

CITY OF NORWICH
JOINT MEETING of the
PUBLIC SAFETY / PUBLIC WORKS and
FINANCE/PERSONNEL COMMITTEES
August 7, 2012

Present:

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Thomas LoPiccolo

Absent:

Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. John Deierlein

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Mayor Joseph P. Maiurano
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Shawn Magrath, Media Representative

Ald. Walter Schermerhorn called the joint meeting of the Public Works/Public Safety and Finance/Personnel Committees to order at 6:02 p.m. at the Council Chambers.

Department Head Reports

Police Department

Matron Position Chief Angelino reported that the Matron position is still being reviewed by the State Civil Service Commission.

Crossing Guards for 2012-2013 School Year Police Chief Joseph Angelino reported that Gerard O'Sullivan, Superintendent of the Norwich City School District, has sent a formal request that the crossing guard position at Newton Avenue and North Broad Street, which crosses few if any children, be relocated to Midland Drive, where traffic is more congested and unpredictable, especially important because of the new scheduling for school this year. The crossing guard at Newton Avenue stated he mostly allows buses to pass. Chief Angelino will meet with crossing guards this week.

Budget Update Chief Angelino reported that his Department has used 1,483 hours of overtime this year, leaving approximately \$16,000 available for overtime services for the remainder of the year. He reminded the Committees that staffing just covers each shift and if there is an absence overtime is required. Mayor Maiurano noted that the Department is doing an excellent job and is proactive rather than simply reactive.

Correspondence The Committees considered requests for a block party on Waite Street to be held August 25-26, and the Norwich High School Homecoming Parade to be held on October 12, 2012, with attendant street closings.

Youth Bureau Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason reminded the Committees that for the past two years they have directed him to include 3% increases in contracts with the towns for youth services. The current revenue from contracts with the town is \$12,826; a 3% increase will total \$13,210. The Committees suggested the full Council consider another 3% increase. R. Mason noted that Kurt Beyer Pool will be able to stay open through Labor Day because staff will be available. The hours that last week will be 12 noon to 6 p.m. Staff has been conducting surveys of attendees. He has not yet analyzed the figures, but the majority of attendees are from the City, with many from the Town of Norwich, and a number from more distant places who are visiting Norwich.

Finance Director of Finance William Roberts reported that balances in the Water and Wastewater Funds are sufficiently strong to allow a transfer of funds to capital reserves in order to allow for long-term infrastructure needs. He recommended transfers of \$100,000 from the Water Fund and \$600,000 from the Wastewater Fund, which will still leave healthy balances. Ald. Laughlin of the Finance/Personnel Committee moved to recommend Council approve transfers from the Water and Wastewater Funds to Capital Reserves. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn, approved ayes all.

DPW

RFQ for Filter Plant/RFP Water Tank DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson presented an RFQ for the filter plant project and an RFP for interim requirements at the water tank. The Committees concurred that the full Council should discuss these.

Phosphorus and Nitrogen Requirements C. Ivarson noted that new and stricter requirements for removal of phosphorus would necessitate a further expenditure of approximately \$73,000 for chemicals. New, stricter requirements for removal of nitrogen would incur costs the City cannot meet. Mayor Maiurano remarked that he is speaking with elected representatives regarding these onerous demands, which affect not only the City but all communities.

A/C Units for City Hall, Wastewater Plant, and WWTP Boiler C. Ivarson reported that the rear air conditioning unit in City Hall has failed and will cost approximately \$5,600 to repair. This will require a transfer from capital reserves. The air conditioner at the Wastewater Treatment Plant also required repairs and refrigerant must be added, costing approximately \$3,200; this cost is covered as a line item. The boiler for the digester at the Wastewater Treatment Plant has holes in the tubes, caused by methane corrosion. The boiler is ten years old and must be repaired before winter.

Firehouse Roof Repair C. Ivarson reported that the roof repair at the firehouse will be covered as a line item and will cost approximately \$1,400.

Maple Street Project C. Ivarson reported that though sample cores were drilled before the Maple Street Project was started and no concrete was found, the full dig has revealed concrete, which must be ripped out. This has resulted in a reduction of the contractor costs of \$7,000, but an increase in the paving costs, resulting in a total increase of \$23,000, which will be covered out of the Sewer Main reserves. The Committees agreed that Council should approve this.

Community & Economic Development Projects & Funds

RFPs - 38 Berry Street Community Development Specialist Todd Dreyer reported that an RFP has been advertised for a City-owned property at 38 Berry Street. He hopes to have proposals to present to the Council at its August meeting.

RFPs - 12 Walnut and 42 Henry Streets T. Dreyer reported that proposals have been received for City-owned properties at 12 Walnut and 42 Henry Streets. These should be discussed in executive session.

Emergency Home Repair Grant - 55 Fair Street T. Dreyer reported that an application has been made for an emergency home repair grant for the construction of a handicap ramp at 55 Fair Street. The applicant qualifies for a full grant of \$4,500. Only one proposal from a contractor was received, but USDA has approved proceeding. The Committees concurred that Council should approve the grant.

Executive Session Ald. LoPiccolo **moved** to enter executive session at 6:29 p.m. to discuss the sale of real property where price may be affected. Seconded by Ald. Laughlin, approved ayes all.

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to exit executive session at 6:54 p.m. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.

Adjournment

Ald. Laughlin **moved** to adjourn the meeting at 6:54 p.m. Seconded by Ald. LoPiccolo, approved ayes all.