

COMMON COUNCIL
AGENDA

Held at
One Court Plaza
November 19, 2024
6:30 PM

You are encouraged to view the meeting via the City's Facebook page at
<https://www.facebook.com/NorwichNewYork/>

Call To Order

Pledge of Allegiance

Invocation

Approval of minutes of the special meeting of October 1 and the regular meeting of October 15, 2024.

Public Hearing – Restore NY Round 9 for Daycare Center

Open Forum

Correspondence

- ◆ Chenango Blues Association 2025 Thursday Concert Series

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Zoning Minutes – May 2022
- ◆ Parks Commission minutes – October
- ◆ Civil Service Minutes – October
- ◆ Ontario Hose Minutes – October
- ◆ Traffic Minutes – September, November
- ◆ Police Report – October
- ◆ Finance – September, October
- ◆ Human Resources – October
- ◆ Fire Department - October

Ward Reports

Motions

- ◆ Accepting Resignation of Alderman Ward 6

Resolutions

- ◆ SEQRA Determination of Non-Significance Concerning the South Broad Street Park Project
- ◆ Restore NY Round 9 Application
- ◆ Transfer From Reserves for Loader Repair
- ◆ Authorizing Purchase and Transfer Of Reserve Funds For Police Department License Plate Reader
- ◆ Authorizing Transfer for MultiMed Billing Fees
- ◆ Authorizing Agreements with Towns For Youth Recreation Services
- ◆ Designating “Preferred Purchaser” of City-Owned Property at 30 Henry Street
- ◆ Support of Continued and Increased State Aid for Local Governments

Payment of Bills

Executive Session (if necessary)

Adjournment

Correspondence

Chenango Blues Association 2025 Thursday Concert Series – Ald. ____ **moved** to approve a request for special event status from the Chenango Blues Association for their free 2025 Concert in the Park series of concerts held in East Park every Thursday in July and August as well as the closing of East Park Place from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. Seconded by Ald. ____, approved ayes all.

Motions

Accepting Resignation of Alderman Ward 6 – Ald. ____ **moved** to accept the letter of resignation for Ward 6 Alderman, Robert D. Jeffrey effective December 20, 2024. Seconded by Ald. ____, approved ayes all.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION # - 2024 SEQRA DETERMINATION OF NON-SIGNIFICANCE CONCERNING THE SOUTH BROAD STREET PARK PROJECT

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

WHEREAS Norwich Building Tomorrow Foundation, (the “Applicant”) is the owner and developer of the South Broad Street Park at the 156-176 South Broad Street, Norwich, NY 13815 on Tax Parcel No. 136.8-1-34, 136.8-1-35, and 148.24-1-1; and

WHEREAS the proposed improvements include a new porous asphalt driveway and parking area, concrete sidewalk improvements along South Broad Street Park, open pavilion, concrete and pervious pathways within the park, new lighting, Code Blue Emergency Phone, relocated electric service connection, and landscaping, and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich (“City”) must comply with Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York, as amended, and the regulations of the Department of Environmental Conservation of the State of New York promulgated thereunder (collectively referred to hereinafter as SEQRA), and determine whether or not the project presents a potential significant adverse environmental impact; and

WHEREAS, to aid the City in determining whether undertaking the project may have significant impact upon the environment, the Applicant has directed LaBella Associates to prepare and submit the Environmental Assessment Form and supporting materials with respect to the project, and copies of said SEQRA Materials are on file in the office of the City and are readily accessible to the public; and

WHEREAS, the Applicant is seeking approval from NYS Department of Transportation for new access driveway cut on NYS Route 12.

WHEREAS, the proposed action has been determined to be an Unlisted Action, pursuant to SEQRA 6 NYCRR Part 617; now therefore be it

RESOLVED,

(1) Based upon examination of the EAF and SEQRA Materials, the criteria contained in 6 NYCRR 617.7(c) of the SEQRA regulations, and based upon the City’s knowledge of the area surrounding the Project, the City makes the following findings and determinations with respect to the Project pursuant to SEQRA:

- (a) The Project consists of the components described above in the second WHEREAS clause of this resolution and constitutes an “action” as such term is defined in SEQRA;
- (b) The Project constitutes an “Unlisted Action” as said term is defined by SEQRA;
- (c) The City declares itself “Lead Agency” as said term is defined by SEQRA with respect to undertaking an uncoordinated review of the Project pursuant to SEQRA; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City declares that, based on the Environmental Assessment Form Record which has been prepared, and consideration of the criteria in 6NYCRR617.7(c), the

City Common Council concludes the Project will not have a significant adverse impact on the environment and a corresponding Negative Declaration will be made; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Negative Declaration will be filed with all appropriate parties in accordance with 6NYCRR 617.12; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately.

Seconded by Ald. _____ and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # - 2024 RESTORE NY ROUND 9 APPLICATION

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

WHEREAS the City of Norwich is eligible for grant funding under Round 9 of the Restore NY Communities Initiative Municipal Grant Program, and

WHEREAS the City Council has considered proposals that qualify for funding under the program and selected one project to be included in an application that will be submitted to Empire State Development Corporation (ESDC) as follows:

Redevelopment of 23 East Main Street, Norwich, NY. The project will redevelop the first floor of an existing, vacant building into a childcare center, and office space on the second floor for Commerce Chenango.

