

COMMON COUNCIL

March 20, 2001

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a regular meeting of the Common Council held at 7 PM on March 20, 2001, 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:

Attorney Patrick Flanagan
Community Development/Clerk Joseph Serbin
Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief John Tighe
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Public Works Supt. Carl Ivarson
EMO A. Jones
Historian Patricia Scott
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
CD Assistant Katy Schwan
B.I.D. Administrator Melissa Downey
Supervisor James McNeil
Supervisor Linda Natoli
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

-- Ald. Biviano moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of February 20, 2001 and the work session of March 13, 2001. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

PUBLIC HEARING:

Small Cities Grant Application -- Mayor Raphael opened the public hearing at 7:03 PM for comments relative to a Small Cities CDBG funding application.

Community Development Director Joseph Serbin explained the City would be applying to the New York State Small Cities Community Development Block Grant program for housing rehabilitation in the Cortland Street target area. He said the area of Cortland Street was chosen because of the housing conditions as well as the concentration of Section 8 rental assistance recipients in the neighborhood. Mr. Serbin indicated the application would be for \$400,000 and noted that approximately \$80,000 of that would be used to offset salaries and program administration. The housing rehabilitation, targeting low to moderate income individuals, would include energy efficiency and code related issues including upgrade of electric, replacement of furnace and hot water heater, insulation, storm windows and other such improvements.

Ald. Biviano asked who performs the income verification. CD Director Serbin said the Housing Authority assists the City with the income verification process.

Ald. Thornton asked what the odds were for obtaining the grant and the time frame for completing the program. Mr. Serbin said there is a high probability of being awarded the grant due to the concentration of substandard housing and the time frame for completing the program would be two years.

Ald. Clark asked how many units would be improved through the program. CD Assistant Katy Schwan said that 32 units were involved in the last rehabilitation project on Mitchell Street. However, there may be fewer units rehabilitated in this program due to newly proposed regulations that may become effective with this grant cycle.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:12 PM.

OPEN FORUM:

Richard Natoli, 12 Clinton Street, raised questions regarding the asbestos removal and what direction the City should be going with regard to the Fire Station. He suggested some alternatives including demolish existing building and construct a new station on the current site and/or delay construction for several more years.

STATE OF THE CITY -- Mayor Raphael presented his state of the City message to the members of the Common Council and the residents of the City of Norwich.

BIDS:

2001 Dump Truck with Plow -- One bid was opened on March 14, 2001 for a 2001 Dump Truck with Plow from Smith Norwich of Norwich, NY in the amount of \$35,517 or with trade-in, \$35,017. The Public Works Committee is reviewing the bid.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Little League Parade -- Ald. Biviano moved to approve a request to hold the annual Little League Parade on April 28, 2001 under the direction of the Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all.

Dairy Day Parade -- Ald. Biviano moved to approve a request to hold a Dairy Day Parade on May 19, 2001 under the direction of the Police Chief. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

Cable TV Rate Increase -- Ald. Biviano moved to receive and file notification from Adelphia Cable of increase in cable television rates. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all. Ald. Biviano referred the matter to the City's Cable Television Franchise Review Committee.

DEPARTMENT, BOARD AND COMMISSION REPORTS:

- ◆ Emergency Management Office monthly report for December 2000/January 2001
- ◆ Historian monthly report for February 2001
- ◆ Police Department monthly report for February 2001
- ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for February 2001
- ◆ Records Management monthly report for February 2001
- ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for February 2001
- ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of January 25, 2001
- ◆ Parks Commission minutes of February 12, 2001
- ◆ Planning Commission minutes of March 9, 2001
- ◆ Traffic Commission minutes of March 14, 2001
- ◆ Water Commission minutes of February 21, 2001
- ◆ Youth Board minutes of March 13, 2001

-- Ald. McNeil moved to receive and file the department, board and commission reports. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

WARD AND COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- ◆ Finance Committee meeting of March 6, 2001
- ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of February 27, 2001
- ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of February 22, 2001

Ward One -- Ald. Clark had no concerns to report from Ward One.

Ward Two -- Ald. McNeil had no concerns to report from Ward Two.

Ward Three -- Ald. Rabinowitz had no concerns to report from Ward Three.

Ward Four -- Ald. Thornton reported concerns from Ward Four have been addressed to the appropriate department heads.

Ward Five -- Ald. Jeffer reported concerns from Ward Five have been addressed.

Ward Six -- Ald. Biviano reported concerns from Ward Six have been referred to the DPW Superintendent.

Internal Analysis Committee -- Ald. McNeil, Internal Analysis Committee Chair, reported the group held its first meeting on Monday evening and would be meeting regularly on the second and third Mondays of the month at 7 PM in the Common Council meeting room. He said the group would be looking at the personnel agenda.

