

April 9, 2008

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

APRIL 9, 2008

Mayor Timothy T. Stewart called the Special Meeting of the Common Council to order on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 6:53 p.m. in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall.

Twelve members were present at roll call: Ald. Trueworthy, Rocha, Sherwood, Magnuszewski, Platosz, Gerratana, Centeno, Black, Hermanowski, Salvio, Bernacki, and Bielinski.

Three members were absent: Ald. Cruz, Collins, and Catanzaro.

Ald. Trueworthy moved to waive the reading of the Mayor's Warrant, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted.

MAYOR'S WARRANT

TO THE CLERK OF THE CITY OF NEW BRITAIN:

BY THE AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF CONNECTICUT, YOU ARE HEREBY COMMANDED TO NOTIFY Mark H. Bernacki, Suzanne Bielinski, Shirley A. Black, Paul D. Catanzaro, Tonilynn Collins, Silvia Cruz, Lawrence J. Hermanowski, Adam Platosz, Lori A. Rocha, Louis G. Salvio, Michael W. Trueworthy, Gregory J. Gerratana, Eva Magnuszewski, Phil Sherwood and Roy Centeno, Aldermen and Alderwomen of said city, that there will be a special meeting of the Common Council on Wednesday, April 9, 2008 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 27 West Main Street, City Hall, for the following purpose:

1. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
2. To act upon a resolution regarding the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
3. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
4. To act upon a resolution regarding the Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009.
5. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the Budget Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects 2008-2013 (LoCIP).
6. To act on a resolution regarding the Budget Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects 2008-2013 (LoCIP).

HEREOF FAIL NOT, but due service and return make according to law.

Dated at New Britain, this 4th day of April 2008.

Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor

Mayor Stewart read his budget message to the Common Council.

30095 RE: Mayor's Budget message

To the Members of the Common Council:

Enclosed you will find my proposed budget for next fiscal year, 2008-2009. This is my fifth budget proposal and while all have contained opportunities and challenges, revaluation has made this year by far the most difficult.

Revaluation is a state mandated process that makes no one in a community happy. The timing and the methods are set by state statute, and it offers cities and towns little flexibility and

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few options to manage the outcome. Values of real property, both residential and commercial, are influenced by market factors outside of our community. Residents have difficulty swallowing the fact that the house they have lived in for 30 or more years goes up in value whether they add amenities or not. New Britain is not alone in our frustrations with the process, but this year it unfortunately is our turn to face the reality of the flaws and limitations of our state's dependence on the property tax system.

As residents and business owners have been appealing their new assessments, I have been urging caution and patience. Certainly the mill rate would go down after revaluation, but the question in everyone's mind is a personal one, "Will my taxes go up?" As a taxpayer, I fully understand the importance of that question and the frustrations that go with it. As a mayor, the question is not and cannot be that simple as needs in the community still continue to grow.

The part of this process that is within city control is the expenditure side and this budget continues to hold a tight line on spending. It continues to maintain a balance between the service needs of our community, economic development to grow our Grand List and the taxpayers' ability to pay.

There are no new programs proposed, with the exception of enhancing our aging information technology capabilities. Not only is this costing the City much needed dollars in lost efficiency, it prevents the public from having full access to the benefits of technology. Draft findings from the IT audit recently performed by Blum Shapiro show the need for a long range plan of investment to bring our internal systems, particularly our finance system, up to date. This investment is also needed to provide residents, businesses and visitors maximum opportunities to use the internet for transactions with the city.

Over the past five years, this administration has cut personnel expenditures through position reductions and creative savings in health insurance and other benefit costs. We are at the point where further cuts will result in reductions in services, something that an urban community like New Britain cannot withstand. Therefore, there are no layoffs in this budget proposal. This remains particularly important in our public safety departments as both police and fire approach full strength in line staffing for the first time in many years.

I have the greatest admiration for our city employees, who continue to do more with less. We can take pride in the achievements of the past year, including the successful implementation to the Clean Cart program, the three beautiful new single family homes on Glen Street which the Department of Municipal Development will sell by lottery at the end of this month, and the great strides forward in our public safety vehicles and equipment. Each department has many examples of service improvements done at minimal costs to taxpayers.

On the revenue side, we continue to add new businesses large and small to our Grand List. Celebration Foods will be opening in June with over 300 new jobs. The Hardware City Tavern is opening later this month as our downtown revitalization gains momentum.

