

COMMON COUNCIL

December 18, 2001

Mayor Robert Raphael presided at a regular meeting of the Common Council held at 7 PM on December 18, 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:

Attorney Patrick Flanagan
Community Development/Clerk Joseph Serbin
Director of Finance William Roberts
Fire Chief John Tighe
Human Resources Director Deborah DeForest
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Public Works Supt. Carl Ivarson
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
Supervisor James McNeil
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent:

Supervisor L. Natoli

-- Ald. Clark moved to dispense with the reading and approve the minutes of the regular meeting of November 20, 2001 and the work session of December 11, 2001. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.

OPEN FORUM:

Mary Coe, 5A Waite Street, expressed appreciation to Mayor Raphael for his efforts over the past four years and wished him well.

CORRESPONDENCE:

Letter of Resignation -- Ald. McNeil moved to receive and accept with regret the resignation of Marilyn DeStefano from the Street Tree Committee and Zoning Board of Appeals due to her relocation to Ohio. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.

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
- ◆ Youth Board minutes of December 11, 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 December 4, 2001
- ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of October 9, 23 and November 27, 2001
- ◆ Ald. Jeffer reported that concerns from Ward Five have been directed to the appropriate department heads.

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

OLD BUSINESS:

Acting City Judge -- Ald. McNeil reported regarding the vacant Acting City Judge position, that attorney and City of Norwich resident Maureen Byrne would be interested in serving. Ald. Thornton suggested that the City be canvassed for interested attorneys. Ald. Rabinowitz indicated that it was said to the Council there was a search made and no one was interested.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to appoint Maureen Byrne, 20 Newton Avenue, to the remainder of a six-year term expiring December 31, 2001 as Acting City Judge for the City of Norwich. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all on a roll call vote, 6-0.

NEW BUSINESS:

Award of Bid – Ald. Biviano moved to award the bid for Filter Media to the only qualified bidder meeting specifications, as recommended by the Public Works Committee, Anthrafilter, Inc. of Niagara Falls, NY, with a bid of \$11,949.64. Seconded by Ald. Rabinowitz and duly adopted, ayes all.

Revenue Enhancement Committee -- Ald. Thornton presented a summary addressing the issues discussed by the Revenue Enhancement Committee. He stated the Committee, consisting of himself, Aldermen Gary Clark and Sharon Jeffer, explored many different issues including cable and utility audit, dasher board advertisements, dispersal of City owned properties, parks usage fees, increase local sales tax, concession revenue and sponsorships, community contribution programs, ambulance service fee schedule, revenues from police services. Industrial waste acceptance, permit fees, fire alarm fees and cellular tower space.

RESOLUTION # 87- 2001. APPOINTMENT OF WATER SYSTEM OPERATOR POSITION IN
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Personnel and Public Works Committees have made certain recommendations relative to the promotion of an employee from the position of Water System Maintainer to Water System Operator (Unlicensed) in the Public Works Department; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that Larry Bishop of Oxford, NY, be and hereby is promoted to the full-time position of Water System Operator (Unlicensed), step 2, effective December 19, 2001.

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

RESOLUTION # 88 - 2001. AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR FIRE PROTECTION
SERVICES IN THE NORWICH RURAL FIRE PROECTION
DISTRICT

Ald. Biviano introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the current contract with the Norwich Rural Fire Protection District for fire protection services will expire on December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, said contract provides that the City of Norwich furnish fire protection services to the duly established fire protection district known as the Norwich Rural Fire Protection District, said district embracing territory within the Towns of Norwich, North Norwich and Guilford; and

WHEREAS, a proposed new contract has been drafted; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign a new Fire Protection Services Agreement with the Norwich Rural Fire Protection District.

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

-- Prior to the vote it was noted that the towns have not yet scheduled public hearings relative to the five year agreement.

RESOLUTION # 89 - 2001. AUTHORIZING AGREEMENT FOR AMBULANCE AND FIRST
RESPONDER SERVICES

Ald. Rabinowitz introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the current contract for ambulance and first responder services between the City of Norwich and the Town of Norwich, the Town of North Norwich and the Plymouth Fire District will expire on December 31, 2001; and

WHEREAS, a proposed new contract has been drafted; and

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

RESOLVED, that the Mayor be and hereby is authorized, under the direction of the City Attorney, to sign a new Ambulance and First Responder Services Agreement with the Town of Norwich, the Town North Norwich and the Plymouth Fire District.

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

RESOLUTION # 90 - 2001. ESTABLISHING 2002 COMPENSATION FOR CITY HEALTH OFFICER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICER AND RECORDS CLERK

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the Finance Committee has made certain recommendations relative to 2002 compensation for the City Health Officer, the Emergency Management Officer and the Records Clerk; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective January 1, 2002, the 2002 compensation schedule be amended by increasing the salaries for the City Health Officer, the Emergency Management Officer and the Records Clerk by three and one-half percent (3.5 %).

Seconded by Ald. McNeil and duly adopted on a roll call vote, 5-1 (Ald. Thornton).

RESOLUTION # 91 - 2001. CITY/COUNTY TAX LEVY FOR 2002

Ald. Jeffer introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the taxes levied by Chenango County for collection by the City of Norwich during 2002 total \$ 1,959,044.22, and

WHEREAS, the budget of the City of Norwich for the year 2002 has been duly adopted and the amount to be raised by taxes is \$1,611,963.00 and the amount of special assessments and other total \$ 54,393.07, for a total City levy of \$ 1,666,356.07; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that said taxes totaling \$ 3,625,400.29 are hereby levied against the real property of the City of Norwich. The Director of Finance is hereby directed to extend said tax against the property listed in the assessment roll of the City of Norwich. The Mayor is hereby authorized to execute and issue to the Director of Finance the tax warrant for the collection of the above-mentioned taxes.

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

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

	<u>Prepaid</u>	<u>12/18/01</u>	<u>Grand Total</u>
General Fund	55,606.12	44,643.07	100,249.19
Sewer Fund	1,204.67	4,081.89	5,286.56
Water Fund	5,326.07	7,504.59	12,830.66
Trust	44,238.24	0.00	44,238.24
B.I.D.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Debt Service	0.00	0.00	0.00
Reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Unemployment	0.00	0.00	0.00
C.D.	50,000.00	4,688.66	54,688.66
EDZ/LDC	12,767.44	0.00	12,767.44
Capital Projects	119,763.27	0.00	119,763.27
TOTALS	\$288,905.81	\$60,918.21	\$349,824.02

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

Farewell to Mayor - Farewells along with a plaque were given to Mayor Raphael who expressed gratitude to the Council members and City employees for the past four years.

Executive Session – Ald. Biviano moved to go into executive session at 7:50 PM to discuss possible litigation. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

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

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