

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held March 19, 2019, at 7:32 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.

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

Mayor Nystrom called for a moment of silence for the passing of Hector Baillargeon.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

There were no speakers

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”.

City Manager Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: March 18, 2019

I attended a meeting at the Capitol along with the Mayor and local legislators regarding the proposed legislation regarding the future of casino gambling in Connecticut. I attended a special meeting of the Harbor Management Commission regarding the Small Harbor Improvement Program (SHIP) grants through the CT Port Authority. The dock at Brown Park is in need of repair and the project falls within the scope of the grant. An engineered cost estimate of the repair is the first step in the process at a cost of \$1,500.

I attended the monthly Public Safety Meeting and met with the Fire Chiefs regarding the Council Resolution that was approved on February 19th regarding the analysis of the City’s fire apparatus. Each Chief has an apparatus spreadsheet to complete and return by the next meeting.

The Mayor and I met with NPU Representative and Planning staff regarding the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification Program. Sustainable CT is a voluntary certification program that recognizes thriving and resilient municipalities in Connecticut. The program is designed to allow communities to get recognition for existing sustainability policies, programs and projects, such as brownfields redevelopment, arts and culture, education programs, energy efficiency measures, green fleets, and more. An informational session will be scheduled for the City Councils April, 15 meeting.

I provided a letter of testimony in support of “HB 7319 An Act Concerning Fiscal Independence of School Districts”. The Bill will increase transparency in our education budgets by having Board of Education’s go directly to the voters for support of their budgets and defend their proposed expenditures.

The 2019 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal applications are available through the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services website. A press release was sent to the newspapers and posted on the City's website and Facebook. The City Manager's Office will be accepting Neighborhood Assistance Applications until May 31st, 2019 with a public hearing scheduled for June 3rd to ensure the applications can be submitted to the State before the July 1, deadline.

The Spring Recreation Brochure is now available. Ten thousand copies were printed with 3,500 distributed via the Norwich Bulletin. The brochures are distributed to every public and parochial student and are available at local restaurants and City Hall.

The Finance Department received notification from the Federal EPA that they had conducted an audit of the City's City Wide Brownfield Assessment Grant. There were no findings or recommendations reported.

I've attached the Key Financial Indicators report for the eight months ended February 28th from Comptroller Josh Pothier.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

Bob Staley, 18 Montgomery Ln, spoke in favor of Resolution #7.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, asked to have discussion on Resolution #11.

Stuart Peil, 133 Mediterranean Ln, spoke in favor of Resolution #7.

Dr. Grace Jones, 11 Tanglewood Dr, spoke about the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners rebuilding.

Michael Goldblatt, 10 Trading Cove Dr, spoke in favor of Resolution # 7.

Derrell Wilson, 30 2nd Ave, spoke in favor of Resolution #11.

Glen Carberry, 27 Greenwich Ct, spoke in favor of Resolution #7.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment on resolutions closed.

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a regular member to the Commission on the City Plan with a term to expire on February 28, 2020 or until a successor is appointed:

Kathy Warzecha (D)

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a regular member to the Commission on the City Plan with a term to expire on February 28, 2021 or until a successor is appointed:

Frank Manfredi (D)

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as an alternate member to the Commission on the City Plan with a term to expire on February 28, 2020 or until a successor is appointed:

Swarnjit Singh Bhatia (D)

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as an alternate to the Historic District Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2020 or until a successor is appointed:

Gregory William Johnson (R)

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a regular member to the Mohegan Park Improvement & Development Advisory Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2020 or until a successor is appointed:

William Barbuto (D)

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has reappointed with Councils approval as a **regular member** to the Youth Service Advisory Board for a term to expire on February 1, 2021 or until a successor is appointed;

Patrick McMahon (U)

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

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as regular members to the Golf Course Authority with a term to expire on January 23, 2021 or until a successor is appointed:

Michael Driscoll (D)
John Paul Mereen (R)
Charles Whitty (D)
Richard Podurgiel (D)
Richard Strouse (R)
Robert Malouf (R)
David DiBattista (D)
Barney Caulfield (D)

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

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a **regular member** to the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners (Sewer Authority) for a term to expire on March 01, 2024 or until a successor is appointed;

Steven Becker (R)

Motion passed on a vote of 4-3 with Ald. DeLucia, Browning and Burnham voting in opposition.

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, DeLucia, Burnham and Browning.

WHEREAS, the Norwich Harbor Management Commission and the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce will be co-producing the “Rock the Docks 2019”, a series of concerts to be held at Howard T. Brown Park from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M. and the “Rockin the Green,” a Friday night series of acoustic concerts to be held at the Norwichtown Green from 6:00 P.M. to 8:00 P.M.; and

WHEREAS, the “Rock the Docks” concert shall be held on the following dates:

- Wednesday, July 10, 2019
- Wednesday, July 17, 2019
- Wednesday, July 24, 2019
- Wednesday, July 31, 2019
- Wednesday, August 7, 2019
- Wednesday, August 21 & 28, 2019 (Rain Dates if needed); and

WHEREAS, the “Rockin the Green” acoustic concerts shall be held on the following dates:

- Friday, July 12, 2019
- Friday, July 19, 2019
- Friday, July 26, 2019
- Friday, August 9, 2019
- Friday, August 16, 2019; and

WHEREAS, “Rock the Docks” and “Rockin the Green” will allow the entire community to enjoy a variety of music and entertainment at scenic locations; and

