

COMMON COUNCIL

September 17, 1996

Mayor Biviano presided at a regular meeting of the Common Council held at 7 pm on September 17, 1996, at the Higley Building.

Present:

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

Also:

Attorney Aaron Dean
Director of Finance/Clerk Brian Haak
Human Resources Dir. Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Robert Mason
Police Sergeant Joseph Angelino
Fire Chief Stanley Brightman
Assistant Fire Chief Graydon Titus
Assistant Fire Chief Leroy Burlingame
CD Director David Wagoner
Asst. DPW Supt. Mark Williams
Historian Patricia Scott
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent:

Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Supervisor Dolan
Supervisor Natoli

Ald. McNeil moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of August 20, 1996, August 27, 1996, September 5, 1996 and September 10, 1996. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:03 pm for a proposed local law to amend the Charter as it relates to the Fire Department. The Mayor stated that the Public Safety Committee has given the Blue Ribbon Committee additional time to discuss the matter and therefore, there would be no action taken on the local law this evening. He noted the Blue Ribbon Committee will present its recommendations at the next Public Safety Committee meeting.

President of the Norwich Fire Department and Chairman of the Blue Ribbon Committee, Patrick Ford, stated the proposed changes would affect many people and the Department appreciates the opportunity to meet themselves and make recommendations. He noted the Fire Department has operated under an elected chief for over one hundred years. Mr. Ford said the Blue Ribbon Committee has had several meetings and will meet again before the Public Safety Committee meeting next week.

The Mayor said the Council does want the Fire Department involved and noted that he tried to get Fire Department input months ago by appointing the Blue Ribbon Committee.

There being no further discussion, Mayor Biviano closed the public hearing at 7:08 pm.

OPEN FORUM:

-- No one wished to be heard.

BIDS:

No bids were received.

CORRESPONDENCE:

National Archives Week -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a request from City Historian Patricia Scott to display certain City records pertaining to 1914, the year of the City's Incorporation, in the lobby of NBT Bank on South Broad Street during National Archives Week being held from October 13 - 19, 1996. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Prior to the vote, Ms. Scott noted the display would not include Common Council minutes.

Annual Halloween Parade -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a request from the YMCA to hold the annual Halloween Parade at 2 pm on October 26, 1996, under the direction of the Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.

Gus Macker Tournament -- Ald. Carnrike moved to approve a request from the YMCA to hold the 1997 and 1998 annual Gus Macker Tournaments in the City of Norwich on July 12-13, 1997 and July 11-12, 1998, under the direction of the Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Oktobersbest -- Mayor Biviano reported the B.I.D. has withdrawn a request to close Broad Street on October 11 and 12 for Oktobersbest. He explained that the City wishes to support the B.I.D., however, there was not enough time to put the event together.

St. Bart's -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a request from St. Bartholomew's Church to hold a Right To Life Sidewalk March on East Main Street at 2 pm on October 6, 1996, under the direction of the Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

DEPARTMENT, BOARDS AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

-- Ald. Carnrike moved to receive and file the Police Department monthly report for July 1996. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to receive and file the Parks Commission minutes of August 5, 1996. Seconded by Ald. Thall and duly adopted, ayes all.

WARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Public Works Committee meeting of August 22, 1996
- Public Safety Committee meeting of August 27, 1996
- Personnel Committee meeting of August 6, 1996

Ward One Concerns -- Ald. Carnrike reported traffic concerns in Ward One have been forwarded to the Traffic Commission for review.

Ward Two Concerns -- Ald. McNeil reported grass ordinance violations and wildlife nuisances in Ward Two. He requested the Police Department have information regarding trappers available to residents. Mr. McNeil noted that garbage is not being placed in closed containers and this is causing an increase in wildlife nuisances. He stated the ordinance should be enforced and suggested the haulers be contacted for assistance in the matter.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved to receive and file the ward and committee reports. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

OLD BUSINESS:

Resolution #80-1996 -- Mayor Biviano explained that Resolution No. 80 of 1996, adopted on July 16, 1996 with a vote of 4-2, was passed in error. The Mayor stated that a vote of 5-1 was required and therefore, the resolution was not adopted. He presented a new resolution to the Council to replace Resolution No. 80 of 1996.

