

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held June 15, 2020 at 7:35 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.

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

Email received:

Robin Sieczkowski, 48 McClellan Ave.

See attached email:

LINK TO EXHIBIT: [Exhibit #A.](#)

Speakers via telephone:

Cara Turner, 281 Taftville Occum Rd, thanked the Mayor and Ald. Wilson for their presence at the rally.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Pl, stated she was available for questions if needed on the Disc Golf Course.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, stated he was proud and grateful for the respect given to City Monuments.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Mayor Nystrom called for a Public Hearing on the Neighborhood Assistance Act.

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 declared citizen comment closed.

Mayor Nystrom called for a Public Hearing on Community Development Block Grant allocation recommendations.

Speaking in favor:

Sydney Phelps, 9 Wales Rd, advocated in support for the Norwich Human Services departments requests.

**Speaking in opposition:**

There were no speakers.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Gould, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following communication from the Mohegan Park Improvement & Development Advisory Committee regarding a change of venue of the Disc Golf Course.

**City Managers Report:**

**To:** Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council  
**From:** John Salomone, City Manager  
**Subject:** City Manager's Report  
**Date:** June 15, 2020

Conference calls and video meetings were held with Governor Lamont, State representatives and legislators, Region 4 Division of Emergency Management & Homeland Security, Southeastern Council of Governments, (SCCOG), Department Heads, Restaurant Reopening Committee and reopening meetings with the State, SCCOG and City staff.

A Fire Study Conference call was also held with Acting-Fire-Chief, Keith Wucik, Yantic Fire Chief, Frank Blanchard, Comptroller, Josh Pothier, and City Purchaser Bob Castronova to review the RFP before it's published at the end of June.

Human Resource Director, Brigid Marks, Comptroller, Josh Pothier and Director of Human Services, Lee-Ann Gomes are working on the City's *COVID-19 Return to Work Plan* based on the State of Connecticut's guidelines and will revise as needed based on future national, state and/or local recommendations. Employees are required to be back to work in offices effective June 22nd. At this point City Hall will be open to the public by appointment only through at least through July 31<sup>st</sup> with the exception specific in-person hours for tax collection. Public and Working Meetings will continue to take place virtually via conference call or videoconferencing. Updates will be posted on the City's website when the guidelines are completed and/or revised.

Tax payments will be accepted starting July 1<sup>st</sup>. The City encourages taxpayers to use the following options to pay their bills: pay in person with cash or check at any Peoples United Bank (including the drive-thru), through the mail, or online with credit card or ACH. If you pay online with ACH, there will be no additional fees passed onto you. These costs will be absorbed by the City to encourage as many transactions to be done without in-person contact. In order to minimize traffic in City Hall and maintain social distancing, we will be offering limited hours during the month of July for making in-person payments.

Commendations are in order for the new City Purchaser, Bob Castronova, who was on his way to work on the morning of June 11<sup>th</sup> when he noticed a fire at 14 Stonington Rd. The porch was engulfed in flames and the fire department had not arrived yet so he stopped his car and asked the neighbors, who had called 911, if anyone was in the home. They weren't sure so Bob banged on the back door and yelled to see if anyone was in the house. His actions woke a teenager in the home surely saving the boy's life. Thank you for your heroism.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Email received:

Nancy Gentes, Executive Director Madonna Place Inc,

See attached email:

LINK TO EXHIBIT: [Exhibit #B.](#)

Speaker via telephone:

Brian Kobylarz, 16 Hobart Ave, (poor auditory connection) spoke in Resolution #5.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

**WHEREAS**, the R.E. Van Norstrand Neighborhood Assistance Act, Chapter 228a of the Connecticut General Statutes (C.G.S. 12-630aa-12-638) offers certain benefits to municipalities desiring to obtain the same and is administered by the State Department of Revenue Services (Commission of Revenue Services); and

**WHEREAS**, the Neighborhood Assistance Act provides a tax credit for business firms which sponsor local programs; and

**WHEREAS**, such programs must be proposed and conducted by private non-profit agencies or municipalities and be approved by the local legislative body;

**WHEREAS**, a public hearing has been duly noticed and held on applications submitted to the City Manager's office.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that it approves the following program proposals under the Neighborhood Assistance Act:

1. Arc of Eastern Connecticut – Energy upgrades at facility for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities
2. Habitat for Humanity of Eastern Connecticut – Habitat Homes in Eastern Connecticut
3. Norwich Historical Society, Inc. – Energy related upgrades to the c. 1763 David Greenleaf House
4. Norwich Historical Society, Inc. -Energy Upgrades for the c. 1783 Dr. Daniel Lathrop Schoolhouse
5. Norwich Historical Society, Inc. - Energy Related Upgrades to the c. 1789 East District School Schoolhouse
6. St. Vincent de Paul Place, Norwich, Inc. – Energy Upgrade Project – windows and HVAC System
7. Montessori Discovery School, Inc. – Energy Upgrades
- 8.

