

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held January 16, 2018, at 7:34 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash, Philbrick, DeLucia, Burnham and Browning. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Ald. Gould had an excused absence. Mayor Nystrom presided.

Ald. DeLucia read the opening prayer and Ald. Burnham led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash it was unanimously voted to suspend the rule to take a 15 minute recess. The meeting reconvened at 7:50 pm.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, talked about the finances (debt service) of the City and stated we are paying too much interest and felt this is the wrong way to run a business. He stated that item (debt service finances) should be in the budget.

Chuck Evans, 49 Butternut Dr, congratulated the new Council members. He talked about Chelsea Gardens, Reid and Hughes and NPU and suggested ideas on how we curtail future spending.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, talked about the dangers of drug abuse dependence. Also stating that one third of Americans are underwater financially causing the budget to be at risk.

Rob Dempsy, 36 River Ave, talked about the safety equipment and felt it should be budgeted for appropriately and asked not to put the City in the position again.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Mayor Nystrom read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich is being disproportionately impacted by the substance abuse epidemic and the Council of the City of Norwich would like to express its support and to honor both those who have lost a someone and those lost from the substance use epidemic; and

WHEREAS, we support those who are battling addiction, we honor and pledge our continuing support to those within the city, state, and non-profit agencies in the front line of fighting this epidemic; and

WHEREAS, on November 30, 2017 a handmade quilt was unveiled honoring and remembering the lives of local people whose lives have been lost to drugs; and

WHEREAS, the quilt has 36 personalized squares sewn together by surviving family members, bringing families who while working together a therapeutic healing and sense of community; and

WHEREAS, we commend the Norwich Youth Services Advisory Board for their dedication to the people of Norwich, the bereaved families and for the honor that they have brought to themselves and our community.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR PETER ALBERT NYSTROM, NORWICH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM, WILLIAM NASH ON BEHALF OF THE NORWICH CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, do hereby proclaim Tuesday, January 16, 2018 as a Day of Remembrance in the City of Norwich.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of January, 2018

Peter Albert Nystrom
Mayor

William Nash
President Pro Tem

City Managers Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: January 16, 2018

I held interviews for the Harbor Management Commission.

I met with staff regarding the 3.2 million bond approved by voters in November 2017 to purchase five firetrucks and radio equipment. The 3.2 million fire bond will pay for the volunteer department's vehicles as follows: an engine tanker for East Great Plains, a rescue pumper and squad vehicle for Taftville, and pumper trucks for Yantic and Laurel Hill. The five new trucks will be replacing 6 vehicles to be removed from service.

I attended a meeting at the Emergency Operation Center (EOC) on January 3rd to prepare for the snow storm which was forecasted for the 4th of January. Willimantic Waste delayed trash Collection for another day and the media was notified. Due to the timing of the storm and the amount of snow predicted City Hall was closed on Thursday, January 4th while essential employees were stationed at the EOC. The parking ban went into effect and SEAT bus service was temporarily suspended. No power outages occurred but there was a damaged water main that disrupted service for approximately 120 customers in the East Great Plains area. The EOC was deactivated at 6 pm on Thursday. I would like to thank Emergency Operations Director, Chief Ken Scandariato and NPU Assistant General Manager, Chris Riley and staff that operated the EOC, and staff from NPU, Norwich Public Works, Norwich Police and Norwich Fire Departments that kept our streets clean and safe during and after the storm.

I met with Bob Mills from NCDC on January 9th for a monthly update.

My assistant and I met with Jim O'Shea of Achievement Unlimited of CT our facilitator for the Special Meeting of the Council on January 20th to discuss a work plan for the day and what would be expected from him.

I attended the Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration at Norwich Free Academy on Friday, January 12th along with Bill Nash, President Pro-Tempore who presented proclamations at the event.

The EOC was not activated for the January 12th and 13th rain storm event. Although there was much rain, no ice blockage on the river impeded river flows and no area flooding occurred.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, spoke on resolution #1 and felt it was a welcome change from previous procedures and asked for it to be continued to get costs under control.

Brian Kobylarz, 16 Hobart Ave, spoke on ordinance #1 and stated he is fully in support of the rewrite and asking for more accountability. He asked for the Council support on this.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Burnham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Nash, Delucia and Philbrick.

Relative to the establishment of a procurement process for certain apparatus purchases authorized in Ordinance 1755.

WHEREAS, The voters of the City of Norwich approved the Public Safety Equipment Bond Ordinance #1755 at the November 7, 2017 referendum; and,

WHEREAS, the following specific apparatus purchases are listed in Section 1. of Ordinance 1755 and the explanatory text for the referendum on Ordinance 1755:

Schedule A

Department	Description
East Great Plain	Replace 1988 Engine Tanker #1
Taftville	Replace 1982 N-27 Heavy Rescue and 1986 N-21 Pumper with a new rescue pumper.
Yantic	Replace 2000 Squad and a new large squad unit Replace 1979 Engine 31 Pumper
Laurel Hill	Replace 1983 Engine 61 Pumper

and,

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich wants to ensure that the fire departments listed in Schedule A above are acquiring the apparatus that meets the needs of the City at the lowest total cost of ownership, including the costs to maintain such apparatus.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that all of the apparatus listed in Section 1. of Ordinance 1755 shall be let out to competitive bid.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that Purchasing Agent William Hathaway shall develop the specifications for these invitations to bid using a combination of input from the chiefs of the respective fire departments listed in Schedule A above, National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) standards, and input from the Public Works Fleet Maintenance Division including the specification guidelines enumerated in Schedule B attached to this resolution.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, should there be conflicting opinions between a fire chief and the Public Works Fleet Maintenance Division, the City shall seek other qualified assistance to help make a final decision.

