

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
August 10, 2004

Mayor Robert presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7:08 PM on August 10, 2004, 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
Deputy Clerk Donna Philippone

Presentation – Mayor Raphael reported that this afternoon he met with representatives from Norwich Schools and Adelphia Cable relative to the education, government and public access channels. He introduced Linda Henry and Mark Santamaria from Adelphia.. Ms. Henry said that due to the little activity on the school and government channels. Ms. Henry explained are being under-utilized as each uses approximately 15 minutes of airtime. Ms. Henry said to make more use of the channels, she suggested several options including one channel for education / government and the other for public access, or one channel for education and the other for government / public access. Ms. Henry indicated that should the education and government channels combine, the municipality would govern the channel. She stated that should the government combine with the public access channel, Adelphia would maintain the channel for the City. Mayor Raphael noted that no decision was expected this evening, as the Council would be reviewing the options.

Open Forum – No one wished to be heard.

November Meetings Schedule – Ald. Williams noting that she would be away the first week in November, questioned possible changes to the public meetings schedule that may result from budget meetings and Election Day. It was indicated that the meeting schedule for November could be moved back one week without difficulty because there are five Tuesdays in the that month.

Development of Agenda for August 17, 2004

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of July 20, 2004 and the special meetings of July 28 and August 3, 2004.
- 5) Public Hearing
 - ♦ Proposed Franchise Agreement with Adelphia
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids – none
- 8) Correspondence
 - ♦ Request to hold the annual Francis Avenue block party
 - ♦ Request to hold the annual Conkey Avenue block party on August 22
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ♦ Historian monthly report for July, 2004
 - ♦ Police Department monthly report for July, 2004
 - ♦ Records Management monthly report for July, 2004
 - ♦ Water Commission minutes of July 21, 2004
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business

Appointments – none

Award of Bids – none

Motions

- ♦ Motion Authorizing proceeds from the Sale of Surplus Police Department Vehicles be deposited to the Police Equipment Reserve (HR21).

Resolutions

- ♦ Res – Approve Franchise Agreement with Adelphia
- ♦ Res – Auth Submission of Grant Amendment for Brown Avenue Project
- ♦ Res – Approve Addendum to Agreement with Shelter Planning
- ♦ Res – Auth Property Tax Sale Auction Transfers
- ♦ Res – Approve Proposal for Excavation Services and Auth Transfer
- ♦ Res – Auth Transfer for Sludge Pump Repairs
- ♦ Res – Auth Transfer for Storm Drain Repairs

- ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Sewer Equipment and Main Replacement Reserves
- ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Dam Inspections
- ◆ Res – Appointment of DPW Position (pending Personnel Committee)
- ◆ Res – Auth Transfer of Storm Drain Operations
- ◆ Res – Establish Sewer Capital Reserve for Storm Drains

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – Finance Committee Chair Biviano reported on items discussed by the Finance Committee as follows: the school tax exemption renewal on the WWTP which is pending approval of the School Board minutes, state sales tax exemption, recommendation that proceeds from the sale of surplus police vehicles be put into the equipment replacement reserve, recommendation to approve an addendum to the community development services contract and fund transfers noted on the agenda.

Mayor Raphael noted that Bill Tomkins of Shelter Planning would be at City Hall on Thursday. Ald. Thornton asked for an itemized bill of the services performed by Shelter Planning to date.

- Personnel Committee – Committee Chair Maiurano reported the Personnel Committee discussed matters including flu shots, a proposed retirement incentive, health insurance costs and the vacant water system position. Council discussion ensued relative to the vacant water system position, health insurance rates and the retirement incentive.
- Public Safety Committee – Committee Chair Cushman reported that the last Public Safety Committee meeting was similar to a town meeting format. Organizations that hold special events and/or require police coverage were invited to attend the meeting to provide thoughts and offer suggestions relative to the benefits of police protection and paying a fee for service. Ald. Cushman noted that there is a difference in what some groups are doing.
- Public Works Committee – Committee Chair Abraham reported the Public Works Committee discussed trees to be taken down, new gas line installation on Elm Street, city property between Byrne Dairy and the Fire Department building, the transfer of the City Historian's Office to City Hall and businesses along Route 12 that have not hooked up to the water/sewer line. He stated that the dead tree on the former Board of Education property that is dangerously close to a transformer has still not been taken down and requested that NYSEG be contacted to address the matter. Ald. Abraham also referred to a health hazard at 46 Conkey Avenue that he has reported several times that there has been no action taken. A motion was made, seconded and carried to refer the matter to the Health Officer and subsequently withdrawn.

-- Ald. Abraham moved to direct the Codes Enforcement Officer to remedy the health hazard situation at 46 Conkey Avenue immediately. Seconded by Ald. Maiurano and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment – Ald. Cushman moved to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Ald. Williams and duly adopted, ayes all.

Executive Session – Ald. Biviano moved to go into an executive session at 8:12 PM to discuss employment history. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all. Ald. Biviano moved to go out of executive session at 10:20 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment – Ald. Maiurano moved to adjourn at 10:20 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.