



ESTABLISHED 1659

CITY OF NORWICH CONNECTICUT

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To: Mayor Nystrom and members of the City Council
From: John Salomone, City Manager
Subject: City Manager's Report
Date: December 2, 2024

Meetings attended were Southeastern Council of Governments Meeting (SCCOG) Board of Directors meeting, Southeastern Area transit (SEAT), Connecticut Interlocal Risk Management Agency (CIRMA) Investment Committee, Southeastern Connecticut Enterprise Region (seCTer) Annual Meeting, NCDC Executive Board of Directors meeting, NPU-City Coordination meeting, Jubilee Park Coordination meeting, S & P Bond Rating call and Department Head Meeting.

The S & P has affirmed the City's AA rating with a stable outlook. Our comptroller, Josh Pothier has shared this information with Council. S & P warns that they "could lower the rating if Norwich's reserves decline, either due to budgetary imbalance or a one-time drawdown. The rating could also come under pressure from material weakening of the city's income and wealth levels or budgetary pressures from additional debt issuance, including the planned issuances for school construction and wastewater facilities." In order to be considered for an upgrade, the City would need to substantially improve its reserves (General Fund undesignated fund balance) and wealth and income levels. It is extremely important for the City to at least maintain its current fund balance levels and fund balance policy in order to keep the AA rating.

I also held a meeting regarding the warming center that was brought up during the public comment at the last City Council meeting. The City is partnering with TVCCA, Hartford Health Care, and other members of the State's Coordinated Access Network to support an Emergency-Only Warming Center for when the Governor declares a Cold Weather Emergency. This is in response to the current and unprecedented number of unsheltered people in Norwich. An identified location is being vetted by all relevant City Departments, and an operational proposal from TVCCA is due December 2nd. Alderwoman Hayes and Alderman Singh were also in attendance.

The Norwich Fire Department in alignment with the State of CT DEEP has rescinded its burn ban for the City.

Reminder of the City's tax sale on December 4th at 9:30 am in Room 335. Information about the sale and a list of the properties is available on <http://CTTaxSales.com>. There were 43 accounts, but several have been paid.

The 33rd *Light Up City Hall* will be held First Friday, December 6th from 5-6 pm at City Hall Plaza followed by the Tommy Toy Fun Run. The Norwich Events Organization will host the City's Light Parade on Saturday, December 7th.