

COMMON COUNCIL

July 15, 2025

Mayor Brian Doliver presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:00 PM on July 15 2025, 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. Matthew Caezza

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk Dee DuFour
Director of Human Resources Lynn Murray
DPW Superintendent Tim Miller
Director of Parks & Recreation Anthony Testani
Fire Chief Jan Papelino
Asst. Police Chief Scott Burlison
EMO William Edwards
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Absent

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Doliver at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Gee **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of June 17, 2025. Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly approved ayes all.

Open Forum

Melissa Beers, 49 Sheldon St., thanked the Fire Department, Mayor and Ald. Caezza for their support in their situation [with building damage] at their business at 12 South Broad St. She related that due to no local property manager where her business is a tenant, they could not access the roof to address the water that was pouring in due to the recent storm. She related her contacts, or attempted contacts, with her landlord. She referenced City code that said a local property manager must be listed. She expressed her concern with the lack of accountability and enforcement of the referenced City ordinance.

Christine Carnrike, 29 Jones Ave., expressed her concern that other than mowing the lawn, there has been no other activity at 134 S. Broad St. since the zoning board hearing. She thanked the Finance office for contacting her regarding a suspected water leak. She also mentioned an error in the change order resolutions for tonight (they had already been corrected before the meeting).

Stephanie Pebler, resident, said her house had been broken into and she no longer feels safe there. She stated that many leaders had been in power for a long time and recommends a 4-6 year term limit. She said she has felt an apathy in the area. She said that education is key and there should be some kind of free education for the community such as baking, cooking, painting a house etc. She felt that there should be volunteer committees that would act as a “welcoming committee” for those that have moved here.

Marissa Phelps, started by giving the YMCA a “shout-out”, saying the number of people at Gus Macker was exciting to see. She said there are a number of brown yard waste bags on curbs and for consideration of pickups throughout the summer season. Concerning 134 South Broad St., she wondered what the status is after the Zoning Board hearing. She also would like some kind of update on the City Manager position and wondered if the steering committee is being formed. She felt the suggestion of a Deputy Mayor was a diversion from this.

Correspondence

- ♦ **Pickleball Tournament** – Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve a request from Commerce Chenango for special event status for their Pickleball Tournament at Weiler Park on Saturday, August 9, 2025 from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. They also request permission for the sale and consumption of alcohol at the event in a roped off area near the Bob Mason Recreation

Center and they will ensure all vendors will be getting any permits necessary from the NYS Liquor Authority. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ Ontario Hose Minutes – June
- ◆ Parks Minutes – June
- ◆ Civil Service Minutes – May, June
- ◆ Fire Department Report – May, June
- ◆ Police Report - June

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

Mayoral Appointment

Youth Board

- ◆ *Sharon Vesley, The Place, 20 E. Main St., appointed to fill the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 2026.*

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Warren reported discussions in support of the City Manager position; complaints of noise from manhole covers; swimming pool house condition; all were referred to the proper department.

Ward 2

Ald. Gee reported a discussion about the Hale and Midland light; another about water from the bank on Pleasant St. and onto the road.

Ward 3

Ald. Allaire reported a noise complaint and a complaint about construction starting before 6 a.m., both forwarded to the proper party.

Ward 4

Ald. Loomis reported a State St. resident with Code and police concerns which were forwarded to the proper department and have been resolved; several discussions about the Hale St. traffic light; speeding motorcycle on Gold St; Berry St. sewer issues; tall grass on Tillman. Loomis reported that all Council members have been interviewed regarding the City Manager position.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported a curb cut request on East Main St.; a complaint about the bushes at the corner of East Main and Park St.; several contacts in support of replacing the Hale St. traffic light and not change it to a 4-way STOP due to the amount of traffic.

Ward 6

Ald. Caezza reported Code violations of grass, garbage and bushes.

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

Motions

- ◆ **Set Public Hearing – Chapter 109 Salaries and Compensation (Mayor)** – Ald. Loomis **moved** to set a Public Hearing for August 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment regarding proposed Local Law No. (E) of 2025 Chapter 109 Salaries and Compensation. Seconded by Ald. Allaire, approved ayes all.

OF 2025

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 109
OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Norwich, New York, as follows:

A local law adopted pursuant to Chapter 109 in the City of Norwich.

Article I

Mayor and Aldermen

[Adopted 1-7-1985 by L.L. No. 1-1985]

§ 109-1 **Annual salaries.**

The annual salaries of the following City officers are hereby established as follows:

A. Mayor ~~\$16,210~~ **\$20,000**

§ 109-2 **Effective date; permissive referendum.**

This article shall take effect ~~December 9, 2022~~ **January 1, 2026** or 45 Days from Adoption by Council, upon after final adoption, whichever shall occur later, and shall be subject to a permissive referendum.

Old material is crossed out; New material is *italic* and underlined

- ♦ **Set Public Hearing – Chapter 109 Salaries and Compensation (Alderspersons)** – Ald. Loomis **moved** to set a Public Hearing for August 19, 2025 at 6:00 p.m. to hear public comment regarding proposed Local Law No. (F) of 2025 Chapter 109 Salaries and Compensation. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

PROPOSED LOCAL LAW NO. (F)
OF 2025

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 109
OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

BE IT ORDAINED by the Common Council of the City of Norwich, New York, as follows:

A local law adopted pursuant to Chapter 109 in the City of Norwich.

