

SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH

16 South Golden Street
Norwich, CT 06360
(860) 887-2555

NORWICH SEWER AUTHORITY REGULAR MEETING May 26, 2009

The Regular March Meeting of the Norwich Sewer Authority was held on Tuesday, May 26, 2009 in the Training Room at the NPU's office located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:55 P.M. by Chairman Sullivan.

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

Item 2. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. Chairman Sullivan called for public comment.

No comments were made by the public during this period.

Item 3. Minutes of the Regular April Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009. Sewer Authority Member Remondi, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular April Meeting, which was held on Tuesday, April 28, 2009, as written. Unanimously approved.

Item 4. Action Items.

- a. Public Hearing – Proposed Revisions to the Sewer Rates. In accordance with the State of Connecticut General Statutes, Chapter 103, Section 7-255, as amended, a Public Hearing is scheduled for May 26, 2009, at 7:00 P.M., at Norwich Public Utilities, 16 South Golden Street, Norwich, CT for the purpose of receiving comments on the proposed Sewer Use changes.

Representing the Sewer Authority were: Chairman James Sullivan, Vice Chairman Diana Boisclair and Sewer Authority Members Frank Demicco, Stanley Israelite and Alan Remondi. Also in attendance were: General Manager John Bilda; NPU Staff Members Steve Sinko, Chris LaRose, Jeanne Kurasz, Janine Saunders and Michele Addabbo.

Chairman Sullivan, who read the call for the hearing notice, opened the Public Hearing at 7:00 p.m. A copy of the published Public Hearing Notice is as follows:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF NORWICH
REVISION OF SEWER RATES

The Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich will conduct a public hearing for the purpose of receiving comments concerning the proposed sewer rates as set forth below. Copies of the proposed sewer rates are available at the Office of the City Clerk, Norwich City Hall, 100 Broadway, Norwich, Connecticut, and at the Norwich Public Utilities Customer Service Center, 173 North Main Street, Norwich, Connecticut. If approved, the rates will become effective on July 1, 2009.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, May 26, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the 2nd Floor Training Room of Norwich Public Utilities, 16 South Golden Street, Norwich, Connecticut.

PROPOSED SEWER RATES
SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE
CITY OF NORWICH

RATE:

All customers utilizing the sewer system of the City of Norwich Sewer Authority with average sewer strength, denoted by Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD) and Suspended Solids (SS) levels not exceeding 300mg/L will be charged monthly:

Customer Charge, Per Month = \$4.67

Usage Charge @ \$3.802 per 100 cubic feet (CCF)

Mandatory Upgrades Charge @ \$1.651 per 100 cubic feet (CCF)

Mandatory Upgrades Charge recovers the costs to upgrade the Wastewater Treatment Plant and Sewer Collection System to meet state and federally mandated environmental water quality regulations. The measurement of cubic feet of sewage will be according to the amount of water measured coming into the premises by the water meter. All customers utilizing the sewer system of the City of Norwich Sewer Authority with sewer strength above the average indicated BOD or SS will be charged a surcharge for the increased BOD or SS.

MINIMUM CHARGE:

All customers utilizing the sewer system of the City of Norwich Sewer Authority will be charged a fixed minimum customer charge of \$4.67 per month.

Penalty: A penalty charge equal to 1.5% of the unpaid balance compounded monthly is added to all bills not paid within 25 days of the billing date.

The Sewer Authority received the following questions, comments, and opinions, etc. from those in attendance concerning the Proposed Revisions to the Sewer Rates:

JoAnne Philbrick, 10 Elm Avenue – Ms. Philbrick stated that she was disappointed that only two people from the public were in attendance. Ms. Philbrick said she was always impressed with NPU's staff, and that they were always professional, knowledgeable, and just plain friendly. She expressed concern that 7,000 sewer customers will bear the brunt of the 100 million dollar upgrade, and asked if there would be an increase to the septic hauler user fees.

