

COMMON COUNCIL

May 19, 2026

Mayor Robert D. Jeffrey presided at a meeting of the Common Council held at 6:00 PM on May 19, 2026, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert D. Jeffrey
Ald. Eric Warren
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
Fire Chief Gerald Parry
Police Chief Scott Burlison
EMO William Edwards
Deputy City Clerk Agnes Eaton

Supervisor Robert M. Jeffrey

Absent

Ald. Fred Gee
Ald. Nancy Allaire
Supervisor James McNeil

Call to Order

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

Approval of Minutes

Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve the minutes of the regular meeting of April 21, 2026. Seconded by Ald. Zieno and duly approved ayes all.

Citizens Academy Recognitions – S. Burlison recognized the those that participated in the six-week-long Citizens Police Academy. The goal of the Academy is to educate the public about the Police Department and to increase positive relationships between citizens and Police Officers. Topic covered were use of force, tasers, pepper spray, mental health, homeless, vehicle traffic enforcement, drug and alcohol impairment, community policing, special events coordination, active shooter event, and criminal investigations among other things.

Proclamation – Mayor Jeffrey read the following proclamation:

National Poppy Day

WHEREAS, the red poppy has become an internationally recognized symbol of the sacrifice made by members of the Armed Forces who have died in service to their country; and

WHEREAS, the tradition of wearing the memorial poppy was inspired by the poem In Flanders Fields, written by John McCrae following the sacrifices of soldiers during World War I; and

WHEREAS, the red poppy reminds us of the courage, devotion, and selfless service of those who gave their lives in defense of freedom; and

WHEREAS, members of the American Legion Auxiliary and the American Legion continue the tradition of distributing memorial poppies, handmade by veterans, to honor the fallen and to support veterans and their families; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the citizens of this community remember the sacrifices of those who have served in the Armed Forces and recognize the enduring legacy of their service; and

WHEREAS, wearing a poppy will unite citizens from across the country who decide to show their patriotism; now, therefore be it

PROCLAIMED, that I, Robert D. Jeffrey, Mayor of the City of Norwich, that Friday, May 22, 2026 as National Poppy Day and encourage all citizens to wear the red poppy as a visible sign of remembrance and gratitude for those who have given their lives in service to our nation.

Open Forum

No one spoke.

Correspondence

2026 Chenango Blues Summer Concert Series - Ald. Caezza **moved** to approve a request for special event status from the Chenango Blues Association for their free 2026 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. Warren, approved ayes all.

Commerce Chenango Pickleball Tournament – Ald. Loomis **moved** to approve a request for special event status from Commerce Chenango for a Pickleball Tournament held at Weiler Park on Saturday, June 13, 2026 from 7:30 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. with setup on Friday, June 12th. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Park Place Special Liquor License for 2026 Summer Concert Series – Ald. Warren **moved** to approve the special liquor license for Park Place Restaurant to serve alcohol in a roped-off area in front of their restaurant during the Summer Concert series on Thursday's in July and August. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

Department, Board and Commission Reports

- ◆ BID Minutes – January-December 2025, January-May 2026
- ◆ Civil Service Minutes – April
- ◆ Youth Board Minutes – May
- ◆ Park Commission Minutes – April
- ◆ Human Resources Report – April
- ◆ Police Department Report – April

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

Ward Reports

Ward 1

Ald. Warren reported a complaint about the volume of the streaming; a complaint about vagrancy at a property; a number of discussions about the proposed low-income housing at Flanagan Field.

Ward 2

Ald. Gee relayed to the Mayor who reported communications about trash at 28 Cortland St.

Ward 4

Ald. Loomis reported several communications about a utility trailer on Birdsall St.; a minibike on Gold St.; a vehicle parked on the left of the curb and in No Parking zones.

Ward 5

Ald. Zieno reported a complaint about NYSEG pole replacement; follow-up on a tree removal; a noise complaint related to the Carnival during their set-up at the fairgrounds.

Ward 6

Ald. Caezza reported numerous calls on the utility trailer on Birdsall St.; numerous calls about Flanagan Field; complaints of work being done without the permits showing.

Mayor

Mayor Jeffrey reported several communications regarding Flanagan Field and the school vote; complaints about trash on Cortland St.; abandoned property in Ward 1; correspondence regarding Chenango Lake

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

Motions

Authorizing Agreement with Norwich Building Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. for Auburn Park – Ald. Warren **moved** to authorize the Mayor, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign an agreement with Norwich Building Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. to facilitate improvements to Auburn Park. Seconded by Ald. Loomis, approved ayes all.

