

COMMON COUNCIL

January 5, 1998

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at an organizational meeting of the Common Council held at 7 PM on January 5, 1998, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. George Carnrike
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. James Dennis
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Attorney Aaron Dean
Director of Finance/Clerk William Roberts
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
CD Director David Wagoner
Codes Enforcement Officer C. Green
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Rules of Procedure – Ald. McNeil moved to adopt the 1997 Rules of Procedure for 1998. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

Council President – Ald. Rabinowitz nominated Patrick McNeil for President of the Common Council for 1998. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Biviano moved that in addition to the duties spelled out in the City Charter, the Council President will work with all department heads in ensuring Council Committee concerns are properly and efficiently being addressed. To this end it is expected the Council President will hold monthly department head meetings, report to the Committee chairpersons on progress, and have department heads voice long-term operations issues to the Council President for his referral to appropriate committees for action. The Mayor will still be in charge of the daily operational issues. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Raphael stated that it is his intent to perform those additional duties assigned to the Council President and to conduct the department head meetings. After some discussion relative to the large number of meetings that the Mayor will be required to attend, it was agreed that the Council President would conduct the department head meetings and the Mayor would call special department head meetings when needed.

Acting Mayor – Ald. McNeil moved to nominate Robert Rabinowitz for Acting Mayor for 1998. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. Biviano moved that in addition to the duties spelled out in the City Charter, the Acting Mayor will be the main liaison between the City Council and the business community. He will work actively with all of the business community and labor groups, will attend on behalf of the Mayor all ceremonies, and will work closely with the Community Development Director to ensure adequate resources are being provided to strengthen and enhance our economic development and downtown revitalization programs. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

Prior to the vote, Mayor Raphael reiterated that it is his intention to perform those duties additionally assigned to the Acting Mayor. He said it is his intention to communicate on a one on one basis with the business community.

Appointments by the Mayor

Electrical Board

- ♦ Raymond S. Hart, RR 2, Norwich, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.

Planning Commission

- ♦ Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, appointment as Chairman, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1999.
- ♦ Ann M. Morrone, Hillside House, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Richard R. Mirabito, 19 Cole Drive, re-appointment to three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.

Plumbing Board

- ♦ Kenneth W. Titus, Jr., 44 Silver Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.

Youth Board

- ♦ Alice Carberry, 9 Gerald Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Charleen Sastri, 77 Pleasant Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Nancy D'Angelo, 108 North Broad Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Monica Jeffrey, 17 York Street, appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Terri Sacks, 5 Gerald Street, appointment to the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 1998.
- ♦ Angela Levesque, 7 Hillview Drive, appointment to the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 1999.

Zoning Board

- ♦ Marilyn DeStefano, 96 South Broad Street, re-appointment as Chairman, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1999.
- ♦ Anthony Caezza, 13 Brown Avenue, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Howard Thornton, 57 Silver Street, appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Judy Wright, 40 Borden Avenue, appointment to the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 1998.

Appointments by the Mayor with the Approval of the Council

Board of Ethics

- ♦ Ald. McNeil moved the appointment of Mary Coe, 5A Waite Street, to the Board of Ethics for a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, 4-2 (Aldermen Dennis and Biviano).

Parks Commission

- ♦ Muriel True, 168 North Broad Street, re-appointment as Chairman, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1999.
- ♦ Bridget Hannan, 7 Plymouth Street, appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Julian Drelich, 17 Beebe Avenue, appointment to the remainder of a three-year term expiring December 31, 1999.

-- Ald. Biviano questioned the appointments to the Parks Commission. He stated that in the past there have been two aldermen serving on the Commission and with the appointments as presented, it would leave just one alderman serving on the Parks Commission. After some discussion, Ald. Biviano moved to table the appointments to the Parks Commission. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, 5-1 (Ald. Carnrike).

Street Tree Committee

- ♦ Ald. McNeil moved the appointment of Donna Gale, 9 Davis Street, to the Street Tree Committee, a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.

Water Commission -- Ald. Biviano moved the following appointments to the Water commission:

- ♦ Bartolo Natoli, 40 Sunset Drive, re-appointment as Chairman, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1999.
- ♦ George Carnrike, 28 Jones Avenue, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.

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

Appointments by the Council

Traffic Commission -- Ald. McNeil moved to make the following appointments to the Traffic Commission:

- ♦ Bernard Merritt, 10 Hayward Avenue, re-appointment as Chairman, a two-year term expiring December 31, 1999.
- ♦ Robyn King, 115 North Broad Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.
- ♦ Thomas Coffey, 65 Cortland Street, re-appointment to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2000.

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

Committee Appointments – Mayor Raphael reported the following committee appointments:

Finance - Mayor Raphael, Aldermen Rabinowitz and Dennis
Personnel - Aldermen Thornton, Dennis and Rabinowitz
Public Safety - Aldermen Carnrike, Thornton and Biviano
Public Works - Aldermen Rabinowitz, Carnrike and McNeil

The Mayor shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. The Mayor and all Advisory members shall be notified of all committee sessions.

Meetings of the committees may be called by the chairman, the Mayor or any two members of the committee.

Chairmanships of each committee shall flow from the order of appointment.

-- Ald. Biviano moved to define the Committees as follows. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, 5-1 (Ald. McNeil).

Finance Committee -- The Finance Committee shall work with the Director of Finance in preparation of the annual budget of the City and shall review and make recommendations relative to the annual water and sewer budgets and other special appropriations.

It shall study and make recommendations on matters concerning the offices of Finance, City Clerk, Assessor and the community development program, and items relative to revenues, expenditures, delinquent taxes, sale of city property, acquired by taxes, insurance and other financial and budget matters. It shall serve as the audit committee of the Council and perform such duties as may be associated with such function.

It shall review with the City Attorney such miscellaneous legal actions brought against the City as may be appropriate.

Personnel Committee -- The Personnel Committee shall study and make recommendations on matters associated with the Department of Human Resources, including those relative to the creation and establishment of new positions, the employment of department heads appointed by the Council, and the creation and maintenance of compensation schedules and benefits for new and existing non-unit employees.

The committee shall deliberate on grievance matters related to employees outside the bargaining units as they pertain to the city grievance procedure.

Public Safety Committee -- The Public Safety Committee shall make recommendations relative to matters concerning the police and fire departments when they are not associated with functions of other committees.

It also shall review and recommend those local laws and ordinances which deal with the health, safety, and welfare of residents of the City, together with those not associated with functions of other committees.

In addition, the committee shall review all environmental projects and/or environmental concerns and made recommendations relative to such activities conducted within the City.

Public Works -- The Public Works Committee shall make recommendations relative to matters concerning the Department of Public Works, codes enforcement office, city property, including buildings and grounds, and street lighting when they are not associated with functions of other committees. In addition, the committee shall review and make recommendations relative to the community development capital program and long range infrastructure policies.

Official Designation – Ald. Carnrike moved to designate the following:

Official Newspaper - Norwich Evening Sun
Official Depository of City general, water and sewer funds - NBT and Binghamton Savings Bank

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

Appointment of Advisory members – Mayor Raphael made the following Advisory member appointments to the Council Committees:

Personnel – Rita Czyzycki
Public Safety – Member of the Town Board

Executive Session – Ald. Biviano moved to go into executive session at 7:30 PM to discuss pending litigation and the personnel history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to go out of executive session at 8:43 PM. Seconded by Ald. Dennis and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment –Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 8:44 PM. Seconded by Ald. Carnrike and duly adopted, ayes all.