

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 3, 2020, at 7:32 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Gould, Wilson, Myles and DeLucia. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of January 6 and 21, 2020.

**Please be advised that meetings of the Norwich City Council can be viewed in their entirety on the City of Norwich website “norwichct.org”.**

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to accept the audit report from the BlumShapiro.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to accept the report from the Commission for Persons with Disabilities.

City Manager Salomone report:

**To:** Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council  
**From:** John Salomone, City Manager  
**Subject:** City Manager’s Report  
**Date:** February 3, 2020

I attended the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) on Property Tax Reform and the Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) Annual meeting where I attended a seminar on Cyber Threats. I attended the Census 2020 Press Conference held by Lieutenant Governor, Susan Bysiewicz, along with Council members and other local dignitaries. I also attended the monthly Harbor Management Commission meeting.

Comptroller, Josh Pothier and I continued meeting with department heads and with the Superintendent of Norwich Public Schools on the 2020-2021 budget process.

My assistant, Jacquie Barbarossa and I met with Jeanne Kurasz, Norwich Public Utilities Program Coordinator, who is also the City of Norwich’s Sustainable CT contact to discuss future projects that could enable the City to gain “silver certification” in the program in the future.

City Assessor, Donna Ralston has filed the October 1, 2019 Grand List of all Taxable and Tax Exempt Properties in the City with the City Clerk’s office. The overall NET Taxable Grand List for Real Estate, Personal Property and Motor Vehicles was filed at \$2,021,168,261 which represents an overall increase of \$29,904,627 over last year’s Grand list or 1.502%

The City’s Lock Box tax payments as of January 31<sup>st</sup> were 1280 payments totaling \$1,728,972.33. Payments at Norwich People’s Bank branches were 464 payments totaling \$737,833.23. Final numbers will be in my next report since customers had until February 3, 2020 to pay the January installment.

The Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) will honor Rosa Parks on her birthday, February 4<sup>th</sup> with Transit Equity Day activities. SEAT will have small memorials on several buses and a fare-free day on all routes. SEAT wants to thank their current riders and encourage new riders to try transit for a day at no cost.

Norwich Youth and Family services is sponsoring *Norwich Hope and Compassion*, a support group for people whose lives have been impacted by substance use disorder. The free event will be held on the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday's of the month starting February 5<sup>th</sup>, at St. Vincent DePaul Place, 120 Cliff St. from 12:30 pm to 2:00 pm to deal with the opioid crisis. For more information, contact Rayallen Bergman, Drug Free Community Coordinator at Norwich Youth and Family Services.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Stan Lucas, 280 Broadway, asked for a favorable recommendation on Resolution #10.

Fred Phelps, 17 Sabrina Ct, asked the Council to support Resolution # 10.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, asked if there was still any interest in tennis.

Shiela Hayes, 382 Laurel Hill Ave, asked the Council to support Resolution # 10.

Deanna Rhodes, Director of Planning and Neighborhood Services, stated that the house in Resolution # 6 is on the Historic District Register.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

Relative to appointing a certified public accounting firm to perform the regular general audit for fiscal year 2019-2020.

**WHEREAS**, the Finance Department selected the proposal by the certified public accounting firm of Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. with request for proposals number 18-08 to perform the audits for the fiscal years ending June 30th 2018 through 2022; and

**WHEREAS**, Connecticut General Statutes §§7-391 through 397 require each municipality to file financial statements prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and audited by an independent public accountant in accordance with generally accepted auditing standards by December 31<sup>st</sup>; unless an extension is granted by the Connecticut Office of Policy & Management; and

**WHEREAS**, the independent auditor must be appointed by the "appointing authority" on or before May 31<sup>st</sup>; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich is the appointing authority for the City of Norwich.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that the accounting firm of Blum, Shapiro & Company, P.C. be and hereby is, appointed to perform the regular general audit for the City of Norwich for fiscal year 2019-2020.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, Ald. Gould and Myles.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the below names and hereby are reappointed as regular members to the Ethics Commission for terms to expire October 18, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.

Robin Lawson (R)  
Robert Ballard (U)

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the below names be and hereby are appointed as regular members to the Ethics Commission for terms to expire October 18, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.

Karen Lucas (D)  
Scott Camassar (R)

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the below names be and hereby are appointed as alternate members to the Ethics Commission for terms to expire October 18, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.

