

April 11, 2007

)PECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

APRIL 11, 2007

Mayor Timothy T. Stewart called the special meeting of the Common Council to order at 7:02 p.m. on Wednesday the 11th day of April 2007 in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall.

Fourteen members were present at roll call: Ald. Trueworthy, Black, Cruz, Rocha, Collins, Carroll, Hermanowski, Platosz, Kirejczyk, Wyskiewicz, Salvio, Gostin, Bernacki and Bielinski. One member was absent: Ald. Catanzaro.

Ald. Catanzaro arrived at 7:09 P.M.

City Clerk, Peter J. Denuzze, read the Mayor's Warrant.

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, John F. Carroll, Tonilynn Collins, Silvia Cruz, Peter J. Gostin, Lawrence J. Hermanowski, Edward J. Kirejczyk, Jr., Adam Platosz, Lori A. Rocha, Louis G. Salvio, Michael W. Trueworthy and James A. Wyskiewicz, Aldermen and Alderwomen of said City, that there will be a Special Meeting of the Common Council on Wednesday, April 11, 2007 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chambers, 27 West Main Street, City Hall, for the following purposes:

1. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
2. To act upon a resolution regarding the General Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
3. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Fund Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
4. To act upon a resolution regarding the Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Fund budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008.
5. To accept a report from the Mayor's Office regarding the Budget Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects 2007-2012 (LoCIP).
6. To act on a resolution regarding the Budget Appropriation for Capital Improvement Projects 2007-2012 (LoCIP).

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

Dated at New Britain, this 5th day of April.

Timothy T. Stewart, Mayor

Ald. Trueworthy moved to suspend the rules in order to allow Mayor Stewart to read his budget message from the chair, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. Roll call vote – all members present voted in favor.

MAYOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

29582 RE: MAYOR'S BUDGET MESSAGE

April 11, 2007

To the Members of the Common Council:

Enclosed you will find my proposed budget for next fiscal year, 2007-2008

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First of all, I would like to recognize the hard work performed by the Board of Finance and Taxation (BFT). Each year the Board pulls the proverbial rabbit out of the hat and this year was no exception. The City owes these talented and dedicated individuals; Chair Paula Jean Yukna, Vice Chair Cheryl Blogoslawski, John Murphy, Carmen D'Agostino, Norm Holland, Bob Smith and Bill Glueck, of the BFT a debt of gratitude for their hard work and dedication to taxpayers.

I also want to acknowledge the very hard working staff of the Finance Department and congratulate our Finance Director Bob Curry for making it through his first New Britain budget cycle. Bob has brought another set of eyes to the budget process that has yielded great results.

I am pleased to say that I am once again presenting a slight tax decrease for your approval. This budget continues to hold a tight line on spending, while increasing spending on critical items such as public safety and education. This proposed budget sets the mill rate at 45.40 mills, a decrease of 0.48 mills over this year's rate. While I'm certain taxpayers would like to see a much larger decrease, this mill rate would make New Britain the only community of our size that has seen either decreases or flat tax rates over the past four budget cycles. This historic achievement was made possible by collaboration and cooperation across party lines, across the legislative and executive branches of state and local government, across departmental lines and with the help of our partners in the private sector. It continues to maintain a healthy balance between the service needs of our community, economic development to grow our Grand List and the taxpayers' ability to pay.

Preparation of this budget has been frustrating due to the conflicting signals being sent from the State Capital. Governor Rell has proposed a budget that infuses money into education and allows cities such as New Britain some much needed relief from our high property tax burden. Meanwhile, the leadership of the legislature sends a letter to all mayors and first selectman against using the Governor's budget numbers, but giving no guidance as to what we should use.

Unfortunately, we as decision makers cannot wait patiently as the state budget political football makes its way down the field. Therefore, the budget I have placed before you uses the additional ECS dollars from the Education Committee of the state legislature, rather than the full allotment from the Governor. I am hopeful that the full legislature keeps this commitment to education and property tax relief. This results in an additional \$3.6 million to the Board of Education or 3.11% over last year's budget. While less than the 11% increase sought by the Board, it is a realistic reflection of this community's ability to fund education with the resources it receives from the state and our city's property taxes.