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

**WHEREAS**, the City of Norwich is an entitlement community receiving U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) dollars of \$861,120.00;

\$55,551.72 Recaptured funds and \$50,000.00 anticipated return of loan (administration) for program year (PY) 2020; and as part of its Five Year Consolidated Plan 2020-2024; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has held public meetings and voted on their recommendations for CDBG allocations in the month of April; and

**WHEREAS**, the allocation and plan process is subject to a 30-day comment period prior to being placed into effect and the Council of the City of Norwich must hold a public hearing regarding the recommendations prior to the final vote on the allocation and plan and the City of Norwich has held a public hearing regarding the recommendations prior to the final vote on the allocation;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that the Council shall and hereby does allocate the funds for (PY) 2020 Community Development; Recapture and anticipated Return of Loan for administration as follows:

**CDBG Requests - PY46 (2020-2021)**

Anticipated PY 2020 Allocation	\$	861,120.00
PY 44 Recapture	\$	55,551.72
ROL Admin	\$	6,780.00
	\$	923,451.72

	PY 2020 Request	CDAC Recommendation	Council Recommendation
CD Office - Administration	\$ 172,224.00		
20% of ROL	\$ 6,780.00	\$ 179,004.00	\$ 179,004.00
<b>Public Services</b>			
Children in Placement	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Rapid Rehousing & Shelter Diversion - NHS	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
Norwich Works - NHS	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00	\$ 50,000.00
Immigration Advocacy & Support - CLEAR	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
TVCCA Home Again	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00	\$ 20,000.00
OIC of NL County	\$ 25,000.00	\$ -	\$ -
Safe Futures	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 15,000.00
NCDC Working Lab	\$ 40,000.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
<b>Total Public Services</b>	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00
<b>Non-Public Services</b>			
ARC of NL County	\$ 22,331.25	\$ -	\$ -
Rosewood Manor IV Ductless Splits - NHA	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00	\$ 100,000.00
Boswell Ave Sidewalks - DPW	\$ 227,183.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
WWI Memorial Park 540 Norwich Ave - DPW	\$ 86,018.00	\$ -	\$ -
Futures, Inc	\$ 41,786.53	\$ -	\$ -
Taftville Basketball Courts - Norwich Recreation	\$ 70,080.00	\$ 70,000.00	\$ 70,000.00
McKeon Park Occum - Norwich Recreation	\$ 160,800.00	\$ -	\$ -
Property Rehabilitation - CD	\$ 250,000.00	\$ 246,447.72	\$ 246,447.72
<b>Total Non-Public Services</b>	\$ 958,198.78	\$ 616,447.72	\$ 616,447.72
Public Service	\$ 143,000.00	\$ 128,000.00	\$ 128,000.00
Non-Public Service	\$ 958,198.78	\$ 616,447.72	\$ 616,447.72
CD Administration	\$ 179,004.00	\$ 179,004.00	\$ 179,004.00
<b>Total All Requests</b>	\$ 1,280,202.78	\$ 923,451.72	\$ 923,451.72

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and Wilson.

**WHEREAS**, the City of Norwich Office of Community Development, as guided by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, is proposing a substantial Amendment to the City of Norwich’s Annual Action Plan and budget for FY 2019-2020 to incorporate \$506,569 of CDBG-CV Cares Act funds; and

**WHEREAS**, the Community Development Advisory Committee (CDAC) has held public meetings and voted on their recommendations for CDBG-CV allocations in the month of May and June; and

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH** that the Council shall and hereby does allow for the substantial amendment and incorporation of CDBG-CV

**CITY OF NORWICH - CDBG-CV Requests**

PY45 Substantial Amendment CDBG-CV **\$ 506,569.00**

	Request	CDAC Recommendation	Council Recommendation
CD Office - Administration 20% of Grant Funds	\$ 49,338.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
<b>Public Services</b>			
The ARC of Eastern CT	\$ 11,500.00	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 10,000.00
NHS Norwich CARES	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00	\$ 200,000.00
Madonna Place Inc	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 7,000.00
St. Vincent de Paul Place	\$ 30,000.00	\$ 25,000.00	\$ 25,000.00
CD Office Small Business Assistance	\$ 225,000.00	\$ 219,569.00	\$ 219,569.00
<b>Total Public Services</b>	<b>\$ 481,500.00</b>	<b>\$ 461,569.00</b>	<b>\$ 461,569.00</b>
<b>Non-Public Services</b>			
Futures Inc	\$ 32,930.10	\$ -	\$ -
<b>Total Non-Public Services</b>	<b>\$ 32,930.10</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ -</b>
Public Service	\$ 481,500.00	\$ 461,569.00	\$ 461,569.00
Non-Public Service	\$ 32,930.10	\$ -	\$ -
CD Administration	\$ 49,338.00	\$ 45,000.00	\$ 45,000.00
<b>Total All Requests</b>	<b>\$ 563,768.10</b>	<b>\$ 506,569.00</b>	<b>\$ 506,569.00</b>

**Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Gould, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Gould and Wilson.**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Norwich and Little People’s Play Place Too! LLC entered into a certain Lease Agreement dated September 2, 2015 pertaining to a portion of the premises located at 92 Salem Turnpike, Norwich, Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich on May 4, 2020 adopted a resolution authorizing and directing City Manager John Salomone to enter into a First Amendment to the Lease Agreement with Little People’s Play Place Too! LLC as set out in Exhibit A attached to the resolution; and

**WHEREAS**, Little People’s Play Place Too! LLC has advised the City Manager it no longer wishes to enter into this First Amendment to the Lease Agreement at this time given altered conditions and circumstances

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that the resolution adopted May 4, 2020 relative to a First Amendment to that certain Lease Agreement referred to herein is rescinded, the First Amendment not having been entered into, and the resolution shall be of no effect.

**Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould.**

**WHEREAS**, the Council of the City of Norwich viewed an informational presentation by Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee on November 19, 2018 relative to the installation of a 9-hole disc golf course in Mohegan Park proposed to be located on a site off Wilderness Road; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee recommended to the Council that the Council support and approve the installation of a 9-hole disc golf course in Mohegan Park and offered to assist in raising funds through donations towards costs estimated to be \$10,000 for the initial installation of the course; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council by resolution adopted December 3, 2018 found it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to further this project by locating and installing a 9-hole disc golf course in Mohegan Park, coordinating with the Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee through a subcommittee established for the purpose, with decisions as to the location, installation, and maintenance of the 9-hole disc golf course to require the approval of or be made by the Director of Public Works; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council authorized the receiving of and expenditure of donations for the purpose of establishing and installing a 9-hole disc golf course in Mohegan Park with any excess to remain with the City of Norwich for the maintenance of the course, but permitted to be used for the maintenance and/or refurbishment of other facilities in the park should the use of the course be discontinued; and

**WHEREAS**, the Mohegan Park Improvement and Advisory Committee recommends the course be relocated within Mohegan Park from the site initially under consideration to another site located off Mohegan Park Road which location is recommended by the Director of Public Works

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that it approves the relocation of the proposed 9-hole disc golf course from the site under initial consideration off Wilderness Road to a site near the picnic pavilion off Mohegan Park Road, the specific location of such site to be determined by the Director of Public Works; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that the Mohegan Park Improvement and Development Advisory Committee, and the subcommittee established by the Council for the development of the 9-hole disc golf course, may expend donated funds received relative to the project for the purposes of establishing, installing, and maintaining a 9-hole disc golf course at the site selected by the Director of Public Works for the project.

**Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by City Manager Salomone.**

**Relative to the replacement of Putnam Bank with Centreville Bank on the approved list of banks and trust companies into which the City Treasurer may deposit funds.**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter IX, Section 19 of the Charter of the City of Norwich states, “The city treasurer shall have custody of and disburse all funds belonging to the city and shall deposit the same in such banks and trust companies as may be designated by the council on recommendation of the chief executive officer by this charter;” and

**WHEREAS**, the term “financial institution” is defined in Connecticut General Statutes Sections 36a-330(4) as “a bank, Connecticut credit union, federal credit union or an out-of-state bank that maintains in this state a branch as defined in section 36a-410”; and

**WHEREAS**, Centreville Bank recently acquired the Putnam Bank which is one of the banks approved by the Council of the City of Norwich into which the City Treasurer may deposit funds, and by this acquisition has branches in the State of Connecticut; and

**WHEREAS**, Putnam Bank now operates as a wholly-owned division of Centreville Bank; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of City Treasurer Michael Gualtieri, City Manager John Salomone, as Chief Executive Officer of the City of Norwich, recommends the addition of the Centreville Bank to the list of banks and trust companies into which the City Treasurer may deposit funds.

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that the Putnam Bank be and hereby is replaced by Centreville Bank on the approved list of banks and trust companies into which the City Treasurer may deposit funds.

**Exhibit 1**

Complete list of banks and trust companies into which the City Treasurer may deposit funds:

- American Freedom US Government Money Market Fund
- Bank of America Corporation
- Bank of New York
- Berkshire Bank
- Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc.
- Charles Schwab Trust Company
- Charter Oak Credit Union
- Chelsea Groton Bank
- Centreville Bank
- Citizens' Bank of Connecticut
- Comerica Bank
- Connecticut State Treasurer's Short Term Investment Fund
- Dime Savings Bank
- Eastern Savings Bank
- HSBC USA, Inc.
- ING Bank N.V.
- Liberty Bank
- MBIA, Inc.
- People's United
- State Street Corporation
- TD Bank, N.A.
- UBS AG
- US Bank
- Webster Bank

Upon motion of Ald. Gould seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:35 P.M.

*Betsy Bennett*

City Clerk