

Work Session

Common Council

March 12, 1996

Present:

Mayor Joseph Biviano
 Ald. George Carnrike
 Ald. Patrick McNeil
 Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
 Ald. Barbara Schermerhorn
 Ald. Mat Thall
 Ald. Charles Angelino

Also:

Director of Finance/Clerk Brian Haak
 CD Director David Wagoner
 Police Chief Robert Mason
 Water Supt. Carl Ivarson
 Supervisor John Dolan
 Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Internet Update -- Mayor Biviano introduced Ken Harrington of Chenango Net Services for an update on Internet. Mr. Harrington presented an overview of the project to date. He said there are currently 675 total accounts, 136 from Oneonta and 539 from Norwich. There are currently 30 lines for Oneonta and 45 lines for Norwich with 15 additional lines to be added within the next two months in Norwich. Mr. Harrington indicated there are eight school districts on-line at this time. He noted the public connections for Internet are Guernsey Memorial Library and the Cornell Cooperative Extension. He explained the locations were determined by the Internet Local Advisory Board which includes David Wagoner, the project manager, Gary Clark, the financial advisor, a BOCES representative, a Library representative, Donna McKusker of the Chamber of Commerce, Keith O'Brosky of CNS and himself. Mr. Harrington noted that CNS has conducted information presentations as well as educational training. He indicated the personnel includes himself and Mr. O'Brosky as the primary partners, one office manager/finance, one clerk/receptionist, one system administrator and one service technician. Mr. Harrington said he plans to hire an additional system administrator in the near future. He noted that CNS anticipates, through subleasing, to have the building full with tenants by the end of this year.

City Hall/Depot Renovations -- Mayor Biviano reported that the City of Norwich municipal offices will be relocated to the Depot Building this fall as part of a Depot Renovation Project. The Mayor introduced Asa Allison who explained the proposed plans for the renovation of the Depot Building for City Hall and the Fire Station for Police, Fire, Historian and Records Retention. He noted if a grant through the ISTEA is awarded to the City, the Freight Depot on Virginia Lane would be renovated for use as City Court and Common Council Chambers. Mr. Allison said the offices could be relocated to the renovated building by this fall. Mayor Biviano noted this plan will streamline the City making it a much more efficient operation. He noted it will not be an additional burden to the taxpayers as payment on the bond would not commence until the bonding for Pleasant Street is completed.

Electrical Municipalization -- Mayor Biviano introduced Mark Gammons from the Wing Group to answer questions relative to electrical municipalization as follows:

1. Will the results of the feasibility study meet all the guidelines of the RFP and answer all of the questions contained in Section I-C Scope of Feasibility? Mr. Gammons said that yes, it would meet the guidelines of the RFP and answer the questions as outlined in the Scope of Feasibility.

2. If we do not go to referendum there is no financial obligation at this time or any other time to the Wing Group from the City? Do we need to contact the State Controller relative to the Letter of Intent - is it legal? Mr. Gammons noted the letter of intent is non-binding.

3. If there is an electrical rate reduction due to an action other than by the Wing Group, at any time is the Wing Group entitled to any benefit as a result thereof? Mr. Gammons said the Wing Group would not be entitled to the benefit.

4. Is this legal vis-a-vis Article 8, Section 2 of the NYS Constitution? Mr. Gammons noted the letter of intent is the same that 14 other communities have filed and also noted that 8 villages have now passed a referendum.

Attorney Dean asked Mr. Gammons if he has a ruling on whether a municipality can enter into a contingent arrangement. Mr. Gammons said he did not have a ruling.

5. Will the Wing Group make available a copy of contacts entered into with other New York State municipalities for services similar to those proposed for the City of Norwich? Mr. Gammons said the company would make the information available.

Ald. Carnrike asked Mr. Gammons if his company has been sold. Mr. Gammons said the company has been sold to Western Resources of Kansas.

Mr. Gammons stated that what his company would be doing is making the City of Norwich capable of setting up its own municipally owned electric utility. He noted that the City can buy power from the Wing Group or anyone else.

