

A regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held May 2, 2016 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Hinchey, Aldermen Nystrom, Philbrick, Gould, Braddock, Martin and Nash. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Hinchey presided.

Ald. Martin read the opening prayer and Ald. Gould led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of April 4 & 18 and Public Hearing April 13, 2016.

Ald. Gould read the following Proclamation:



Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, it was unanimously voted to accept the following communication.

Date: April 26, 2016

To: Norwich City Council

Re: 105-122 Chestnut Street

The project is going along very well. After reviewing the project on weekly bases, the committee has requested an extension. At this time, we would like to ask for an extension of 60 days from April 2016 to June 2016 for the completion of the project.

Sincerely,



H. Tucker Braddock  
Chair

Upon motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to accept the following communication.

Mayor Hinchey read the following letter from the State of Connecticut Department of Public Health:

STATE OF CONNECTICUT  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH



Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Dannel P. Malloy  
Governor  
Nancy Wyman  
Lt. Governor

April 14, 2016

The Honorable Deb Hinchey, Mayor  
City of Norwich  
100 Broadway  
Norwich, CT 06360

Dear Mayor Hinchey:

On behalf of the Connecticut Department of Public Health and the American Heart Association, congratulations to your community for having met the renewal requirements of a designated HEARTSafe community.

This three-year re-designation, effective December 27, 2015, recognizes your community's continued commitment to provide improved cardiac response and care to the residents of your community utilizing the "Chain of Survival" of early 9-1-1 access, cardiopulmonary resuscitation, defibrillation and advanced care.

We commend you on your efforts to continue to save lives and improve the health of your community.

Sincerely,

Raul Pino, M.D., M.P.H.  
Commissioner

Cc: Gregory Allard, VP, American Ambulance Service, Inc.



Phone: (860) 509-8000 • Fax: (860) 509-7184  
410 Capitol Avenue, P.O. Box 340308  
Hartford, Connecticut 06134-0308  
[www.ct.gov/dph](http://www.ct.gov/dph)

Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer

Mayor Hinchey called for citizen comment on resolutions.

Bonnie Hong, 167 Washington St, spoke against the proposed budget stating they effect the neediest citizens in the community. She also talked about NPU's contribution and suggested an increase. She also talked about eliminating a fire department and merging two and consolidating functions and tasks where possible.

Laurie Danis, 21 Patrick Place, a local business person, asked not to cut taxes on the library or education budgets. She talked about Otis Library being the best asset of the downtown and also the recipient of the 2016 National Medal Award.

Kathleen Wieland, 495 Laurel Hill Rd, spoke in support of the Otis Library stating they employ more residents and not using social services. She talked about how the library helps adults and children with public computers and that this service would be hard to maintain with funding cuts.

Bob Farwell, 50 Mistuxet Ave, Mystic, Director of Otis Library, stated it was a victory to win the 2016 National Metal Award recognizing his staff for this achievement. He stated the library pays more insurance in all the city and the reduction would limit the library so he is asking not to reduce this item.

Patrice Bernier, 69 Quarto Rd, spoke about the new technology that the library has, that the computers are fully used and that essential changes need to be maintained.

Susan Goldman, 35 Sherwood Lane, stated she was disappointed with resolution #1 and asked what message does this sends to our families who live in town and the families we want to attract if we cut these services: fire dept., school, social services and the library. She talked about the very small amount of saving that would be recognized with the proposed cuts. She suggested consolidating services to save money.

Joann Martin, 46 Clifton Pl, asked why the reduction in the City Fire department when they are staffed and ready to go at a moment's notice 24-7-365. She asked not to remove it from the budget it will only save pennies per month.

Chantel Gibson, 3 Robbins Court, asked not to cut the social worker from the Norwich Human Services because they help to provide stable housing for people in need and provide other needed services.

Larry Goldman, 35 Sherwood Lane, stated some council members ran on a platform to cut taxes. He stated this proposed resolution is cutting into the heart of the City services stating this Council needs to represent all the citizens of the City. He stated the proposed cuts would only save the TCD \$5.75 and the CCD 6.85 per month and felt these services far outweigh the savings. He stated the future revenue needs to be increased.

