

COMMON COUNCIL
Work Session

July 11, 2006

Mayor Joseph Maiurano, presided at the work session of the Common Council held at 7:00 PM on July 11, 2006 at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Maiurano
Ald. A. Abraham
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. Suzanne Williams
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Robert Jeffrey

Also:

Dir. of Finance/City Clerk, William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Fire Chief John Tighe
Public Works Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence
EMO A. Jones
Planning & CD Specialist Todd Dreyer
Media Representative Michael McGuire
Deputy Clerk, Darlene Colaso

Mayoral Comment

Mayor Joseph Maiurano wanted to express appreciation for all those who went above and beyond the call of duty during the recent flooding. Mayor Maiurano wanted to thank Police Chief Joseph Angelino and the Norwich Police Department, Fire Chief John Tighe and all the Fire Fighters, Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence, EMO A. Jones, Superintendent of Public Works Carl Ivarson and Assistant Superintendent Mark Williams and all the DPW staff; as well as the Red Cross, Norwich High School, the Evening Sun, Jim Sargent at the Norwich Radio Station, and Chenango County Supervisor Dick Decker. He said he could go on to name so many people just out in the streets helping each other and it shows the strength of this community and how we can work together in a crisis situation. He added that Norwich is very fortunate to have all these fine people working for us. Everyone did a tremendous job and he feels the City will probably be even more prepared if it ever floods like this again.

The Mayor said that on behalf of the Common Council and himself, he expresses his gratitude to everyone who stepped-up and helped to get through the crisis.

Committee Chair Reports

Finance/Personnel Committee of July 6, 2006

Director of Human Resources Deborah DeForest reported that there is a Codes Department proposal for increases in various fees, which will be on next week's agenda.

William Roberts, Director of Finance/City Clerk, reported that the annual SPCA contract that was recommended for approval last November finally went through both the Finance/Personnel and the Public Safety/Public Works Committees and was recommended for full Council approval.

There was a brief discussion on the Fire Chief vacancy, however, DeForest commented that more detail will be discussed during executive session. Additionally, DeForest added that the Police Chief announced the retirement of Police Officer Wich, which has left a vacancy: This will be on next weeks agenda also, based on the recommendations of the Finance/Personnel Committee.

Roberts also noted that EMO A. Jones, the Police Chief, and the Fire Chief, as well as Superintendent Carl Ivarson reported on the massive flooding, giving us some of the estimates as well as the overtime costs. The damages have totaled at least \$1.2 million.

The Committee reviewed the bid for the Eaton Avenue Project materials and that the contractor's bid meeting the requirements was Vellano Brothers, which the Committee recommended approving.

Roberts also reported that the water rates for the Town of Norwich were not coordinated with the Town until a couple of months ago. He stated that we got the rates billed, but the Supervisor was unaware of this until he received the bill. Roberts noted that this was an opportunity to create some good will with the Town and the Finance/Personnel Committee recommended issuing a credit for the first quarter (which billed at the 2006 rates represents ~\$3700 over the previous rates).

Roberts reported that a proposed local law to amend the City Charter would be brought forth at the work session and that it would address the terms of the charges, the applications and fees. He stated that he would have details over the next couple weeks and anticipated having it ready for the Council to receive at the next meeting.

Roberts also reported that there was an issue raised about changing terms of the Mayor and possibly the Aldermen. He noted that there was a legal process required for a public referendum and it could be considered next year. After discussing time constraints and the detailed steps involved in changing the terms, the Committee's consensus was that changing the terms of office was not feasible to pursue at this time.

Roberts reported that the State Archives Office requires the City to officially designate a Records Management Officer, and stated that current Historian, Joseph Telesky was designated for recommendation to the Council.

Roberts explained that the Committee also concurred that proceeds from the 2005 Property auction last November be designated as recommended, which included an IRS payroll tax penalty, which was an issue that started way back in Feb when the payroll clerk person left and a new person was hired.

Ald. Williams asked if the Finance/Personnel Committee put an estimated dollar amount on the SPCA contract and Roberts replied that in the past what has that amount been approximately two-thousand dollars annually in more recent years. Roberts also noted that this contract excluded cat control.

Public Works/Safety Committee of May 25, 2006

Ald. Abraham reported that Ivarson has been so busy keeping the water-related issues in-check and continuing to keep this City running that he hasn't had much time to speak with him yet, however he added that Ivarson is doing a fine job staying on top of things. There was more damage than anticipated and Ald. Abraham knows that Ivarson will soon be able to give us some better figures on the damage.

