

THE HONORABLE BODY
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
North Tonawanda, New York 14120
Tuesday, February 16, 2021
6:30 P.M.

REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT PECORARO

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

Present: President Pecoraro
Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec

Absent: None

Also Present: Mayor Arthur G. Pappas
City Attorney Luke Brown

PROCLAMATION:

**STAY IN YOUR HOME CAMPAIGN / FORECLOSURE
 AWARENESS WEEK**

MAYOR PAPPAS – STATE OF THE CITY ADDRESS

Fellow Citizens, Common Council members, The Press and Guests, it is an honor to report the State of our City in 2021. It has been an unprecedented past year with all the restrictions for the COVID-19 virus, however our City remains vigilant and is progressing under this siege. Our employees in every department have stepped up to make sure the City remains on track and thriving as best possible under some stressful conditions. Projects were completed and services remained intact so North Tonawanda is moving forward regardless of the pandemic at hand.

∞

Unfortunately, we did see the closure of some businesses due to the virus, but we also have some new enterprises under way with the opening of several barber shops and hair salons, Mana Bar, Black Heart Café, Erie Avenue Lumber City Winery and Bistro. Mayor's Pizza and notably coming Spot Coffee and a new family oriented casual Mexican restaurant as well as a wood fired pizzeria, Pizza Amore, where the old Little Caesars stood will enhance business in town. 110 Sweeney Street is still considering opening a restaurant in the canal area downtown. Aunt Eno's sandwich shop will open on Oliver Street this spring. The Vegan Grocery Store with a customer base reaching to Canada, outgrew its location and moved to 342 Oliver Street expanding allergen-free options. Business owners have had the support of local residents who have carried them through the tough times, and they are very appreciative. The Downtown Placemaking construction has been completed with bump outs, new lighting and signage, and the expansion of Charles Fleischman Park. A clock tower component is planned to be completed this year with funding from Niagara Greenway. The reconstruction of Main Street took place with green infrastructure, sidewalks, street trees and lighting. Pedestrian safety improvements have been added with signals, crosswalks and ADA ramps at four intersections in town. Reestablishment of the shoreline along Tonawanda Creek transforming the shoreline to a more natural form supporting a higher functioning ecosystem and green infrastructure improvements along Main street have been made. Projects for this coming year to be completed are the connection of the existing bike path to the Empire State Trail, Niagara Riverwalk improvements, and the extension of the bike path from Mayor's park to the Botanical

Gardens. Installation of a new picnic shelter at Gratwick Riverside Park and ADA improvements at Pine Woods park will enhance both areas for citizens use.

∞

The common Council unanimously selected the Pennrose LLC's Timber Shore design for construction at 78 Bridge Street, the former city owned fire training site. The project is a 3 story, 72,000 square foot residential concept with complimentary retail, community, and public amenities. This will aide in developing critical density on Tonawanda Island and provide significant public access to the waterfront of the Little River. Once started the project should be completed in 24 months.

∞

The Building Inspector's office reports that 8 new dwellings have been constructed and the Grant Street 52-unit apartment building is now complete and occupied. A fiber optic facility on Erie Ave. is complete and the conversion of the former school on Wheatfield Street with 37 apartments is under way for completion in May. On Payne Ave. a new office/storage building is under construction and the remodeling of the YWCA will house 12 apartments for battered women including a café both being completed this spring. Several new endeavors are under way for this year with a multi -million-dollar conversion of the Lowry School on Payne Avenue to 87 apartments. Niagara Falls Blvd. will see a new secure storage facility, and on Tonawanda Island a building for manufacturing expansion is presently being reviewed by the Planning Board. Construction of 16 four-unit residential buildings on Sweeney Street, three residential buildings consisting of 18 apartments on Zimmerman Street, and on Main Street a proposed restaurant with small retail shop and 15 residential units are expected to begin. There was a total of \$24.5 million in work done in 2020 despite the pandemic.

∞

The Niagara Community Action Program has been inundated with requests for assistance this year. Temporary relief was brought to low income struggling families during the pandemic. Ten homes received weatherization work, four homes received emergency repair, 836 households received food, 194 received clothing, 13 received budget counseling and 4 households received back mortgage/rent payments. All assistance was within the City of NT from this agency with a neighborhood center located on Thompson Street. NIACAP has become a valuable resource for those NT residents needing assistance during these difficult times.