Robert Drozynski (D)  
Lori Ploof (U)

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, Ald. Gould and Myles.

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the below named be and hereby is reappointed to the CT Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC), as the Rate Payer Representative, for a term to expire January 15, 2022 or until a successor is appointed.

David Eggleston (D)

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, 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 reappointment to the Public Parking Commission;

Reappointed as a regular member of the Public Parking Commission for a term to expire on 12/31/21 or until successors are appointed:

Jeffrey Lord (R)

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

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

**WHEREAS**, the City Manager John L. Salomone, with Council approval shall reappoint as an **alternate member** of the Inland Wetlands, Water Courses and Conservation Commission for a term to expire on February 28, 2022 or until a successor is appointed:

Swarnjit Singh Bhatia (D)

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointment of the above named to the Inland Wetlands, Water Courses and Conservation Commission.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould on the floor.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to add in paragraph #3 and #4 “ \$15,000.00“ and in paragraph #4 to add “ Sonya Cambridge-Aubele, East Lyme CT“.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, by a resolution adopted September 3, 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 87 Fifth 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 are 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**, Allyn and Associates Realtors has received offers to purchase the property, the highest offer being the sum of \$ \$15,000.00 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 on behalf of the City of Norwich to sell said property at a price of \$15,000.00 to Sonya Cambridge-Aubele of East Lyme CT, 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 Sonya Cambridge-Aubele of East Lyme CT, or acceptable designee for the property known as 87 Fifth 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.

Motion passes on a vote of 7-0.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould on the floor.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to add in paragraph #3 and #4 "\$42,900.00" and in paragraph #4 to add "\$42,900.00, TMC Keywest LLC, North Scituate, RI".

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich, by a resolution adopted December 16, 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 58 Division 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 are 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**, Allyn and Associates Realtors has received offers to purchase the property, the highest offer being the sum of \$ 42,900.00 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 on behalf of the City of Norwich to sell said property at a price of \$ 42,900.00 to TMC Keywest LLC of North Scituate, RI, 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 TMC Keywest LLC of North Scituate, RI, or acceptable designee for the property known as 58 Division 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.

Motion passes on a vote of 7-0.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and DeLucia.

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich wishes to acknowledge the efforts of the Norwich Events Organization, Inc. as the current organizer of the planned St. Patrick's Day Parade, among other events; and

**WHEREAS**, local business owners, Norwich residents and other interested individuals, assisted by the Norwich Events Organization, Inc. and the St. Patrick's Day Parade subcommittee will promote and present a St. Patrick's Day Parade in downtown Norwich to be held on Sunday, March 1, 2020, the parade to be funded by private contributions and sponsorships; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich by this resolution intends to express its support for the St. Patrick's Day Parade and to convey its gratitude to the organizers, donors and other supporters of the St. Patrick's Day Parade this year and in past years and to invite and welcome Norwich residents and visitors to the parade

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that it supports and encourages all to support and attend the St. Patrick's Day Parade and welcomes the participants and spectators who will come to Norwich on March 1, 2020 for the event, inviting them to enjoy the hospitality and entertainments provided with this event by its sponsors and the ambience by downtown Norwich; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that the Council of the City of Norwich offers its thanks and appreciation to the Norwich Events Organization, Inc. and the St. Patrick's Day Parade Subcommittee and all donors and sponsors for their efforts.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and DeLucia.

**WHEREAS**, These Guys Brewing Company LLC has requested permission to conduct an event on March 1, 2020, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, which will involve the consumption of alcoholic beverages on City property at a parking lot located on 82-84 Franklin Street immediately outside These Guys Brewing Company; and

**WHEREAS**, the event will commence at 2:00 p.m. and last until 5:00 p.m.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, as required pursuant to section 13.14.2 of the Norwich Code of Ordinances, City Manager John Salomone be and hereby is authorized and directed to grant Raymond J. Albert, Jr., Permittee and the These Guys Brewing Company LLC permission to use a portion of the abutting municipal parking lot at 82-84 Franklin Street for these purposes, subject to their maintaining appropriate insurance coverage, an extension of use permit granted by the State of Connecticut, Department of Liquor Control, adequate supervision, and their agreement to restore the premises to pre-event condition should a tent or other temporary structure be erected.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash and Wilson.

