

COMMON COUNCIL

September 19, 2006

Mayor Joseph Maiurano presided at the regular meeting of the Common Council held at 7:00 PM on September 19, 2006 at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Maiurano
Ald. A. Abraham
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. Suzanne Williams
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Also:

Dir. of Finance/City Clerk, William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Assistant Police Chief Dale Smith
City Attorney Patrick Flanagan
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence
EMO A. Jones
Media Representative Jessica Lewis
Deputy Clerk, Darlene Colaso

Absent:

Supervisor, Linda Natoli

Call to Order: The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Maiurano at 7:00 p.m.

Presentation

Edward Nichols, Dean of the Norwich Campus of Morrisville State College, was in attendance tonight to discuss college and community cooperation.

He stated that more than a year has passed since Morrisville has moved to its new location and gave a brief update on what the move has meant to the community. He thanked the community for its generous support and stated that school has been furnished with state-of-the-art facilities and wonderful donated artwork. He mentioned that a new initiative this year includes the recent start-up of an Associate's in Applied Science Degree in Early Childhood Development, which is consistently ranked by State and Federal agencies as one of the top growth career fields. This program is the first program not available at Morrisville's main campus, therefore attracting more students from outside the area. He encouraged anyone who has not visited the new campus to do so.

Nichols stated SUNY Morrisville Norwich Campus values the community's support and interest. Nichols noted, based on a recent higher education publication, that the public purpose/mission of public colleges is: 1) providing access and opportunity to those students who may not otherwise attend college outside the area, 2) affordability 3) economic advantage and development both for individuals and community, 4) to assist and work with secondary and elementary schools to help them do the best job possible to improve area schools, 5) housing, and 6) technical assistance (using Morrisville expertise to enhance its website).

Ald. Williams asked whether the school library is open to the public and Nichols replied yes, however it's primarily a reference and electronic library: Most printed matter is non-circulating reference with a wide array of electronic reference. Nichols confirmed that library/research training is provided to students. Ald. Williams asked if Nichols had any projections on growth and asked if the student population was still entirely commuter-based. Nichols responded that 99% of the students commute from within Chenango County. He added that the capacity is for up to 1000 students, which they anticipate growing into over the next five years. Currently, there are ~600 students enrolled. An Associate's degree in Human Services is awaiting approval at SUNY right now. He added that Criminal Justice is currently under development and will also be unique to Norwich. Ald. Williams inquired about 4-year degree programs and Nichols replied that they are not currently authorized by SUNY to offer 4-year degrees. Ald. Bresina inquired about an Energy Engineering program and a Entrepreneurial Short Course. Nichols responded that they are already offering courses in Entrepreneurship. In regard to the Energy Engineering, that is a 4-year degree and very technical. The higher tech, lab-based programs pose a challenge to them, since they do not have the proper facilities for this type of study – although he is not ruling that out.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Schermerhorn moved to approve the minutes of the work session of August 15, 2006 and the regular meeting of August 22, 2006. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Open Forum

Although no one spoke, Mayor Maiurano encouraged the community to become involved in the Common Council meetings and wanted to express his thanks to those who were in attendance this evening.

Bids: None.

Correspondence

Request from Norwich YMCA for Annual Halloween Parade on October 28, 2006

Ald. Williams **moved** to receive and file a letter from the YMCA's request for an October 28, 2006 Annual Halloween parade at 10:30 a.m. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted ayes all.

Request from Alderman Bresina for a "No Parking" area on Lee Ave.

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to receive and file a letter from Ald. Bresina requesting a no parking area on Lee Avenue and refer it to the Traffic Commission. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted ayes all.

Request for Park & Street Closings for Eighth Annual Pumpkin Festival: October 27th - 29th

Ald. Bresina **moved** to receive and file a letter regarding a request for street closings during the annual Pumpkin Fest from October 27-29. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted ayes all.

