

The regular meeting of the Council of the City of Norwich was held February 17, 2026 at 7:00 PM in Council Chambers. Present: Mayor Singh, President Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Nystrom, Ald. Zuccardy, Ald. Kadambaya, Ald. Hayes and Ald. Nash. City Manager John Salomone, Corporation Counsel Aimee Siefert were also in attendance. Mayor Singh presided.

Please be advised that meetings of the Norwich City Council can be viewed in their entirety on the City of Norwich website “norwichct.gov”.

Ald. Kadambaya, read the opening prayer and Ald. Zuccardy, led the members in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ald. Nystrom called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Charles Whitty.

Ald. Nash called for a moment of silence in remembrance of Jesse Jackson.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Zuccardy, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following petition and communication.

Norwich Commission on Persons with Disabilities
Annual Report, 2025

The Commission’s meeting on November 10, 2025 was its first since March 2, 2023. This lapse was due to an inadequate number of members for a quorum, Now with five members (out of a maximum of seven), the Commission has restarted its important work of encouraging, monitoring, and celebrating the City’s compliance with Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA).

The November and December meetings were devoted to housekeeping and discussion of future initiatives and activities. Commission members scrutinized the City’s guidance document for Boards and Commissions to ensure our compliance with its requirements. Close readings of the website, the Bylaws, and the brochure resulted in numerous suggestions for revision, some of which will require facilitation by the ADA Coordinator. Select final changes will be submitted for review by both the City’s ADA Coordinator and Corporation Counsel.

The Commission agreed that a main thrust of 2026 will be the monitoring of the Howard Brown Park reconfiguration. The Commission will invite key players - relevant City officials, development personnel, contracted design professionals, and others with responsibility for this project – to make presentations and answer questions.

Additionally, Commission members agreed to develop an outreach program to inform municipal entities and private organizations of the Commission’s work.

In order to ensure basic knowledge of Title II among Commission members, the Commission Chair will conduct a training in early 2026.

Members also discussed, as possible future activities, a legislative forum and a regeneration of

Disability Awareness Week in October.

The Commission will continue its regular work of 1) considering and referring to the ADA Coordinator all valid Title II compliance issues, including issues brought to the Commission by members of the public; 2) providing information on the ADA to the public; and 3) referring complainants to appropriate enforcement agencies when issues are outside the purview of the Commission.

Elanah Sherman, Chair

Note: Minutes from the November and December meetings are posted on the Commission's website.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to accept the following petition and communication.

Dorothy Travers
112 Sherwood Lane
Norwich, CT. 06360

January 28, 2026

Attention:
City Manager: John L. Salomone
CC: Jacquie Barbarossa
CC: Richard Shuck

RECEIVED
2026 FEB -9 P 12:39
TOWN OF NORWICH, CT

Resigning from Zoning Board

Dear Mr. Salomene,

I am resigning from Zoning Board of Appeals as of January 31, 2026.
A few months ago, I informed Richard and Marc that I would be leaving in January.
It has been a pleasure to serve on the Board for over forty years.

Sincerely,
Dorothy L Travers

Dorothy Travers

Dorothy L. Travers

David Eggleston gave his annual oral report as the Rate Payer Representative for Connecticut Municipal Electric Energy Cooperative (CMEEC) below is the written form of his report.

Norwich Ratepayer Representative to CMEEC Annual Report to the City Council

This report is my summary of the most significant events that occurred over the past year with CMEEC from my perspective as the Norwich Ratepayer Representative on the CMEEC Board of Directors. Like last year, I've provided some basic information about CMEEC and my role to ground everyone.

CMEEC's mission

CMEEC's stated mission is provide reliable, sustainable and cost-effective energy solutions to meet the evolving needs of its members and stakeholders through joint action, public power advocacy and leveraging benefits of scale. CMEEC predominantly purchases wholesale electricity on behalf of six municipal electric utilities in Connecticut. CMEEC has assets that generate electricity in strategic niches which are intended to lower the cost of electricity to the member utilities. CMEEC also purchases electricity to supply a number of large consumers like the Mohegan Tribal Authority, Electric Boat Corporation, Pfizer, and others.

Ratepayer Representative's Mission

Connecticut State law established (in October 2017) the ratepayer representative role and required that the ratepayer representative not be a utility employee or utility professional, and that other qualifications are set by the municipality they represent. Our Norwich ordinance (#1762) requires the representative to be without conflicts of interest, be a professional or otherwise able to be of assistance to the Board and be able to make the commitment to the Board. In my capacity as a Board member, I am equal to any other Board member except on decisions involving how the member utilities choose to financially support or invest in projects. The utility heads make those decisions.

