

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
December 9, 2003

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on December 9, 2003, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Marylou Stewart
Ald. Gary Clark
Ald. James Cushman
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Clerk / Director of Finance Brian Molinaro
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Historian Patricia Scott
Deputy Clerk Donna Philippone

Discussion -- Discussion was held regarding a proposed resolution to amend the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance relative to Permit Parking. Ald. Biviano stated that he would like a stiffer penalty for violators and requested that a map be provided to the Council defining the area designated as permit parking. It was agreed that clarification was needed before the resolution is presented to the Council.

Open Forum

-- Robert Raphael, Mayor-Elect, stated that any action proposed regarding a particular city property should be held over for the new administration in January.

-- Abe Abraham, 118 South Broad Street, asked if an appraisal had been done on the property in question. Ald. Clark said it had not.

New Business

Permanent Financing for Fire Department Building Project -- Ald. Clark moved to authorize the Director of Finance to proceed with permanent financing for the Fire Department Reconstruction Project using the amount of \$3,139,000 as the estimated project cost, thereby reducing the original amount to be bonded by \$100,000 and returning such to the City taxpayers in the form of reduced debt service payments for the next 20 years, as recommended by the Finance Committee. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, 5-1 (Biviano) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Biviano suggested waiting for three months before proceeding and asked if the bids were consistent with the approved package of 11 options.

RESOLUTION # 79 - 2003.

DETERMINATION OF NO ENVIRONMENTAL SIGNIFICANCE
RELATIVE TO THE PROPOSED COMPREHENSIVE PLAN SEQR
PROCESS

Ald. Biviano introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has completed a draft Comprehensive Plan; and

WHEREAS, as lead agency, the City has determined that the adoption of the City of Norwich Comprehensive Plan will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment making the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement not necessary; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby makes a determination of non-significance under SEQR and issues a negative declaration of environmental significance as indicated on the Full Environmental Assessment Form which shall accompany this resolution.

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

RESOLUTION # 80 - 2003.

ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2004 EMPIRE ZONE FUND BUDGET

Ald. Clark introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the tentative fiscal year 2004 budget for Empire Zone Fund in the amount of \$104,900.00; was presented to the Common Council on November 12, 2003; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budget was held on November 18, 2003; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Fiscal Year 2004 Empire Zone Fund in the amount of \$ 104,900.00, as presented to the Common Council on November 12, 2003, be and hereby are adopted.

Seconded by Ald. Cushman and duly adopted, 5-1 (Biviano) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, it was explained that of the \$27,000 the City pays, \$17,000 is reimbursed. Ald. Biviano indicated that he has not seen a monitoring report in over two years.

RESOLUTION # 81 - 2003. AUTHORIZING IMPLEMENTATION AND FUNDING OF A
TRANSPORTATION FEDERAL-AID PROJECT AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THERETO

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a Project for the NYS Route 12, City of Norwich, Chenango County, PIN 9016.42 (the Project) is eligible for funding under Title 23 U.S. Code, as amended, that calls for the apportionment of the costs of such program to be borne at the ratio of 80% Federal funds and 20% State funds; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich desires to advance the Project by making a commitment of 100% of the Federal and State share of the Preliminary Engineering work; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Transportation will reimburse approved Project costs to the City of Norwich in accordance with an agreement between the New York State Department of Transportation and the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, there is substantial public interest in and benefit to the Project; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that

1. the Common Council be and hereby authorizes the City of Norwich to pay in the first instance 100% of the Federal and State share of the Preliminary Engineering work for the Project or portions thereof, and
2. the sum of \$164,000 is hereby appropriated from the General Fund and made available to cover the cost of participation in the above phase of the Project; and
3. the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to execute all necessary Agreements, certifications or reimbursement requests for Federal-aid and/or State-aid on behalf of the City of Norwich with the New York State Department of Transportation in connection with the advancement or approval of the Project costs and all Project costs within appropriations there for that are not so eligible, and
4. a certified copy of this resolution be filed with the New York State Commissioner of Transportation by attaching it to any necessary Agreement in connection with the Project, and
5. this resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

RESOLUTION # 82 - 2003. ADOPTING CITY OF NORWICH COMPREHENSIVE PLAN

Ald. Rabinowitz introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City has completed a draft Comprehensive Plan to guide the protection, enhancement, growth and development of the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the adoption of a comprehensive plan is considered a Type 1 action of the State Environmental Quality Review Act; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council, on December 9, 2003, issued a Negative Declaration based on its determination that the adoption of the plan will not have a significant impact on the environment; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby adopts the City of Norwich Comprehensive Plan; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council shall arrange for periodic review of the plan at least every five years to assess the need for amending or updating the plan to address emerging issues as appropriate.

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

-- Prior to the vote, Mayor Stewart noted that the intent of comprehensive plan is to provide a plan without a commitment to spending or timeframe to complete.

Development of Agenda for December 16, 2003

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of the special meeting of October 30, 2003, the work session of November 12, 2003 and the regular meeting of November 18, 2003.
- 5) Open Forum
- 6) Bids
- 7) Correspondence
- 8) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Community Development Housing Grant Report
 - ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for October, 2003
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for November, 2003
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for October, 2003
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for November, 2003
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for November, 2003
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for November, 2003
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of October 30, 2003
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of November 10, 2003
 - ◆ Water Commission minutes of November 19, 2003
 - ◆ Youth Board minutes of November 18, 2003
- 9) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Finance Committee meeting of December 3, 2003
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of November 3, 2003
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of November 25, 2003
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of November 20, 2003
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
 - ◆ Motion - Authorizing the Mayor to Sign Agreement with OFC for Payment In Lieu of Taxes
 - ◆ Res - Transfer BIDMA Funds
- 13) Payment of Bills

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Clark reported the Finance Committee was updated on various projects.
- Personnel Committee -- Ald. Thornton reported that the Personnel Committee discussed an issue relative to the DPW paying vacation days in lieu of employee taking time off. He also reported executive sessions were held to discuss staffing issues relative to an individual in the Public Works Department and a skating rink attendant.
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported the Public Safety Committee discussed amending the Vehicle and Traffic Ordinance relative to the Hayes Street Parking Lot.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano reported the Public Works Committee discussed the Route 12 Paving Project and a request from a resident of Francis Avenue for a crosswalk on Broad Street that was referred to the State.

Executive Session -- Ald. Clark moved to go into executive session at 8:20 PM to discuss union contract negotiations and the possible sale of property where the price may be affected with possible action following. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all. Ald. Biviano moved to go out of executive session at 8:52 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

Fire Assistant Position -- Ald. Clark moved that effective December 31, 2003, the last remaining position of Fire Assistant in the Norwich Fire Department be and hereby is eliminated; and further, that the current incumbent be laid off. Seconded by Ald. Cushman and duly adopted, ayes all.

RESOLUTION # 83 - 2003. CREATING CIVIL SERVICE SHIFT CAPTAIN POSITION IN THE NORWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Personnel Committee has made certain recommendations relative to the creation of an additional position of Civil Service Shift Captain; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed such recommendations and concur; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a position of Civil Service Shift Captain in the Norwich Fire Department be and hereby is created; and, further be it

RESOLVED, the shift captain shall receive an annual stipend of \$1,000 while performing such duties.

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

Adjournment – Ald. Clark moved to adjourn at 8:53 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.