

COMMON COUNCIL

December 19, 2006

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

Present:

Mayor Maiurano
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. Williams
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey
Supervisor Jim McNeil

Also:

Dir. of Finance/City Clerk, William Roberts
City Attorney Patrick Flanagan
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Youth Bureau Director Bob Mason
Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence
Planning & CD Specialist Todd Dreyer
Deputy Clerk Darlene Colaso

Absent:

Ald. A. Abraham
Supervisor Linda Natoli

Call to Order: The regular meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Maiurano at 7:02 p.m.

City Official Appointments

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to re-appoint William J. Roberts, 112 Hillview Court, as City Clerk and Director of Finance, to a two year term expiring December 31, 2008; Robert Mason, Norwich, NY, as Youth Bureau Director, to a two year term expiring December 31, 2008; and Patrick Flanagan, 42 South Broad Street, as City Attorney, to a two-year term expiring December 31, 2008. Seconded by Ald. Bresina, and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Maiurano commented that he often witnesses Roberts working long hours and on weekends, adding that Roberts is a great asset to the city. Mayor Maiurano also commented that Mason does a tremendous job, adding that Mason is always looking for new ideas for youth programs and that he also works many hours above and beyond the hours we pay him. He also commended Patrick Flanagan for his hard work and congratulated all three gentlemen on their re-appointments.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Schermerhorn moved to approve the minutes of the special session of November 9, 2006, the work session of November 14, 2006, the special meeting of November 20, 2006, the regular meeting of November 21, 2006, and the special meeting of November 28, 2006. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted ayes all.

Open Forum

Fred Goldby, 31 South Mitchell Street, said that many people in the city do not realize that there is a South Mitchell Street, but there are four houses located there, three of which have been fixed up; however the fourth one is where his problem lies: He stated his property overlooks this other, dilapidated, property which is crammed with garbage, lawn mowers and other debris. He has been trying to sell his property for quite some time now and when people view the house, they like it until they look in the back and see this unkempt property. He said that he's lived here for 62 years, adding that many places in Norwich are just terrible now. Code Enforcement Officer Jason Lawrence summarized the violations issued to the property in question and said that the next step is an appearance ticket. Goldby said that they hide things and unless Code Enforcement is entering the property, they can't see it. Ald. Schermerhorn commented that it sounds habitual. He added that this Council is trying to improve the city. He encouraged Lawrence to issue the appearance ticket, commending Lawrence on doing a tremendous job.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Police Department monthly report for October 2006
- ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for November 2006
- ◆ Youth Bureau Monthly Report for November 2006
- ◆ Parks Commission minutes of November 13, 2006
- ◆ Youth Board minutes of December 13, 2006
- ◆ Water Commission (no meeting in December)

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

Ward and Committee Reports

- ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee of December 5, 2006
- ◆ Public Works/Safety Committee of November 23, 2006

Ward 1 Report (Ald. Abraham was absent this evening.)

Ward 2 Report

Ald. Bresina reported that things look good in his ward; particularly since the rain has stopped.

Ward 3 Report

Ald. Williams reported that while all was quiet in Ward 3 she did receive two calls regarding a vehicle with a huge hand-made sign parked in front of the Larger Furniture store located on North Broad. She asked if anything could be done about this dilapidated vehicle perpetually parked on the city streets. Police Chief Angelino said that the vehicle is legally parked, with the tires chalked every few hours, however they keep moving it. While he too has received a lot of complaints, the vehicle is in fact legal.

Ward 4 Report

Ald. Schermerhorn reported that he had a couple of issues (one which was addressed this evening already) that he turned over to the respective staff member.

Ward 5 Report

Ald. Laughlin reported that all is quiet in his ward and he has had no complaints.

Ward 6 Report

Ald. Jeffrey reported that any and all matters have been referred to the appropriate department heads.

Ald. Bresina **moved** to receive and file the ward and committee reports. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted ayes all.

