

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held October 19, 2020 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Gould, Wilson, Myles (arrived at 7:32 pm) and DeLucia. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

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

There were no speakers.

There were no emails.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

City Manager Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: October 19th, 2020

Meetings attended via conference call or video were Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments, (SCCOG), NPU-City Coordination Meeting, and updates for the City going from Phase 2 versus Phase 3 due to the COVID-19 upsurge in Norwich. The City has opted to remain at Phase 3 which include restaurants, personal services, libraries, outdoor venues, indoor performing arts, private social and recreational gatherings for commercial and private residences, graduations and religious gatherings. We ask that you to continue to wear masks and practice social distancing.

The McGrath Consulting Group, Inc., the consulting firm to perform the analysis of the City’s fire services, has been rescheduled to the end of October and will be meeting with City staff on the 26th & 27th.

Standard & Poor reaffirmed the City’s AA bond rating based on the following: strong management environment, strong financial flexibility, very strong liquidity, with some issues as reliance on state aid, weak economy relative to state and national metrics and large pension and OPEB liabilities. The tax base is very diverse and the local real estate market and regional developments should keep local economy stable, and low levels of bonded debt are good indicators.

With the help of the United Way, Norwich will be distributing 1150 boxes of food to residents each Friday in October. The food comes from Farmers to Families and contains 22lbs of food (produce and meat) and a gallon of milk. The distribution center is at the parking lot owned by the Mashantucket Pequot Tribal Nation which is located at 29 Stonington Rd. The City of Norwich is partnering with UCFS and St Vincent de Paul’s.

The Human Services Department was awarded \$14,190 from Chelsea Groton Foundation to assist families with scholarships for the childcare program being run at the Recreation Department. We are very grateful for this generous award to help out families with childcare costs.

Thank you to Uncas Health for the yearly Flu Shot Clinic for employees and first responders. The clinic was held at the Norwich Public Works Garage as a drive-thru which went smoothly with 59 vaccinations given.

Attached are the quarterly reports from City Departments, Otis Library and Norwich Community Development for quarter ending September 30, 2020.

Department Quarterly Reports

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Myles, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following letter regarding Rob Dempsy's removal from the Personnel & Pension Board.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted on a roll call vote to remove the Citizens Comment on Resolutions due to there being no Resolutions.

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6) for the purpose of discussing the acquisition of real estate or interests in real estate when adversely impact the price of the same; to discuss preliminary drafts of proposals concerning the development and use of the property; to discuss engineering or feasibility estimates and evaluations, including perspective public supply, the Council having determined that the public interest in withholding such clearly outweighs the public interest in disclosure, and to discuss commercial or financial information given in confidence not required by statute. City Manager John Salomone, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll, General Manager of Norwich Public Utilities Christopher LaRose, Chairman of the Board of Commissioner of Norwich Public Utilities Robert Staley, and Attorney Mark Block, shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council.

I also move, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council continue in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy 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, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, Special Labor counsel Kenneth Plumb, and Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll.

The council was in Executive Session from 7:50 pm to 9:18 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to return to regular session.

Upon motion of Ald. Gould seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:19 P.M.



City Clerk