

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE
April 26, 2007

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman

Absent:

Ald. Abraham

Ald. Williams

Also:

Director of Finance William Roberts

Police and Fire Chief Joseph Angelino

Asst. Police Chief Dale Smith

EMO A. Jones

Planning & Comm. Dev. Specialist Todd Dreyer

Codes Officer Jason Lawrence

Mayor Joseph Maiurano

Media Representative Jessica Lewis

Committee Chairman Ald. Bresina called the April meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 6:00 PM on April 26, 2007, in the Council Chambers at One City Court.

Approval of Minutes: (March 22, 2007 Reg. Meeting & April 10, 2007 Special Meeting)

Ald. Bresina noted that in the absence of a quorum, all actionable items on tonight's agenda will be referred to the rest of the committee through these minutes prior to the Council Work Session on May 8th, and their concurrence with any relevant referral to Finance/Personnel and the full Council will be confirmed at that time.

Swearing-In Ceremony – New Firefighter:

Chief Angelino administered the oath of office to three firefighters:

Timothy Llewellyn, Firefighter

Robert Barnes, Relief Firefighter

Daryl Prindle, Relief Firefighter

Visitors:

Lisa Iannello, Director of Colorscape Chenango presented highlights of this year's 13th annual Colorscape Chenango Festival scheduled for September 8 & 9, 2007. She said that most of the plans are basically the same as last year with only a few exceptions. The committee plans to make a walk-through prior to the start to address any last-minute logistical concerns. For example, last year the West Park area had been dug up just prior to the festival. Chief Angelino pointed out that the City maintains East Park, but that the County does West Park, and she would be well advised to touch base with them as well. She briefly described a few other aspects for this year, and W. Roberts asked if they are still expecting around 80 artists exhibits, as outlined in the Commerce Chenango 2007 Events Guide brochure. Lisa said that actually they anticipate over 85 this time. Ald. Bresina said he has been in contact with other Council members regarding the festival and they are on board and see no problems.

Department Head Reports:

Fire Department: Chief Angelino noted that with the Assistant Fire Chief (volunteer) position being vacated upon the appointment of Daryl Prindle as a paid Relief Firefighter, he will be meeting with J. Fowlston and others to come up with a recommendation for a replacement and they will be reporting back.

Chief Angelino also reported that there will be a bid opening next Tuesday, May 1st, at 2:30 p.m., for the new pumper truck.

Police Department: Chief Angelino noted that the recent request from the Business Improvement District Management Association for assistance with blocking off street sections in connection with the annual Classic Car Cruise-In on May 25, 2007 will need to be presented to the full Council for approval.

He also brought up the need for Council approval for the annual Dairy Day parade to be held on June 16, 2007. It is a relative short distance for the parade route, which will take place on East Main Street from the vicinity of Hubbard Street and City Hall, and proceed down to the County Fairgrounds on East Main. Assistant Chief Dale Smith inquired if there were also plans for a Dairy run, but no one was aware of anything in that regard.

Chief Angelino then advised that he would be pursuing a NYS Traffic grant for approximately \$6,000, which would be applied to extra patrols by covering the cost of P.D. overtime expense. He pointed out that this grant would not require any matching funds, and therefore not cost the City anything.

EMO: A. Jones reported that he had nothing new to add to the Firehouse Siren update, nor did anyone else who was present. The only other agenda item he had regarded the disposal of older equipment, mostly computer related, some in working condition and others not. He said he planned on first offering it to other departments before pursuing the disposal. W. Roberts said he would include the disposal request on the Fin/Per agenda.

DPW Superintendent: Ald. Bresina noted that Supt. Ivarson was not available tonight and that W. Roberts would be reporting. Roberts referred to the age of the Rotating Biological Contactors (RBC's) at the wastewater treatment plant at close to 20 years. He said they are extremely worn out and in their patched up state will require a sense of urgency in pursuing their complete overhaul or more likely, their replacement. The first step is to target a qualified engineering services source. In this connection, C. Ivarson previously sent out RFQ's (request for qualifications) to four Engineering firms. All rules and regulations as they relate to USDA-Rural Development requirements for hiring an engineering firm were carefully followed in the process. Three out of four responded, and he rated each response according to a set of technical and qualitative criteria. All three adequately addressed the RBC problem. He was particularly impressed with Delaware Engineering's response, which received a preferable rating. At last week's meeting, the Water Commission approved of Ivarson's recommendation of Delaware Engineering, and forwarded it to PS/PW for passing on to the full Council.

Roberts indicated that the annual flushing of hydrants will begin next week, the week of May 1st. He will follow-up with Carl Ivarson in the morning to confirm getting details. Mayor Maiurano said it would be a good public interest report for the newspaper to make known. J. Lewis said she would be glad to follow-up if someone provides the details.

Roberts then reported on the bid opening on April 11, 2007 for cold-water meters. In this case, of the two bids received, the low bid (Vellano Bros., Inc.) of \$60,668.77 did not meet specifications. Consequently, the other bid of \$69,307.42 from E. J. Prescott, Inc., was recommended for award, and the Water Commission so approved last week.

