

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held November 16, 2020 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Gould (via phone), 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. 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.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, expressed disappointment that the Council meetings were not open to the public. He talked about a brownfields article in the Norwich Bulletin and stated he will attend the Veterans events this Saturday near NFA.

There were no emails.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Mayor Nystrom read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are 31.7 million small businesses in the United States, they represent 99.9% of all firms with paid employees in the United States, are responsible for 65.1% of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2019; and

WHEREAS, small businesses employ 47.1% of the employees in the private sector in the United States, 62% of U.S. small businesses reported that they need to see consumer spending return to pre-COVID levels by the end of 2020 in order to stay in business, 65% of U.S. small business owners said it would be most helpful to their business to have their “regulars” return and start making purchases again, and three-quarters of U.S. consumers are currently looking for ways to Shop Small and support their community; and

WHEREAS, 96% of consumers who shopped on **Small Business Saturday** agree that shopping at small, independently-owned businesses supports their commitment to making purchases that have a positive social, economic, and environmental impact and 97% of consumers who shopped on **Small Business Saturday** agree that small businesses are essential to their community; and

WHEREAS, 95% of consumers who shopped on **Small Business Saturday** reported the day makes them want to shop or eat at small, independently-owned businesses all year long, not just during the holiday season; and

WHEREAS, Norwich supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy, and preserve our communities; and

WHEREAS, advocacy groups, as well as public and private organizations, across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as **Small Business Saturday**.

NOW THEREFORE, I, MAYOR PETER ALBERT NYSTROM AND NORWICH CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEM, MARK BETTENCOURT, ON BEHALF OF THE NORWICH CITY COUNCIL AND THE CITIZENS OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, do hereby proclaim, November 28, 2020, as **Small Business Saturday** and urge the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on **Small Business Saturday** and throughout the year.

Dated this Sixteenth Day of November, 2020

Peter Albert Nystrom
Mayor

Mark Bettencourt
President Pro Tem

Mayor Nystrom called for a Public Hearing on the **AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 8-74, 8-75 AND 8-77 OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF FUND PLAN OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**

Speaking in favor:

There were no speakers.

There were no emails.

Speaking in opposition:

There were no speakers.

There were no emails.

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

Upon a motion by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 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 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, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, and Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll.

The council was in Executive Session from 7:55 pm to 8:20 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Myles, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to return to regular session.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Wilson, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to postpone the following ordinance until January 19, 2021.

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 8-74, 8-75 AND 8-77 OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF FUND PLAN OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

WHEREAS, plan changes have been proposed to the City of Norwich Volunteer Firefighters Pension Plan; and **WHEREAS**, on or about October 5, 2020 the City of Norwich Finance Department received an analysis of the financial impact of the proposed changes prepared by the actuarial firm overseeing the pension fund; and **WHEREAS**, the Volunteer Firefighter Relief Fund Committee at a special meeting held October 13, 2020 reviewed this financial analysis and voted to recommend the proposed plan changes to the Council of the City of Norwich

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Norwich that the following amendments to Sections 8-74, 8-75, and 8-77 of Article IV of Chapter 8 of the Code of Ordinances listed as follows:

Section 8-74(a)(v)(6);

Section 8-74(a)(v)(7,) (to be added);

Section 8-75(a) (i) and (ii), (subpart (ii) deleted in full);

Section 8-75(c)(vi), (amending 8-75(c)(vi) by deleting (i) and (2) and restating (vi));

Section 8-75(c)(vii), (to be added);

Section 8-77(d)(i)(1)(a) and (b);

Section 8-77(d)(i)(l)(c), (to be added).

BE AND HEREBY ARE ADOPTED.

Sec. 8-74. – Service

(v) Contribution rate. A plan member shall contribute the following amounts for purchase of credited service during the following periods:

- (1) \$60.00 for plan years prior to January 1, 1995.
- (2) \$84.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 1995 but prior to January 1, 2000.
- (3) \$120.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 2000 but prior to January 1, 2006.
- (4) \$180.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 2006 but prior to January 1, 2011.
- (5) \$216.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 2011 but prior to January 1, 2014.
- (6) \$264.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 2014 but prior to January 1, 2021.
- (7) \$288.00 for plan years on or after January 1, 2021.

Sec. 8-75. - Retirement benefits.

(a) Normal retirement.

~~(i) For members joining the plan prior to January 1, 2015, the~~ A plan member's normal retirement date shall be the first day of the month in which such member has attained age 55 and has completed at least 20 years of credited service.

