



CITY OF NORWICH
CONNECTICUT

AGENDA MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

October 2, 2023

7:30 PM

The meeting will be televised on the Public Access Channel and posted on the city website, www.norwichct.org, in real time.

PRAYER

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

PROCLAMATION: NAACP, Norwich Branch

ADOPTION OF MINUTES: September 5 and September 18, 2023

PETITION AND COMMUNICATION

1. Letter of referral from Monument Committee approving the location of the Greeneville playground wall for a mural and requests that the artists and those assisting them coordinate with the City Planner and the Public Works Director.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CITIZENS COMMENT ON RESOLUTIONS (on agenda items only)

NEW BUSINESS RESOLUTIONS

1. Relative to approving the location of the Greeneville playground wall for a mural and requests that the artists and those assisting them coordinate with the City Planner and the Public Works Director.
2. Relative to the NorWITCH Halloween Strut.
3. Relative to the City Manager being authorized to sign an Agreement with the State of Connecticut for the replacement of Bridge No. 00279 Carrying Lawler Lane over I-395.
4. Relative to a portion of Sachem Plains Road bounded by Mahan Drive being discontinued.
5. Relative to the City Manager being and authorized to enter into a purchase and sales agreement with Ox Hill Land LLC

NEW BUSINESS ORDINANCE

1. AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIAN, INC. FROM THE PAYMENT OF TAXES OF CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8 HARLAND HEIGHTS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE

Roseann Musculla
City Clerk

City of Norwich - Monument Committee

Date : Sept 25th 2023

Subject : Favorable Recommendations to Greenville Mural Project.

cc: Norwich City Council

cc: Public Works & Capitol Improvement Committee

The Monument committee Meeting was held on Sept 25th 2023 at 6:30pm thru Special hybrid Meeting Via Zoom and in Room 335 of Norwich City Hall in which Members of Monument committee discussed the Greenville Mural project.

After Discussion favorable recommendation was given unanimously by all the members of Monument Committee to approve the project with just one slight change of not including any tribute names to quote written on the mural.

Thanks

Respectfully Submitted by:



Alderman Swarnjit Singh
Chair: Monument Committee

Members Present : Grant Neuendorf, Tracey Burto and Swarnjit Singh

RESOLUTION #1

WHEREAS, public art is art placed in public places for the public including statutes, sculptures, and paintings that range in size, form, and scale; and

WHEREAS, the Public Art for Racial Justice Education (PARJE) has proposed to paint a mural on the Greeneville playground wall, the concept design developed by three artists, Samson Tonton, Bart Jeczmienny, and Emida Roller, the work to involve the artists and approximately 40 young people from the Greeneville neighborhood including members of the NAACP Robertsine Duncan Youth Council, and the Blooming Into Greatness Rose City Step Team; and

WHEREAS, the design has been revised following suggestions and comments received at the August meeting of the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee of the Council of the City of Norwich and is intended to express and recognize in artistic form certain themes including a red rose in recognition of Norwich as the “Rose City”, the sun setting on the dreams of those experiencing poverty, hunger, violence, drugs, and other challenges, a quote from Angela Davis recognizing the desire of youth to make changes for the better in our neighborhoods and the city and a shining light reflecting social justice radiating from hands holding the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Public Works and Capital Improvements Committee of the Council of the City of Norwich has recommended approval of this public art.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that it approves the location of the Greeneville playground wall for the mural and requests that the artists and those assisting them coordinate with the City Planner and the Public Works Director as necessary through the duration of the project recognizing that upkeep of the mural will be the sole responsibility of those developing and creating it.

Alderwoman Stacy Gould
Alderman Swarnjit Singh
Alderman Grant Neuendorf
Alderman Bill Nash
Alderwoman Tracey Burto

RESOLUTION #2

WHEREAS, the Norwich Events Organization proposes to host the NorWITCH Halloween Strut to be held on Saturday, October 28, 2023 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Sanquedolce Plaza and the David Ruggles Courtyard outside city hall and on lower Broadway from Bath Street to Main Street at Castle Church with the permission of the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Chief of Police, as traffic authority, has recommended the closure to vehicular traffic of Bath Street and Broadway between Bath Street and Main Street, the closure to vehicular traffic to commence at 4:30 p.m. and run to 8:30 p.m.; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich, by this resolution, grants permission to the Norwich Events Organization to conduct the event using Sanquedolce Plaza and the David Ruggles Courtyard, and lower Broadway as described herein, and expresses its support for the NorWITCH Halloween Strut and its sponsors and welcomes the many visitors who will attend the same to enjoy its many attractions.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that it is in support of the NorWITCH Halloween Strut and grants permission to the Norwich Events Organization to conduct the same during the hours and at the locations described herein and authorizes the closing to vehicular traffic of Bath Street and lower Broadway between Bath Street and Main Street from the hours of 4:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. in accordance with the recommendation of the Chief of Police as Traffic Authority.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Bill Nash