WHEREAS, the Greater Norwich Area Business and Industry Foundation, Inc., established through the Greater Norwich Area Chamber of Commerce, proposes to make available beer and wine for sale during these concerts to patrons thereof at a location in Howard T. Brown Park for the “Rock the Docks” concerts and the Norwichtown Green for the “Rockin the Green” concerts, the proceeds of the sales to be used to support the concert series and the sales to be handled by an appropriately licensed and permitted entity.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, pursuant to Section 13.14.2 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances, City Manager John Salomone be and hereby is authorized to grant the Greater Norwich Area Business and Industry Foundation, Inc. permission to sell beer or wine at the “Rock the Docks 2019” and the “Rockin the Green” concert series to be held on the dates listed above at the Howard T. Brown Park and Norwichtown Green, subject to satisfactory proof that the Greater Norwich Area Business and Industry Foundation, Inc. has complied with the applicable regulations of the State Liquor Commission; that identification will be mandatory from each person purchasing an alcoholic beverage; that the sales of beer and wine will be made under a proper liquor license, and

that proper insurances will be obtained and maintained by the Greater Norwich Area Business and Industry Foundation, Inc. and any vendor of beer and/or wine for the events.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich instituted a foreclosure action as to the property located at 482-492 Norwich Avenue, Norwich, Connecticut to collect property taxes due on the assessment list of October 1, 2013 and thereafter; and

WHEREAS, on August 21, 2017 the court entered a judgment of foreclosure by sale at which sale the city was the high bidder with a bid of \$28,050 being the unpaid taxes and cost of the sale; and

WHEREAS, on January 8, 2018 the city became the owner of the property by a Foreclosure of Sale Committee Deed recorded at volume 3051, page 46 of the Norwich Land Records; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to dispose of this property by a negotiated sale using the services of Allyn and Associates Realtors at a price recommended by Allyn and Associates Realtors; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that, City Manager John Salomone be and hereby is authorized and directed on behalf of the City of Norwich to enter into a Real Estate Listing Agreement having a duration of 180 days and satisfactory to him and the corporation counsel with Allyn and Associates Realtors offering to sell the property at 482-492 Norwich Avenue at a proposed sale price recommended by Allyn and Associates Realtors; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that, upon receipt of a Purchase and Sales Agreement containing a proposed price to be recommended by Allyn and Associates Realtors and containing such price, terms, and conditions as are satisfactory to him, City Manager John Salomone shall be and hereby is authorized and directed to notify the Council of the City of Norwich the proposed Purchase and Sales Agreement which may approve the same and authorize him to enter into the Purchase and Sales Agreement on behalf of the City of Norwich and, upon timely tender of the purchase price subject to standard adjustments, to execute and deliver a deed of conveyance for the property known as 482-492 Norwich Avenue, Norwich, and to execute, receive, and deliver such other documents as are necessary to complete the transfer of title in keeping with the terms of the Purchase and Sales Agreement.

Motion passes on a vote of 6-1 with Ald. Browning voting in opposition.

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.

Relative to the correction to the resolution approved February 19, 2019 regarding the transfer of motor vehicle and personal property taxes on the Grand List October 1, 2016 to the suspense account.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich approved a resolution entitled “Relative to the aggregate sums representing motor vehicle and personal property taxes on the Grand List October 1, 2016 being transferred to the suspense account.”

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH to correct the numbers listed in the second and fifth paragraphs of the resolution dated February 19, 2019 as follows:

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 \$557,700.62 ~~\$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 \$95,186.00 ~~\$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 \$557,700.62 ~~\$387,057.27~~ and personal property taxes of \$95,186.00 ~~\$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 voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Nash, Ald. Philbrick and DeLucia on the floor.

Motion to amend of Ald. Delucia, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to amend in the last paragraph to add “cruiser cameras”.

Relative to funding from the \$3.2 million Public Safety Equipment Ordinance #1755 for the purchase of police body cameras and for cameras in the viaduct parking lot

WHEREAS, bond ordinance #1755 “AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$3,200,000 FOR PUBLIC SAFETY EQUIPMENT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$3,200,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE” was approved by the voters of the City of Norwich on November 6, 2017 ; and

WHEREAS, section 1 of bond ordinance #1755 enables the purchase of “any additional public safety equipment, including communications equipment, as later determined and approved by resolution of the Council of the City of Norwich for the City’s fire or police departments as may be accomplished within said appropriation”; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department recommends the purchase of body cameras for its officers at a total cost of approximately \$300,000 as a means of enhancing public safety; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is currently able to take advantage of a 50%, or \$150,000, reimbursement grant through the State of Connecticut Office of Policy & Management; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is able to further offset the net cost of this project by utilizing \$50,000 of asset forfeiture and State Violent Crime Prevention funds; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department is therefore requesting that the Norwich City Council consider and approve \$100,000 from the Norwich City Council from bond ordinance #1755 towards the purchase of body cameras; and

WHEREAS, the Police Department also requests that the Norwich City Council consider and approve \$30,000 for cameras to be mounted in the viaduct parking lot to improve public safety in that area.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that a total of \$130,000 be, and hereby is, approved from bond ordinance #1755 towards the purchase of police body cameras, cruiser cameras and mounted cameras in the viaduct parking lot.

The motion as amended unanimously pass.

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:32 P.M.


City Clerk