Joyce Werden, 13 Lost Acres Rd, questioned how we can cut taxes and hold on to the important service in our community. She stated we need to invest in the future.

Bud McAllister, 83 Mansfield Rd, New London stated he works with the social service department and asked that no cuts be made to this department because the impact will have drastic effects on people in need of various services offered by this department.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Pl, urged the council to follow thru with their promises to cut taxes. She stated it wouldn't be easy and that the public is behind them in these tough decisions.

Dennis Slopak, 8 N 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Vice Chair of the BOE, told the City Manager that he did an admirable job with the budget. He talked about how the Board of Education gives back and makes concessions, the increase is mostly due to raising health costs. He asked not to cut the budget on the backs of our children.

Abby Dolliver, 6 Deepwood Dr stated the importance of providing a quality education to our students and that the staff provides wonderful opportunities for learning to all students. She stated that they incur many costs that are out of their control such as insurance and the NFA tuition costs which make up most of the budget. She also talked about the great achievements in the NPS system.

Gregg Grippo, 209 Boswell Ave, spoke in support of resolution #3 and that the City Historian is a local treasure. He also talked about the Blight Officer being a full time position a people should be aware of blight and call him for a resolve.

Lee-Ann Gomes, 39 Tanglewood, Director at Norwich Human Services, asked the council to keep the case worker because they are already losing other members of the staff. She stated her budget was reduced as per the Acting City Manager by 5% and has consolidated some services. She talked about the State and Federal mandates and that one case works can't cover the load of services.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, stated the council has a tough job and stated that we can't afford the government we have now. He felt business won't come to Norwich with the raising of taxes and he asked that the taxes be reduced.

Keith Ripley, 9 Meadow Lane believes in the safety of the fire dept., police, school system and social services. He talked about having to use the computers at the library and how helpful they were. He talked about the referendum question and asked this council to listen to the voters.

Stephen MacKenzie, 19B Thames St Groton, representing SECTER, asked not to cut this non-profit economic development agency dollar amount from the budget. He stated this agency works to increase revenue by marketing the City.

Joe East, 35 1/2 Lincoln Ave, talked about the budget cuts that would only save the taxpayers a few dollars a month. He talked about the negative impact to cutting NHS and the school and asked for the council to reconsider these cuts.

Elanah Sherman, 65 Cedar St, spoke in opposition to resolution #1 and stated it punishes the outreaching work of NHS and the library and we should be celebrating their contributions to our City. She stated education is the lynchpin to economic development and felt we need to allocate wisely and not cut foolishly and invest in Norwich.

Samuel Browning, 671 Scotland Rd, talked about the NHS fuel assistance program and how it helps people who have fallen on hard times and the case worker is needed to keep up with the case load.

Yvette Jacaruso, 192 Wightman Ave, spoke in favor of the Board of Education budget and asked not to cut it for the cut would result in a loss of administrative staff, increased class sizes, reduced or lost ESL teachers, causing less academic growth. She stated this is an urban area and needs the help. She asked the council to think carefully about their vote tonight.

Pete Desaulniers, 26 Lucas Park Rd, stated it is ill advised to cut the education budget at this time. He also doesn't support the cut to the library after they put Norwich on the map as #5 in the nation. He talked about not cutting the fire department which could disrupting the chain of command.

Robert Groner, 89 Lawler Ln, asked not to eliminate the NHS case worker and talked about the many programs offered by this department.

Bart Sayet, 37 Butternut Dr, congratulated the Otis Library for being awarded the National Medal Award. He felt that the library fills the void as the community center for the City and is a safe harbor for students. He asked to increase their budget by 10% stating it is an essential tool that Norwich has to offer.

Melissa Cheslog, 63 Flyers Dr, talked about the students in the school system and that 80% receive free lunch, 35% need special services, 14% where English is a second language, 7% are homeless and that next year there could be 29 students per class. She asked to reconsider the cuts.