My mission continues to be to understand and challenge how CMEEC makes decisions and how CMEEC functions for the benefit of member utilities and ratepayers. Most importantly, I want to know that CMEEC performance results in reliable electricity at the lowest reasonably achievable cost.

Last year I served on four of the five standing committees: Budget and Finance, Audit, Legislative and Governmental, and Risk Management. Between the Board and the Committees, I attended 21 out of 26 scheduled meetings last year. The meeting materials are made available to all Board members regardless of attendance and I made sure to read them. This year I'm serving on the Audit Committee, the Governance Committee, the Budget and Finance Committee, and the Risk Committee. All meetings take place during normal weekday business hours.

Cost Performance

In 2025, CMEEC continued to procure wholesale electricity and deliver it to the member utilities at a rate significantly below the benchmark. CMEEC navigates the volatility in the wholesale energy markets and times their procurements to our benefit. CMEEC also uses assets to produce electricity in niche applications to further improve their cost performance compared to the benchmark. CMEEC has performed similarly well for years. The benchmark used for tracking

performance is Eversource.

Each of the assets in niche applications is considered a project. Market conditions change over time which means that the economics of a project can become unfavorable. CMEEC revisits the economics of each project every two years and adjusts as necessary to assure continued project viability. CMEEC's proactive behavior helps protect their cost performance. I note that ISO-New England is changing market rules. CMEEC is aware and monitoring this issue.

Budget

CMEEC reports performance to budget each month during the year. The budget includes expected energy costs, CMEEC operating costs, and estimated financial benefits from the various projects. The budget essentially explains what it costs to get electricity delivered to the member utilities. The budgeting process continues to be robust and transparent. Draft budgets presented at committee meetings were detailed and presented with rationale. No line item is an automatic carry-over. During the year, performance data is provided in the form of reading materials in advance of Board meetings but also via an on-line dashboard. The on-line dashboard is an example of CMEEC transparency that has been engrained in normal operations.

Legal Issues

From my perspective, the legal issues are behind us. CMEEC successfully obtained reimbursement for nearly all legal expenses from the provider of D&O insurance. At least one of the defendants has completed their court-ordered financial restitution. There is one pending legal issue remaining, but it is orders of magnitude less significant than what has already been handled and it appears to be on a path to closure.

Audit

The annual external financial audit resulted in an "unmodified opinion", the highest rating available. An audit was also performed on travel expenses and purchasing card usage with no issues identified. Last year's self-audit of compliance with ISO 27001 Cybersecurity continues to drive enhancements to CMEEC digital and physical infrastructure.

Legislative Affairs

The legislative session in Hartford was the busiest in a number of years although the activity did not end up directly affecting CMEEC. CMEEC's approach toward hedging and power supply risk mitigation was viewed as a model for others to emulate, so much so that CMEEC was consulted by various stakeholders in the legislative and regulatory process.

Governance

Although I did not serve on the Governance Committee, I did read their committee meeting materials and heard their reports at full Board meetings. CMEEC intended to work on a new or updated strategic plan in 2025. It was put aside in favor of an extensive charter review. Multiple documents which govern CMEEC activities and how CMEEC functions with the member utilities were in need of review and revision. It isn't sexy work but the result is that what CMEEC documents say matches what CMEEC and the members actually do. In some ways, the charter revision work institutionalizes current CMEEC best practices.

Succession Planning

CMEEC is losing very experienced people to retirement. CMEEC recognizes that attrition is a threat to organizational knowledge and culture. I am seeing CMEEC work to ensure that what is in the heads of the departing people is passed on through deliberate actions. I have had opportunities to interact with CMEEC staff who are not Board members which gives some insight into how CMEEC is developing their people. I conclude CMEEC is managing succession in a way that preserves important values and knowledge.

Summary

In my opinion, CMEEC consistently keeps their commitment to deliver the lowest reasonable cost electric power. They are sustaining changes that have brought increased transparency and accountability at the Board level. I continue to observe cost-conscious behavior in the CMEEC staff and CEO. And CMEEC is actively preparing for the future.

