

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session

June 11, 2002

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on June 11, 2002, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

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

Also:

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

Open Forum

-- **Ed Morano**, 21 Miller Street, stated the Council needs to make a decision relative to the proposal by Upstate Group Homes to establish a group home on South Broad Street. He said that although it is a worthy project, it concerns him that 35% of the City's properties are already tax exempt. Having read in the paper that 34 new jobs are projected by the organization, he questioned where the jobs would be filled.

Mr. Morano said that the Council at every meeting should discuss consolidation of services. He also stated that he feels government employees should be entitled to the same benefits as persons that are privately employed.

-- Ald. Biviano said that last month he had requested that a representative of Upstate Group Homes attend the next Council meeting. Mayor Stewart explained that Patricia Kennedy from Upstate Group Homes had planned to attend this evening but was unexpectedly called away on business and would be at the June 18 Council meeting. Ald. Biviano requested that Upstate Group Homes provide the City with full disclosure of the following: a copy of the original written application to the Commissioners with a list of all those directly or indirectly benefited, a five year plan including the number of homes to be converted, the number of persons to be served and the name of the Home's parent organization. Ald. Biviano said it appears that the organization wants the City's services and noted that if they don't pay for the services, it will be up to the taxpayers.

Public Hearing

Mayor Stewart opened the public hearing at 7:20 PM relative to a Small Cities grant application. The amount of the grant to be applied for is \$208,000, of which \$200,000 would be used to provide an economic development loan to William Andrew, Inc. and \$8,000 for the City of Norwich to administer such loan. CD Director Joseph Serbin summarized the project and noted that the loan will result in job creation within the City.

As no one wished to be heard, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:24 PM.

Presentation and Proclamation -- Tree City USA -- Mayor Stewart read the following proclamation:

WHEREAS, the holiday called Arbor Day was first observed in 1872 by the planting of more than a million trees in Nebraska; and

WHEREAS, Arbor Day is now observed throughout the nation and the world; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich celebrated Arbor Day this year with the planting of a Prairie Fire Flowering Crabapple tree in Kiwanis Park; and

WHEREAS, trees help clean our air and water, moderate heat and cold, and bring warmth and grace to our homes; and

WHEREAS, trees in our city increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business area and beautify our community; and

WHEREAS, the National Arbor Day Foundation recognizes communities that have proven their commitment to an effective, ongoing community forestry program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has been named as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation for its tree-care program for the 12th year; now,

THEREFORE, I, Marylou Stewart, Mayor of the City of Norwich, New York, do hereby proclaim the City of Norwich a 2001 Tree City USA as designated by the National Arbor Day Foundation and recognize the efforts of the City's Public Works Department, Street Tree Committee, Parks Commission, Norwich Rotary Club, NYSEG, Norwich Middle School, local garden clubs and all citizens that observed Arbor Day 2002 by planting a tree.

Mayor Stewart introduced Paul Read who gave an overview of the tree-planting program. The Mayor expressed appreciation to all of those in the community that have helped to make the City of Norwich a "Tree City" and especially those present including:

- ❖ Paul Read, Norwich Middle School, Street Tree Committee
- ❖ Gretchen Figary, Norwich, student
- ❖ Daniel Brauer, Norwich, student
- ❖ Brandon McKown, Norwich, student
- ❖ Deidra Davis, Norwich, student
- ❖ Eric Portelli, Norwich, student
- ❖ Mike McGuire, Norwich, student
- ❖ Georgianna Rowe, Norwich, student
- ❖ Jason Mirabito, Norwich, student
- ❖ Linda Getchonis, Parks Commission Chair
- ❖ Frank Benenati, Norwich Rotary Club
- ❖ Huemac Garcia, NYSEG

Appointment to the B.I.D.M.A. -- Ald. Clark moved to appoint Wesley Pettee, Community Development Assistant, as the Common Council's representative to the Business Improvement District Board of Directors. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

Correspondence

Norwich Merchants Association -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a request from the Norwich Merchants Association for special event designation relative to the Norwich Merchants Association Street Festival and Sidewalk Sales on July 18, 19 and 20, 2002, under the direction of the Police and Fire Chiefs as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Contact persons for the event are Pegi LoPresti of the B.I.D. and Deanna Russell, Vice President of the Merchants Association. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. McNeil noted, relative to the Cruise-In on July 19, that the merchants have been notified of the closing of American Avenue for the event.

Dairy Day Parade -- Ald. McNeil moved to approve a request to hold a Dairy Day Parade on June 15, 2002 at 10 AM under the direction of the Police Chief, as recommended by the Public Safety Committee. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

Development of Agenda of June 18, 2002

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Presentation -- Upstate Homes
- 5) Open Forum
- 6) Approval of minutes of May 21, 2002, May 28, 2002 and June 11, 2002
- 7) Public Hearing - Small Cities Grant Application
- 8) Bids
 - ◆ 2002 Street Program
 - ◆ Diaphragm Type Metering Pumps
- 9) Correspondence
 - ◆ Notification of Liquor License Renewal
 - ◆ Notification from Upstate Home for Children and Adults
- 10) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Police Department monthly reports for May, 2002
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for May, 2002
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for May, 2002
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of April 24, 2002
 - ◆ Electrical Board minutes of May 14, 2002
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of May 13, 2002 and Annual Parks Tour of June 1, 2002
 - ◆ Planning Commission minutes of May 10, 2002
 - ◆ Plumbing Board minutes of May 16, 2002
 - ◆ Traffic Commission minutes of May 8, 2002
 - ◆ Water Commission minutes of May 15, 2002
- 11) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Finance Committee meeting of June 5, 2002
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of May 28, 2002
 - ◆ Public Works Committee meeting of May 14, 2002
- 12) Old Business
 - ◆ DCJS Police Study
- 13) New Business
 - Award of Bids

- ◆ 2002 Tree Removal
- ◆ Sale of Surplus Property at 16 N. Delaware Square
- Resolutions
- ◆ Res - Auth Agreement with BOCES for Print Shop Services
- ◆ Res - Auth Realignment of DPW Positions
- ◆ Res - Auth Transfer for Cortland Street Sidewalks
- ◆ Res - Auth Establish of Employee Benefit Accrued Liability Reserve Fund
- ◆ Res - Establish Property Tax Auction
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Addition to the Agenda

- ◆ Mayor Stewart noted that there may be a presentation by the B.I.D. at the next Council meeting.
- ◆ Director of Finance Roberts noted that the 96 Silver Street property should be on the tax sale list.

-- Ald. Biviano requested that the Assessor develop scenarios of how other communities charge not-for-profit agencies for services. The Council concurred.

-- Ald. Biviano noted the death of the City's DPW Working Foreman, Robert "Brownie" Browne III and requested that a plaque be placed at the Public Works Facility in his memory. The Council concurred.

Committee Chair Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Clark reported the Finance Committee discussed budget transfers and made recommendations relative to several bids received.
- Personnel Committee -- Ald. Thornton reported the Personnel Committee discussed changes within the Public Works Department, contract negotiations and the services of a labor relation's attorney.
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported the Public Safety Committee discussed the Bus Stop location and the police impoundment area.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano reported the Public Works Committee discussed the water system project and reviewed bids.

Executive Session -- Ald Rabinowitz moved to go into executive session at 7:50 PM to discuss the personal history of a particular individual and contract negotiations. Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, ayes all.

Ald. Thornton moved to go out of executive session at 8:47 PM. Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, ayes all.

Adjournment – Ald. McNeil moved to adjourn at 8:48 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.