

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 19, 2019, at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash, Gould, Philbrick, DeLucia, Burnham and Browning. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

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

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, asked for everyone to use the microphones when speaking to be heard. He also spoke regarding upgrading the Sherman Street Bridge.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt, Ave thanked the Police Chief for his help on a civil issue and asked the Council to keep spending down in this budget cycle.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, talked about how to cut spending.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by, President Pro Tem Nash it was unanimously voted to accept the communication from the 347 Central Avenue Committee of Sale.

City Manager Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: February 19, 2019

The Goal Setting and Strategic Planning Special Meeting with the City Council, invited Department Heads, Board of Education and NCDC guests was held on Saturday, February 9th at Foundry 66. The purpose was to review and update the City Council’s short and long term priorities. Jim O’Shea, the Facilitator, is assembling his report which will be forthcoming. I will distribute when it has been completed.

Staff and I met regarding the City’s Property Disposition process to determine if it needed to be updated and possibly have an RFQ for preferred developers.

The Mayor and I meet with staff and members of the Board of Education regarding traffic issues on Rt. 82 with Mahan School.

I executed the contract for the UPSE Union 911 Emergency Dispatchers on February 13th. After lengthy negotiations the changes were implemented and the contract is in effect until June 30, 2022.

The Community Development Office received 17 Block Grant applications this year in addition to their office funding request. This year’s anticipated allocation is \$836,068 with requests totaling \$1,515,020. The Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) deliberations will begin soon with funding recommendations to be forwarded to the Council in April.

The Public Works Engineering Department has completed the 2018 MS4 annual report which is required by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection (DEEP) general permit for discharge of storm water from Municipal Separate Storm Sewage Systems. The City's Engineering Department is asking Norwich residents to help address these problems by reducing the amount of fertilizer used on grass and by using proper ways to dispose of pet waste. The Engineering Department is encouraging residents to report illicit discharges at (860) 823-3798. The full MS4 report is available on the City's website along with valuable resources on how to protect the integrity of our storm water.

Filming at City Hall for the Hallmark movie *Holiday for Heroes* has been completed. Filming took place in room 335, the City Manager's office, and outside in the plaza where the film crew recreated winter settings with Christmas festivities. It was interesting and fascinating to watch the numerous crew members and actors rehearse and film for the scenes which went until 2 am. Thank you to the employees in City Hall that accommodated the entire process, especially the Building Maintenance staff and to the crew for filming after working hours. The City was given an autographed script page from the cast which will be framed and displayed in City Hall.

The annual Sweet Potato Festival will be held on Saturday, February 23rd at the Rose City Senior Center from 12:00-3:00 pm. The event is sponsored by the Norwich NAACP.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

Janet Koch, 35 1/2 South B St, she extolled the village of Taftville and spoke in support of Resolution #2 as presented.

Linda Theodoru, 37 Taftville-Occum Rd, she asked for a paid independent company to be used for Resolution #2.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, talked about the study on Resolution #2 asking why it wasn't originally planned, asked for answers on Resolution #4 regarding the YMCA and has questions on Resolution #6.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, spoke against Resolution #2 and in favor of Resolution #6.

Mike Dziavit, 248 Browning Rd, Norwich Firefighter Local President, spoke against the city's need for an analysis study on Resolution #2 and found it disappointing.

Shiela Hayes, 382 Laurel Hill Ave, asked on Resolution #2 what the impact on the Capital Improvement Budget would be and thanked the Mayor regarding Resolution #6.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, spoke a Resolution #4 and asked on Resolution #5 what the current taxes are.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment on resolutions closed.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich acquired the property at 347 Central Avenue by a Committee of Sale deed recorded September 29, 2016 at volume 2981, page 290 of the Norwich Land Records; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, by a resolution adopted November 20, 2107 established the "347 Central Avenue Committee of Sale" (hereinafter "Committee") to make recommendations to it concerning the disposition of this property and, upon recommendation of this Committee, adopted a resolution on June 18, 2018 authorizing and directing the city manager to execute a Development Agreement on behalf of the city with Lauren Kang Properties, LLC, and also requested the Committee to continue to act for the city by periodically reviewing the renovations and reporting to the Council as necessary; and