I wish that I could stand here tonight and tell you that all these Herculean efforts on spending and revenue guarantee that no taxpayer pays more in taxes, but I cannot. The 34.98 mill rate in this proposed budget will decrease tax payments on motor vehicles. Unfortunately, it will also mean modest tax increases on some single-family homes and larger increases on many multi-family investment properties. That is the harsh reality of the fallout from revaluation coupled with increasing pressures on city services such as public safety and education.

While no one is happy with the results of the revaluation, we need to keep things in perspective. When revaluation was last done in 2003, it was the single-family homes that bore the brunt of the increase. This revaluation, the burden is clearly shifted to large multi-family investment properties. This mill rate is a 22.9% reduction, whereas in 2003, the mill rate reduction was only 14.3%. Everyone wishes the situation was better, but it certainly could be much worse.

Again, no one, especially me, is happy with this budget. Parents and teachers will want more dollars spent on education. With the recent tragic losses of life in a home invasion and a fire on

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Glen Street, no one wants reductions in public safety services. Utility and health insurance costs are skyrocketing. Given the pressures we face as a city from all quarters, I feel this is the best we can do for our taxpayers and citizens.

I would be remiss if at some point I did not thank the tireless work of our Assessor Mike Konik and his staff as well as the Board of Assessment Appeals for their long hard hours of work. The process of revaluation is a thankless job and throughout Mike has been a polite, helpful professional. The Assessor's Office is truly a shining example of what public service should be. Thanks also go to the Finance Board and Finance Director Bob Curry and his staff for their work.

In closing, I would ask that the Council take all of the above factors into consideration and face their task ahead in a civil, thorough and thoughtful manner. Partisanship will not eliminate the impact of revaluation, but only cause to further alienate our taxpayers and divide the community between those that need services and those that pay for those services.

I would like to thank you for your due diligence and commitment as you enter the next phase of the budget process. As always, please know that all department heads and I stand ready to work together with you as you begin the third and final phase of the City's budget process.

Sincerely,
Timothy T. Stewart
Mayor, City of New Britain

REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

30092 RE: MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

To the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to report the following:

WHEREAS, The Mayor's Proposed Budget estimates that the listed expenditures of \$ seem necessary for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2008 – June 30, 2009 and also estimates that the following listed income from sources other than taxation will be available to meet such expenditures, a tax of 34.98 mills, estimating a collection rate of 96.6%, on the Grand List of October 1, 2007 will be necessary, now therefore be it

RESOLVED; That the Mayor recommends to the Common Council of the City of New Britain that the following listed expenditures, income and tax rate be adopted by the Common Council of the City of New Britain for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 along with the detail budget accounts totaling \$219,457,882 as listed below.

Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2008-2009 Appropriations

Account Description	Budget
Common Council	\$ 118,952
Registrar of Voters – Democratic	233,248
Registrar of Voters – Republican	169,223
Office of the Mayor	271,114
Economic Development	86,000
Board of Finance	1,000
Assessors	534,515
Board of Assessment Appeal	200
Tax Collector's Office	643,263
Office of the Treasurer	2,500
Finance Department	496,912
Information Technology	271,872
Purchasing Department	195,770
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities	52,000

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Metro Hartford Alliance	15,000
Central Administration	150,100
Town Clerk	487,950
Probate Court	59,462
Corporation Counsel	587,819
Conservation Commission	6,778
City Plan	147,237
Zoning Board of Appeals	17,117
Central CT Reg Plan Agency	19,837
Department of Property Mgmt	1,442,192
Parking Division	1,178,033
Police Department	13,777,497
Fire Department	12,079,889
Public Safety Telecommunications	1,794,780
Street Lighting	800,000
Licenses, Permits and Inspections	499,792
Office of Emergency Mgmt	31,504
Public Works	10,664,286
Human Rights and Opportunities	80,321
Civil Service	284,815
Health Department	708,530
Visiting Nurses Assoc.	54,774
North Central CT Emerg Medical Svc	41,844
Public Welfare	17,000
New Britain Senior Center	483,070
Comm on Persons with Disabilities	104,363
Veterans Service Center	64,782
Recreation Department	918,480
Park Department	2,874,951
Civic Programs	65,500
N.B. Public Library	2,775,000
Youth Museum	354,236
Debt Service – Interest	10,490,454
Debt Service – Principal	15,505,649
Municipal Insurance and Risk Mgmt Svcs	2,500,634
General Government Pensions	2,602,653
Police Pension	856,805
Fire Pension	598,716
City Pension Fund	67,932
Medical Benefits	9,346,074
General Services	2,964,390
N.B. Consolidated School District	117,541,689
Crossing Guards	423,360
Private School Health – Welfare	234,475
Education Other Services	661,543
TOTAL	219,457,882

