

CITY OF NORWICH
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS COMMITTEE

October 25, 2007

Present:

Ald. Bresina, Chairman

Also:

DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson

City Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts

Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake

Police Chief Joseph Angelino

Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence

EMO A Jones

Absent:

Ald. Abraham

Ald. Williams

Committee Chairman Ald. Bresina called the October meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety Committee to order at 6:04 PM on October 25, 2007, in the DPW meeting room on Hale Street. Noting the absence of other Committee members, he announced that this would be an informational meeting only.

Correspondence

Request for Curb Cut – Ald. Bresina noted a request for a curb cut from Michael Scurzo of Parts Plus Autostores at 107 E. Main.

Veterans Day Parade – Ald. Bresina noted that the Veterans Day Parade was scheduled for November 11, 2007, at 10:30 a.m.

Department Head Reports

Fire Department

Status of Equipment – Chief Joseph Angelino reported that two engines are out of service waiting for parts and repairs. One will be out of service for another 4-5 weeks but the repair should be covered under warranty. Chief Angelino requested a loan truck, but has to date received no response. The new engine is being used as the first response truck. Chief Angelino also remarked that Engine 2 will need to be replaced in the near future. He added that the automatic mutual aid plan is in effect, in which if a call comes from south of Norwich, Oxford will send an engine to assist; if from within the City and north of Norwich, the Town of North Norwich will send an engine to assist.

Emergency Response - Chief Angelino further reported that Margaret McGowan of Cooperstown Medical Transport visited the Fire Department to discuss the possibility of assisting with emergency response services, but that this prospect did not appear promising. Chief Angelino stated that ambulance coverage has been temporarily expanded to New Berlin and also covers the northern part of Preston, with Oxford covering the southern part of Preston. He noted that communities are aware that these are temporary fixes and are looking for permanent solutions.

Police Department

Status of Personnel – Chief Angelino reported that while the Fire Department will likely be within budget, the Police Department may go over budget for the first time in many years, which demonstrates where he has been focusing his energies. He reminded the Committee that the question of a permanent fire chief will be broached at the next Finance/Personnel Committee meeting.

The Police Department is currently down five officers because of a vacancy, military reserve duty, a line-of-duty injury, and illness. Chief Angelino remarked that police officers are required to fill in

for absent crossing guards, and noted that since the new school organization of elementary grade levels, two of the designated crossings, at North Broad and Rexford Streets and on Newton Avenue, serve no children and recommended that these two crossings be discontinued. The other crossings on South Broad Street serve many children and should be continued.

Chief Angelino said that the new recruits are currently in field training and will return in mid-November. He also noted that an opening will need to be filled in 2008.

DPW Superintendent

Project Update – Superintendent of Public Works Carl Ivarson reported that Eaton Avenue has been completed, Ransford Creek will be completed in the next week, and West Main Street will be completed Tuesday, October 30.

Sweeper Lease – C. Ivarson reported that a demo sweeper had arrived while he and the Mayor were traveling. Finance Director William Roberts stated that the sweeper would be financed through a lease-purchase at a reasonable rate of 4.85% over five years for a base amount of \$155,000, which is lower than was originally budgeted. C. Ivarson noted that to purchase a sweeper would cost approximately \$210,000, and the lease may be priced even better at the end of the year. W. Roberts noted that the lease of a sweeper must go to bid. C. Ivarson noted that the sweeper has attachments for catch basin cleaning, and while smaller than the current sweeper, has the same capacity.

EMO

EMO A. Jones reported that he distributed to the Council his proposed budget for 2008. He attended a disaster preparedness conference at which a Deputy Chief Incident Commander from Minneapolis spoke, discussing the bridge collapse.

Canasawacta Dam Project - A. Jones stated that a problem in communications occurred regarding reimbursements for the Canasawacta Dam Project, in which FEMA evidently rejected hazard mitigation reimbursement without notice. That problem has been resolved and reimbursement will actually be slightly more than anticipated although still much lower than the overall final costs. C. Ivarson noted that the engineering costs were not being reimbursed.

Hazard Mitigation Plan – A. Jones reported that the County's Hazard Mitigation Plan is moving forward. A meeting will be held in the coming week to review background information; more information will be compiled, then a meeting will be held with the Department Heads.

Code Enforcement

Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence reported that new plans for the Brown Avenue Housing Project had been submitted by the Norwich Housing Authority because the project has been scaled back from the original plan. He noted that suggestions regarding placement of the units away from the front and toward the rear area of the site should be made to the Authority.

Other Items

C. Ivarson noted that Sen. Libous visited Norwich to dedicate the new sidewalks and dump truck, purchased with grant funds secured by the Senator. Chief Angelino reminded the Committee that the Fire Department's new cargo trailer was also purchased with grant funds secured by Sen. Libous.

Ald. Bresina added that a local Eagle Scout has approached the City looking for projects he may undertake to help the City. Ald. Bresina asked if there were any liability issues in such a case. C. Ivarson responded that if the projects took place in the Parks, there were no liability issues.

C. Ivarson reported that the EPA is currently considering reclassifying chlorine gasses as a hazardous substance under the 9/11 rulings, in which case the Department of Homeland Security would have approval over process control. This development must be monitored in future for possible impact on the Water/Waste Water processes.

Adjournment

Ald. Bresina adjourned the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

***Next Meeting – 6:00 p.m., October 20, 2007
Council Chambers***