

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 22, 2022 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Neuendorf, Gould, Singh, Burto and Wilson. City Manager Salomone (via phone) and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

Ald. Burto read the opening prayer and President Pro Tem DeLucia 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, asked the leaders and trail blazers to open City Hall. He also talked about Presidents Day.

There were no emails.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

The Mayor read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, a city is only as good as the people that live in it and Norwich is blessed with so many that give back to her and **David Bishop** is such a person; and

WHEREAS, **David Bishop** has a talent working with his hands and has used that talent to secure sites of Norwich that needed the extra attention and be fixed; and

WHEREAS, **David Bishop**, in 2017 saw a Bicentennial Historic Marker on the Norwichtown Green and saw that it couldn't be read in the condition it was in, he spent many weeks carefully painting the marker restoring it to new condition, he also painted the Uncas Leap sign and the Benedict Arnold sign, restoring them to their original look; and

WHEREAS, **David Bishop** in 2019 was recommended to paint the Buckingham Memorial sign, a wooden sign that is likely a century old, he restored the sign to its original condition and then looked around the Buckingham and restored the porch and other wooden facades; and

WHEREAS, **David Bishop** saw a picture of the Norwich Harbor Mural established 1659 Welcome sign and wanted to bring it back to its original glory, initially commissioned by Ron Aliano, designed and painted by Nancy Bram Mereen, a local artist, and he set to work to fix it, he received permission from Public Works and Police, and Genesee Wyoming railroad; and

WHEREAS, **David Bishop** finally had all he needed and he set about restoring the Norwich Harbor sign, spending over 173 hours painting, and he did a beautiful job, the painting is fully restored, then he turned his sight to the wake buoy and did another beautiful job; and

WHEREAS, David Bishop in the true spirit of volunteerism recaptured the essence of our Harbor Welcoming sign.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR PETER ALBERT NYSTROM AND NORWICH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM, JOSEPH A. DELUCIA, ON BEHALF OF THE NORWICH CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, do hereby thank **David Bishop** and do hereby express our very sincere appreciation for the continuing excellent volunteerism he provides to the community and for the outstanding services he has provided to the Rose of New England.

Dated this Twenty-second day of February, 2022

Peter Albert Nystrom
Mayor

Joseph A. DeLucia
President Pro Tem

Below is the link for the report from David Eggleston the Rate Payer Representative for Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC).

[CMEEC Report](#)

Upon a motion of Ald. Singh, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following report from the Appoint/Reappointment Committee regarding several reappointment/ appointments.

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: February 22, 2022

Meetings attended were with State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments (SCCOG), South Eastern Transit Authority (SEAT), Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Board Meeting (CCM), NPU-City Coordination meeting, Region 4 Emergency Support, FEMA, Bond Conference and signing, and the second Goal Setting Session.

The City completed the sale of \$145,000,000 General Obligation Bonds. The process began over a year ago and was supported and approved unanimously by the members of the City’s Personnel & Pension Board, Board of Education, Public Utilities Commission, and City Council. It was then approved by a two to one margin by voters in November 2021. After the approval by the voters, the plan was reviewed by the State of Connecticut’s offices of Policy & Management and Treasury prior to the city being able to move forward with the transaction. The State finished this process on January 27, 2022. Standard & Poor’s gave Norwich a stable outlook for its existing general obligation debt and AA long-term rating. The syndicate of underwriters working on the city’s POB sale garnered a massive amount of interest in the bonds – with investor orders over four times the number of bonds available. This competition for the bonds enabled the City to get a very competitive total interest cost of 3.4 percent despite the recent surge in interest rates. By issuing the POBs, the City (including the Board of Education and Department of Utilities), will pay a total of \$13.7 million in fiscal year 2022-23 in pension fund, pension reserve fund, and POB debt service rather than \$16.7 million in pension fund contributions if the city had not issued POBs.

Paul Decelles from Decision Point, LLC met with the Council, city staff and NCDC via Zoom on February 5th & 10th for an update to the Councils goal. He is in the process of preparing the items discussed and will present to the council in March.

The Community Development Office received 18 applications in the amount of \$1,505,157.80 for Program year 48 and anticipates \$876,317 in federal funding. Deliberations will be held the beginning of March.

The City’s Emergency Management Department has a limited supply of COVID test kits and masks available for vulnerable populations. Please call 860-886-1534 for more information.

The Rose City Senior Center has partnered with AARP again this year to provide income tax preparation and has scheduled over 500 appointments for our seniors.

Thank you to artist Mark Patenode for loaning the City his painting of City Hall. It has been posted on the City’s Facebook page.