WHEREAS, following a report of the Committee that the work had been satisfactorily finished, and of its opinion that the property could be conveyed to Lauren Kang Properties, LLC the Council, by resolution adopted January 22, 2019 authorized and directed the city manager to execute a deed of conveyance satisfactory to him from the City of Norwich to Lauren Kang Properties, LLC conveying to it the renovated property at 347 Central Avenue; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2019 a deed from the City of Norwich to Lauren Kang Properties, LLC was delivered to it and recorded in the Norwich Land Records at volume 3107, page 9; and

WHEREAS, following this conveyance and the recommendation of the Committee Chair that the Committee be dissolved, the Council of the City of Norwich finds that 347 Central Avenue Committee of Sale has completed its work and should be dissolved and discharged from further responsibility with respect to monitoring this property.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that, the 347 Central Avenue Committee of Sale be and hereby is dissolved and discharged of further responsibilities with respect to the property at 347 Central Avenue; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that, the Council of the City of Norwich extends its appreciation to the 347 Central Avenue Committee of Sale for its efforts and dedication in seeing the renovation of the property at 347 Central Avenue through to completion.

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

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to provide responsible fire protection for City residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the number, type, and assignments of fire apparatus is an essential element to the City's fire suppression capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive fire suppression capability analysis to determine the City's fire risk and the ability of the Fire Service to suppress a fire was last undertaken in 1989; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 Survey of Norwich Fire Service calls for a more efficient personnel and apparatus distribution and a fire apparatus response plan that will more closely comply with the National Fire Protection Association Standards, using strategies such as centralized purchasing of apparatus and equipment, and coordinated response plans citywide; and

WHEREAS, the 1989 Survey of Norwich Fire Service identifies both the imperative nature of an efficient and well-managed fire service, as well as a lack of coordination between the six fire departments, particularly in terms of apparatus purchases and response assignments; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich on July 7, 2017 adopted a bond ordinance appropriating \$3,200,000 for Public Safety equipment, including the replacement of five fire apparatus, and authorizing the issue of bonds of the City to meet said appropriation; and

WHEREAS, it has been 30 years since a study of the number, type, and assignments of fire apparatus was done, and after the recent purchases of replacement apparatus, it is both reasonable and prudent to do another study.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to solicit a request for proposal from qualified consultants to begin a needs analysis of City's Fire Service, including the number, deployment, and the replacement schedule of existing fire apparatus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, no contract or bid award for fire apparatus be authorized until the needs analysis of City's Fire Service has been received and the recommendations reviewed by the Norwich City Council.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to amend the above resolution to reflect the changes below.

It was further amended of Ald. DeLucia, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, to delete in paragraph 5 the word "including" and replace it with "but limited to"; inserting a new paragraph 6 to read: "**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that, the needs analysis and replacement schedule of existing fire apparatus be completed and delivered to the Norwich City Council on or before September 3, 2019; and" and in paragraph 7, remove the last line "~~in September of 2019~~".

WHEREAS, it is in the public interest to provide responsible fire protection for City residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the number, type, and assignments of fire apparatus is an essential element to the City's fire suppression capabilities; and

WHEREAS, a comprehensive fire suppression capability analysis to determine the City's fire risk and the ability of the Fire Service to suppress a fire was last undertaken in 1989; and

WHEREAS, since it has been 30 years since that study the standards, needs and conditions have changed and after the recent purchases of replacement apparatus, it is both reasonable and prudent to conduct an in-house review of the policies, procedures, priorities and replacement schedule when considering the purchase of replacement apparatus.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, the City Manager is hereby authorized and directed to coordinate and facilitate with the six(6), Fire Chiefs and or their designees a needs analysis of City's Fire Service, but limited to the number, deployment, and the replacement schedule of existing fire apparatus; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, the needs analysis and replacement schedule of existing fire apparatus be completed and delivered to the Norwich City Council on or before September 3rd, 2019; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, no contract or bid award for fire apparatus be authorized until the needs analysis and replacement plan of City’s Fire Service has been received and the recommendations reviewed by the Norwich City Council.

Motion as amended passes 7-0.

