

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

February 10, 1998

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on February 10, 1998, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

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

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
Attorney Aaron Dean
B.I.D. Administrator Jean Hayes
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Small Cities Grant Application -- Mayor Raphael opened the hearing at 7:01 PM to receive public comments relative to a Small Cities grant application.

Katy Schwan, Community Development Assistant, stated the City has retained the services of Thoma Development Consultants to prepare an application for a small cities community development block grant for housing rehabilitation in a targeted area of Mitchell Street. She said surveys were mailed to residents in the target area requesting income information and to determine if there is enough interest in a rehabilitation program in the area.

Casey Jones, 4 Maydole Street, said the City should have held this hearing before determining what type of grant to apply for. He noted the purpose of the hearing is to obtain input from residents for suggested projects. He stated that further consideration is needed before proceeding with this type of grant. Mr. Jones feels there are other projects that would be more beneficial such as grants for small businesses or first time home buyers through an economic development loan fund program.

Ald. Biviano gave a history of the housing rehabilitation programs noting the City has had much success with that type of program. He stated the most recent housing rehabilitation in the southeast quadrant resulted in a major revitalization of that area of the City.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing.

Parking Meters – Mayor Raphael requested a report on the findings from the recent trip to Saratoga Springs. Chief Angelino stated Officer Stopford accompanied the B.I.D. on the trip to observe the parking situation. Officer Stopford indicated to him that Saratoga Springs has parking zones with time limits that increase as the distance from stores increases. The Chief said the meters were removed in Saratoga Springs because the City did not enforce, repair or maintain the meters. He stated the meters in the City of Norwich are enforced and properly maintained. He said with the removal of the meters, strict enforcement would be required. Chief Angelino stated that whatever decision the Council makes, his department would do its best to enforce.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to cover the meters for free two-hour parking for a trial period through December 31, 1998, and that the Traffic Commission and B.I.D. will study the matter and make a recommendation before the end of the trial period. Mayor Raphael suggested action not be taken until the regular Council meeting. Ald. McNeil stated he and several aldermen may be unable to attend the next meeting. After much discussion concerning the proposed two hour limit on parking, Ald. McNeil withdrew his motion.

-- Ald. Carnrike moved to cover the meters for free one-hour parking for a six month trial period through August 31, 1998, and that the Traffic Commission and B.I.D. will study the matter and make a recommendation before the end of the trial period. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted on a roll call vote, 3-1 (Ald. McNeil).

Ald. Biviano said the City needs to be consistent and open to development.

B.I.D. Plan Design – Mayor Raphael introduced Mary Davis, President of the Business Improvement District Management Association.

Ms. Davis presented the proposed B.I.D. Downtown Norwich Plan Design, previously presented to the Council in May of 1997. She noted the plan was presented to the Planning Commission who gave its support and recommended forwarding it to the Common Council. Ms. Davis asked the Council to place the item on the agenda for February 17.

Ald. Biviano said he would like to see the plan presented to all of the merchants for their endorsement. Ms. Davis indicated the merchants have been involved and noted the plan has been displayed at several locations throughout the City.

Ald. McNeil stated that before the Council can accept the plan, it needs to be reviewed to see how the concept would interact with current city ordinances. After some discussion, the Council concurred to add the item to the agenda for February 17, 1998.

Development of Agenda for February 17, 1998

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of January 20, 1998, the special meeting of January 27, 1998 and the work session of February 10, 1998
- 5) Public Hearing
 - ◆ To receive comments relative to a small cities grant application for residential housing rehabilitation
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
 - ◆ 1998 or 1997 New Leftover Police Patrol Vehicle
 - ◆ 1998 Truck with Utility Body
- 8) Correspondence
 - ◆ Notification from Century Communications of rate increase
 - ◆ Notification from Thomas Brightman of application for liquor license at Shakers on South Broad Street
 - ◆ Resignation of Jamey Mullen from the Youth Board
 - ◆ Request from Robert and Teddi Arnell, permission to erect an awning over the rear doorway at 15 South Broad Street.
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Community Development/Planning monthly report for January 1998
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for January
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of January 6, 1998
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of January 26, 1998
 - ◆ Plumbing Board minutes of January 22, 1998
 - ◆ Water Commission minutes of January 28, 1998
 - ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of January 12 and 14, 1998
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of January 6, 1998
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of January 27, 1998
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of January 22, 1998
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business

Appointments

Award of Bids

Motions

- ◆ Authorizing the Mayor to Sign an Agreement with Chenango County to provide Code Enforcement services to the County Code Enforcement Office

Resolutions

- ◆ Res - Appointment of Clerk in the Finance Office
- ◆ Res - Appointment of Firefighters
- ◆ Res - Appointment of Water System Maintainer
- ◆ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for General Fund
- ◆ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for Water Fund
- ◆ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for Wastewater Fund
- ◆ Res - Auth Interfund Transfers for Unemployment Reserve, Capital Projects and Reserves

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Water System Operator -- HR Director DeForest added to the agenda the appointment of a water system operator.

Adjournment – Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 8:10 PM. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.