No Objections to Use of the Exterior of Police Department for a Movie – Ald. Loomis **moved** that the Common Council has no objection to the use of the exterior of the Police Department in a movie, as it is a public building and the building has no identification other than the word POLICE. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

Cellular Plan for South Broad St. Park – Ald. Warren **moved** to approve a request for the City of Norwich to take on the ongoing payment of a cellular plan for the blue light at the South Broad Street Park which was installed by Friends of the Park. Seconded by Ald. Loomis. Motion **defeated** with Ald. Warren and Ald. Loomis voting aye and Ald. Zieno and Ald. Caezza voting nay (4 votes are needed to approve financial items). Votes against were based on not knowing the cost.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION #43 - 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE IMPROVEMENTS TO THE SEWER COLLECTION SYSTEM, IN AND FOR THE CITY OF NORWICH, CHENANGO COUNTY, NEW YORK, AT A MAXIMUM ESTIMATED COST OF \$3,360,000, AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF \$3,360,000 BONDS OF SAID CITY TO PAY THE COST THEREOF

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

WHEREAS, all conditions precedent to the financing of the capital project hereinafter described, including compliance with the provisions of the State Environmental Quality Review Act, have been performed; and

WHEREAS, a bond ordinance for said capital project was duly adopted on February 21, 2017 and by operation of law shall be deemed repealed to the extent any indebtedness may not be contracted thereunder by February 21, 2027 in accordance with Section 41.00 of the Local Finance Law; and

WHEREAS, it is now desired to re-authorize the financing of such capital project; NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED by the affirmative vote of not less than two-thirds of the total voting strength of the Common Council of the City of Norwich, Chenango County, New York, as follows:

Section 1. Improvements to the sewer collection system in and for the City of Norwich, Chenango County, New York, including incidental costs and expenses, is hereby authorized at a maximum estimated cost of \$3,360,000.

Section 2. It is hereby determined that the aforesaid purpose constitutes a Type II action as defined under regulations of the State of New York, promulgated under the State Environmental Quality Review Act, which, by definition, will not have a significant adverse impact upon the environment.

Section 3. The plan for the financing of such maximum estimated cost is by the issuance of \$3,360,000 bonds of said City hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the provisions of the Local Finance Law;

provided, however, that the amount of bonds ultimately to be issued shall be reduced dollar for dollar by the amount of any grant monies received therefor.

Section 4. It is hereby further determined that the period of probable usefulness of the aforesaid specific object or purpose is forty years, pursuant to subdivision 4 of paragraph (a) of Section 11.00 of the Local Finance Law.

Section 5. The faith and credit of said City of Norwich, Chenango County, New York, are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations becoming due and payable in such year. To the extent not paid from other sources, there shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of said City, a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on such obligations as the same become due and payable.

Section 6. Subject to the provisions of the Local Finance Law, the power to authorize the issuance of and to sell bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance and sale of the serial bonds herein authorized, including renewals of such notes, is hereby delegated to the Director of Finance, the chief fiscal officer of said City. Such notes shall be of such terms, form and contents, and shall be sold in such manner, as may be prescribed by said Director of Finance, consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 7. All other matters, except as provided herein relating to such bonds herein authorized including date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, and whether said bonds shall be repaid in accordance with a schedule providing for substantially level or declining annual debt service, within the limitations prescribed herein and the manner of execution of the same and also including the consolidation with other issues, shall be determined by the Director of Finance, the chief fiscal officer of such City. Such bonds shall contain substantially the recital of validity clause provided for in section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law and shall otherwise be in such form and contain such recitals in addition to those required by section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law, as the Director of Finance shall determine consistent with the provisions of the Local Finance Law.

Section 8. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Treasury Regulations Section 1.150-2. Other than as specified in this resolution, no monies are, or are reasonably expected to be, reserved, allocated on a long-term basis, or otherwise set aside with respect to the permanent funding of the object or purpose described herein.

Section 9. The Director of Finance is hereby further authorized, at her sole discretion, to execute a project finance and/or loan agreement, and any other agreements with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation, including amendments thereto, and including any instruments (or amendments thereto) in the effectuation thereof, in order to effect the financing or refinancing of the object or purpose described in Section 1 hereof, or a portion thereof, by a bond or note issue of said City in the event of the sale of same to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation.

