

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
October 12, 1999

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on October 12, 1999, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. Thomas Anderson
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Director of Finance/City Clerk William Roberts
Human Resources Dir. Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Fire Chief Gary Lynk
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Asst. Engineer Asa Allison
CD Director David Wagoner
CD Assistant Katy Schwan
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Ward Two – Ald. McNeil moved to approve, under the direction of the Police Chief, a request to close Canasawacta Street from Pleasant Street to Beech Street on October 17, 1999 from 12 PM to 6 PM for a street party. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.

Correspondence – The Council discussed a memo from CD Director Wagoner relative to the proposed ordinance amending the Sign Ordinance as it relates to changeable copy signs in a B-2 zone. Mayor Raphael said the Planning Commission recommends that the Council receive the ordinance as proposed and set a public hearing and based on input from public hearing, make changes or adopt the proposed ordinance. Ald. Biviano said that the Council should not take any action on the ordinance until the Planning Commission can receive input from businesses within the City at an open meeting.

-- Ald. Biviano moved that the draft sign ordinance revision be returned to the Planning Commission with the direction that within 30 days, the Planning Commission hold a public hearing for the purpose of receiving input from area businesses and residents relative to the matter and at that time present the draft sign ordinance revision to the Council. Seconded by Ald. Thornton.

Prior to the vote, Ald. Anderson stated that if the ordinance is to go back to the Planning Commission, he would like them to consider loosening up some of its contents. He suggested that a process be in place to look at each situation based on its own merit.

Ald. McNeil noted there is due process in place with the Zoning Board of Appeals. He recommended that the Council receive the ordinance and set a public hearing to hear comments relative to the matter.

Ald. Rabinowitz said he would like the Council to avoid adopting an ordinance which would result in every issue requiring a variance. He said the ordinance should be more flexible.

Richard Paino, stated that at the September 21 meeting, this matter was referred back to the Planning Commission and asked what has happened since that time. He noted that the Council gave the Planning Commission a direction and questioned why that direction has not been met.

Ald. McNeil called the question and the motion was then duly adopted, 5-1 (Ald. McNeil) on a roll call vote.

Curb Cut Request – Ald. Biviano moved to approve a curb cut request for the Manwarren residence on Prentice Street, under the direction of the City Engineer. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all. Prior to the vote, it was noted that the curb cut should be done before the street is paved.

Development of Agenda for October 19, 1999

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of September 21, 1999 and the work session of October 12, 1999
- 5) Public Hearing - none
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids – Thermal Imaging Camera on 10/18
- 8) Correspondence
 - ♦ Letter of Resignation from Casey Jones as Chair of Planning Commission, effective September 1, 1999

- ◆ Correspondence from HUD Buffalo relative to 96.67% High Performer Score for Norwich Housing Authority
 - ◆ Norwich Pumpkin Festival on October 23, 1999
 - ◆ Annual Halloween Parade at 2 PM on October 23, 1999
 - ◆ Annual Turkey Trot Race at 1:30 PM on November 21, 1999
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
- ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for September, 1999
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for September, 1999
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for August and September, 1999
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for September, 1999
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for September, 1999
 - ◆ Electrical Board minutes of September 14, 1999
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of September 13, 1999
 - ◆ Plumbing Board minutes of September 16, 1999
 - ◆ Water Commission minutes of September 9, 1999
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
- ◆ Finance Committee meeting of September 27, 1999
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of August 31, 1999
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of September 28, 1999
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of September 8 and 23, 1999

11) Old Business

12) New Business

Appointments

- ◆ Zoning Board of Appeals -- Mayoral appointment of Brian Wessels, Birdsall Street, to the Zoning Board of Appeals for the remainder of a term expiring December 31, 1999
- ◆ Fire Department – Mathew Gray, Norwich, NY, to the George L. Rider Hook & Ladder Company
- ◆ Fire Department – Dennis Dann, Norwich, NY, to the George L. Rider Hook & Ladder Company
- ◆ Fire Department – John Marvin, Norwich, NY, to the Ontario Hose Company
- ◆ Fire Department – Robert Cable, Jr., Norwich, NY, to the Ontario Hose Company
- ◆ Fire Department – Jennifer King, 10 State St, transfer to the George L. Rider Hook & Ladder Co
- ◆ Fire Department – Tim Danaher, 57 Rexford St, transfer to the George L. Rider Hook & Ladder Co
- ◆ Fire Department – Jason Gray, Norwich, NY, transfer to the George L. Rider Hook & Ladder Co

Motion – Approving payment arrangements for water and sewer extension to Plymouth Street residents.

Resolutions

- ◆ Res - Appointment of DPW Positions
- ◆ Res - Enacting One Week Sales Tax Exemption
- ◆ Res - Amending Resolution No. 47 of 1989, and Enacting a Permanent Sales Tax Exemption
- ◆ Res - Setting Public Hearing to Determine if Certain Real Property is required for use by the City
- ◆ Res - Authorizing Sale of Property From Tax Auction (21 Delaware Square)
- ◆ Res - Setting Public Hearing to Determine if Certain Real Property is required for use by the City
- ◆ Res - Authorizing Agreement with Bullthistle Model Railroad Society
- ◆

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Adjournment – Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 7:45 PM. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.