

City of Norwich
Finance/Personnel Committee Meeting
September 1, 2009

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn presided at the meeting of the Finance/Personnel Committee held at 6:00 PM on September 1, 2009, in the Council Chambers.

Present:

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

Also:

Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Ald. Robert Carey
Ald. John Deierlein
Mayor Joseph Maiurano

Absent
None

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 August 4, 2009. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Public Safety

Police

Price Quote from Glock for Replacement Side Arms Police Chief Joseph Angelino has received a quote on the new handguns. For 21 new Glock handguns, with rebate for the old guns, the total price will be \$1,990. Holsters will be an additional \$4,400. The handguns are equipped with a mini-flashlight and require fitted holsters. Holsters will be purchased by individual officers as part of their clothing allowance. The Committee expressed their approval of this transaction.

Crossing Guard Chief Angelino reminded the Committee that crossing guard Jim Dundon has resigned. The Department is having difficulty finding a replacement. The position pays \$9.30/hour and is for one hour in the morning and one hour in the afternoon. Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest noted there has been no response to advertisements, which is not unusual, as the positions are often filled by word of mouth.

Fire Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo reported that the new truck, which was due to be delivered last week, was delayed due to testing and should arrive on Wednesday, September 2. The truck will not be paid for until the Department has completed its testing of all components.

Public Works & Engineering

RBCs Bid

DPW Superintendent C. Ivarson reported that five bids were received for the RBCs Replacement/Repair project. He noted that the bid of the lowest qualified bidder, Jett Industries, Inc., was approved by the engineers. Possible damage to the fiberglass covers when they are removed may cause replacement costs above the bid price. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council award the bid to the qualified bidder, Jett Industries, Inc., for \$2,589,000. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Renewal of Printing Contract with BOCES

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of a renewal of the printing contract with BOCES. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Gas Compressor Replacement - WWTP

C. Ivarson reported that necessary repairs to the gas compressor at the WWTP would be approximately \$11,000, while a new unit will cost approximately \$7,000. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of expenditure for replacement of the

gas compressor. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all. W. Roberts said that Council action will not be necessary, because funds are available in the current WWTP budget equipment line. The Committee concurred.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about placing a new streetlight on Hale Street. C. Ivarson stated he would investigate that. Ald. Jeffrey commented that the sidewalk along Hale Street is in disrepair and needs to be fixed. He asked about work being done by NYSEG on Front Street and whether the sidewalk there would be replaced. C. Ivarson responded that NYSEG is obligated to return the street and sidewalk to their original state. He will check the work done.

Miscellaneous Items

Main Street Grant Administration – Reimbursement to B.I.D.

Director of Finance William Roberts reported that the Norwich B.I.D. applied for a Main Street grant and was awarded \$200,000. The Council passed Resolution #23-2009 in April supporting this application. In the past the City has reimbursed the B.I.D. for administration costs of the application, handled by Shelter Planning. Pegi LoPresti of B.I.D. has taken over much of the administrative work for this program and the previous \$20,000 fee has been negotiated to \$11,000. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend Council approval of reimbursement of administration costs for the Main Street grant. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about extending the B.I.D. boundaries to Silver Street. W. Roberts replied that he would research the ramifications and procedures for such an extension.

Ald. Jeffrey asked about the timeline for developing the 2010 City budget. W. Roberts responded that while the budget is currently being developed, the current economic climate and the uncertainty of the State's fiscal status make it imprudent to adopt a budget too early in the year. He suggested a special meeting of the Council in mid-November, when sales-tax revenues can be more accurately projected, but warned that the status of the State's revenue sharing may not be known until the second quarter of 2010. Ald. Schermerhorn asked about current sales tax revenues. W. Roberts replied that they are approximately 5.5% lower as compared to 2008. Ald. Schermerhorn noted that the City has done extremely well in keeping property tax increases low over the years, in the 2%-3% range, compared to other communities in the area, which have seen increases up to double digits. W. Roberts noted that ambulance recovery fees are well above projections.

Executive Session

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to enter executive session at 6:40 p.m. to discuss employment history of particular individuals and potential labor contract negotiations. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 7:02 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to recommend the Council extend stipends for W. Roberts and C. Ivarson for the RBCs project through July 31, 2010. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to fill a vacancy in the DPW for maintaining City Hall, City Court, and the Police station, by contracting through a temporary employment agency. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 7:03 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.