

COMMON COUNCIL

April 15, 2008

Mayor Joseph Maiurano presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 7:00 PM on April 15, 2008, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey

Absent

Ald. Robert Carey
Ald. John Deierlein
Supervisor James McNeil
Supervisor Linda Natoli

Also:

Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Police/Fire Chief Joseph Angelino
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence
EMO A. Jones
Jessica Lewis, Media Representative

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Maiurano at 7:04 p.m.

Mayoral Proclamation

The Mayor noted that Thursday, May 1, 2008 will be the National Day of Prayer. He asked Deputy Clerk Brian Drake to read the following:

P R O C L A M A T I O N

National Day of Prayer 2008

BY THE MAYOR:

WHEREAS, the National Day of Prayer is a tradition first proclaimed by the Continental Congress in 1775; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting and proper that we in Norwich, NY, and surrounding area acknowledge our many blessings and express gratitude to God for them while recognizing the need for strengthening of religious and moral values in our land; and

WHEREAS, the power of prayer, and the power of God through prayer, have been at the core of the shared American experience throughout history; now,

THEREFORE, I, Joseph P. Maiurano, Mayor of the City of Norwich, New York, do hereby proclaim May 1, 2008, as A Day Of Prayer in the City of Norwich.

The Mayor then reported on an interfaith service held Friday, April 11, 2008, which was well attended and demonstrated Norwich citizens' support of those in distress.

Approval of minutes

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of March 18, 2008, and the special meetings of March 21, April 1, and April 9, 2008. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Public Hearing – OSC Grant, NHA Brown Avenue Project

Mayor Joseph Maiurano opened a public hearing at 7:07 p.m. to hear comments on the application for an Office of Small Cities Grant to support the Norwich Housing Authority's Brown Avenue project.

Community Planning Specialist Todd Dreyer noted that this was the second public hearing to discuss the grant application. He gave a brief review of the submission process thus far and noted that additional correspondence supporting

the project had been received by both the City and the Norwich Housing Authority. T. Dreyer then recapitulated the history of the NHA project, which began in 1999 with the Housing Authority's acquisition of approximately 2½ acres of former industrial land, now part of the Norwich Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA). After extensive site preparation, including environmental cleanup and the installation of streets and utilities, the site was ready for construction in late 2005. However, recent increases in construction costs have caused project bids to reach approximately \$148,000, far exceeding the affordable housing unit price target of about \$85,000. The project was previously awarded a HOME Local Program grant, which would make available to homebuyers a subsidy of about \$30,000 per unit. Obviously, this still leaves a financial shortfall of \$33,000 per unit. The City is, therefore, seeking \$396,000 in CDBG funding under the home ownership component to bridge the gap.

Judy Windgate-Wade, Director, Norwich Housing Authority, offered her personal thanks and thanks on behalf of the Norwich Housing Authority for the City's continued support during the long development of this project. She expressed her belief that the project will be good for the City, for the neighborhood in which it is located, and will eventually add to the City's tax base.

Hearing no further comments, Mayor Maiurano closed the public hearing at 7:14 p.m.

Open Forum

Richard Stenman, 8 Cortland Street, addressed the Council regarding his concerns about a proposed development project at the corner of Cortland and Broad Streets. He noted that he is in favor of development, if the development is appropriate to the area and does not detract from residential property values. Mr. Stenman then reported that he had met with the company proposing the project, Sphere Development, LLC, hoping to establish a cooperative relationship between the company and residents in the area. He stated his opinion that a cooperative attitude had been demonstrated by the company, and at this point he feels the project will be a "win/win/win" situation for the City, the neighborhood, and the developer.

Jason Miller, 51 Front Street, reported his concerns with the condition of property at 49 Front Street. He stated his belief that the basic maintenance for the property should not be a burden to City taxpayers. He also noted that Mitchell Street is an eyesore. Mayor Maiurano replied that the City is currently working to acquire the 49 Front Street property and issues there should be resolved in the near future.

Tom Morrone, Town of Norwich, and a business owner within the City, addressed the City's tentative plans to move City offices to the third floor of the firehouse, remarking that he has not heard any City resident comment favorably on the plan. He noted that the original renovation of the firehouse used funds specifically earmarked solely for the firehouse use and not for City offices. He urged the Council to ask for more community involvement and to keep an open mind. The Mayor responded that the City was certainly looking for community input and the special meeting of April 9 was held for just this reason. He also noted that City officials are looking for ways to consolidate City properties, cut expenses, and reduce property taxes. Mr. Morrone also urged the Council to consider the importance of handicapped access in its offices.

