

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
May 28, 2009

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman
Ald. Carey
Ald. Deierlein

Also:

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

Absent:

None

Ald. Bresina called the May meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 7:01 AM on May 28, 2009, at the Wastewater Treatment Plant.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2009, Committee meeting. Seconded by Ald. Carey, duly approved ayes all.

Visitors - None

Correspondence

Curb Cut Request – Conkey Avenue DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson suggested that a request from Tetra Tech, engineers designing a parking lot for Perry Browne School, be referred to the Planning Commission for review. (The request is already being reviewed by the Traffic Commission.) The request will involve an entrance to the new lot from Conkey Avenue, with either curbing or wooden bollards at the entrance. C. Ivarson recommend curbing to help with drainage, as wooden bollards will likely be damaged or destroyed by snow plowing. He warned that there is a water main at that point under Conkey Avenue. Ald. Carey **moved** to refer the request to the Planning Commission with a recommendation that curbing be installed rather than wooden bollards. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Norwich High School Homecoming Ald. Carey **moved** to recommend the Common Council receive and accept a request from Lansing R. Dimon of Norwich High School for closing East Main Street from the P&C Plaza and Midland Drive for the homecoming parade on Friday, October 9, 2009, from 5 PM till the end of the parade. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Department Head Reports

DPW

RBCs Update

C. Ivarson reported that he expects nine of the 18 RBCs to be out of service by the end of the week. Approval for replacement from the NYS DEC has still not been received because the representative has not been in the office. He will contact the representative's supervisor and attempt to obtain approval. He noted that the increase in load for the remaining RBCs will now be excessive.

Filter Plant

C. Ivarson reported that he attended a seminar in which he learned of the availability of containerized filter plants, developed for use in the Middle East and during the flooding in Western states. This containerized plant has a half-million-gallon capacity and costs approximately \$600,000. The current plan for replacement of the City's filter plant will cost approximately \$8.5 million, but purchasing a containerized system could lower that cost dramatically. The containerized plant is equivalent to the

planned replacement in size and durability. He has asked the engineers to stop work on the amendment to the plans and obtain a proposal for a containerized system.

WWTP Troughs

C. Ivarson reported that he will prepare bid specifications for the second primary clarifier, replacing 22 troughs. This must go to bid as cost will exceed \$20,000.

Aluminum Chloride Bid

Ald. Deierlein **moved** to recommend the Finance/Personnel Committee approve awarding the bid for aluminum chloride to the low bidder, Clean Waters, Inc. of Plessis, NY, in the amount of \$5.49/gallon for 2,200 gallons, \$5.24/gallon for 4,500 gallons, and \$415.50 for 55 gallon drum. Seconded by Ald. Carey, duly approved ayes all.

Roof of City Hall

C. Ivarson reminded the Committee that the Finance/Personnel Committee requested an evaluation be done of the City Hall roof to learn how urgent is the need for replacement. Delaware Engineering performed the evaluation gratis and concluded replacement must be done. C. Ivarson commented that some grants may be available to defray cost, and no leaks have been seen since repairs were made in 2008. Ald. Carey noted there is noticeable rot in the roof and the City must take action. C. Ivarson remarked that additional repairs must be made to the doors and electrical and heating systems. Ald. Carey asked about maintenance of the external doors. Director of Finance William Roberts stated that to his knowledge the doors are not external doors. Ald. Deierlein **moved** to refer the results of the Delaware Engineering evaluation and proposal to the Finance/Personnel Committee with a recommendation to do the engineering work necessary for replacement. Seconded by Ald. Carey, approved ayes all.

Community Garden

C. Ivarson stated that Rebecca Hargrave has asked to increase the size of the Community Garden on Hale Street and install a portable latrine. He noted that the area needs to be cleaned, and questioned the wisdom of installing a portable latrine. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence said he has spoken with Ms. Hargrave and suggested a composting toilet rather than a chemical toilet. Police Chief Joseph Angelino suggested if a portable toilet be used, it be chained to a fence to discourage vandalism. C. Ivarson suggested Ms. Hargrave present a plan of the proposed expansion. Ald. Carey asked that J. Lawrence contact Ms. Hargrave to request such a plan and also that they clean the area.

Pool Drains

C. Ivarson reminded the Committee that new State regulations will require replacement of drain covers in all swimming pools. The drains in the pools at Kurt Beyer Park will probably be done in-house.

Watershed Inspections

C. Ivarson reported that inspections at Chenango Lake will begin in the next few weeks, beginning on the east side of the lake. He also noted that he will be in court on Monday regarding the Chenango Lake lawsuit.

Hayes Street Parking Lot

C. Ivarson clarified for the Committee the portion of the Hayes Street Parking Lot owned by the City. He has City crews cleaning that area monthly. He noted that repaving the lot will cost approximately \$83,000 at current prices. The lot behind Howard Johnson's is in worse condition, and the East Main Street parking lot is scheduled to be repaved this year. Funding for repaving of parking lots comes from the General Fund. W. Roberts noted that while Community Development funds may be used for repaving of parking lots, care should be taken not to deplete that fund for purposes that do not replenish the fund, such as economic development loans do.

Other Items

Reserve Fund for Infrastructure Repairs

Ald. Carey asked about the special reserve fund set up in 2008 for infrastructure repairs. W. Roberts reminded him that the proposed deposits into the fund for this year were cut from the budget in order to keep the property tax increase low. Ald. Deierlein stressed the importance of funding that reserve, even if property taxes must be increased. W. Roberts noted that sales tax and ambulance recovery fee revenues have increased so far this year, and that State revenue sharing has not decreased as was initially feared. Ald. Bresina asked about cost-saving measures, such as having a utility audit. W. Roberts stated that such audits are done every three or four years, and another audit is due to be conducted in 2010. Ald. Carey **moved** to refer the infrastructure plan created by C. Ivarson to the Finance/Personnel Committee for review. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, approved ayes all.

Crow Abatement

Ald. Deierlein suggested preparing during the summer to mitigate the problem of flocks of crows in the City over the winter. He suggested again contacting the City of Auburn to learn what methods they use. It was noted that had already been done, and that deployment of laser pointers has been demonstrated to be the most effective response.

Front Street Property

Ald. Carey asked about garbage and debris at a property on Front Street. J. Lawrence replied that the property is owned by NYSEG. He has contacted them and they will clean up the area.

Adjournment

Ald. Carey **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 8:05 AM. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, duly approved ayes all.