

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 20, 2018, at 7:30 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Nystrom, Ald. Nash, Gould, Philbrick, DeLucia, Burnham and Browning. City Manager Salomone and Corporation Counsel Michael Driscoll were also in attendance. Mayor Nystrom presided.

President Pro Tem Nash read the opening prayer and Ald. Gould led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

President Pro Tem Nash asked for a moment of silence for the victims in Florida.

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment.

Marvin Serruto, 100 Starr St, encouraged people to support the Historical Society.

Beryl Fishbone, 19 Bliss Place, stated that the Mohegan Park Improvement & Development Advisory Committee has a busy schedule with events; February 16-19th Great Backyard Bird Count, April 22nd Earth Day, April 27th Norwich Tree Wardens and Public School tree planting, May 11th CT Public Garden Day, June 2nd -10th National Trails Day, June 6th National Gardening Exercise Day, June 24th Memorial Rose Garden and hopes all will join and promote Norwich.

Caroleen Frey, 9 Indian Hill Rd, thanked the Mohegan Park Improvement & Development Advisory Committee and asked the Council to end support for Chelsea Gardens.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, spoke on his handout which addresses colleges' free speech and values. He stated Big Brother is struggling to level the playing field.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Browning, it was unanimously voted to accept the letter regarding Poet Laureate selection.

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to accept the letter regarding 11 Lake Street.

City Manager Report:

To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: February 20, 2018

Josh and I met to discuss preliminary budget and have scheduled meetings with each department for the week of the February 26th.

My assistant and I meet with Jim O'Shea, the facilitator for the Goal Setting session that was held on January 20th, 2018 to discuss an additional meeting date. It was decided the next meeting will be March 3, 2018, at Foundry 66 for the Council to complete the SWOT Analysis (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats) and to prioritize action items for the Council.

I had a meeting with Jason Ziegler, owner of the Shannon Building, on site to view the condition of the roof of the Reid & Hughes Building.

I met with staff regarding capital improvement for the Baseball Stadium.

I attended the Connecticut Conference of Municipalities Board of Directors Meeting on February 13th in Cromwell.

Dispatcher and Public Works Union negotiations were held on February 15th.

I attended the Board of Education Legislative Breakfast that was held at Kelly Middle School on February 16th. Senator Osten and State Representative Kevin Ryan gave an update of what they knew about the budget and possible funding sources. Mayor Nystrom and Alderwoman Gould were also in attendance.

My assistant met with Sharon Peccini, Sr. Vice President, from the United Way for the City's annual employee campaign participation. She also arranged a collection site for the "Souper Bowl of Caring" that was held the week of January 29th to February 4th. City Employees donated 196 cans of soup for those in need. The 274.2 pounds of soup was delivered to our local Food Pantry at St. Vincent De Paul Place. Thank you to those who contributed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Burnham, seconded by Ald. DeLucia, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Nystrom and Ald. Browning.

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich has historically experienced severe damage from natural hazards and it continues to be vulnerable to the effects of those natural hazards profiled in the plan (e.g. *flooding, high wind, thunderstorms, winter storms, earthquakes, dam failure, and wildfires*), resulting in loss of property and life, economic hardship, and threats to public health and safety; and

WHEREAS, the Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments, of whom the City of Norwich is a member, has developed and received conditional approval from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for its Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017 under the requirements of 44 CFR 201.6; and

WHEREAS, committee meetings were held and public input was sought in 2016 and 2017 regarding the development and review of the Hazard Mitigation Plan Update, 2017; and

WHEREAS, the Norwich City Council approved the previous version of the Plan in 2012; and

WHEREAS, the Plan specifically addresses hazard mitigation strategies and Plan maintenance procedures for the City of Norwich; and

WHEREAS, the Plan recommends several hazard mitigation actions that will provide mitigation for specific natural hazards that impact the City of Norwich, with the effect of protecting people and property from loss associated with those hazards; and

WHEREAS, adoption of this Plan will make the City of Norwich eligible for funding to alleviate the impacts of future hazards.