Michael Kaiser, 171 Harland Rd, talked about the difficult decision the council has to make. He is amazed at the job that human services does with such little staff. He is proud of the library winning the award and stated it is a testament to the director and his staff and how the library is a safety net for some. He is worried about the safety in the schools with the inadequate funding.

Gabe Lipmann, 148 McKinley Ave, spoke against the cuts in the Board of Education budget stating "you can't put students first if you put teachers last". She asked why the NFA tuition bill is encumbered by the NPS.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, talked about real estate, energy saving, the board of Education budget, NCDC and the ice rink. He stated be thorough work smarter.

Sara Ofner Seals, 103 Sherwood Ln, Minister, Park Congregational Church, was concerned by the budget cuts to the Board of Education, Library and Human Services budget which will adversely effect youth and senior services. She spoke about Human Services being under staffed and asked who will pick up the slack and talked about churches, other agencies and community nonprofits being at their limit. She urged to reconsider these cuts.

Jillian Corbin, 40 Allen Dr, Uncasville, Executive Director Norwich Soup Kitchen, stated that Norwich Human Services is an essential agency in Norwich with a strong foundation and dedicated staff which encourages people to work together. She felt the reduction would have an effect on other departments and reduce state grants. She stated that Norwich Human Services is a safety net for citizens.

Renee Kohanski, 289 New London Tpke, thanked the Council for taking on this difficult task and asked to follow through on making these difficult choices and don't raise the taxes but cut the spending.

Kerri Simons, 38 Woodland Dr, spoke in opposition to cutting the school budget stating it will have a negative impact on our students.

Janice Sawicki, 39 Andria Ln, asked to clarify when you are cutting positions why are you hiring a new position an Assistant City Manager.

Marge Blizzard, 119 Cedar St, talked about how the Library revitalizes the downtown and brings people from every demographic to the city. She feels if the library isn't funded no one would need to come to the City. She asked the Council to fund the Library.

Donna Ralston, 4 Whitehall Landing Mystic, Norwich Assessor, talked about filing the largest increase in the grand list due to a program her office used this year. She talked about several new programs in the office and needs the staff to implement them, she asked not to cut the staff.

Shiela Hayes, 288 Central Ave, asked the council if they were going to make real cuts (deep cuts) or safe cuts.

Billie Shea, Stanton School Principal, talked about the positive progress in the school system such as a decrease of intervention, academics on the rise and sited the amazing staff and stated this can't all be done by reducing the budget.

John Blackburn, 15 Alice St, stated that every year taxes always raise and asked the council to cut this budget.

Mayor Hinchey declared citizen comment closed.

Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, it was voted to put the following resolution on the floor introduced by Ald. Gould and Philbrick.

**RESOLVED**, that the proposed preliminary budget for Fiscal Year 2016-17, as amended by Exhibits 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5 herein, be tentatively adopted, with a public hearing scheduled for Monday, May 9, 2016 at 7:00 PM in the Council Chambers of City Hall.

Upon motion of President Pro Tem Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to divide into exhibits.

Motion to amend by Ald. Nash, second by Ald. Philbrick, it was unanimously voted to go line item.

Exhibit 1

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item unanimously passes (to reduce) on a vote of 7-0.

Reduction to Communications line items	53-119	Various	80033	(47,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item unanimously passes (to reduce) on a vote of 7-0.

Reduce salary for Executive Assistant	54	City Manager	80012	(5,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item passes (to remove) on a vote of 5-2 with Mayor Hinchey and Ald. Braddock opposed.

Remove Assessment Data Entry Clerk as of 8/1/16	61	Assessor	80012	(34,796)
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Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item passes (to remove) on a vote of 5-2 with Mayor Hinchey and Ald. Braddock opposed.

Fringe Benefits on Assessment Data Entry Clerk	61	Assessor	89999	(17,651)
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Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item failed (is removed) on a vote of 2-5 with President Pro Tem Nystrom, Ald. Philbrick, Gould, Martin and Nash voting in opposed.

Add Clerk position as of 8/1/16	61	Assessor	80012	19,204
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item failed (is removed) on a vote of 1-6 with Mayor Hinchey, President Pro Tem Nystrom, Ald. Philbrick, Gould, Martin and Nash voting in opposed.

