

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held March 21, 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 and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

Ald. Wilson read the opening prayer and Ald. Neuendorf 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.

Brian Kobylarz, 16 Hobart Ave, he asked to revive the Chelsea Arts District from 2009, 80% of the work is already done we just need to incorporate it into the Cultural Arts District Program.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, felt that the City caused damage to his rental property and felt he should be compensated.

Chris Portelance, 10 Dukinfield Dr, asked the Council to look into fixing the six tennis courts.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Pl, talked about the budget and asked the Council to plan for the future.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following explanation of resolutions regarding the transfer of certain real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property taxes into the suspense account.



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March 16, 2022

To: Mayor Peter A. Nystrom and Members of the Norwich City Council through City Manager John Salomone

Explanation of resolutions regarding the transfer of certain real estate, motor vehicle, and personal property taxes into the suspense account

There are two proposed resolutions for your consideration for the next City Council meeting agenda regarding the transfer of certain property taxes into the "suspense account." I've prepared a brief explanation of these two resolutions below.

Real Estate

Pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §12-165, the Tax Collector must research each real estate tax account which she deems as not being collectible prior to presenting them to the City Council. There are different reasons for her to request that the tax account be transferred to the suspense tax book, including: mobile home abandoned and owner deceased or cannot be located, mobile home was removed without consent, property is contaminated, title issues, etc.

The properties presented in the resolution for your consideration at the March 21, 2022 meeting are ones that the City of Norwich does NOT wish to acquire, either by tax sale or foreclosure and to date all attempts to collect the taxes have been unsuccessful.

Motor Vehicle and Personal Property

CGS § 12-165 states the Tax Collector at least once each fiscal year shall transfer into the suspense account any personal property and motor vehicle taxes which are deemed uncollectible. The resolution

on the March 21, 2022 agenda is to transfer the uncollected motor vehicle and personal property taxes from the October 2018 grand list into suspense.

In Summary

To consider these accounts as assets when it is believed that they will never be recouped does not help the City get an accurate picture of its finances. However, it is important to remember that while these property taxes are not **deemed** collectible, they **are** collectible and payment of the taxes would be accepted until the 15 year collection period is over.

An oral report from Paul Decelles, Facilitator of Decision Point LLC, regarding the City Manager goal setting meeting ([Strategic Planning Meeting - Full report](#)).

CITY MANAGERS REPORT

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: March 21, 2022

Meetings attended were with State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments (SCCOG), Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), Region 4 Emergency Support Plan, NPU-City Coordination meeting, Parking Commission, and meeting with the Fire Chiefs.

Through March 18th, Norwich Public Works, has responded to 16 winter weather events this season. While many of these events did not produce significant amounts of snow, they did require treatment of the roads. Many of the storms occurred on weekends and nights, requiring a fairly significant amount of overtime. NPW also plowed and treated the Dodd Stadium lot for the COVID testing. They have used nearly 1800 tons of salt to date, for a material cost of \$75,000. On Friday March 11th, NPW assisted with a Community Clean-up which Jason Bakoulis of NFA had organized, as in in-service afternoon for teachers and staff. NPW provided gloves and bags, and then collected the trash bags in the downtown area, and along the Heritage trail.

The City of Norwich Departments of Community Development, Planning & Neighborhood Services, and Human Services, in collaboration with the Norwich Housing Authority, have been working toward the development of an Affordable Housing Plan which is due to the State of Connecticut by June 1, 2022. Input is requested from residents, property owners, and other stakeholders at a community meeting that will be held on Wednesday, April 6th at 6:00 pm at City Hall, room 319 or via Zoom. Details are available on the City's website at www.norwichct.org.

The Recreation Spring Session has begun with over 40 classes including youth yoga, safe sitter babysitting and an April vacation camp. Scholarships are available for all classes and programs. Please contact the Recreation Department for more information.

The 2022 Neighborhood Assistance Act Program Proposal applications are available through the State of Connecticut Department of Revenue Services and the City website. The City Manager's Office will be accepting applications until June 1st, 2022 with a public hearing scheduled for June 20th to ensure the applications can be submitted to the state before the July 1st deadline.

Thank you to the employees that donated to the 2022 United Way Campaign and to Deanna Rhodes, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services, for her assistance with this year's campaign.

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 on resolutions.

Brian Kobylarz, 16 Hobart Ave, stated he was impressed to see the amount of candidates for the various boards and committees and spoke in favor of Resolution #14.

