

City of Norwich

One City Plaza
Norwich, New York 13815
(607) 334-1230

Minutes

Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting of March 3, 2009

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn presided at the meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee held at 6:00 PM on March 3, 2009, in the Council Chambers.

Present:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Robert Jeffrey
Ald. Paul Laughlin

Also Present:

Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Ald. Robert Carey
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Jessica Lewis, Media Representative

Call to Order

The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at One Court Plaza and called to order at 6:10 p.m. by Ald. Schermerhorn.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 3, 2009. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, duly approved ayes all.

Community Development

Restore New York

Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer informed the Committee that he and the Mayor investigated new properties for the third and final round of the Restore New York Program. They met with the regional director of the program and agreed that Millie's Diner and the former frame shop on East Main would be good candidates. If the grant is awarded, the City will contribute \$60,000-\$100,000, which will be subsequently recovered from the sale of the property. The former frame shop would be renovated to provide commercial space on the ground floor and two apartments upstairs. Ald. Schermerhorn asked if funds will still be available considering the current fiscal crisis. T. Dreyer explained that these funds have already been appropriated at the State level. The City's intent to apply must be made by Monday, March 9. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of a resolution to make application for Round 3 of the Restore New York Program in an amount not to exceed \$300,000. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about funding for City Hall renovations. T. Dreyer reported that, while formal written notice has not yet been received, the City received verbal confirmation that no TEP grant funds will be forthcoming.

Economic Development Loan – Cirello, LLC, East Park Place

Director of Finance William Roberts reported that the Loan Committee unanimously recommended an economic development loan to Cirello, LLC in the amount of \$100,000 over a term of 15 years to renovate/convert a restaurant on East Park Place as a mid-price family restaurant. The City offers economic development loans at a rate of 75% of prime rate. Ald. Schermerhorn expressed his approval of the loan proposal. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of an economic development loan to Cirello, LLC. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Economic Development Loan – Norwich Tire

Director of Finance William Roberts reported that the Loan Committee unanimously recommended an economic development loan to Norwich Tire in the amount of \$40,000 over a term of 10 years to expand their business on Hale Street, at a rate of 75% of prime rate. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of an economic development loan to Norwich Tire. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about plans to pick up litter that has been exposed by the melting snow. T. Dreyer responded that the B.I.D. has set its Spring Clean-Up date for May 16. Ald. Jeffrey mentioned large amounts of litter near the school. T. Dreyer suggested that if most of the litter is on school property and it is students who are littering, the school should be responsible for cleaning. Ald. Carey suggested sending a letter to the school.

Public Works & Engineering

Bid Opening - Liquid Chlorine & Sodium Hypochlorite

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend the Council 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. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Filter Media Bid

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend the Council 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. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all. C. Ivarson commented that his anticipated cost had been in the range of \$14,000.

RBCs Update

DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson announced that the City will receive a \$500,000 federal appropriations grant from Congressman Arcuri to assist the \$4.5 million project. He and W. Roberts continue to work with the State Revolving Fund to seek additional grants and low-interest loans.

Miscellaneous Items

Non-Unit Compensation 2009 Schedule

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to postpone this item without discussion until the April Finance/Personnel Committee meeting. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Assessor Replacement

Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest announced that the City Assessor, Rochelle Harris, has tendered her resignation effective June 1. This is a mandated position and the recruitment process has started. The candidate must be State certified or, meeting certain qualifications, may be appointed before being certified within one to three years.

Ald. Jeffrey quoted from a news article regarding reduced County sales tax revenue in the first quarter of 2009. W. Roberts responded that the City is directly credited for sales tax revenue from the State, not the County.

Ald. Jeffrey quoted from a news article about State retirement fund losses and how this may lead to rate increases. Mayor Maiurano stated that this was announced at a NYCOM meeting he and W. Roberts attended. W. Roberts said this was of course not surprising, given the fiscal climate, and if this becomes a trend the City may need to find a means to make deposits into the special reserve fund established in 2004 to help absorb such increases in rates.

Adjournment

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to adjourn at 6:33 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, duly approved ayes all.

Next Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting – April 7, 2009