

**Niagara City Council Meeting**  
**Monday, January 15, 2007**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Mayor Stern. Present: Mayor Stern, Aldermen Kuchinski, Betters, Brown, Steeno, Towns and Moreau. Also present: Administrator Novak, Director of Public Works Payette, Police Sgt. Lamoreaux, David Rock, Ron Lawrence, Sabrina Weber, Bernard Rouse and Hank Murphy of the Borderland Journal.

**PUBLIC APPEARANCES**

There were no public appearances.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

A motion was then made by Alderman Betters and seconded by Alderman Towns to approve the Minutes of the 12-18-06 Regular Council Meeting. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF BILLS**

Discussion was held regarding the list of bills to be paid. Director of Public Works Payette explained that the city hired Jon's Signs to install new electrical cords on the light posts for the Christmas decorations. There were questions regarding vehicle maintenance to the fire department and the public works department. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Moreau to approve the bills as presented in the amount of \$60,626.44. Motion carried unanimously.

**APPROVAL OF STAFF REPORTS**

A motion was made by Alderman Betters and seconded by Alderman Kuchinski to approve the staff reports as presented. Motion carried unanimously.

**ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

1. Administrator Novak informed the Council that the Public Service Commission has requested that a Public Hearing be held regarding the proposed water rate increase on February 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Public Service Commission personnel will be available via a telephone hearing to address any comments regarding the proposed rate increase. As noted earlier, it is expected that the new residential rate will be approximately \$2.42/1,000 gallons, an increase of \$0.42. A motion was then made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Brown to set the Public Hearing date for February 19, 2007 at 10:00 a.m. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Administrator Novak informed the Council that there are two businesses in the city who failed to pay 2005 Delinquent Personal Property Taxes which were due January 1, 2006. These businesses have been chronically late in paying their personal property taxes. Administrator Novak noted that many other communities publish a list of delinquent property taxpayers and suggested that it may be appropriate to publish a list of such. It was agreed that this policy should be discussed at a future Finance and Administration Committee Meeting. Administrator Novak pointed out that it is only the Personal Property Taxes being discussed at this time. The County may foreclose on properties that are delinquent in real estate tax. Personal Property Tax collection is the responsibility of the local municipality.

3. Administrator Novak informed the Council that he has received a proposal from Spielbauer Fireworks for conducting the fireworks display at the community picnic, which will be held June 30, 2007. This is the weekend prior to the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. A motion was made by Alderman Steeno and seconded by Alderman Brown to approve the proposal from Spielbauer Fireworks in the amount of \$6,000. Motion carried unanimously.

### **MAYOR'S REPORT**

Mayor Stern acknowledged the observance of Martin Luther King Day and also indicated that while he does not necessarily agree with the views of certain people that Dr. King referred to as friends; he does admire his drive for freedom and liberty.

### **OLD BUSINESS**

1. The 2007 Election Supervisor List was submitted by the Mayor for Council approval. A motion was made by Alderman Betters and seconded by Alderman Moreau to approve the Election Supervisor List as submitted. It was noted that Cindy Lawrence has been added to the list. All other persons are currently election supervisors. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Administrator Novak and Director of Public Works Payette provided a status report regarding the test wells that were conducted for a new well site. The level of arsenic in the water at the test wells is similar to that in the existing Well #2. City staff has been discussing treatment and site alternatives with various consultants and DNR Officials. A Public Works Committee Meeting will be held to discuss the alternatives, which will include treatment for arsenic removal at the existing well site or a new well site.

### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. A request was received from Bernie Rouse for an additional driveway access at 1750 Roosevelt Road. Administrator Novak indicated that City Ordinance requires that the Council approve multiple driveway access on a single property. In this case, the property is zoned commercial and the existing driveway is rather steep. It is noted that an additional driveway will provide for a safer egress from the property and is recommended for approval. A motion was made by Alderman Brown and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve the request for additional driveway access for 1750 Roosevelt Road. Motion carried unanimously.
2. Resolution 1-1-07 Authorizing the Borrowing of \$720,000 Providing for the Issuance and Sale of General Obligation Securities therefore and Levying a Tax in connection therewith was then addressed. This resolution is pursuant to the borrowing for the new well project and other capital street improvements. A motion was made by Alderman Betters and seconded by Alderman Steeno to approve Resolution 1-1-07 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
3. Resolution 1-2-07 which specifically authorizes the Issuance and Sale of the \$720,000 anticipation notes was then addressed. A motion was made by Alderman Moreau and seconded by Alderman Betters to approve Resolution 1-2-07 as presented. Motion carried unanimously.
4. Ordinance 1-1-07 was addressed. This ordinance amends the terms for the appointment of the Election Supervisors in accordance with the revised State Statutes. A motion was made by Alderman Towns and seconded by Alderman Kuchinski to approve Ordinance 1-1-07. Motion carried unanimously.

There being no other business, a motion was made by Alderman Betters and seconded by Alderman Steeno to adjourn. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:40p.m.