Mayor Biviano requested copies of the final letter of intent with other municipalities. Attorney Dean requested clarification of paragraph two of the letter of intent.

SPCA -- Ald. Angelino reported the SPCA made a presentation to the Finance Committee relative to the increase in the number of dogs coming in from the City of Norwich and a request for additional funding. Mayor Biviano said the SPCA presentation was very informative. The SPCA made several suggestions to the City including conducting a dog census and looking into raising dog license fees. The Mayor noted that currently the City pays approximately \$55 per dog to the SPCA compared to the City of Oneonta which pays \$115 per dog. Ald. McNeil requested a copy of the SPCA 1995 financial statement.

Ward Concerns -- Ald. Carnrike said the flood watch continues and asked the status of the fire equipment appraisal. Ald. Rabinowitz said he has observed street deterioration and feels pot hole patching may not be the answer for many of the City's streets. Ald. McNeil reported a matter relative to a sidewalk on Pleasant Street was referred to the Public Works Committee for recommendation. Mayor Biviano reported a large pot hole in the County Office Building parking lot. The Mayor asked if the police patrols are surveying the street lights. Chief Mason said they are surveyed once each month. Mayor Biviano asked if the police patrols are also looking at garbage at the curb. Chief Mason said they currently have not been patrolling garbage as the Codes Enforcement Officer has been taking care of the matter. The Chief indicated the Police Department would begin the garbage patrols again.

Common Council agenda -- The following agenda was developed for the March 19, 1996 Common Council meeting:

- Call to order
- Pledge of Allegiance
- Invocation
- Approval of minutes of the work session of February 12, 1996 and the regular meeting of February 19, 1996
- Public hearings - proposed Ordinance No. 1 of 1996 relative to parking meters and proposed Ordinance No. 2 of 1996 relative to snow and ice removal.
- Open forum
 - East Main Street residents relative to Gus Macker Tournament
- Bids
- Correspondence
 - Request from Norwich Little League to hold its annual season opening parade on Saturday, May 4, 1996 at 9 am.

- Request from Chenango Valley Home, 24 Canasawacta Street, to hold a parade on June 8, 1996 from 9 am to 11 am, to celebrate its centennial.
- Department, Board and Commission reports
 - Police Department 1995 Annual Report, monthly report for February
 - Parks Commission minutes of February 26, 1996
 - Codes Enforcement monthly report for February 1996
 - Traffic Commission minutes of February 14 and March 13, 1996
 - Civil Service Commission minutes of January 31, February 14, 1996
 - Plumbing Board minutes of February 21, 1996
 - Electrical Board minutes of February 15, 1996
 - Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of January 17, 1996
 - Youth Board minutes of February 13, 1996
 - Water Commission minutes of February 26, 1996
- Ward and Committee reports
 - Public Works Committee meeting of January 30 and February 22, 1996
 - Personnel Committee meeting of February 6 and March 5, 1996
 - Public Safety Committee meeting of February 27, 1996
 - Finance Committee meeting of March 6, 1996
- Old Business
- New Business
 - Appointment of Matthew Murphy, 8 Maydole Street, to the Emergency Squad of the Norwich Fire Department
 - Res-Approve Ordinance No. 1 of 1996
 - Res-Approve Ordinance No. 2 of 1996
 - Res-Amend Res relative to Motor Equipment Technician
 - Res-Amend Res relative to Elimination of Laborer position
 - Res-Amend Res relative to Clerk position in the Fire Department
 - Res-Auth Transfer for Insurance Premiums
 - Res-Appointing Fire Assistant
 - Res-Auth Removal of Erroneous Tax Bill
 - Res-Auth Bond for Depot Renovation Project
 - Res-Approve Assignment Agreement with the Elks Club
 - Res-Auth Submission of Small Cities Grant Application
 - Res-Auth Mayor to Sign PBA Contract
 - Res-Appoint Director of Human Resources
- Payment of Bills
- Adjournment

Executive Session -- Ald. McNeil moved to go into executive session at 8:25 pm to discuss pending litigation and the personnel history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Rabinowitz moved to go out of executive session at 9:05 pm. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment -- Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.