

COMMON COUNCIL

February 12, 1991

Mayor Chomyszak presided at a regular meeting of the Common Council held at 7 p.m. on February 12, 1991, at the Higley Building.

Present:

Mayor Marjorie Chomyszak
Ald. Hartley Ackley
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Herbert Horovitz
Ald. Kenneth Titus
Ald. Roland Guinn
Ald. Charles Angelino

Also:

Clerk Jody Zakrevsky
Chamberlain Harold Hutton
Attorney James Cushman
Fire Chief Mark Rice
Highway Supt. Joseph Loscavio
Police Chief Richard Whiting
Asst. Police Chief Robert Mason
Codes Enforcement Officer Gary Lackos
Deputy Clerk Harriett Leigh
Planning Commission Chair Jean Intres

Ald. Horovitz moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of January 22, 1991 with the following correction: Page 3, Resolution #13-1991, under discussion: "Chamberlain Hutton noted the cost of street lighting has been running over budget for the past several months" rather than years. Seconded by Ald. Guinn and duly adopted, ayes all.

OPEN FORUM:

-- Mary Coe, 5A Waite Street, addressed the Council on several issues.

Mrs. Coe thanked McNeil's Jewelers for having a flag displayed as early as January 19. She said that everyone should fly a flag to show support for the troops. Mrs. Coe said she will notify merchants that the VFW will soon have flags available. She also noted that a rally in support of the troops is being planned for early March. Mayor Chomyszak said another group is also planning a rally and suggested the two may want to combine their efforts.

Mrs. Coe thanked Highway Supt. Loscavio for keeping the walkway at Weiler Park clear of snow and ice.

Mrs. Coe reported many sidewalks in the City are in need of repair and asked what can be done about the situation. Ald. McNeil said last summer a person was hired to map out all sidewalk conditions in the City. He noted, however, that sidewalk repair is the responsibility of the property owner. He said that in an effort to make sidewalk replacement easier for the property owner, the City will make the repairs for a minimal fee. Ald. McNeil said the Finance Committee, in an effort to encourage sidewalk repairs, has approved a longer payment schedule for homeowners wishing to repair their sidewalks.

Mrs. Coe expressed concern over taxes and the need for industry in the area. She said industry should go into the Norwich Shoe Company building. Ald. McNeil said there is a task force looking into getting industry back into the building. He noted, with regard to taxes, that the tax rate of \$5.73 per \$1,000 is lower than it was several years ago. Mayor Chomyszak said the County and School portion of the tax bill has gone up considerably.

Mrs. Coe asked if Morrisville College is going to expand in Norwich. Mayor Chomyszak said the City is doing everything it can to assist Morrisville College in an expansion, but it will be up to the State.

Mrs. Coe asked what happens to the revenues from dog licenses. Mayor Chomyszak said the State gets most of it.

Mrs. Coe also congratulated Police Chief Whiting on his promotion.

-- Robert Rabinowitz, 22 Hillview Drive, said he feels the sidewalks have generally been kept clean. He noted the problems arise when the weather warms up and the water runs and then freezes. Mr. Rabinowitz also noted, with regard to taxes, that County and School taxes have both gone up and that the City's portion is only a small part of the total tax bill.

BIDS:

Clerk Zakrevsky reported that no bids were received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Clerk Zakrevsky reported that no correspondence was received.

DEPARTMENT, BOARDS AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

Ald. McNeil moved to receive and file the following reports:

- Codes Enforcement monthly report for December 1990
- Water Board minutes of December 27, 1991
- Youth Board minutes of January 15, 1991
- Plumbing Board minutes of January 16, 1991
- Electrical Board minutes of January 17, 1991
- Planning Commission minutes of January 14, 1991

Seconded by Ald. Ackley and duly adopted, ayes all.

WARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ald. Guinn moved the following reports be received and filed:

- Personnel Committee meeting of January 16, 1991

-- Ald. Angelino noted that the 1991 tree removal list is ready for bid and anyone wishing to add a tree to the list should contact Highway Supt. Loscavio as soon as possible. Ald. Horovitz asked what the procedure is for having a tree removed. Highway Supt. Loscavio said usually a resident calls his office and requests a tree be removed. The tree is then inspected by his office and a determination is made based on health and safety factors. Ald. Guinn asked if the Street Tree Committee makes recommendations for tree removal. Mr. Loscavio said the Street Tree Committee is generally more involved with tree planting.

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

OLD BUSINESS:

-- Clerk Zakrevsky reported the Planning Commission has recommended the placement of the Chapman-Turner Clock to 1 South Broad Street to be an appropriate use for clock.

Ald. McNeil moved to approve the overhang request under the direction of the City Engineering Department with final plans being referred to the Planning Commission for approval. Seconded by Ald. Horovitz.

Ald. McNeil withdrew his motion due to the possibility of a perceived conflict of interest as his name has been associated with the repair of the Chapman-Turner Clock.

