

COMMON COUNCIL

January 14, 1992

Mayor Chomyszak presided at a regular meeting of the Common Council held at 6 pm on January 14, 1992, at the Higley Building.

Present:

Mayor Marjorie Chomyszak
Ald. George Carnrike
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. David Symonds
Ald. Charles Angelino

Also:

Attorney James Cushman (6 - 7 pm)
Clerk Jody Zakrevsky
Chamberlain Harold Hutton
Engineer James Suozzo (7 pm)
Police Chief Richard Whiting (7 pm)
Asst. Police Chief R. Mason (7 pm)
Asst. Fire Chief Christopherson (7 pm)
Assessor Ann Makarewicz
Building Inspector F. Aquilato (7 pm)
Highway Supt. Joseph Loscavio (8 pm)

-- Ald. Angelino moved to go into executive session immediately to discuss possible pending litigation. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. McNeil moved to go out of executive session at 6:52 pm and begin the regular meeting at 7 pm. Seconded by Ald. Symonds and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of December 23, 1991 and January 6, 1992. Seconded by Ald. Symonds and duly adopted, ayes all.

OPEN FORUM:

-- Donna Miller, Canasawacta Terrace, Norwich, addressed the Council regarding City crosswalks. She explained that on December 13, 1991, her son was hit by a car as he crossed North Broad Street. She noted he was in a crosswalk and that three lanes of traffic stopped; one did not. Mrs. Miller said she is aware the City has requested approval to install signs at the downtown crosswalks and asked for support and help in getting the NYS Department of Transportation (DOT) to approve placement of the signs quickly before another accident occurs. She said she received no cooperation from the DOT when she inquired as to the status of the request.

Diane Mattice, Norwich, said she was told by the DOT in Oxford that the signs are not necessary.

Police Chief Whiting said the Traffic Commission has been very active in the signing of the downtown area and has made recommendations. Asst. Chief Mason said the Traffic Commission is waiting for approval to place signs at City crosswalks in the downtown. He noted that no sign may be installed on a state highway without DOT approval.

Thomas Knapp, Traffic Commission member, said the Commission thought they had an oral approval to install the signs. He said he finds it almost impossible to believe that the DOT would not approve the request, as long as they are not paying for the signs.

Engineer Suozzo said pressure by the Council may help speed up the process.

Police Chief Whiting noted that in almost every case the driver of the car was a local person. He said education programs are needed for children and adults.

Dave Sherman, YMCA, agreed that additional measures need to be taken. He said the YMCA had once requested a flashing light. Mr. Sherman suggested stronger citations for offenders of the pedestrian right-of-way.

Ald. Angelino asked the YMCA to help with education programs for the children.

Diane Mattice asked if the Police Department could work with the school on a program for students similar to the Halloween and Fire Safety programs currently conducted in the schools.

Thomas Knapp noted that the crosswalks in the downtown are located at "T" intersections and many people don't realize the markings are for the crosswalks.

Ald. McNeil suggested signs at the entrances to the City stating that drivers must stop for pedestrians in crosswalks.

Chief Whiting said in addition to the placement of crosswalk signs, further steps are needed and suggested the Mayor appoint an ad-hoc committee to look into the situation and report back to the Council.

Mayor Chomyszak asked for volunteers and appointed the following to an ad-hoc committee on crosswalk safety:

Police Chief Richard Whiting, Chairman
Asst. Police Chief Robert Mason
Engineer James Suozzo
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Donna Miller
Diane Mattice
Dave Sherman
Lauren Howell

Donna Miller noted that her son was doing everything he was supposed to do when he was struck by the car and she is sure it will happen again if steps aren't taken. She asked if a police officer could be posted at the crosswalk near the YMCA during after school hours. Police Chief Whiting said he will present the request to the Public Safety Committee at their next meeting.

-- Mayor Chomyszak introduced Robert Vasta from the Community Map Company. Mr. Vasta explained that the Mayor has requested his company, at no cost to the City other than postage, to solicit local businesses to advertise on a map of the City of Norwich that they will produce. He noted the sponsors will get a laminated map. Mr. Vasta said 5,000 maps will be produced with 2,500 being distributed through the mail.

BIDS:

-- Clerk Zakrevsky reported bids were received for a 1992 Heavy Duty One Ton Dump Truck.