RESOLUTION #3

WHEREAS, the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation has notified the City of Norwich by certified letter dated September 18, 2023 that the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation is acquiring property for the Replacement of Bridge No. 00279 Carrying Lawler Lane over I-395 showing easements to be acquired from the City of Norwich by the State of Connecticut in connection with this Replacement of Bridge No. 00279; and

WHEREAS, a right-of-way survey provided with the letter shows the limit of the proposed construction easement where a temporary guide wire will be installed; and

WHEREAS, under property file no. 103-277-001 the state has valued the taking area at \$10.56 but offers compensation to the City of Norwich rounded to a total of \$500 and requests, should the city wish to accept this offer, the execution of a letter from the City of Norwich to the State of Connecticut Department of Transportation, a copy of which is attached to this resolution as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to accept this offer of compensation and grant the request of easement to the State of Connecticut through the Department of Transportation.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that it hereby accepts the state's offer of \$500 for the requested easement; and

BE IT FURTHER 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 sign and deliver the Acceptance Agreement in a form substantially as set out in Exhibit A attached hereto and receive a fully completed document after the same has been signed the State of Connecticut as well as the payment in the sum of \$500.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Bill Nash

STATE OF CONNECTICUT
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Property File No.: 103-277-001

Owner Name: **Town of Norwich**

Acceptance Agreement

It is understood that you agree to the State's offer in the amount of \$500.00. The following shall apply:

- The above award is in full settlement for all real property rights acquired and constitutes a full and final payment for any and all loss of value caused by this acquisition.
- This acquisition is in accordance with C.G.S. Sec.13a-73(c), 13b-36(a) & 13a-79; as applicable.
- This agreement is subject to final approval(s) in accordance with C.G.S. Sec. 13a-73(h)
- Pending the delivery of good and sufficient title, an Immediate Right of Entry is hereby granted to the State of Connecticut, and/or its agents to proceed with the construction of the subject project.
- Payment(s) will be made by check issued from the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut to the property owner and/or mortgagee (if applicable) at the time of closing.
- The owner agrees to assist in the securing of good and sufficient title and agrees to convey the same by instrument prepared by the Department.

Owner's Legal Signature Date

Owner's Legal Signature Date

James I. Mason, Transportation Principal Property Agent Date

State Properties Review Board Date

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Invoice Date: _____ Invoice #: _____ CORE P.O. #: _____ CORE Receipt #: _____

Payee: (Name & Address)

Payee's FEIN/SSN:

--

Invoice Amount:

\$500.00

Property Location:

131 Lawler Lane, Norwich, CT 06360

Coded By: _____ Reviewed By: _____ Date: _____

FUND	SID	DeptID	Project No.	Activity	Source Type	Account	Parcel No.	Detail Amount
12062	22108	DOT57125	DOT0103-0277RW	RW0000	RW201	55470	001	\$500.00

RECEIVED CHECK NO. _____

DATE _____

IN THE AMOUNT OF \$ _____

IN PAYMENT OF ABOVE.

BY _____

RESOLUTION #4

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich authorized the rebuilding of the Armstrong Tennis Courts and the installation of draining and paving in a parking lot adjoining the same which parking lot serves the Armstrong Tennis Court, the Spayne Basketball Courts, and the Dickenman/Rec Baseball Field; and

WHEREAS, the land in the immediate area between the Kelly Middle School, the Armstrong Tennis Courts, and the reconstructed parking area is owned by the City of Norwich but once was or was intended to be a portion of Sachem Plains Road; and

WHEREAS, the described area is overgrown with trees and underbrush and if ever used as a public road has not been so used within living memory; and

WHEREAS, a resolution by the council formally discontinuing this section of land for use as a road will permit other uses of the land in support of tennis courts, the basketball courts, the baseball field, the recreation complex, and the nearby Fontaine Soccer Field; the land potentially to be merged with the Armstrong Tennis Courts parcel.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that that portion of property once known as Sachem Plains Road bounded easterly by Mahan Drive northerly by land owned by the City of Norwich and used as a sports field/recreation area westerly by an undeveloped area which once may have served as part of Old Town Highway and southerly by land of the City of Norwich land used for the Armstrong Tennis Courts, and the parking area adjacent to the same, the length of the portion of Sachem Plains Road being discontinued as a road being approximately 700 feet in length and 50 feet in width.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Bill Nash

