

COMMON COUNCIL
Work Session
December 9, 1997

Mayor Joseph L. Biviano presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on December 9, 1997, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Joseph Biviano
Ald. George Carnrike
Ald. Barbara Schermerhorn
Ald. James Dennis

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resources Dir. Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief Edward Schuurman
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Asst. Engineer Asa Allison
CD Director David Wagoner
Supervisor John Dolan
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Public Hearings - Proposed 1998 Budget

General Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:01 PM on the General Fund budget.

- ♦ Mary Coe, 5A Waite Street, stated that taxes should be cut, however, she does not want Fire, Police and Highway services affected.
- ♦ Director of Finance Roberts spoke regarding the proposed budget. He explained the increase in the tax rate from 7.79 to 7.97 is primarily due to debt service and capital improvements. Director Roberts noted the increase due to overall operation is only one half of one percent.
- ♦ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, expressed concern that the budget was not realistic. He said there is no real plan on how the city is addressing the improvements that have been made and he feels the projected revenues are impractical. Mr. Jones said projects are being done without proper planning noting the new city hall is not a savings over the old building.
- ♦ Ald. Carnrike stated that he is against using one balance to pay for another, however, if the City did not take from the reserve to pay towards the new city hall, only future people will be paying the bill.
- ♦ Director Roberts stated the proposed budget is part of a process that has been ongoing and a long range plan is in the works for the next 15 to 20 years.

There being no further comments, Mayor Biviano closed the hearing at 7:36 PM.

Water Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:36 PM for the Water Fund budget.

- ♦ Director Roberts explained the proposed water fund budget.
- ♦ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, questioned the amount of money taken from the unreserved fund balance and his concern that to make up the funds the rates would have to go up four or five times next year.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:51 PM.

Wastewater Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:51 PM for the Wastewater Fund budget.

There being no comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:52 PM.

Special Grants Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:52 PM for the Special Grants Fund budget.

- ♦ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, said the special grants fund budget reflects no details and he feels it should include a plan.
- ♦ CD Director Wagoner indicated that he and Director of Finance Roberts are working on such a plan and noted it will need to be reviewed by the Council Committees.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:56 PM.

Unemployment Insurance Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:56 PM for the Unemployment Insurance Fund budget.

There being no comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:57 PM.

Debt Service Fund – Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 7:57 PM for the Debt Service Fund budget.

There being no comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:57 PM.

RESOLUTION # 117 - 1997. ADOPTING FISCAL YEAR 1998 BUDGET

Ald. Carnrike introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, a proposed fiscal year 1998 budget was presented to the Common Council on November 25, 1997 as follows: General Fund - \$ 4,366,883, Water Fund - \$ 865,349, Wastewater Fund - \$ 998,692, Special Grants Fund - \$251,650, Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund - \$ 8,500 and Debt Service Fund - \$ 514,143; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on such budget has been held on December 9, 1997; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Fiscal Year 1998 Budget for the City of Norwich, as presented on November 25, 1997, as follows: General Fund - \$ 4,366,883, Water Fund - \$ 865,349, Wastewater Fund - \$ 998,692, Special Grants Fund - \$251,650, Unemployment Insurance Reserve Fund - \$ 8,500 and Debt Service Fund - \$ 514,143, be and hereby is adopted.

Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 4-0 with the Mayor voting aye.

Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance No. 16 of 1997 - Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 8:00 PM for an ordinance to amend certain water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich.

- ◆ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, stated that the City should be moving toward a flat fee with everyone treated equally and recommended that the ordinance be amended.
- ◆ DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson stated the sewer use rate is one rate as required by law. He said with regard to water use rates, there are four rates currently, however, the City is working towards a system with the higher user paying a higher rate.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 8:05 PM.

Public Hearing - Proposed Local Law No. 5 of 1997 - Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 8:05 PM for a proposed local law to amend the Charter as it relates to split fees on payments of property taxes.

- ◆ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, asked for an explanation of the law.
- ◆ Director of Finance Roberts explained the local law will simplify the system for calculating fees for split payments and late payments. He noted that property owners will continue to have the split payment option of making two equal installments.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 8:11 PM.

