

COMMON COUNCIL

Special EMERGENCY Meeting
Minutes
August 22, 2023
4:30 PM

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a special emergency meeting of the Common Council held at 4:30 PM on August 22, 2023, at City Hall at One City Plaza.

Present:

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

Also:

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

Media Representative: Tyler Murphy, The Evening Sun

Call to Order

Mayor Doliver called the emergency meeting of the Common Council to order at 4:42 p.m.

Discussion from the special Public Safety/Public Works meeting held directly before this meeting continued.

Extension of DOT Permit – Mayor Doliver stated that Vacri Construction has requested an extension of the DOT permit which expires on August 31st in order to continue work. Ald. Jeffrey had questions regarding the two options presented and discussion at the special Public Safety/Public Works meeting held directly before this meeting:

Option 1 – Vacri stops work at Beebe Ave. leaving about 30 tie-ins not completed and would be out of the DOT ROW by September 15, 2023.

Option 2 – Vacri continues work to Prentice St. and be out of the DOT ROW by October 13, 2023. The DOT would need to give an extension for October 13th (DOT would delay paving until spring 2024 if not done by October 6th).

Ald. Allaire suggested Vacri finish a week earlier to October 6th. Discussion included the effect of a continuation, including to Perry Browne bussing and child pickups on affected streets with school starting soon. Vacri is aware of the \$500 per day penalty for not being done by the deadline and indicated they would fight it in court. Mayor Doliver said that if they finish by October 6th, no overtime was needed. Discussion: Option 1 would leave 30 services not done on Broad St., Federal funds not used would have to be returned and if there is a water main break of the old line, we would be cutting into the newly paved road. Mayor Doliver felt that if overtime was necessary it could be covered by some of the savings due to the change order to the project and the Reserve fund balance of \$600,000.

Ald. Allaire asked if Vacri could work double shifts. Mayor Doliver said that the Vacri representative has to speak to the President of Vacri to see what options they can do such as pulling a crew from another job and working overtime to get this done. Discussion of charging Vacri the \$500 per day late penalty was discussed, but that this will not help get the work done. In both options the DOT can pave, however with option 2 Vacri will need to work Saturdays in order for the job to be completed by October 6th. Discussion included the effect on monies received from the Federal funds and then having to give them back as well as to those elected representatives that fought for these monies for the City and any future asks the City may have.

Discussion of the rough estimate savings of \$140,000 could be used to pay overtime if it became necessary. At the meeting, Vacri said they felt they could get the project completed by October 6th if there were no major delays such as the weather.

E. Scrivener reported that if a business relief package is able to be put together, it will likely go through November but there is much to be determined yet.

Hard numbers about extension options should be available from Vacri by Tuesday. It was mentioned that the DOT milling and paving will be night work and any other structural work will be during the day. Instead of bi-weekly meetings with stakeholders, it was suggested that weekly meetings were conducted instead.

Looking at previous schedules where they were completely done September 29th, the decision was to choose Option 2 with a hard stop with the out of ROW date of September 29th. Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve choose Option 2 with a hard stop with the out of ROW date of September 29th. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

RESOLUTION #79 - 2023

**APPOINTMENT OF FIREFIGHTER IN THE NORWICH FIRE
DEPARTMENT**

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department; and

WHEREAS, the Fire Chief has recommended the appointment of Kyle Pierce of Sherburne, NY, to such position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Kyle Pierce of Sherburne, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as Firefighter in the Norwich Fire Department at the rate of \$17.67, effective August 27, 2023, contingent upon successfully passing the required medical and psychological examinations and any action necessary from the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

Adjournment

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to adjourn at 5:44 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Gee, approved ayes all.