

COMMON COUNCIL

May 16, 2023

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on May 16, 2023, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Brian Doliver
Ald. Eric Warren
Ald. Fred Gee
Ald. Nancy Allaire
Ald. William Loomis
Ald. David Zieno
Ald. Robert D. 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
Community Development Director Erik Scrivener
City Attorney Stephanie Hanrahan
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Media Representative: Sarah Genter, The Evening Sun

Absent

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey
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. Gee **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 4, 2023. Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly approved ayes all.

Swearing-In Ceremony for Sgt. Church – Police Chief Roach performed the swearing-in ceremony promoting Officer Daniel Church to the position of Sergeant with friends and family present.

Jason Zbock, SUNY Morrisville – Jason Zbock of SUNY Morrisville updated the Council on the happenings at the Norwich Campus. Trying to turn a corner post-Covid since their enrollment went from 300 down to 130 students, they are trying to identify more workforce opportunities. They are offering their first Bachelor's degree program this semester. Morrisville is looking to build back through grants which will benefit student programing, on-line course offerings have been increased, additional BOCES partnerships are in the works, and business degrees have internships within the community. They are looking to be more active with internship opportunities at the Associates and the Bachelor's levels as well as community service with local organizations. He said the biggest challenge they are facing is the decision [of students] is not going to college, therefore they need to focus on workforce readiness. This will include bootcamps in manufacturing and skill-based kinds of opportunities in technology, writing, and communication. He asked for ideas of other programs where the City sees a need. Discussion of the shortage of people going into the trades such as plumbers and electricians was mentioned. Mr. Zbock was open to that, but he also stated that part of the problem is trying to find technical trainers.

Public Hearing – The public hearing for the CDBG public infrastructure funding for Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Plan will be rescheduled (see Motion below).

Proclamation – May – Nurses Month – Mayor Doliver read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION May As NURSES MONTH

Whereas, registered nurses in the United States constitute our nation's largest health care profession, and

Whereas, the depth and breadth of the registered nursing profession meets the different and emerging health care needs of the American population in a wide range of settings, including the frontline of the pandemic, and

Whereas, the American Nurses Association, as the voice for registered nurses in this country, is working to chart a new course for a healthy nation that relies on increasing access to primary and preventive health care, and better utilization of all our nation's registered nursing resources, and

Whereas, professional nursing is an indispensable component of the safety and quality of care of hospitalized and non-hospitalized patients, and

Whereas, the demand for registered nursing services will be greater than ever because of the aging of the American population, emerging health challenges, the continuing expansion of life-sustaining technologies, and the explosive growth of home health care services, and

Whereas, more qualified registered nurses are needed in the future to meet the increasingly complex needs of health care consumers in this community, and

Whereas, along with the American Nurses Association, Community Memorial Hospital has declared May as Nurses Month, with the theme "You Make a Difference," with appreciation for nurses' unparalleled impact during the pandemic, and their contributions to health care, and the world we live in, therefore be it

I, Mayor Brian Doliver, Proclaim May as Nurses Month and ask the residents of the City of Norwich celebrate registered nurses' accomplishments and efforts to improve our health care system and show our appreciation for the nation's registered nurses not just during this month, but at every opportunity throughout the year.

Open Forum

No one spoke.

Correspondence

- ◆ **Street Tree Removal at 23 Park St.** – Ald. Zieno **moved** to approve the removal of Street Trees at 23 Park St. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **YMCA Gus Macker** – Ald. Gee **moved** to approve the request from the YMCA for Police, Fire and DPW assistance as well as special event designation for the 2023 Gus Macker Basketball Tournament held July 7 to July 9 at the Norwich High School and Midland Drive. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **YMCA Halloween Parade** – Ald. Warren **moved** to approve a request from the YMCA for road closures, Police and Fire assistance at the Annual YMCA Halloween parade on Saturday, October 28, 2023. The parade will begin at 11:00 a.m. with the same route as in years past. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **YMCA 5K Turkey Trot** - Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to approve a request from the YMCA for road closures and Police assistance at the Annual Turkey Trot 5K on Sunday, November 19, 2023. The race will begin at 12:30 p.m. with the same route as in years past. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.
- ◆ **Park Place Restaurant** – Ald. Warren **moved** to approve the request from Park Place Restaurant for alcohol sales from 6:00 p.m. to 11:00 p.m. in a roped-off area in front of the restaurant for the Summer Concert Series held Thursday evenings in July and August. Seconded by Ald. Zieno, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Ontario Hose Minutes – May
- ◆ Alert Hose Minutes – May
- ◆ Maydole Hose Minutes – April
- ◆ Youth Board Minutes – May

- ◆ Traffic Minutes – April
- ◆ Police Report – April
- ◆ Parks Minutes – March
- ◆ Human Resources Report – April
- ◆ Planning Minutes – April
- ◆ Fire Department Report - April

Ald. Gee **moved** to receive and file the department, board, and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Warren reported communications regarding potentially illegal parking on Locust St., vagrancy on Broad St., multiple concerns regarding a potential immigrant issue.

Ward 2

Ald. Gee reported communications regarding a missing street sign, a NO PARKING sign issue which is not 50' from the corner. Both issues have been forwarded to the proper department.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported numerous questions regarding multiple subjects which she either investigated and provided an answer or forwarded to the proper department.

Ward 4

Ald. Loomis reported communications regarding code violations which have been resolved, the timing of the red light at North/South Broad and East/West Main and concerns about the North Broad St. block between Kozmo's and the former Blue Bird.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported communications regarding code violations, complaints of students speeding when leaving school, a concern that the need for more senior housing is not necessary. He fielded questions regarding addiction and homelessness with many constituents not aware of the formation of a Drug Task Force which they were happy to hear about.