Letter from Norwich Resident Harry Graves Regarding Street Parking Issues on Mitchell Street

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to receive and file a letter regarding street parking issues on Mitchell Street and to have Assistant Police Chief Dale Smith bring the issue before the Traffic Commission. Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly adopted ayes all.

Notice of a Liquor License Renewal for the Veteran's Memorial Home

Ald. Williams **moved** to receive and file notice of a liquor license renewal from the Veteran's Memorial Home. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for August 2006
- ◆ Youth Bureau July/August 2006 Report
- ◆ Planning Commission minutes of August 21, 2006
- ◆ Youth Board (no August meeting)
- ◆ Water Commission (no August meeting – Annual Picnic)
- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of August 28, 2006

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

Ward and Committee Reports

- ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee of September 5, 2006
- ◆ Public Works/Safety Committee of August 24, 2006

Ward One – Ald. Abraham reported that he has been contacted regarding businesses regarding sites that may be available in Norwich; if further interest is shown by them he will bring it before the necessary committees. Ald. Abraham also reported that in regard to the fire tanker truck needing replacement, he has discussed with Chief Angelino the possibility of utilizing a milk tanker which has a 2500 gallon capacity at a cost of \$5,000. He has been discussing this with the fire department and if determined feasible, it could put the city in a better position until we can purchase the \$100,000-plus tanker truck needed. Ald. Abraham also alluded to an old treatment plan problem and noted that plans should be in place shortly to remedy the situation.

Ald. Abraham also mentioned regarding the possible turning arrow on the corner of Hale and South Broad Streets turning into Hale, is continuing to be examined. Chief Angelino wrote a letter to DOT's Paul Gregory.

Gregory responded with a letter stating that DOT is going to replace poles, which currently hold the light up. He and Angelino met with Gregory on Friday to view the site. Ald. Abraham suggested placing a turning arrow so that southbound traffic could make a designated left onto Hale Street. Gregory responded that he would do that and he would place a turning arrow on the other side as well. So it looks like we're going to get a turning light, which will alleviate a lot of congestion. The change will take place around the 25th of September.

Ward Two – Ald. Bresina reported that he has a lot of happy residents in his ward who think Ivarson is a great guy. For quite some time, prior to when Ald. Bresina took office, there were many complaints about the condition of a certain street. However, since it was not an item that required immediate action, it was never addressed. Ivarson said that he would do it when they could and they did and his constituents are extremely happy. In another area, around Willard Court and the Plymouth Street area, which was particularly hit hard by the flooding this year, people are accepting the fact that what can be done is being done.

Ward Three – Ald. Williams wanted to thank Ivarson for an excellent job paving Hillview Drive. She has had some complaints from a neighbor who has a neighbor parking on the grass next to their residence. Code Enforcement asked that the car be fitted with a custom car cover, which they did, but it is still on the grass, which of course is upsetting the neighbor. Since that time, she has other complaints regarding cars parking on lawns. She said that parking on the lawns in the R-1 districts is a mess and looks awful. She wants it discussed with the Task Force, as she doesn't want to see Ward 3 going downhill.

Ward Four – Ald. Schermerhorn reported all issues have been addressed and he thanked Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence for taking care of the 49 Front Street property problem. He also said that Mitchell Street has been handled and is in good shape. He added that there is an ongoing effort to upgrade his Ward.

Ward Five – Ald. Laughlin confirmed that in regard to the letter addressing the problem on Mitchell Street, he feels that that is being taken care of. He reported that not a lot was going on in his ward and that the problematic tree at the back of the East Main Street School has been removed. He also said that he has been talking with his constituents about a possible sidewalk replacement program and most of the people he has spoken to would be interested.

Ward Six – Ald. Jeffrey wanted to thank Ivarson and his team for doing such a good job on the paving of Birdsall Street. He also mentioned that he appreciated Lawrence's assistance in addressing code violations and that anything else that needed to be addressed was already passed on to the appropriate department heads.

