

COMMON COUNCIL

Special Meeting
December 3, 2024

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a special meeting of the Common Council held at 6:30 PM on December 3, 2024, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Brian Doliver
Ald. Eric Warren
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
Director of Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Edward Pepe
Youth Bureau Director Anthony Testani
Fire Chief Jan Pappelino
Police Chief Reuben Roach
Asst. Police Chief Scott Burlison
EMO William Edwards
Community Development Director Erik Scrivener

Absent

Ald. Fred Gee
Supervisor James McNeil

Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to by Mayor Doliver at 7:48 p.m.

Public Hearing – Mayor Doliver opened the public hearing to hear comment relative to the 2025 Tentative Budget at 7:49 p.m.

Robert M. Jeffrey, Ward 4,5,6 Supervisor, complemented everyone on not exceeding the tax cap. Unfortunately, Chenango County is exceeding the tax cap by approximately \$400,000 which he voted against. The County has no debt and an unappropriated fund balance of about \$29 million which should have been used to meet the tax cap. The Town of Columbus and Town of Smyrna Supervisors were the only ones besides himself to vote against going over the tax cap and using the Fund Balance to cover the \$400,000. He was also the only Supervisor to vote for rescinding the recently approved pay increases for Board Supervisors. With the County going over the tax cap, the City will see a negative impact on City residents by the lowering of the equalization rate and estimates a 5% tax increase as a result. He expressed his disappointment in the County Board of Supervisors in going over the tax cap and expressed his pride in the City in [meeting the tax cap].

Hearing no further comment the public hearing was closed at 7:52 p.m.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #86 - 2024

AUTHORIZING NON-UNIT COMPENSATION SCHEDULE

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

WHEREAS, the 2025 compensation schedule for non-unit employees was received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024 as a component part of the 2025 budget; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 2025 compensation schedule be amended as follows from the 2024 non-unit compensation schedule, effective January 1, 2025.

CITY OF NORWICH 2025 Non-Unit Employee Compensation Schedule

<u>Compensation Levels Based on 2,080-Hour Work Year:</u>						
<u>Grade</u>	<u>Entry Level</u>		<u>After 5 Years</u>		<u>After 10 Years</u>	
	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Hourly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Hourly</u>	<u>Yearly</u>	<u>Hourly</u>
35	119,038	57.23	128,561	61.81	138,085	66.39
34	113,880	54.75	122,990	59.13	132,101	63.51
33	108,742	52.28	117,442	56.46	126,141	60.64
32	103,480	49.75	111,758	53.73	120,037	57.71
31	97,490	46.87	105,289	50.62	113,088	54.37
30	93,413	44.91	100,886	48.50	108,359	52.10
29	90,480	43.50	97,718	46.98	104,957	50.46
28	88,608	42.60	95,697	46.01	102,785	49.42
27	82,992	39.90	89,631	43.09	96,271	46.28
26	77,834	37.42	84,060	40.41	90,287	43.41
25	67,538	32.47	72,941	35.07	78,344	37.67
24	64,085	30.81	69,212	33.27	74,338	35.74
23	60,653	29.16	65,505	31.49	70,357	33.83
22	57,242	27.52	61,821	29.72	66,400	31.92
21	53,810	25.87	58,114	27.94	62,419	30.01
20	50,939	24.49	55,014	26.45	59,089	28.41
19	48,651	23.39	52,543	25.26	56,435	27.13
18	46,925	22.56	50,679	24.36	54,433	26.17

Grade 32 - DPW Superintendent & Police Chief -
5 Year Step

Grade 31 - Director of Finance & Fire Chief - 5
Year Step

Grade 30 - Community Development Director -
5 Year Step

Grade 29 - Assistant Police Chief - 10
Year Step

Grade 28 - Assistant DPW Superintendent - 5
Year Step

Grade 27 - Human Resources Director - 5 Year

Step
Grade 20 - Deputy City Clerk - 5 Year
Step

**Part-Time Non-Unit
Positions**

Hourly

Assessor (8 hrs. wk/416 Annually)
Coordinator of Disaster Preparedness (10 hrs
wk/520 hrs Annually)
Director of Parks & Recreation (22 hrs. wk/1144 hrs
Annually)
Youth Bureau Director (19 hrs wk/988 hrs
Annually)
Recreation Coordinator (364 hrs
Annually)

<u>Rate</u>	<u>Annual</u>
\$	\$
61.18	25,452
\$	\$
19.30	10,035
\$	\$
19.79	22,638
\$	\$
19.79	19,548
\$	\$
17.72	6,468

**Seasonal
Employees**

Lifeguard

s

\$15.91 - \$17.51

Laborer

s

\$15.50

All other Seasonal & Temporary
Employees

\$15.50 - \$1916

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

RESOLUTION #87 -2024

ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 GENERAL FUND BUDGET

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

WHEREAS, a tentative fiscal Year 2025 General Fund budget in the amount of \$11,156,122 was received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budget was held on December 3, 2024; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2025 General Fund Budget for the City of Norwich in the amount of \$11,156,122 received on November 19, 2024, be and hereby is adopted.