Bob Staley, 18 Montgomery Ln, Chairman of Norwich Public Utilities Commissioners (Sewer Authority) asked the Council to support the candidate for Resolution #2.

Deanna Rhodes, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services, asked for support from the Council on resolution #15.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Burto, 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 appointed with Councils approval as a regular member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/24 or until a successor is appointed;

David S. Martin (R)
Robert Phoenix (D)
Dorothy Travers (D)

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has appointed with Councils approval as an alternate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/24 or until a successor is appointed;

Gregory Schlough (D)

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, 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 a member to the Board of Public Utilities Commissioners and the Sewer Authority for a term to expire on March 01, 2027 or until a successor is appointed;

Stewart Peil (R)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, 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 regular member to the Building Code Board of Appeals with a term to expire on January 7, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

John Andrews (R)

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, 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.

RESOLVED, that the following be, and hereby is, re-appointed to the CT Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative CMEEC, as the Rate Payer Representative, for terms to expire January 15, 2024 or until a successor is appointed.

David Eggleston (D)

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 Ald. Gould, Burto and Wilson.

RESOLVED, that the following be, and hereby are re-appointed as regular members to the Ethics Commission for terms to expire October 18, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.

Karen Lucas (D)
Scott Camassar (R)
Robin Lawson (R)

RESOLVED, that the following be, and hereby are appointed as regular members to the Ethics Commission for terms to expire October 18, 2023 or until a successor is appointed.

Robert Drozynski (D)
Lori Poof (U)

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, 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 regular members of the Commission for the Persons with Disabilities with a term to expire on March 16, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Mark Marcy (D)
Julie Menders (D)

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as regular member of the Commission for the Persons with Disabilities with a term to expire on March 16, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Joanne Philbrick (U)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, 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 reappointed as a regular member of the Recreation Advisory Board with a term to expire on March 15, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Julie Feindt-Cagle (D)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, 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 following be, and hereby are reappointed as a regular member to the Personnel & Pension Board for a term to expire March 1, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Shiela Hayes (D)

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as an alternate member to the Personnel & Pension Board with a term to expire on March 1, 2024 or until a successor is appointed:

Francis Gavigan (R)

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Singh, 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 to the Senior Affairs Commission with a term to expire on September 1, 2023 or until a successor is appointed:

Joanne Philbrick (U)

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 City Manager Salomone.

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 2018, 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 \$369,570.27 is the total outstanding motor vehicle tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018, to be transferred to the suspense tax book and \$48,274.21 is the total outstanding personal property tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018, 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 \$369,570.27 and personal property taxes of \$48,274.21 on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

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 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 2020 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 \$127,333.27 in real estate tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2020, 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 \$127,333.27 representing uncollectible real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2020, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

Unique ID	Address	List Years Due	Taxes Due
1000020562	56 ALICE ST	2020	1031.18
0112180001	HOLLAND AVE	2020	2582.80
0112190001	20 CROWN ST	2020	1410.56
0108790001	751 NORTH MAIN ST	2020	598.28
0081360001	5 TH CANAL END OF STREET	2020	6517.76
1200020001	BEEBE RD	2020	220.22
0049540001	117 RIVER AVW	2020	102.16
0057480001	35 LAMBERT DR REAR	2020	21.19
7125620001	LAUREL HILL RD	2020	72.01
0100340001	97 FOREST ST	2020	486.40
0023810001	OAKRIDGE ST	2020	719.88
0180010227	252 OLD CANTERBURY TPKE 27	2012-2019	7976.94
00830010040	450 ASYLUM ST	2016-2020	770.32
0067690001	252 OLD CANTERBURY TPKE 50	2015	450.26
0069580001	91 ATLANTIC AVE	2008-2016	5763.60
0220190001	HANSEN RD	2009-2020	3501.70
0990010010	GIFFORD ST/51 GIFFORD ST	2015-2019	8724.19
0900010094	303 MOHEGAN PARK RD 94	2009-2020	4047.51
011354001	252 OLD CANTERBURY TPKE 51	2013-2019	4678.08
0050250001	136 HUNTERS RD 111	2012-2019	4077.52
0107240001	191 CHARLES ST	2012-2020	25262.88
1090030020	21 MOUNTAIN AVE	2014-2019	8227.16
0078180001	48 REYNOLDS ST EXT	2015-2019	18230.16
0360010015	23 HUNTERS RD 15	2015-2020	3810.47
009172000	156 PALMER ST	2013-2020	18050.04
TOTAL			127,333.27