Upon a motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. DeLucia, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has appointed with Council approval as regular members to the Harbor Management Commission for a term to expire on 12/7/19 or until a successor is appointed;

Zechariah Stover (R)
Mark Sicuso (D)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointments of the above named to the Harbor Management Commission.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by President Pro Tem Nash.

WHEREAS, the Norwich Harbor Management Commission has applied for and received a grant from the Connecticut Port Authority through its Small Harbor Improvement Projects Program to update the existing Harbor Management Plan which was approved by the State of Connecticut and adopted by the Norwich City Council in 1996.

WHEREAS, the State Bond Commission acting by the Connecticut Port Authority has awarded the City of Norwich for the Norwich Harbor Management Commission a planning grant in the amount of \$7,500 through the Small Harbor Improvement Project to update the current plan.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that City Manager John L. Salomone be and hereby is authorized, empowered and directed to execute and deliver to the State of Connecticut acting by the Connecticut Port Authority in the name of the City of Norwich for the Norwich Harbor Management Commission the Assistance Agreement, and any additional supporting and subsequent required documents, reports, or the other materials.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. DeLucia, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould.

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich following a foreclosure by sale became the owner of property located at 19 North Cliff Street by a Committee Deed recorded June 22, 2016 at volume 2966, page 313 of the Norwich Land Records; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich by a resolution adopted April 3, 2017 appointed a “19 North Cliff Street Committee of Sale” to review the condition of the property, to make recommendations to the Council as to the disposing of the property, to attempt to identify a prospective purchaser or purchasers for the same, and to make recommendations with respect to any proposed sale to the Council; and

WHEREAS, said Committee unsuccessfully offered the property through a Request for Proposals published on the city website, to which there was no response, but, after the time provided for response had expired, received inquiries from parties interested in acquiring the property; and

WHEREAS, the Council by resolution adopted August 21, 2017 authorized the 19 North Cliff Street Committee of Sale to issue a second Request for Proposals and to make recommendations regarding the same to the Council of the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the 19 North Cliff Street Committee of Sale has issued a Request for Proposals, evaluated the responses and recommends the city convey the property at 19 North Cliff Street to the Burnham Square Development Agency LLC as the Preferred Developer which recommendation the council considers to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that the Burnham Square Development Agency LLC be selected as the Preferred Developer for 19 North Cliff Street subject to its entering into a Development Agreement with the City of Norwich satisfactory to the Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that the 19 North Cliff Street Committee of Sale be and hereby is authorized to negotiate and draft a Development Agreement for the property at 19 North Cliff Street with the Burnham Square Development Agency LLC and to submit its proposed Development Agreement to the Council of the City of Norwich for its consideration and possible approval on or before the second council meeting in April 2018.

Ald. Browning motioned, seconded by Ald. Burnham, to put the following ordinance introduced by Ald. Browning on the floor, to waive the reading of the text except the title and incorporate it into the minutes, to set a public hearing on February 5, 2018 at 7:30 pm, for the second reading and action.

Motion passes on a vote of 5-1 with Ald. Philbrick voting in opposition.

AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND PORTIONS of ORDINANCE NO. 1762 CODIFIED AS SECTION 2-23 – NORWICH RATEPAYER REPRESENTATIVE TO CMEEC

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that Ordinance No. 1762 codified as section 2-23 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances be and hereby is amended as follows:

Section 2-23- Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC

(a) Purpose

~~The position of a municipal representative for the City of Norwich to be made pursuant to Public Act No. 17-73, amending Connecticut General Statute (“C.G.S.”) §7-233c of Chapter 101a of the C.G.S., effective October 1, 2017, is hereby established by the Council of the City of Norwich to provide for additional representation for the City of Norwich on the governing body of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative. This representative shall be appointed to the cooperative utility board of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative by the Council of the City of Norwich by a resolution duly adopted and the position shall be titled the “Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC.”~~

The purpose of this Ordinance is to establish the position of “Norwich Ratepayer Representative to the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC)” pursuant to Public Act No. 17-73. The Council of the City of Norwich hereby establishes said position of

the purpose of appointing a representative to serve on the CMEEC managing body charged with assisting the CMEEC managing body in carrying out its corporate purposes and powers and who will, consistent with his or her fiduciary duties to CMEEC, keep the Norwich City Council apprised of the activities, performance, and condition of CMEEC and its programs.