WHEREAS this project is consistent with all existing local plans, the proposed financing is appropriate for the project, the project will facilitate effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote both economic development and preservation of community resources and the project develops and enhances infrastructure and/or other facilities in a manner that will attract, create and sustain employment opportunities in the City of Norwich; now therefore be it

RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby supports and will sponsor an application for Restore NY funding for 23 East Main Street and will administer the grant in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations established by ESDC; and be it further

RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to sign the applications and any agreements required by ESDC for grant funding that results from the application

Seconded by Ald. _____, and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # - 2024 TRANSFER FROM RESERVES FOR LOADER REPAIR

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

WHEREAS, the hydraulics on the loader in the DPW need repair; and

WHEREAS, the cost of those repairs is \$12,401.92; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the transfer of \$12,401.92 for the repair of the loader in the DPW is hereby authorized; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfers in the 2024 budget:

<u>From:</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
<u>Account Number</u> HR26-9950.9	Reserves – Highway Equipment	\$ 12,401.92

<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A5110.2100	Street Maintenance – Equipment	\$ 12,401.92

Seconded by Ald. _____, and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # -2024 **AUTHORIZING PURCHASE AND TRANSFER OF RESERVE FUNDS FOR POLICE DEPARTMENT LICENSE PLATE READER**

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

WHEREAS, the purchase of a License Plate Reader (LPR) for the Police Department has been requested; and

WHEREAS, the LPR would allow for the sharing of critical information with various law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, the transfer of \$17,308.63 for the LPR purchase would come from Reserves; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee has concurred with the recommendation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the purchase of the LPR for the Police Department is hereby approved; 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>
HR21-9950.9	Capital Reserves – Police Equipment	\$ 17,308.63

<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3120.2100	Police - Equipment	\$ 17,308.63

Seconded by _____, and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # -2024 **AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR MULTIMED BILLING FEES**

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

WHEREAS, the original amount budgeted for 2024 projected costs for ambulance billing has been exceeded; and

WHEREAS, higher than budgeted revenue has resulted in higher billing fees; and

WHEREAS, funds need to be reallocated among line items to cover the cost of increased expenses; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 2024 General Fund Budget:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A5142.1010	Snow & Ice Removal – Personal Services	\$18,000

<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>

Seconded by Ald. _____, and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # - 2024

AUTHORIZING AGREEMENTS WITH TOWNS FOR YOUTH RECREATION SERVICES

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

WHEREAS, the City has reached agreements with the Towns of North Norwich, Norwich, Plymouth, Preston and Pharsalia to provide youth recreation services to the residents of such towns for a lump sum per town, without individual charges being made to such participants; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign agreements with the Towns of North Norwich, Norwich, Plymouth, Preston and Pharsalia to provide youth recreation services to residents of such towns during the 2025 fiscal year.

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

RESOLUTION # - 2024

DESIGNATING “PREFERRED PURCHASER” OF CITY-OWNED PROPERTY AT 30 HENRY STREET

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich acquired the real property at 30 Henry Street 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 Morris Raphael 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 Morris Raphael of Norwich, NY as the “preferred purchaser” of the City-owned property at 30 Henry Street; 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 30 Henry Street to Morris Raphael.

Seconded by Ald. _____ and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION # - 2024

SUPPORT OF CONTINUED AND INCREASED STATE AID FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS

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

WHEREAS, until 2024, cities, villages and towns had not received an increase in unrestricted state aid (AIM funding) in 15 years, significantly impacting their ability to provide essential services to their residents; and

WHEREAS, after a prolonged period without financial support, local governments finally received an increase of \$50 million in unrestricted state aid; and

WHEREAS, local officials express their gratitude for the \$50 million increase in unrestricted state aid, recognizing it as a positive step towards addressing long-standing funding challenges; and

WHEREAS, the State has referred to this new aid as Temporary Municipal Assistance, suggesting that such increase may not continue, jeopardizing the sustainability of crucial municipal programs and services; and

WHEREAS, the property tax cap further limits the ability of local governments to properly fund the programs and services their residents need; and

WHEREAS, increased and ongoing state aid for local governments is vital for maintaining infrastructure, public safety, housing and other municipal services; and

WHEREAS, the challenges of inflation, the increasing costs of labor and supplies, and the end of extraordinary federal aid only accentuate the need for consistent and predictable funding to effectively plan for the future and meet the growing needs of their residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the City of Norwich calls upon the Governor and the State Legislature to commit to continuing the additional \$50 million in unrestricted state aid in the 2025-26 State Budget and beyond, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Norwich urges state officials to recognize the need for a long-term plan that ensures consistent and predictable increases in financial support for local governments that keep pace with inflation.

Seconded by Ald. _____ and duly adopted, _____, on a roll call vote.

Payment of Bills

Ald. _____ moved to pay the _____ bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>0/0/2024</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$	\$	\$
Water Fund			
Sewer Fund			
Trust		-	
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	-	-	
Capital Projects		-	
TOTALS	\$	\$	\$

Seconded by Ald. _____ and duly adopted _____.