



NORWICH BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES' COMMISSIONERS
&
SEWER AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NORWICH
SPECIAL MEETINGS

June 10, 2024

A Special Meeting of the Norwich Board of Public Utilities' Commissioners and the Sewer Authority of the City of Norwich was held on Monday, June 10, 2024, by Microsoft Teams and in the 2nd Floor Board Room of NPU's Administrative Offices at 16 South Golden Street, Norwich.

Item 1. The Meeting was called to order at 9:01 a.m. by Chairman Stewart Peil.

Present: Chairman Stewart Peil via phone, Secretary William Warzecha (in person), and Vice Chairman Ashon Avent (via phone). NPU staff in attendance were General Manager Chris LaRose, Steve Sinko, Jeff Brining, Chris Riley, David Poore, Laura Huren, Mary Lou Rychling, Eric McDermott, John Covey, and Simone Oliva.

Item 2. Juneteenth Holiday. Chris LaRose provided an overview of a resolution to establish Juneteenth as an official holiday for NPU. The resolution proposed is modeled on the resolution recently passed by the Norwich City Council that established Juneteenth as an official holiday for the City of Norwich, beginning on June 19, 2024.

Item 3. Actions:

Juneteenth Holiday Resolution

Motion made by Secretary Bill Warzecha, seconded by Vice Chairman Ashon Avent to approve the resolution as presented by Chris LaRose. Unanimously approved.

Secretary Warzecha seconded by Vice Chairman Avent moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:08 a.m. Unanimously approved. The Board came out of the Special Meeting at 9:08 a.m.

The meeting adjourned 9:08 a.m.

The next Regular Meeting is scheduled to be held on June 25, 2024.

Attest:

William Warzecha
Secretary

Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commission Resolution

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE OBSERVATION OF THE JUNETEENTH HOLIDAY.

WHEREAS, Juneteenth, is the oldest nationally celebrated commemoration of the ending of slavery in the United States dating back to June of 1865 when Major General Granger landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the war had ended and that the enslaved were now free. This was 2 ½ years after President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation which became official on January 1, 1863; and

WHEREAS, one of General Granger's first orders of business was to read to the people of Texas, General Order Number 3 which began most significantly with, "The people of Texas are informed that in accordance with a Proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of rights and rights of property between former masters and slaves, and the connection heretofore existing between them becomes that between employer and hired laborer"; and

WHEREAS, in Texas, the celebrations of June 19, 1866 became known as "Juneteenth" and on January 1, 1980, Juneteenth became an official state holiday in Texas and the first state to grant official recognition of Juneteenth as an emancipation celebration; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the NAACP Norwich Branch held its first Juneteenth Day celebration and is the first known celebration in the State of Connecticut; and

WHEREAS, in June of 2012, the "Norwich Freedom Bell" was forged in the City of Norwich as part of the NAACP Norwich Branch Juneteenth Celebration; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law Thursday, officially making June 19th a federal holiday and giving national recognition to a day commemorating emancipation; and

WHEREAS, on June 17, 2021, President Joe Biden signed the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act into law Thursday, officially making June 19th a federal holiday and giving national recognition to a day commemorating emancipation; and

WHEREAS, on May 27, 2022, Governor Ned Lamont signed into law Public Act 22-128, which establishes a new legal state holiday on June 19th known as Juneteenth Independence Day.

WHEREAS, on June 3 of 2024, the City of NORWICH, officially established a new city holiday on June 19th known as Juneteenth

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Norwich Board of Public Utilities Commission (the "Board") hereby authorizes, approves and ratifies:

1. To authorize General Manager Christopher LaRose to negotiate with the Norwich Public Utilities Bargaining units, a paid Holiday for June 19, 2024, and June 19, 2025.
2. That this resolution be placed in the records of NPU along with the minutes of the meetings of the Board and that the Secretary of the Board is hereby authorized to certify that the foregoing resolution has been adopted at a duly convened meeting of the Board.

APPROVED AT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD HELD ON JUNE 10, 2024.

WILLIAM WARZECHA
Secretary, Norwich Board of Public
Utilities Commission