

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held April 20, 2020 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Gould, Wilson, Myles (via phone) and DeLucia. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

President Pro Tem Bettencourt read the opening prayer and Ald. Nash 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.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted on a roll call vote to accept the resignation of Joanne Philbrick from the Zoning Board of Appeals thanking her for her service.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, it was unanimously voted to accept the communication from Greg Schlough, Chairman notifying a change of the date of the Relay for Life of Southeastern CT event.

City Managers Report:

**To:** Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council  
**From:** John Salomone, City Manager  
**Subject:** City Manager’s Report  
**Date:** April 20, 2020

I would like to thank our community for following “Stay Safe, Stay Home” guidelines during the Covid-19 pandemic. Special thanks to our essential employees, and first responders that must continue to serve the public with this new way of conducting business and services which has been constantly changing and evolving over the past 5 weeks.

There is a new way of life at City Hall and in our community and we continue to follow and comply with the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and Governor’s Lamont’s orders. City Departments have become creative with meetings, online applications and steering people to the City website so that staff can work remotely. There is a banner notice on the home page of the City website for City operations during COVID-19. Youth and Family Services has posted 11 videos related to coping strategies, stress management and substance use prevention for kids. The Recreation Department has been extremely creative with keeping our youth entertained by posting daily activities for families and even having a virtual “Easter Egg Hunt”.

Meetings are now held via conference call or video conferencing including; weekly meetings with Governor Lamont, Senator Osten, Region 4 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Statewide COVID-19 Local Health Departments and Department Head updates. Monthly meetings included, SEAT & SCCOG and Public Safety Committee. I also held a press conference with the local newspapers and radio station for the upcoming budget and had a phone interview with Stu Bryer for WICH.

The City Budget hearings have been held via teleconference and live streamed on the City's website and local public access TV and will be continued with the Council Meetings until restrictions are lifted. Special thanks to our IT department for the extra time and effort to keep up with the technology during this time and for my assistant, Jacquie Barbarossa for learning the conference bridge phone provided by Norwich Public Utilities and the City's new internal "TurboBridge" systems provided by IT. Remember, we are all in this together.

I have attached the City Departments, Otis Library and Norwich Community Development reports for quarter ending March 31, 2020. Also attached, is the Key Financial Indicators report for the eight months ended February 29<sup>th</sup> from Comptroller Josh Pothier.

### Quarterly Reports

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Gould, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and DeLucia on the floor.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted on a roll call vote to amend the following resolution to add in paragraph #6 to add "Low Interest Rate Program".

**WHEREAS**, on March 10, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued a declaration of public health and civil preparedness emergencies, proclaiming a state of emergency throughout the State of Connecticut as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 1, 2020, Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 7S entitled "Protection of Public Health and Safety during COVID-19 Pandemic and Response – Safe Stores, Relief for Policyholders, Taxpayers and Tenants": and

**WHEREAS**, under Section 6 of Executive Order 7S, each municipality shall participate in at least one of two established programs known as the "Deferment Program", and the "Low Interest Rate Program" and shall notify

the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management no later than April 25, 2020, as to in which program or programs the municipality is electing to participate; and

**WHEREAS**, on April 9, 2020 Governor Ned Lamont issued Executive Order 7W which at Section 1(b) provides clarification as to contain time periods established in Section 6 of Executive Order 7S stating:

“Because interest on past due taxes and water, sewer, or electric charges are calculated by the month, not by the day, and principal is typically due on the first of the month, not the tenth, the ninety (90) day periods referred to Executive Order No. 7S, Section 6 are amended to three (3) months, and the references to due dates and delinquency dates on or prior to March 10, 2020 are amended to April 1.”

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that it hereby elects that the City of Norwich is to participate in the Low Interest Rate Program [Program(s)] under Section 6(b) of Executive Order 7S, as clarified by Section 1(b) of Executive Order 7W, and that City Manager John Salomone be and hereby is authorized and directed to provide timely notice of the same to the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management and to direct, supervise, and carry out as necessary all requirements in the implementation of the Program(s).

Upon motion of Ald. Gould seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:15 P.M.



City Clerk