∞

The drive -up mailboxes at the Keller Building (DMV) and on Columbia Drive (the brick road) help eliminate congestion at the Post Office. With the Mayor working closely with the Postmaster the boxes were installed by the Postal Service allowing residents to mail directly from their car especially in inclement weather, making a safer situation for mailing. According to the City Assessor's office which performs many duties such as adjusting exemptions yearly and making sure the information key punched into the NYS reality system is correct, homes in our city continue to sell and our newly formed City budget kept the tax increase at a low rate. In the ranking of the Best Cities to live in NYS, NT ranked number 21 which examines housing, employment, education, health and quality of life.

∞

In comparing our community with others in NYS with a population of 30,000 or more we are number 16 in the safest cities in NYS. This includes NYC and those much larger. Law enforcement per 1,000 people is 1.71 officers and we have been designated one of the overall safest Cities in NYS. [4] To better serve the residents of NT, the police dept. enacted an Aggressive Driver program to reduce violation of vehicle and traffic laws. The dog control officer has been reassigned to the Police dept. and a new therapy dog program began for victims of trauma events, reducing child disclosures 50% when the dog is at hand. The dog will be used for investigations regarding mental health and domestic calls. The dog will be at events to encourage positive contacts between the community and police. The most aggressive policy per the Governor's orders was to establish a Police Reform Policy which has been completed by a committee comprised of citizens, law enforcement, Council representation, and the Mayor. A survey was conducted for public input and the Police Reform and Reinvention Collaborative is now being reviewed by the Council before it is submitted to the State for approval.

∞

During these trying times, the Fire Dept. has had to adapt to many new procedures in an effort to keep residents as well as firefighters safe. The low number of COVID-19 positive cases the dept. has experienced shows the diligence of the firefighters' work. The department helps provide mutual aide to surrounding communities with members on the Haz Mat and Technical Rescue Team and newly Sheriff's

Dept. Underwater Rescue Team membership. Response was made to 3,258 incidents resulting in a fire loss of \$637,908, however not all those were in NT. The Cities Fire Police responded to 156 incidents which support the NTFD and the NTPD. With the Fire Police and Volunteer Fighters' dedication their assistance was invaluable during these trying times. By the hard work of Robert Orłowski, we received \$461,595 in grant money resulting in upgrades to aging apparatus and equipment. A 2020 Ford Transit Fire Investigation vehicle which replaced a 1989 vehicle makes it the first new investigation vehicle in Dept. history. A 2000 pumper was replaced by a 2020 Rosenbauer pumper and aging hose and nozzles were replaced with state-of-the-art new light weight equipment. New much needed PPE was purchased during the ongoing pandemic. Two assistant chiefs retired promoting two captains to the vacated positions and then two firefighters ascended to Captains as two new firefighters entered the dept.

∞

Our Department of Public Works has been striving to maintain services despite the virus and the toll it took on workers. Trash pick up continued as well as bulk pick up. However, a new flyer by the Dept. outlines new restrictions forth coming. The Department's goal is to keep the City beautiful and clean so new restrictions are necessary to work toward that goal. Residents abiding by the new rules will greatly enhance the City's sanitation goal. The DPW this year paved approximately 14 miles of road in an attempt to maintain serviceable roads. 150 trees have been removed as well as numerous trims have been made to trees Citywide. Approximately 500 blocks of sidewalk have been replaced making our pedestrian walkways safer. Also storm sewers were inspected, maintained and repaired. The DPW crews have worked tirelessly to keep NT a City of which to be proud.

