

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held September 17, 2018, at 7:43 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash, Gould, Philbrick, DeLucia, Browning, 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.

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.

Dorothy Lessor, 15 Joseph Perkins Rd stated “The Estelle Cohn Memorial Dog Park” is severely overgrown and would like it to be maintained better by the City.

Robert Lessor, 15 Joseph Perkins Rd stated the dog park is a mess and is in need of mowing and cleaning.

Jean White, 184 West Thames St, talked about her high taxes and how the city grass in her neighborhood doesn’t get mowed and is overgrown bringing down her property value.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Mayor Nystrom read the following Proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, pets contribute to their families true unconditional love, loyalty, companionship and comfort, especially to the very young and the elderly; and

WHEREAS, the **Connecticut Humane Society** enriches the lives of families and communities through adoption services, medical care, education and prevention of cruelty; and

WHEREAS, **Connecticut Humane Society** applied for and was awarded a grant from Community Foundation of Eastern Connecticut whose stated mission is to provide assistance for veterinary care for domestic animals, especially to spay/neuter and to encourage responsible pet ownership; and

WHEREAS, the **Connecticut Humane Society** partnered with Saint Vincent DePaul Place to provide monthly pet wellness clinics giving 452 dogs, 311 cats, 2 rabbits and 3 ferrets the ability to see veterinarian, holding 18 clinics with 7 partner organizations and serving 479 families; and

WHEREAS, **Connecticut Humane Society** partnered with Norwich Human Services, Norwich Animal Control, Norwich City Clerk and Norwich Community Policing to provide additional services including dog licenses and information about low cost care and neutering services; and

WHEREAS, the Rose City appreciates all the work the **Connecticut Humane Society** has given to our beloved pets and thanks them for a job well done.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR PETER ALBERT NYSTROM AND NORWICH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM, BILL NASH, ON BEHALF OF THE NORWICH CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, do hereby thank **Connecticut Humane Society** for all of their hard work on behalf of the City of Norwich.

Dated this Seventeenth Day of September, 2018

Peter Albert Nystrom
Mayor

Bill Nash
President Pro Tem

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

Ald. Gould motioned, seconded by Ald. Delucia, to put the ordinance below introduced by Mayor Nystrom on the floor.

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING AN EXEMPTION FROM PROPERTY TAX FOR GOLD STAR PARENTS AND SPOUSES PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF PUBLIC ACT NO. 17-65.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that Ordinance 7-27a as set forth hereinafter be and hereby is adopted:

Sec. 1.

Pursuant to the provisions of Connecticut Public Act No. 17-65, any parent whose child was killed in action, or the surviving spouse of any person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the armed forces, as defined in subsection (a) of section 27-103 of the General Statutes, which parent or surviving spouse is a resident of the City of Norwich, shall be entitled to an exemption to be applied to the assessed value of property in an amount up to \$10,000 effective as of the assessment year commencing October 1, 2018, or in an amount up to ten (10%) percent of the assessed value, whichever is the lesser, provided the qualifying income of such surviving parent or spouse does not exceed the maximum amount applicable to an unmarried person as provided in section 12-811 of the General Statutes.

Sec. 2

- (a) If both parents of any such child killed in action while performing active military duty with the armed forces are domiciled together, only one

such parent shall be entitled to an exemption from the property tax provided for under this section.

- (b) The exemption provided for under this section shall be in addition to any exemption to which an eligible parent or surviving spouse may be entitled under section 12-81 of the General Statutes. No such eligible parent or surviving spouse entitled exemption under sections 12-81f or 12-81g of the General Statutes in this section shall receive more than one exemption.

Sec. 3

- (a) Any parent whose child was killed in action, or the surviving spouse of a person who was killed in action, while performing active military duty with the armed forces and who claims an exemption from taxation under this section shall give notice to the town clerk of Norwich that he or she is entitled to such exemption.
- (b) Any such parent or surviving spouse submitting a claim for such exemption shall be required to file an application, on a form prepared for such purpose by the assessor, not later than the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed, which application shall include at least two (2) affidavits of disinterested persons showing that the deceased child or person was performing such active military duty, that such deceased child or person was killed in action while performing such active military duty and the relationship of such deceased child of such parent, or such deceased person to such surviving spouse, providing the assessor may require such parent or surviving spouse to be examined by the assessor under oath concerning such facts. Each such application shall include a copy of such parents or surviving spouses federal income tax return, or in the event such a return is not filed such evidence relating to income as may be required by the assessor, for the tax year of such parent or surviving spouse ending immediately prior to the assessment date with respect to which such exemption is claimed.

Sec. 4

The ordinance shall be listed as Ordinance 7-27a in the Code of Ordinances and take effect ten (10) days after passage and publication.

The above ordinance passes as presented above on a vote of 7-0.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Delucia, it was unanimously voted to accept the letter of resignation of Delisia Dollinger from the School Facilities Committee and thank her for her service.

City Manager Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: September 17, 2018

I attended the Diversity Committee and Public Safety meetings this month and dispatcher pension negotiations continue. I met with Josh Pothier on the upcoming budget process for the next fiscal year.

A pre-bid meeting was held on September 11th as part of the RFP for the specifications for the five new firetrucks for the City's volunteer fire departments. Seven truck manufacturers attended the meeting which was not mandatory for submitting a bid.

