

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

April 11, 2000

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on April 11, 2000, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. Thomas Anderson
Ald. Patrick McNeil
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 John Tighe
CD Asst. Katy Schwan
Asst. Engineer Asa Allison
EMO A. Jones
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent:

Ald. Robert Rabinowitz

USDA Riparian Buffer Program – Mayor Raphael introduced Bob Almeter from the Chenango County Farm Service Agency. Mr. Almeter updated the Common Council on the Conservation Reserve Program Buffer Project and explained the project in detail. He said the program includes cost sharing and for every dollar spent by the participant, the USDA will reimburse fifty percent plus additional costs or approximately 90%. At this time the USDA would pay the City approximately \$65 + \$10 per acre and would enter into either a 10 or 15 year agreement for the approximately 36 acres of City owned property adjacent to the Chenango River. Ald. Biviano noted that the land near the Waste Water Treatment Plant, is also being looked at by the Chenango River Enhancement group. Ald. Anderson stated that Mr. Almeter has addressed the questions raised by the Public Works Committee and asked if a new contract would be submitted. Mr. Almeter said a new contract could be submitted. Asst. Engineer Asa Allison asked how many trees would need to be planted. Mr. Almeter said that generally 250 stems per acre are planted, however, the number would probably be less as there are already trees planted at the proposed site. He stated that the technical person, Lauren Johnson would go through the area with City representatives to complete the proposal. He noted that the DEC has trees that are very inexpensive. The Council concurred to have DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson, CD Assistant Katy Schwan and Chenango River Enhancement Chair Abe Abraham walk through the area with USDA representatives and report the findings to the Public Works Committee on April 27, 2000.

YMCA Building Project – Mayor Raphael introduced Jamey Mullen from the YMCA. Mr. Mullen said that YMCA representatives met with the Public Works Committee regarding Turner Street and options available with regard to upgrading Merrill Street with the Public Works Committee indicating that it was not feasible to upgrade Merrill Street. Mr. Mullen presented plans developed by the YMCA's architects providing for additional sidewalks through the YMCA campus. He stated that the quote received by the YMCA in the amount of \$10,096 includes improving existing sidewalks, adding new sidewalks and lighting. Mr. Mullen noted the YMCA would be responsible for upkeep and maintenance of the sidewalks and did not have an estimated cost associated with that. He stated that the sidewalks will make it easier for people to get from Golden Age Apartments and Mechanic Street to Mitchell Street and North Broad Street and it will be brighter and safer than Merrill Street. Ald. Anderson asked what the next step was to proceed with the project. Ald. Biviano stated that although the YMCA has provided a good solution and more than what was asked, a complete plan is still needed to move forward. Mr. Mullen noted the YMCA has submitted a site plan to the Planning Commission. CD Assistant Katy Schwan stated the Planning Commission will review the site plan on Friday and make recommendations to the Common Council.

Comprehensive Emergency Plan – Emergency Management Officer A. Jones presented the City of Norwich Comprehensive Emergency Plan to the Common Council. He said the plan was reviewed by the Public Safety Committee and Department Heads. Mr. Jones stated that if the Council has no objections, there would be a resolution on the agenda next week for the Council to adopt the Plan. The Common Council concurred.

RESOLUTION # 32 - 2000.

AMENDING RESOLUTION NO. 22 OF 2000 RELATIVE TO
SUPPORTING REMEDIAL LEGISLATION CONCERNING THE
CITY OF NORWICH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT

Ald. Biviano introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, at a special meeting held on March 6, 2000, the Common Council of the City of Norwich adopted Resolution No. 22 of 2000, Supporting Remedial State Legislation Concerning The City Of Norwich Wastewater Treatment Plant; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council wishes to designate an effective date for said resolution; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Resolution No. 22 of 2000, Supporting Remedial State Legislation Concerning The City Of Norwich Wastewater Treatment Plant, be and hereby is amended that such resolution shall take effect on March 28, 2000.