Fringe Benefits for Clerk	61	Assessor	89999	8,964
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item unanimously failed (is removed).

Add Clerk position as of 8/1/16	61	City Clerk	80012	19,204
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Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item unanimously failed (is removed).

Fringe Benefits for Clerk	61	City Clerk	89999	8,964
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Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item passes (to remove) on a vote of 5-2 with Mayor Hinchey and Ald. Braddock opposed.

Remove Firefighter	123	Fire	80012	(54,340)
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Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item passes (to remove) on a vote of 5-2 with Mayor Hinchey and Ald. Braddock opposed.

Fringe Benefits on Firefighter	123	Fire	89999	(15,788)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item passes (to remove) on a vote of 6-1 with Ald. Martin opposed.

Cut funding for Community Center market research study	117	City Council	10217-80015	(37,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item unanimously passes (to remove).

Remove funding for replacement of 2001 Chevy Tahoe Battalion Chief vehicle	117	Norwich Fire	10217-88423	(50,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item unanimously passes (to reduce).

Cut 25 firefighter safety escape kits	118	EGP VFD	10217-88423	(17,500)
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Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item unanimously passes (to reduce).

Reduce funding for helmet and shield replacements by 50%	118	Yantic	10217-88427	(10,200)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item passes on a vote of 6-1 with Ald. Martin opposed.

Increase funding for road and parking lot resurfacing and preventative maintenance	118	Public Works	10217-88600	114,700
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Exhibit 2

Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item passes (to reduce) on a vote of 6-1 with Mayor Hinchey opposed.

Reduce Professional Services to \$20,000	61	Assessor	80015	(5,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Martin, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item passes (to reduce) on a vote of 5-2 with Mayor Hinchey and Ald. Braddock opposed.

Reduce Council Contingency to \$15,000	68	City Council	81000	(10,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, the following resolution was put on the floor.  
The below line item passes (to reduce) on a vote of 6-1 with Mayor Hinchey opposed.

Reduce NCDC funding to \$135,000	68	City Council	87112	(10,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item failed (to eliminate) a vote of 1-6 with Mayor Hinchey, President Pro Tem Nystrom, Ald. Philbrick, Braddock, Gould and Nash voting in opposed.

Eliminate SECTER funding	68	City Council	87113	(14,173)
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Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item unanimously passes (to eliminate).

Eliminate Community Center Committee funding	68	City Council	89S99	(1,000)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item failed (to remove) on a vote of 3-4 with Mayor Hinchey, Ald. Philbrick, Gould and Martin voting in opposed.

Remove Human Services Caseworker	90	Adult & Family Services	80012	(58,830)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Nash, the following resolution was put on the floor. The below line item failed (to remove) on a vote of 3-4 with Mayor Hinchey, Ald. Philbrick, Gould and Martin voting in opposed.

Fringe Benefits on Caseworker	90	Adult & Family Services	80012	(19,483)
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Exhibit 3

Upon motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item failed (to reduce) on a vote of 0-7 with Mayor Hinchey, President Pro Tem Nystrom, Philbrick, Braddock, Gould, Martin and Nash voting opposed.

Motion by Ald. Nash, second by Mayor Hinchey to increase this item from 2% to 2.7% an increase of \$518,000 the below motion fails on a vote of 3-4 with President Pro Tem Nystrom, Philbrick, Gould and Martin voting opposed.

Decrease NPS budget to \$74,740,000	111	Norwich Public Schools	80700	(740,000)
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Exhibit 4

Upon motion of Ald. Martin, seconded by Ald. Braddock, the following resolution was put on the floor.

Motion to amend by Ald. Martin, second by Ald. Hinchey to substitute \$67,000 for the \$130,000 the amendment passes (to reduce) on a vote of 7-0.

Motion as amended passes.

Reduce Otis Library funding to \$1,000,000	115	Non-Department	80077	(130,000)
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Exhibit 5

Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item failed (to remove) on a vote of 1-6 with Mayor Hinchey, Ald. Philbrick, Braddock, Gould, Martin and Nash voting in opposed.

