

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held April 15, 2019, at 7:35 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 citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, talked about the relationships in government on the Federal, State and Local levels and felt spending is out of control.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, asked for the Council to think about being fiscally responsible and not to bond any items.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Place, thanked the Council for the handicap parking place at Mohegan Park.

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: April 15, 2019

I attended the monthly NCDC meeting, the Mayors Economic Development meeting and the CCM Board of Directors meeting. I met with staff and members of Board of Education for an update on the traffic issues on Rt. 82 with Mahan School which has improved and we are working on a long term solution.

The Mayor, staff and I have met with the owner and representatives of the City' baseball team to finalize the document to renew the lease. The team has sent out a press release and is looking for fan input for a new team name reflecting our community. I encourage you to visit the CT Tigers website and submit your suggestions. Top choices will be released in the summer for voting.

I held a press conference with the local newspapers and radio station for the upcoming budget advising them of the hearing dates and potential mill rate.

Interviews were held for Public Works Director Position. I appointed Acting-Public Works Director Patrick McLaughlin effective April 15th, 2019. Pat has been the City Engineer for the past 8 years. I wish him continued success in his new position.

More than thirty 2nd graders from Mahan School visited City Hall on March 27th. Mayor Nystrom, Alderman Bill Nash, City Clerk, Betsy Barrett, Executive Assistant, Jacque Barbarossa, and the Mayor's Secretary, Bonnie Cuprak,

participated in the tour for the students and chaperones. The students sent colorful thank you note packets to the City stating how much they enjoyed the trip and what they learned.

Norwich Youth and Family Services have received 11 nominations to recognize National Youth Service Day. The reception will be held at 4 pm on Friday, May 3rd in Council Chambers.

Congratulations to Detective Ryan Kelsey of the Norwich Police Department. I received notification from the State's Attorney that Detective Ryan Kelsey of the Norwich Police Department has been selected to be a recipient of the 2018 Tolland State's Attorney's Office Police Officer of the Year Award and will be honored at a ceremony at a date and time yet to be determined. I would also, like to thank Officer Keven McNeill for a job well done. On March 14th, Officer McNeill observed a blind male trying to cross the dangerous Washington Square. He stopped his cruiser and other traffic and assisted the man across the street. A female in a stopped car took a picture and posted it to her Facebook page. My assistant posted the photos to the City's Facebook page and it's become one of the City's most popular posts.

I have attached the City department and Norwich Community Development reports for quarter ending March 31, 2019.

[Manager's Quarterly Departmental Reports to City Council](#)

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, spoke on Resolution #5 and encouraged passing Resolution #2.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, spoke in opposition to tolls.

Linda Theodoru, 37 Taftville – Occum Rd, spoke in opposition of passing Resolution #2 and asked the Council not to support it.

Shane Roberts, 16 Church St, spoke in opposition to passing Resolution #2.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment on resolutions closed.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Browning, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to add after paragraph two a new paragraph "WHEREAS, it has been recommended by the City Planner and the Board of Review-Dangerous Building that these two properties be merged, Corporation Counsel will unify 43 Fountain Street and 45 Fountain Street using a common deed and property description prior to the sale of these properties; and" and also in the last paragraph after Purchase and Sales Agreement to add "acceptable to him".

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to further amend the following resolution to add into the new paragraph 6, the amount "\$45,000" and in new paragraph 7 " \$45,000 to Omega Barbershop LLC" and to "Omega Barbershop LLC".