RESOLUTION #109 - 1996. APPROVING ORDINANCE TO AMEND THE ZONING ORDINANCE MAP OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed Ordinance No. 2 of 1996 on June 4, 1996, such ordinance amending the Zoning Ordinance Map of the City of Norwich to reclassify a property located on O'Hara Drive from an General Industrial to a Planned Use Development zone; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on June 18, 1996, relative to such ordinance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 2 of 1996, relative to amending the Zoning Ordinance Map of the City of Norwich, as presented to the Common Council on June 4, 1996, be and hereby is approved.

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

Tabled Resolution #82-1996 -- Ald. Carnrike moved to remove Resolution No. 82 of 1996 from the table. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved the adoption of Resolution No. 82 of 1996. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, 4-2 (Aldermen McNeil and Angelino) with the Mayor voting aye to bring about a majority vote.

Tabled Resolution #83-1996 -- Ald. Carnrike moved to remove Resolution No. 83 of 1996 from the table. Seconded by Ald. Angelino and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Thall moved to amend the resolution by amending the number of units in the proposed DHCR/RECD senior citizen housing project from 32 to 24 units. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, 4-2 (Aldermen McNeil and Angelino) with the Mayor voting aye to bring about a majority vote.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved the adoption of Resolution No. 83 of 1996 as amended. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, 4-2 (Aldermen McNeil and Angelino) with the Mayor voting aye to bring about a majority vote.

NEW BUSINESS:

Halloween Trick or Treat Night -- Ald. Carnrike moved to designate Halloween Trick or Treat Night on October 31, 1996 from 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Appointment of Fire Chiefs -- Mayor Biviano stated, relative to the appointment of the Fire Chiefs, that although a telephone poll of the Council has been done, he requests a formal vote be taken at this time.

-- Ald. McNeil moved the appointment of Leroy Burlingame as Second Assistant Fire Chief. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, 4-1 (Ald. Thall) on a roll call vote.

-- Ald. McNeil moved the appointment of Graydon Titus as First Assistant Fire Chief. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, 4-1 (Ald. Thall) on a roll call vote.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved to the appointment of Stanley Brightman as Fire Chief. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 5-0.

Appointment to Fire Department -- Ald. Carnrike moved the appointment of Mark Forrest of Norwich, NY, to the Emergency Squad of the Norwich Fire Department. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Purchase of Police Vehicle -- Ald. Carnrike moved to authorize the purchase of a 1996 Ford Crown Victoria Police Package Vehicle from Warnock Fleet & Leasing, East Hanover, New Jersey, at the New York State bid price

of \$20,972, less trade-in credit for a 1994 Ford Taurus police vehicle. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Prior to the vote, it was noted that this is the location of the distributor of the New York State bids for police vehicles.

RESOLUTION #109 - 1996. NOTING APPRECIATION TO SGT. GARDNER MILES

Ald. Carnrike introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Sgt. Gardner L. Miles has served the City of Norwich for over 30 years in the capacity of Police Patrolman, Police Sergeant and Assistant Police Chief; and

WHEREAS, Sgt. Miles has notified the City of his retirement from the Norwich Police Department; and

WHEREAS, he has served the City of Norwich and residents with dedicated service under 8 Chiefs of Police; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor, members of the Common Council, officers of the City of the Norwich Police Department and other City employees, recognize and extend to Sergeant Gardner L. Miles their appreciation for his service and commitment and further wish him well in his retirement; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that a copy of this resolution be transmitted to Sgt. Miles by Mayor Joseph L. Biviano.

