

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held January 21, 2020 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Gould, Wilson, Myles and DeLucia. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

President Pro Tem Bettencourt read the opening prayer and Ald. Nash led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Please be advised that meetings of the Norwich City Council can be viewed in their entirety on the City of Norwich website “norwichct.org”.**

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, congratulated Ald. Gould on her appointment as a School Board Liaison. He also talked about student opportunities to get jobs with Electric Boat.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Pl, promoted free activities to do at Mohegan Park and at your home.

George LaSalle, 58 Bailey Hill Rd Coventry, talked about the Marina.

Carol Lee Turner, 281 Norwich Ave, praised Lee Ann Gomes for her attention to the football fields and invited the Council to the games.

Michael Aliano, 1 American Way, talked about the Marina and asked the City to put a positive spin on it.

Tammy LaSalle, 58 Bailey Hill, Coventry talked about the Marina and asked the City to step in.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the attached report from the Norwich School Facilities Review Committee.

[Final report from School Facilities Review Committee \(2018\)](#)

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to accept the letter of resignation from Zechariah Stover from the Harbor Management Commission thanking him for his service.

City Managers Report:

**To:** Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council  
**From:** John Salomone, City Manager  
**Subject:** City Manager’s Report  
**Date:** January 21, 2020

I attended the monthly Southeastern CT Council of Governments and the monthly Southeastern CT Transit (SEAT) meetings. I attended the SCCOG legislative meeting and the Mayors Informational session with our local representatives. I had the pleasure of attending the 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Birthday Celebration Luncheon that was held at Norwich Free Academy and the Farewell reception for Jill Smith, Executive Secretary at the Fire Department. Jill has been with the City for 30+ years. Thank you for your service and congratulation on your retirement.

Comptroller, Josh Pothier and I met with the City Department Heads, Volunteer Fire Chiefs and Otis Library regarding the upcoming 2020-2021 budget process. We will be meeting with Superintendent Kristin Stringfellow and staff regarding the school budget on January 23<sup>rd</sup> which will conclude the initial process.

The Mohegan Park Disc Golf Committee, a subcommittee of the Mohegan Park Improvement & Development Advisory Committee, has started fundraising for the 9-hole disc golf course in Mohegan Park. Their goal is to enhance the recreational opportunities offered by the City while increasing the overall attraction of our park. The committee has begun efforts to fund the project solely through community donations and sponsorships without the use of tax payer dollars. My assistant, Jacquie Barbarossa has shared their information on the City's Facebook page.

The Community Development Office has been awarded \$2.9 million for the Lead Hazard Control Program and has begun taking applications for this grant period on a first come first serve basis based on income eligibility. Most homes in Norwich pre-date 1978, and therefore are likely to contain lead hazards. These funds are provided to low to moderate income residents of the City to eliminate lead hazards in their homes at 0% interest. For more information or to apply for the program, contact the Community Development Office directly at 860-823-3770.

The City's Lock Box tax payments as of Friday, January 18<sup>th</sup> were 848 payments totaling \$948,923.22. Payments at Norwich People's Bank branches were 171 payments totaling \$265,591.

I have attached the City Departments, Otis Library and Norwich Community Development Corporation reports for quarter ending December 31, 2019.

#### [Quarterly Departmental Reports to City Council](#)

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to suspend the rules.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to add the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt, Ald. Gould and Wilson.

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) has adopted its 2020 legislative agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, its legislative agenda was discussed with the Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation at a meeting on January 17, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Elected Officials and chief executives of the 19 of 22 member of municipalities in attendance at this meeting unanimously voted to support a bill to be introduced by the Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation entitled:

“An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from the Gaming Industry”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich recognizes that this bill is not only important to the federally recognized tribes and to the municipalities of Southeastern Connecticut but to the entire state as it will allow Connecticut to remain competitive with other states in the northeast, resulting in job retention/creation, increased revenue to the State of Connecticut, and an increase distribution of funds to municipalities from the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, it joins with SCCOG in expressing its support of An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from the Gaming Industry as well as the Council’s desire that SCCOG, in providing its written support for this bill, include a copy of this resolution with SCCOG’s letter.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Wilson it was unanimously voted to go back to regular session.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, spoke in favor of Resolution # 2, 3, 5, 6 and mentioned #7.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager John L. Salomone has reappointed with Councils approval as **regular members** to the Harbor Management Commission for a term to expire on 12/7/21 or until a successor is appointed;

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 Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt and Ald. Nash.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, by resolution adopted March 19, 2018 established a committee made up of representatives of the board of education, the council of the city of Norwich and community/parent

representatives to facilitate the exchange of information necessary to fulfill the city's responsibilities with respect to school facilities; said committee to be known as the 2018 School Facilities Committee; and

