

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held March 5, 2018, at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash, Gould, Philbrick, DeLucia, Browning and Burnham. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

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

Mayor Nystrom called for a moment of silence for Chief Robert "Red" McKeon's passing. He was Chief of the Occum Fire Department for 35 years.

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Burnham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the minutes of February 5 and 20, 2018.

Mayor Nystrom called for a Public Hearing on **AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO PENSION PLAN ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF NORWICH EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND**

Speaking in favor: there were no speakers.

Speaking in opposition: there were no speakers.

There being no further speakers Mayor Nystrom declared the public hearing closed.

Mayor Nystrom called for the second reading and action on **AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO PENSION PLAN ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF NORWICH EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND**

Upon a motion by Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the full text and incorporate it into the minutes, this ordinance being given its second reading.

Ald. Gould motioned, seconded by Ald. Philbrick, to adopt the below ordinance introduced by President Pro Tem Nash and Ald. DeLucia.

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO PENSION PLAN ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF NORWICH EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH THAT, all non-union personnel and elected officials of the City of Norwich who participate in the City of Norwich Employees' Retirement Fund shall be subject to all those pension plan changes applicable to the ten collective bargaining units covered in the resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Norwich on February 5, 2018.

The above ordinance passed on a roll call vote of 7-0.

City Managers Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: March 5, 2018

I attended the Southeastern Council of Governments meeting on February 21st. U.S. Congressman Joseph Courtney was guest speaker. I also attended the Southeast Area Transit District Board of Directors Meeting immediately following where Legislative Outreach Opportunities were discussed. SEAT along with other Transit Districts have been advised to expect a 15% reduction in State funding, which could require nearly 20% reduction in SEAT Service. It was recommended that members of the SEAT Board try to meet with members who represent Districts that are served by SEAT.

Josh and I meet with Abby Dolliver, Superintendent of Schools and staff member to discuss their preliminary budget. We also meet with City Departments and Otis Library the week of February 26th.

I had my monthly staff meeting with department heads. Dina Sears-Graves, Vice President of Community Impact at United Way attended. She thanked the City's employee for their donations and volunteering. She also stated that she had worked with City employees Lee-Ann Gomes, Deanna Rhodes and Kathy Crees on the Working Cities Challenge Grant. Unfortunately, the City did not receive the challenge grant but the United Way was so impressed with the City's application; they will be awarding the City a 3-year \$100,000 per year grant to aid in the training of the City's workforce. This grant will aid the City to assist low-income and diverse households in Norwich to become financially stable by training them for the manufacturing pipeline job opportunities that will become available at Electric Boat. City Treasurer, Mike Gualtieri and Deputy Comptroller, Tony Madeira handed out a revised *Revenue Collections* and *Petty Cash Policy* and will be meeting with departments that handle cash. Kathy Crees, Community Development Supervisor stated that CDBG grant applications would be reviewed by the CDA at their meeting on February 28th and the recommendations will be presented to the Council in April.

CPR/AED/First Aid Training for employees was held on February 23rd. Twelve employees participated and received certification. The City's portable AED is located on the first floor between the Registrar's and Assessor's Offices.

The Purchase and Sales Agreement for 68 & 80 Broadway (former Human Service Building) has been executed and the \$20,000 deposit check has been received from Otis Home LLC.

The Development Agreement for 19 North Cliff Street has been signed by the developer and is being reviewed by Corporation Counsel.

I had the pleasure of judging the Norwich Sunrise Rotary Four-Way Test Speech Contest that was held at NFA in the Sidney Frank Center on March 1st. There was a very impressive group of high school students vying to be selected for the semi-finals.

The second City Council Goal Setting session was held on Saturday, March 3, 2018 at Foundry 66. Jim O'Shea will prepare the final report and it will be presented to the Council in April.

The 5th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade was held on Sunday March 4th. Thank you to the committee and volunteers that make this event a success for downtown.

I would also like to congratulate Janice Thompson, from Human Services and Vicki Daniels from Recreation who have retired from the City. They both have over 30 years of service with the City and I wish them well.

