

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 5, 2024 at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Singh, Ald. Gould, Ald. Bettencourt, Ald. Hayes and Ald. Nash. City Manager John Salomone, Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

Please be advised that meetings of the Norwich City Council can be viewed in their entirety on the City of Norwich website “norwichct.org”.

Ald. Nash, read the opening prayer and Ald. Singh led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following minutes of January 2 and January 16, 2024.

David Flint – representative from CliftonLarsonAllen LLP gave a presentation of the FY 2023.

[CLA Audit Presentation Report](#)

Upon a motion of Ald. Singh, seconded by Ald. Gould on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following.

Commission for Persons with Disabilities
Annual Report 2023
Draft

The Commission was able to meet two times this year. Eleven meetings were canceled due to the inability to meet the quorum.

The Commission currently has three members. They have not been able to meet since the Chairperson resigned in May, due to lack of quorum. They need at least 4 members at each meeting to meet the quorum.

Currently the commission has no chairperson and four vacancies.

All meetings are cancelled until more volunteers join the Commission and help their community.

(Received via email to Clerk’s Office on 1/1/2024 from Ivery Stakley)

City Manager’s Report

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: February 2, 2024

Meetings attended were with State representatives and legislators, Southeastern Council of Governments Executive Committee Meeting (SCCOG), Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA), Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) City Coordination Meeting, several follow up

meetings regarding the Yantic Flooding, and NCDC Annual meeting that was followed by the ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Hotel Callista located at the former ELKS building on Main Street.

I also held a Goal Setting Workshop on Saturday, January 27th at Foundry 66 for the Council, invited City Department Heads and NCDC President Kevin Brown. The session was moderated by Donna Hamzy Carroccia from Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) where short, mid and long term goals were prioritized and documented according to the City's updated Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD).

Public Works dug test pits at two of the proposed school sites, at the old Greeneville School, and at the Stanton School. The test pits were dug on two separate days in the month of January, in between weather events. Utilizing the City's labor and equipment helped expedite the school design process. As a result of the relatively mild winter, Public Works has been able to continue some routine maintenance activities which otherwise would have to be suspended. This includes Catch Basin cleaning, culvert clearing, and roadside ditch clearing. These activities are advantageous in preparing for future storms.

The Planning Department has submitted annual reporting to participate in the Community Rating System (CRS). The City's participation in the program allows owners of properties located within special flood hazard areas to receive a 10% discounts on their insurance premiums.

Youth, Family, and Recreation Services has been running free programs all winter, and most classes are at capacity. The Rose City Senior Center has opened its on-site Clinic in partnership with Hartford HealthCare. The uniqueness of this program lies in Hartford HealthCare services being offered right at the Rose City Senior Center and with this partnership, we will be able to better ensure Norwich Seniors are receiving a continuum of care they would not get in a typical healthcare setting.

There were 1,134 Lock Box payments processed at M & T bank for the January tax installment which was a 13% increase from January 2023.

Applications for the 2024-2025 Community Development Block Grant round were due Friday, February 2, 2024. The Community Development Office received 14 applications in addition to their administration budget for the 2024-2025 CDBG Program Year (PY50). Applications totaled \$836,665.00 with the anticipated HUD available amount of \$806,000. Review and consideration of the proposals will happen over the next several weeks.

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 on resolutions.

Michael Doyle, Reliance Health, spoke in favor of resolution #1 stating this is a help in filling the gaps between their own funding.

There being no speakers Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

To reallocate opioid settlement funds appropriated for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024.

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich adopted ordinance 1835 on December 19, 2022 to establish a framework for collecting and appropriating opioid settlement funds; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ordinance 1835, the city manager shall submit a resolution proposing the use of unexpended and unencumbered opioid settlement funds to be spent in the following fiscal year for the City Council’s consideration at its first meeting in April; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to ordinance 1835, any expenditures of opioid settlement funds shall be used exclusively for opioid abatement purposes, including, but not limited to, expanding access to opioid use disorder prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery options; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich adopted a resolution on April 3, 2023 for the appropriation of \$30,000 of opioid settlement funds for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024; and

WHEREAS, Reliance Health has requested additional funding from the City of Norwich to fill a funding shortage for a recovery coach position; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has \$6,914.35 remaining from the \$30,000 appropriation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that \$6,914.35 of opioid settlement funds be and hereby is reallocated as follows for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2024:

Org	Obj	Description	Original	After Reallocation	Notes
29024427	53322	Professional Development	\$ 10,000	\$5,585.65	For three employees to receive Community Anti-Drug Coalitions of America training.
29024427	55531	Advertising/Marketing	\$ 8,000	\$5,500.00	Media and print campaign with community collaborators, youth, and seniors
29024427	58718	Reliance Health	\$ 10,000	\$16,914.35	Reimburse the cost of recovery coaches to supplement the How Can We Help grant)
29024427	58730	Assistance Payments	\$ 2,000	\$2,000.00	Transportation to care and other recovery-related assistance to clients
		Total	\$30,000	\$30,000.00	

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has reappointed with Councils approval as a **regular member** to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/26 or until a successor is appointed;

David S. Martin (R)
Robert Phoenix (D)

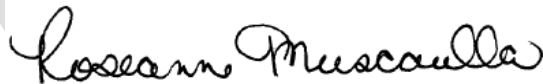
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby acknowledges the reappointments of the above named to the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould seconded Ald. Singh, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 1-200 (6), that the members of the Norwich City Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the acquisition or disposition of real estate or interests in real estate when publicity regarding the proposed acquisition or disposition would cause a likelihood of an increased price to acquire and a diminished price to dispose the property, and to review feasibility evaluations and reports made for the City of Norwich regarding such property, and to review information given to the city in confidence not required to be disclosed by law. City Manager John Salomone, Comptroller Joshua Pother, President of the Norwich Community Development Corporation Kevin Brown and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll, 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 8:03 pm to 8:52 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom, stated no votes were taken.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Hayes, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to resume the regular meeting.

Upon motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Nash on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:53 pm.



Roseann Muscaulla

City Clerk