Ward 6

Ald. Jeffrey reported two communications regarding code violations, several to DPW, the light at the center of town, and the status of North Broad St. He also felt something needed to be done about Peddler Permits as one designated space takes up a handicap space. A resident asked about a City law clarification which was referred to the City Attorney.

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

Mayor Doliver announced that Congressman Molinaro's office will be holding mobile office hours Thursday from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at City Hall.

Motions

- ◆ Reschedule Public Hearing for Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Plan - Ald. Gee **moved** to reschedule the Public Hearing for the CDBG public infrastructure funding for Water/Sewer Capital Improvement Plan from May 16, 2023 to June 20, 2023 at 6:30 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #40 - 2023

SUBRECIPIENT AGREEMENT WITH GREATER OPPORTUNITIES FOR BROOME AND CHENANGO, INC.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has U.S. HUD Program Income funds from prior Urban Development Action and Small Cities grants to be used for housing rehabilitation; and

WHEREAS, Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. (GOBC) is a non-profit organization qualifying as a Subrecipient and can fulfill the necessary program administration, delivery, and contractual services; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich recognizes it is in the best interest of the Housing Rehabilitation Program to enter a Subrecipient Agreement with GOBC to operate the program according to the guidelines in place by U.S. HUD and the City of Norwich; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the City of Norwich agrees to a Subrecipient Agreement with Greater Opportunities for Broome and Chenango, Inc. with a total project cost not to exceed \$400,000.

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

RESOLUTION #41 - 2023 **AUTHORIZING CONTRACT FOR ALTERNATIVE HYDROGEOLOGIC STUDY FOR WELL 4**

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

WHEREAS, a consent order and agreement with the Susquehanna River Basin Commission was authorized by the Common Council on August 16, 2022 for the continued use of Well 4; and

WHEREAS, as part of that agreement a hydrogeologic study is required; and

WHEREAS, RFP's were submitted and it is recommended a contract with Geo Services be authorized in the amount of \$30,600; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a contract with Geo Services, Ltd of Camp Hill, PA in the amount of \$30,600 be authorized under the direction of the City Attorney, and further be it

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

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR30-9950.9	Capital Reserves – Water System Improvements	\$ 30,600
<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
F8310.4020	Water – Contracted Services	\$ 30,600

Seconded by Allaire, and duly adopted, 6 - 0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #42 -2023 **AWARDING BID – WATER METER REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

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

WHEREAS, bids for the Water Meter Replacement Project were opened on March 30, 2023; and

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of Public Works have made certain recommendations to award the bid to Ferguson Water Works of Newport News, VA with the low bid of \$1,421,368.38; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the bid for the Water Meter Replacement Project be awarded to the lowest qualified bidder meeting specifications, Ferguson Water Works of Newport News, VA in the total bid amount of \$1,421,368.38.

Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, and duly adopted, 6 – 0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #43 - 2023 **AUTHORIZATION TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH LEXIPOL**

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

WHEREAS, the Police Department has entered into an agreement with Lexipol with excellent results; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Department policies used by the City of Norwich Fire Department need to be reviewed; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has made certain recommendations to have Lexipol review the outdated policies in the Fire Department; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council authorizes entering into an agreement with Lexipol for the purpose of reviewing policies within the Fire Department on a continual basis and to provide training; and further be it

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

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1990.4	Contingency	\$ 10,000.00
A9060.8	General - Health Insurance	\$ 5,319.80

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.4020	Fire/EMS – Contracted Services	\$ 15,319.80

Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, and duly adopted, 5 - 1, on a roll call vote with Ald. Zieno voting nay.

RESOLUTION #44 -2023 **CREATING AN ADDITIONAL DETECTIVE POSITION IN THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT**

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

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has made certain recommendations relative to the creation of an additional Detective position for a Drug Task Force; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee have made recommendations relative to said position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council approves the creation of an additional Detective position in the Norwich Police Department subject to any such action by the Civil Service Commission.

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

RESOLUTION #45 -2023

CREATING FIRST SERGEANT POSITION IN THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

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

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has made certain recommendations relative to the creation of a First Sergeant position; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee have made recommendations relative to said position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Common Council approves the creation of a First Sergeant position in the Norwich Police Department subject to any such action by the Civil Service Commission.

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

RESOLUTION #46 – 2023

APPOINTING POLICE SERGEANT TO FIRST SERGEANT

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

WHEREAS, the position of First Sergeant in the Norwich Police Department was created by the Common Council on May 16, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of First Sergeant in the Norwich Police Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended the Paul Slack of Norwich, NY to such position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Paul Slack of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as First Sergeant in the Norwich Police Department, effective May 17, 2023 at the rate of \$35.38; and further be it

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

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

RESOLUTION #47 – 2023

PROMOTING POLICE OFFICER TO POLICE SERGEANT

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of Police Sergeant in the Norwich Police Department, and;

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police has recommended the promotion of Tristan Rifanburg of Norwich, NY to such position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Tristan Rifanburg of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as Police Sergeant in the Norwich Police Department, May 17, 2023 at the rate of \$35.38; and further be it

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

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

Payment of Bills

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to pay the May bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>5/16/2023</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$160,806.11	\$580,010.08	\$740,816.19
Sewer Fund	30,193.76	18,681.66	48,875.42
Water Fund	19,796.31	5,826.47	25,622.78
Trust	28,034.34	-	28,034.34
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	-	-	
Capital Projects	33,186.29	-	33,186.29
TOTALS	\$272,016.81	\$604,518.21	\$876,535.02

Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted 6 - 0.

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 7:15 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.