

COMMON COUNCIL

April 26, 2023

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on April 26, 2023, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Brian Doliver
Ald. Eric Warren
Ald. Nancy Allaire
Ald. William Loomis
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Robert D. Jeffrey

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Director of Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Fire Chief Jan Papelino
Police Chief Reuben Roach
EMO Stephen Cady arrived 6:33
Community Development Director Erik Scrivener
City Attorney Stephanie Hanrahan
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Media Representative: Sarah Genter, The Evening Sun

Absent

Ald. Fred Gee
Supervisor James McNeil

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Doliver at 6:30 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Warren **moved** to approve the minutes of the special meeting of March 1 and the regular meeting of March 21, 2023.. Seconded by Ald. Loomis and duly approved ayes all.

Citation of Bravery and Citations of Commendation – With family and friends present, Police Chief Reuben Roach presented a Citation of Bravery to Police Officer Leigh and Citations of Commendation to Police Officers Laughlin, Rifanburg and Sergeant Rounds for the incident taking place on February 20, 2023, in which Officer Leigh was purposefully hit by a car in the line of duty.

Public Hearing – Microenterprise – Mayor Doliver opened the Public Hearing at 6:36 p.m. to hear comment on the Microenterprise Assistance Grant Program available for existing, new and startup businesses. Hearing no comment, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:36 p.m.

Open Forum

Andrew Coates, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals, requested that appointments to the Board be made sooner rather than later since there have been several meetings with no quorum.

Mayor Doliver read the following Proclamation:

P R O C L A M A T I O N

Arbor Day 2023

WHEREAS, the holiday called Arbor Day was first observed in 1872 by the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, trees can reduce the erosion of our precious topsoil, cut heating and cooling costs, moderate the temperature, clean the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for wildlife; and

WHEREAS, trees are a renewable resource giving us paper, wood, fuel and wood products; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community and are a source of joy; and

THEREFORE, I, Brian Doliver, Mayor of the City of Norwich, New York, do hereby proclaim April 28, 2023, as Arbor Day in the City of Norwich.

Mayor Doliver read the following Proclamation:

Proclamation

**APRIL 2023 CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH
IN THE CITY OF NORWICH**

WHEREAS, April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month has been a time of national remembrance since 1981. It's an opportunity for communities, victims and their loved ones to join together and reflect on the progress achieved in the prevention of child abuse within their communities.

WHEREAS, Child abuse prevention must be a priority to confront the reality that an estimated 656,505 children nationwide are victims of abuse and neglect each year; and

WHEREAS, in 2022, the Chenango Child Advocacy Center (CAC) served 175 children, supported 141 caregivers impacted by a crime, helped 57 at-risk youth of being trafficked and provided primary prevention programing to 847 middle and high school students in the Chenango County.

WHEREAS, Child abuse prevention is a community responsibility and finding solutions depends on involvement among all people and communities must make every effort to promote programing that benefit children and their families:

WHEREAS, everyone in the community should become more aware of child abuse prevention and begin having conversations, take appropriate action, and support one another to create a safer environment for all;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mayor Brian Doliver do hereby proclaim the month of April, 2023 to be Child Abuse Prevention Month and urge all citizens to work together to help reduce child abuse and neglect significantly in years to come and reaffirm our commitment to respect and honor children victims throughout the year to build a more just community.

Correspondence

- ◆ **Norwich-Oxford Little League** – Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve a request for road closures and Police Assistance for the Norwich-Oxford Little League parade on April 29, 2023. The parade will begin at 9:00 a.m. from the back of Grand Union, down Griffin St. to Midland Dr., ending at the Little League field behind the Norwich Middle School. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Parks Minutes – February
- ◆ Ontario Hose Minutes – April
- ◆ Civil Service Minutes – March
- ◆ Historian 2022 Annual Report
- ◆ Human Resource Report – March

- ◆ Police Department Report – March
- ◆ Fire Department Report – March
- ◆ Planning Minutes – January, February, March
- ◆ Water Commission Minutes – March

Ald. Allaire **moved** to receive and file the Department Board and Commission Reports. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Mayoral Appointment

Norwich Housing Authority

- ◆ *Brandon French, 25 Beebe Avenue, appointed to fill the remainder of a five-year term expiring June 25, 2027.*

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Warren reported no communications this month.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported one communication regarding a curb cut.

Ward 4

Ald. Loomis reported numerous communications regarding the North Broad St. block between Kozmo's and the former Bluebird. Others were regarding potholes and one regarding Dollar Tree, all which have been forwarded to the proper department.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno also reported several complaints regarding the North Broad St. block; a code issue which has been forwarded to Code Enforcement; 3 Street Tree removals; and a question about water quality which was forwarded to the Water Department. He gave feedback about drug concerns in the City, saying the Mayor is working on creating a drug task force.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey reported residents are supportive of a proposed Nuisance Ordinance and holding absentee landlords accountable; communications regarding the water level of the reservoir which was forwarded to the proper department; a significant amount of questions regarding the DOT paving and the Water Main Replacement project; and an enormous amount of appreciation for increased police presence.