**WHEREAS**, and the Committee was requested to hold an organizational meeting on or before April 15, 2018; and

**WHEREAS**, the Committee organized and held a number of meetings and prepared a school re-structuring plan for the Norwich Public School system which the Committee approved and passed on with its recommendation to the Council of the City of Norwich; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the 2018 School Facilities Committee, having completed the work with which it was charged by the Council of the City of Norwich be discharged and disbanded with the appreciation of the Council of the City of Norwich for its efforts.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt and Ald. Nash on the floor.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to add to paragraph #5, **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, "11 individuals be appointed as members of the Norwich School Building Committee 2020 with at least one member from the construction industry and that the appointment(s) be made no later than the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting in March 2020:"

with the following being appointed to serve as ex-officio members of the Norwich School Building Committee 2020:

"Superintendent of Schools, Asst. Superintendent of School, School Business Administrator, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Comptroller or his designee, General Manager NPU or his designee, Director of Public Works or his designee, Corporation Counsel and Mayor" ; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, having received the report of the Norwich School Facilities Review Committee which considered, among other things, the condition of the existing school building assets and their need for reconfiguration and renovation, has determined that a school building committee, to be known as the "Norwich School Building Committee 2020", shall be established to undertake a school building project(s), as defined in section 10-282 of the Connecticut General Statutes, for the renovation and reconfiguration, including additions, of existing school building assets, and the construction of new school building assets; and

**WHEREAS**, the Norwich School Building Committee 2020 is to consider and obtain appropriate state and federal assistance as may be available for this purpose; and

**WHEREAS**, Connecticut Public Act 19-1 requires that any school building committee established by a town to undertake a school building project, as defined in § 10-282 of the General Statutes, shall include at least one member who has experience in the construction industry;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the Norwich School Building Committee 2020 be and hereby is formed for the purposes of a school building project(s) as described in this resolution; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, 11 individuals be appointed as members of the Norwich School Building Committee 2020 with at least one member from the construction industry and that the appointment(s) be made no later than the second meeting in March 2020:

with the following being appointed to serve as ex-officio members of the Norwich School Building Committee 2020:

Superintendent of Schools, Asst. Superintendent of School, School Business Administrator, Director of Student Services and Special Education, Comptroller or his designee, General Manager NPU or his designee, Director of Public Works or his designee, Corporation Counsel and Mayor.; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the Norwich School Building Committee 2020 be and hereby is authorized and directed to consider and attempt to obtain appropriate available state and federal assistance; and that Dr. Kristen Stringfellow, Superintendent of Schools, be and hereby is authorized to prepare, enter into, execute, and deliver or file, as appropriate, all applications and other documentation necessary for the school building project(s) to be undertaken by the Norwich School Building Committee 2020.

On a vote of 7-0 motion passes.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt and Ald. Nash.

**WHEREAS**, grant applications have been submitted to the State of Connecticut Office of Policy and Management (OPM) to obtain Regional Performance Incentive Program (RPIP) funds to create pilot programs for services to be provided by the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) to interested member municipalities; and

**WHEREAS**, OPM requires that a resolution be adopted by each participating municipality's legislative body endorsing the proposal;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, it hereby endorses and authorizes the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments to make application to the Connecticut Office of Policy and Management for Regional Performance Incentive Program funding for three projects; a regional code enforcement official (\$100,000); a regional grant writer (\$80,000); and a regional human resources staff/consultant (\$80,000); all of which could benefit municipalities of the SCCOG region; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the City of Norwich authorizes James Butler, Executor Director of SCCOG, to make these applications and to execute and deliver the Agreement on behalf of the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments and to do all things necessary and appropriate to carry out the terms of the Agreement, including executing and delivering all agreements and documents contemplated by the Agreement.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt and Ald. Nash on the floor.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to amend to add Ald. DeLucia as a sponsor.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, cognizant of its statutory obligations and those of the Board of Education, as well as the requirements of the Norwich Charter pertaining to financial provisions for education and the authority of the chief executive officer of the City, the Council, and the Board of Education relative to the same, believes that early and continuing communications between the Council and the Board of Education and possible collaborative efforts will be of assistance to both the Council and the Board of Education in setting financial provisions for education; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council, by resolution adopted at its December 3, 2019 meeting established a Budget and Finance Subcommittee; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich is of the opinion that the formation of an Ad Hoc Committee comprised of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee of the Council of the City of Norwich and the Budget Expenditure Subcommittee of the Norwich Board of Education; together with the city manager, the comptroller, the superintendent of schools, and the public schools business manager, each of the latter to serve as an ex-officio member of this Ad Hoc Committee, will promote useful communications among the participants; and