You will notice a large increase in anticipated revenue from property sales. Three million of the total represents future proceeds from the sale of the former Pinnacle Heights. This is a conservative estimate given not only the many attributes of the property, such as highway proximity and visibility, availability of workforce, and high environmental quality, but also given the interest I have seen from developers even before the property is advertised. The state realizes the promise of this development as evidenced by the vote of the Bond Commission two weeks ago to put \$1 million towards this project. A Request for Proposals (RFP) for Pinnacle will be out before the end of next week and the Grand List growth from this and other projects is a long term solution for financial stability and tax relief.

The City of New Britain has a tradition of responsible creativity with our finances. Back in 1998, the City was a market leader in Connecticut issuing Pension Obligation Bonds (POB) in order to address full funding of our police and fire pension liabilities. As you are well aware, this program has resulted not only in restoring full funding, but our investment strategies have been successful to the point of the funds being overfunded by approximately \$10 million. Given that these excess funds have accumulated as the General Fund pays the principal and interest on the bonds and also given that state statute allows excess pension assets to be used to pay expenses other than the pension payments themselves, this budget includes a \$3 million transfer into the General Fund of those excess assets. I want to emphasize that these are excess assets, that actuarial pension estimates will remain fully funded and also keep in mind that as new firefighters and police officers enter MERF rather than the fire and police pension funds, excess assets should continue to accumulate in the fund with our continued prudent investment management.

Public Safety remains a top priority for the City of New Britain. As such, this budget maintains a full contingent of police officers, including two full time school resource officers. We also continue with our top

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notch in-house Police Academy to keep vacancies on the force to a minimum. This budget also addresses staffing in the fire department by funding more firefighters in an effort to cut our overtime costs.

This budget like all budgets tells the story of the City of New Britain at a point in time. I believe it is a story full of hope and promise and progress on many fronts. It tells of our community's commitment to education, with a soon to be completed addition on our high school and ABC school. It tells of our commitment to clean neighborhoods with the new Clean City initiative that will take litter off our streets with the Clean Cart campaign, an aggressive paving and sidewalk program and continued efforts against blight and promotion of quality, affordable housing. It tells of economic development at a steady sustainable pace such as exciting projects at Pinnacle Heights and in our downtown as well as businesses such as LaQuinta's and Famous Dave's choosing to open in New Britain.

Most importantly, it tells the story of a City of people determined to meet the many challenges faced by an urban community today while living within the means of their resident and business taxpayers. It is a story in which we all, Democrat and Republican, can take pride.

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

Ald. Trueworthy moved to return to regular order, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

29583 RE: MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

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 \$211,784,770, seem necessary for the fiscal year commencing July 1, 2007 - June 30, 2008 and also estimates that the following listed income from sources other than taxation will be available to meet such expenditures, a tax of 45.40 mills, estimating a collection rate of 96.6%, on the Grand List of October 1, 2006 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, 2008 along with detail budget accounts totaling \$211,784,770 as listed.

Recommended Budget for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Appropriations

Account Description	Budget
Common Council	\$ 96,112
Registrar of Voters-Democratic	239,058
Registrar of Voters - Republican	226,632
Office of the Mayor	258,461
Economic Development	81,500
Legislative	23,989
Board of Finance	800
Assessors	524,277
Board of Assessment Appeal	600
Tax Collector's Office	505,992
Office of the Treasurer	2,500
Finance Department	687,852
Purchasing Department	198,205