Article I

Mayor and Aldermen

[Adopted 1-7-1985 by L.L. No. 1-1985]

§ 109-1 **Annual salaries.**

The annual salaries of the following City officers are hereby established as follows:

B. Members of the Common Council (Aldermen): ~~\$4,000~~ **\$5,000**. **[Amended 12-2-1987 by L.L. No. 3-1987; 12-26-1989 by L.L. No. 1-1990]**

§ 109-2 **Effective date; permissive referendum.**

This article shall take effect ~~December 9, 2022~~ **January 1, 2026** or 45 Days from Adoption by Council, upon after final adoption, whichever shall occur later, and shall be subject to a permissive referendum.

Old material is crossed out; New material is *italic* and underlined

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #65 - 2025 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER OF FIRE CAPITAL RESERVE FUNDS FOR FIRE DEPARTMENT EQUIPMENT

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

WHEREAS, 2 carbide chainsaw chains, material for a drying rack, SD cards, 5 batteries and a 12 volt charger, 10 particulate hoods, and a welded frame for the electric hoist are needed for Fire Department equipment; and

WHEREAS, \$2,844.05 needs to be transferred for the purchases; 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 supplemental appropriation in the 2025 budget:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR32	Fire Equipment – Reserves	\$ 2,844.05
<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.2100	Fire Department – Equipment	\$ 2,844.05

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

RESOLUTION #66 - 2025 AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL RESERVES FOR LADDER TRUCK REPAIRS

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

WHEREAS, the ladder truck is 20 years old; and

WHEREAS, \$3,600 to repair the turntable and \$3,368 for the pedestal housing repair are needed; and

WHEREAS, a transfer of \$6,968.00 from Capital Reserves is needed; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following supplemental appropriation in the 2025 budget for repairs to the ladder truck:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR32	Fire Equipment – Reserves	\$6,968.00
<u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.4041	Fire Department – Fire Truck Maintenance	\$6,968.00

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

RESOLUTION #67 - 2025

**AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FROM CAPITAL RESERVES FOR CITY HALL
HEAT PUMPS**

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

WHEREAS, the air conditioning at City Hall has ceased working; and

WHEREAS, the installation of heat pumps has been recommended; and

WHEREAS, a transfer of \$10,250 from Capital Reserves is needed; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following supplemental appropriation in the 2025 budget for the installation of heat pumps at City Hall:

<u>From:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR33-9950.9	Municipal Buildings – Reserves	\$10,250.00
 <u>To:</u>		
<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1620.2100	Municipal Buildings – Equipment	\$10,250.00

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

RESOLUTION #68 - 2025

AMENDING MUNICIPAL FEE SCHEDULE FOR LEACHATE RATE

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

WHEREAS, the Common Council adopted Resolution #71-2010 on October 19, 2010, establishing a consolidated Municipal Fees & Fines Schedule of various fees and certain fines into a single document; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council seeks to raise the leachate rate from .05 to .07 per gallon; and

WHEREAS, those changes require a change to the Municipal Fee Schedule; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Municipal Fee Schedule of the City of Norwich be and hereby is updated effective as of effective July 1, 2025:

Leachate (excluding Pharsalia) .07 a gallon

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

RESOLUTION #69 - 2025

**AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE 2025 SANITARY SEWER
LINE REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

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

WHEREAS, bids for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project were opened on December 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, due to additional work and a change in the size of piping resulting in additional charges of \$221,271.64; and

WHEREAS, a credit of \$19,600.00 to the project due to a reduction in bid item No. 7 for 245 linear feet of 16” liner; and

WHEREAS, Change Order 1 to the project is necessary to cover the resulting \$201,671.64 in additional costs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Change Order 1 in the amount of \$201,671.64 to the Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project is hereby authorized; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the date of substantial completion shall now be September 16, 2025.

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

RESOLUTION #70 - 2025

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 FOR THE 2025 SANITARY SEWER LINE REHABILITATION AND REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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

WHEREAS, bids for the 2025 Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project were opened on December 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, manhole and lamphole replacement and repairs must be completed before work can continue to the project; and

WHEREAS, Change Order 2 to the project is necessary to cover the resulting \$225,925.00 in additional costs; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Change Order 2 in the amount of \$225,925.00 to the Sanitary Sewer Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project is hereby authorized.

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

RESOLUTION #71 - 2025

AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 1 FOR THE 2025 LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

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

WHEREAS, bids for the 2025 Lead Service Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project were opened on February 27, 2025; and

WHEREAS, due to additional exploratory excavations resulting in additional charges of \$3,500; and

WHEREAS, a credit of \$138,400 to the project due to the excavations revealing bid items that were found to be unnecessary; and

WHEREAS, Change Order 1 to the project is necessary to the changes under the project; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Change Order 1 reflecting the changes to the 2025 Lead Service Line Rehabilitation and Replacement Project and resulting credit of \$134,900 is hereby authorized.

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Superintendent of DPW has recommended certain appointments to fill such vacancies; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Christopher Bush of Oxford, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as a full time MEO II to the Norwich DPW Department with a starting salary of \$18.84 per hour effective July 21, 2025; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the appointment is contingent upon successfully passing the required medical examination, background check and any action necessary from the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

Payment of Bills

Ald. Warren **moved** to pay the July bills after proper audit and certification.

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>7/15/2025</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$342,378.01	\$66,686.80	\$409,064.81
Water Fund	33,760.48	10,070.29	43,830.77
Sewer Fund	23,662.41	25,868.99	49,531.40
Trust	44,206.05	-	44,206.05
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	1,250.00	-	1,250.00
Capital Projects	102,317.44	-	102,317.44
TOTALS	\$547,574.39	\$102,626.08	\$650,200.47

Seconded by Ald. Allaire and duly adopted 6 - 0.

Executive Session

Ald. Zieno **moved** to enter executive session to discuss contract negotiations at 6:37 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Ald. Caezza **moved** to exit executive session at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Caezza **moved** to adjourn at 8:15 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Gee, approved ayes all.