City of Norwich
Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting
July 7, 2009

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn presided at the meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee held at 6:00 PM on July 7, 2009, in the Council Chambers.

Present:	Also:
Ald. Robert Carey	Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
Ald. Terry Bresina	Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Ald. John Deierlein	Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn	Community Planning Specialist Todd Dreyer
Ald. Paul Laughlin	DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Ald. Robert Jeffrey	Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
	Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Absent	EMO A. Jones
None	Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason

Call to Order
The meeting was held in the Council Chambers at One Court Plaza and called to order at 6:04 p.m. by Ald. Schermerhorn.

Approval of Minutes
Ald. Laughlin **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 2, 2009. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Youth Bureau Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason reported that he has sampled and developed supporting participation figures from towns which contract with the City for youth programs. R. Mason explained that the youth program contracts do not involve either the skating rink or Kurt Beyer Pool except for swimming lessons and competitions, and that the member towns do contribute approximately 40% of overall programmatic costs, in keeping with the proportion of participation in the youth program. He further noted that the youth program sometimes makes use of the school's swimming pool. The Committee had a general discussion regarding costs for the maintenance of Kurt Beyer Pool. R. Mason requested concurrence on how to proceed with the youth program contracts. W. Roberts suggested an increase in rates of 2% to cover inflation and the Committee agreed.

Public Safety

Police

Vacancy due to Military Activation Police Chief Joseph Angelino reported that an officer will be activated for military service for two three-month periods. Because of the institution of 12-hour shifts, this absence will be covered mostly by flex-time and coverage by the Chief and Assistant Chiefs, though some overtime will be required. He noted that the department, as of July, has only used 40% of budgeted overtime.

Procter & Gamble Donation for Startup of K9 Unit Chief Angelino reported that Procter & Gamble has committed to a $20,000 donation for the institution of a K9 Unit. The increase in illicit drug use in the City necessitates such a unit. He is planning acquisition and training of a dog for narcotic and search purposes. Ald. Jeffrey asked how quickly such a dog may be procured. Chief Angelino responded that he is waiting for the participation of veterinarian Dr. King, and discussed the way police officer schedules may be adapted for use of the dog.

Tasers Chief Angelino requested that Council members educate themselves on the use of tasers as he may be requesting purchase of such instruments. W. Roberts noted that this, as well as a K9 unit, must be coordinated with the City's insurance carrier.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the disposition of the former Rite-Aid building. Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer replied that he has heard no news about the building. The Committee also asked T. Dreyer to revisit the establishment of a financial penalty for owners of chronically vacant commercial spaces.

Public Works & Engineering

Relocation of City Hall to Third Floor of Firehouse
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson presented an analysis of costs for either remaining in City Hall and making necessary repairs, or fitting the third floor of the firehouse for City Hall offices. He noted that the DPW will perform much of the labor to save costs. Because of a rise in State-required bidding limits, one general contractor can be hired for the entire project. The Committee discussed the comparison of projected costs. In response to a remark by Ald. Carey, T. Dreyer noted that the City of Cortland has received a TEP grant for conversion of a former train depot to city offices, although the City was turned down for a similar grant for repairs to City Hall. The general consensus was that reapplying would not be viable. Ald. Schermerhorn commented that the fewer properties the City owns, the better, and consolidating offices makes sense. Ald. Carey noted that the City's consolidation of offices could impact favorably on consolidation of services with surrounding communities. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of preparatory repair work on the third floor of the firehouse. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

C. Ivarson requested that names for the 2010 sidewalk-replacement project be submitted as soon as possible. Ald. Carey requested that T. Dreyer draft a letter for the 2010 program. Ald. Jeffrey noted that some sidewalks are in such disrepair that pedestrians are forced to walk in the street. Discussion followed regarding requiring businesses to repair damaged sidewalks on their properties. C. Ivarson noted that local laws requires property owners to maintain sidewalks or the City may repair them at the property owner's expense. Ald. Jeffrey repeated his concerns about sidewalks in disrepair. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to refer this matter to the Public Safety/Public Works Committee. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Executive Session
Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session at 6:49 p.m. to discuss the financial history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 6:59 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Motion
Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approve for retroactive conversion of an emergency home repair loan to a grant, for Norman Nichols, of 43 Mitchell Street, in the amount of $488. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Adjournment
Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 7:00 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.