CORRESPONDENCE:

-- Clerk Zakrevsky reported no correspondence was received.

DEPARTMENT, BOARDS AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

-- Ald. Angelino moved to receive and file the following reports:

- Water Board minutes of November 25, 1991
- Civil Service Commission minutes of December 12, 1991
- Police Department monthly report for December 1991
- Traffic Commission minutes of January 8, 1992
- Codes Enforcement monthly report for November 1991

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

WARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

-- Ald. Carnrike reported concern in Ward One at the intersection of Eaton Avenue and Elm Street where a temporary barricade fence was installed at Norwich-Eaton. He said the fence obstructs the view of traffic and requested additional police patrol in the area.

-- Ald. Rabinowitz reported the Planning Commission has made some projections for additional work at the pool and park.

OLD BUSINESS:

-- Mayor Chomyszak reported Executive Order No. 1 of 1992 would be filed this week with the City Clerk creating a task force to study the problem of vandalism and terror that occurred this past Halloween and make recommendations. Mayor Chomyszak noted the additional appointments of Robert and Ruth Levin of 22 Hillview Drive to the task force including:

Ward Three Alderman Robert Rabinowitz, Chairman
 Rev. Stephen Heiss, United Methodist Church
 James Walters, Norwich High School Principal
 David Sherman, YMCA
 W. Howard Sullivan, City Judge
 Richard Whiting, Police Chief
 Robert Mason, Asst. Police Chief
 James Cushman, City Attorney

-- After some discussion, it was the consensus of the Public Safety Committee to meet at 5:30 pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month.

NEW BUSINESS:

-- Ald. Angelino commended the City department heads and employees on the reduction of overtime during 1991. He noted overtime was reduced approximately 50% from the previous year.

-- Ald. Angelino moved to award the bid for a Heavy Duty One Ton Dump Truck to Smith Norwich for \$24,948, the lowest bidder meeting specifications, as recommended by the Public Works Committee.

-- Ald. Angelino moved the mayoral appointment of David DeBruine, 64 Hillview Drive, to the Parks Commission, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1993. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Mayor Chomyszak reported the appointment of Louis Callea to the Civil Service Commission, for the remainder of a six-year term expiring December 31, 1992.

-- Ald. Angelino moved the appointment of Timothy R. Sheldon, 18 Grove Avenue, to the Emergency Squad of the Norwich Fire Department. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

First Asst. Chief Christophersen noted Mr. Sheldon is currently a member of the Ontario Hose Company of the Fire Department.

RESOLUTION #01 - 1992. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR 1992 NON-UNIT SALARY ADJUSTMENTS

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a budget adjustment is required to cover 1992 cost of living adjustments for non-unit employees; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1992 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1990	Contingency	\$35,809.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1325.1010	Chamberlain - Personal Services	\$ 6,649.00
A1355.1010	Assessment - Personal Services	2,317.00
A1410.1010	Clerk - Personal Services	2,646.00
A1430.1010	Personnel & Civil Ser. - Personal Services	1,703.00
A1440.1010	Engineer - Personal Services	376.00
A3120.1010	Police - Personal Services	5,162.00
A3410.1010	Fire - Personal Services	818.00
A3620.1010	Codes Enforcement - Personal Services	1,409.00
A5110.1010	Street Maintenance - Personal Services	3,124.00
A5142.1010	Snow & Ice Removal - Personal Services	372.00
A7110.1010	Parks - Personal Services	1,517.00
A7140.1010	Playgrounds - Personal Services	1,846.00
A7310.1010	Youth Bureau - Personal Services	803.00
A8020.1010	Planning - Personal Services	3,046.00
A9010.8	Retirement	1,589.00
A9030.8	Social Security	2,432.00
		\$35,809.00

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all (5-0) on a roll call vote.

RESOLUTION #02 - 1992. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR 1991 OPERATION AT REFUSE DISTRICT NO. 3 LANDFILL

Ald. Angelino introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover additional costs incurred in the operation of the Refuse District No. 3 landfill in 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>
A5110.1010	Streets - Personal Services	\$ 9,065.00
A5110.4040	Streets - Vehicle Maintenance	8,808.00
		\$17,873.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A8160.1010	Refuse Disposal - Personal Services	\$ 9,065.00
A8160.4051	Refuse Disposal - Rentals	8,808.00
		\$17,873.00

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all (5-0) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Rabinowitz asked if this amount represents the final payment. Chamberlain Hutton said it was.

