



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING

May 22, 2018

The Regular Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners was held on Tuesday, May 22, 2018 in the 2nd Floor Conference Room of Norwich Public Utilities (NPU) located at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Chairman Grace Jones.

Present: Chair Grace Jones, Vice Chairman Stewart Peil, and Secretary Robert Staley. Commissioners Steven Becker was present by phone. Absent: Michael Goldblatt. Also in attendance was: General Manager John Bilda, and NPU staff Chris LaRose, Jeff Brining, Steve Sinko, Laura Huren, Chris Riley and Jeanne Kurasz.

Item 2. Organization of the Board. Secretary Staley, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil nominated Grace Jones to serve as the Chair of the Board. Unanimously approved. Chair Jones, seconded by Commissioner Becker nominated Stewart Peil to serve as the Vice Chairman of the Board. Unanimously approved. Commissioner Becker, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil nominated Robert Staley to serve as Secretary of the Board. Unanimously approved.

Item 3. Fifteen-Minute Public Comment Period. The following members of the public addressed the Board:

Mr. David Norman, McKinley Avenue Ext: Mr. Norman commented on a recent article published in The Day newspaper that discussed Norwich's taxes, and he compared NPU to Wallingford Electric Department.

Mr. Harry Jarrow, 366 Central Avenue & 180-182 Prospect Street: Mr. Jarrow expressed his dissatisfaction about receiving his utility bills via express mail and recent communication with Customer Service about combining his utility accounts. He requested he be reimbursed for fees he has paid. He also feels many of NPU's policies are not practical, such as the water line extension to Sprague.

Mayor Peter Nystrom: Mayor Nystrom thanked the Board for taking a second look at the budget and understands what that represents. He feels this reflects the reality of what we're living with and facing for cost-of-living.

Mr. Jarrow spoke again, stating his property is worth \$60,000 and he pays \$4,000 in taxes. He compared this with a house located in the Museum district in Philadelphia.

Item 4. Minutes of the Regular April Meeting, held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018 and Minutes of the Special May Meeting, held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Secretary Staley, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil, moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular April Meeting held on Tuesday, April 24, 2018. Unanimously approved. Secretary Staley, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil, moved to approve the Minutes of the Special May Meeting held on Tuesday, May 15, 2018. Unanimously approved.

Item 5. Action Items.

- FY19 Budget and Rate Approval. The Board was provided with a revised FY19 budget and summary of the proposed revenue increase. General Manager Bilda explained that the revenue increase would be a 3.77% increase, on average, for a residential customer by proposed budget reflected items that have been postponed but will be necessary at a later date. Secretary Staley commented that the budget was now a good balance and reminded staff of the need to review commercial rates to ensure those customers are being treated fairly. Vice Chairman Peil thanked the staff for listening to their concerns. Commissioner Becker also expressed his thanks and expressed the need to remain competitive in the City of Norwich. Chair Jones expressed her thanks and understood that it was not an easy process for all who put the budget together.

Following the discussion, Secretary Staley, seconded by Commissioner Becker, moved to approve the FY19 Budget and Rates. Unanimously approved.

Item 6. NPU Leadership Team Update. Informative.

Item 7. Financial Report. Informative.

Item 8. Strategic Presentations. No strategic presentations were made.

Item 8. General Business. No general business was discussed.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Secretary Staley moved to recess the Board Meeting and enter into the Sewer Authority Meeting at 6:30 PM. Unanimously approved.

The Board Meeting resumed at 6:34 PM.

Item 9. Executive Session – To Discuss Confidential Trade Secret & Commercially Valuable Confidential or Proprietary Information Not Subject to Inspection or Public Disclosure Pursuant to Section 1-210[5] and 7-232a of the CT General Statutes. This information is commercially valuable, confidential and proprietary and is not subject to public disclosure, pursuant to Public Act No. 98-212.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Secretary Staley moved to enter into Executive Session at 6:35 p.m. Unanimously approved. General Manager Bilda was asked to stay for Executive Session.

The Board came out of Executive Session at 7:10 p.m. No votes were taken.

Item 10. Other Business. Secretary Staley, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to approve the Agreement between the City of Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commissioners and the City of Norwich Department of Public Utilities' Supervisory Employees' Association, Inc.

Local 818, Council 4 AFSCME, AFL-CIO for the period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021, as summarized by General Manager Bilda. Voted Unanimously.

Secretary Staley, seconded by Vice Chairman Peil moved to approve the Agreement between the City of Norwich Department of Public Utilities and Local 457 Local Unit International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers for the period July 1, 2018 – June 30, 2021, as summarized by General Manager Bilda. Voted Unanimously.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, June 26, 2018.

Vice Chairman Peil, seconded by Secretary Staley, moved to adjourn the Meeting at 7:20 P.M.

Attest:

Grace Jones, Chair
Authorized Board Representative