General Manager Bilda provided details regarding the approach to the upgrade which will result in lower project costs than originally anticipated. He added that the Sewer Authority has had discussions with City Council regarding the payment and that any stimulus money will require CSO upgrades, the cost of which will be shared by the community. The proposed sewer rate increase reflects no changes to operating costs; the increase is solely to cover project costs.

Ms. Philbrick asked if there were potential odor issues for people who live close to the plant.

General Manager Bilda replied that the work being done now will eliminate the current odor problem.

Chairman Sullivan then read from the following correspondence received from George and Barbara Wojtkiewicz:

From: WOJTKIEWIC@aol.com [mailto:WOJTKIEWIC@aol.com]
Sent: Tuesday, May 26, 2009 10:22 AM
To: CommunityMatters
Cc: Bswojt2@aol.com; zarnetske@zarnet.com;
rhackett@norwichbulletin.com
Subject: Public Hearing on Sewer Plant May 26th

Because we are still out of town, we cannot attend the Public Hearing on May 26, 2009 on the new sewer plant. Since you have said in your announcement that "Your Opinion is Important to US", please have the following read aloud by the chair of the meeting at the meeting in front of everyone May 26. Thank you.

IN CONNECTION WITH THE FUNDING OF THE NEW NORWICH WASTEWATER TREATMENT PLANT, WE URGE THAT RATHER THAN RAISE SEWER USE CHARGES, THE AMOUNT FROM CUSTOMERS BE TAKEN OUT OF THE 10% OF GROSS ANNUAL REVENUES PAID TO THE CITY OF NORWICH.

IN THIS WAY, THIS COULD REPRESENT A CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT USE OF THIS MONEY WITHIN THE CITY BUDGET AND THEREBY AVOID WHAT IS A "DOUBLE TAX" SINCE FEE PAYERS MUST PAY THE 10% TO THE CITY AS WELL AS HIGHER SEWER USE FEES.

ANY INCREASE IN SEWER USE CHARGES IS UNFAIR TO RATE PAYERS SINCE RATE PAYERS ARE ALREADY PAYING APPROX. \$9 MILLION WHICH IS USED BY THE CITY OF NORWICH FOR NON PUBLIC UTILITY COSTS AND VIRTUALLY NO PUBLIC WORKS CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS CURRENTLY.

Please confirm that you have received this email and that this request will be fulfilled.
Thanks very much.

George and Barbara Wojtkiewicz (Voit-kev-itich)
24 Parkwoods Drive
Norwichtown, CT 06360

Chairman Sullivan then called for any additional comments from the public, hearing none he declared the Public Hearing closed at 7:05 p.m.

b. Approval of Proposed Sewer Rates.

Secretary Demicco, seconded by Sewer Authority Member Israelite moved to approve the Sewer Rates as presented. Chairman asked if there were any comments from the Sewer Authority. Hearing none, Chairman Sullivan called for a vote.

<u>Aye</u>	<u>Nay</u>
Chairman Sullivan	None
Vice Chairman Boisclair	
Sewer Authority Member Israelite	
Sewer Authority Member Demicco	
Sewer Authority Member Remondi	

Chairman Sullivan declared the vote unanimously approved.

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SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE
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Item 5. Performance Reports.

a. The April 2009 financial report was presented to the Sewer Authority for their information.

Item 6. 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. Chris LaRose informed the Sewer Authority that the digester work is taking place as scheduled.
- c) Clean Water Fund Update. Informative.
- d) ARRA Stimulus Grants. Informative.
- e) East West Sewer Project Update. Janine Saunders informed the Sewer Authority that two public informational meetings were held for the residents of the project, and project information was provided to all the residents in the project area. Sewer Authority Member Israelite asked if the Council was aware of this project. General Manager Bilda responded that discussions have been held. A public hearing will held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Item 6. Other Business

Item 7. The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 30, 2009.

Sewer Authority Member Israelite, seconded by Vice Chairman Boisclair moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

Attest:

Frank Demicco
Secretary