

COMMON COUNCIL

September 17, 2024

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on September 17, 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

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

Assistant Police Chief Scott Burlison

Community Development Director Erik Scrivener

City Attorney Stephanie Hanrahan

Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Absent

Ald. David Zieno

Ald. Robert D. 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.

Public Hearing – Mayor Doliver opened the Public Hearing at 6:31 p.m. to hear comment relative to Proposed Local Law (C) regarding Tax Interest Rates. Hearing no comments, the Public Hearing was closed at 6:32 p.m.

Open Forum

Mark Hollifield, 66 East Main Street, spoke about 161 W Shore Rd. at Chenango Lake which they purchased 21 years ago. He related that there were four separate parcels and was told at time of purchase that each had independent access to the lake, but they are being taxed on all four as lakefront property. For the past 100 years the property has the owners have had access. He referenced the Hold Harmless agreement sent to affected property owners and the possibility of the purchase of the City-owned properties. The Town [of New Berlin] is taxing those property owners as lakefront and Mr. Hollifield felt this was “double-dipping”. He was interested in purchasing the portion he has been maintaining and not giving up any rights.

Sara Long, [66 East Main Street] stated she understood there would be an executive session and questioned the validity/process of the subject to be discussed. She felt there was no justification for an executive session to discuss the Lake property or for them not to be included in the executive session.

Jeanne Barnes, 17 Division Street, started by saying there are 2 smoke shops in the City that are targeting children and low income [individuals]. Next she said that the current Comprehensive Plan that was last updated in 2014. According to the plan, they are supposed to updated every 5 years and 2 years after a Census. In her previous job she created such plans and said it takes 4 weeks to do an update. She also pointed out that the Comprehensive Plan is not actually a plan, but a historical dissertation, stating historical information and a “wish-list”. Related to the Comprehensive plan, she went on to talk about the many sidewalks that need replacing, four properties in the plan which are still being discussed today that still need improvements, the railroad tracks to be used for a walking/bike trail, and the sites that are listed in the plan that are unusable because of contamination. Third, she wanted to know why the felon on her street who is actively engaged in drug dealing can’t be arrested. A zero tolerance mentality must be enforced. A youth program created that will hold these children and their parents accountable.

Correspondence

NHS Homecoming Parade – Ald. Warren **moved** to approve a request from the NYS Pep Club for Police assistance for their Homecoming parade on Friday, October 11, 2024 with line up beginning at approximately 5:00 p.m. and the parade beginning at approximately 5:30 p.m. The parade will begin at the Middle School,

proceed down Midland Dr. to Marconi and continue on to the football field. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Park Minutes – August
- ◆ Maydole Hose Minutes – June
- ◆ Youth Bureau Minutes – September
- ◆ Traffic Minutes – September
- ◆ Planning Minutes – March, April, May, June
- ◆ Police Department Report – August
- ◆ Fire Department Report – August
- ◆ Human Resources Report - August

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

Mayoral Appointment – Mayor Doliver announced the following Mayoral appointment.

Civil Service Commission

- ◆ Charleen Sastri, 77 Pleasant Street, re-appointed to a six-year term expiring May 31, 2030.

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Warren reported 3 code complaints; notified DPW about a broken curb.

Ward 2

Ald. Gee reported a complaint about a house on Miller St.; a litter of feral cats at the end of Pleasant St. with no way of taking care of them.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported that constituents wanted to thank the DPW for paving the top of Wales Dr. with leftover blacktop.

Ward 4

Ald. Loomis reported complaints of a clothing drop box at the corner of N. Broad and Cortland St. and would recommend its removal; complaints of a property at the east end of Gold St.; an issue with debris at another property at the west end of Gold St.

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

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #66 - 2024

ADOPTING PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. (C) OF 2024 TO AMEND CHAPTER C: TITLE XII ASSESSMENT AND TAXATION OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

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

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed Local Law No. (C) of 2024 on August 27, 2024, to amend Chapter C: Title XII Assessment And Taxation Of The City Of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on September 12, 2024, in connection with said proposed local law now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, Local Law No. (C) of 2024 to amend Chapter C: Title XII Assessment and Taxation of The City of Norwich, as presented to the Common Council on August 27, 2024, be and hereby is adopted, and is hereby designated as Local Law No. 3 of 2024.

