

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NEW LONDON

A Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of New London was called to order at 7:00 p.m. on Tuesday, January 19, 2010, in the Council Chambers, Municipal Building, 181 State Street, New London, Connecticut.

Present:

Mayor Pero presiding
Deputy Mayor Spreccace
Councilors Buscetto
 Hyslop
 Olsen
 Passero
 Russell

2.0 Prayer and Pledge of Allegiance

Councilor Buscetto led the prayer for the evening.

Dear God, let us pray for health throughout this year and for the families, especially the families of the people in Haiti that have gone through that terrible disaster, and for the families that are associated with the families in Haiti. Amen

3.0 Public Hearings

There were no public hearings held.

4.0 Minutes of Previous Meetings

A motion made by Councilor Olsen, seconded by Councilor Hyslop, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2009 as corrected. The motion carried 7-0.

A motion made Councilor Olsen, seconded by Councilor Hyslop, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of January 5, 2010 as presented. The motion carried 7-0.

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5.0 a) Public Comment

Keith Brothers, 268 Thames Road, Groton, representing the Norwich-New London Building Trades Council, stated that the previous Council put in place an ordinance for the two school projects that would mandate not only that an apprentice training program would be a part of the sub-contractors that work on the schools, but that local people would have an opportunity on the school project. There is 45-50% unemployment. He attended the SBMC meeting where Fusco recommended contractors that are in line with the ordinance and all but one will be taking people from the area. He thanked Council for the ordinance. It's in line with the State law, responsible bidding, and responsible contractors training. It supports the local people that live in town.

Sandra Chalk, Starr Street, Executive Director, New London Landmarks, invited Councilors to the January 29th forum at the Radisson to discuss the transit center in New London, and to discuss the report from the State's study committee on making recommendations for improvements to the transit area.

Dr. David Hayes, Ocean Avenue, stated that he would like comment on the parking meter situation, but because he has to address Council prior to the Parking Commission's presentation, he can't comment. He stated that when sitting in the audience, Councilor's name signs are illegible.

Larry Hample, Pequot Avenue, addressed Council concerning taxes stating that in 1999 all the business property in New London came to an assessed value of \$500 million. Something happened in the year 2000; there was a big reduction in it. The present value of downtown property is \$274 million. He asked where the \$300 million property value went; it amounts to \$9 million in taxes. The homeowners had to make up the difference. Change the tax system; put the value back on the business property.

Jay Wheeler, Willetts Avenue, representing the Neighborhood Alliance, along with Carl Lee and Marie McSparran, stated that the Neighborhood Alliance is dismayed about what has been alleged by Frank Cironi: interference by the New London Housing Authority into the operation of tenant organizations. He read into the record two January 12th communications from the Neighborhood Alliance regarding 1) Neighborhood Alliance of New London supports all residents of multi-family housing projects in accordance with HUD regulars section 24 CFR and 2) the Neighborhood Alliance of New London requests that the City Council make an official request to Congressman Courtney and Senator Dodd to intervene on behalf of Mr. Cironi and the residents of the NLHA to arrange for an immediate hearing to remedy the situation. (Copies of correspondence are on file in the City Clerk's Office).

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5.0 a) Public Comment (Continued)

Kathleen Mitchell, Pequot Avenue, addressed Council concerning agenda item regarding proposed passenger fees and Cross Sound Ferry Service; the Neighborhood Alliance actions against the New London Housing Authority; the eviction of Frank Cironi from Gordon Court; HUD regulations; the Housing Authority's methods of intimidation; and that Council should ask for the resignation of Sue Shontell, Acting Director of the New London Housing Authority and the removal of the current commissioners.

b) Petitions

There were no petitions submitted.

c) Response to Public Comment

Mayor Pero thanked Mr. Brothers for attending the meeting and stated that he has concerns relative to the difference in the bids under the Responsible Contractors Ordinance. He had a problem with this a year ago. Relative to the issues with the Housing Authority, he would agree that there should be an ability to organize and to have separate meetings. He has asked the City Manager to arrange a joint meeting of the Council and the Housing Authority relative to other issues: relative to the change over and what's going on with properties and the direction of the Authority. There have been concerns prior to this issue: funding; how things will move into the future; what is the role of the Authority; how do the members feel. There are now five members of the commission. New members are Carmelo Foti and Russell Carr.