He next reported that during the April 16th snowstorm, the electrical power failure resulted in electronics damage to two flow meters at the filter plant. The estimated cost is \$11,000, and the corresponding insurance deductible is \$500, so most of it should be covered. Also, he mentioned some damage incurred to a pole-barn from a tree fall-down from another property adjacent to the filter plant. However, since this is considered an "act of God", the other property owner's insurance would not apply, and we will also pursue our insurance for coverage.

Next discussed was the plan to request bids for one one-ton dump truck and one backhoe, in connection with Senator Libous' member item award totaling \$110,000. Mayor Maiurano expressed appreciation for the senator's many efforts such as this, and the value they represent to the City.

A curb-cut request was then mentioned, which was made from Tony Raffaele for a location on Ross Ave. W. Roberts pointed out that this is in Ward 6 and should be referred to Ald. Jeffrey for presentation to the Council.

Roberts said that he was not aware of any DPW correspondence to present tonight.

Lastly, he indicated that the Mayor had received inquiries about curbing installation. Roberts explained that both he and C. Ivarson had indicated that this would be a General Fund expense, and unfortunately there are no capital reserves provided for it, nor are there sufficient operating funds budgeted. It is therefore something that cannot be

addressed funding-wise in the very near future. Mayor Maiurano said that the major area involved is on Locust Street, where the absence of curbing results in occasional water run-off problems during heavy rains.

Code Enforcement: Codes Officer J. Lawrence distributed copies of various materials relating to outdoor solid-fuel-burning furnaces. They included: an October 2005 report from then Attorney General Eliot Spitzer's Office - Environmental Protection Bureau - entitled, "Smoke Gets in Your Lungs: Outdoor Wood Boilers in New York State; a tentative draft for a local law prohibiting outdoor burning furnaces; a corresponding draft for an amending resolution to remove such equipment from the permitted heating equipment fee schedule; and photographs of the one such unit currently installed in the city. Lawrence drew attention to pages 14 and 15 of the report, which illustrate the relative initial capital and ongoing operational costs of this type of equipment and major types of other conventional equipment. He noted that there was not any noticeable economic advantage, unless the wood fuel was self-sourced. That is, unless a homeowner lived on a large tract of land with available forest and the ability to produce their own firewood supply, it would not appear to be a cost savings alternative to most conventional options. Ald. Bresina mentioned two houses along route 12 north that probably wouldn't be there today if it weren't for the fact that they had outside burning furnaces. He said that a fire occurred in the shed that housed them, and had it been inside the houses they probably would have been destroyed. However, he added that was the only advantage he could think of for such equipment. In any case, he did not believe them to be a practical application for city use because of a lack of room in a typically sized lot. His biggest concern was the safety issue in terms of possible accessibility to kids. Lawrence then referred to pictures of the one outside wood burning furnace located in the city, which has been in place about a year and a half and has not involved any problems that he is aware of. He said the owner purposely added a long extension to the chimney, even though that invalidates the warranty. The owner did not want to have smoke emissions drifting through his neighbors' properties, and decided that was more important than preserving the warranty. Chief Angelino asked about the use of waste oil as a fuel source. J. Lawrence said he wasn't sure, but believed that was governed by the EPA under a whole separate set of rules and regulations. Mayor Maiurano referred to pages 19 and 20 of the report, which indicate various municipalities' approach to either the regulating or the outright banning of the use of this type of equipment. He said that we need to look at both ways and assess the relative merits, stating that the end objective is that we cannot have them being a safety or health hazard.

J. Lawrence then mentioned a separate subject, Building Safety Week (ref. Mayor's proclamation for April 27, 2007). He said that he was working with Curtis Lumber, and the ICC (International Codes Council) on various planned activities including an announcement in the newspaper, drawing attention to the importance of functioning smoke detectors and correction of wiring hazards, plus the EMO's provision of information on storm survival, and safety kits. He was also working on converting media for airing by Time Warner on the government channel and possibly other channels.

Other Items: Planning & Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported on the proposed opening of the southern portion of Hubbard Avenue (currently one-way north) to two-way traffic. He said this was related to NBT's pending acquisition through the LDC of parcels located along Front and North Front Streets. This would involve closure of North Front and its available southerly traffic flow, to be replaced by adding southerly flow on Hubbard. He said he had met with C. Iverson and was assured that there was adequate width of Hubbard at that point to allow for two-way flow. He also met with the Traffic Commission, which concurred, but added that they would want it appropriately striped. W. Roberts interjected that this was indirectly related to an overall goal of improving the downtown area, particularly with respect to parking improvements. He mentioned that the LDC will be meeting next month and confirming the availability of previously earmarked funds towards the improvement of parking behind McLaughlin's Store. He said that whether NBT utilizes the acquired parcels for extending their current building facility or for increased parking, it will result in a significant economic development benefit to the downtown area.

Adjournment: Ald. Bresina said that everything covered in tonight's meeting will be followed up with the rest of the committee, as he indicated at the beginning. He then declared the meeting adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Next Meeting: May 24, 2007 (at Usual Location: DPW Garage, Hale St.)