Section 10. The validity of such bonds and bond anticipation notes may be contested only if:

- 1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which said City is not authorized to expend money, or
- 2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of publication of this Bond Resolution are not substantially complied with, and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication, or
- 3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution.

Section 11. This resolution, which takes effect immediately, shall be published in summary form in the official newspaper of said City hereby designated for such purpose, together with a notice of the City Clerk in substantially the form set forth in paragraph a of Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law.

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

RESOLUTION #44 - 2026**AMEND AMBULANCE RECOVERY FEES**

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

WHEREAS, the Ambulance Recovery Fees have been established and revised July 17, 2018 and October 20, 2020, June 21, 2022 and December 19, 2023; and

WHEREAS, certain recommendation has been made and the Joint Committee has agreed with the recommendation; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, to amend the Ambulance Recovery Rates Table as follows effective date of June 1, 2026:

	<u>Rate</u>	<u>New Rate</u>
Mileage (Per loaded mile-All Transports)	\$35/mile	<u>\$50/mile</u>
ALS-1 Non-Emergency	\$1,800	<u>\$2,300</u>
ALS-1 Emergency	\$1,800	<u>\$2,300</u>
ALS-2 Emergency	\$2,200	<u>\$2,900</u>
BLS Non-Emergency	\$1,400	<u>\$1,700</u>
BLS Emergency	\$1,400	<u>\$1,700</u>
ALS Intercept	\$ 800	<u>\$1,100</u>
Specialty Care Transport	\$1,800	<u>\$2,300</u>
Treatment - No Transport	\$ 400	<u>\$500</u>
<u>Non Resident Surcharge (for patients residing outside of C.O.N. Area)</u>		
Basic Life Support Services	\$ 300	
Advanced Life Support Services	\$ 400	

New Material is in red and underlined; deleted material is struck through.

Seconded by Ald. Zieno , and duly **Tabled** the resolution 4 - 0, on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #45 - 2026**AMENDING MUNICIPAL FEE SCHEDULE FOR PARK FEES**

Ald. Loomis introduced the following and **moved** to **TABLE** 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 Park Reservation Fees; and

WHEREAS, the Parks Commission has recommended including the reservation of Park pavilions for a fee; 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 July 1, 2026:

PARK FEES

Park Reservations at Weiler Park	\$25.00 <u>Resident</u> <u>Non-Resident</u>
(ball fields, tennis courts, skating rink, <u>pavilions</u> , <u>Pickleball courts</u>)	<u>\$50.00</u> <u>\$75.00</u>
Alcohol "Permit"	\$15.00 <u>\$25.00</u> <u>\$35.00</u>

Recurring Event\$25.00*The City reserves the right to charge a fee up to \$150.00 for excessive garbage after your event.

New Material is in red and underlined; deleted material is struck through.

Seconded by Ald. Zieno, and duly **Tabled**, 4 - 0, on a roll call vote.

Discussion before the vote included the concern that this is not the right time for imposing additional fees.

RESOLUTION #46 - 2026**TRANSFER FOR PURCHASE OF FIRE PUMPER APPARATUS**

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

WHEREAS, bids for the new fire pumper apparatus were opened on October 31, 2022 and awarded to Sutphen Corporation in the total bid amount of \$769,656; and

WHEREAS, a payment of \$384,828 was authorized on December 6, 2022 to facilitate a discount of \$15,152.60;

WHEREAS, the balance of the new fire pumper truck requires a transfer of \$374,308.29; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer of funds in the 2026 Budget for the new fire pumper truck:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR32-878	Capital Reserves – Fire Equipment	\$274,308.29
A909	General Fund Balance	<u>100,000.00</u>
		\$374,308.29

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.2100	Fire Department – Equipment	\$374,308.29

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

Payment of Bills

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

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>4/19/2026</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	\$238,574.97	\$597,093.28	\$835,668.25
Water Fund	24,320.27	4,990.83	29,311.10
Sewer Fund	26,765.42	15,305.46	42,070.88
Trust	47,779.91	-	47,779.91
BID	6,296.27	-	6,296.27
Comm. Dev. - Special Grants	2,288.00	-	2,288.00
Capital Projects	35,000.00	-	35,000.00
TOTALS	\$381,024.84	\$617,389.57	\$998,414.41

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

Executive Session

Ald. Loomis **moved** to enter executive session to discuss the employment history of a particular individual and proposed litigation at 6:31 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Warren, approved ayes all.

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

Adjournment

Ald. Loomis **moved** to adjourn at 7:46 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Caezza, approved ayes all.