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, by a resolution adopted January 7, 2019, authorized City Manager John Salomone to enter into an individual Real Estate Listing Agreement with Allyn and Associates

Realtors offering to sell the property at 43-45 Fountain Street at a price to be recommended by Allyn and Associates Realtors; and

WHEREAS, the Council further resolved that upon receipt of a Purchase and Sales Agreement containing an offer to purchase at a price recommended by Allyn and Associates Realtors and containing such terms and conditions as were satisfactory to the City Manager, he was to notify the Council of the proposed Purchase and Sales Agreement for its consideration and possible approval; and

WHEREAS, it has been recommended by the City Planner and the Board of Review-Dangerous Buildings that these two properties be merged, Corporation Counsel will unify 43 Fountain Street and 45 Fountain Street using a common deed and property description prior to the sale of these properties; and

WHEREAS, Allyn and Associates Realtors recommended listing the property at a price of \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, an appraisal prepared April 17, 2018 in connection with the city's foreclosure of said property had listed it as having a market value as of April 11, 2018 of \$35,000; and

WHEREAS, Allyn and Associates Realtors has received a number of offers to purchase the property, the highest offer being the sum of \$45,000, the property to be conveyed in as is condition.

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 to enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement acceptable to him on behalf of the City of Norwich to sell said property at a price of \$45,000 to Omega Barbershop LLC pursuant to the terms of said Purchase and Sales Agreement and, upon timely tender of the purchase price subject to standard adjustments, to execute and deliver a deed of conveyance to Omega Barbershop LLC or its designee for the property known as 43-45 Fountain Street, and to execute, deliver, and receive such other documents as are necessary to complete the transfer of title in keeping with the terms and conditions of the Purchase and Sales Agreement.

The above amended resolution passes on a 7-0 vote.

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

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut is considering the implementation of tolls on Connecticut highways; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 395 is one of the state highways which may be subject to tolls; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich is concerned that the implementation of tolls on Connecticut's highways, particularly Interstate 395, will result in increased traffic on the streets and secondary roads of the City of Norwich through the use of the same by motorists attempting to bypass the tolls; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich believes this increased traffic on the streets and secondary roads of Norwich will increase the risk of traffic accidents, increase the number of heavy duty commercial vehicles using Norwich streets and secondary roads with consequential damage to the surface of the roads

and other damages, delay the response of emergency vehicles, and inhibit or discourage the regular use of such roads by local residents due to the increase in traffic; and

WHEREAS, the neighboring towns of Montville and Lisbon, facing the same concerns, have adopted resolutions in opposition to the current proposal for the implementation of tolls.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that it hereby declares its opposition to the current proposal for the implementation of tolls on Connecticut highways within the geographic confines of the City of Norwich; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the Mayor hereby is authorized and requested to submit this resolution to the Governor of the State of Connecticut and the Connecticut State Legislature on behalf of the Council of the City of Norwich as an expression of its opposition to the current proposal for the implementation of tolls on Connecticut highways within the geographical boundaries of the City of Norwich.

On a vote of 4-3 with Ald. Delucia, Browning and Burnham voting in opposition motion passes.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to suspend the rules to change the order of the agenda and address Resolutions #4 and 5 first.

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

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Browning, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to add in paragraph 4 to add the name "Jeanne Kurasz"

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: *Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative, and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents, and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment*; and

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs, and provide grants and additional support to municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that we do hereby authorize **Jeanne Kurasz** to serve as City of Norwich's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize her to complete Municipal Registration on behalf of the City of Norwich; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that to focus attention and effort within the City of Norwich on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote the Norwich City Council's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Norwich City Council establishes an advisory Sustainability Team; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team must be held within 90 days of passing this resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the Norwich City Council on the progress of its activities toward Sustainable CT certification, with reports and presentations made publicly available.

The above amended resolution passes on a 7-0 vote.

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 and Philbrick.

BE IT RESOLVED that the individual listed below named be appointed as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC with a term begin on April 15, 2019 and to expire on January 15, 2020 or until a successor is appointed:

David Eggleston (D)

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, second by Ald. DeLucia, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6), for the purpose of discussing the strategies and negotiations with respect to collective bargaining. The following shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council: City Manager John Salomone, Director of Human Resources Brigid Marks, Comptroller Joshua Pothier, Deputy Comptroller Tony Madeira and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll. I further move that the Council shall thereafter continue in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition or disposition would cause a likelihood of an increased price to acquire and a diminished price to dispose of the interests, and to review feasibility evaluations and reports made for the City of Norwich regarding such property. City Manager John Salomone, Comptroller Joshua Pothier, Deputy Comptroller Tony Madeira and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council.