Estimated Revenue

Account Description	Budget
Property Taxes-Levy	\$ 99,116,072
Property Taxes-Other	4,910,000
St of CT Education Grants	79,611,553

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St of CT Other Grants	17,930,880
Other Governmental Revenue	15,000
Interfund Transfers	1,356,226
Building Department	965,000
Town Clerk's Office	1,234,166
Fire Department	29,000
Commission on Person's with Disabilities	200
Department of Property Management	94,408
Parking Division	1,955,709
Parks and Recreation	777,156
Police Department	903,600
Public Works – Fleet Services	102,600
Health Department	94,212
Public Works – Engineering Division	424,500
Public Works – Sanitation Division	3,499,200
Parking Ticket Office	425,500
Corporation Counsel	6,000
Assessor's Office	5,300
Civil Service	3,500
Senior Citizen Center	78,000
Finance Department	29,600
Board of Education	275,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	10,000
Use of Money (Investment Income)	1,000,000
Other Income	4,605,500
TOTAL	219,457,882

Mayor Timothy T. Stewart

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept, seconded by Ald. Salvio. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor

RESOLUTIONS

30092-1 RE: MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

To His Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

RESOLVED, the "Mayor's Proposed Budget" of the City of New Britain, upon recommendation of the Board of Finance and Taxation, the attached estimates of revenue and expenditures, as amended by the Mayor, with all the supporting data be the same as hereby made, and for the purpose of meeting said appropriation, a tax of 34.98 mills on the dollar be computed on the basis of a collection rate of 96.6% and the same is hereby laid on the Grand List of October 1, 2007 on all rateable estates and property within the limits of the City of New Britain liable to taxation, and be it further,

RESOLVED, that all City taxes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2009 excluding motor vehicle and personal property which shall be paid in full on the first day of July 2008 and real property taxes shall be due and payable in equal semi-annual installments on the first day of July 2008 and the first day of January 2009 except that any tax of less than two hundred dollars shall be due and payable in full on the first day of July 2008.

If any installments of such tax shall not be paid on or before the first business day of the month next succeeding that in which it shall be due and payable, such installment shall

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immediately become delinquent and shall be subject to interest at the rate and manner provided in the general statutes. Any taxpayer may pay the total amount of any such tax at the time when the first installment shall be payable and nothing herein shall preclude the payment of the January 1, 2009 installment prior to said first due date.

Alderman Michael Trueworthy,
Council Majority Leader

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept and refer to the Committee on Administration, Finance and Law, the Committee on Planning, Zoning and Housing, and the Consolidated Committee, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

30093 RE: MAYOR'S PROPOSED SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

To the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to report the following:

Resolved, That the Mayor recommends to the Common Council of the City of New Britain the proposed Special Revenue Funds and the Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2008-2009, be accepted and adopted as follows:

Mayor's Proposed Special Revenue Fund Budget

Stanley Golf Course Operating Fund #201	\$ 1,793,217
Stanley Golf Course Driving Range #201	104,000
Chesley Cell Towers #203	27,000
Cemetery Operating Fund #204	474,497
Dog Fund #205	147,522
Sewer Operating Fund #208	7,065,208
Youth Service Bureau #278	339,305
Donations Account #283	18,500
Terrific Toys Program #284	25,150
Medical Self Insurance Fund #702	31,404,470
W/C Self Insurance Fund #703	2,748,892
Liability Insurance Fund #704	201,000

Mayor's Proposed Enterprise Fund Budget Water Department

2008-2009 Fiscal Year Budget – Projected Estimated Expenses	
Debt Service – Principal (Long Term Debt)	\$ 2,209,150
Debt Service – Interest (Long Term Debt)	1,396,467
Vouchers Payable	3,771,654
Taxes Payable	315,000
Payrolls and Benefits Payable	4,535,580
TOTAL Expenses	12,227,851
Projected Estimated Income	
Computer Accounts	\$ 9,000,000
Monthly Accounts	41,400
Berlin Water & Sewer Commission	627,732
Kensington Fire District	615,214
Bristol Water	205,011