Ald. Carnrike asked if the Refuse District No. Three has paid the City the balance owed by them. Mayor Chomyszak said they have not paid and the matter has been referred to the City Attorney.

RESOLUTION #03 - 1992. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR IBM SYSTEM PRINTER
MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover the 1992 maintenance contract for the IBM printer; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1992 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1989.402	Contracted Services	\$ 345.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1210.4020	Mayor - Contracted Services	\$ 86.25
A1410.4020	Clerk - Contracted Services	86.25
A1430.4020	Personnel & C.S. - Contracted Services	86.25
A8020.4020	Planning - Contracted Services	86.25
		<u>\$ 345.00</u>

Seconded by Ald. Symonds and duly adopted, ayes all (5-0) on a roll call vote.

Clerk Zakrevsky noted the printer serves the IBM system located on the second floor of City Hall.

RESOLUTION #04 - 1992. SMALL CITIES CDBG SOUTHWEST QUADRANT HOUSING
LOANS/GRANTS

Ald. Angelino introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Lula Rucker of 31 Eaton Avenue has been found eligible for a senior citizen emergency grant of \$1,000; and

WHEREAS, Teresa Everts of 6 Hickory Street has been found eligible for an owner occupied \$5,000 matching grant and a loan of \$2,500 for 5% for five years; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Lula Rucker of 31 Eaton Avenue is hereby awarded a \$1,000 senior citizen emergency grant of \$1,000; and further be it

RESOLVED, that Teresa Everts of 6 Hickory Street has been found eligible for an owner occupied \$5,000 matching grant and a loan of \$2,500 for 5% for five years;

Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all (5-0) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Angelino suggested that the Community Development Department poll the Common Council for their views on applying for future housing grants.

RESOLUTION #05 - 1992. APPROVING PHASE II STUDY OF WATER FILTRATION SYSTEM

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the New York State Department of Health requires that all public drinking water systems be in compliance with the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) water filtration standards by June 29, 1993; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council on August 27, 1991, passed Resolution No. 91 of 1991, approving a contract between the City of Norwich Board of Water Commissioners and Stearns and Wheler Environmental Engineers in the amount of \$14,500 to conduct a study for a water filtration system that will be in compliance with such EPA standards; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich Board of Water Commissioners have recommended that Stearns and Wheler Environmental Engineers be awarded a new contract in the amount of \$12,900 to provide additional engineering services needed to evaluate a suggested alternative and lower cost options than those outlined in their Phase I study; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Norwich recognizes that the State of New York desires to meet the EPA standards by 1993; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that a contract between the City of Norwich Board of Water Commissioners and Stearns and Wheler Environmental Engineers in the amount of \$12,900 to conduct alternative recommendations and more cost effective designs for improved water quality filtration be and hereby is approved; and further be it

RESOLVED, that the Chamberlain be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1992 Water Fund Budget:

FROM:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
F1990.4	Contingency	\$ 12,900

TO:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>
F8330.4020	Treatment - Contracted Services	\$ 12,900

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all (5-0) on a roll call vote.

-- Prior to the vote, Water Commissioner Thomas Knapp explained that the Phase I study of the Water Filtration System has determined that a new water filtration plant will be extremely costly to the City. He said Phase II of the study will include engineering services to evaluate a suggested alternative as well as lower cost options. He explained that the current filtration plant will be evaluated as to how much life is left in the current system. Mr. Knapp noted that Phase II will not include anything from the previous proposal.

Engineer Suozzo said his office has reviewed the proposals.

Clerk Zakrevsky noted the water system will be required to comply with new federal standards by June of 1993.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to direct the Mayor to draft a letter to the New York State Department of Transportation requesting a speedy processing and approval of the City's request for crosswalk sign placement, and that it be noted the City of Norwich Traffic Commission also supports the request. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.

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

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>1/14/92</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	320,904.70	24,002.24	344,906.94
Trust Fund	355.07	0.00	355.07
Community Development	0.00	6,835.00	6,835.00
Capital Projects	30.74	0.00	30.74
TOTALS	\$321,290.51	30,837.24	352,127.75

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

-- Ald. Angelino moved to adjourn at 8:30 pm. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.