Councilor Passero thanked Mr. Brothers for speaking in support of the Responsible Contractors Ordinance and the good it is doing in the community. He shares the concerns of Ms. Mitchell regarding the Housing Authority. There does seem as though there is some systemic problem that has existed in that organization for a long time just the fact that the most blighted neighborhoods in our city are controlled by that authority. It's disgraceful that government imposed that on people. The two new members are quality people; he has the utmost faith in those people to bring about some change.

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d) **Reports and Communications**

- (1) City Manager (including Councilors Questions, Comments, and Requests for Information)
- (2) Director of Law

Council took no action on either report.

- (3) Presentation by the Parking Commission: Council received an overview and update on the improvements made at the Water Street Garage: DOT requires City to use revenue from the garage for improvement; replacement cost of a new 940 space garage today would cost \$21-24 million; installation of new fire and panic alarms on all floors; updated management computers; installation of state of the art revenue control program; power washed first floor; refurbished drain pipes on all floors; preparing engineering bids for structural and concrete renovation, waterproofing, epoxy infusions, concrete sealing and structural analysis; increase in net profit; solar installation; and the Desman Engineers Report for structural maintenance.

6.0 **Consent Agenda**

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Spreace, seconded by Councilor Hyslop, That the Consent Agenda Proposals set forth at the Regular Meeting of January 19, 2010 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.

7.0 **Unfinished Business**

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

- c) January 5, 2010 communication to the U.S. Department of Commerce transmitting the City's annual report covering the operation of Foreign-trade Zone #208 and Subzone #208A
- d) State of Connecticut H1N1 Situation Reports: December 31, 2009 to January 7, 2010
- g) Confirmation from the Department of Public Utility Control to conduct a Public Hearing – April 7, 2010, City Council Chambers – regarding the Application of CL&P to Amend Its Rate Schedules

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

- h) Minutes of the Economic Development Committee meeting held January 11, 2010
- i) 2010-2011 Budget Schedule
- m) December 2009 utilization report for NLC Prescription Discount Card Program
- n) Recently negotiated contract between the New London Board of Education and the New London Education Association

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: That the foregoing matters, 7.1 c), 7.1d), 7.1 g), 7.1 h), 7.1 i), 7.1 m) and 7.1 n), are received for the record and/or referred to Committee.

8.0 New Business

8.3 Appropriation Ordinances

A) New London Homeless Shelter

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Council approves appropriation ordinance number 01-19-10-2 in the amount of \$3,000 for the purpose of providing funding to the New London Homeless Hospitality Center. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. 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.

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-2

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following General Fund (110) Appropriations are hereby made from fund balance for the purpose of providing funding to the New London Homeless Hospitality Center:

Estimated Revenue:

110-1101-301-0100	Budgeted Fund Balance	<u>\$3,000</u>
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Appropriations:

110-11-1411-6633	BAC/Homeless Shelter	<u>\$3,000</u>
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8.4 Matters Brought to the Attention of Council by Members of Council

A) Restoration of Social Services Position (Councilor Passero)

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Council requests an evaluation of whether the City should restore a social services position in the General Government budget for FY 2010-2011. (Referred to the Public Welfare Committee)

B) Passenger Fee (Councilor Olsen)

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Passenger Fee for consideration to include ferry, bus and rail service. (Referred to the Economic Development Committee)

C) Voluntary Leave Program (Mayor Pero)

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: The City Council directs the City Administration to formulate a voluntary leave program and report back to the City Council after having discussed program with the Unions. Voluntary leave program can only be instituted where there is no need for overtime.

8.5 Abatement of Taxes – Gloria Mitchell

UNANIMOUSLY VOTED: Council approves the request of Gloria Mitchell to abate motor vehicle taxes of January 1998, July 1998, and July 1999 in the amount totaling \$2,399.25.

