

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 18, 2020 at 7:30 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.

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, thanked the Council for the CMEEC representative presentation.

Rodney Bowie, 62 Roosevelt Ave, talked about nuclear power and he also asked why the City is thinking of building a mega school.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

City Managers Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager’s Report
Date: February 18, 2020

The Mayor and I attended the press conference and rally at Dodd Stadium that was held by U.S. Representative Joe Courtney, local dignitaries and representatives from the community regarding the effects of contraction of minor league teams in our region. Approximately 100 people turned out to show their support for our team the Sea Unicorns.

I held the Goal Setting Session for the Council on Saturday, February 8th. I received the draft report from the facilitator today and will be providing a copy once I have reviewed.

The Southeast Area Transit District (SEAT) informed the city and surrounding towns that on Transit Equity Day they had 3,928 boarding’s which was a 34% increase to an average weekday in February.

As of February 3, 2020, the January installment of tax payments at Norwich People’s Bank branches increased by 118 payments (30.3%) and \$204.8 thousand (34.9%) increase.

Fourth and fifth graders from Mahan School visited City Hall on February 7th and 11th. Thank you to Betsy Barrett, City Clerk for leading the tours and Jacquie Barbarossa, Executive Assistant and Bonnie Cuprak, Mayor’s Secretary for assisting with the students.

The City’s Community Development Office is accepting Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) applications for Program Year 46 which is September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021. The anticipated amount from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development is approximately \$828,000. Applications will be accepted until 4:00 pm on March 11, 2020 at the Community Development Office located at 23 Union St. Details are available on the City’s website, Facebook and through the Office of Community Development.

Building Official James Troeger, has announced his retirement after 25 years of service with the City. His last day with the City will be February 19th. Thank you for your years of service and enjoy your retirement.

My office has received an interesting piece of history from a retired attorney who presented us with a brass container approximately 4 inches high and 7 inches in diameter claiming it was evidence from a case from 30+ years ago. My assistant is working with City Historian, Dale Plummer who believes the item is from the mid 1800’s to determine the case in question and I will provide more information when received.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, spoke in support of Resolution #3.

Linda Theodoru, 37 Taftville-Occum Rd, spoke in support of Resolution #4.

Shiela Hayes, 382 Laurel Hill Ave, asked the Council to support Resolution #4.

Jan Sawicki, 39 Andrea Ln, spoke in support of Resolution #4

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

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

WHEREAS, Section 12-165 of the Connecticut General Statutes, as amended by Section 35 of Public Act 13-276 provides for the administrative procedure for transferring real estate taxes deemed uncollectible to the “suspense” tax book; and,

WHEREAS, taxes transferred to the suspense tax book are no longer listed as an asset of the city in its annual financial report; and,

WHEREAS, listed below are the names and addresses of the persons against whom certain real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018 were levied and which the Tax Collector believes such taxes are uncollectible because of lack of payment for several years; and,

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Tax Collector’s recommendation the aggregate sum of \$89,046.85 in real estate tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018, to be transferred to the suspense tax book; and,

WHEREAS, nothing herein contained shall be construed as an abatement of any tax transferred to the suspense tax account, but any such taxes, as it shall have been increased by interest, penalty fees and charges may be collected; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that the aggregate sum of \$89,046.85 representing uncollectible real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2018, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

Unique ID	Address	List Years Due	Taxes Due
1000020562	56 ALICE ST	2018	1,204.56
0112180001	HOLLAND AVE	2018	2,548.28
0112190001	20 CROWN ST	2018	1,391.72
0108790001	751 NORTH MAIN ST	2018	595.08
0029250001	17 PACEMAKER AVE	2013-2015	1,313.30
0047130001	90 PINE ST	2012	3,559.12
0360010023	53 PRENTICE ST 23	2018	837.20
0081360001	5TH CANAL END OF STREET	2018	6,430.66
1200020001	BEEBE RD	2018	207.28
0049540001	117 RIVER AVE	2018	48.00
0094660001	SEVENTH ST	2018	1,180.58
0057480001	35 LAMBERT DR REAR	2018	24.39
7125620001	LAUREL HILL RD	2018	73.16
0100340001	97 FOREST ST	2018	475.12
0023810001	OAKRIDGE ST	2018	710.26
7131530001	337-341 MAIN ST	2018	68,448.14
TOTAL			89,046.85

Upon a motion of Ald. Wilson, seconded by Ald. Myles, 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 an **alternate member** to the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term to expire on 2/28/22 or until a successor is appointed;

Joanne Philbrick (R)

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Myles, seconded by Ald. Wilson, it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, Ald. Wilson, Myles and DeLucia on the floor.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Nash, it was voted to amend the following resolution to refer it to the Diversity Committee for their review and recommendations.

On a vote of 1-6 with Mayor Nystrom, President Pro Tem Bettencourt, Ald. Nash, Wilson, Myles and DeLucia voting in opposition the amendment fails.

WHEREAS, in the City of Norwich, Committees, Commissions, Boards and Authorities play an important role in shaping city priorities, as well as the nature and provision of the city’s services; and

WHEREAS, residents appointed to Committees, Commissions, Boards and Authorities make decisions that affect the daily lives, opportunities, and well-being of all residents of; and

WHEREAS, the goal of the City encourages participation by all residents in city government by serving as members of these Committees, Commissions, Boards and Authorities reflecting our diverse community; and

WHEREAS, the Council recognizes the expression of diverse viewpoints when making decisions will lead to the betterment of the City, benefit a larger number of residents as well as encouraging civic participation.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that efforts shall be made to promote full community representation and encourage applicants from all backgrounds with the intention that appointments be representative of the diversity of the population of the City of Norwich when possible.

Motion passes 7-0.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, it was voted to amend the following resolution to refer it to the Appointment & Re-appointment Committee.

On a vote of 4-3 with Ald. Wilson, Myles and DeLucia voting in opposition the amendment passes.

BE IT RESOLVED, that the below named be and hereby is appointed as a regular member to the Norwich Golf Course Authority for a term to expire January 23, 2021 or until a successor is appointed.

Susan Dutilly (D)

Upon motion of Ald. Gould seconded by President Pro Tem Bettencourt, it was unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:20 P.M.



City Clerk