∞

The City Water Works currently has seen a change in supervision with the retirement of Bill Davignon and replacement by Jason Koepsell. Under Bill's direction the annual quality inspection showed that NT had no violations, and our plant is operating well. A new standby generator and electrical equipment has been 50% completed with \$1.8 million coming from grant funds. An old Diesel fuel tank has been removed from underground and is replaced with a new above ground tank making it safer for the environment. The annual DEC inspection and report shows our wastewater treatment plant to be in compliance with all SPDES requirements. A 2nd new Sludge pump will replace a 1980 pump that will operate more efficiently. A new Grid removal system will improve solids removal to 80% and save us money on chemical treatments, sludge removal and Digester cleanings. All lighting has been replaced with LED lights saving energy, and the chlorine upgrades from a pressurized to a vacuum system will make it safer protecting from a chlorine leak. Future endeavors include repairs to the Toellner Water storage tank and implementation of Capital improvements to bring the facility up to date. This will aide us in providing high quality drinking water to residents. This will be accomplished by improving the water intake pipes, low level service pumps and finished water flow metering system as well as improvements and repairs to the low service water tank and setting basins. Structural repairs will be made to Filter building and backwash drainpipe and all electrical upgrades to the service pumps, heating, air conditioning, lighting, windows, and doors. Four high head pumps and four low head pumps will be installed upgrades to the sewage pump and sludge motor control center. So, you can see Jason Koepsell has a lot of responsibility to handle going forward in his new position.

∞

The NT Dept of Youth, Recreation, Parks and Seniors saw a tremendous reduction in programming due to the pandemic. Many events were cancelled due to restrictions imposed. The Dept. attempted to provide new and virtual programming to meet the needs of the community. The staff did a great job keeping things updated technologically and completed in a timely manner. The Youth Center was closed but a variety of activities were planned to replace those at the center. Softball and flag football leagues were conducted as well as pick up hockey, virtual cooking classes and craft club. Summer saw the disbursement of 3,500 lunches at Payne Park and we conducted a virtual Easter live event, a Halloween Havoc Drive through at Pinewoods Park which resulted in collecting 1,500 non-perishable items and \$187 for the Little Food pantries located in NT. For our Seniors, exercise classes were conducted virtually, and Adult softball leagues were held with protocols in place. Essential programs for Seniors were held such as nutrition, legal and Heap services with restrictions. The grocery shopping program continued and transportation for those in need. Socially distant programs were instituted with an arts and crafts drop off program and cooking classes virtually to keep Seniors engaged. The creation of a Senior Center Facebook page was implemented to provide resource updates and posts with exercise from home videos. [6] In lieu of the traditional Veteran's Day breakfast a delivered meal was made to Veterans along with a bag full of items donated by local businesses. The golf course saw 54,278 rounds of golf played making it the highest since 2016. The staff worked hard to ensure the course was operating safely under required COVID-19 restrictions. A New Turf Management Schedule greatly improved our greens and repairs to several bunkers along with addressing irrigation issues making improvements to areas. A survey taken showed the public noticed the improvements and we are moving in the right direction to provide a genuine quality golf experience. Our parks showed an increase in usage due to people wanting

to be outdoors during the pandemic. Several fields were improved, signage installed at Pinewoods Park and the walking trails. Cedar fencing was installed at Mayor's Park and 89 trees were planted as part of the street and park initiative. In 2021 we hope to see additional pavilions and a portable restroom at Gratwick Park and the resurfacing of the Taber tennis courts. A complete bathroom remodel will take place at Pinewoods Park and additional signage and parking for Raymond Klimek Veteran's Park along with restoration of the main inlet at the park spearheaded by the Buffalo Niagara Waterkeeper organization.

∞

The Botanical Gardens has been hard at work to revitalize the area along the canal. The non for profit NTBGO has monumental plans for the entire area. The goal is to make the site an educational hub for exploring ecological links, piloting green infrastructure practices, and for modeling sustainable gardening. The Sustainable Community Program was awarded a 3-year grant which has middle and high school students learning how to plant and sustain habitats and engage in best practices for water quality. It has also inspired residents to volunteer to engage in hands on activities. Future plans include an educational Center and green infrastructure training for professionals. The Niagara Waterkeeper organization is working together with the NTBGO to make it a restored buffer zone for native plants and wetland creatures as well as a thriving recreational area.

∞

The Carnegie Art Center had a difficult year to hold activities due to COVID-19 restrictions, but they attempted to hold virtual art shows to keep the center alive with cultural events and special programming. Classes were held virtually as well to keep the community engaged. The Carnegie Art Center has provided a wonderful venue for the community as well as the surrounding area for music and art appreciation.