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9.0 Appointments

See Agenda Item 7.3 – Actions of the Administration Committee at its Meeting Held January 19, 2010

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, seconded by Councilor Hyslop, All items having the unanimous support of the City Council are hereby adopted with a single Roll Call Vote. The Chair called the roll and declared the motions to be unanimously voted and adopted.

7.1 a) January 12, 2010 correspondence to the FEMA/Mitigation Division formally protesting the proposed floodplain boundary changes for the City of New London/New London County

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

7.1 b) Correspondence received from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development regarding American Recovery and Reinvestment Act reporting

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, seconded by Mayor Pero, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

7.1 e) December 28, 2009 memorandum from the Director Law concerning CDBG Program/Conflict of Interests

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, seconded by Mayor Pero, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

7.1 f) Fusco Project Schedule

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

7.1 j) January 13, 2010 email from the Building Department regarding applications for permits to demolish 5 and 10 Barrows Court

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprecase, seconded by Mayor Pero, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

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7.1 k) Requested Information: RFP for “On Call” Engineering Services; Date of bid opening and list of bidders; Contract with successful bidder; Comprehensive list of services rendered

A motion made by Councilor Olsen, seconded by Mayor Pero, to refer the matter to the Finance Committee of Council. The motion carried 7-0.

7.1 l) Tax Collection Rate as of December 31, 2009

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Spreca, seconded by Mayor Pero, to accept the communication for the record. The motion carried 7-0.

7.2 Actions of the Finance Committee at Its Meeting held January 19, 2010

A) Stormwater Study Update: Presentation by Black & Veatch

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spreca, to accept the final report from Black & Veatch for the record and submit it to the Department of Environmental Protection. The motion carried 7-0.

7.3 Actions of the Administration Committee at Its Meeting held January 19, 2010

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Spreca, seconded by Councilor Passero, to accept the recommendations of the Administration as outlined in the report (Minutes of Administration Committee). The motion carried 7-0.

Appointments made: Citizens Advisory Committee: Naomi McClure, term to expire April 2011; Transportation Committee: Elaine Stattler, no set term and William Cornish, no set term; Ethics Board: John Hunziker, term to expire November 2016.

Senior Affairs Commission Ordinance: That the Director of Law draft, for Council approval, an ordinance change to the Senior Affairs Commission that is reflective of the change in voting districts.

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8.1 Obsolete City Ordinances

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprepace, seconded by Mayor Pero, to refer the subject matter to the Administration Committee. (CAM: Pursuant to the December 30, 2009 memorandum from the Director of Law, Council repeals Section 2-34 Department of Real Estate, Section 2-35 Traffic Safety Committee, Section 2-36 Fair Housing Practices Board, Section 2-37 Biracial Committee, Section 2-40 Advisory Committee for the Handicapped, and Section 16-65 Gambling Prohibited of the City's Municipal Code Book.) The motion carried 7-0.

8.2 City Ordinance – Massage Establishments

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprepace, seconded by Mayor Pero, to refer the subject matter to the Administration Committee. (CAM: Council approves ordinance number 01-19-10-1 relative to regulating massage establishments. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. 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.) The motion carried 7-0.

8.3 Appropriation Ordinances

B) Housing Conservation Program

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Councilor Buscetto, Council approves appropriation ordinance number 01-19-10-3 in the amount of \$50,000 to provide funding for pending loan applications. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. 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. The motion carried 6-1. Those voting in favor: Olsen, Passero, Pero, Sprepace, Russell, Buscetto. Those voting against: Hyslop.

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-3

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following Housing & Community Development Fund (206) Appropriations are hereby made from fund balance to provide funding for pending applications.

Estimated Revenue:

206-6593-301-0100	Budgeted Fund Balance	<u>\$50,000</u>
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Appropriations:

206-6593-465-6302	Deferred Loans	<u>\$50,000</u>
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C) Public Works Department

A motion made by Deputy Mayor Sprecace, seconded by Mayor Pero, Council approves appropriation ordinance number 01-19-10-4 in the amount of \$10,017 to allow for the purchase of roll out waste containers. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. 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.

An amendment made by Deputy Mayor Sprecace, seconded by Mayor Pero, to read *for the purchase of 32-gallon recycle barrels*. The amendment carried 7-0.

