

COMMON COUNCIL

Work Session
December 10, 2002

Mayor Marylou Stewart presided at a work session of the Common Council held at 7 PM on December 10, 2002, at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Marylou Stewart
Ald. Gary Clark
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
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
DPW Supt. Carl Ivarson
EMO A. Jones
James McNeil, City Supervisor
Patrick McNeil
Deputy Clerk Donna Russell

Presentation -- On behalf of the City of Norwich, Mayor Stewart presented to Patrick McNeil the "Key" to the City and a framed Proclamation of the following resolution, which she read aloud.

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, Patrick McNeil was first elected Alderman of Ward Two for the City of Norwich for a four-year term commencing on January 1, 1990 and was subsequently re-elected for three more terms; and

WHEREAS, Patrick McNeil has served the City with extreme dedication and proficiency in several capacities including Common Council President and Acting Mayor; and

WHEREAS, during his 13 years on the Common Council, Patrick served on all of the four Committees at various times; and

WHEREAS, as a member of the City's Parks Commission since 1990, Patrick was passionate about the parks and beautification of the community; and

WHEREAS, Alderman McNeil has made a personal commitment to maintain the City's landmark clock as well giving of his time to promote the City of Norwich; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, upon notice of his resignation effective December 1, 2002, the Common Council does wish to extend to Patrick McNeil a vote of thanks for his exemplary service on behalf of the residents of Ward Two and the City of Norwich; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that Mr. McNeil be presented the Key to the City along with a copy of this resolution in appreciation of his efforts to the City of Norwich.

Open Forum

Patrick McNeil, Norwich, questioned, relative to the vacant position of alderman in Ward Two, the process for canvassing for prospective candidates. He said that he is saddened by the fact that no consideration was given to the person he recommended to be his replacement. He noted that all of the current Council members were appointed with the blessing of the Common Council upon the recommendation of their predecessor. Ald. Clark said the ward was canvassed with prospective candidates contacted by telephone.

Mr. McNeil presented a petition signed by 160 residents from Ward Two requesting that Bridget Hannan of 7 Plymouth Street be appointed to fill the vacancy of Ward Two Alderman in the City of Norwich.

Bridget Hannan, 7 Plymouth Street, indicated that she was not contacted for an interview and questioned the method used to choose a candidate.

Mary Coe, 5A Waite Street, stated she feels it is a shame that Patrick McNeil, who has done much for the residents of Ward Two and the City of Norwich, made a recommendation for his replacement that was not even considered.

Ed Morano, 21 Miller Street, said the Council should have worked out the details of filling the vacancy before bringing embarrassment out in public.

Bob Raphael, Birdsall Street, said he was a member of the Republican Committee and was not aware of any recommendations for filling the position.

Development of Agenda for December 17, 2002

- 1) Call To Order
- 2) Pledge of Allegiance
- 3) Invocation
- 4) Approval of minutes of the regular meeting of November 19, 2002, the special budget work session and the work session of December 10, 2002
- 5) Public Hearing - Proposed Ordinance to Amend Certain Water and Sewer Use Rates
- 6) Open Forum
- 7) Bids
- 8) Correspondence
- 9) Department, Board and Commission Reports
 - ♦ Historian monthly report for November, 2002
 - ♦ Records Management monthly report for November, 2002
 - ♦ Youth Bureau monthly report for November, 2002

- ♦ Civil Service Commission minutes of October 24, 2002
 - ♦ Electrical Board minutes of November 12, 2002
 - ♦ Planning Commission minutes of November 8, 2002
 - ♦ Plumbing Board minutes of November 21, 2002
 - ♦ Water Commission minutes of November 20, 2002
 - ♦ Zoning Board of Appeals minutes of November 12, 2002
- 10) Ward and Committee Reports
- ♦ Finance Committee meetings of November 19, 2002 and
 - ♦ Public Safety Committee meeting of October 22, 2002
- 11) Old Business
- 12) New Business
- Motions
- ♦ Receive proposed local law (Local Law No. 1 of 2003) relative to alternate members of Planning Commission & ZBA and set public hearing for January 21, 2003
 - ♦ Authorize Additional requirements Relative to Certain Expenditures and Travel and Training
 - ♦ Authorize Mayor to Sign SPCA Agreement
- Resolutions
- ♦ Res - Approve Ordinance No. 7 of 2002, to Amend Certain Water and Sewer Use Rates
 - ♦ Res - Appointment of Firefighter
 - ♦ Res - Appointment of DPW Lead Operator
 - ♦ Res - Appointment of DPW Water System Maintainer/Meter Reader
 - ♦ Res - Amend Personnel Manual Relative to Drug Rider
 - ♦ Res - Amend Compensation Schedule for Non-Unit Personnel
 - ♦ Res - Auth Transfer for Health Insurance
 - ♦ Res - Designating Lead Agency Relative to Borden Ave Water and Sewer SEQR
 - ♦ Res - Designating Lead Agency Relative to Norwich Shoe Factory Demo SEQR
 - ♦ Res - Auth Acceptance of Greater Norwich Foundation Grant for Microfilming
 - ♦ Res - Auth Application for Grant funding through the NYS Library Development for Microfilming
 - ♦ Res - City / County Tax Levy
- 13) Payment of Bills
- 14) Adjournment

Committee Reports

- Finance Committee -- Ald. Clark reported the Finance Committee made recommendations relative to several items on the agenda as well as reviewed the final proposed budget.
- Personnel Committee -- Ald. Thornton reported the Personnel Committee made recommendations relative to various items on the agenda as well as a proposed local law to clarify the role of alternate members of the Planning Commission and ZBA
- Public Safety Committee -- Ald. Jeffer reported the Public Safety Committee: received a presentation on Homeland Security; was updated on the Fire Department building project, the neighborhood watch proposal and the SPCA contract.
- Public Works Committee -- Ald. Biviano reported that the Public Works Committee: received a presentation from Advantage Energy which was forwarded to the Finance Committee; discussed the Fire Department building project and a proposal from Delaware Engineering for the pool repair project.

New Business -- Ald. Biviano moved that Bridget Hannan be nominated for Alderman of Ward Two, based on the petition presented by Patrick McNeil with 160 signatures from residents of Ward Two requesting that she be appointed to fill the vacancy. The motion failed for lack of a second.

Executive Session -- Ald. Thornton moved to go into executive session at 7:35 PM to discuss the employment history of a particular individual. Seconded by Ald. Clark and duly adopted, ayes all. Ald. Clark moved to go out of executive session at 8:35 PM. Seconded by Ald. Thornton and duly adopted, ayes all.

RESOLUTION # 90 - 2002. ELIMINATION OF COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT POSITION

Ald. Rabinowitz introduced the following and moved its adoption:

WHEREAS, the position of Community Development Director/City Clerk, is an appointed position for a two-year term which currently expires on December 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has decided to eliminate the position of Community Development Director due to fiscal restraints effective December 31, 2002; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has decided to assign the City Clerk functions associated with the position to the Director of Finance; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that effective December 11, 2002, the position of Community Development Director is eliminated; and, further be it

RESOLVED, that effective December 11, 2002, William Roberts of 112 Hillview Court, is hereby is appointed as City Clerk until December 31, 2002.

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

Adjournment – Ald. Jeffer moved to adjourn at 8:55 PM. Seconded by Ald. Biviano and duly adopted, ayes all.