

## COMMON COUNCIL

### Work Session

October 9, 2007

Mayor Joseph Maiurano presided at the work session of the Common Council held at 7:00 PM on October 9, 2007, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

#### Present:

Mayor Joseph Maiurano  
Ald. A. Anthony Abraham  
Ald. Suzanne Williams  
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn  
Ald. Paul Laughlin  
Ald. Robert Jeffrey

#### Also:

Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts  
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest  
Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence  
EMO A. Jones  
Deputy Clerk Brian Drake  
Department of Public Works Superintendent Carl Ivarson  
Police Chief Joseph Angelino

#### Absent:

Ald. Terry Bresina

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### Call to Order

The work session of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Maiurano at 7:00 p.m.

### Certificate of Recognition

Mayor Maiurano read a Certificate of Recognition, which will be presented to the Chenango County Habitat for Humanity on Saturday, October 13, 2007, in recognition for their contribution to building and renovating homes that improve the quality of life and beauty for the citizens of the City of Norwich.

### Open Forum

The Mayor opened the forum to public comments at 7:02 p.m. There being no comments, the forum was closed at 7:02 p.m.

### Committee Chair Reports

#### Public Works/Safety Committee of September 27, 2007

In the absence of Committee Chair Terry Bresina, Ald. Williams reported that the tower ladder had been repaired and would not need to be replaced at this time. Chief Angelino also reported that Superior Ambulance had announced it would no longer service Chenango County as of October 25, 2007, and that this will have a great impact on emergency services for the City and County alike. Chief Angelino is working with Matt Beckwith, Fire Coordinator of the Chenango County Bureau of Fire, to develop a response to the situation. Ald. Williams commented that the impact would be greater in the northern part of Chenango County.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported to the Committee on manpower issues, the successful cleaning of Well No. 3, the impending RBCs Replacement Project, and progress on the Chenango Lake and Ransford Creek cleanup. C. Ivarson also presented proposed 2008 budgets to the Committee. Ald. Williams noted that the budget for Water contained a 3% increase, and the budget for Sewer contained a 2% increase. Ald. Williams reported that the Eaton Avenue project was in progress and asked C. Ivarson on its progress. C. Ivarson responded that the sidewalks had been laid and all remaining work would be completed this week.

Ald. Williams then noted that Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence had been training firefighters to conduct fire inspections.

**Discussion:** Mayor Maiurano reported that the County had offered a presentation by Matt Beckwith regarding the emergency services situation. Their plan is to have two flycars in order to transport paramedics to those communities that have ambulances but no medically qualified staff for them. In this way, only a driver is needed to get emergency life support services to the necessary area. Those communities without ambulances will require some other arrangement. The Mayor noted that the required workers would be County employees, not City employees, and that

this is obviously a short-term alleviation of the problem; he also commented that the City must be vigilant that the County does not add a tax to City residents, who already pay for City emergency services, to cover this expense. Ald. Jeffrey added that the City must beware that it is not forced to provide transport. Chief Angelino remarked that if a City ambulance is sent to an outside-area call, the flycar would be billed to the patient and Norwich would also bill the patient. He added that County representatives have suggested that the County will inevitably need to get into the ambulance business.

#### **Finance/Personnel Committee of October 2, 2007**

Ald. Schermerhorn, who was absent from the Committee meeting, asked Ald. Jeffrey to report on the proceedings. Ald. Jeffrey noted that Robert Mason presented to the Committee a proposed 2008 budget for the Youth Bureau, with a \$600 increase over 2007. Joan Mokay of PERMA presented to the Committee information on workers compensation and the State retirement system. Stan Cwynar, of Cwynar & Associates, presented an audit of the City's 2006 finances, noting that the City is in a good financial position and that long-term debt is decreasing. Chief Angelino reported on Police and Fire Department overtime expenses: the Police Department is currently at 101% of budgeted overtime funds, and overtime will continue until new recruits arrive on October 16; Fire Department overtime had been tracking well, but two injuries occurred that caused overtime. The Committee also heard a report about the situation with Superior Ambulance.

Ald. Jeffrey reported that new software will be installed for the Codes office to track buildings, fire inspections, complaints, rental registration, licensing and insurance coverage of contractors, and zoning. The Committee also recommended for Council approval a grant of \$6,000 from Preserve NY and appropriation of the funds to Planning. The Committee recommended Council approval of various resolutions regarding the RBCs Replacement project, conducting business with M&T Bank, a mortgage subordination agreement for 8 State Street, and an economic development loan for McLaughlin's Department Store.