David Eggleston

City Manager's report

To: Mayor Singh and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: February 17, 2026

Meetings and Professional Engagements

During the reporting period, I represented the City at several regional, intergovernmental, and internal meetings, including:

- Southeastern Connecticut Council of Governments (SECOG)
- City Coordination Meeting
- Norwich Community Development Corporation (NCDC) Executive Committee
- Stakeholder discussions related to the Community Investment Fund (CIF)
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities (CCM) regarding a federal transportation grant
- Waterfront Design Committee

In addition, I held a press conference and participated in multiple media interviews concerning a temporary adjustment to fire service operations within the Yantic service area. This matter was previously reviewed with City Council in executive session on Monday the 9th.

The adjustment was implemented exclusively to protect public safety and ensure reliable emergency response services for residents and visitors. Prior to implementation, extensive contingency planning was completed to guarantee uninterrupted emergency coverage.

Emergency response responsibilities for the affected area have been reassigned through the Norwich Fire Department Unified Command Structure under the direction of Fire Chief Sam Wilson. This revised deployment model maintains service continuity while enhancing overall

coverage through increased staffing levels, improved apparatus availability, and strengthened coordination.

This operational change is intended to be temporary. The City remains optimistic that continued dialogue and collaboration will result in a resolution that strengthens and stabilizes emergency service delivery. Throughout this transition, the City continues to work with regional partners to ensure response benchmarks, turnout times, and operational readiness are fully maintained.

Public Works

As of Wednesday, February 11, 2026, Norwich Public Works has responded to nine winter weather events this season, four of which were significant storms.

The most recent storm, occurring over the weekend of February 7, deposited approximately six inches of snow citywide, bringing total seasonal snowfall to 43 inches. Notably, 42 of those 43 inches occurred during weekends or holidays, significantly impacting overtime requirements.

Approximately 260 tons of salt were utilized for this event and subsequent cleanup operations, increasing total seasonal salt usage to approximately 1,600 tons. The estimated cost of responding to the nine winter storms to date is approximately \$263,000. These costs exceed budget projections primarily due to overtime expenses associated with off-hours storm timing.

Bulky Waste Pickups

February bulky waste pickups are currently underway. A total of 125 pickups were scheduled for this cycle, which began on February 2nd and will continue until completion.

Youth, Family, and Recreation Department

With the support of a grant from the **Chelsea Groton Foundation**, the Youth, Family, and Recreation Department distributed 100 “Brrr Bags” throughout the community via Kindness Pantries across Norwich. These cold-weather care packages included hats, gloves, socks, scarves, lip balm, moisturizer, and hand lotion.

Additionally, the department introduced a weekly open-gym basketball program for children and teens this winter. While the children’s program has been well attended since inception, participation in the teen program has grown significantly—from three participants initially to more than 25 teens within four weeks.

Events

The **NAACP Annual Sweet Potato Festival** will be held on Saturday, February 28, 2026, from 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the Senior Center.

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Mayor Singh called for citizen comment on new business resolutions.

Jeanine Gilet, spoke as co-chair 250th America Norwich CT Committee, asked for the support of resolutions 2 thru 4. She spoke about what they mean both past in present.

Kerry Wall, spoke as project coordinator of the 250th America Norwich CT Committee, in support of resolutions 2 thru 4. She gave some history of the Liberty Pole on the Norwichtown Green and the placement of the Liberty Trees making these resolutions integral parts of the 250th Celebration.

Joanne Philbrick, stated she has lived on the Norwichtown Green for many years and has asked for the return of the Liberty Pole for a long time. Her requests were not met, but she is glad to see it coming together now.

There being no speakers, Mayor Singh declared citizen comment closed.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Zuccardy, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to put the following resolution introduced by Mayor Singh, Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia and Ald. Nash on the floor.

Upon a motion of Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia, seconded by Ald. Zuccardy, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to amend the following resolution to change the dollar amount in three places from “\$10,040,453.00” to “\$8,366,597.00”.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Zuccardy, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution.