Ald. Guinn moved to approve overhang request under the direction of the City Engineering Department with final plans being referred to the Planning Commission for approval. Seconded by Ald. Horovitz and duly adopted, 5-0, with Ald. McNeil abstaining due to a possible conflict of interest.

NEW BUSINESS:

-- Ald. McNeil moved the appointment of Joseph Brillinger, 36 Waite Street, to the Board of Ethics, a three year term expiring December 31, 1993. Seconded by Ald. Guinn and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Guinn moved the appointment of Alexander Neill, 17 Ridgeland Road, to the Street Tree Committee, a three year term expiring December 31, 1993. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Chomyszak noted Mr. Neill will serve as a liaison to the Rotary Club.

-- Mayor Chomyszak reported the appointment of Hal Ebetino, 22 Summit Street, to the Zoning Board of Appeals, the remainder of a three year term expiring December 31, 1991.

RESOLUTION #19 - 1991. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR 1990 AUDIT SERVICES

Ald. Horovitz introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are needed to cover costs to Deloitte & Touche for professional services rendered in connection with the audit of financial statements for the year ending December 31, 1990; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1991 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 4,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1325.4020	Chamberlain - Contracted Services	\$ 4,000.00

Seconded by Ald. Ackley and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Chamberlain Hutton noted funds for the 1990 audit are in the pool account and must be transferred.

RESOLUTION #20 - 1991. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR YOUTH RECREATION TRIP

Ald. Guinn introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Colgate University has donated to the City of Norwich Youth Program 30 tickets to a Colgate hockey game; and

WHEREAS, funds are needed to cover the transportation cost for such trip; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1991 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 60.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A7410.4020	Recreation - Contracted Services	\$ 60.00

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Titus asked what transportation was used for the trip. Clerk Zakrevsky said Norwich City School buses were used for the trip.

RESOLUTION #21 - 1991. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR LABOR RELATIONS AND COLLECTIVE BARGAINING SERVICES AGREEMENT

Ald. Guinn introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the firm of Roemer and Featherstonhaugh, P.C., Albany, NY, has been retained to provide professional services relating to labor relations and collective bargaining to the City of Norwich at a cost of \$1,083.00 per month through December 31, 1991, a total cost of \$12,996.00 for the year 1991; and

WHEREAS, funds are needed to cover such costs for services rendered to the City for the year 1991; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1991 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 12,996.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1430.4020	Personnel - Contracted Services	\$ 12,996.00

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted 5-1 (Ald. Angelino) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Angelino asked how many contracts will be negotiated this year. Mayor Chomyszak said two contracts will need to be negotiated.

Ald. Horovitz noted that the resolution is moving funds for the total year, however, the City is paying the firm per month. He noted the firm is retained on a monthly basis with an option to cancel with a 30 day notice.

Ald. Angelino asked if the fee for court time is extra. Mayor Chomyszak said it was.

Chamberlain Hutton noted if the firm spends more than 10 hours per month here the City will be making money.

Ald. Angelino said he felt this was a lot of money to spend in one year for negotiating two contracts.

RESOLUTION #22 - 1991. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR LEGAL FEES

Ald. Horovitz introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover an assessment valuation performed at 27 South Broad Street by the Peatfield Company; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1991 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 1,500.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1420.4020	Attorney - Contracted Services	\$ 1,500.00

Seconded by Ald. Guinn and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #23 - 1991. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR MAINTENANCE ON POSTAGE METER

Ald. Guinn introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover the cost of maintenance on the postage meter and the tri-rate meter for the year 1991; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1991 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 992.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1325.4020	Chamberlain - Contracted Services	\$ 992.00

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Chamberlain Hutton said this is a maintenance expense that comes annually. He noted it was previously under Contracted Services in a lump sum. Chamberlain Hutton said he is looking into the possibility of leasing a newer style meter with electronic scales which would save time and money. He said leasing would cost approximately \$200 per month. Chamberlain Hutton said a new machine may cost approximately \$4,000-\$5,000. He noted that if the City decides to change options, any unused time on the maintenance contract would be refunded.

-- Ald. Horovitz moved to pay the following bills after proper audit and certification:

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>2/12/91</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	1,570,874.23	28,589.05	1,599,463.28
Trust	269,128.16	0.00	269,128.16
W.W.T.P.	12,154.55	0.00	12,154.55
Reserves	67,385.00	0.00	67,385.00
Unemployment Insurance	1,037.75	0.00	1,037.75
Small Cities	84,000.00	0.00	84,000.00
Special Grants	2,265.62	7,677.22	9,942.84
Capital Projects	57,380.00	96,221.66	153,601.66
TOTALS	\$2,064,225.31	\$132,487.93	\$2,196,713.24

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Mayor Chomyszak asked the Council to consider, due to economic conditions, the possibility of putting a freeze on new capital projects and additional hiring with the exception of essential services personnel.

-- Ald. Horovitz moved to go into executive session at 7:52 pm to discuss the personnel history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Guinn and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Guinn moved to go out of executive session. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Ackley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.