**WHEREAS**, the tennis courts, located on Mohegan Road at the Armstrong Tennis Courts, have clay playing surfaces which have deteriorated over time such that they will be costly to restore and to maintain; and

**WHEREAS**, clay courts take longer to dry following rain events than do many other tennis court surfaces, this uncertainty of playing conditions making the scheduling of competitions and events on clay courts more difficult and chancy; and

**WHEREAS**, a number of supporters of tennis have indicated a willingness to donate funds to the City of Norwich to be used with respect to the restoration of the clay courts, or the resurfacing of the existing courts at the Armstrong Tennis Courts with a new type of surface, and for the continuing maintenance and improvement of the city's tennis courts; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Norwich may solicit and accept such donations, contributions, and assistance and provide for the proper administration of the same; and

**WHEREAS**, the Recreation Division of the Department of Human Services proposes to accept such donations as have been offered to date, and to solicit additional donations, as well as to seek grants, to be used for the purposes described herein relative to improving and maintaining the city's tennis facilities.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, the Recreation Division of the Department of Human Services be and hereby is authorized to accept currently offered donations, contributions and grants ("Project Revenues") given to the City of Norwich for the purposes described herein of improving and maintaining the city's tennis facilities, including, but not limited to, the Armstrong Tennis Courts, and to solicit Project Revenues to be used for the purpose described herein of improving and maintaining the city's tennis facilities, including, but not limited to, the Armstrong Tennis Courts; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, any such Project Revenues shall be deposited into an account of the City of Norwich established as the Tennis Facilities Repairs and Improvement Project Account assigned number R0010; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, any Project Revenues and the expenditure of the same shall be required to follow all policies and procedures of the City of Norwich including, but not limited to, accounting, purchasing, risk management, administrative cost allocation, and cash handling; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, should the Project Revenues exceed the expenditures required to restore or resurface and rebuild the Armstrong Tennis Courts, funds in this account in excess of the required expenditure will remain in a City of Norwich Tennis Facilities Repairs and Improvement Project Account to be used for necessary repairs and improvements to tennis facilities owned by the City of Norwich as determined by the Recreation Division of the Department of Human Services; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that, if after a period of 24 months following the passage of this resolution, the Project Revenues received by the City of Norwich are insufficient to restore or resurface and rebuild the Armstrong Tennis Courts, the use of the Armstrong Tennis Courts for tennis purposes may be discontinued, and such Project Revenues will remain in the City of Norwich Tennis Facilities Repairs and Improvements Project Account to be used for future repairs and improvements to tennis facilities owned by the City of Norwich.

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Sections 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council go into an Executive Session for the purpose of discussing 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, Assistant Finance Director Tony Madeira, and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll.

The council was in Executive Session from 8:34 PM to 8:45 PM, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Wilson it was voted to return to regular session.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

Relative to the approval of the Municipal Employees Union Independent/City Hall Supervisors collective bargaining unit agreement and the related budget changes to fiscal year 2019-20.

**RESOLVED**, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Norwich and Municipal Employees Union Independent/City Hall Supervisors (“MEUI”), covering the period between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2023, 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 2019-20 budget transfers be made related to the settlement of the MEUI collective bargaining unit agreement:

Department/ Division	Org	Budget Transfer Needed
<b>Finance</b>	10411700	10,633
<b>Assessor</b>	10413100	1,928
<b>Planning &amp; Neighborhood Services</b>	10415100	5,012
<b>PW Engineering</b>	10430500	2,120
<b>Senior Center</b>	10441700	2,583
<b>Recreation</b>	10450300	1,764
<b>Transfer out of Contingency</b>		(24,040)



Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.

Relative to the approval of the Local 892, International Association of Fire Fighters collective bargaining unit agreement and the related budget changes to fiscal year 2019-20.

**RESOLVED**, that the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the City of Norwich and Local 892, International Association of Fire Fighters (“IAFF”), covering the period between July 1, 2019 through June 30, 2020, 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 2019-20 General Fund budget transfers be made related to the settlement of the IAFF collective bargaining unit agreement:

Department/ Division	Org	Budget Transfer Needed
Norwich Fire	10420200	13,492
<b>Transfer out of Contingency</b>		<b>(13,492)</b>

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:00 pm.

*Betsy W. Bannard*  
 City Clerk