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has re-appointed as a **regular member** to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/21 or until a successor is appointed;

Marc Benjamin (D)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointment of the above named to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

WHEREAS, there is on file in the Tax Collector’s Office the names and addresses of the persons against whom motor vehicle taxes and personal property taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, were levied and the reasons why the Tax Collector believes such taxes are uncollectible; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Tax Collector’s recommendation the aggregate sum of \$387,057.27 is the total outstanding motor vehicle tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, to be transferred to the suspense tax book and \$71,940.50 is the total outstanding personal property tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, to be transferred to the suspense tax book; and,

WHEREAS, nothing herein contained shall be construed as an abatement of any tax transferred to the suspense tax account, but any such taxes, as it shall have been increased by interest, penalty fees and charges may be collected; and

WHEREAS, in June 2018, through RFP 18-12, the City selected TaxServ Capital Services LLC to pursue the collection of such accounts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that the following aggregate sums representing motor vehicle taxes of \$387,057.27 and personal property taxes of \$71,940.50 on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

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

WHEREAS, Section 12-165 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 35 of Public Act 13-276 provides for the administrative procedure for transferring real estate taxes deemed uncollectible to the “suspense” tax book; and,

WHEREAS, taxes transferred to the suspense tax book are no longer listed as an asset of the city in its annual financial report; and,

WHEREAS, listed below are the names and addresses of the persons against whom certain real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2017 were levied and which the Tax Collector believes such taxes are uncollectible because of lack of payment for several years; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Tax Collector’s recommendation the aggregate sum of \$158,589.89 in real estate tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2017, to be transferred to the suspense tax book; and,

WHEREAS, nothing herein contained shall be construed as an abatement of any tax transferred to the suspense tax account, but any such taxes, as it shall have been increased by interest, penalty fees and charges may be collected; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that the aggregate sum of \$158,589.89 representing uncollectible real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2017, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

Unique ID	Address	List Years Due	Taxes Due
1000020562	56 ALICE ST	2017	1,040.40
0112180001	HOLLAND AVE	2017	2,032.38
0112190001	20 CROWN ST	2017	1,122.66
0112220001	68 THERMOS AVE	2017	17,246.20
0112230001	116 THERMOS AVE	2017	1,553.32
0112250001	85 HILLSIDE AVE	2017	6,048.76
0108790001	751 NORTH MAIN ST	2017	638.76
0026450001	663-665 NORTH MAIN ST	2014	3,988.63
0360010023	53 PRENTICE ST 23	2017	787.76
0081360001	5TH CANAL END OF STREET	2017	517.80
1200020001	BEEBE RD	2017	248.76
0049540001	117 RIVER AVE	2017	38.71
0630017237	44 NORWICH AVE LOT 37	2004-2008	2,750.60
0094660001	SEVENTH ST	2017	391.96
0057480001	35 LAMBERT DR REAR	2017	24.89
0088630001	303 MOHEGAN PARK RD 12	2014-2016	834.78
0006060001	77 PACEMAKER AVE	2003-2015	1,657.40
0061710001	303 MOHEGAN PARK RD #42	2003-2008	2,124.54
0086680001	303 MOHEGAN PARK RD LT 6	2004-2005	362.17
7125620001	LAUREL HILL RD	2017	58.05
0900010061	303 MOHEGAN PARK RD LOT 61	2003-2008	3,431.98
0100340001	97 FOREST ST	2017	333.90
0055800001	5 CONNECTICUT AVE	2004-2007	31,605.82
0112080001	7 HILLSIDE AVE	2017	1,321.06
0023810001	OAKRIDGE ST	2017	842.00
7131530001	337-341 MAIN ST	2017	77,586.60
Total			158,589.89

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

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich is aware of various communications which have been sent to Governor Ned Lamont expressing opposition to an MGM run casino in Bridgeport and the potential breach of the Compact existing between the state of Connecticut and the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations; communications recognizing the direct and indirect damage risked to the economy of eastern Connecticut by such a casino; and

WHEREAS, these include letters from John Beauregard, President and CEO of the Eastern Connecticut Workforce Investment Board and Christopher Jewell, Chair of the Eastern Workforce Investment Board; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Catherine Osten has encouraged the Council of the City of Norwich, if like-minded, to adopt a resolution encouraging Governor Lamont to support the Compact and protect the interest of Eastern Connecticut and its many residents employed by enterprises of the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich joins with Senator Osten, John Beauregard, Christopher Jewell and others in their opposition to the proposed casino in Bridgeport.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that it, by this resolution, expresses its opposition to any state support for a proposed MGM run casino in Bridgeport, Connecticut and for any negotiation by the state with MGM or any other commercial entity which may jeopardize the local effect of the Compact with the Mashantucket Pequot and Mohegan Tribal Nations or risk a breach of the same.

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:41 P.M.


City Clerk