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Account Description	Budget
Connecticut Conference of Municipalities	50,000
Metro Hartford Alliance	14,000
Central Administration	134,956
Town Clerk	492,311
Probate Court	57,440
Corporation Counsel	583,244
Conservation Commission	6,778
City Plan	136,716
Zoning Board of Appeals	14,798
Central CT Reg. Plan Agency	26,115
Call Before You Dig	1,300
Hartford County Soil District	3,346
Department of Property Management	1,468,846
Dept. of Property Management/ Parking Division	1,200,042
Police Department	13,273,968
Fire Department	11,318,661
Public Safety Telecommunications	1,566,267
Street Lighting	750,000
Licenses, Permits and Inspections	491,917
Office of Emergency Management	104,826
Public Works	10,102,955
Human Rights & Opportunities	72,321
Civil Service	282,067
Health Department	693,164
Visiting Nurses Assoc.	55,336
North Central Regional Mental Health Board	5,007
North Central Connecticut Emergency Medical Service	40,805
Public Welfare	17,000
New Britain Senior Center	482,023
Comm. on Persons with Disabilities	102,533
Veterans Service Center	20,000
Recreation Department	891,942
Park Department	2,869,311
Civic Programs	58,600
N. B. Public Library	2,700,000
Youth Museum	345,730
Debt Service - Interest	10,659,303
Debt Service - Principal	15,227,751
Municipal Insurance & Risk Mgmt. Services	2,440,111
General Government Pension	2,004,330
Police Pension	1,169,050
Fire Pension	1,025,289
City Pension Fund	36,372
Medical Benefits	7,601,281
General Services	1,258,848
N. B. Consolidated School District	115,677,698
Crossing Guards	423,360
Private School Health-Welfare	224,500
Education Other Services	706,574
TOTAL	<u>\$211,734,770</u>

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Estimated Revenue
Fiscal Year 2007-2008

Account Description	Amount
Property Taxes-Levy	91,625,123
Property Taxes - Other	2,210,437
St. of CT Education Grants	78,309,136
St. of CT Other State Grants	20,388,648
Other Intergovernmental Revenue	15,000
Interfund Transfers	3,575,200
Building Department	915,000
Town Clerk's Office	2,123,581
Fire Department	75,000
Commission on Persons with Disabilities	200
Department of Property & Management	101,445
Dept. of Property Mgmt - Parking Division	1,850,400
Park & Recreation	782,900
Police Department	899,450
Public Works – Fleet Services	102,600
Health Department	65,000
Public Works – Engineering Division	365,500
Public Works – Sanitation Division	2,062,400
Parking Ticket Office	691,500
Corporation Counsel	3,500
Assessor's Office	4,550
Civil Service	3,500
Senior Citizen Center	85,200
Finance Department	49,000
Board of Education	215,000
Zoning Board of Appeals	10,000
Use of Money (Investment Inc.)	1,600,000
Other Income	3,605,500
Total	<u>\$211,734,770</u>

Mayor Timothy T. Stewart

Ald. Trueworthy moved to accept, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

RESOLUTION

29583-1 RE: "MAYOR'S PROPOSED GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008"

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 supporting data be the same as hereby made, and for the purpose of meeting said appropriation, a tax of 45.40 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, 2006 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, 2008 excluding motor vehicle and personal property which shall be paid on July 1, 2008 and real property taxes shall be due and payable in equal semi-annual installments on the first day of July, 2007 and the first day of January 2008 except that any tax of less than Two-Hundred dollars shall be due and payable in full on the first day of July, 2007.

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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 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, 2008 installment prior to said 1st due date.

Ald. 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 Sub-Committee, Seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

29584 RE: "MAYOR'S PROPOSED" SPECIAL REVENUE FUNDS AND ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007-2008

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 2007-2008, be accepted and adopted as follows:

"MAYOR'S PROPOSED" SPECIAL REVENUE BUDGET

SPECIAL REVENUE

Stanley Operating Fund		\$1,802,548
Stanley Golf Course Driving Range		108,300
Cemetery Operating Fund		476,688
Dog Fund		143,016
Sewer Operating Fund		6,296,934
Independent Living Skills		81,265
Youth Service Bureau		254,803
Systems of Care		117,362
Donations Account		30,000
Terrific Toys Program		35,000
Self-Insurance Fund	702	27,834,540
	703	2,180,617
	704	193,750

"MAYOR'S PROPOSED" ENTERPRISE FUND BUDGET

WATER DEPARTMENT

2007-2008 FISCAL YEAR BUDGET - PROJECTED ESTIMATED EXPENSES

Debt Service – Principal (Long Term Debt)	\$ 2,209,150
Debt Service – Interest (Long Term Debt)	1,463,519
Vouchers Payable	3,171,255
Taxes Payable	300,000
Payrolls & Benefit Payable	4,493,870
Capital Fund Equip. Replacement	100,000
Capital Improvement Program	75,000
Total	\$11,812,794