~~(ii) For members joining the plan on or after January 1, 2015, the plan member's normal retirement date shall be the first day of the month in which such member has attained age 55 and has completed at least 25 years of credited service.~~

(b) Deferred retirement. A plan member who is satisfactorily able to perform fire duties may remain an active member and continue to earn credited service beyond his/her normal retirement date while he/she continues to collect benefits. The first day of the calendar month following such deferred retirement shall be known as his/her deferred retirement date.

(c) Calculation of retirement benefits. The monthly amount of retirement benefits payable to a plan member shall be calculated as follows:

(i) For retired members with a break in service prior to January 1, 1995, \$7.00 times 20 years of service, for a maximum of \$140.00.

(ii) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 1995 but prior to January 1, 2000, \$8.00 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of 30 years, or \$240.00.

iii) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 2000 but prior to January 1, 2006, \$10.00 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of 30 years, or \$300.00.

(iv) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 2006 but prior to January 1, 2011, \$15.00 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of 35 years, or \$525.00.

(v) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 2011 but prior to January 1, 2015, \$18.00 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of 40 years, or \$720.00.

(vi) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 2015 but prior to January 1, 2021, \$22.00 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of forty years, or \$880.00;

~~(1) Forty years, or \$880.00, for members who joined the plan prior to January 1, 2015~~

~~(2) Thirty years, or \$660.00, for members who joined the plan on or after January 1, 2015~~

(vii) For retired members with a break in service on or after January 1, 2021, \$24 times number of years of credited service, with a maximum of 40 years, or \$960.00

Sec. 8-77. - Death benefits.

(d) Death after retirement.

(i) Qualified spousal and child benefits. A plan member who is under the age of 65 as of January 8, 2001 and is an active member is entitled to have benefits pass onto his/her qualified spouse and child(ren), subject to the restrictions and calculations described herein.

(1) Qualified spouse is entitled to death benefits until death or remarriage, calculated as follows:

- a. Plan member who died between January 8, 2001 and July 16, 2006. Fifty percent of the deceased plan member's retirement benefit;
- b. Plan member who died ~~after~~ between July 16, 2006 and January 1, 2021. Ninety percent of the deceased plan member's retirement benefit.
- c. Plan member who die after January 1, 2021. One hundred percent of the deceased plan member's retirement benefit.

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following report regarding AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 8-74, 8-75 AND 8-77 OF ARTICLE IV OF CHAPTER 8 OF THE CODE OF ORDINANCES PERTAINING TO THE VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS' RELIEF FUND PLAN OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

MEMORANDUM

DATE: 11/13/2020

TO: Betsy Barrett - City Clerk
City of Norwich, Connecticut

FROM: Alderman Joseph A. DeLucia - Chairman
Public Safety Committee

CC: Peter A. Nystrom - Mayor
City of Norwich

Esteemed Alderpersons
Norwich City Council

Re: VFFRF Ordinance referral



TOWN CITY CLERK
NORWICH CT

RECEIVED
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The Public Safety Sub-committee of the City Council held its regular meeting on November 12, 2020 to take up the referral of the Volunteer Firefighters' Relief Fund Ordinance. Present were Alderman Joseph A. DeLucia and Council President Pro-tempore Mark M. Bettencourt, and Alderman William Nash, as were several members of the Public Safety complex leadership and members of the general public via video and phone conferencing.

Unfortunately, the virtual meeting was suddenly and inappropriately attacked by individuals who had entered the meeting and made comments that were not welcome or appropriate for a public meeting. While attempts were made to remove these individuals from the meeting, it quickly became clear that the meeting could not continue. Subsequently, no discussion by the committee was had, and no vote was taken prior to adjournment.

City Managers Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council

From: John Salomone, City Manager

Subject: City Manager's Report

Date: November 16, 2020

Meetings attended via conference call or video were Governor Lamont updates, State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments, (SCCOG), Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting, and the NPU City Coordination meeting.

McGrath Consulting Group, Inc., the consulting firm to perform the analysis of the City's fire services, visited the fire and police departments November 11th-13th and will be meeting with staff again on November 17th & 18th.

Norwich Public Works has installed a four-way stop condition at the intersection of Hickory and Prospect Street to improve the safety for motor vehicles and pedestrians in this neighborhood. The improvement was suggested in a Traffic Study at the request of the Public Works Committee.

I received notice from the US Department of Justice for the Norwich Police Department's assistance with the 36 month imprisonment of a Norwich man involved in a southeastern CT drug trafficking ring.

The Community Development Office has received 5 applications requesting a total of \$834,838 in Cares Act Funding. The amount available is \$544,143 and the CDBG Committee will be meeting in the next few weeks to review and recommend funding amounts to Council.

The City Clerk's Office has received a Historic Documents Preservation Grant in the amount of \$7,500 to preserve documents from 1938 to 1946.