∞

The Buffalo Niagara Nikola Tesla Council, Inc, a non for profit, has sought to bring the man of science his true distinction. A statue stands in a park in Buffalo to recognize his contributions to humanity with artificial lighting. Tesla pioneered AC technology by inventing the first AC motor in 1888 and harnessed the power of Niagara Falls to produce the electricity we have today from the Niagara Power Project. This electricity was generated from Niagara Falls to Buffalo 23 miles away. Since NT was the midway point, with the historic electrical building on the corner of Robinson Street and the Twin City Highway, the Tesla council has met to discuss proposals for ways to show the part NT may commemorate the vital part the City played in Tesla's invention.

∞

Interest has been shown from a local radio station of the possibility to relocating to North Tonawanda. This is being investigated through the Mayor's office and the Lumber City Development Corporation as to the viability of any forth coming proposals. Not only would it provide a radio station for the surrounding WNY area but enhanced communication for NT residents also.

∞

In keeping with Energy efficiency, the City has partnered with Crimson Power Solutions to strive to keep us energy efficient but at the lowest cost possible. With the energy infrastructure now in place the City will be able to have the maximum savings in financial and health related services for NT. The new LED street lighting conversion and the NYSERDA Clean Community Program are 2 examples of success in the City. Presently ways to implement LED lighting at the DPW are being explored to further reduce energy costs.

∞

The small cemetery located on Walck Road and Erie Ave. is being researched by City Historian, Joe Midura. It dates back to 1890 and was in ownership by the St. Peter's Church. It was abandoned and now may be part of a City owned lot for upkeep. There is a rich history that the Historian is compiling which adds to the great heritage of NT German residents. The Children's Memorial Walkway still invites people who have lost a loved one to visit the beauty of the garden which was created solely by volunteers and donation funding.

∞

There are so many people to thank for all the support given during a year we all wish to forget. Thanks to Council members President Bob Pecoraro, Frank DiBernardo, Bob Schmigel, Austin Tylec, Eric

Zadzilka, City Clerk Treasure Donna Braun, and City Attorney Luke Brown. My gratitude goes to Coz Capozzi, Chelsea Spahr, Barb Klenke, Jeff Zellner, John DiVirgilio, Dan DiVirgilio and all the staff at City Hall. Jason Koepsell, Mark Zellner, Chiefs Sikora and Krantz, and Alex Domaradzki deserve a thank you for your support for the decisions made during this difficult time. Many more individuals have helped to make this city a successful community and thanks go to them also.

∞

As we transition into 2021 with the hopes that the pandemic will allow us to open more programs and events in town, we are forever grateful to the residents of this wonderful community who have endured this trying time meeting all the restrictions faithfully. Our lives were turned upside down when everything closed and masks and social distancing were required, but through it all the community held together and did all they could to make our City safe. A big debt of gratitude to all residents who helped neighbors and friends to stay positive and well. Unfortunately, it is not over yet but with hope we will see a brighter day ahead and those events we so loved will return to our community once more. Our heart goes out to those who were ill with the virus and those who perished because of its rath.

∞

Previously before the pandemic NT was soaring ahead with new construction and businesses were thriving. Budget and sales tax by the county was on track to exceed projections before the pandemic began. Positive reports from the insurance companies showed our compensation claims from employees has put NT in a good position. All services were kept in operation for the residents due to the inter departmental cooperation of supervisors and workers. Unfortunately, since the COVID-19 outbreak things have changed dramatically. However, we were still able to construct a new budget that ensures City services will continue at a reasonable tax rate. Contact with our State Legislators to restore the AIM funding to its prior level has been made. We are always looking for different revenues and ways to operate more efficiently. The best financial practices as recommended by State Auditors have been put into effect. Appeals have been made to the Governor's office to reinstate the aide that has been cut to municipalities since it directly effects all taxpayers.

∞

It has been my honor to serve as Mayor of NT and I have truly enjoyed meeting so many tremendous people who live and work here. I thank all City Employees for their support in a difficult time. Working together we have made strides and, in the days, ahead we will continue to flourish. NT is a vibrant community full of potential with many amenities no other community has to offer. Thank you.