A RESOLUTION OF THE NORWICH CITY COUNCIL IN SUPPORT OF SEEKING U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION BETTER UTILIZING INVESTMENTS TO LEVERAGE DEVELOPMENT (BUILD)GRANT FUNDING FOR THE NORWICH-OCCUM INDUSTRIAL CENTER ACCESS IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (N-OAIP), TO IMPROVE THE INTERCHANGE OF INTERSTATE 395 AND ROUTE 97, AND AFFIRMING THE CITY’S COMMITMENT OF LOCAL FUNDS NECESSARY TO COMPLETE THE PROJECT

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich seeks to improve the I-395/Route 97 interchange, which connects key transportation corridors, promotes economic development and wellbeing for its residents including disadvantaged neighborhoods, and creates infrastructure to better manage freight traffic, commuters and families, and;

WHEREAS, the proposed N-OAIP improvements include modification of the existing I-395 southbound ramps to connect directly to a new industrial access road to open up 184 acres for the development of a modern manufacturing complex, signalization of two intersections on Route 97 connecting with the reconfigured I-395 northbound and southbound access ramps, new sidewalks and a signalized pedestrian crossing along Route 97 and the addition of several new turn-only lanes would serve as a critical first step in creating safe and efficient access to the Occum Industrial Center, which will help to promote economic growth and job opportunities,

and help revitalize and ameliorate freight traffic impacts on core impoverished neighborhoods;
and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Department of Transportation administers financial assistance for surface transportation purposes, through the Better Utilizing Investments to Leverage Development (BUILD) grant program; and

WHEREAS, the City of Norwich seeks financial assistance from the BUILD program for the proposed N-OAIP described above in the amount of **\$8,366,597.00** to be applied toward the planning and construction expenses of the project, which is estimated to cost **\$8,366,597.00** in total; and

WHEREAS, Norwich City Council finds that the N-OAIP significantly furthers the health, safety, and welfare of the citizens of Norwich and the community by improving vehicular safety while providing expanded capacity for the development of modern manufacturing, logistics and warehousing that will produce immediate economic opportunity for the City and its citizens, and firmly commits to the expenditure of local funds necessary to complete this project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Manager John Salomone or his designee be and hereby is authorized to file an application with the U.S. Department of Transportation seeking grant funding in the amount of **\$8,366,597.00** from the Fiscal Year 2026 BUILD grant program to fund costs associated with the Norwich-Occum Industrial Center Access Improvement Project to upgrade the I-395/Route 97 interchange.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Singh, Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Hayes and Ald. Nash.

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is a local committee officially recognized by the Norwich City Council on September 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee, to commemorate Norwich's role in the events leading up to and during the American Revolution, and to serve as a lasting symbol of liberty, civic engagement and the community's enduring commitment to democratic ideals, proposes to install a Liberty Pole with plaque at the Norwichtown Green; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Pole will be a wooden, utility-grade pole, designed to withstand the elements and intended as a permanent installation at the Norwichtown Green, meeting modern safety and durability standards; and

WHEREAS, Norwich Public Utilities has agreed to donate the wooden pole to America's 250th Norwich CT Committee; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is requesting in-kind support from the City of Norwich, Department of Public Works in placing and securing the pole; and

WHEREAS, the Norwich Historical Society will assume full responsibility for routine maintenance, inspections, and associated costs for the Liberty Pole.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH,

that it approves the installation of the Liberty Pole with plaque as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH,
that City

Manager John Salomone, with the assistance of Brian Long, Director of Public Works and staff of the Public Works Department and other departments as may be necessary, shall oversee the installation of the Liberty Pole and plaque, the Liberty Pole to be placed at the Norwichtown Green.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Hayes, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Singh, Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Hayes and Ald. Nash.

WHEREAS, America’s 250th Norwich CT Committee is a local committee officially recognized by the Norwich City Council on September 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, America’s 250th Norwich CT Committee, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and as a part of the nationwide initiative established by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution History 250 Committee to plant 250 Liberty Trees across the United States by July 4, 2026, proposes to donate a commemorative Liberty Tree with plaque at Howard T. Brown Park; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Tree will be a Princeton Elm, a disease-resistant cultivar of the American Elm selected to reflect the historic species traditionally associated with Liberty Trees; and

WHEREAS, America’s 250th Norwich CT Committee proposes to install a plaque on the Liberty Tree to honor the sailors and shipwrights of the USS Confederacy, a Revolutionary War naval vessel constructed in Norwich and launched in 1778; and

WHEREAS, the plaque, will be made from granite with dimensions of 14 x 12 x 1.5 and affixed to a concrete block using a heavy-duty exterior construction adhesive, with the concrete block being buried below grade and the plaque visible at ground level will bear the following inscription:

LIBERTY TREE
RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
1776-2026
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY SAR & AMERICA’S 250TH NORWICH CT COMMITTEE
SAILORS AND SHIPWRIGHTS OF THE USS CONFEDERACY
(SHIP LAUNCHED 1778, CAPTURED 1781)

; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is requesting in-kind support from the City of Norwich, Department of Public Works in the excavation and planting of the Liberty Tree, as well as site preparation, excavation and footing installation of the plaque; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is requesting that the routine care of the Liberty Tree be incorporated into the City of Norwich's existing municipal tree maintenance program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH,

that it approves the planting of the Liberty Tree with plaque as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH, that City

Manager John Salomone, with the assistance of Brian Long, Director of Public Works and staff of the Public Works Department and other departments as may be necessary, shall oversee planting of the Liberty Tree and installation of the plaque to be planted at Howard T. Brown Park.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nystrom, seconded by Ald. Nash, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to adopt the following resolution introduced by Mayor Singh, Pres. Pro Tem DeLucia, Ald. Hayes and Ald. Nash.

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is a local committee officially recognized by the Norwich City Council on September 2, 2025; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee, to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution and as a part of the nationwide initiative established by the National Society Sons of the American Revolution History 250 Committee to plant 250 Liberty Trees across the United States by July 4, 2026, proposes to donate a commemorative Liberty Tree with plaque at the Bean Hill Green; and

WHEREAS, the Liberty Tree will be a Princeton Elm, a disease-resistant cultivar of the American Elm selected to reflect the historic species traditionally associated with Liberty Trees; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee proposes to install a plaque on the Liberty Tree to honor John Durkee, a Norwich resident, Revolutionary War officer, and founding member of the Connecticut Sons of Liberty; and

WHEREAS, the plaque, will be made from granite with dimensions of 14 x 12 x 1.5 and

affixed to a concrete block using a heavy-duty exterior construction adhesive, with the concrete block being buried below grade and the plaque visible at ground level will bear the following inscription:

LIBERTY TREE
RECOGNIZING THE 250TH ANNIVERSARY OF AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE
1776-2026
CONNECTICUT SOCIETY SAR & AMERICA'S 250TH NORWICH CT COMMITTEE
COLONEL JOHN DURKEE
"CONNECTICUT'S BOLD MAN FROM BEAN HILL"
(DECEMBER 11, 1728-May 29, 1782)

; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is requesting in-kind support from the City of Norwich, Department of Public Works in the excavation and planting of the Liberty Tree, as well as site preparation, excavation and footing installation of the plaque; and

WHEREAS, America's 250th Norwich CT Committee is requesting that the routine care of the Liberty Tree be incorporated into the City of Norwich's existing municipal tree maintenance program.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH,

that it approves the planting of the Liberty Tree with plaque as described herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORWICH,
that City

Manager John Salomone, with the assistance of Brian Long, Director of Public Works and staff of the Public Works Department and other departments as may be necessary, shall oversee planting of the Liberty Tree and installation of the plaque to be planted at the Bean Hill Green.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Nystrom, on a roll call vote it was unanimously voted to suspend the rules to increase the time for public comment by 30 minutes making it one hour in total.

Upon a motion of Ald. Nash, seconded by Ald. Nystrom, on a roll call vote the public comment time was increased to a total of one hour starting at 7:45 PM.

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Mayor Singh called for citizen comment general.

A Forty six page petition of names were submitted for the record.

Matthew Simpson, spoke on the action taken against Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. It is not just about a fire house it is about limits and process. It is about the city honoring the people that built it. They raise their own funds, they carry pagers not contracts, and when the alarm was set off, they responded.

John Rankowitz, stated this is a shame what has happened to the Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. He feels that these people are dedicated and totally trained and certified and is disappointed that the mayor has done nothing to stop this.

Christopher Coutu, stated that strong institutions are built on citizen participation and public trust. Volunteerism is not secondary it is a core expression of civic responsibility. Norwich is strongest when it empowers them not replaces them.

Raymond Rinaldi, stated he moved here about 5 years ago from Sandy Hook. This situation is disturbing and it sounds more like a corporate takeover.

Joe McMahan, member of the Taftville Volunteer Fire Dept. stated that Taftville Volunteer Fire Dept. had its most successful breakfast fundraiser ever since the shutdown of Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept.

Christine Parker, spoke as first responder for five years in four different states. She has been a part of unified command, and she has watched how it happened and all the steps to get there. It feels like a lot of corners are being cut and that is not legal or ethical. Volunteers bring hope to the community, they are not just first responders when disaster hits.

