

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON

August 18, 2014

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of New London was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Monday, August 18, 2014, in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 181 State Street, New London, Connecticut.

Present:

President Wade A. Hyslop, Jr. – Presiding
Councilor Anthony L. Nolan
Councilor Michael E. Passero
Councilor Martin T. Olsen, Jr.
Councilor Michael J. Tranchida

Councilors Absent:

President Pro Tem Efrain Dominguez, Jr.
Councilor Erica L. Richardson

Also attended:

Mayor Finizio
Jeff Smith, Finance Director
Jeff Londregan, Law Director

1.0 Call to Order

Roll Call read, five Councilors present, two Councilors absent.

2.0 Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Nolan led the prayer and the pledge.

Mayor Finizio and President Hyslop presented a joint proclamation to Ben Toth honoring his achievement of Eagle Scout and the work he undertook to beautify and improve Riverside Park as part of his Eagle Scout project.

Mayor Finizio and President Hyslop presented a joint proclamation to Tom Weigel for his dedication and support of local poets, and recognizing his enormous contributions to the literary community of New London.

3.0 Public Hearings – None

4.0 Minutes of Previous Meetings

Councilor Olsen moved to accept the minutes from the August 4, 2014 City Council regular meeting as presented at this evening's meeting, seconded by Councilor Nolan, passed 5-0.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

5.0a) Public Comment

Dennis Downing, 17 Mahan Street, New London, you all are invited to the LOT picnic. There is a problem in the City with all the garbage being left on the streets; it makes the City very uninviting. We need to look at opening the transfer station at least half a day on Saturdays.

Richard Harteis, 337 Kitemaug Road, Uncasville, Director of the William Meredith Foundation, we have four etchings at the Provenance Center commemorating the loss of the Thresher submarine. Hoping the city can pay \$1,000 for these etchings to make a permanent record here in City Hall.

Sue Shontell, 78 Walden Avenue, New London, New London Housing Authority, is asking for a 5% decrease in the PILOT for 202 Colman. There is no trash pickup or plowing services at that location. NLHA cannot lease out space on the roof due to the city's emergency communications antennas being there. We are trying to be good citizens and do not want to fall behind again.

Karen Paul, 281 State Street, New London, has a friend who had a wheel on her motorized wheelchair come off because the sidewalks are so difficult to navigate. The Senior Center has had a leaky faucet in the kitchen and we have been asking public works for months to fix it. The small leaks in the Senior Center roof are going to get worse during the winter.

Kevin Clark, 393 Pequot Avenue, New London, requesting that the City reconsider the decision to remove the stop sign at the intersection of Pequot with Keeney. As a licensed civil engineer believes that the conditions in that area are significantly less safe since the sign was removed. Hopes the City would ask public safety professionals to reexamine this area. Stop signs are an excellent way of controlling the traffic in that area at a low cost.

Andrew Lockwood, 20 Colman Street, New London, has been out speaking to many homeowners who have concerns that they are already struggling to pay their taxes and the impact of lowering the NLHA PILOT amount. They suggest collecting the NLHA taxes monthly. Please do not support a 5% decrease when the city is in need of taxes. We need better management and maintenance of the building.

Dan McSparran, 281 Elm Street, New London, the NLHA had a reduction years ago; this is a management problem. We all would like to reduce our taxes. Please give careful consideration to do right by these medically retired police officers. Councilors need to read all of the documentation before voting.

5.0b) Petitions – None

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

5.0c) Responses to Public Comment

Councilor Nolan, congratulations to Ben Toth and thank you for your work. Agrees that large trash items being left out are a problem. We should start holding the landlords responsible; we need to be better with enforcement. Something needs to be done in the Pequot/Keeney area to help but not sure a stop sign is the solution.

Councilor Olsen, congratulations to Ben Toth on achieving Eagle Scout; that is quite an accomplishment. The Mayor, as the traffic officer, had the Keeney stop sign removed; perhaps look that direction for an answer. Bulky waste grows if we do not tend to it. We should be more proactive about picking it up and educating the community that it is not proper.