Public Hearing - Proposed Local Law No. 6 of 1997 - Mayor Biviano opened the public hearing at 8:12 PM for a proposed local law to amend the Charter as it relates to residency for department heads and deputies.

- ◆ Casey Jones, asked the purpose of the law.
- ◆ Mayor Biviano stated that the law allows department heads and their deputies to live outside the City.
- ◆ Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest said the purpose of the local law is to bring about consistency.
- ◆ Casey Jones said the Public Officers Law states that department heads and officials must live within the City. Ms. DeForest noted that law only applies to elected officials.
- ◆ Mr. Jones said there should be consistency, however, residency should be required for department heads earning a certain amount of money and exceptions made for extenuating circumstances.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 8:22 PM.

RESOLUTION # 118 - 1997. APPROVING ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN WATER AND SEWER USE RATES

Ald. Carnrike introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed Ordinance No. 16 of 1997 on November 25, 1997, such ordinance to amend certain water and sewer rates in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on December 9, 1997, relative to such ordinance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 16 of 1997, relative to amending certain water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich, as presented to the Common Council on November 25, 1997, be and hereby is approved.

Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 4-0 with the Mayor voting aye.

-- Mayor Biviano said the other resolutions on the agenda would be deferred to the next Council meeting.

Memorial Drive -- There was discussion relative to naming the old Borden Avenue as Memorial Drive and allowing residents to plant trees as a memorial to those wished to be remembered.

Parking Suggestions -- Parking suggestions/needs submitted by Jeremy Stopford were referred to the Traffic Commission.

Development of Agenda for December 16, 1997

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the work session of November 12, 1997, the regular meeting of November 18, 1997, the special meeting of November 25, 1997 and the work session of December 9, 1997.
- 5) Public Hearing
 - ◆
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids - Used 1994 or Newer Hydraulic Excavator
- 8) Correspondence
 - ◆
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Community Development/EDZ/Planning monthly report for November, 1997
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for November, 1997
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for November, 1997
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for November, 1997
 - ◆ Electrical Board minutes of November 20, 1997
 - ◆ Plumbing Board minutes of November 18, 1997
 - ◆ Youth Board minutes of November 18, 1997
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of November 3, 1997
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of November 25, 1997
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of November 26, 1997
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business
 - Appointments
 - ◆ Mayoral appointment to Youth Board - Monica Jeffrey, 17 York Street to the remainder of a three year term expiring 12/31/97. *Mayor Biviano deferred the appointment until after the new administration takes office.*
 - Award of Bids
 - ◆ Liquid Chlorine/Sodium Hypochlorite
 - ◆ Fuel Card System
 - Motions
 - ◆ Establishing Negotiating Committee for the City of Norwich as the Director of Human Resources, the Department Head and the Negotiations Attorney.
 - ◆ Authorizing the Mayor to send a formal letter of request to the Norwich City School District for exemption from school taxes on city-owned property.
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res - Amend V&T Ordinance Relative to No Parking on Mitchell Street
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing increase in hours for Assistant Codes Enforcement Officer
 - ◆ Res - Approving Permanent Appointment of Clerk in the Finance Office
 - ◆ Res - Establishing 1998 Non-Unit Compensation Benefits
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing End of Year Budget Transfer in General Fund
 - ◆ Res - Authorizing Transfer of Funds from General, Water and Sewer Funds to Capital Project/Reserve
 - ◆ Res - Adopting Department Head Handbook
 - ◆ Res - City/County Tax Levy for 1998
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Receive Petition -- Ald. Carnrike moved to receive and refer to the Traffic Commission, a petition from approximately 200 residents and business people requesting the installation of a traffic safety device at the intersection of Route 12 and Prentice Street due to the heavy traffic and increasing safety concerns. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

Executive Session -- Ald. Dennis moved to go into executive session at 8:30 PM to discuss pending litigation and the personnel history of particular individuals. Seconded by Ald. Schermerhorn and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Carnrike moved to go out of executive session at 9:20 PM. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment -- Ald. Dennis moved to adjourn at 9:20 PM. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.