Mayor Doliver reported that the Nuisance Ordinance has been tabled and that the City is very committed finding a solution. A committee will be formed consisting of persons from various departments and the Council

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to receive and file the ward reports. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Motions

- ◆ **Authorizing Home Rule Request for Assembly Bill No. A5898** – Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve the Home Rule request for Assembly Bill No. 5898 in order to amend the Real Property Tax Law to further the vacant lot development plan in the City of Norwich. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #31 - 2023 **DECLARING VEHICLE SURPLUS AND AUTHORIZING DISPOSAL**

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, Car #21 is obsolete and has have been deemed to be surplus by the Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the following vehicle, as presented to the Common Council, be and hereby are declared surplus:

2013 Ford Taurus, Vin # 1FAHP2M83DG126981

and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to dispose of such equipment as is provided for by law.

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

RESOLUTION #32 -2023

AUTHORIZING PURCHASE AND TRANSFER OF RESERVE FUNDS FOR FIRE EQUIPMENT

Ald. Loomis introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the purchase of MSA thermal imagers has been recommended as additional safety equipment; and

WHEREAS, the total of the thermal imaging equipment will be \$16,171 and requires a transfer of \$11,171; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee has concurred with the recommendation; and

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds for the purchase of thermal imaging equipment in the 2023 Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR22-889	Capital Reserves – Ambulance Equipment	\$ 6,171.00
A3410.2101	Ambulance Equipment	5,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.2100	Fire Equipment	\$11,171.00

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

RESOLUTION #33 - 2023

DESIGNATING “PREFERRED PURCHASER” OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 48 BROWN AVENUE

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich acquired the real property at 48 Brown Avenue through property tax foreclosure; and

WHEREAS, the subject property is considered by the Common Council to be surplus and its continued ownership by the City unnecessary to a useful public purpose; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed proposals for the purchase of the property, and considers the proposal from Thomas Jensen of Norwich, NY to be an acceptable offer based on the purchase amount offered, the significant investments to be made in the property’s rehabilitation, and the proposed use; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby designates Thomas Jensen of Norwich, NY as the “preferred purchaser” of the City-owned property at 48 Brown Avenue; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to negotiate and enter into a contract for the sale of the City-owned property at 48 Brown Avenue to Thomas Jensen.

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

RESOLUTION #34 – 2023

TRANSFER OF FIREFIGHTER TO FIRE ASSISTANT IN THE NORWICH FIRE DEPARTMENT

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, Mathew Parrella has given his notice that his last day as Firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department would be April 17, 2023, and;

WHEREAS, Mathew Parrella would like to continue in the Norwich Fire Department and transfer to Fire Assistant; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the notice of Mathew Parrella, of Norwich, NY ending his employment as Firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department effective April 17, 2023 is accepted; and further be it

RESOLVED, that Mathew Parrella, of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is granted a transfer to the appointment as Fire Assistant in the Norwich Fire Department at the pay rate of \$15.44 effective April 18, 2023.

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

RESOLUTION #35 –2022

AUTHORIZING APPOINTMENT OF WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR - UNLICENSED

Ald. Warren introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy of Water System Operator exists in the DPW; and

WHEREAS, the DPW Superintendent has recommended Joshua Doyle of Mount Upton, NY be transferred to the position of Water System Operator - Unlicensed, and;

WHEREAS, Joshua Doyle must obtain all necessary licenses and permits within 18 months of appointment to the position; and

RESOLVED, that Joshua Doyle of Mount Upton, NY, be and hereby is granted a provisional appointment to the position of Water System Operator – Unlicensed at the rate of \$24.14 effective April 19, 2023; and further be it

RESOLVED, that continued appointment is contingent on Joshua Doyle obtaining all necessary licenses and permits with 18 months of appointment; and further be it

RESOLVED, appointment is subject to any such action as may be necessary by the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

RESOLUTION #36 - 2023

APPOINTMENT OF MEO I IN THE DPW

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, vacancies exist in the Norwich DPW Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of DPW has recommended certain appointments to fill such vacancies; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Brandon Card of Morris, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as a full time MEO I to the Norwich DPW Department with a starting salary of \$16.58 per hour effective May 1, 2023; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the appointment is contingent upon successfully passing the required medical examination, background check and any action necessary from the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

RESOLUTION #37 - 2023 AWARDING BID - 2023 GRINDING & PAVING PROGRAM

Ald. Loomis introduced the following and **moved** its adoption:

WHEREAS, bids for the 2023 Street Rehabilitation Program were opened on April 14, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works, and the Joint Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the bid for the 2023 Grinding & Paving Program be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder meeting specifications, Broome Bituminous Products, of Vestal, NY, in the grand total amount of \$780,474.20.

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

Payment of Bills

Ald. Zieno **moved** to pay the April bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>4/18/2023</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$218,911.13	\$567,057.19	\$785,968.32
Sewer Fund	19,219.53	20,970.27	40,189.80
Water Fund	12,763.81	39,991.35	52,755.16
Trust	32,880.05	-	32,880.05
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	-	-	-
Capital Projects	136,489.40	-	136,489.40
TOTALS	\$420,263.92	\$628,018.81	\$1,048,282.73

Seconded by Ald. Loomis and duly adopted 5 - 0.

Executive Session

Ald. Loomis **moved** to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations and the employment history of a particular individual at 7:02 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Ald. Zieno **moved** to exit executive session at 7:44 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Loomis **moved** to adjourn at 7:44 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.