New Business

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 92-2006 AUTHORIZING SUPPLEMENTAL B.I.D. REQUEST FOR BLUESTONE SIDEWALK REPLACEMENT FUNDS IN THE AMOUNT OF \$3,280

Ald. Jeffrey 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 need for supplemental funds to cover one-half of the new total projected costs of \$67,572.40 (which includes a three-year warranty) 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:

From:

Account

Number

CD65-909

Name

Community Development Funds - Loans
and Economic Development Projects

Amount

\$3,280.00

To:

Account

Number

H92-5197

Name

BID Streetscape – Bluestone Replacement

Amount

\$3,280.00

Seconded by Ald. Laughlin and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION 93-2006

AUTHORIZING APPLICATION TO ENTER INTO CONTRACT
WITH NYS DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR SIDEWALK GRANT

Alderman Schermerhorn introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, by letter dated August 28, 2006, State Senator Thomas W. Libous informed Mayor Joseph Maiurano of a grant award of \$50,000 to be used by the City for the replacement of residential sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, by letter dated September 13, 2006, Secretary of State Christopher L. Jacobs confirmed the grant award and provided instructions for the execution of a contract to facilitate the grant; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to utilize the grant for the replacement of sidewalks in poor condition in residential areas; and

WHEREAS, the grant funding and the sidewalk replacement construction activities are classified as a Type 2 action and therefore a determination of non-significance is not required under provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA); now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the mayor of the City, acting under the direction of the city attorney, is hereby authorized to undertake all actions necessary to engage in a contract with the New York State Department of State to facilitate the sidewalk grant.

Seconded by Alderman Bresina and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Prior to the vote, Ald. Jeffrey asked if the city would advertise so that the community is aware of this program. Planning and Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer responded that individual Aldermen will solicit constituents in their wards and line up adjacent properties, adding that they want to avoid individual sidewalks and he mentioned that there are no plans to advertise it, at this time. Mayor Maiurano clarified that this is not the long-term sidewalk program, but a one-time grant. Dreyer said that while still in the beginning stages, folks who want to participate in this summer's program would have one-half of the cost paid for by this grant. He added that after this initial program, the long-term program will be developed.

RESOLUTION 94-2006

ESTABLISHING WATER RATES – TOWN OF NORWICH
EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2007

Ald. Bresina introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City has contracts with the Town of Norwich (the "Town") for supplying water which provide that related costs shall be allocated to the Town in a water rate schedule determined by the City each year; and

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

RESOLVED, that the following rate schedule for billing of water provided to the Town by the City be and hereby is approved, and shall take effect with billings commencing April 1, 2007.

NORWICH WATER SYSTEM							
ADOPTED WATER RATES FOR TOWN OF NORWICH							
FOR 2007 BUDGET YEAR							
(Effective in Billings Starting April 1, 2007)							
					Present	Adopted	Amount of
					(2006)	(2007)	Increase: Percentag
							e
WATER USE QUARTERLY							
RATES:							
Minimum Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet:					\$ 39.93	\$ 43.92	\$ 3.99 9.99%
Charge per 100 cu. ft. for Additional							
Usage Over 1,000 cubic feet:							
Additional 1,000 to 13,000 cubic feet:					3.44	\$ 3.78	0.34 9.88%
Additional 13,000 to 50,000 cubic feet:					3.55	\$ 3.91	0.36 10.14%
Additional 50,000 (and over) cubic feet:					3.66	\$ 4.03	0.37 10.11%

Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted, 5-0, on a roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

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

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>12/19/06</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$658,497.55	\$79,014.53	\$737,512.08
Sewer Fund	28,364.86	12,578.92	40,943.78
Water Fund	48,310.81	15,090.86	63,401.67
Trust	36,163.33	0.00	36,163.33
B.I.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unemployment	0.00	0.00	0.00
Comm Development	5,470.00	0.00	5,470.00
EDZ/LDC	0.00	0.00	0.00
Capital Projects	117,075.82	0.00	117,075.82
TOTALS	893,882.37	106,684.31	1,000,566.68

Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey and duly adopted ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn the Common Council meeting at 7:26 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted ayes all.