Priscilla Babbit, spoke with appreciation stating when the 100-year flood hit, the Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. responded to her home, and they were fantastic, professional and stayed at her house until the water receded.

Lynn Maher, stated this situation is about public versus power. People make mistakes but instead of using them as learning opportunities they are devalued and targeted by an outsider. Being a bully doesn't get your name on a firetruck.

Pat Stolz, stated for over 70 years she has been involved with Yantic Fire Volunteer Dept. Her brother, husband and nephew have been former Chief's. Shame on the City Manager and a handful of people. Why is Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. the only firehouse being shut down?

Ron Stolz, stated he has served his community proudly at the Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept., since September 4, 1956 at 16 years old and February 10, 2026 at 10:02 AM was "Dooms Day", destroying the Yantic Volunteer Fire. Let things get back to normal and put us back in service.

Ashley Nicolas, stated that across the country people rely on their neighbors (volunteers) not paid fire departments. The sacrifice by the volunteers from being taken away from their private lives is a luxury that the city chooses to dismiss. Please choose to reopen Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept.

James Carrigan, quoted from the bible John 15:12 This is my commandment, that you love one

another as I have loved you. No one has greater love than this; to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you.

Bobby Allan, Chief of Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept., stated that Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. is still empty while the city is running at the cost of \$3000.00 a day, that is our money. Sam Wilson doesn't care what it cost, that should scare the council. It took over an hour to find out what was wrong and we left shaking hands thinking everything was good. Apparently, it was not and the department was taken down without an email, phone call or anything. The divide created by Sam Wilson is irreputable, as long as he's here. He needs to go.

Tim Jencks, Taftville Volunteer Fire Dept., stated that the City of Norwich has spent thousands of dollars on training its volunteers. The volunteer companies themselves dedicate hundreds of hours to the communities. The volunteers save the city tens of millions of dollars. He referenced the McGrath study saying that volunteerism is down nationwide except in Norwich.

Chris Parker, noted that this was the biggest showing of people with disregard from the people who voted for this new Council. This is a slap then in the face for greed and power. You skipped over an internal hire of a current battalion chief who is a great source of information to hire this outsider that is dividing us all. This decision goes beyond Norwich; it stretches throughout New London County. This is not unified command it is a dictatorship.

Brendan (No Last Name Given) stated he became a volunteer in Yantic about a year ago. It is said that we are not certified and that is simply not true. You are pushing people out by doing this. We are the Rose City and that rose is wilting because of this.

Joe Murray, stated that four trucks responded to a call in Yantic today and if there were a fire in the CCD who was going to cover that? If the CCD is paying those taxes, then shame on you for not covering the CCD. This is a misappropriation of taxes. Mr. Wilson states that he is promoting public safety. The agreement that he sent puts him in total control basically, "putting the fox in control of the hen house". It gives him total control to change anything he wants at any time.

David Addis, stated that the city has stirred up a hornet's nest, and he feels that those hornets are going to sting everyone that did this. We need Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. He was also outraged over his tax bill.

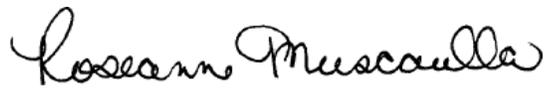
Dan Addis, claimed that what is happening with the Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. is blatant disrespect. He stated it is a total power grab. He feels the response times are increased and this is not right. He feels that Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. is owed an apology.

John Paul Mereen, stated that to say he is disappointed in what is happening with the City Fire Service and the Yantic Volunteer fire service would be a great understatement. A new chief was hired about year ago for a system that was functioning and now it is broken beyond repair. He knows that the City Manager and President Pro Tem have had issues with Volunteers and he is not sure why. Is it operational financial or both? If it is operational then the problem should be identified and looked at. He is looking for transparency.

Alaura Jayne, spoke in support of the Yantic Volunteer Fire Dept. and is concerned about an increase of response times. She feels it is a safety crisis. This is unfair and a disgrace. They are more than a Fire Station, they are family.

Mayor Singh acknowledged that there were several people who signed up to speak during public comment that did not speak as time ran out. He invites anyone who still would like to speak to come to any of the future meetings that have public comment period included on the agenda to come and speak if they wish.

Upon a motion of Ald. Hayes, seconded by Ald. Zuccardy, on a roll call vote it was voted to adjourn at 8:45pm on a 5 to 2 vote. With Ald. Nash and Ald. Nystrom voting in opposition.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Roseann Muscaulla".

City Clerk