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

WHEREAS, the R.E. Van Norstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act, Chapter 228a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S. 12-630aa-12-638) offers certain benefits to municipalities desiring to obtain the same and is administered by the State Department of Revenue Services (Commission of Revenue Services); and

WHEREAS, the Neighborhood Assistance Act provides a tax credit for business firms which sponsor local programs; and

WHEREAS, such programs must be proposed and conducted by private non-profit agencies or municipalities and be approved by the local legislative body;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH: A public hearing will be held on June 20, 2022 to review applications and receive comments relative to the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

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

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich wishes to recognize and honor veterans in recognition of their service and sacrifice; and

WHEREAS, veteran's organizations sponsor a number of events to be held in Norwich which the council wishes to recognize including:

- The Annual Vietnam Veteran's Day Program to be held Saturday, April 30, 2022;
- The Annual Memorial Day Parade and Program to be held Monday, May 30, 2022;
- Bastille Day to be held on Thursday, July 14, 2022;
- The Annual Korean Veteran's Day to be held on Saturday, July 30, 2022;
- The Annual "Tribute to America Program", TBA;
- Veteran's Day Program to be held on Friday, November 11, 2022, at Post 594, 30 Connecticut Ave.;
- Pearl Harbor Day to be held Wednesday, December 7, 2022.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the City of Norwich welcomes all who will be participating in these programs and parade and extends its thanks to them, taking this opportunity to express its continuing support for Norwich's veterans and to extend its gratitude to them on behalf of the citizens of the City of Norwich.

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 Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem DeLucia and Ald. Gould.

WHEREAS, Global City Norwich has hosted and proposes to hold a number of events and festivals to be held in downtown Norwich as well as other location within the city; and

WHEREAS, it has prepared a list of said festivals, some still proposed as to date or location, recognizing that certain dates or location may need to be changed; and

WHEREAS, the festivals and events currently scheduled are as follows:

- Friday, March 25, 2022, Greek Independence Flag Raising Ceremony at City Hall;
- Wednesday, May 18, 2022, Haitian Flag Day
- Saturday, May 21, 2022, Haitian Festival held downtown;
- Saturday, May 28, 2022, Cape Verdean Festival held downtown;
- Sunday, May 29, 2022, Polish Festival
- Saturday, June 11, 2022, Puerto Rican Festival held downtown;
- Saturday, June 18, 2022, Juneteenth Day held downtown;
- Sunday, June 19, 2022, Juneteenth Flag Raising Ceremony;
- Sunday, July 24, 2022, Peruvian Festival held downtown;
- Thursday, July 28, 2022, Peruvian Independence Flag Raising Ceremony;
- Sunday, August 7, 2022, Dominican Festival held downtown;
- Sunday, September 4, 2022, One World Day;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the Council is in support of each of the proposed festivals and events.

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 Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem DeLucia and Ald. Gould.

WHEREAS, on June 22, 2021, Governor Ned Lamont signed Public Act No. 21-1, which legalized the adult use of cannabis products and established a framework for regulating the cannabis industry in Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, Cannabis Establishments, as defined in Public Act No. 21-1, including producer, dispensary facility, cultivator, micro-cultivator, retailer, hybrid retailer, food and beverage manufacturer, product manufacturer, product packager, delivery service or transporter, are to be licensed by the Connecticut Department of Consumer Protection; and

WHEREAS, a legal cannabis retailer or hybrid retailer establishment must also receive municipal zoning approval; and

WHEREAS, Public Act No. 21-1 authorizes a municipal government to regulate certain aspects pertaining to Cannabis Establishments locally by amendment to its municipal zoning regulations or by local ordinance, regulation including the location of sales for a variety of cannabis related businesses; and

WHEREAS, Section 148 at subsection (c) of Public Act No. 21-1 provides that should a municipality choose not to address Cannabis Establishments specifically through its zoning regulations or ordinances, a Cannabis Establishment shall be zoned as if for any other similar use, other than a Cannabis Establishment, would be zoned; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich is both the legislative body and zoning authority for the city of Norwich, and as the zoning authority may interpret its zoning regulations to provide guidance to the

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Burto, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:45 pm.



City Clerk