The motion as amended carried 7-0. Council approves appropriation ordinance number 01-19-10-4 in the amount of \$10,017 to allow for the purchase of 32-gallon recycle barrels. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. 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.

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-4

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following Special Revenue Fund (201) Appropriations are hereby made from unanticipated revenues to be used for the purchase of 32-gallon recycle barrels:

Estimated Revenue:

201-3104-301-0100	Fund Balance	8,586	
201-3104-361-9901	Sales/Rollout Containers	<u>1,431</u>	
			<u>\$10,017</u>

Appropriations:

201-3104-431-4141	Non-capital Equipment		<u>\$10,017</u>
	Project PWCONT		

D) Public Utilities Department

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Deputy Mayor Spreca, Council approves appropriation ordinance number 01-19-10-5 in the amount of \$20,000 for necessary repairs to the plant generator; number 01-19-10-6 in the amount of \$1,210 representing reimbursement; and number 01-19-10-7 in the amount of \$796 for services provided by Veolia. The Statutory requirement for three separate readings is waived. The ordinances are given their first and second readings in the process of passage, by titles only, all Councilors having copies, and the third readings of the subject ordinances are adopted by Roll Call Vote. The motion carried 7-0.

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-5

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following Sewer Enterprise Fund (431) Appropriations are hereby made from fund balance for the purpose of providing funding for necessary repairs for the generator located at the Wastewater Treatment Plant:

Estimated Revenue:

431-6901-301-0100 Budgeted Fund Bal/Unreserved Undesignated \$20,000

Appropriations:

431-6901-469-3502 Maintenance & Repairs – Equipment \$20,000

ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-6

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following Water Enterprise Fund (421) Appropriations are hereby made from a reimbursement received from Graystone Advertising Group:

Estimated Revenue:

421-6801-369-0302 Refund of Current Year Expense \$1,210

Appropriations:

421-6801-468-3299 Other Professional Services \$1,210

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ORDINANCE NUMBER 01-19-10-7

AN ORDINANCE MAKING ADDITIONAL FY 2010 APPROPRIATIONS

Be It Ordained by the Council of the City of New London:

Section 1: That the following Water Enterprise Fund (421) Appropriations are hereby made from funds billed to 92 Washington Street for services provided by Veolia:

Estimated Revenue:

421-6801-369-0302	Refund of Current Year Expense	<u>\$796</u>
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Appropriations:

421-6801-468-3299	Other Professional Services	<u>\$796</u>
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8.6 21st Century School Project – Fusco Recommendations

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Councilor Russell, to reject all bid recommendations submitted by Fusco for the 21st Century School Project. The motion passed 4-3. Those voting in favor: Olsen, Pero, Spreccace, Russell. Those voting against: Hyslop, Passero, Buscetto.

10.0 Executive Session

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Councilor Olsen, to go into executive session at 9:55 p.m. to meet with 1) the City Manager, Director of Law, and Tax Collector to discuss a proposal to compromise a claim regarding an automobile personal property tax payment and 2) the City Manager, Director of Law, and Personnel Coordinator to discuss the labor implications of a modified work-week for employees, in accordance with Section 1-200 C.G.S. The motion carried 7-0.

Councilor Buscetto left the meeting at 10:00 p.m.

Council reconvened its regular session at 10:30 p.m. There were no motions made, nor votes passed during executive session.

A motion made by Mayor Pero, seconded by Councilor Russell, that Council reject the offer made by William J. Savage to pay only the principle fee and not the interest on a 1999 Subaru that was registered in Connecticut until July 2001. The motion passed 6-0. Those voting in favor: Hyslop, Olsen, Passero, Pero, Spreccace, Russell. (Councilor Buscetto left prior to going into executive session.)

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11.0 Adjournment

A motion made at 10:34 p.m. by Councilor Russell, seconded by Deputy Mayor Sprecace, to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed 6-0. Those voting in favor: Hyslop, Olsen, Passero, Pero, Sprecace, Russell. (Councilor Buscetto had left the meeting.)

Attest: _____
Dawn G. Quinn, Assistant City Clerk

grm

Approved 2/1/2010