PROJECTED ESTIMATED INCOME	
Computer Accounts	\$ 9,100,000
Monthly Accounts	40,000
Berlin Water & Sewer Commission	433,000
Kensington Fire District	805,000
Bristol Water	292,000
Patton Brook Well Lease	101,436
Fire Protection Charges	140,408
Accounts Receivable (Reimbursed Charges)	200,000
Interest & Penalties Received	300,000
Out of Town Hydrant Charge	37,450
Gravel Sale – O and G Industries	37,500
Public Works Admin. Payment	146,000
Interest Earned on Investments	130,000
Miscellaneous Revenue	50,000
Total	\$11,812,794

Proposed 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

Present Water Rate Structure – 2006-2007

Semi Annual

First	2,200,000 cubic feet @ \$26.25 per 1,000 cubic feet
Next	2,200,000 cubic feet @ \$23.33 per 1,000 cubic feet
Over	4,400,000 cubic feet @ \$18.78 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 \$350.00 being the minimum paid in advance. No use of hydrant will be allowed for lawn or 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.

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If water use for 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 2.76 to 3.50, a 60% surcharge shall be applied to the water charge. 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 charge. 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:

SEMI-ANNUAL CHARGES	FY 2007-2008
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. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

RESOLUTION

29584-1 RE: "Mayor's Proposed Budget" for Special Revenue Funds and Enterprise Fund for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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 2007-2008 as follows:

SPECIAL REVENUE

Stanley Operating Fund	\$ 1,802,548
Stanley Golf Course Driving Range	108,300
Cemetery Operating Fund	476,688
Dog Fund	143,016
Sewer Operating Fund	6,296,934
Independent Living Skills	81,265
Youth Service Bureau	254,803
Systems of Care	117,362
Donations Account	30,000
Terrific Toys Program	35,000
Self-Insurance Fund 702	27,834,540
703	2,180,617
704	193,750

ENTERPRISE FUND

Water Department	\$11,812,794
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Ald. Michael 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 Sub-Committee, Seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

REPORT OF THE MAYOR'S OFFICE

29585 RE: Capital Improvement Program: 2007-2012

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 2007-2008, the State of Connecticut allocated \$964,724 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 and Policy and Management is proposed for the below listed projects:

Stadium Drainage and Turf Issues	\$ 150,000
Martha Hart Park Girls Softball Field	275,000
Fairview Cemetery Fencing	100,000
Fire Station 4 – Expand Parking Facilities	84,000
Martha Hart Basketball Courts	205,724
Walnut Hill Equipment Storage	150,000
Total	\$ 964,724

The attached booklet provides a listing of projects for the 2007-2012 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. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

RESOLUTION

29585-1 RE: "Mayor's Proposed Capital Improvement Program Budget" for Fiscal Year 2007-2008

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:

RESOLUTION SUMMARY

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.

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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 2007-2008, the State of Connecticut allocated \$964,724 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 XX. Individual grant applications to the State of Connecticut for approval by the Secretary of the Office and Policy and Management is proposed for the below listed projects:

Stadium Drainage and Turf Issues	\$ 150,000
Martha Hart Park Girls Softball Field	275,000
Fairview Cemetery Fencing	100,000
Fire Station 4 – Expand Parking Facilities	84,000
Martha Hart Basketball Courts	205,724
Walnut Hill Equipment Storage	150,000
Total	\$ 964,724

RESOLVED, 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,

RESOLVED, the sum of \$964,724 be appropriated within the Special Revenue Fund, LoCIP Fund #213, for the projects specified with the individual expenditure and revenue accounts established for Entitlement XX grant proceeds.

Ald. 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 Sub-Committee, Seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Approved April 16, 2007 by Mayor Timothy T. Stewart.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Ald. Trueworthy moved to adjourn, seconded by Ald. Bielinski. So voted. Meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

ATTEST: Peter J. Denuzze, City Clerk