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

RESOLUTION #110 - 1996. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR FIRE TRUCK REPAIRS

Ald. Carnrike introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover unanticipated repairs to the pump on Fire Engine No. One; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 1996 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1990	Contingency	\$ 3,381.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A3410.4040	Fire Department Maintenance and Repairs	\$ 3,381.00

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

RESOLUTION #111 - 1996. APPROVING SALARY ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNIT EMPLOYEES

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, Congress has passed and the President has signed an increase in the federal minimum wage; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel and Finance Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, 1. that the following adjustments are made to the 1996 Non-Unit Compensation Schedule:

Grade	Current Entry Level	Current After Two Year Step	Current After Five Year Step
9	\$ 5.47	\$ 5.97	\$ 6.52
8	5.33	5.81	6.34
7	5.19	5.66	6.18
6	5.04	5.49	5.99
5	4.75	5.23	5.75
4	4.75	5.23	5.75
3	4.75	5.23	5.75
2	4.75	5.23	5.75
1	4.75	5.23	5.75

2. that this resolution shall take effect October 1, 1996.

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

RESOLUTION #112 - 1996. REALLOCATING GRADE OF CITY YOUTH BUREAU DIRECTOR

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of Youth Bureau Director in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a subsequent review has been made of the grade allocation for City Youth Bureau Director; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel and Finance Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the position of Youth Bureau Director be and hereby is reallocated to Grade 20 of the City Non-Unit Compensation Schedule.

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

RESOLUTION #113 - 1996. ESTABLISHING POSITION OF ASSISTANT CODE ENFORCEMENT OFFICER AND SETTING GRADE

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, due to additional work requirements the need has been demonstrated for an additional code enforcement official; and

WHEREAS, the Personnel and Finance Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, 1. that the position of Assistant Code Enforcement Officer Part Time be and hereby is established at Grade 20 of the City Non-Unit Compensation Schedule; and

2. that this resolution shall be subject to such action as may be necessary by the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

RESOLUTION #114 - 1996. APPOINTMENT OF SERGEANT IN THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the position of sergeant in the Norwich Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief and the Personnel Committee have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Police Officer Dale Smith of Norwich, NY be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as a sergeant in the Norwich Police Department; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect September 29, 1996.

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

Dale Smith was introduced and congratulated.

RESOLUTION #115 - 1996. APPOINTMENT OF POLICE OFFICER IN THE NORWICH POLICE DEPARTMENT

Ald. McNeil introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a vacancy exists in the rank of police officer in the Norwich Police Department; and

WHEREAS, the Police Chief has recommended the appointment of Robert F. Gesslein, Jr. of Sherburne, NY to such position, such candidate being available as a lateral transfer; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Robert F. Gesslein, Jr. of Sherburne, NY, be and hereby is granted a permanent appointment as police officer in the Norwich Police Department, effective September 29, 1996; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be subject to such action as may be necessary by the Norwich Civil Service Commission.

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

Parking Plan -- Mayor Biviano reported the Council has received a parking plan from the B.I.D. Parking Committee. He said the Traffic Commission has reviewed the plan and recommends the Council accept it. The plan includes 37 parking permits for the business owners. The B.I.D. is paying for the signs. Ald. McNeil noted the plan calls for 18 spaces to be designated for three hour parking and said he feels there may be a need for more spaces. The Council concurred that this plan is a beginning and some changes may be needed.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved to accept the parking plan as recommended by the B.I.D. and the Traffic Commission. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 5-0.

Proposed Sign Ordinance -- Mayor Biviano reported the Council should have a copy of the proposed sign ordinance and asked that it be received and a public hearing set. Ald. McNeil said the Council should have time to review the document before receiving it and suggested that it be received at the next Council meeting. The Council concurred.

Payment of the Bills -- Ald. McNeil moved to pay the following bills after proper audit and certification:

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>9/17/96</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	218,702.19	67,528.92	286,231.11
Sewer Fund	86,152.08	3,696.22	89,848.30
Water Fund	46,267.50	1,463.56	47,731.06
Trust Fund	206,987.66	0.00	206,987.66
Unemployment Insurance	0.00	0.00	0.00
Community Development	3,150.00	1,680.00	4,830.00
EDZ/LDC	6,167.74	0.00	6,167.74
Capital Projects	4,679.64	132,280.32	136,959.96
TOTALS	\$ 572,106.81	\$ 206,649.02	\$ 778,755.83

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

Streets Update -- Asst. DPW Supt. Williams reported that Rexford Street will be paved beginning on Monday, weather permitting. He noted that Academy Street would be paved in the same time frame.

Adjournment -- Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 7:40 pm. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.