Arthur G. Pappas
Mayor

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION FEBRUARY 2, 2021

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka SECONDED by Alderman Tylec
That the minutes of the regular session held February 2, 2021 be approved as circulated
and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

#1. Robert Pecoraro

January 28, 2021

Honorable Mayor
and Common Council
216 Payne Avenue, City Hall
North Tonawanda, NY 14120
Dear Honorable Body:

The Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) Chapter 77 is coordinating the transport of the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall from NCCC to Tonawanda and desires our support through North Tonawanda. Specifically, I desire this body to authorize;

1. The 52' tractor trailer truck to drive down Ward Road to River Road (link up July 20 @ 3pm) and
2. A North Tonawanda Police escort through the City of North Tonawanda.

This is a BIG event in WNY and I would appreciate the Common Council approving this request. In addition to the tractor trailer, the VVA Chapter 77 envisions 300 motorcycle riders to accompany the Memorial Wall.

The Point of Contract for this event is Mr. Bill Patton, representing the VVA Chapter 77. Please contact me directly if you have any questions.

Sincerely,
Alderman-at-Large
Robert E. Pecoraro

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro **SECONDED** by Alderman DiBernardo
That the Common Council hereby grants permission for the Vietnam Veterans Association (VVA) Chapter 77 to transport the Vietnam Traveling Memorial Wall through the City of North Tonawanda, July 20, 2021, and directs the North Tonawanda Police Department to assist with the escort through the city.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro

(5)

Nays: None

(0)

CARRIED.

III. Clerk-Treasurer

January 28, 2021

Honorable Mayor
And Common Council
216 Payne Avenue, City Hall
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: Volunteer Fire Companies Fundraising 2021

Dear Honorable Body:

As you have been made aware by the North Tonawanda Fire Chief, and in accordance with the NYS Comptroller's Office; all (6) North Tonawanda Volunteer Fire Companies are required to provide the City with a list of all fundraising activities on an annual basis.

In accordance with these regulations, I have reviewed the correspondence that I have received with the Fire Chief and have found them to be in order and in proper form.

I respectfully request that your Honorable Body vote in the affirmative to grant Live Hose #4, Columbia Hook & Ladder #1, Gratwick Hose Co. #6, Sweeney Hose Co. #7, Rescue Co. #5, and Active Hose Co. #2 permission to run their respective fundraisers for 2021.

I thank you in advance for you anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely,
Donna L. Braun
City Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka SECONDED by Alderman Tylec
That the Common Council hereby approves of Columbia Hook & Ladder #1, Sweeney Hose Co. #7, Rescue Co. #5, Gratwick Hose Co. #6, Live Hose Co. #4, and Active Hose Co. #2 to run their respective fundraisers for 2021.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

V. Supt. Water/Wastewater

February 12, 2021

Honorable Mayor
And Common Council
216 Payne Avenue, City Hall
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

I recently had a meeting with Spectrum regarding their services to our Water Filtration & Wastewater Treatment Plants. Our contract has recently expired. Attached is the new contract with Spectrum to provide services to our facilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request.

Sincerely,
Jason Koepsell
Supt. Water/Wastewater

MOVED by Alderman Tylec SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel
That the Common Council hereby approves the contract with Spectrum for services to the Water Filtration & Wastewater Treatment Plants.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

VII. Accountant

February 11, 2021

Honorable Arthur G. Pappas, Mayor
and Common Council
City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body:

In accordance with Article V, Division 1, Section 5.002 and 5.003 of the City Charter, an Abstract Sheet, comprised of a Warrant of Claims, has been submitted by this office for your review and approval.

Accordingly, please authorize for payment the current Warrant of Claims for Common Council audit, dated February 16, 2021, and further authorize the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant.

