.

Code Enforcement Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence, at the request of Ald. Carey, opened the subject of fees for fire inspections to businesses within the City. He again noted that the City of Norwich is the only municipality that does not charge for such inspections. Fire Chief Chawgo mentioned an option of not charging for the initial visit, but charging for repeat visits to ensure violations had been corrected. J. Lawrence noted that all other municipalities simply charge for each inspection. Businesses and multi-unit dwellings must be inspected at least once every three years, places of assembly must be inspected annually. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to refer fire inspection fees with a strong recommendation for approval to the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

Other Items

City Band Performances

Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend Common Council approval of the City Band's request to use the gazebo and City facilities in East Park for band concerts scheduled for each Friday evening commencing July 10 and ending August 14. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all. Chief Chawgo noted that in inclement weather or due to other circumstances, band concerts will be held in the firehouse.

Residential Painting Incentive Program

Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported that in the past the Common Council has expressed interest in a program to encourage homeowners to paint their houses. He presented a plan that would provide homeowners a \$5/gallon rebate on exterior paint, up to 10 gallons. The program would cost approximately \$5,000 in Community Development funds, with approximately \$500-\$700 used to promote the program. Homeowners would present a receipt for exterior paint purchased and dry paint-can lids in order to receive the rebate, and some inspections may be made to prove homes were painted. The program cannot legally be restricted to paint purchased within the City, as that would imply promotion of private businesses. However, businesses may provide complementary discount programs on their own initiative. The Committee discussed whether the 10-gallon limit is too low, but decided it is appropriate. W. Roberts noted that he believes there would be no legal objection to City employees using the program. Ald. Bresina **moved** to recommend Finance/Personnel Committee approval of the proposed paint program. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Ald. Bresina **moved** to refer without recommendation to the Finance/Personnel Committee a request from the American Legion to lease certain property owned by the City. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Executive Session

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to enter executive session to discuss labor contract negotiations at 8:10 AM. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, approved ayes all.

Ald. Carey **moved** to exit executive session at 8:38 AM. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Motion

Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve leaving vacant the Pool Maintenance position in the Parks Department. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Carey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 AM. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, duly approved ayes all.