~~(b) — Qualifications~~

~~Any person to be appointed to the cooperative utility board of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative by the Council of the City of Norwich (the Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC) shall be:~~

- ~~1) — An elector of the City of Norwich;~~
- ~~2) — A residential or commercial ratepayer of Norwich Public Utilities, who, at the time of appointment, owes only current residential or commercial utility charges to Norwich Public Utilities and is not delinquent in the payment of any such charges;~~
- ~~3) — An individual who does not hold other official positions in and is not employed by (a) the governing body of Norwich Public Utilities; (b) the City of Norwich; (c) the governing body of any other municipal electric utility which is a member of the CMEEC; (d) any municipality in which any other member municipal electric utility operates, or (e) The Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative or any other municipal electric energy cooperative;~~
- ~~4) — The qualifications primarily to be considered for the Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC shall include:

 - ~~a) — Professional or other expertise likely to be of assistance to the cooperative utility board in formulating opinions and directions relative to electric procurement and electrical generation strategy, contracting and management; and~~
 - ~~b) — The ability to represent residential and commercial ratepayers of Norwich Public Utilities; and~~
 - ~~c) — The possession of adequate availability, time, and resources to permit preparation and participation in proceedings on the cooperative utility board of CMEEC; and~~~~
- ~~5) — Any Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC who shall cease to possess any of the qualifications enumerated in subsections 1), 2), and 3) herein shall forthwith forfeit the office, which shall be deemed vacant and the vacancy shall be filled by the Council of the City of Norwich for the unexpired term.~~
- ~~(6) — Any Norwich Ratepayer Representative, following initial appointment by the Council of the City of Norwich, shall be required to take and successfully complete the ethics training program then offered to and required of city department heads appointed by the city manager prior to attending any meeting of the cooperative utility board of the Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative as the Norwich Ratepayer~~

~~Representative, and shall be subject to applicable requirements as to additional or continuous ethics training required of such department heads while serving as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative.~~

(b) Qualifications for Appointment or Continuation

- 1) ***No person shall be appointed to, or shall continue to serve as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC unless he or she is: (i) an elector of the City of Norwich; and (ii) a residential or commercial ratepayer of Norwich Public Utilities;***
- 2) ***In addition, no person shall be appointed, or shall continue to serve, as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative if he or she is an official or employee of: (i) NPU, or CMEEC; (ii) the City of Norwich; (iii) any other municipality served by a CMEEC member utility; or (iv) any other CMEEC member utility.***
- 3) ***The qualifications to be considered when appointing an individual to serve as a Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC shall include:***
 - a) ***Professional or other expertise that would allow the individual to understand and effectively participate in CMEEC managerial decisions; and***
 - b) ***Knowledge of the standards of good conduct ethics that govern the operation and management of nonprofit organizations such as CMEEC; and***
 - c) ***The ability to represent residential and commercial ratepayers of Norwich Public Utilities; and***
 - d) ***The ability to commit sufficient time to prepare for, and effectively participate in the proceedings of the cooperative utility board of CMEEC.***
- 4) ***If during his or her term of appointment, the Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC shall cease to possess any of the qualifications required for appointment, he or she shall inform the Mayor and the City Manager in writing and a successor shall be appointed at the Council's earliest opportunity to fill out the remainder of their expired term. If necessary, pursuant to Public Act No. 17-73, the Norwich Ratepayer Representative may also be removed by the Council of the City of Norwich, with, or without cause, by majority vote.***

(c) Term of Office and Method of Appointment

The Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC shall be appointed by the Council of the City of Norwich to a two year term commencing as of January 15, 2018 and biennially thereafter. **No person shall serve more than five consecutive terms as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative.** ~~The same person may be reappointed to additional terms.~~

(d) Duties and Responsibilities

The Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC shall exercise all powers and carry out all duties and responsibilities established and provided for in Chapter 101a of the Connecticut General Statutes as amended by P.A. No. 17-73 and as they may be amended from time to time.

Consistent with his or her fiduciary duties as a member of the managing board of CMEEC, the Norwich Ratepayer Representative shall provide the Norwich City Council with an annual report describing the activities, performance, and condition of CMEEC and its programs as they relate to the City of Norwich. The Ratepayer Representative may coordinate with the Mayor, City Manager and Corporation Counsel in preparing the quarterly report, but the report shall be the work product of the Norwich Ratepayer Representative.

(e) Compensation and Reimbursement

The Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC may receive such salary or compensation and expense reimbursement as may be determined by the CMEEC by-laws for each meeting of the cooperative utility board or committee thereof actually attended, or as otherwise may be provided for in said by-laws or this ordinance, and said sum shall be payment in full for such services. Such representatives shall receive no salary, compensation or expense reimbursement from the City of Norwich. Any conflicting ordinances of the City of Norwich notwithstanding, CMEEC may reimburse such representatives for expenses for travel, both within and without the state, incurred in connection with services as a designated representative on such board.

(f) Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect ten (10) days following its publication in a newspaper having general circulation in the City of Norwich following passage.

Upon motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Browning, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:30 P.M.



City Clerk