

THE HONORABLE BODY
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
North Tonawanda, New York 14120
Tuesday, January 5, 1999
7:10 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT REIDENOUE

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: President Reidenouer
Aldermen Schwandt, Wudyka, Barberio, Kiedrowski

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Ronald R. Dawson
City Attorney Henry F. Wojtaszek

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION - None

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

I.
Mayor

December 21, 1998

Common Council
City Hall
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body:

Be advised that I hereby veto the following resolution carried December 15, 1998 regarding reassessment of North Tonawanda's properties:

MOVED by Alderman Barberio SECONDED by Alderman Wudyka
WHEREAS, Section 305 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law Mandates uniform and equitable assessments; and

WHEREAS, computer-assisted mass appraisal systems, technical advice, and financial assistance are available by cooperative agreement with the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the Niagara County Real Property Tax Services agency; and
WHEREAS, the last City-wide reassessment of our real property took place in 1988, and

WHEREAS, the City Common Council is convinced that a reassessment is necessary to comply with Section #305 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH TONAWANDA, NEW YORK, AS FOLLOWS:

SECTION #1. That the Assessors of the City of North Tonawanda is hereby authorized to undertake and implement a reassessment for the year 2000 assessment roll.

SECTION #2. That the Common Council does hereby agree, in conjunction with the New York State Office of Real Property Services and the Niagara County Real Property Tax Services agency, to support the City's assessment staff and this reassessment.

SECTION #3. That the Common Council and the assessor are authorized to enter into any necessary agreements to achieve this purpose. Any agreements resulting in an expenditure by the City of North Tonawanda must first be approved by the Common Council. Any agreement with a private contractor to provide services for this reassessment shall be entered into only upon review by Attorney Henry F. Wojtaszek., the assessor and a representative from the Office of Real Property Services.

This resolution shall take effect immediately.

Ayes: Wudyka, Barberio, Reidenouer (3)
Nays: Schwandt, Kiedrowski (2)

I certainly understand and embrace the idea that all assessments must be equitable but the resolution as passed is far too ambiguous.

Section #1 of said resolution states "That the Assessors of the City of North Tonawanda is authorized to undertake and implement a reassessment for the year 2000 assessment roll". To that I pose the questions:

Undertake how? Implement where? Just Homestead? Drive bys or walkthroughs? Furthermore, why would your honorable body authorize the city assessor to reassess when state law already affords him that power? In fact, that is the very reason for having an assessor.

Section #2 of said resolution states "That the Common Council does hereby agree to support the City assessment staff and this reassessment". To that I pose the questions:

Support how? Financially? How much will it cost? Will it be done in house?

In summary, for months now your honorable body has debated reassessment with cost estimates ranging from \$13,000 (state-assisted plan) to nearly one half-million (private firm). This resolution does nothing to move this municipality in either direction. Our assessor (Brian Hess) has stated the need for reassessment, so please back him by authorizing the \$13,000 expenditure for the state-assisted plan. The major benefit to the private firms is not reassessment expertise beyond that of the state but rather public relations to "smooth things over" with effected property owners (to shift the blame so to speak). I submit that an update done properly should be able to stand on its own merit.

Respectfully,
Ronald R. Dawson
Mayor, City of North Tonawanda

MOVED by Alderman Reidenouer **SECONDED** by Alderman Barberio
That the Common Council hereby overrides the Mayor's veto of the resolution of December 15, 1998 regarding North Tonawanda reassessment in the year 2000.

Ayes: Wudyka, Barberio, Reidenouer (3)
Nays: Schwandt, Kiedrowski (2)

MOTION FAILED DUE TO LACK OF A FOURTH VOTE.

II.
Attorney

December 31, 1998

Hon. Mayor and Common Council
City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: Assistant City Attorneys

Dear Honorable Body:

Below are two resolutions regarding the staffing of the City Attorney's office for your consideration and approval.

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby appoints Edward A. Zebulske, III of 490 Sweeney Street, to the position of Assistant City Attorney, effective January 1, 1999, at an annual salary of \$30,000 for the year 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby appoints Robert Sondel of 318 Wheatfield Street, to the position of Assistant City Attorney, effective January 1, 1999, at an annual salary of \$30,000 for the year 1999.

If your Honorable Body concurs, please pass the above resolution.

Very truly yours,
Henry F. Wojtaszek
City Attorney

MOVED by Alderman Barberio ~~SECONDED~~ by Alderman Reidenouer

BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby appoints Edward A. Zebulske, III of 490 Sweeney Street, to the position of Assistant City Attorney, effective January 1, 1999, at an annual salary of \$30,000 for the year 1999.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby appoints Robert Sondel of 318 Wheatfield Street, to the position of Assistant City Attorney, effective January 1, 1999, at an annual salary of \$30,000 for the year 1999.

Ayes: Schwandt, Wudyka, Barberio, Kiedrowski, Reidenouer (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

V.
Water Dept.

December 28, 1998

Honorable Mayor Ronald R. Dawson
and Common Council
City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, New, York 14120

Re: Water Service Leaks
Account - 014326

Dear Mayor and Common Council:

Would you please grant permission to the Water Department to hire a licensed plumber to repair the Water Service Leak at 79 Old Ward Road.

