

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

December 11, 2001

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on December 11, 2001, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Robert Raphael
Ald. Gary Clark
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Sharon Jeffer
Ald. Joseph Biviano

Also:

Community Development/Clerk Joseph Serbin
Director of Finance William Roberts
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
EMO A. Jones
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent:

Ald. Patrick McNeil
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton

Public Hearing -- Proposed Ordinance Amending Water and Sewer Use Rates

Mayor Raphael opened the public hearing at 7:01 PM for proposed Ordinance No. 2 of 2001, an ordinance to amend certain water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich.

John Windsor, Town of Norwich Supervisor, said the Town is a large user with districts north and south of the City. He stated that the Town is opposed to an increase in the water rates and noted it is already facing a shortfall. Mr. Windsor questioned the possibility of a leak and asked for actual meter readings. Ald. Jeffer requested that DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson look into reconciling usage. Supt. Ivarson noted that the C.I.T. is a major user and should be billed as such.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:14 PM.

Open Forum -- No one wished to be heard under open forum.

Elected Officials Handbook -- Discussion relative to a handbook for elected officials was held over to the next work session.

Acting City Judge -- It was noted that Joseph Brillinger's term as Acting City Judge expires on December 31, 2001 and that he has moved his residence out of the City. Several options were discussed and it was the consensus of the Council that no decisions be made until the new administration is in place.

Cemetery Association -- Ald. Clark explained that there were issues being negotiated between the NYSDOT and the Cemetery Association relative to the South Broad Street Bridge Project that have since been settled. As the Cemetery is adjacent to City owned property, authorization must first be obtained from the City for the State to release the funds owed to the Cemetery Association. Ald. Biviano moved that the City of Norwich has no outstanding claim relative to the bridge project and the State may proceed with the settlement. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, 3-0 with Ald. Clark abstaining due to a possible conflict of interest.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Biviano, suggested the Mayor vote to break the tie. It was clarified that the Mayor's vote was not required as abstentions and absences are not considered "no" votes. There were three "yes" votes and one abstention from four Council members on the matter with the result being the majority of those present voted aye.

RESOLUTION # 86 - 2001.

APPROVING ORDINANCE TO AMEND CERTAIN WATER AND
SEWER USE RATES

Ald. Biviano introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Common Council received proposed Ordinance No. 2 of 2001 on November 28, 2001, such ordinance to amend certain water and sewer rates in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing has been held on December 11, 2001, relative to such ordinance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Ordinance No. 2 of 2001, relative to amending certain water and sewer use rates in the City of Norwich, as presented to the Common Council on November 28, 2001, be and hereby is approved.

Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, 4-0, on a roll call vote.

Development of Agenda for December 18, 2001

1) Call To Order

- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2001, the special meeting of November 28, 2001 and the work session of December 11, 2001
- 5) Open Forum
- 6) Bids
- 7) Correspondence
 - ◆ Resignation of Marilyn DeStefano from Street Tree Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals
- 8) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for November, 2001
 - ◆ Traffic Commission minutes of December 12, 2001
- 9) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Finance Committee meeting of December 4, 2001
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of October 9, 23 and November 27, 2001
 - ◆ Mayor's Remarks
- 10) Old Business
- 11) New Business
 - Award of Bids
 - ◆ Filter Media
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res - Appointment of Water System Operator
 - ◆ Res - Auth Agreement with Towns for Fire Protection Services
 - ◆ Res - Auth Agreement with Towns for Ambulance and First Responder Services
 - ◆ Res - Adopt Comp Schedule for Emergency Management Officer, Health Officer and Records Clerk
 - ◆ Res - City/County Tax Levy
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

-- Ald. Rabinowitz moved to accept the agenda for December 18, 2001. Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, ayes all.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Rabinowitz reported the Finance Committee discussed and reviewed routine items at its meeting of December 4, 2001.
- Personnel Committee -- HR Director Deborah DeForest reported that the items discussed by the Personnel Committee are on the agenda.
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported that Richard Decker and Thomas Whittaker from the County were present to discuss with the Public Safety Committee the possibility of moving the County's Emergency Management office into the Police Station. A task force is being formed to look into the matter further. The Committee also discussed reimbursement from the September 11 attack and the citizens police academy.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Clark reported the Public Works Committee discussed the bid for Filter Media as well as other routine items.

Adjournment – Ald. Biviano moved to adjourn at 7:35 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.