Seconded by Ald. Gee and duly adopted, 4 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Local Law (3) of 2024

Chapter C. Charter
Title XII. Assessment and Taxation

211. Notice of receiving taxes.

After the date of the tax warrant, the Receiver of Taxes shall publish a notice in the official newspaper once a week for two consecutive weeks and shall post such notice in three (3) public places, stating:

1. That he has received the warrant for collection of state, county and city taxes; and
 2. When the taxes are due and payable; and
 3. The penalties for failure to pay the same on time.
- During the fiscal year for which they have been levied, taxes may be paid either in full, or in two equal installments, according to the following schedule:
- | | | |
|---------------------|---|--|
| Total Tax: | May be paid in full from January 1 st through March 31 st . (If no payments are made prior to April 1 st , total tax is past due and payable in full.) | |
| First Installment: | May be paid from January 1 st through March 31 st . (If not paid prior to April 1 st , total tax is past due and payable in full.) | |
| Second Installment: | May be paid after payment of First Installment, through July 31 st . (If not paid prior to August 1 st , second installment is past due.) | |
| Fees Charged: | On all tax amounts paid within the month of: | |
| Fee Due: | | |
| January | 0.0% | |
| February | 1.5% | 2.0% |
| March | 2.0% | 3.0% |
| April | 2.5% | 4.0% |
| May | 3.0% | 5.0% |
| June | June – September 11.0% | The monthly interest rate will be equal to the prime rate, as determined by the commissioner. The initial determination of the effective prime rate will be based on the 1/1/2025 rate. Subsequent determinations shall be made every five years thereafter. |
| July | 12.0% | |
| August | 15.0% | |
| September | 16.0% | |

From October 1st though day prior to Tax Sale: ~~17.5%~~ The interest rate will be equal to the prime rate, as determined by the commissioner. The initial determination of the effective prime rate will be based on the 1/1/2025 rate. Subsequent determinations shall be made every five years thereafter.

From date of tax sale through date of Redemption: ~~17.5% per annum~~ The per annum interest rate will be equal to the prime rate, as determined by the commissioner. The initial determination of the effective prime rate will be based on the 1/1/2025 rate. Subsequent determinations shall be made every five years thereafter.

The fees and interest provided in this section shall be the property of the city in all cases, including but not limited to those where tax sales are not bid in by the city but are purchased by any other party.

RESOLUTION #67 - 2024

APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER

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

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

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has made a recommendation to appoint Grant Wessels of Baldwinsville, New York to the position of Police Officer as a lateral transfer; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Grant Wessels of Baldwinsville, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as Police Officer in the City of Norwich Police Department as a lateral transfer effective September 23, 2024 at the rate of \$30.61; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the appointment is contingent upon the appointee's moving his residence into the designated distance within 30 days of hire; and further be it

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

Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted, 4 - 0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #68 - 2024 APPOINTMENT OF COORDINATOR OF DISASTER PREPAREDNESS

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

WHEREAS, a vacancy of Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness exists; and

WHEREAS, William Edwards of Norwich, NY has been recommended for the position; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that William Edwards of Norwich, NY, be and hereby is appointed to the part-time permanent position of Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness effective September 23, 2024 at the annual rate of \$9,743 per year.

Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted, 4 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

Ald. Gee **moved** to pay the September bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>9/17/2024</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$167,346.38	\$47,862.99	\$215,209.37
Water Fund	15,603.68	17,858.78	33,462.46
Sewer Fund	15,226.27	11,647.07	26,873.34
Trust	43,768.60	-	43,768.60
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	5,085.26	-	5,085.26
Capital Projects	-	-	-
TOTALS	\$247,030.19	\$77,368.84	\$324,399.03

Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted 4 - 0.

Executive Session

Ald. Loomis **moved** to enter executive session to discuss proposed sale of real property at 7:02 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Ald. Loomis **moved** to exit executive session at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Warren **moved** to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.