Regards,
 Jeffrey R. Zellner
 City Accountant

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka **SECONDED** by Alderman Schmigel
 That the Common Council hereby authorizes for payment the current Abstract of Claims for Common Council Audit dated February 16, 2021, and further authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant:

01	General Fund	\$903,037.65
02	Water Fund	64,645.97
04	Sewer Fund	1,468,216.63
06	Capital Project Fund	139,393.11
07	Trust & Agency Fund	<u>10,408.48</u>
00	Final Total	<u>\$2,585,701.84</u>

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
 Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

X. Police Chief

February 10, 2021

Honorable Mayor Arthur Pappas
 And Common Council
 216 Payne Avenue
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body,

I am requesting permission to reclassify the Account Clerk Typist position in the Detective Bureau to Senior Typist. Both of these positions are in the group IV classification and cause no increase in the police budget.

I have spoken to the Niagara County Civil Service Department and they just need approval of the classification by the City Council.

With that change I intend on abolishing the Clerk position in the Special Victims/Youth Services Bureau (formerly Juvenile Aid) providing a savings of approximately \$40,000.00 to the city and transferring Marie Smolinski from that position to the Senior Typist position in the Detective Bureau.

Senior Typist is equivalent to a Clerical II position in the county and Ms. Smolinski is in the top three of the North Tonawanda resident eligible promotion list for that position.

The position was posted in accordance with the CSEA Collective Bargaining Unit with no interest from any current employees.

I have also spoken with CSEA President John DiVirgilio and he has no issue with the changes.

Respectfully,
 Thomas E. Krantz
 Chief of Police

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro **SECONDED** by Alderman DiBernardo
 That the Common Council hereby approves abolishing the Clerk position in the Special Victims/Youth Services Bureau (formerly Juvenile Aid) and reclassifying the Account Clerk Typist position in the Detective Bureau to Senior Typist.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
 Nays: None (0)
 CARRIED.

XXV. Monthly Reports

.1 Senior Citizen Center .2 Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman Tylec SECONDED by Alderman Zadzilka
 That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Monthly Reports.
 Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
 Nays: None (0)
 CARRIED.

XXVI. Annual Vacation and Sick Leave Report

.1 Water/Wastewater & Distribution

MOVED by Alderman Schmigel SECONDED by Alderman Tylec
 That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Annual Vacation
 and Sick Leave Report.
 Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
 Nays: None (0)
 CARRIED.

XXVII. Annual Reports

.1 Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka SECONDED by Alderman Pecoraro
 That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Annual Report.
 Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
 Nays: None (0)
 CARRIED.

XXXII. Community Development

February 4, 2021

Honorable Mayor
 And Common Council
 City Hall
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: North Tonawanda Downtown Placemaking Contract Amendment

Dear Honorable Body:

As you are aware, the City of North Tonawanda is in the process of administering and completing downtown improvements through the \$2.5 million Smart Growth Community Fund awarded by Empire State Development. The Downtown Placemaking project is a \$1,635,000 project, funded in part through Smart Growth funding, which will include a variety of streetscape, crosswalk, intersection, wayfinding, and park and open space improvements.

02-16-2021

The City contracted with Joy Kuebler Landscape Architect (JKLA) to complete the design and administration of these improvements for \$178,128. An in-field change regarding the design and installation of the alleyway lighting in Project Pride Way has required additional work from the JKLA team above and beyond the original contract scope. These services include compiling design documents and additional construction administration including submittal reviews, responses to RFIs, and construction oversight. The total fee for these services is \$6,441.27. This fee would be covered by grant funds on the project and bear no additional cost to the City.

At this time I would like to respectfully request this Body an amendment to the scope and fee of the existing JKLA contract, subject to review and approval by the City Attorney, to include the new services with a not to exceed fee of \$184,569.27.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest regards,
Michael Zimmerman
Dir. Community Development

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka **SECONDED** by Alderman Schmigel
That the Common Council hereby approves amending the scope and fee of the existing JKLA contract for the North Tonawanda Downtown Placemaking project in the amount of \$6,441.27, subject to review by the City Attorney.
Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHERS

A.
Girl Scout Troop 70254

February 5, 2021

North Tonawanda Common Council
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Common Council Members,

I am writing to request your permission to hold a Girl Scout Cookie sale with my Daisy/Brownie troop in the parking lot near the Sweeney Street Boat Launch in March.

The two dates I have in mind will be Saturday March 20th and Friday March 26th. these dates are subject to change depending on other opportunities that the GS Council will give us.