Now therefore be it RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Norwich that:

1. The Plan is hereby adopted as an official plan of the City of Norwich;
2. The respective officials identified in the mitigation strategy of the Plan are hereby directed to pursue implementation of the recommended actions assigned to them;
3. Future revisions and Plan maintenance required by 44 CFR 201.6 and FEMA are hereby adopted as a part of this resolution for a period of five (5) years from the date of this resolution.
4. An annual report on the progress of the implementation elements of the Plan shall be presented to the City Council.

[Hazard Mitigation Norwich Annex Update-ADOPTED](#)

[Hazard Mitigation SCCOG MJ ADOPTED](#)

[Hazard Mitigation SCCOG MJ APPENDIXES A-C](#)

[Hazard Mitigation SCCOG MJ APPENDIXES D-E](#)

Mayor Nystrom called for citizen comment on resolutions.

David Crabb, 47 Prospect St, spoke on old business resolution #1 and asked how many properties does the city own. He also felt the public should know what the debt is on these properties.

Mayor Nystrom declared citizen comment on resolutions closed.

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

WHEREAS, Preserve America is a White House initiative established by President George W. Bush and developed in cooperation with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, The U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Department of Commerce; and

WHEREAS, the goals of this initiative include a greater shared knowledge of our Nation’s past, strengthened regional identities and local pride, increased local participation in preserving the county’s irreplaceable cultural and natural heritage assets, and support for the economic vitality of communities; and

WHEREAS, this initiative is compatible with Norwich’s interests and goals related to historic preservation; and

WHEREAS, designation as a Preserve America Community will work to improve Norwich’s ability to protect and promote its historical resources.

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, with such assistance as he may require, to apply for the designation of the City of Norwich as a Preserve America Community; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH that if the City of Norwich is designated as a Preserve America Community it will work to protect and celebrate our heritage, use our historic assets for economic development and community revitalization, and encourage people to experience and appreciate local historic resources through education and heritage tourism programs.

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

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Norwich by Resolution adopted December 18, 2017 accepted the proposal of the LeWitt Group of 3 Rockwell Terrace to acquire the properties located at 80 and 68 Broadway (Map 102, Block 2, Lots 38 and 39, respectively) for a total price of \$131,300.00 subject to the City and the LeWitt Group reaching a satisfactory agreement concerning the development and transfer of the properties; and

WHEREAS, by said Resolution the Council of the City of Norwich authorized City Manager John Salomone to negotiate an agreement with the LeWitt Group and present the same to the Council of the City of Norwich in a timely fashion for its review and approval; and

WHEREAS, the LeWitt Group through Otis Homes, LLC is prepared to enter into a Purchase and Sales Agreement negotiated with the City of Norwich through City Manager John Salomone, a copy of which Purchase and Sales Agreement is attached hereto as [Exhibit A](#) (or type <http://norwichct.org/DocumentCenter/View/3997> in the internet address bar); and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Norwich to enter into said Agreement;

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 execute said Agreement on behalf of the City of Norwich and to sign, deliver, receive and accept such other documents, including but not limited to, those identified in Paragraph 5 of the Agreement as the closing documents listed as Quit Claim Deed, an Affidavit of Title, an Affidavit pursuant to Internal Revenue Code §1445, any documents required to clear title that the seller has elected to cure and such other documents as reasonably requested by counsel for the Purchaser and necessary to consummate the transaction contemplated in the Agreement.

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

Relative to placing in the suspense account certain real estate taxes.

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 2016 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 \$106,692.58 in real estate tax on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, 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 \$106,692.58 representing uncollectible real estate taxes on the Grand Lists up to and including 2016, be and the same hereby are transferred to the suspense account.