Mayor Maiurano stated that Committee reports would be placed in Council members mailboxes later in the week and asked for a motion to receive and file the ward reports only. Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted ayes all.

Old Business

Crossing Guards

Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest stated that this issue was on hold until it comes before the Finance/Personnel Committee next month.

Discussion

Status of Pending Condemnation Proceedings on Front Street Property

Code Officer Lawrence reported that the lawns have been mowed, the property is being maintained by a local contractor, and the heavy equipment has been removed. He noted that a letter from the owner's daughter was distributed, earlier in the week, detailing out the progress and showing that the owner is diligently remediating the problems. Lawrence has full cooperation of the land owner and he mentioned that there is a prospective buyer. It was suggested that the issue be tabled and reevaluated each month.

Ald. Abraham and Ald. Schermerhorn both expressed concern about this property and reiterated that they would like Codes to stay on top of it to ensure compliance. Lawrence stated that he would.

Hayes Street Parking Lot: Merchant Parking Issues (Status Update)

BID Director Peg LoPresti had requested that the Hayes Street Parking Lot be considered for longer-term parking for surrounding businesses. Assistant Police Chief Dale Smith stated that he would be

bringing the issue before the Traffic Commission next month, as they did not meet this past Wednesday.

New Business

Prior to delving into new business, Mayor Maiurano wanted to welcome two new volunteer firefighters, Trevor Natoli and Kevin Ray, to the Norwich Fire Department. He thanked them for making the commitment to our community.

Mayoral Appointments

The Mayor appointed the following Historical Preservation Committee members: Dale Storms of Canasawacta Terrace in Norwich and Kate Stewart of 13 Summit Street, also in Norwich.

Motions

Authorizing Purchase of Replacement Fire Tanker Truck on Emergency Basis

Ald. Williams moved to authorize the Police/Fire Chief to pursue the purchase of a replacement fire tanker truck on an emergency basis, as provided under Sections 2.c) and 8.b. of the City Procurement Policy and 103-4 of the General Municipal Law. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

Prior to the vote, Ald. Williams wanted to confirm that this is for pursuing the replacement, not actually replacing the fire truck. Mayor Maiurano that this was not authorizing the purchase, but simply the research.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #64-2006 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FUNDS FOR CITY COURT HVAC BID AWARD

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a bid was awarded on August 22, 2006 to Treiffesen and Sons for replacement of the City Court HVAC System; and

WHEREAS, funds are required for the cost of such award; and

WHEREAS, the State Unified Court System has indicated that a portion of such costs will be reimbursed by them; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety/Public Works and Finance/Personnel Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR33-878	Capital Reserves – Municipal Buildings & Facilities	\$19,450.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1620.4040	Municipal Buildings – Repairs and Maintenance	\$19,450.00

and further be it

RESOLVED, that all reimbursements of such costs be returned to the Municipal Buildings Capital Reserves Fund.

Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and (duly adopted), 6-0, on a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #65-2006 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER IN 2006 GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR
VEHICLE MAINTENANCE COSTS**

Ald. Abraham introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the cumulative effects of aging rolling equipment and operational demands have resulted in increased vehicle maintenance costs greater than budgeted; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfers in the 2006 General Fund Budget up to and not exceeding the amounts indicated:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A5142.1010	Snow & Ice Removal – Personal Services	\$20,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A5110.4040	Street Maintenance – Repairs & Maintenance	\$20,000.00

Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

**RESOLUTION #66-2006 AUTHORIZING CONVEYANCE OF FIRE TANKER TRUCK TO
CHENANGO COUNTY FAIR ASSOCIATION**

Ald. Bresina introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has taken the Fire Department's 1973 Ford fire tanker, VIN R80CVS47313, out of service because it is no longer suitable for over the road firefighting use and the restoration to such use would not be realistically cost effective; and

WHEREAS, a means for controlling dust at the Chenango County Fairgrounds in the City of Norwich is needed; and

WHEREAS, the subject fire tanker was originally a gift at no cost from the Town of Norwich to the City; and

WHEREAS, it has been determined that it is in the best interests of the local community to provide a means for controlling dust at the County Fairgrounds in the City of Norwich and that a conveyance of the subject tanker at no cost is appropriate for such purposes; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the City be and hereby is authorized to convey the subject fire tanker to the Chenango County Fire Association at no charge for the purposes of controlling dust at the Chenango County Fairgrounds.

Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #67-2006 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR RBC REPAIRS

Ald. Abraham introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required for the repair of a second unit of Rotating Biological Contactors (“RBC’s”) at the Waste Water Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety/Public Works and Finance/Personnel Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfers from the Capital Reserves into the Wastewater Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR42	Capital Reserves Sewer Equipment	\$14,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
G8130.4040	Treatment – Repairs & Maintenance	\$14,000.00

Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #68-2006 APPOINTMENT OF COREY DUBOIS TO MEO I POSITION

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of MEO I in the Department of Public Works; and

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

RESOLVED, that Corey DuBois of South New Berlin, NY, be and hereby is permanently appointed to the position of MEO I in the Department of Public Works, effective September 20, 2006.

Seconded by Ald. Bresina and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 69- 2006 AUTHORIZING BID REQUEST FOR BLUESTONE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$30,506.20

Ald. Abraham introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a bluestone stripe was incorporated in the renovated downtown sidewalks under the 2002-2003 Streetscape Project; and

WHEREAS, extensive deterioration and breakdown of the bluestone material has occurred; and

WHEREAS, the Business Improvement District (BID) has identified a source of funds to cover one-half of the total projected costs of \$61,012.40 for replacing the bluestone with the same Jarvis Imprint material as was successfully utilized for crosswalks and median inlays; and

WHEREAS, additional funds are required to cover the balance of the costs; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety/Public Works and Finance/Personnel Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Number</u>		
CD65-909	Community Development Funds - Loans and Economic Development Projects	\$30,506.20

<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Number</u>		
H92-5197	BID Streetscape – Bluestone Replacement	\$30,506.20

Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted, 6-0, on a roll call vote.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Maiurano wanted to note that one of the issues the city will be addressing is contractor coordination (i.e., ensuring that the contractor is ready to go at the same time we are removing the bluestone). Ald. Jeffrey inquired as to whether the required warranty was written into the contract and DeForest responded that there would be. Ivarson also added that BID Director Peg LoPresti knows there must be warranties and he is sure that this has been taken care of.

Mayoral Comment

Prior to moving on to the last agenda item, Mayor Maiurano wanted to recognize Doc De Boer who is head of the County Fire-Police and also Roger Foulston, who is head of the City of Norwich Fire-Police. Mayor Maiurano stated that most people don't realize as they're enjoying Colorscape or the Pumpkin Festival, the Fire-Police who place the barricades and manage traffic control are there as volunteers. The time the Fire-Police volunteer to assist the Fire Department allows us to defray the costs of hosting such events. Mayor Maiurano wanted to recognize and thank Jimmy Foulston and Dave Law, present this evening, who regularly volunteer their time.

Payment of Bills

Ald. Schermerhorn moved to pay the bills after proper audit and certification as follows:

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>09/19/06</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$146,289.85	\$74,047.92	\$220,337.77
Sewer Fund	8,446.89	26,905.81	35,352.70
Water Fund	20,868.88	11,583.71	32,452.59
Trust	20,373.40	0.00	20,373.40
B.I.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service	8,917.50	0.00	8,917.50
Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unemployment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Com. Developmnt.	33,000.00	0.00	33,000.00
EDZ/LDC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Projects	4,917.90	0.00	4,917.90
TOTALS	242,814.42	112,537.44	355,351.86

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin and duly adopted ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to adjourn the Common Council meeting at 7:53 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted ayes all.