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

Development of Agenda for April 18, 2000

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of March 21, 2000 and the work sessions of March 14 and April 11, 2000
- 5) Public Hearing
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
 - ◆ 2000 Tree Removal
 - ◆ One Type III Ambulance
 - ◆ Modifications to Vehicle for First Responder Unit
- 8) Correspondence
 - ◆ Request from Jim Bleyde of the Chenango Soccer Club for a letter of support for the development of a multi-field soccer/sport park in the Town of Oxford.
 - ◆ Request from the Northeast Classic Car Museum to hold a “pit stop” for the History Channel’s Great Race on June 12, 2000.
 - ◆ Request from Judy Dean for a curb cut at 37 – 37 ½ Division Street
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
- 10) Historian monthly report for March, 2000
- 11) Police Department monthly report for March, 2000
- 12) Records Management monthly report for March, 2000
- 13) Youth Bureau monthly report for March, 2000
- 14) Civil Service Commission minutes of February 3, 2000
- 15) Parks Commission minutes of March 13, 2000
- 16) Planning Commission minutes of March 17, 2000
- 17) Plumbing Board minutes of March 17, 2000
- 18) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Finance Committee meeting of March 7, 2000
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of March 6, 2000
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of March 28, 2000
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of March 23, 2000
- 19) Old Business
- 20) New Business
 - Mayoral Proclamation – Arbor Day on April 28, 2000
 - Award of Bids
 - ◆ 2000 Tree Removal
 - ◆ One Type III Ambulance
 - ◆ Modifications to Vehicle for First Responder Unit
 - Motions
 - ◆ Motion Authorizing Acceptance of Proposal from E.J. Prescott, Inc. for field testing compound water meters at \$185.
 - ◆ Motion Approving the Provision of Water Meter Reading and Billing Services to the Town of Norwich with reimbursement by the Town to the City for Incidental Related Costs.
 - ◆ Motion Receive Proposed Local Law 1 of 2000, Establishing Additional Compensation for Common Council President, and set a public hearing for May 16, 2000 at 7 PM.
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res – Authorize Purchase of Ambulance and a First Responder Emergency Vehicle at a Combined Maximum Cost Not to Exceed \$140,000
 - ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Equipment for New Police Station Facility
 - ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Year 2000 Street Program
 - ◆ Res – Auth Purchase of Christman Motors Property Under Prentice Street Project
 - ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Kurt Beyer Pool Pump Replacement
 - ◆ Res – Auth Agreement with Gray’s Water Enterprises for Construction Inspection Services
 - ◆ Res – Establish Year 2000 Compensation for City Historian
 - ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Advertising Costs of CD Director/Clerk Position
 - ◆ Res – Replace Fire Assistant Position with Relief Firefighter Position
 - ◆ Res – Setting Public Hearing to Determine If Certain Real Property on Borden Avenue is Required For Use By The City
 - ◆ Res – Approving Economic Development Loan for Three Amigos LLC/Pet Street Station Animal Hospital, PLLC
 - ◆ Res – Auth Transfer for Matching Funds Under Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Award
 - ◆ Res – Adopt Comprehensive Emergency Plan
 - ◆ Res – Designating Common Council as “Lead Agency” for the YMCA Expansion Project
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Chenango River Enhancement – Ald. Biviano reported that Dr. Hosbach would be making a presentation to the Chenango River Enhancement group at its next meeting regarding archeological excavations.

Sidewalk Program/Emergency Repairs – Ald. Biviano requested that with the City about to begin a major street improvement project, the Public Works, Public Safety and Finance Committees should look into programs such as Sidewalk Improvement and Emergency Repairs that could be offered to residents in conjunction with the project. He suggested that Community Development funds could be used to fund the programs which would offer low interest loans to residents to improve our neighborhoods.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee – With Finance Committee Chair Robert Rabinowitz absent due to an automobile accident, Director of Finance William Roberts summarized the Finance Committee meeting of April 4, 2000. He reported the Committee reviewed: the needs of the Police Department relative to the new facility, financing of public safety vehicles purchase; public works items including tree bids, street program and CHIPS funding; housekeeping matters.
- Personnel Committee – Ald. McNeil reported the Personnel Committee: is still waiting for test results for the Secretary II position; recommended replacing the vacant fire assistant position with a relief firefighter; reviewed information to establish standard workday and hours for elected officials; made a recommendation relative to Historian salary.
- LDC – Ald. McNeil reported the LDC is involved with several projects including the Eaton Center expanding to the fourth and fifth floors of the building and proposing two new committees, the Retention and Expansion Economic Development Advisory Committee and Norwich Mercantile Business Sector Development Advisory Committee.
- Public Safety Committee – Ald. Biviano reported the Public Safety Committee: approved MS Walk under the direction of the Police Chief; discussed police coverage at DPW sites, the Police Building project, Police 12 hour shift, re-engineering of the Emergency Squad and Fire Department equipment purchases; requested the Codes Enforcement Officer look into off street parking regulations.
- Public Works Committee – Ald. Anderson reported the Public Works Committee discussed the Turner Street / YMCA project and reviewed the street resurfacing schedule. He noted that Borden Avenue has been added to the schedule and suggested Council members review the list.

Executive Session – Ald. McNeil moved to go into executive session at 8:10 PM to discuss the employment history of a particular corporation. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to go out of executive session at 8:26 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment – Ald. Anderson moved to adjourn at 8:26 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.