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Patton Brook Well Lease	106,924
Prior Year's Carryover and Transfers from Other Funds	500,000
Fire Protection Charges	140,000
Accounts Receivable (Reimbursed Charges)	150,000
Interest & Penalties Received	380,000
Out of Town Hydrant Charge	38,500
Gravel Sale – O&G Industries	5,000
Public Works Admin Payment	151,840
Interest Earned on Investments	156,229
Miscellaneous Revenue	110,000
TOTAL Income	12,227,851

**Proposed Water Rate Structure – 2008-2009
Semi Annual**

First	2,300,000 cubic ft @ \$27.82 per 1,000 cubic feet
Next	2,300,000 cubic ft @ 24.73 per 1,000 cubic feet
Over	4,600,000 cubic ft @ 19.91 per 1,000 cubic feet

**Present Water Rate Structure – 2007-2008
Semi Annual**

First	2,300,000 cubic feet @ \$27.82 per 1,000 cubic feet
Next	2,300,000 cubic feet @ \$24.73 per 1,000 cubic feet
Over	4,600,000 cubic feet @ \$19.91 per 1,000 cubic feet

Administrative Charge – Extra capacity Charge: For each semi annual billing, in addition to charges for water use, there shall be a fixed charge rendered based on the size of the meter in use:

Size of Meter	Charge	Size of Meter	Charge
5/8" x 3/4"	\$ 24.00	3"	\$ 386.00
3/4"	35.00	4"	652.00
1"	74.00	6"	1,276.00
1-1/2"	142.00	8"	2,552.00
2"	210.00		

Out of Town Retail Rates: Same rates as above plus a seventy percent (70%) surcharge.

Out of Town Hydrant Charge: \$350.00

Use of Water from any Hydrant: \$350.00 January 1st to June 30th
\$350.00 July 1st to December 31st

If estimate of water use is more than 5,000 cubic feet for the 6-month period, a meter might be required and, if so, the charge for water from the hydrant will be based on our rates with the \$350 being the minimum paid in advance. No use of a hydrant will be allowed for lawn and garden watering.

Peak Use Surcharge: Applies to all metered services which use equal to or more than 350,000 cubic feet for the four month meter reading cycle period from May 20 to September 20. When the daily average water use for the period of May 20 and September 20 total 3,000 cubic feet or greater, the average daily water use shall be compared to the previous average daily water use for the water reading cycle period of October 20th to February 20th. If water use for

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May 20 to September 20th divided by water use for October 20th to February 20th equals 2.00 to 2.75, a 50% surcharge in the water charges shall be applied. If the ratio is from 3.51 to 4.25, a 70% surcharge shall be applied to the water charge. If the ratio is from 4.26 to 5.00, an 80% surcharge shall be applied to the water charges and if the ratio is 5.01 to 6.00, a 90% surcharge shall be applied to the water charges. If the ratio is 6.01 or higher, a 100% surcharge shall be applied to the water charge. The water charge in effect at the time of the water billing shall determine the final surcharge bill. The May 20 and September 20 dates may be revised by a few days either way to provide for a meter reading during the regular work week.

Private Fire Protection Charges:

Under 4 inch service line	\$ 59.00
4 inch service line	127.00
6 inch service line	201.00
8 inch service line	289.00
10 inch service line	403.00
Over 10 inch service line	516.00

Mayor Timothy T. Stewart

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept, seconded by Ald. Bernacki. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor.

RESOLUTION

30093-1 RE: MAYOR'S PROPOSED SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008-2009

To His Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

RESOLVED, The "Mayor's Proposed Budget" of the City of New Britain, upon recommendation of the Board of Finance and Taxation, as amended by the Mayor, estimates that the attached listing of income and expenditures for each Special Revenue and Enterprise Fund, be adopted for the Fiscal Year 2008-2009 as follows:

Special Revenue Funds

Stanley Golf Course Operating Fund #201	\$ 1,793,217
Stanley Golf Course Driving Range #201	104,000
Chesley Cell Towers # 203	27,000
Cemetery Operating Fund #204	474,497
Dog Fund #205	147,522
Sewer Operating Fund #208	7,065,608
Youth Service Bureau #278	339,305
Donations Account #283	18,500
Terrific Toys Program #284	25,150
Medical Self Insurance Fund #702	31,404,470
W/C Self Insurance Fund #703	2,748,892
Liability Insurance Fund #704	201,000