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Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

Joanne Philbrick, Norwichtown, spoke that there are too many Committees and that some people have limited technology to attend virtually.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be re-appointed as **regular members** of the Uncas Health District with a term to expire on January 09, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Frank J. Jacaruso, Jr. (D)
 Rebecca Melucci (U)

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as **regular members** of the Uncas Health District with a term to expire on January 09, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Jose-Michael Gonzalez (D)
 Pam Aubin (D)

Upon a motion of Ald. Singh, seconded by Ald. Gould, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be re-appointed as **regular members** of the Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2022 or until a successor is appointed:

Rebecca Melucci (U)
Judith Magnano (U)

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as **regular members** of the Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2022 or until a successor is appointed:

Marianne Nicholas (D)
Robert Harris (R)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a **regular member** of the Norwich Ice Arena Authority with a term to expire on April 01, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Mark Sicuso (D)

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as a **regular member** of the Southeastern CT Water Authority with a term to expire on September 1, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Christopher Seery (D)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as an **alternate member** to the Historic District Commission with a term to expire on December 31, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Peter Jacob Stahl (R)

Upon a motion of Ald. Singh, seconded by Ald. Gould, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as a **regular member** of the Recreation Advisory Board with a term to expire on March 15, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Jeffrey R. Brown (U)

Upon a motion of Ald. Singh, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has re-appointed with Council approval as a **regular member** to the Redevelopment Agency for a term to expire on 2/28/27 or until a successor is appointed;

Mark Kulos (D)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointment of the above named to the Redevelopment Agency.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and Wilson.

WHEREAS, the law firm of Scott & Scott is representing the City of Norwich and 26 other cities and towns located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Virginia in a suit against Collegium Pharmaceutical Inc. with respect to its sale of opioids, such sales commencing in 2016; and

WHEREAS, there was an initial failed mediation to resolve this matter conducted in the Autumn of 2020, with the mediator continuing to periodically reach out to the parties to assess a possibility of settlement; and

WHEREAS, such efforts have now resulted in a proposed settlement designed to settle all 27 cases pursuant to an allocation plan recommended by a damages expert using principally three factors in the allocation plan: the relative populations of the municipalities, the relative harm; as measured by the amount of historical opioid sales in each municipality; and the litigation risk; and

WHEREAS, the total amount to be paid by Collegium Pharmaceutical Inc. will be \$2,750,000 from which Norwich is to receive approximately \$29,399.38 within 30-60 days of a collective approval of the settlement; and

WHEREAS, Scott & Scott has recommended to Norwich and the other municipalities it represents that each accept this settlement and has circulated a proposed Collegium Settlement Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to participate in this settlement and to authorize a representative of the City of Norwich to enter into a Settlement Agreement by March 1, 2022 as requested by Scott & Scott.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that City Manager John Salomone and/or Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll be and hereby are authorized and directed to enter into a Settlement Agreement with Collegium Pharmaceutical Inc. by execution and delivery of a Settlement Agreement as described herein as instructed by Scott & Scott as well as such other documents as may be necessary to effectuate the settlement.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem DeLucia, seconded by Ald. Singh, it was unanimously voted to refer the below to the Commission on the City Plan, Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, CT DEEP, Towns: Lisbon, Preston, Bozrah, Montville, Franklin Sprague and Preston, Water Companies: NPU and Montville WPCA, waive the full reading of the text and set a public hearing on April 4, 2022 at 6:30 pm for the second reading and action for the following ordinance introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and Wilson.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 9 DEFINITIONS, SECTION 9.2 DEFINED TERMS, OF THE ZONING REGULATIONS TO ADD MANUFACTURING RELATED TERMS, INCLUDING MANUFACTURING, ADVANCED MANUFACTURING, FOOD MANUFACTURING, PRECISION MANUFACTURING, RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, AND RESEARCH LABORATORIES

WHEREAS, the Norwich Zoning Regulations in Chapter 9 Definitions at Section 9.2 Defined Terms define certain words for purposes of the Zoning Regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich as Zoning Commission finds that adding certain Manufacturing and Research and Development related terms to the defined terms will assist in interpreting and implementing the Zoning Regulations.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that Section 9.2 of Chapter 9 of the Zoning Regulations be amended by adding the following terms as listed herein, said amendment to take effect on the 10th day following passage and publication of this ordinance pursuant to Section 11 of Chapter V of the Code of Ordinances of the Charter of the City of Norwich.

9.2 Defined Terms

Manufacturing Related Terms

Manufacturing is the process of turning raw materials or parts into finished goods through the use of tools, human labor, machinery, and chemical processing. The production, cultivation of food and beverages and other consumable products is allowed as Manufacturing, Advanced Manufacturing, Precision Manufacturing and Research and Development.

Advanced manufacturing is the use of innovative technologies to create products. Advanced manufacturing can include production activities that depend on information, automation, computation, software, sensing, and networking.

Precision manufacturing is the machining of individual pieces that requires identical parts to be created in large quantities for industries such as medical and aeronautical.

Research and Development (R&D) includes activities directed toward the innovation, introduction, and improvement of products and processes.

Research Laboratories means a facility, or a specially designated area of a facility used primarily for research, development, and testing activity, and not primarily involved in the production of goods for commercial sale.

Research and Development – See Manufacturing

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:36 pm.



City Clerk