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

Discussion before the vote: Ald. Loomis commented that the City budget is just slightly higher than just the Administrative budget for the school district and commended the hard work in coming up with this budget. Ald. Jeffrey said it was a selfless action by the departments to make difficult cuts and doing what is best for the City during a remarkable difficult budget year. Mayor Doliver and D. DuFour said this is the 10th year of a balanced budget and 9th year of meeting the tax cap.

RESOLUTION #88 -2024

**ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 SPECIAL GRANTS FUND AND DEBT
SERVICE FUND BUDGETS**

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

WHEREAS, tentative fiscal Year 2025 budgets for the Special Grants Fund in the amount of \$508,034 and the Debt Service Fund in the amount of \$461,735 were received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budgets was held on December 3, 2024; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2025 Special Grants Fund Budget for the City of Norwich as received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024, in the amount of \$508,034, be and hereby is adopted; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2025 Debt Service Fund Budget for the City of Norwich as received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024, in the amount of \$461,735, be and hereby is adopted.

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

RESOLUTION #89 - 2024 **ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 WASTEWATER FUND BUDGET**

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

WHEREAS, a tentative fiscal Year 2025 Wastewater Fund budget in the amount of \$1,152,895 was received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budget was held on December 3, 2024; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2025 Wastewater Fund Budget for the City of Norwich in the amount of \$1,152,895, as received on November 19, 2024, be and hereby is adopted.

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

RESOLUTION #90 - 2024 **ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 2025 WATER FUND BUDGET**

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

WHEREAS, a tentative fiscal Year 2025 Water Fund budget in the amount of \$1,620,220 was received by the Common Council on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budget was held on December 3, 2024; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 2025 Water Fund Budget for the City of Norwich in the amount of \$1,620,220, as received on November 19, 2024, be and hereby is adopted.

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

RESOLUTION #91 - 2024 **ADOPTING WATER RATES – TOWN OF NORWICH
EFFECTIVE WITH APRIL 1, 2025 BILLINGS**

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

WHEREAS, the City has contracts for supplying water with the Town of Norwich (the “Town”) which provide that related costs shall be allocated to the Town in a water rate schedule determined by the City each year; and

RESOLVED, that the following rate schedule for billing of water provided to the Town by the City be and hereby is approved and shall take effect with billings commencing April 1, 2025.

NORWICH WATER SYSTEM							
ADOPTED WATER RATES FOR TOWN OF NORWICH							
FOR 2025 BUDGET YEAR							
(Effective in Billings Starting April 1, 2025)							
						Amount of	
				Present	Proposed	<u>Increase:</u>	Percentage
<u>WATER USE QUARTERLY RATES:</u>				<u>(2024)</u>	<u>(2025)</u>	<u>\$ / cu. ft.</u>	<u>Increase</u>
Minimum Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet:				\$ 89.77	\$89.77	\$0.00	0.00%
Charge per 100 cu. ft. for Additional							
Usage Over 1,000 cubic feet:							
Additional 1,000 to 13,000 cubic feet:				\$7.72	\$7.72	0.00	0.00%
Additional 13,000 to 50,000 cubic feet:				\$7.99	\$7.99	0.00	0.00%
Additional 50,000 (and over) cubic feet:				\$8.21	\$8.21	0.00	0.00%

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

RESOLUTION #92 - 2024 **ADOPTING WATER AND SEWER USE RATES IN THE CITY OF NORWICH**

Ald. Jeffrey introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Chapter 542 of the Code of the City of Norwich states that the Common Council shall set water and sewer use rates as deemed necessary for the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing was held on December 3, 2024, in connection with the 2025 Budget, including said proposed water and sewer use rates; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich, as presented to the Common Council on November 19, 2024, be and hereby are set as follows:

NORWICH WATER SYSTEM		
RATES		
FOR 2025 BUDGET		
(Effective January 1, 2025 & Reflected in Billings Starting April 1, 2025)		
	<u>Present</u>	<u>Proposed</u>
<u>WATER USE QUARTERLY RATES:</u>	<u>(2024)</u>	<u>(2025)</u>
Minimum Charge up to 1,000 cubic feet:	\$ 68.14	\$ 68.14

Charge per 100 cu. ft. for Additional Usage Over 1,000 cubic feet:

Additional 1,000 to 13,000 cubic feet:	5.93	5.93
Additional 13,000 to 50,000 cubic feet:	6.23	6.23
Additional 50,000 (and over) cubic feet:	6.54	6.54

SEWER USE QUARTERLY RATE:

Charge per 100 cu. ft. of total Water Use:	\$ 4.46	\$ 4.73
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Fire Service

1 ½ inch service	60.00	60.00
4 or 6 inch service	110.00	110.00
8 inch service	190.00	190.00
12 inch service	220.00	220.00

Hydrant Charge

Per Each Hydrant	55.00	55.00
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Seconded by Ald. Loomis and duly adopted, 5 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Executive Session

Ald. Loomis **moved** to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual and financial history of a particular corporation.

at 8:01 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.

Ald. Jeffrey **moved** to exit executive session at 9:57 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Warren **moved** to adjourn at 9:58 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Jeffrey, approved ayes all.