The Police Department reported a minor shortage in the overtime and Angelino reported that the DWI Patrol and the Selective Traffic Enforcement Patrol would reimburse \$12,000 of that overage, as Angelino has had discussions with Roberts to see if that can be put toward the overtime. Also noted that Chief Angelino stated that the 2007 budget is nearly completed and that there is more money budgeted for overtime. Angelino also let us know that the PD is doing everything he can to keep the overtime down, adding that Dale Smith, Assistant Police Chief, was able to rotate himself into the schedule in order to keep the overtime down. Ald. Abraham commented that it was real team effort and he wants to commend the Police Chief Angelino on that.

Ald. Abraham reported that the Fire Department has a sizeable (\$69,000) shortfall in overtime expenditures, which is way over budget. He noted that Chief Tighe reported that the personnel budget for regular time is lower than anticipated and he wants to put it into overtime. Ald. Abraham asked why there's so much overtime, where and who is it going to, and why are justifying expending so much overtime? He stated that those are the reports that he would like. He stated the reports are generalized and Ald. Abraham feels he is not getting a full report. Chief Tighe responded that he was given the report last month, which breaks down the days/hours and what the overtime is utilized for, as requested.

Ald. Abraham stated there were a couple of streets that need to be blocked off for block parties (Conkey and Francis Avenues), and noted that they have gone through the correct legal procedures. He also noted that he received a copy of an email, which stated that we contracted Burrell's for some work and his is questioning where this money is coming from.

Discussion

Vacancy on Planning Commission

Mayor Joseph Maiurano noted that he will have a name by the next Council meeting.

Development of Agenda for Regular Common Council Meeting of July 18, 2006

- 1) *Call To Order*
- 2) *Pledge of Allegiance*
- 3) *Invocation*
- 4) *Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of the work session of June 15, 2006, the regular meeting of June 20, 2006, and the special meeting of June 29, 2006*
- 5) *Public Hearing: Proposed Ordinance No. 1 of 2006 to Amend the Garbage Ordinance*
- 6) *Open Forum*
- 7) *Bids*

8) Correspondence

- ◆ Request for Francis Avenue Closure for Neighborhood Clambake, August 12, 2006

9) Department, Board and Commission Reports *report not received

- ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for *
- ◆ Historian monthly report for *
- ◆ Police Department monthly report for *
- ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for*
- ◆ Records Management monthly report for *
- ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for June 2006
- ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of &*
- ◆ Parks Tour Report June 12, 2006(in lieu of Parks Commission Report)
- ◆ Planning Commission (no meeting in June 2006)
- ◆ Traffic Commission Information Sheet (in lieu of minutes)
- ◆ Water Commission minutes of *
- ◆ Youth Board minutes of June 13,2006
- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of *

10) Ward and Committee Reports

- ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee meeting of July 6, 2006
- ◆ Public Safety / Public Works Committee meeting of June 22, 2006

11) Old Business

12) New Business

Council Appointments

Alderman Ward 5

- ◆ Council President

Mayoral Appointments

- ◆ Finance / Personnel Committee Member
- ◆ Finance / Personnel Committee Chair
- ◆ Civil Service Commission Member
- ◆ Planning Commission Member

Discussion

- ◆ Updating Fees Schedule

Award of Bid

- ◆ Award of Bid for Eaton Avenue

Motions

Denial of Appeal of Determination on Private Building on City Property at Chenango Lake

- ◆ Authorizing 2006 Agreement with SPCA for Animal Services
- ◆ Authorizing Town of Norwich First Quarter Water Billing Credit
- ◆ Receive Proposed Local Law to Amend City Charter Regarding Property Taxes and Set Public Hearing
- ◆ Authorizing Hiring of Four Temporary Full-Time Summer Workers

Resolutions

- ◆ Res – Designating Joseph Telesky as Records Management Officer
- ◆ Res – Authorizing Budget Transfers for Increased Property Auction Costs and

Payroll Tax

Penalty

- ◆ Res – Appointing Police Officer

13) Payment of Bills

14) Executive Session: To Discuss Employment History of Particular Individuals

14) Adjournment

Agenda Addition

Bill Roberts had an addition to the agenda after receiving a phone call from Jim Havtur of the Department of Transportation advising him that he has done some research and finds that the City is eligible for additional reimbursements for the City Streetscape Project via the Marcheselli program. Havtur will be sending Roberts the information this week and Roberts added that the reimbursement amount is \$100,000. Roberts noted that he would be adding a motion to the agenda, which will entail authorizing the Mayor to sign the necessary documents.

Ald. Williams asked where that money would be allocated and Roberts replied that that was something the Council would have to decide. Roberts noted that they did draw money from the Community Development funds for ~\$150,000, adding that there are several unfinished elements in the project that could be an option for the City to consider.

Executive Session: To Discuss the Employment History of Particular Individuals

Ald. Williams **moved** to go into Executive Session at 7:27 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to exit Executive Session at 8:30 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to adjourn the Common Council work session at 8:35 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted, ayes all.