**WHEREAS**, this Ad Hoc Committee shall be expected to conduct regular monthly meetings as well as additional special meetings as may be deemed necessary, to elect officers as it deems necessary to conduct such meetings, and to seek such information and assistance as the Ad Hoc Committee deems appropriate within any appropriations made to it; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council will, by separate resolution, appoint the members of the Budget and Finance Subcommittee of the Council to this Ad Hoc Committee anticipating the Board of Education, by an affirmative vote, will select the members of the Budget Expenditures Subcommittee of the Board of Education as its representatives to the Committee all of whom, unless replaced, shall serve for their respective terms of office on the appointing body, and; and

**WHEREAS**, it is the expectation of the Council of the City of Norwich that the Ad Hoc Committee shall, among other things, use the meetings to develop a working understanding among all members regarding the statutory and charter requirements relative to financial provisions for education and the developing of budgets for a public school district in the State of Connecticut; a working understanding of all funding sources available to a public school district in the State of Connecticut whether or not such are currently utilized by the City of Norwich; a working understanding of developing issues regarding school choice and its implications for a public school district in the State of Connecticut including an understanding of requirements established under federal as well as state law; and to provide the members of this Ad Hoc Committee an opportunity to communicate, share information and ideas, and to collaborate regarding the means by which the city may best meet the financial provisions necessary for educational needs in Norwich; and

**WHEREAS**, this resolution, by establishing an Ad Hoc Committee as described herein and the anticipated obligations of the Committee, is not intended, nor shall be used, to usurp, supplant, restrict or hinder the Norwich Board of Education or the Council of the City of Norwich in the exercise of their respective legal and legislative duties relative to the funding of education through the adopted budget and the expending of the same for purposes of education.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, an Ad Hoc Committee of the Council and the Board of Education be and hereby is authorized to be established as set forth herein and is hereby established upon acceptance of the same by the Board of Education with the appointment of members to it by the Council and the Board of Education.

Motion passes.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Nash and Ald. Nash on the floor.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to amend to add Ald. DeLucia as a sponsor.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, has adopted a resolution establishing an Ad Hoc Committee of the Council and the Board of Education to communicate relative to financial provisions for education.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the members of the Council Budget and Finance Committee be and hereby are appointed as it representatives to the Ad Hoc Committee to serve, unless replaced, until the first Monday December 2021.

Motion passes.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Nash and Ald. Nash and Gould on the floor.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted amend to add Ald. DeLucia as a sponsor.

**WHEREAS**, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SCCOG) has adopted its 2020 legislative agenda; and

**WHEREAS**, its legislative agenda was discussed with the Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation at a meeting on January 17, 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the Chief Elected Officials and chief executives of the 19 of 22 member of municipalities in attendance at this meeting unanimously voted to support a bill to be introduced by the Southeastern Connecticut Legislative Delegation entitled:

“An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from the Gaming Industry”; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich recognizes that this bill is not only important to the federally recognized tribes and to the municipalities of Southeastern Connecticut but to the entire state as it will allow Connecticut to remain competitive with other states in the northeast, resulting in job retention/creation, increased revenue to the State of Connecticut, and an increase distribution of funds to municipalities from the Mashantucket Pequot/Mohegan Fund.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, it joins with SCCOG in expressing its support of An Act Concerning Jobs In and Revenue from the Gaming Industry as well as the Council's desire that SCCOG, in providing its written support for this bill, include a copy of this resolution with SCCOG's letter.

Motion passes.

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, second by President Pro Tem Bettencourt it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant Connecticut General Statute Sections 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council go into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategies and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. The following shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council: City Manager John Salomone, Director of Human Resources Brigid Marks, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll.

I hereby further move, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council continue in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real estate or interests in real estate, when publicity regarding the site, purchase or construction would adversely impact the price of the same, to review preliminary drafts of proposals in the development and use of the property, to review draft engineering or feasibility estimates and evaluations, including perspective public supply, the Council having determined that the public interest in withholding such documents clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure, and to review commercial or financial information given in confidence not required by statute. City Manager John Salomone, Finance Director Josh Pothier, Director of Planning & Neighborhood Services Deanna Rhodes, and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll, General Manager of Norwich Public Utilities Christopher LaRose, Chairman of the Board of Commissioners of Norwich Pubic Utilities Robert Staley, President of Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) Robert Mills, Vice President of NCDC Jason Vincent, and Chair of NCDC Board of Directors Robert Buckley shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council.

The council was in Executive Session from 8:14 PM to 9:30 PM, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Myles to return to regular session.

Upon motion of Ald. Wilson seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:32 P.M.



City Clerk