Remove 1 Battalion Chief	75	Norwich Fire	80012	(79,983)
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Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Martin, the following resolution was put on the floor.

The below line item failed (to remove) on a vote of 0-7 with Mayor Hinchey, President Pro Tem Nystrom, Ald. Philbrick, Braddock, Gould, Martin and Nash voting in opposed.

Fringe Benefits for Battalion Chief	75	Norwich Fire	89999	(16,160)
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The below resolution passed as amended in Exhibit 1 above.

<b>Exhibit 1</b>				
Description	Page #	Department	Line #	Change in Expenditures
<b>General Fund</b>				
Reduction to Communications line items	53-119	Various	80033	(47,000)
Reduce salary for Executive Assistant	54	City Manager	80012	(5,000)
Remove Assessment Data Entry Clerk as of 8/1/16	61	Assessor	80012	(34,796)
Fringe Benefits on Assessment Data Entry Clerk	61	Assessor	89999	(17,651)
Reduce Professional Services to \$20,000	61	Assessor	80015	(5,000)
Reduce Council Contingency to \$15,000	68	City Council	81000	(10,000)
Reduce NCDC funding to \$135,000	68	City Council	87112	(10,000)
Eliminate Community Center Committee funding	68	City Council	89S99	(1,000)
Reduce Otis Library funding to \$1,000,000	115	Non-Department	80077	(67,000)
Total Changes to General Fund Budget		Total Changes to General Fund Budget		<b>(197,447)</b>
<b>City Consolidated Fire District</b>				
Remove Firefighter	123	Fire	80012	(54,340)
Fringe Benefits on Firefighter	123	Fire	89999	(15,788)
Total Changes to CCD Budget		Total Changes to CCD Budget		<b>(70,128)</b>
<b>Capital Budget</b>				
Cut funding for Community Center market research study	117	City Council	10217-80015	(37,000)
Remove funding for replacement of 2001 Chevy Tahoe Battalion Chief vehicle	117	Norwich Fire	10217-88423	(50,000)
Cut 25 firefighter safety escape kits	118	EGP VFD	10217-88423	(17,500)
Reduce funding for helmet and shield replacements by 50%	118	Yantic	10217-88427	(10,200)
Increase funding for road and parking lot resurfacing and preventative maintenance	118	Public Works	10217-88600	114,700
Total Changes to Capital Budget		Total Changes to Capital Budget		<b>-</b>

		<b>Appropriations</b>		
		Proposed Budget Submitted April 4, 2016	Changes on May 2, 2016	Tentatively Adopted Budget - May 2, 2016
General Fund		123,908,290	(197,447)	123,710,843
Town Consolidated Fire District		584,174	-	584,174
City Consolidated Fire District		7,326,525	(70,128)	7,256,397
		<b>Mill Rates</b>		
		Proposed Budget Submitted April 4, 2016	Changes on May 2, 2016	Tentatively Adopted Budget - May 2, 2016
General Fund		41.63	(0.13)	41.50
Town Consolidated Fire District		0.48	-	0.48
City Consolidated Fire District		7.13	(0.14)	6.99

Upon motion of Ald. Braddock, 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 recommended the following re-appointments to the Public Parking Commission;

Re-appointed as **regular members** of the Public Parking Commission for a term to expire on 12/31/17 or until successors are appointed:

Jeffery Lord (R)  
Sean Ryan (D)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby approves the re-appointments of the above named to the Public Parking Commission.

Upon a motion of Ald. Braddock, seconded by Ald. Gould, to put the following resolution on the floor introduced by City Manager Salomone.

**WHEREAS**, the term of the City Historian expired on August 20, 2015 and the current City Historian, Dale Plummer wishes to be re-appointed to another three year term; and

**WHEREAS**, City Manager John L. Salomone has re-appointed Dale Plummer (R) as City Historian for a term to expire August 20, 2018.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby approves the re-appointment of the above named as City Historian.

Upon motion to Ald. Martin, seconded by Ald. Braddock, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 10:36 pm.

*Betsy Bannard*

CITY CLERK