

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
March 12, 2002

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on March 12, 2002, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Marylou Stewart
Ald. Patrick McNeil
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
Fire Chief John Tighe
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
EMO A. Jones
Supervisor James McNeil
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Absent:

Ald. Gary Clark
Ald. Robert Rabinowitz
Ald. Jeffrey Thornton

Mayor Stewart noted that on this day, March 12, in the year 1914, the City of Norwich was incorporated.

Open Forum

-- **James McNeil**, City Supervisor of Wards 1, 2 and 3, stated that the vacancy in the Police Department should be filled for the safety of the community. He noted that should the department lose another officer, the cost of overtime would be excessive and there may not be proper shift coverage. In addition, officers would become overworked which could affect work performance.

-- **Edward Morano**, 21 Miller Street, reiterated his concerns to the Common Council regarding the budget and spending of taxpayers dollars. He said that rather than putting fear into people for not filling the vacant police position, people should be hearing how expenses are going to be cut.

Police Department Vacancy -- Discussion ensued regarding the filling of the Police Department vacancy. It was noted that the normal process for filling a vacancy is that first the Personnel Committee would make a recommendation to fill the position, the Human Resource Director would proceed with the application process through to the final interview and make a recommendation to the Personnel Committee which would make a recommendation to the Council. The Common Council would make the appointment by resolution. Ald. Jeffer indicated that although the Personnel Committee made no recommendation with regard to filling the position, the Public Safety Committee has recommended the position be filled and requested the full Council decide the matter. The Council concurred to add the item to the agenda and reserve the right to discuss the matter with the full Council at that time.

Development of Agenda for March 19, 2002

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of February 19, 2002 and the work session of March 12, 2002
- 5) Open Forum
- 6) Correspondence
 - ◆ Resignation of George Cleveland from the Planning Commission
 - ◆ Request from YMCA to hold the annual Gus Macker Tournament on July 13 and 14, 2002
- 7) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for February, 2002 and annual report for 2001
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for February, 2002
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for February, 2002
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for February, 2002
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for February, 2002
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for February, 2002
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of January 24, 2002
 - ◆ Planning Commission minutes of January 11, 2002
- 8) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Personnel Committee meeting of February 5, 2002
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of February 26, 2002
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of February 25, 2002
- 9) Old Business
 - ◆ Res - Adopt Ordinance Amending Sign Ordinance
- 10) New Business
 - Appointments
 - ◆ Youth Board - Tommy Dean, 24 Hayes Street, as a student representative
 - Motions
 - ◆ Receive Proposed Ordinance Amending Abandoned Vehicle Ordinance

- ◆ Receive Proposed Ordinance Amending Garbage and Rubbish Ordinance
- ◆ Receive Proposed Ordinance Amending Nuisances Ordinance
- ◆ Auth Professional Services for Engineering Design Work for Drying Beds at WWTP
- ◆ Auth Human Resource Director to proceed with filling vacancy in Police Department

Resolutions

- ◆ Res - Auth Transfer for Cold Water Meters
- ◆ Res - Auth Transfer for 2001 Debt Service Fund
- ◆ Res - Auth Agreement with BOCES for Print Shop Services
- ◆ Res - Declare Various Equipment as Surplus
- ◆ Res - Making Permanent Appointment of Senior Account Clerk
- ◆ Res - Designating Lead Agency Relative to the Museum District Zoning
- ◆ Res - Set Public Hearing to Declare City Owned Real Property as Surplus
- ◆ Res - Auth Restructuring of Economic Development Loan
- ◆ Res - Auth Agreement for Professional Services Relative to Comprehensive Master Plan

13) Payment of Bills

14) Adjournment

Addition to the Agenda

- ◆ Boy Scout Sean Murray -- Ald. McNeil indicated that Sean Murray of Boy Scout Troop 63 is proposing to make improvements to Angelino Fields as part of his Eagle Scout Leadership project.
- ◆ Citizens Police Academy -- Chief Angelino said the first Citizens Police Academy has been completed and suggested that a graduation ceremony be held at the beginning of the Council meeting. The Council concurred.
- ◆ FEMA Grant Application -- A resolution to authorize submission of a grant application for fire equipment.
- ◆ 2003 Street Program -- A motion to authorize the addition of Baldwin and Westcott Streets to the 2003 Street Program.

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee -- Director of Finance Roberts reported that in addition to the items on the agenda, the Finance Committee recommended that the Fire Department's air bottle replacement be budgeted for annually as an equipment line item and funds for the installation of the grant funded video camera near the parks would come out of the Police budget. Ald. McNeil said the Police budget would then be short by \$900 and suggested that the funds be transferred from the Capital Reserve to reimburse the Police budget. The matter was referred back to the Finance Committee. Ald. McNeil also inquired about the budgeted replacement of two police vehicles with one.
- Personnel Committee -- HR Director DeForest reported that the Personnel Committee discussed the permanent appointment of Senior Account Clerk, the vacancy in the Police Department and Public Works Department positions.
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer, Public Safety Committee Chair, reported the Committee discussed: the vacancy in the Police Department; a donation received by the Fire Department from the Norwich Volunteer Fire Department; parade requests; various ordinances that are on the agenda. The Committee clarified the Sign Ordinance amendment as requested by the Common Council.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano, Chair of Public Works Committee, reported the Committee discussed a proposal for a skateboard park with ramps and jumps, the BID streetscape project, surplus equipment and the sale of surplus property. The Committee also reviewed the Street Opening rules.

Sale of Large Properties -- Ald. Biviano requested information regarding the new assessment values of the large properties sold in the City of Norwich as well as the differences in the assessments of large properties that have been sold/transferred through arm's length agreements.

Small Cities Grant Application -- Ald Biviano stated that he had not received the minutes of the public hearing held to receive comments relative to a Small Cities grant application. He also expressed concern about taking the building before grant funding is approved.

Adjournment -- There being no further discussion, the Council adjourned at 7:50 PM.