

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
August 13, 2002

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on August 13, 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
Attorney Patrick Flanagan
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Public Hearing

Mayor Stewart opened the public hearing at 7:02 PM relative to determining if city-owned property located on Virginia Lane is required for use by the City.

Ald. Biviano stated that with the financial problems of the City, he feels the property should be bid out to the highest bidder with the money going back to the taxpayers. Mayor Stewart stated that the present covenant would stay with the deed. Ald. Clark noted that all three parcels would be converted to one.

There being no further comments, the Mayor closed the hearing at 7:208 PM.

RESOLUTION No. # 55 - 2002. DETERMINING CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY NOT REQUIRED
FOR USE BY THE CITY AND AUTHORIZING TRANSFER TO
LDC

Ald. Clark introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the City owns certain parcels of real property adjacent to Virginia Lane in the City of Norwich, tax map numbers 136.56-4-7 and 136.56-4-8.1, which property may be required for use by the City; and

WHEREAS, the City wishes to transfer such parcel to the Greater Norwich Local Development Corporation pursuant to section 1411 of the Not-For-Profit Corporation Law; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that certain parcels of real property located adjacent to Virginia Lane in the City of Norwich, tax map numbers 136.56-4-7 and 136.56-4-8.1, which property is not and has not been required for use by the City; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized under the direction and supervision of the City Attorney to transfer the parcels to the Greater Norwich Local Development Corporation pursuant to section 1411 of the Not-for-Profit Corporation Law.

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

-- Prior to the vote, Ald. Biviano reiterated that the property should be bid out to the highest bidder with the money going back to the taxpayers of the City of Norwich.

Correspondence

Ward One Street Parties -- Ald. Clark moved to approve requests to hold street/block parties under the direction of the Police Chief as follows: Conkey Avenue on August 18 from 12 PM to 6 PM; Francis Avenue on August 25 from 8 AM to 8 PM; Hayes Street on September 7 from 3 PM to 8 PM. Seconded by Ald. Jeffer and duly adopted, ayes all.

After some discussion the matter of items being referred under the direction of the Police Chief was referred to the Public Safety Committee to review.

Open Forum -- No one wished to be heard.

Development of Agenda of August 20, 2002

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of June 18, 2002, the regular meeting of July 16, 2002 and the work sessions of July 9 and August 13, 2002
- 5) Presentations
 - ◆ BOCES New Vision Students/Riparian Buffer
 - ◆ Mayoral Proclamation - Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of Guernsey Memorial Library
- 6) Public Hearings
 - ◆ Proposed Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance relative to Museum District
 - ◆ Proposed Ordinance to amend Zoning Ordinance Map relative to Museum District
- 7) Open Forum
- 8) Bids
 - ◆ Filter Media bids on August 16, 2002
- 9) Correspondence
 - ◆ Request from Fr. Cunningham to hold procession following St. Bartholomew's 4 PM Mass on August 24 in celebration of the Feast of St. Bartholomew.
 - ◆ Request to designate the annual Colorscape Chenango Festival as a special event on September 7 and 8, 2002.
 - ◆ Request from the Chenango County Council of the Arts for permission to hold the second annual Allegro Run for the Arts on Sunday, **May 4, 2003** beginning at 11:30 AM.
 - ◆ Correspondence from YMCA relative to the Gus Macker Tournament
- 10) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ◆ Fire Department/Codes monthly report for July, 2002
 - ◆ Historian monthly report for July, 2002
 - ◆ Police Department monthly report for July, 2002
 - ◆ Public Works/Water System monthly report for July, 2002
 - ◆ Records Management monthly report for July, 2002
 - ◆ Youth Bureau monthly report for June and July, 2002
 - ◆ Civil Service Commission minutes of June 27, 2002
 - ◆ Electrical Board minutes of July 8, 2002
 - ◆ Parks Commission minutes of June 10, 2002
 - ◆ Plumbing Board minutes of July 18, 2002
 - ◆ Water Commission minutes of June 19, 2002
- 11) Ward and Committee Reports
 - ◆ Public Safety Committee meeting of June 25 and July 23, 2002
- 12) Old Business
- 13) New Business
 - Motions
 - ◆ To Approve Change in Bond Counsel
 - ◆ To Reject all bids relative to the Property Tax Auction
 - ◆ To Approve Use of CD funds for advertising in the Chenango Area Corp Magazine
 - ◆ To Pursue Negotiations with Barry Strock for Computer Systems Assessment
 - Resolutions
 - ◆ Res - Approve Ordinance No. 5 of 2002 to amend Zoning Ordinance relative to Museum District
 - ◆ Res - Approve Ordinance No. 6 of 2002 to amend Zoning Ordinance Map relative to Museum District
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Transfer for Unemployment Insurance
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Transfer for Boiler Replacement at the Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Transfer for Electronic Equipment Replacement at the Waste Water Treatment Plant
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Transfer for Local Law Enforcement Block Grant
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Transfer for Professional Legal Services
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Submission of B.I.D. Streetscape Grant Application
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Submission of Technical Assistance Grant Application
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Revision of Grade Level for Superintendent of Public Works
 - ◆ Res - Authorize Agreement with Delaware Eng. for 2003 Sewer Main Replacement and Transfer
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Deletion to the Agenda

-- Ald. McNeil stated that the resolution upgrading the Public Works Supt. should be removed from the agenda as no changes to the typical work duties or the job description have been done. He added that the job description states that the position works under the general direction of the City Engineer and the City has not yet developed a plan for engineering services. Ald. McNeil said past practice has shown that combining jobs and duties does not mean more money. He gave some examples and added that the job description and additional duties for the Assistant PW Supt. has not been considered. Ald. McNeil asked that proper procedures are followed and that an upgrade should not be considered until a plan is completed which includes Engineering services, additional duties and job descriptions for both the Superintendent and Assistant Superintendent.

Ald. Thornton stated that with the added responsibilities of the Department of Public Works, the Personnel Committee unanimously recommended that the Superintendent's position be upgraded. He said the Personnel Committee has been reviewing the matter with the Superintendent for the past eight months and noted that there are approximately 21 engineering duties that are being performed by the PW Superintendent, which would result in a cost savings.

Ald. Biviano said it was his understanding that the Personnel Committee was to study the engineering issue for the past eight months.

Ald. Jeffer stated that she is in favor of upgrading the Superintendent, however, a policy is needed for giving raises. Ald. Rabinowitz reiterated that a policy is needed to evaluate employees and what the trickle down affect would be on union employees. Ald. McNeil said that it isn't that he is against Mr. Iverson being upgraded, it is the way that it is being done. He recommended that the matter be sent back to the Personnel Committee until a complete plan is developed.

-- Ald. McNeil moved to remove from the agenda, a resolution upgrading the salary of the Public Works Superintendent. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, 4-2, with Aldermen Clark and Thornton voting nay.

Committee Chair Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Clark reported the Finance Committee discussed the 2003 budget, the water project, proposed increase in health insurance rates, the Streetscape project and various budget transfers.
- Personnel Committee -- Ald. Thornton reported the Personnel Committee discussed changes within the Public Works Department, the appointment of a meter reader, Streetscape project, vehicle identification and proposed health insurance increases.
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported the Public Safety Committee discussed a nuisance property and noted since then an inspection was done with the owner being cited for a number of violations.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano reported the Public Works Committee discussed the water system project, Streetscape, engineering services and building maintenance contracts.

Executive Session -- Ald McNeil 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. Jeffer 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.