I propose that we will park a minivan in this parking lot and provide a drive up service for customers that have pre-ordered cookies from us using a virtual link, and also have cookies available for drive up sales.

Using this parking lot would provide us a safe, public space to conduct business with the girls as well as provide us with visibility and the ability to draw in customers.

Please note that due to COVID19, many of the businesses that previously allowed us to sell cookies indoors are not allowing it this year. This type of parking lot sale is much safer for all involved, and PPE, social distancing, and sanitizing precautions will be used at all times.

Myself and the girls appreciate your consideration of this request. I can be reached for discussion at the number or email above.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Bozek

MOVED by Alderman Tylec **SECONDED** by Alderman Schmigel
That the Common Council hereby grants permission for Girl Scout Troop 70254, to hold a cookie sale in the Sweeney Street Boat Launch parking lot, Saturday March 20, 2021 and Friday March 26, 2021.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

B.
Niagara Frontier Boat Racing Association

October 26, 2020

City of North Tonawanda
Honorable Mayor Arthur G. Pappas
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Mayor Pappas,

I hope everyone with your family and all the NT employee's and officials are well.

I am once again asking for the use of Gratwick Riverside Park to conduct our Thunder on the Niagara. We are requesting Saturday and Sunday August seventh and eighth 2021. We plan on setting up of the park on Friday morning August sixth. We plan to have all the fencing removed and park cleaned by noon on Monday August ninth.

I'm also requesting that the boat launch ramps be closed from noon on Friday till 8pm Sunday.

I would like to meet with your department heads to review the necessary permits and concerns they may have. I'd suggest meeting 90 days before the event. This should give us both enough time to address any issues.

We will once again have a fireworks display Saturday evening at dusk, weather permitting.

Thank you,
Gary Roesch

MOVED by Alderman Schmigel **SECONDED** by Alderman DiBernardo
That the Common Council hereby grants permission to the Niagara Frontier Boat Racing Association to hold their Annual Thunder on the Niagara August 7th and August 8, 2021 at Gratwick Riverside Park. Items other than dates needed for said event are contingent on the Department Heads and the City Attorney approvals.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

C.
Richard Andres, Jr.

January 29, 2021

Honorable Mayor
And Common Council
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Honorable Body:

I Richard Andres, 448 Goundry Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 am requesting to be appointed as a Commissioner of Deeds for the City of North Tonawanda. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Richard Andres, Jr.

MOVED by Alderman Zadzilka SECONDED by Alderman Tylec
That the Common Council hereby approves the appointment of Richard Andres, 448
Goundry Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 as a Commissioner of Deeds for the City of
North Tonawanda, effective February 17, 2021 and ending February 16, 2023.
Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

D.
Ralph Daily

January 28, 2021

Ms. Donna Braun
Common Council – Clerk/Treasurer
North Tonawanda
City Hall / 216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Re: Outdoor Patio seating – 54 Webster Street

Dear Ms. Braun,

SPoT Coffee on Webster Street is scheduled to open in the middle of February 2021. Please accept this letter as a request for SPoT Coffee to provide outdoor seating in a cordoned off outdoor patio on the Webster Street side of the building.

We would utilize outdoor seating in the spring, summer and fall, starting this coming March, weather permitting. Accompanying this letter is dimensioned drawing showing our proposed plan. Please keep in mid that this patio if fully removable during winter months.

Please address our request at the upcoming Common Council meeting and feel free to contact me at any time with questions or additional information requirements.

Thank you for your assistance.

Ralph Daily
WebsterNT, LLC

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro **SECONDED** by Alderman DiBernardo
That the Common Council hereby grants approval for SPoT Coffee to provide outdoor patio seating on Webster Street, approval is contingent that they are in accordance with the North Tonawanda Historic Preservation Committee and the Building Inspector.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Zadzilka, Tylec, Pecoraro

(5)

Nays: None

(0)

CARRIED.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION – None

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Alderman Tylec **SECONDED** by Alderman Schmigel
That this regular session of the Common Council be and hereby is adjourned.

CARRIED.

Time of Adjournment: 7:28 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Braun
City Clerk-Treasurer