Mayoral Concern -- Mayor Raphael expressed concerns relative to a remark in The Evening Sun's 30 Seconds about his appointments to the Internal Analysis Committee. The Mayor stressed that the City must work together as a team.

-- Ald. Biviano moved to receive and file the reports. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

NEW BUSINESS:

Filter Media Bid -- Ald. Biviano moved to award the bid for Filter Media to the single lowest bidder meeting specifications, Anthrafilter, Inc. of Niagara Falls, NY in the amount of \$3,682.91. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Gas Chlorination Equipment Bid -- Ald. Jeffer moved to award the bid for Gas Chlorination Equipment to the single lowest bidder meeting specifications, Koester Associates, Inc. of Canastota, NY in the amount of \$13,240.00. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.

Utility Billing Services Analysis -- Ald. Biviano moved to authorize the Mayor, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign an agreement with Computel Consultants of Earlville, NY for billing analysis services. Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

B.I.D. /County Grant Application -- Ald. Jeffer moved to authorize the Mayor to sign a letter of support on behalf of the City of Norwich for the B.I.D. /Chenango County cooperative grant application for the preparation of a Master Plan for East and West Parks. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

RESOLUTION # 18 - 2001. AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL LAW
ENFORCEMENT BLOCK GRANT (LLEBG) AWARD

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich submitted an application for grant funding through the NYS Division of Criminal Justice System, Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Program; and

WHEREAS, notification has been received from the Division of Criminal Justice System that the City of Norwich has been awarded a grant in the amount of \$12,510; and

WHEREAS, such grant award is subject to certain conditions which include that matching funds be provided by the City of Norwich in the amount of \$1,390; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized to sign an agreement with the New York State Division of Criminal Justice System, to accept a grant in the amount of \$12,510, through the Local Law Enforcement Block Grant Program and to act in all respects relative to carrying out its provisions.

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

RESOLUTION # 19 - 2001. AUTHORIZING SANITARY SEWER REPLACEMENT ON
BROWN AVENUE AND ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES
RELATIVE TO SUCH PROJECT

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee has recommended replacement of the sanitary sewer on Brown Avenue; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for such project in the leftover balance of the Sewer Replacement Capital Project; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Brown Avenue sanitary sewer replacement be and hereby is approved; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that Delaware Engineering is hereby directed and authorized to complete the necessary surveying and engineering design/bid services at a cost not to exceed \$ 6,000.

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

RESOLUTION # 20 - 2001. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR COLD WATER METERS

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, funds are required to cover the cost of cold water meters, relative to an ongoing water meter upgrade and replacement program; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Finance Committees have made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 2001 Water Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
HR30-878	Water System Upgrade - Fund Balance	\$ 7,000.00

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
F8340.2100	Water Distribution – Equipment	\$ 7,000.00

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

RESOLUTION # 21 - 2001. AUTHORIZING EASEMENT TO NYSEG

Ald. Biviano introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Chenango County Department of Public Works is constructing a new garage on its property located in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, such construction requires installation of a NYSEG electric pole on the northeasterly corner of City owned property near Waite Street; and

WHEREAS, an easement to NYSEG is required to affect such installation; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized to sign an easement to NYSEG to enable the installation of an electric pole in the northeasterly corner of City property off Waite Street.

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Thornton stated that he was not informed about the activity proposed in his ward. It was explained that the proposal is for the installation of a NYSEG electric pole off Waite Street near the County's new Public Works garage.

RESOLUTION # 22 - 2001. AUTHORIZING TRANSFER FOR GOVERNMENT ACCESS
CHANNEL EQUIPMENT

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has received an additional contribution of \$ 2,500 in donated funds towards the purchase of equipment necessary to operate a government access channel; and

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has made certain recommendations; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Director of Finance be and hereby is authorized to make the following transfer in the 2001 General Fund Budget:

From:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1990.4	Contingency	\$ 2,500

To:

<u>Account Number</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Amount</u>
A1650.2100	Government Access Channel – Equipment	\$ 2,500

Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

--Prior to the vote, CD Director Serbin noted that the additional contribution of \$2,500 was from NBT Bank.

Payment of Bills -- Ald. Thornton moved to pay the bills after proper audit and certification as follows:

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>03/20/01</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	241,863.86	295,109.38	536,973.24
Sewer Fund	11,583.88	6,524.44	18,108.32
Water Fund	20,481.98	9,583.09	30,065.07
Trust	50,827.92	0.00	50,827.92
B.I.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service	113,187.50	0.00	113,187.50
Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unemployment	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.D.	63,006.63	27,500.00	90,506.63
EDZ/LDC	5.85	0.00	5.85
Capital Projects	63,361.53	0.00	63,361.53
TOTALS	\$564,319.15	\$338,716.91	\$903,036.06

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

Adjournment –Ald. Biviano moved to adjourn at 8:27 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.