RESOLUTION #5

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich on September 5, 2023 adopted Ordinance No. 1847 AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$44,750,000 FOR THE CITY OF NORWICH POLICE HEADQUARTERS FACILITY PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF \$44,750,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE appropriating \$44,750,000 for the construction of a new police station and referred the matter to a referendum to be held at the general election to be held on Tuesday, November 7, 2023; and

WHEREAS, a number of properties have been considered as a potential site for the new police station; and

WHEREAS, having reviewed and considered proposed sites the Council of the City of Norwich, in conjunction with the Norwich Police Department have concluded the site of land owned by Ox Hill Land, LLC consisting of approximately 27.58 acres of vacant and wooded land located adjacent to land owned by the City of Norwich on the east side of Mahan Drive, Map 69 Block 1 Lot 21; and

WHEREAS, significant portions of the site border portions of Mohegan Park such that the council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to acquire the property for its potential enhancement of Mohegan Park as well as potential for use in connection with existing city facilities located on or near Mahan Drive; and

WHEREAS, the Ox Hill Land, LLC is prepared to sell the property to the city for the sum of \$_____

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 enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement with Ox Hill Land, LLC to purchase the property for the price of \$_____, said Purchase and Sales Agreement to contain such terms and conditions as are acceptable to the city manager and corporation counsel and to provide that a sale shall take place on or before _____ unless the date of the sale is extended by mutual agreement between Ox Hill Land, LLC and the City of Norwich.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Bill Nash

NEW BUSINESS ORDINANCE #1

AN ORDINANCE EXEMPTING THE ORTHODOX CHURCH OF THE HOLY NEW MARTYRS AND CONFESSORS OF RUSSIAN, INC. FROM THE PAYMENT OF TAXES ON CERTAIN PROPERTY LOCATED AT 8 HARLAND HEIGHTS FROM THE DATE OF PURCHASE

WHEREAS, that certain property located at 8 Harland Heights, Norwich, Connecticut was purchased by The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. on May 17, 2023 to be used as the dwelling house of the Priest; and,

WHEREAS, said property since May 17, 2023 has been used for the dwelling house of the Priest by the Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc.; and,

WHEREAS, said property was not considered to be tax exempt on the Grand List of October 1, 2022; and,

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statute Section 12-81(b) provides that any municipality may, by ordinance, provide that the property tax exemption authorized by any of subdivisions (7-16), inclusive, of section 12-81 shall be effective as of the date of acquisition of the property to which the exemption applies and shall, in such ordinance, provide procedure for reimbursement of the tax-exempt organization for any tax paid by it for a period subsequent to said date; and,

WHEREAS, Connecticut General Statute Section 12-81(15) provides that real property, used by officiating clergymen as dwellings, shall be exempt from taxation; and,

WHEREAS, the Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. subsequently filed an M-3 application with the Norwich Assessor for the real property located at 8 Harland Heights to be eligible for the exemption based on its' use; and,

WHEREAS, the Assessor has approved the exempt status based on its current use; and,

WHEREAS, taxes on the October 1, 2022 Grand List, which covers the period of October 1, 2022 through September 30, 2023 were \$6,290.06; and,

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. has paid the first half of the real estate taxes on the October 1, 2022 Grand List for the property located at 8 Harland Heights in the total amount of \$3,172.84; and,

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc., owned the property located at 8 Harland Heights for a period of 136 days on the October 1, 2022 grand list; and,

WHEREAS, The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. would be entitled to a reimbursement in the amount of \$2,343.28.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that such property at 8 Harland Heights be and hereby is exempted from the payment of any real estate taxes, interest or penalty due on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 from the date of purchase, May 17, 2023, as approved by the City Assessor, or until said premises are no longer used by The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. as the dwelling house of

the Priest and the City of Norwich shall reimburse The Orthodox Church of the Holy New Martyrs and Confessors of Russian, Inc. for any City of Norwich real estate taxes paid by it on the Grand List of October 1, 2022 for the period subsequent to May 17, 2023; which reimbursement shall be in the sum of \$2,343.28 for real estate taxes paid to the City of Norwich.

Mayor Peter Albert Nystrom
President Pro Tem Joseph A. DeLucia
Alderman Bill Nash