Ald. Philbrick asked for a moment of personal privilege; she talked about the negative press regarding two elected council members and asked why bring up personal items that have no bearing on the City, it is disgusting. She stated there is no need to write salacious articles that are not even news worthy and just intend to humiliate and embarrass people. She stated that when you attack one of us (Republicans) you attack all of us and we will stand together as we are elected to do a job. She stated there is no one that doesn't have skeletons in their closet. She asked all to disregard this nonsense and get on with the business at hand and doesn't mean to embarrass anyone.

Ald. Browning asked for a moment of personal privilege; he stated he doesn't want to talk about the articles which might have offended other people. He felt he could have an article targeting him and he would have to live with the consequences. He also stated the Bulletin Publisher and Editor would have attended but the format of this meeting didn't allow.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Dale Plummer, 25 Broadway, spoke in favor of resolution #2 and stated this project is similar to the Wauregan demolition project and is confident in the developer, the Women's Institute, and that they will deliver on this project. He asked the Council to give this the time needed for it to pass.

Betsy Crum, Women's Institute, 75 Charter Oak Ave, Hartford, spoke on resolution # 2 stating they raised \$500,000 toward the stabilization and the Council gave them extra time to raise addition non-recourse funding. She stated as of now they have raised \$250,000 in non-recourse financing, and another \$150,000 pending requested from the NCDC board and with this funding her Board indicated they could move ahead with this project. She stated this project created a lot of good will locally and throughout state agencies and they are ready to move forward with the stabilization.

Susan Masse, 1 Sachem Terrace, stated she hopes that the Council will show the commendable foresight for the project to renew the downtown and supports resolution #2.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, asked that the first line on resolution #2 be amended and asked for an ad-hoc committee to increase the council background for any downtown project. He also talked about elderly housing being used to home the homeless and asked how long and how many elderly people are still waiting for an apartment.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, stated he felt that on resolution #2 the Women's Institute raised enough money already to do something to the building. He also suggested that a roof be put on by the City.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has re-appointed with Council approval as a **regular member** to the Redevelopment Agency for a term to expire on 2/28/22 or until a successor is appointed;

Mark Kulos (D)

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has re-appointed with Council approval as a **regular member** to the Redevelopment Agency for a term to expire on 2/28/2023 or until a successor is appointed;

Robert Buckley (R)
Shane Roberts (U)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointments of the above named to the Redevelopment Agency.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution in paragraph one from August, “2018” to “2017” and paragraph # 3 from November of “2018” to “2017”

WHEREAS, in August, 2017 the City of Norwich entered into a Development Agreement with the Women’s Institute Realty of Connecticut, Inc. (Women’s Institute) pertaining to the redevelopment and use of the Reid & Hughes properties located at 193-201 Main Street Norwich, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Development Agreement the Women’s Institute was required to complete its Stabilization Assessment and Due Diligence periods for evaluation of property within ninety (90) days of the date of signing of Development Agreement, and obtain all necessary financing and funding for the stabilization of the Building within ninety (90) days; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2017 the Women’s Institute requested an extension of the time period within which to obtain financing and funding; and

WHEREAS, by resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Norwich on January 2, 2018, the Due Diligence period for obtaining the financing and funding and the commencement of the stabilization of the structure was extended for a period of sixty (60) days to and including March 4, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Women’s Institute has advised it will be holding a board meeting on February 28, 2018 to review the financing that has been approved to be extended by various third parties and to determine if it will proceed on that basis pursuant to the Development Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the Women's Institute anticipates notifying the city manager of the decision of its board on or about March 1, 2018.

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 act on the behalf of the City of Norwich to proceed to effectuate the city's responsibility under the Development Agreement if the Women's Institute advises that it has secured the funding and intends to proceed with the Stabilization phase of the project or to accept a notification to be issued by the Women's Institute that it has elected to terminate the Development Agreement.

Upon a unanimous vote of 7 – 0 the above amended resolution passes.

Ald. Gould motioned, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:25 P.M.



City Clerk