

SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

NORWICH SEWER AUTHORITY SPECIAL MEETING

March 3, 2009

The Special March Meeting of the Norwich Sewer Authority was held on Tuesday, March 3, 2009 in the 2nd floor Training Room of Norwich Public Utilities, located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich, Connecticut.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:42 P.M. by Chairman Sullivan.

Present: Chairman James Sullivan, Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair, Sewer Authority Members Stanley Israelite and Alan Remondi. Absent was Sewer Authority Member Frank Demicco. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeff Dewey, Jeanne Kurasz and Michele Addabbo.

Vice Chairman Boisclair, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Israelite moved to appoint Alan Remondi as Acting Secretary. Unanimously approved.

Item 2. Minutes of the January Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009. Acting Secretary Remondi, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to approve the Minutes of the January Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2009, as written. Unanimously approved.

Item 3. Action Items.

- a. Resolution of the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich Approving the Installation of Sewers in the Newton Street and Place, East and West Avenues, Eagle Street, Will, Ash and Gardner Acres Roads and Portion of New London Turnpike Area and the Issue of up to \$2.2 Million Public Act 07-51 Bonds Secured by a Pledge of Sewer Authority Revenues to the City of Norwich.

Chairman Sullivan reiterated that at the Public Hearing held on January 27, 2009 the Sewer Authority decided not to vote at that time, in order to give them time to process comments from residents. Chairman Sullivan said that understanding the rules for this matter to pass, it requires 2/3 approval from the body, meaning four votes would need to be in favor for the project to advance.

Chairman Sullivan, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Israelite moved to place the following resolution on the floor for discussion and vote:

RESOLUTION OF THE SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH
APPROVING THE INSTALLATION OF SEWERS IN THE NEWTON STREET AND
PLACE, EAST AND WEST AVENUES, EAGLE STREET, WILL, ASH AND
GARDNER ACRES ROADS AND PORTION OF NEW LONDON TURNPIKE AREA
AND THE ISSUE OF UP TO \$2.2 MILLION PUBLIC ACT 07-51 BONDS SECURED
BY A PLEDGE OF SEWER AUTHORITY REVENUES TO THE CITY OF
NORWICH

The Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich, (also known as the City's Water Pollution Control Authority, "WPCA"), having reviewed the proposed project consisting of the planning, acquisition, construction and installation of sewers in the Newton Street, Newton Place, East Avenue, West Avenue, Eagle Street, Will Road, Ash Road, Gardner Acres Road and a portion of New London Turnpike, hereby approves said project and approves in its entirety the bond ordinance adopted by the City Council entitled:

AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$2,200,000 FOR THE NEWTON STREET AREA SEWER PROJECT AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUE OF A TOTAL OF \$2,200,000 BONDS OF THE CITY TO MEET SAID APPROPRIATION, CONSISTING OF UP TO \$2,200,000 PUBLIC ACT 07-51 BONDS AND \$800,000 GENERAL OBLIGATION BONDS AND PENDING THE ISSUANCE THEREOF THE MAKING OF TEMPORARY BORROWINGS FOR SUCH PURPOSE (the "Ordinance"), a copy of which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

The Sewer Authority specifically acknowledges the provisions of Sections 2 and 5 of the Ordinance which provide that the WPCA agrees to and shall levy and collect Project Assessments (benefit assessments and connection charges derived from the project) and to pay amounts equal to such Project Assessments (as defined in the Ordinance) to the City so as to enable it to pay debt service on the WPCA Portion of the bonds issued to finance the Project, that the WPCA portion will, in no event, be less than \$1 million, and to the extent the WPCA is required to levy and collect user fees to pay the WPCA Portion, it agrees, and shall do so. Capitalized terms not otherwise defined shall have the definitions ascribed in the Ordinance.

Sewer Authority Member Israelite commented that if the sewer lines were not extended, it could lead to unsanitary conditions and dirty rivers. He stated that the project was good for the health of the community and for future generations in Norwich.

Sewer Authority Member Remondi commented that he was not against the extension of sewer lines, but was against the process. He stated that this project was among the highest in cost, and he had received numerous letters and calls from residents against the project. He stated that since the majority did not want the project, he did not feel that the City Council had the authority to vote on this project. He recommended that City Council pose this as a bond issue, and let the City as a whole vote. He said that the City Council was unfair to the residents, and that they should be out finding another source to pay for this project.

Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair commented that she had also received calls from residents, and that most of those calls were against the project. She stated there was a problem with the process and that since the City Council approved the project, she did not understand how the Sewer Authority could go against it.

Chairman Sullivan commented that in the last 60 days this issue has resulted in public discourse and people being attacked personally by residents, and as a citizen of Norwich, he was offended by this. He stated that there are 135 employees at Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) who come to work every day to make Norwich a better place to live and work. He stated that NPU is a 100 million dollar operation of which 6% is sewer, yet 105% of the headaches come from sewer issues. He said there was much to be proud of in this organization, including the people and the 7 million dollars given to the General Fund for the City. He stated that his opinion on this project may be different than other members of the Sewer Authority. He added that as Chairman, he had been offended in watching this process unfold, and felt it necessary to state that. He said that utility employees were asked to do a job, yet had been made to appear as project proponents, and that this was unfortunate. He stated that this situation put NPU in a bad light, and that he will try to correct this in the future.

Be there no further discussion, Chairman Sullivan called for a vote. All those in favor were to indicate by saying aye; those opposed were to indicate by saying nay.

Aye
Stanley Israelite
James Sullivan

Nay
Diana Boisclair
Alan Remondi

Chairman Sullivan declared the resolution not approved.

Item 4. Performance Reports. The January 2009 financial report was presented to the Sewer Authority for their information. Informative.

Item 5. NPU Sewer Division Tactical Information. The following tactical reports or updates were provided to the Sewer Authority for their review and information:

- a) Wastewater Treatment Plant Operations Report. Informative.
- b) Wastewater Treatment Plant Digester Project Update. General Manager Bilda informed the Sewer Authority members that the Wastewater Treatment Plant Upgrade Project cost had been reduced to \$30 million, and would be eligible for money from the Clean Water Fund. He stated that other funding sources include a \$300k grant through the Omnibus Appropriations Bill and an \$800k bond through the City Council.

Item 6. Other Business

Item 7. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 24, 2009.

Acting Secretary Remondi, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:00 P.M.

Attest:

Alan Remondi
Acting Secretary