UNIQUE ID	ADDRESS	LIST YRS DUE	2016GL AMT DUE
1000020562	56 ALICE ST	2007-2016	\$ 1,047.92
0112180001	HOLLAND AVE	2002-2016	\$ 2,047.08
0112190001	20 CROWN ST	2002-2016	\$ 1,130.76
0112220001	68 THERMOS AVE	2002-2016	\$ 17,370.96
0112230001	116 THERMOS AVE	2002-2016	\$ 1,564.56
0112250001	85 HILLSIDE AVE	2002-2016	\$ 6,092.50
0108790001	751 NORTH MAIN ST	2002-2016	\$ 643.36
0089290001	244 YANTIC RD	2009-2016	\$ 756.48
0089300001	45 SUNNYSIDE ST	2009-2016	\$ 427.04
0360010023	53 PRENTICE ST 23	2005-2016	\$ 772.74
0081360001	FIFTH ST END OF CANAL	2002-2016	\$ 521.52
1200020001	BEEBE RD	2004-2016	\$ 244.02
0049540001	117 RIVER AVE	2002-2016	\$ 39.00
0094660001	SEVENTH ST	2006-2016	\$ 394.80
0057480001	35 LAMBERT DR REAR	2009-2016	\$ 24.41
7125620001	LAUREL HILL RD	2004-2016	\$ 56.95
0100340001	97 FOREST ST	2002-2016	\$ 336.32
0112080001	7 HILLSIDE AVE	2003-2016	\$ 1,330.62
0023810001	OAKRIDGE ST	2008-2016	\$ 848.10
7131530001	337-341 MAIN ST	2009-2016	\$ 71,043.44
Total			\$ 106,692.58

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. DeLucia, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by President Pro Tem Nash and Ald. Browning.

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich became the owner of the property located at 130 Prospect Street by a Tax Collector’s Deed recorded June 30, 2014 at Volume 2863, Page 78; and

WHEREAS, the condition of the structure on the property was such that it required demolition with Community Development Block Grant funds used in full or in part for the demolition; and

WHEREAS, the location and condition of the property is such that the Council of the City of Norwich is of the opinion that it is too small to be used for standalone development and that the preferred disposition of the property would be sale to an abutting property owner subject to the condition that this property be merged with the existing property of the successful bidder; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that the Tax Collector of the City of Norwich be and hereby is authorized and directed to sell the property at 130 Prospect Street, identified as Map 94, Block 2, Lot 71, being limited to receiving bids from the owners or agents of those properties immediately abutting 130 Prospect Street, subject to the requirements established for such sales, the auction to take place in such manner and under such terms and at a time and place to be set by the Tax Collector, including the acceptance of bids by mail to the Tax Collector by a specified date. It shall be a specific requirement as a term of the auction that any successful bidder must agree to combine the property with that of the bidder's existing abutting property, and do so within 90 days of the date of auction.

Upon a motion of Ald. Philbrick, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Philbrick and DeLucia.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be appointed as regular members to the Senior Affairs Commission with a term to expire on September 1, 2019 or until a successor is appointed:

Laurieann M. Messori (R)

Upon a motion of President Pro Tem Nash, seconded by Ald. Burnham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Philbrick and DeLucia.

BE IT RESOLVED that the below named be reappointed as a regular members to the Norwich Baseball Stadium Authority with a term to expire on October 31, 2019 or until a successor is appointed:

Thomas L. Cummings (D)
Sean Ryan (D)

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

WHEREAS, the City Manager John L. Salomone has recommended the following re-appointments to the Public Parking Commission;

Re-appointed as regular members of the Public Parking Commission for a term to expire on 12/31/19 or until successors are appointed:

Jeffrey Lord (R)
Sean Ryan (D)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Norwich hereby approves the re-appointments of the above named to the Public Parking Commission.

Upon a motion of Ald. Gould, seconded by Ald. Burnham, it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Ald. Gould, Philbrick and DeLucia.

BE IT RESOLVED that Timothy Dowhan be appointed as a regular member to the Historic District Commission for a term to expire on December 31, 2019 or until a successor is appointed.