Mary Coe, 5 Waite Street, hoped that more people would attend future meetings on this topic. Mr. Morrone suggested that meetings be held at 7:00 p.m. rather than 6:00 p.m.

Maurice Dunham, 6 Berry Street, reported that he had applied for a fence permit but had not yet received a response. In response to the Mayor's query, Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence said that the approved permit had been mailed to the landlord, who had submitted the form, and that Mr. Dunham could proceed with the work. Mr. Dunham thanked J. Lawrence and the Mayor.

Ald. Laughlin cited a report on the 1996 bond issue for the renovations at City Hall, noting a cost of \$400,000, and asked why the building is in such bad repair if extensive renovations were made so recently. DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson replied that no work was done at that time on the roof, exterior walls, or heating system.

Correspondence

B.I.D. – 7th Annual Cruise-In Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to receive, file, and approve a request from the Norwich B.I.D. and the Merchants' Association for Public Safety assistance and the blocking off of East Park Place for the 7th Annual Classic Car Cruise-In on May 23, 2008 from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly approved ayes all.

Memorial Day Parade Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to receive and file a request from the D.S.C. Post No. 189 for a Memorial Day Parade on May 26, 2008 at 9:00 a.m., to run from the VFW Home on 61 E. Main Street to West Park. Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Parks Commission Minutes of March 10, 2008
- ◆ Technology Committee Minutes of March 13, 2008
- ◆ Traffic Commission Minutes of March 12, 2008
- ◆ Vehicle Maintenance Cost Report: Ambulance Department of March 2008
- ◆ Vehicle Maintenance Cost Report: Fire Department of March 2008
- ◆ Vehicle Maintenance Cost Report: Police Department of March 2008
- ◆ Vehicle Maintenance Cost Report: Water Department of March 2008
- ◆ Water Commission Minutes of March 19, 2008
- ◆ Youth Bureau Monthly Report of March 2008

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to receive and file the department, board, and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly approved ayes all.

Ward and Committee Reports

- ◆ Public Safety/Public Works meeting of March 27, 2008
- ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee meeting of April 1, 2008

Ward 2

Ald. Bresina reported that all matters had been referred to the appropriate department heads and he was pleased with the results.

Ward 4

Ald. Schermerhorn reported that all matters had been referred to the appropriate department heads for resolution.

Ward 5

Ald. Laughlin reported on two problems in Ward 5. First, his property had suffered a fire. Second, a goat and kid were back in residence in his neighborhood and the goat had evidently been roaming loose in the area. He hoped that a revision to the Charter he had proposed could be acted upon soon. Mayor Maiurano reported that he had personally dealt with the situation and the proposed revision would be considered soon.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey reported that all matters have been referred to the appropriate department heads. He thanked C. Ivarson for getting streets cleaned quickly. C. Ivarson announced that leaf and lawn-refuse pickup is scheduled for April 28 – May 9.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to receive and file the Committee and Ward Reports. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Motions

Reject All Bids for Ambulance and Re-Bid Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to reject all bids received for a new or demonstration-model ambulance and authorize re-bidding for an ambulance. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, duly approved ayes all.

Site Plan Application Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to grant permission for Sphere Development, LLC to submit a site plan application involving City-owned property near the corner of Cortland and North Broad Streets. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, duly approved ayes all.

Solicit Bids – Restore NY Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to grant permission for Community Development to solicit bids for plumbing and general contractor work associated with moving house structure at 16 Canasawacta Street to 52 Fair Street as part of the Restore NY program. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, duly approved ayes all.

Provide for Multiple Water Meters at Property Owners' Requests Ald. Laughlin **moved** to make available to property owners upon request, beyond the standard single meter supplied free of charge by the City, multiple water meters at a cost not to exceed that paid by the City, to be installed and maintained by the property owner. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, duly approved ayes all.