Thank you to Unitarian Universalist Church who has donated \$15,000 to Norwich Human Services to assist Norwich families. This makes \$30,000 in total they have entrusted to NHS to assist our community. Thank you to Chelsea Groton Bank who donated \$4,700 to assist families to pay for internet services and thank you to the Salvation Army and Door Dash who will be working with NHS to get food to homebound Norwich people.

Thank you to John and Mary Johnson of Griswold for the donation of the City Hall holiday tree. This is the second tree they have donated over the past few years. JJ is the City's Facilities and Ground Manager and a member of the Light Up City Hall Committee. Norwich Public Utilities will be stringing the lights this week and the Light Up City Hall Committee will be having a virtual lighting ceremony on First Friday, December 4th due to COVID and social distancing requirements. The tree lighting will be posted on the City's Facebook page and website. The Committee will also light up the gazebo at Brown Park this year thanks to previous year's donations from sponsors and can be viewed on the City's boat launch web cam. Thank you to the committee and volunteers for their creativity and assistance with this year's virtual event.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Deanna Rhodes, Director of Planning, spoke in support of the Design Guidelines in Resolution #1 and talked about the possible issue with the cornices in Resolution #2.

There were no emails.

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, President Pro Tem Bettencourt and Ald. Gould.

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich established a city Historic District Commission on October 2, 1967; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the ordinance establishing a city Historic District Commission, the City of Norwich established a Norwichtown Historic District on August 30, 1967 and the Little Plain Historic District on June 24, 1969; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich, is a Certified Local Government as defined by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office; and

WHEREAS, the Norwich Historic District Commission is completing or has completed a grant application to be submitted to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office to be used in updating Design Guidelines for Historic Districts in the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Norwich Historic District Commission is of the opinion that updated Design Guidelines will assist Norwich property owners seeking to make exterior alterations to their properties within one of the historic districts, recognizing the range of architectural styles existing in the two local historic districts in Norwich.

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 on behalf of the City of Norwich to enter into, execute, and deliver a grant application, in a form satisfactory to him, to the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, the funds to be used for the purpose of assisting the Norwich Historic District Commission in updating its Design Guidelines.

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

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Bettencourt seconded by Ald. Myles, it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould to add as the last paragraph “;and **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH**, that any such agreement address current issues with the exterior of the building cornices”.

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has been notified of an impending transfer of interests in the Wauregan Hotel located at 25 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut and Surrounding Properties; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has received drafts of the proposed:

1. Assignment and Assumption of the Development Agreement for the Wauregan Hotel and Surrounding Properties by and among Becker and Becker Associates, Inc. and Wauregan Owner, LLC of Norwich, Connecticut; and
2. Assignment and Assumption of Ground Lease, Environmental Liability and Tax Abatement Agreement, Open-End Mortgage and Open-End Leasehold Mortgage, to be entered into by and among Becker and Becker Associates, Inc. and Wauregan Owner, LLC of Norwalk, Connecticut and by and among Wauregan Development LLC and Wauregan Owner LLC respectively; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has also received a proposed Consent to the Assignment and Assumption to run from the City of Norwich to Wauregan Development, LLC, Becker and Becker Associates, Inc., and Wauregan Owner, LLC in connection with this transaction.

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 on behalf of the City of Norwich to enter into, execute, and deliver the

Consent to Assignment and Assumption described herein if satisfactory to him and the Corporation Counsel, and to cause the same to be delivered to the firm of Carmody, Torrance, Sandak and Hennessey, LLP to the attention of Attorney Gregg T. Burton or as otherwise requested; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that any such agreement address current issues with the exterior of the building cornices.

Upon a motion by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6) for the purpose of discussing the acquisition or disposition of real estate or interests in real estate when publicity regarding the site, purchase or construction would adversely impact the price of the same; to review engineering or feasibility estimates and evaluation, made for the City, and to review commercial or financial information given in confidence not required by statute. City Manager John Salomone, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, Planning Director Deanna Rhodes, Jason Vincent, president of Norwich Community Development Corporation, Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll and Attorney Mark Block for Norwich Community Development Corporation, shall be asked to participate during all or portions of this Executive Session at the request of the City Council.

I also move, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 1-200(6), that the members of the Norwich City Council continue in Executive Session for the purpose of discussing strategy and negotiations with respect to pending claims and litigation. 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, Finance Director Joshua Pothier, Planning Director Deanna Rhodes, Jason Vincent, president of Norwich Community Development Corporation, Corporation Counsel Michael E. Driscoll and Attorney Mark Block for Norwich Community Development Corporation, 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 8:45 pm to 9:22 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

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

Upon motion of Ald. Gould seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 9:23 P.M.



City Clerk