Also, all costs are to be assessed upon the land involved - [Water Ordinance Chapter 98 -

Section 98-12 (5)].

Sincerely,
Paul F. McDonough,
Water Superintendent

MOVED by Alderman Barberio**SECONDED by Alderman Reidenouer**
That the Common Council hereby grants permission for the Water Department to hire a licensed plumber to repair the water service leak at 79 Old Ward Road.

Ayes: Schwandt, Wudyka, Barberio, Reidenouer (4)

Nays: Kiedrowski

(1)

CARRIED.

VII.
Accountant

December 31, 1998

Honorable Ronald R. Dawson, Mayor
and Common Council
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body:

In accordance with Title XXIII of the City Charter, an Abstract of Claims has been submitted by this office for your review and approval.

Accordingly, please authorize for payment the current Abstract of Claims for Common Council Audit dated January 5, 1999.

Very truly yours,
David R. Jakubaszek
City Accountant

MOVED by Alderman Schwandt **SECONDED by Alderman Barberio**
That the Common Council hereby authorizes for payment the current Abstract of Claims dated January 5, 1999:

01	General Fund	\$256,323.39
02	Water Fund	18,829.05
04	Sewer Fund	61,624.04
06	Capital Projects Fund	8,771.86
07	Trust & Agency Fund	4,790.91
08	Community Development Fund	5,383.01
11	General Fund Encumbered	<u>5,290.00</u>
	FINAL TOTAL	<u>\$361,012.26</u>

Ayes: Schwandt, Wudyka, Barberio, Kiedrowski, Reidenouer (5)

Nays: None

(0)

CARRIED.

X.
Police Dept.

December 23, 1998

Honorable Ronald R. Dawson, Mayor
and Common Council
City Hall
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body:

Due to recent events the Department is in need of school crossing guards. The following applicant possesses the needed requirement for the position. When hired each employee is furnished a uniform and is paid \$5.15 an hour for hours worked.

Denise Hummel
26 Hagen Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Sincerely,
Lloyd C. Graves
Chief of Police

MOVED by Alderman Reidenouer SECONDED by Alderman Schwandt
That the Common Council hereby appoints Denise Hummel of 26 Hagen Avenue, as a
School Crossing Guard.

Ayes: Schwandt, Wudyka, Barberio, Reidenouer

(4)

Nays: Kiedrowski

(1)

CARRIED.

XXV.
Monthly Reports

.1	Fire Dept.	.4	Code Enforcement
.2	Building Inspector	.5	NT Housing Authority
.3	Vital Statistics		

MOVED by Alderman Reidenouer SECONDED by Alderman Schwandt
That the aforementioned communications be received and filed.
CARRIED.

XXXII.
Community Development

December 14, 1998

The Honorable Ronald R. Dawson, Mayor
City of North Tonawanda
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: Agreement between the New York State Canal Corporation and
The City of North Tonawanda - Contract #C100238

Dear Mayor Dawson:

The above referenced contract which relates to the Municipal Canal Development Program project is due to expire 12/31/98.

Unfortunately, delays have been encountered and the project has not proceeded as rapidly as anticipated. Therefore, the undersigned agree to extend the term of the above referenced contract by one year until December 31, 1999. Neither the project scope nor any other term of said contract shall be modified by this extension.

After signing in the spaces provided, please return these (original) documents to my attention as soon as possible. We will forward a completed original form to you for your files. If you have any questions, I can be contacted at (518) 471-5098.

Sincerely,
Sharon Leighton
Sr. Project Development Specialist

MOVED by Alderman Barberio SECONDED by Alderman Schwandt
That the Common Council hereby authorizes Mayor Dawson to sign the amendment to the Agreement between the New York State Canal Corporation and the City of North Tonawanda, Contract #C100238, extending the contract for one year to December 31, 1999.
CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHE

RS

A.
North Tonawanda Housing Authority

December 21, 1998

Honorable Common Council
City Hall - Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Mayor and Honorable Board:

At a regular meeting of the North Tonawanda Housing Authority held December 16, 1998, the following resolution was passed:

"It was moved by Commissioner Soos and seconded by Commissioner Lukasik, That the Authority enter a four (4) Year labor agreement with AFSCME Local 515B, beginning April 1, 1997 and ending March 31, 2001. There will be no wage increase the first year of the contract and a 3% wage increase for years 2, 3, and 4 of the contract. The Authority now offers Community Blue HMO, or a maximum cap of \$500.00 a month on any hospital program an employee selects. This resolution is subject to the approval of the North Tonawanda Common Council and the Division of Housing and Community Renewal.

ROLL CALL VOTE: Ayes: Commissioner Lukasik, Soos, Zinni, Wolfley,
 McClinsey, and Chairman Steuernagel
 Nayes: None

Motion Carried."

May we please have your approval along with a certified copy of your resolution concerning this matter?

Respectfully,
Carol Steuernagel
Chairman of
North Tonawanda Housing Authority