The Committee moved the date of its November meeting to Wednesday, November 7. at 6:00 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers. Ald. Jeffrey reported that the monthly loan report showed that most debtors were current and all are making payments.

#### **Motions / (Correspondence)**

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to receive and file a letter from The Norwich High School and grant their request for street closings from P&C Plaza on East Main Street to the Norwich High School at Midland Drive on October 12 from 6:00 – 7:00 p.m. for their Annual Homecoming Parade. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, duly approved ayes all.

#### **Resolutions**

None.

#### **Development of Agenda for Regular Common Council Meeting of October 16, 2007**

- 1) *Call To Order*
- 2) *Pledge of Allegiance*
- 3) *Invocation*
- 4) *Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of September 18, 2007, and the work session of October 9, 2007.*
- 5) *Public Hearing – Revised Plumbing Code*
- 6) *Open Forum*
- 7) *Mayoral Proclamation – 100th Anniversary of the Chenango County SPCA*

8) *Mayoral Appointments*

*Youth Board*

*Zena Hopson, 31 Canasawacta Street, Norwich, appointed as a Youth Member.  
Jacqueline Williams, 30 Sheldon Street, Apt. #4, Norwich, appointed to a three-year term,  
expiring December 31, 2010.*

*Historical Preservation Committee*

*Patricia Evans, 45 Rexford Street, Norwich.  
Kay Zaia, 12 Gold Street, Norwich.*

9) *Correspondence*

- *Liquor License Renewal – Nina’s Pizzeria*

10) *Department, Board and Commission Reports*

- *Police Department Report for August 2007*
- *Parks Commission minutes of*
- *Water Commission minutes of September 19, 2007*
- *Youth Board Meeting of October 3, 2007*
- *Youth Bureau Report September 2007*
- *Zoning Board of Appeals minutes for*

11) *Ward and Committee Reports*

- *Public Safety / Public Works Committee meeting of September 27, 2007*
- *Finance / Personnel Committee meeting of October 2, 2007*

12) *Old Business*

13) *New Business*

- *Mayor Designation: Halloween “Trick or Treat” Wednesday, October 31, from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.*
- *Discussion: Superior Ambulance Departure*
- *Discussion: Year-End State Retirement Payments*

*Motions*

- *None*

*Resolutions*

- *Authorizing Preserve NY Grant Appropriation and Contract for Professional Services*
- *Authorizing Agreements with Towns for Youth Recreation Services*
- *Authorizing Transaction Agreements with M&T Bank*
- *Authorizing Mortgage Subordination Agreement for 8 State Street Rehab. Project*
- *Authorizing Economic Development Loan –McLaughlin’s Department Store*
- *Authorizing Bond Resolution – RBCs Replacement Project*
- *Authorizing Appointment of Bond Counsel – RBCs Replacement Project*
- *Authorizing Appointment of Financial Advisor – RBCs Replacement Project*
- *Authorizing Modifications to Plumbing & Heating Code*

13) *Payment of Bills*

14) *Executive Session*

15) *Adjournment*

**Proposed October 16, 2007 Agenda Additions or Deletions**

Ald. Williams requested that a discussion be added to the agenda to discuss the possibility of erecting new, more attractive signs to welcome drivers to the City of Norwich on Route 12 and Route 23. C. Ivarson commented that such signs would have to be posted on City property, and that a good design had already been developed for Streetscape. Mayor Maiurano noted that he would refer the matter to Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer for input.

Ald. Jeffrey requested that a report be created on the percentage of payment of out-of-area ambulance transports provided by the City, and that this be added to the discussion of the departure of Superior Ambulance.

Mayor Maiurano suggested that the designation of times for Halloween Trick or Treat be revised to 5:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Executive Session**

None.

**Discussion**

Ald. Abraham commented on a newspaper article regarding the proposed study group on the consolidation of the Town and City of Norwich. The article reported that the study would cost \$80,000 to \$120,000. Ald. Abraham then remarked that the City would certainly benefit from this, but that the study should not be funded unless both parties cooperated.

Mayor Maiurano remarked that grants would cover all but 10% of the cost of the proposed study. He also stated that the Town was meeting concurrently with the Common Council Work Session, and if they agreed to proceed with the study, the City would proceed. If not, the City would not proceed. He felt that there was a consensus among Town representatives that the study would be beneficial, and noted that Norwich would act as a pioneer in such a consolidation, which is likely to move statewide in the near future.

Ald. Laughlin noted that Veterans Day had not been noted on the most recent BID schedule.

**Adjournment**

Ald. Williams **moved** to adjourn at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted ayes all.