Councilor Passero, congratulations to Ben Toth for your Eagle Scout and Mr. Weigel for your proclamation. Looks forward to this council considering a way to find the resources for the city to purchase those works of art. We are slowly trying to address issues of building maintenance. The City is lacking a proper way to enforce our property maintenance code. The situation at the Keeney/Pequot intersection has to be looked at in an urgent manner before somebody gets hurt.

Councilor Tranchida, also alarmed with the amount of trash out in the streets of the City. Sanitation trucks should stop to pick them up the trash bags left out. Congratulations to Ben Toth on achieving Eagle Scout; a lot of hard work went into earning that ranking.

President Hyslop, shares the concerns about the trash in our neighborhoods. Believes the transfer station is open one Saturday a month. Hoping there is something that can be done to make the area of Keeney/Pequot safer.

5.0d) Reports & Communications

(1) Director of Law report

Councilor Olsen, on the general side #1, can you elaborate on the legally binding impacts of "paid in full" written on a payment check for taxes?

Attorney Londregan, there is statute saying that if someone puts "paid in full" on the memo line to possibly challenge the amount due, that is not legally enforceable against the City.

Councilor Olsen, has there been any movement on the Wheadon Trust?

Attorney Londregan, we are still waiting on the lawsuit to be filed by the Attorney General.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

Councilor Olsen, in a series of emails published between the Mayor and the Chief of Police, the Mayor indicates he has unilateral control over an account. Can you tell us any place where it authorizes the Mayor to have unilateral control to spend money?

(2) Council Committee Reports

Councilor Passero, the Economic Development Committee met tonight and heard from Mr. Ned Hammond on the Connecticut City & Town Development Act. A motion was referred to council tonight to set a public hearing date on the reauthorization of that Act.

5.0e) Mayor's Office Communications

Mayor Finizio, wants to publicly thank all city employees and others for the swift response to the major leak in the water system that prevented a major incident.

Councilor Olsen, last week requested information from the Director of Public Works and has not received any response yet. Would like updates on the access to the Riverside Park restrooms; the evaluation of the Martin/Senior Center roof project; information on the work being done at the Police Department, specifically what is it, by who, and how much? Also, a schedule of when the storm drains will be cleaned and vacuumed.

Mayor Finizio, will make sure that information is passed along.

6.0 Consent Agenda: That the Consent Agenda Proposals set forth at the Regular Meeting of August 18, 2014 are either (1) accepted for the record; (2) Referred to the Committee named; (3) Waived from Committee to be acted upon as proposed; or (4) Consented to as proposed. Motion made by Councilor Nolan, seconded by Councilor Tranchida.

7.0 Unfinished Business

7.1 For the information of Council to be received for the record and/or referred to Committee:

- a) City of New London Coast Guard City Application;
- b) Request for Waiver of 2014-2015 Property Taxes on 888 Bank Street (receive for the record, refer to the finance committee);
- c) Letter from Cecilia Baxter to President Hyslop dated August 1, 2014 regarding handicap accessibility of City buildings;
- d) Letter from Cecilia Baxter to Mayor Finizio dated August 11, 2014 regarding 120 Broad Street;

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON

August 18, 2014

- f) Invitation to Attend A Press Conference on the Development of the Thames River Heritage Park and A Memorial Observance of the 233rd Anniversary of the Battle of Groton Heights.

CAM That the foregoing matters, 7.1 a) through 7.1 d) and 7.1 f), are received for the record and/or referred.

7.2 Actions of the Finance Committee at Its Meeting of August 11, 2014

A) New London Housing Authority PILOT Payments

CAM The City Council approves the following for the New London Housing Authority PILOT payments: a payment of \$150,000 by December 31, 2014 representing payment of the amounts owed for 2011, 2012, and a partial payment for 2013. The remaining balance due for 2013 will be paid by the second quarter of 2015. The 2014 payment will be reduced to 5%, along with years going forward, and the 2014 payment will be paid by the second quarter of 2015.

