

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

February 13, 2001

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on February 13, 2000, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. Gary Clark
Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

City Clerk/CD Director Joseph Serbin
Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief John Tighe
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
Asst. Engineer Asa Allison
EMO A. Jones
B.I.D. Administrator Melissa Downey
Supervisor James McNeil
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Development of Agenda for February 20, 2001

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of January 16, 2001 and the work session of February 13, 2001
- 5) Public Hearing
 - ♦
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
 - ♦ Filter Media
- 8) Correspondence
 - ♦
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ♦ Community Development/Planning/Clerk monthly report for December/January 2001
 - ♦ DPW/Water System monthly report for December 2000, January 2001
 - ♦ Fire Department annual report for 2000 and monthly report for January 2001
 - ♦ Historian monthly report for January 2001
 - ♦ Police Department annual report for 2000 and monthly report for January 2001
 - ♦ Records Management monthly report for January 2001
 - ♦ Youth Bureau monthly report for January, 2001
 - ♦ Civil Service Commission minutes of December 21, 2000
 - ♦ Parks Commission minutes of January 16, 2001
 - ♦ Planning Commission minutes of January 19 and February 9, 2001
 - ♦ Water Commission minutes of January 17, 2001
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ♦ Finance Committee meeting of January 16, 2001
 - ♦ Personnel Committee meeting of January 1, 2001
 - ♦ Public Safety Committee meeting of January 23, 2001
 - ♦ Public Works Committee meetings of January 9 and 25, 2001
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business

Appointments

Award of Bids

- ♦ Lease of Jamba Farm

Motions

- ♦ Set Public Hearing relative to Small Cities Grant Application

Resolutions

- ♦ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for 2000 General Fund
- ♦ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for 2000 Wastewater Fund
- ♦ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for 2000 Water Fund
- ♦ Res - Auth End of Year Budget Transfers for 2000 Debt Service Fund
- ♦ Res - Auth Submission of Grant Application for Kurt Beyer Pool Refurbishing
- ♦ Res - Auth In-Kind Services Relative To B.I.D. Streetscape Project
- ♦ Res -- Auth Electric Franchise Renewal Agreement with NYSEG
- ♦ Res -- Auth Gas Franchise Renewal Agreement with NYSEG

- 13) Payment of Bills

- 14) Adjournment

Ald. Thornton questioned the proposed resolutions regarding the electric and gas franchise agreements. He suggested that an escape clause be added to the proposed five year agreement to allow the City to opt

out. The resolutions were removed from the agenda and the matter was referred to the City Attorney to review.

Additions to the Agenda

- ◆ Recommendation by the Personnel and Finance Committees relative to a proposal for replacement and upgrade of DPW Personnel.
- ◆ Recommendation by the Public Works Committee relative to the 2001 Street Program

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Rabinowitz reported the Finance Committee reviewed and made recommendations on proposed resolutions, which include end of the year transfers.
- Personnel Committee -- Ald. McNeil reported the Personnel Committee is constantly looking at ways to save money. He said the Committee has recommended a three year replacement/upgrade of DPW personnel.

-- Ald. McNeil stated with regard to concerns being raised from residents and a taxpayers group, that drastic cuts in staffing, services and capital projects would have to be made to bring the tax rate in line. He outlined possible budget cuts including: trim city services such as Christmas tree removal, snow plowing, assistance with special events; reduce the number of city employees, already reduced from 92 in 1990 to the current 77, by eliminating one shift of four police officers and three fire fighters; complete the fire station renovation in stages over a number of years. Ald. McNeil said he is not in favor of making those cuts and said that although the cuts would reduce the tax rate by \$2.64, he believes that it would jeopardize the quality of life and safety in the community. He indicated that the Common Council, when proposing the public safety project, should have used a percentage when explaining to residents what the impact of the project would be. Ald. Biviano stated that the public needs to be informed and noted the fire station is the last step of the City's building renovations. Ald. Rabinowitz noted that maintaining the infrastructure is critical to the City and it's residents. Ald. Jeffer agreed and noted that it is also important for bringing new people and businesses into the City. Mayor Raphael said the City delayed the fire station project for many years and he is against completing it in stages. He indicated that public hearings were held and information was mailed to all residents of the City informing them of the project. The Mayor noted that he believes the City should proceed with the project. He also said that the elected officials at the state level are aware of our problems and it is important that the City continue to work with its legislators to reinstate supplemental aid.

- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported at the last Public Safety Committee meeting the members stated their goals for 2001 and will strive to fulfill those goals.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano reported the Public Works Committee discussed the water project and determined the streets to be paved in 2001.

Executive Session -- Ald. McNeil moved to go into executive session at 7:50 PM to discuss the possible sale of property where the price may be affected. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Rabinowitz moved to go out of executive session at 8:05 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment -- Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 8:05 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.