

COMMON COUNCIL

Organizational Meeting January 2, 2024

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at the Organizational meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on January 2, 2024, 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

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Youth Bureau Director Anthony Testani
Fire Chief Jan Papelino arrived 6:52
Police Chief Rodney Marsh
Community Development Director Erik Scrivener
City Attorney Stephanie Hanrahan
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Media Representative: Sarah Genter, The Evening Sun

Absent

Supervisor James McNeil

Swearing In of Re-elected Officials – Mayor Doliver performed the swearing-in of Alderpersons Eric Warren, Nancy Allaire and David Zieno.

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order at 6:36 p.m.

Mayor's Comments – Mayor Doliver wanted to share plans for 2024 and that we are going to hit the ground running. He thanked the Council, department heads and employees for their hard work last year. We will be working on a solution for problem properties, such as the Chronic Nuisance Ordinance and increasing fines. We will be looking for grant opportunities to upgrade the public cameras and increasing lighting in the downtown area. We will be focusing on public safety, problem properties and addressing aging infrastructure while being fiscally responsible.

Adoption of Rules of Procedure

Ald. Warren **moved** to adopt the 2023 Rules of Procedure for 2024. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved and duly adopted ayes all.

Appointments to Council Committees

The Mayor made the following appointments:

- ◆ Finance / Personnel – Ald. Zieno (Chair), Ald. Gee, and Ald. Warren.
- ◆ Public Works/Safety – Ald. Jeffrey (Chair), Ald. Allaire, and Ald. Loomis.

The Mayor and all Advisory members shall be consulting members of all committees, being notified of all committee sessions and being able to participate in discussion. All committee members, including Advisory members, shall serve at the pleasure of the Mayor.

Meetings of the committees may be called by the chairman, the Mayor or any two members of the committee.

The Joint Committee meetings shall be held on the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers, One Court Plaza.

Nomination of President of the Council

The Mayor opened the nominations for President of the Common Council for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2024. Ald. Loomis **moved** to nominate Ald. Jeffrey to President of the Common Council for 2024. Seconded by Ald. Warren. There being no other nominations, the Mayor declared the nominations closed. Ald. Zieno **moved** to appoint Ald. Jeffrey as President of the Council. Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted 5 - 0 on a roll-call vote with Ald. Jeffrey abstaining.

Nomination of Acting Mayor

The Mayor opened the nominations for Acting Mayor for a one-year term expiring December 31, 2024. Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to nominate Ald. Loomis as Acting Mayor for 2024. Seconded by Ald. Warren. There being no other nominations, the Mayor declared the nominations closed. Ald. Loomis **moved** to appoint Ald. Jeffrey as Acting Mayor. Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted 5 - 0 on a roll-call vote with Ald. Loomis abstaining.

Appointments by Common Council

Traffic Commission

- ◆ *Vivan James, 57 Fair Street, re-appointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Frank Revoir, Sr., 9 Elm Street, Unit 1, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Paul Eaton, 79 Plymouth St., reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Richard Natoli, 12 Clinton Street, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve the appointments by Common Council. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Appointments by the Mayor

Electrical Board

- ◆ *Tom Mealey, 120 Ryan Lane, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Flood Mitigation Commission

- ◆ *Christine Carnrike, 29 Jones Avenue, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Jim Kandora, 21 Hayward Avenue, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Planning Commission

- ◆ *Marissa Phelps, 47 Hayes Street, appointed to fill the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025.*

Plumbing Board

- ◆ *Gary Brightman, 6108 County. Road 32, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *David Francis, 239 Hale Road, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Richard Towndrow, 131 Dempsey Road, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Water Commission

- ◆ *John Kolb, 23 Beebe Avenue, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Gigi Baas, 5 Locust Street, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Youth Board

- ◆ *Patrick Marks, 23 Brown Avenue, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Abigail Telesky, youth representative, 114 Telesky Drive, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Jessica Colley, 77 Plymouth Street, appointed to fill the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2024.*

Zoning Board of Appeals

- ◆ *Andrew Coates, 5 South Broad Street, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Karol Kucinski, 5 Locust Street, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Appointments by the Mayor with Council Approval

Street Tree Committee

- ◆ *Elise Eaton, 32 Newton Avenue, reappointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Paul Read, 242 Couty Road 23A, reappointed as an advisory member to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Parks Commission

- ◆ *Kearstin Roach, 153 East Main Street, appointed to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*
- ◆ *Savanna Collins, 26 South Broad Street, appointed to fill the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2025.*

Ald. Gee **moved** to approve the appointments by the Mayor with Common Council approval. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Designation of Official Newspaper and Depositories

Ald. Loomis **moved** to designate the *Evening Sun* as the Official Newspaper for the City of Norwich. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved 6 - 0.

Ald. Zieno **moved** to designate NBT Bank, M&T Bank, Key Bank, Chase Bank and Community Bank, N.A., as the Official Depositories of City of Norwich Funds. Seconded by Ald. Warren, duly approved 5 – 0 with Ald. Jeffrey abstaining.

Resolution

RESOLUTION #1 - 2024 AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR 2024 FIRE PROTECTION SERVICES WITH THE TOWNS OF NORWICH AND NORTH NORWICH

Ald. Gee introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the most recent contract with the Norwich Rural Fire Protection District for fire protection services expired on December 31, 2023; and

WHEREAS, said contract provides that the City of Norwich furnish fire protection services to the duly established fire protection district known as the Norwich Rural Fire Protection District, said district embracing territory within the Towns of Norwich and North Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a proposed two-year contract for the Town of Norwich commencing January 1, 2024 and expires on December 31, 2025 has been drafted with 1.5% increases each year;

WHEREAS, a proposed three-year contract for the Town of North Norwich commencing January 1, 2024 and expires on December 31, 2026 has been drafted with 1.5% increases each year;
; and

WHEREAS, the Public Safety and Finance Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign a new Fire Protection Services Agreement for 2024 with the Towns of Norwich and North Norwich.

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

Adjournment

Ald. Allaire **moved** to adjourn at 6:48 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.