Enterprise Funds

Water Department	\$12,227,851
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Alderman Micheal Trueworthy
Council Majority Leader

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Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept and refer to the Committee on Administration, Finance and Law, the Committee on Planning, Zoning and Housing, and the Consolidated Committee, seconded by Ald. Salvio. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR’S OFFICE

30094 RE: CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM 2008-2013

To the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to report the following:

Article XI of the Charter of the City of New Britain requires the Mayor to present to the Common Council a “Mayor’s Proposed Capital Projects Budget”. The Capital Projects Budget includes a listing of all proposed capital projects for a six (6) year period with a general description, location and an estimated cost for each proposed activity.

Public Act 87-584, Section 11-44, has created a program referred to as the “Local Capital Improvement Fund” (LOCIP) to provide assistance to Connecticut municipalities for capital activities. For the fiscal year 2008-2009, the State of Connecticut allocated \$937,010 of new monies to New Britain.

The Mayor evaluated the needs of city departments and identified specific projects for funding through the Local Capital Improvement Program Entitlement XVII. Individual grant applications to the State of Connecticut for approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management is proposed for the projects listed below:

Project:	Budget:
AW Stanley Pump House	\$ 300,000
Stanley Golf Driving Range nets	90,000
Martha Hart Park girls softball field	250,000
Board of Ed ADA audit –various parks	50,000
Walnut Hill park tennis court surface repl	87,010
Osgood/PAL field lights	70,000
Dog Pound renovations	40,000
City Hall renovations/security	50,000
	937,010

The attached booklet provides a listing of projects for the 2008-2013 Capital Improvements Program. Incorporated in this booklet are the estimated expenditures and the possible funding source(s) by each project. These projects have been evaluated as to need by the appropriate City departments and recommended by the Board of Finance and Taxation and the Mayor. The adoption of the project listing by the Board of Finance is the first step in the approval process of the City’s Capital Projects Budget Process located in the City’s Charter, Article 11-2(b)(1).

Mayor Timothy T Stewart

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept, seconded by Ald. Bernacki. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor.

RESOLUTION

30094-1 RE: MAYOR’S PROPOSED CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM BUDGET FOR FISCAL 2008-2009

To His Honor, the Mayor, and the Common Council of the City of New Britain: the undersigned beg leave to recommend the adoption of the following:

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Article XI of the Charter of the City of New Britain requires the Mayor to present to the Common Council a "Mayor's Proposed Capital Projects Budget". The Capital Projects Budget includes a listing of all proposed capital projects for a six (6) year period with a general description, location and an estimated cost for each proposed activity.

Public Act 87-584, Section 11-44, has created a program referred to as the "Local Capital Improvement Fund" (LOCIP) to provide assistance to Connecticut municipalities for capital activities. For the fiscal year 2008-2009, the State of Connecticut has allocated \$937,010 of new monies to New Britain.

The Mayor evaluated the needs of city departments and identified specific projects for funding through the LOCIP program Entitlement XXI. Individual grant applications to the State of Connecticut for approval by the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management are proposed for the following projects:

Project:	Budget:
AW Stanley Pump House	\$ 300,000
Stanley Golf driving range nets	90,000
Martha Hart Park girls softball field	250,000
Board of Ed ADA audit – various parks	50,000
Walnut Hill Park tennis court surface repl	87,010
Osgood/PAL field lights	70,000
Dog Pound renovations	40,000
City Hall renovations/security	50,000
	937,010

THEREFORE BE IT, RESOLVED that Timothy T Stewart, Mayor of the City of New Britain, be authorized to execute all grant documents with the State on behalf of the City for the projects identified herein, and BE IT FURTHER,

RESOLVED, that the sum of \$937,010 be appropriated within the Special Revenue fund, LOCIP Fund #213, for the projects specified with the individual expenditure and revenue accounts established for LOCIP Entitlement XXI grant proceeds.

Alderman Michael Trueworthy
Council Majority Leader

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept and refer to the Committee on Administration, Finance and Law, the Committee on Planning, Zoning and Housing, and the Consolidated Committee, seconded by Ald. Salvio. So voted. Approved 4/11/08 by Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Ald. Bernacki moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

ATTEST: Peter J. Denuzze, City Clerk