B) Retired/Disabled Police Officer Pensions

CAM The City Council approves Transfer Resolution 081814-2 in the amount of \$17,685 to transfer funds from contingency to the pension account in the General Fund to enhance pensions for three police officers who retired with disabilities in the 1970's. The City Council further approves increasing the annual pensions of each of said three police officers to \$12,000 per year.

7.3 Actions of the Economic Development Committee at Its Meeting of August 18, 2014

Connecticut City and Town Development Act

CAM The City Council sets a Public Hearing on the Connecticut City and Town Development Act for 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 2, 2014 in City Council Chambers.

8.0 New Business

8.1 Mechanical Building System and Related Equipment Maintenance

CAM The City Council approves the request of the Finance Director to award and authorizes the Mayor to sign a contract with Tradesmen of New England, LLC in the amount of \$105,770 for the Mechanical Building Systems and related equipment maintenance of the City and BOE buildings. Funding is coming from the Public Works Building Maintenance Funds.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

8.3 Resolution – Firefighter’s Local 1522 Revised Tentative Agreement

CAM The City Council approves the changes in the agreement between the City and Fire Fighters Union as requested by the State of Connecticut.

8.4 Appropriation Ordinance – Beautification Committee

CAM The City Council approves appropriation Ordinance 08-18-14-1, An Ordinance Making Additional FY 2015 Appropriations, in the amount of \$357.00 representing a donation received from the Community Foundation in memory of Elizabeth Foye to provide funding for the Beautification Committee. The ordinance is given its first and second readings in the process of passage, by title only, all Councilors having copies, and the third reading of the subject ordinance is adopted by Roll Call Vote.

8.5 Appropriation Ordinance – Animal Shelter

CAM The City Council approves appropriation Ordinance 08-18-14-2, An Ordinance Making Additional FY 2015 Appropriations, in the amount of \$109.00 made from unanticipated revenues received from donations for the animal shelter. The ordinance is given its first and second readings in the process of passage, by title only, all Councilors having copies, and the third reading of the subject ordinance is adopted by Roll Call Vote.

8.6 Appropriation Ordinance – Water Authority Community Fund Grant

CAM The City Council approves appropriation Ordinance 08-18-14-3, An Ordinance Making Additional FY 2015 Appropriations, in the amount of \$500.00 made from unanticipated revenues received from Veolia Water for the purpose of purchasing a Public Service Announcement and Fire Prevention Materials. The ordinance is given its first and second readings in the process of passage, by title only, all Councilors having copies, and the third reading of the subject ordinance is adopted by Roll Call Vote.

8.7 Appropriation Ordinance – EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant – Howard Street Parcels 5C-1 and 5C-2

CAM The City Council approves appropriation Ordinance Number 08-18-14-4 in the amount of \$80,000 from the Housing Community Fund Revolving Loan Account to be used as matching local funds for the \$400,000 EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Howard Street redevelopment parcels 5C-1 and 5C-2. The ordinance is given its first and second readings in the process of passage, by title only, all Councilors having copies, and the third reading of the subject ordinance is adopted by Roll Call Vote.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

8.8 Memorandum of Understanding – Howard Street

CAM The City Council authorizes the Mayor, on behalf of the City, to sign the Memorandum of Understanding between the City of New London and the Renaissance City Development Association, Inc. for the purpose of managing the EPA Brownfields Cleanup Grant for the Howard Street redevelopment parcels 5C-1 and 5C-2.

8.9 Training, Installation & Set-Up for Phase 4 of 4 at Nathan Hale Magnet School

CAM The City Council approves the request of the Finance Director to purchase from Apple Inc. training, installation and set-up services in the amount of \$52,707.20, which are part of the FF&E for Phase 4 of 4 at the Nathan Hale Magnet School.