Upon a motion of Ald. DeLucia, seconded by Ald. Gould, it was unanimously voted to waive the reading of the full text except the title and incorporate it into the minutes, to set a public hearing on March 5, 2018 at 7:30 pm, for the second reading and action the following ordinance introduced by President Pro Tem Nash and Ald. DeLucia.

AN ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO PENSION PLAN ADJUSTMENTS FOR NON-UNION PERSONNEL AND ELECTED OFFICIALS PARTICIPATING IN THE CITY OF NORWICH EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT FUND

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH THAT, all non-union personnel and elected officials of the City of Norwich who participate in the City of Norwich Employees' Retirement Fund shall be subject to all those pension plan changes applicable to the ten collective bargaining units covered in the resolution adopted by the Council of the City of Norwich on February 5, 2018.

Upon a motion of Ald. Browning, second by Ald. President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to go into Executive Session pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6) and 1-200(9) that the members of the Norwich City Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the strategy with respect to pending litigation, John Salomone, City Manager; Joshua Pothier, Comptroller; Deanna Rhodes, Ryan Thompson, Director of Public Works; Michael Driscoll, Corporation Counsel and Robert Mills of 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 hereby further move pursuant to Connecticut General Statute Section 1-200(6) and 1-200(9) that the members of the Norwich City Council go into Executive Session for the purpose of discussing the strategy with respect to pending litigation and 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 or a diminished price to dispose of the property, and to review information given the city in confidence not required to be disclosed by law. John Salomone, City Manager; Joshua Pothier, Comptroller; Michael Driscoll, Corporation 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 9:26 pm, at which time Mayor Nystrom stated no votes were taken.

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

Upon a motion of Ald. DeLucia, seconded by President Pro Tem Nash, it was unanimously voted to suspend the rules to add the following resolution;

WHEREAS, the Norwich Historical Society Inc. in 2017 obtained funding in the amount of \$38,951 to support efforts to restore the East District Schoolhouse located at 365 Washington Street, Norwich, Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, the Historical Society has expressed an interest in acting as the custodian of the City’s interest, such as it may be, in the East District Schoolhouse, at no cost or charge to the City.

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing the City and the Historical Society hereby agree that:

1. The City authorizes and agrees that the Historical Society may act as the custodian of such interest the City may have in the East District Schoolhouse; provided that any such custodianship may be terminated at any time for any reason by the City by giving thirty (30) days written notice. As custodian, the Historic Society will seek to raise monies through government grants, private donations, or otherwise, for the purpose of renovating, repairing, improving, and maintaining the East District Schoolhouse, and will develop a plan detailing the renovation, repair, improvement, or maintenance it determines is necessary.

2. The initial term of this Agreement is for one year commencing on the date of this Agreement, subject to termination by the City as set out in paragraph 1. The term of this Agreement may be extended for such additional terms and under such provisions and restrictions as the parties may agree in writing.

3. The Historical Society shall provide the City with a written report detailing its efforts and progress in raising monies for the renovation, repair, improvement and/or maintenance of the East District Schoolhouse and its plans for the same on or before August 31, 2018. In addition, this report must state whether the Historical Society wishes to continue in its role as custodian past the expiration date of the initial term. The City will determine, in its sole discretion, whether to renew this Agreement for an additional term and will notify the Historical Society of its decision. If the Historical Society fails to deliver the aforementioned report including notice to the City within the time period set forth, This Agreement shall terminate immediately without the requirement of written notice.

4. The Historical Society may not renovate, repair, improve, maintain, or otherwise alter the East District Schoolhouse in any manner without prior written approval of the City to be given in the City’s sole discretion.

5. The Historical Society, through its President, will be given access to the East District Schoolhouse for purposes of fulfilling its role as custodian and such access will be subject to prior approval from the City.

THE CITY OF NORWICH

BY: _____
John Salomone
