

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

May 10, 2005

Mayor Robert presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on May 10, 2005, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. A. Anthony Abraham
Ald. James Cushman
Ald. Suzanne Williams
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Joseph Maiurano
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Clerk / Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief John Tighe
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Deputy Clerk Donna Philippone

Presentation

-- Norwich High School Student Council members presented a proposal to rename the portion of Midland Drive from the corner where it meets the High School to the intersection of Hale Street. Patrick Killeen, Student Council President, stated that the student government has been looking at the idea for over a year and the students chose Tornado Alley with Purple Boulevard as the second choice. He also stated that the School would pay all costs associated with the name change. Discussion ensued. The Council concurred that the area should not be officially changed, but given an informal name and authorized placement of the item on the agenda. It was noted that the students could have a street sign installed stating the informal name.

New Business

Codes Enforcement Vacancy -- Ald. Williams moved to refill the Codes Enforcement Officer position, as recommended by the Finance/Personnel Committee. Seconded by Ald. Maiurano.

Discussion ensued. Ald. Biviano stated that from the minutes it appears there is uncertainty among the Finance/Personnel Committee members regarding the position. He said he agreed with filling the position, however, suggested that first it be looked at what other communities are doing. He noted that in the past the job was combined with other duties. Ald. Abraham suggested that as long as there are three capable individuals in the Fire Department to act as Codes Officer, the position should not be filled until it is studied further. Ald. Thornton noted the necessity for hiring a qualified individual as soon as possible. The Council discussed what its needs were for the position. Ald. Biviano suggested deferring the matter until after an executive session could be held later in the meeting. The Council concurred.

Open Forum

-- **Norman Nichols**, 43 Mitchell Street, stated that he is opposed to the recent replacement of the traffic light with four-way stop signs at the intersection of Mitchell and Silver Streets. He said he observed 56 vehicles run through the stop signs within a two-hour period. Mr. Nichols expressed concern about traffic on the street when a special event such as Gus Macker is in progress. He also questioned the signage in the area of Mitchell Street. Ald. Thornton noted that Mr. Nichols called him regarding the situation and has some valid points. He said he explained to him the process by which the Traffic Commission arrived at its recommendation. It was suggested that Mr. Nichols attend the next Traffic Commission meeting where he could address all of his traffic and parking concerns.

-- **Mary Coe**, 5A Waite Street, asked who owns the traffic lights. Supt. Ivarson explained that the State owns the traffic lights on North and South Broad Streets and East and West Main Streets; the City owns the remaining lights.

Committee Chair Reports

- ◆ Public Works Committee – Ald. Abraham reported the Public Works Committee was updated on the Route 12 Re-Paving Project and the flood damage assessment. He noted that there were also a number of problems related to the flooding. The Committee also reviewed a list of additional streets relative to the 2005 CHIPS program, an issue relative to a storm drain on Borden Avenue, the Brown Avenue Housing Project, traffic lights on Silver Street, the purchase of additional records shelving, third floor design process, antennas and base radios, manpower vacancy, spring pick-up, training and impound vehicles. Ald. Abraham also stated that the City may receive some relief from FEMA and Rural Development and that there would be a meeting with FEMA representatives on May 3.
- ◆ Public Safety Committee – Ald. Cushman reported the Public Safety Committee reviewed correspondence from the YMCA and VFW relative to event and representatives from Colorscape were present to request special event coverage of its annual event. Police Chief Angelino noted that the VFW has requested permission from the Mayor to hold an encampment with drills that would include firing of muskets. Ald. Cushman also reported: a Presidential Disaster Declaration was received relative to the recent flooding and that the

Committee plans to review an After-Action Assessment at its next meeting; discussion was held regarding the traffic lights on Silver Street; multiple family residences issues were discussed with Ed Morano and a list of priorities would be developed at the next meeting.

- ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee – Ald. Maiurano reported the Finance/Personnel Committee discussed flood damage, records shelving, impound vehicles to be declared surplus, a request from the Knovel Corp to extend its loan, the Golden Age Project and proposed PILOT, Route 12 Repaving project, additional compensation for the EMO and sale of the East Main Street school. Discussion ensued regarding the Golden Age PILOT and Ald. Biviano questioned why it would be for 35 years. Director of Finance Roberts explained that it was a requirement of HUD and also noted that the PILOT cannot be restricted to the City. Regarding the sale of the East Main Street School, Ald. Biviano suggested that the property be sold at public auction. Director of Finance Roberts explained that he was in the process of completing a bid package and noted it would include a minimum bid.

Proposal to Waive Parking Regulations – Mayor Raphael reported he was approached with a request that during the Route 12 Re-paving project, parking regulations be waived. Chief Angelino suggested that if the Council chose to do so, he would recommend that only the time limit be waived. The Council concurred to add such motion to the agenda.

Development of Agenda for May 17, 2005

- 1) Executive Session – Employment History of Particular Individuals
- 2) Call To Order
- 3) Pledge of Allegiance
- 4) Invocation
- 5) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of the regular meeting of April 19, 2005 and the work session of May 10, 2005
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
- 8) Correspondence
 - ◆ Request from BIDMA/Norwich Merchants Assoc. to hold Classic Car Cruise-In on Friday, May 27, 2005 from 6 PM to 9 PM
 - ◆ Request from VFW to hold the Memorial Day Parade on May 30, 2005 beginning at 8:45 AM
 - ◆ Request to hold the Dairy Day Celebration on Saturday, June 18, 2005 beginning at 10 AM
 - ◆ Request to hold the Gus Macker Basketball Tournament on July 9 and 10, 2005 with Special Event designation
 - ◆ Request to hold Colorscape Chenango Festival on September 10 and 11, 2005 with Special Event designation
 - ◆ Request from Norwich City Band to use the Gazebo, electricity and sound system in East Side Park for six consecutive Friday evenings beginning on July 8, 2005
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for April, 2005
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for April, 2005
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for April, 2005
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for April, 2005
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of March 31, 2005
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of April 11, 2005
 - ◆ Traffic Commission minutes of April 13, 2005
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Finance/Personnel Committee meetings of April 19, 2005 and May 4, 2005
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of April 21, 2005
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of April 28, 2005
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business
 - Appointments
 - ◆ B.I.D.M.A. Council Representative
 - ◆
 - Motions
 - ◆ Refill MEO I Position
 - ◆ Authorize Waiver for Parking
 - ◆ Authorize Court Security Officers Salary Increase
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res – Appointment of Senior Account Clerk

- ◆ Res – Establishing 2005 Non Unit Compensation Schedule
- ◆ Res – Declaring Surplus Property and Authorizing Disposal
- ◆ Res – Authorizing Transfer for DPW Vehicles Purchase
- ◆ Res – Modifying Economic Development Loan to Knovel Corporation
- ◆ Res – Authorizing Agreement for Audit Services
- ◆ Res – Establishing Time and Procedure for 2005 Tax Auction
- ◆ Res – Authorizing PILOT with Golden Age Project

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Executive Session – As indicated during discussion earlier relative to the Codes Enforcement vacancy, Ald. Biviano moved to go into executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Thornton moved to go out of executive session at 8:47 PM. Seconded by Ald. Abraham and duly adopted, ayes all.

Relative to the motion moved and seconded earlier in the meeting to refill the Codes Enforcement Officer position, as recommended by the Finance/Personnel Committee, Ald. Biviano called the question and the motion was duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

Adjournment – Ald. Cushman moved to adjourn at 8:49 PM. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted, ayes all.