8.10 IPad Cases Purchase for Phase 4 of 4 at Nathan Hale Magnet School

CAM The City Council approves the request of the Finance Director to purchase from Otter Products LLC iPad Cases in the amount of \$30,270.45, which are part of the FF&E for Phase 4 of 4 at the Nathan Hale Magnet School.

8.11 Appropriation Ordinance – Emergency Operations Center

CAM The City Council approves appropriation Ordinance Number 08-18-14-5 in the amount of \$39,136 made from a grant from the Department of Emergency Services for improvements to the Emergency Operations Center. The ordinance is given its first and second readings in the process of passage, by title only, all Councilors having copies, and the third reading of the subject ordinance is adopted by Roll Call Vote.

9.0 Appointments – None

CAM All items having the unanimous support of the City Council are hereby adopted with a single Roll Call Vote. The motions are seconded, the Chair calls the roll; and the Chair declares the motions to be unanimously voted and adopted.

Items removed from consent agenda:

7.1 For the information of Council to be received for the record and/or referred to Committee:

- e) Report of expenses through July 31, 2014 from the Finance Department (Councilor Olsen).

Councilor Olsen moved to receive for the record, seconded by Councilor Passero.

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

Councilor Olsen, just want to note for the record that this request is here to measure how we are doing against the 25% threshold with the pending referendum.

Councilor Passero to Mr. Smith, is there a reason we cannot get a report on our spending to date for this fiscal year?

Mr. Smith, will get that to council.

Motion passed 5-0.

7.4 Transfer Resolution – Police Department Deficits

CAM The City Council approves Transfer Resolution 080414-3 in the amount of \$30,000 to cover present deficits which were created during the department's purging and clean up necessary to comply with evidence security, records management, OSHA building requirements and to allow the department to have sufficient funding to complete the 2015 fiscal year.

Councilor Nolan recused himself and left the room.

Councilor Olsen moved the CAM, seconded by Councilor Tranchida.

Councilor Olsen, believes it is bad business to spend funds without the proper appropriation.

President Hyslop, will stand by my yes vote as before.

Councilor Passero, cannot support this. The purpose of asking for a transfer approval is so council can decide if we will appropriate money that was not done during the budget process; it is part of managing the budget. Will not retroactively approve this; that subverts the whole process of having council consider transferring line items.

Roll Call Vote: Tranchida – No; Olsen – No; Passero – No; Hyslop – Yes

Motion failed 1-3 (for: Hyslop) (against: Tranchida, Olsen, Passero).

8.2 Transfer Resolution – Risk Manager

CAM The City Council approves Transfer Resolution 081814-1 in the amount of \$50,000 transferring funds to pay for the Risk Manager position for 6 months.

Councilor Olsen moved the CAM, seconded by Councilor Passero.

Councilor Olsen to Mr. Smith, wants to confirm this is a contract employee for a set period of time?

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON
August 18, 2014

Mr. Smith, that is correct.

Motion passed 5-0.

10.0 Executive Session

CAM The City Council will meet in executive session pursuant to C.G.S. Section 1-200(6)(E) with the Finance Director, member(s) of the Law Director's Office, and/or member(s) of the Mayor's office to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the City police union, as such discussions are exempt pursuant to General Statute §1-210(b)(9).

President Hyslop moved the CAM, seconded by Councilor Passero.

Councilor Nolan recused himself from executive session.

Motion to recess to executive session passed 4-0 at 8:12 p.m. (Nolan recused).

Meeting reconvened at 8:40 p.m. President Hyslop stated that while in executive session, no motions were made and no votes were taken.

11.0 Adjournment

Councilor Passero moved to adjourn, seconded by Councilor Tranchida, passed 5-0. Meeting adjourned at 8:41 p.m.

Attest: _____
Jonathan Ayala, City Clerk

Approved 09/02/2014