There is still time to register for programs through the Norwich Recreation Department. The Recreation Department printed 10,000 brochures which were distributed through the Norwich Bulletin and to Norwich schools and local businesses. The brochure is still ranked as the highest conversion rate to actual registrations so the book will be produced and distributed for free with the Norwich Bulletin for fall, winter, spring and summer programs. The Recreation Department also promotes their programs on Facebook, via email, and website and you can register on-line through the City's website.

Former Deputy Chief Christopher Ferace's Swearing-in Ceremony as Putnam's new Chief of Police was held on Thursday, September 13th. He was a pleasure to work with and we wish him well in his new position,

The Slater Memorial Museum and the City of Norwich Ellis Walter Ruley Commemoration Committee are proud to present *Brought to Light: Ellis Ruley in Norwich* from September 23rd to December 7th. The opening reception will be held on September 23, 2018. The exhibition, explores Ruley's artwork while examining the story of his life and death. Also, on September 23rd, Global Cities will be holding the Norwich Cup of Nations festival on Franklin Street from 2 to 6 pm and my assistant will be representing the City at the Heart Walk being held at Mohegan Sun.

I have attached the Key Financial Indicators Report from Comptroller Josh Pothier for your review. This report has been done for the 2 months ending August 31st and eight months ending February 28/29th each year to coincide with the major tax collection and storm season. Also, attached is the Treasurer's Report from Michael Gualtieri, for quarter ended August 31, 2018 for your review.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

There were no speakers.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment on resolutions closed.

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has appointed with Councils approval as a **regular member** to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/20 or until a successor is appointed;

David S. Martin (R)

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has appointed with Councils approval as an **alternate member** to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/20 or until a successor is appointed;

Kevin Saythany (D)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the appointments of the above named to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

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

To reallocate funds from the prior years' capital budgets to replace the truck scale for the weigh station at the transfer station located at 73 Rogers Road

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich ("City") entered into a contract with Willimantic Waste Paper Co., Inc. ("WWP") on May 4, 2015; which contract was amended by "Amendment #1 To Contract For Services" on June 30, 2017 for WWP to operate the transfer station located at 73 Rogers Road; and,

WHEREAS, Section 8. of Attachment D of the June 30, 2017 amendment to the contract states that:

Weighing Procedures /Scale Maintenance and Repair/Scale Replacement

When required by Contractor, all vehicles bringing materials to the Transfer Station will be subject to weighing upon arrival and departure.

The Contractor acknowledges that the scale situated at the Transfer Station on the date of this Amendment is owned by the City (the "City Scale"). The Contractor will provide, at its expense, all routine maintenance for the City Scale and all accessory equipment as may be necessary. In the event the City Scale is deemed either inoperable and/or unable to be certified, by either Contractor in its discretion or the appropriate certifying authorities, unless due to the failure by the Contractor to properly maintain the City Scale, the City will install a new scale, at City expense, for use by Contractor.

; and,

WHEREAS, in the opinion of Director of Public Works, Ryan Thompson, the City Scale described in Section 8 is a truck scale which is beyond its useful life and is in imminent danger of failing; and,

WHEREAS, Director of Public Works Ryan Thompson estimates that the costs to acquire and construct a new truck scale and rent a temporary truck scale while the new truck scale is being constructed to be \$120,000.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that a sums of \$105,999.94 and \$14,000.06 be repurposed from Capital Improvement Fund 2015-16 line items 10216-88247 and 10216-88242, respectively, for the purposes of acquiring and constructing a new truck scale and renting a temporary truck scale while the new truck scale is being constructed.

Motion passes on a vote of 7-0.

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

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, by resolution adopted March 19, 2018 established the 2018 School Facilities Review Committee and appointed eleven regular members to the same; and

WHEREAS, these members serve as representatives of the council, the board of education, parents, the community, and Norwich Public School staff; and

WHEREAS, Delisia Dollinger, of the Norwich Public School staff, has resigned as a member of the School Facilities Committee

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that Cynthia Beauregard be and hereby is appointed to the School Facilities Committee to replace Delisia Dollinger.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to go into executive session.

I hereby move pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation. City Manager John Salomone, Corporation Counsel, Michael Driscoll and Attorney Kenneth Plumb, Special Labor Counsel, shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council.

The council was in Executive Session from 8:15 pm to 8:49 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom stated no votes were taken.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Delucia, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to suspend the rules to add the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom.

WHEREAS, AFSCME Local 2422 and a city employee filed a grievance against the City of Norwich, (collectively "the Parties"), dated April 9, 2018, which grievance is currently pending before the State of Connecticut Board of Mediation and Arbitration; and

WHEREAS, a complaint has also been filed with the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Parties are interested in resolving any and all issues relating to the grievance and any pending or potential complaints or grievances; and

WHEREAS, the Parties propose to enter into a Settlement Agreement and Full and Final Release of Claims;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that, having reviewed the Settlement Agreement in Full and Final Release of Claims, it finds entering into same to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the Settlement Agreement in Full and Final Release of Claims is hereby ratified and approved and City Manager John Salomone be and hereby is authorized and directed to execute duplicate copies of the Settlement Agreement in Full and Final Release of Claims, and to receive and deliver them.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to adopt the above resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom.

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:01 P.M.


City Clerk