2008 Gus Macker Tournament Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to approve a request from the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament for the blocking off of East Main Street, with special event designation, under the supervision of the Fire Chief and Police Chief, and providing bleachers, picnic tables, and a water attachment to the hydrant at the northeast corner of East Park Place on July 11, 12, and 13, 2008. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Declare Patrol Car Surplus and Earmark Sale Proceeds Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to declare the Police Department's oldest car surplus, approve its sale on eBay, and designate the proceeds to be deposited directly into the Police Equipment Capital Reserve Fund. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, duly approved 4-0 on a roll-call vote.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #42-2008 AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF BRIAN MARICLE TO MEO1 POSITION

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the MEO 1 position of the City of Norwich Department of Public Works, and;

WHEREAS, the Finance/Personnel Committee has recommended the appointment of Brian Maricle of Norwich, NY to such position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Brian Maricle, Norwich, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment to the position of MEO 1, contingent upon successful medical exams, background check, and civil service requirements, effective April 21, 2008.

Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll-call vote.

RESOLUTION #43-2008. AUTHORIZING PURCHASE OF REAL PROPERTY AT 7 WAITE STREET

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich Common Council previously expressed its desire to purchase the real property at 7 Waite Street as part of the Restore NY program; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated August 16, 2007, the owner of the subject property at 7 Waite Street expressed a desire to sell the property to the City of Norwich for the price of \$7,500; and

WHEREAS, the owner of the subject property has been instructed to remove all personal property and debris prior of the sale of the subject property to the City; and

WHEREAS, this action is a component of the City of Norwich Blighted Area Residential Redevelopment Project, which received a Determination of Non-Significance from the Common Council pursuant to the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, under the direction of the City Attorney, is hereby authorized to make a formal purchase offer and to enter into a contractual agreement with Kevin S. Rivenburgh for the purchase of the real property at 7 Waite Street for the price of \$7,500 from Community Development Grant Funds.

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #44-2008 AUTHORIZING AWARD OF BID – 2008 STREET REHAB PROGRAM: GRINDING & PAVING PROJECT

Ald. Schermerhorn introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, bids have been received for the 2008 Street Rehab Program – Grinding and Paving Project; and

WHEREAS, the Finance/Personnel Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the bid for the the 2008 Street Rehab Program – Grinding and Paving Project be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder meeting specifications, Suit-Kote of Cortland, NY, in the amount of \$144,280.74.

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #45-2008 **APPROVING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT LOAN – LESLEY ANN LAWRENCE, D/B/A THE KIDZ ZONE**

Ald. Schermerhorn introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are available for eligible applicants through the City's Economic Development Revolving Loan Program; and

WHEREAS, the Loan and Finance Committee and Finance/Personnel Committee have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that an economic development loan be and hereby is approved in the amount of \$35,000 to Lesley Ann Lawrence, d/b/a The Kidz Zone; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that such loan shall be for a term of seven (7) years at a fixed rate of 75% of prime and subject to all terms and conditions as specified by the Loan and Finance Committee.

Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #46-2008 **AUTHORIZING APPROPRIATION OF ARTS COUNCIL GRANT FOR CITY BAND**

Ald. Bresina introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, an Arts Council Grant has been received to defray costs for the Norwich City Band 2008 season of performances; and

WHEREAS, the Finance/Personnel Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the \$2,000 Arts Council Grant be and hereby is appropriated for the use of the Norwich City Band; and, further be it

•

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following supplemental appropriation in the 2008 General Fund budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A910	General Fund – Appropriated Fund Balance	\$2,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A7270	Band Concerts	\$2,000.00

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to table a resolution authorizing adjustment of salary for Deputy City Clerk and budget transfer pending further review by the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, duly approved ayes all.

Payment of Bills

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** that the April 2008 bills be paid after proper audit and certification as follows:

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>04/15/08</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$ 84,297.04	\$487,699.18	\$571,996.22
Sewer Fund	4,216.46	24,396.77	28,613.23
Water Fund	8,157.53	15,652.89	23,810.42
Trust	17,208.82	-	17,208.82
B.I.D.	-	-	-
Debt Service	-	-	-
Reserves	-	-	-
Unemployment	-	-	-
Community Development	25,450.00	-	25,450.00
Economic Development	-	-	-
Capital Projects	9,290.00	-	9,290.00
TOTALS	\$148,619.85	\$527,748.84	\$676,368.69

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin and duly adopted ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to adjourn at 7:35 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, accepted ayes all.