The council was in Executive Session from 8:50 pm to 9:35 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, it was unanimously voted to return to regular session.

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 Ald. Browning.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, by a resolution adopted January 19, 2010, approved a Lease Agreement reached between it and representatives of the New York-Pennsylvania Professional Baseball League, Inc. negotiating on behalf of the owner of a single A minor league baseball team franchise selected by the New York-Pennsylvania Professional Baseball League, Inc. to relocate to Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Council resolved that this Lease Agreement be for a term of ten (10) years with the tenant holding three (3) options to extend the term of the Lease for successive periods of five (5) years under each option, under terms and conditions as had been substantially set forth in the draft Lease Agreement approved by the Council and subsequently finalized and signed; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich thereupon entered into a Lease Agreement as described herein between it and the Oneonta Athletic Cooperation owner of the Connecticut Tigers franchise, the initial ten (10) year term to expire on December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich on April 16, 2018 approved an \$800,000 bond issue whereby the city appropriated monies to improve the field lighting, netting and the HVAC system at Dodd Stadium; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich and the Oneonta Athletic Corporation have discussed changes to the existing Lease Agreement and determined that it would advantageous to replace the existing Lease at the end of its first term, December 31, 2019, with a new Lease Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich and the Oneonta Athletic Corporation have negotiated a proposed Lease Agreement for a ten (10) year term to commence January 1, 2020 with two (2) five-year options; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, having reviewed a draft of said proposed Lease finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to enter into said new Lease Agreement with the Oneonta Athletic Corporation.

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 to enter into a Lease Agreement satisfactory to him on behalf of the City of Norwich with the Oneonta Athletic Corporation including the execution of this Stadium Lease Agreement on behalf of the City of Norwich to run from a term of ten (10) years from January 1, 2020 with the right of the tenant to exercise up to two (2) options to extend the term of the Lease Agreement for successive periods of five (5) years each, all on terms and conditions as substantially set forth in the proposed Lease Agreement.

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 approval of the AFSCME, Local 2422/City Hall Employees collective bargaining unit agreement and the related budget changes to fiscal year 2018-19.

RESOLVED, that the proposed Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Norwich and AFSCME, Local 2422/City Hall Employees (City Hall Employees), covering the period between July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2022, be, and the same hereby is, approved in accordance with the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes, Section 4-474; and further, that the City Manager, John L. Salomone, be, and hereby is, authorized and directed to execute the same in the name of the City.

RESOLVED, that the following 2018-19 budget transfers be made related to the settlement of the City Hall Employees collective bargaining unit agreement:

Department	Account	Budget Adjustment Needed
Treasurer	Employees	2,008
Treasurer	Fringe Benefits	154
Finance	Employees	6,784
Finance	Overtime	60
Finance	Fringe Benefits	524
Assessor	Employees	2,895
Assessor	Overtime	160
Assessor	Fringe Benefits	234
City Clerk	Employees	3,189
City Clerk	Fringe Benefits	244
Police	Employees	5,057
Police	Fringe Benefits	387
Norwich Fire	Employees	1,902
Norwich Fire	Fringe Benefits	146
Recreation	Employees	4,455
Recreation	Overtime	30
Recreation	Fringe Benefits	343
Human Services	Employees	2,400
Human Services	Fringe Benefits	184
Senior Center	Employees	5,198
Senior Center	Fringe Benefits	398
Youth & Family Services	Employees	2,662
Youth & Family Services	Fringe Benefits	204
PW Engineering	Employees	4,969
PW Engineering	Overtime	25
PW Engineering	Fringe Benefits	382
Planning & Neighborhood Services	Employees	5,791
Planning & Neighborhood Services	Overtime	110
Planning & Neighborhood Services	Fringe Benefits	451
Transfer out of Contingency		(51,346)

Upon motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Browning, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:37 P.M.

Bob W. Bannard
 City Clerk