

**THE HONORABLE BODY  
Council Chambers  
Municipal Building  
North Tonawanda, New York 14120  
Tuesday, May 2, 2023  
6:30 P.M.**

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**REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT DIBERNARDO**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

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**ROLL CALL**

**Present: President DiBernardo  
Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta**

**Absent: None**

**Also Present: Mayor Austin J. Tylec  
City Attorney Edward Zebulske III**

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**\*\*\*STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY\*\*\***

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**APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL SESSION APRIL 25, 2023**

**MOVED by Alderman Schmigel                      SECONDED by Alderman Lavey  
That the minutes of the special session held April 25, 2023 be approved as circulated and  
filed in the office of the City Clerk.**

**Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo                      (5)**

**Nays: None                      (0)**

**CARRIED.**

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**PROOF OF PUBLICATION PUBLISHED 4/1/2023**

- 1) **Legal Notice – Request for Quotes from Insured Landscape Contractors for Grass, Weed and Brush Cutting for the City of North Tonawanda – Building Inspector**

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION PUBLISHED 4/4/2023 & 4/10/2023**

- 1) **Legal Notice – Treasurer’s Notice for the Collection of the 2023 City Taxes – City Clerk-Treasurer**

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION PUBLISHED 4/18/2023**

- 1) **Legal Notice – Request for Proposals for the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan (LWRP) and Comprehensive Plan Update – Dir. Community Development**

**MOVED by Alderman Loncar                      SECONDED by Alderman Marranta  
That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Proof of  
Publications.**

**Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo                      (5)**

**Nays: None                      (0)**

**CARRIED.**

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**COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

**III. Clerk-Treasurer**

April 11, 2023

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

**Dear Common Council:**

I am requesting to appoint Lauren Gately, 6710 Elbert Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 as a Commissioner of Deeds for the City of North Tonawanda. Effective May 3, 2023 and ending May 2, 2025.

Sincerely,  
Donna L. Braun  
City Clerk-Treasurer

**MOVED by Alderman Schmigel                      SECONDED by Alderman Lavey**  
That the Common Council hereby grants approval for Lauren Gately, 6710 Elbert Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 to be appointed as Commissioner of Deeds for the City of North Tonawanda effective May 3, 2023 and expiring May 2, 2025  
Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo (5)  
Nays: None (0)  
**CARRIED.**

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**VII. Accountant**

April 27, 2023

**Honorable Austin J. Tylec, 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 May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, and further authorize the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant.

Warm regards,  
Jeffrey R. Zellner  
City Accountant

**MOVED by Alderman Loncar                      SECONDED by Alderman Marranta**  
That the Common Council hereby authorizes for payment the current Abstract of Claims for Common Council Audit dated May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, and further authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant:

01	General Fund	\$310,439.72
02	Water Fund	\$36,859.67
04	Sewer Fund	\$100,589.98
06	Capital Project Fund	\$260,732.19
07	Trust & Agency Fund	\$4,412.41
00	Final Total	<u>\$713,033.97</u>

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo (5)  
 Nays: None (0)  
**CARRIED.**

#### XIV.1 Dir. Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

April 27, 2023

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

We are seeking approval of the amended agreement with Tonawandas Gateway Harbor Inc. The amendments will bring the agreement up to date, including removing verbiage that is no longer applicable and bringing policies and expectations up to date.

The Tonawandas Gateway Harbor is a not-for-profit board initially created by the City's of the Tonawandas for the purpose of promoting economic growth, tourism, recreation and cultural and historic heritage through use of Gateway Harbor Park. Their work provides great recreational opportunities for our community and draws thousands of people to the downtown district promoting economic growth to the downtown merchants as well as increasing our City's docking revenue during their events.

Respectfully submitted,  
 Alex Domaradzki  
 Dir. Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

**MOVED** by Alderman Schmigel      **SECONDED** by Alderman Loncar  
 That the Common Council hereby tables the aforementioned request for further review.  
 Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo (5)  
 Nays: None (0)  
**CARRIED.**

#### XIV.2 Dir. Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

April 26, 2023

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

I had approached the mayor at the beginning of the year about a request that my department's full-time grounds staff have the ability to golf at no charge in order to encourage them to play the course and experience the course from a golfer's perspective and enhance their care and vision of the course overall.

The mayor approved the request in support of the reasons behind it, as we continue to try and ensure we are equipping our staff to make the course the best it can be. We issued passes to each of the full-time grounds staff, so we could track their play. Of the 10 members, 3 staff either don't play or only play 1-2 times per year while others frequent



8. **Golfer Database** (if requested) of those that purchased the card – name, address, and email

Respectfully submitted,  
 Alex Domaradzki  
 Dir. Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

**MOVED** by Alderman Loncar

**SECONDED** by Alderman Marranta

That the Common Council hereby approves entering into an advertising and marketing program agreement with Cumulus Radio Station Group (97 Rock, 104.1 WHTT, Sports Radio 1270 The Fan, 103.3 The Edge) for the purpose of advertising and increasing the exposure of Deerwood Golf Course to the public, for the 2023 Golf Season.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo (5)

Nays: None (0)

**CARRIED.**

## XVII. Traffic Safety

April 17, 2023

Donna Braun  
 City Clerk-Treasurer  
 216 Payne Avenue  
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

### Traffic Safety Minutes:

The April 2023 meeting of the North Tonawanda Traffic Safety Committee was called to order at 1800 hours. Roll call showed the following members present: R. Frank, J. Sikora, M. Lemke, D. Grinnell, A. DiBernardo, N. Ferguson. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted, the following new concerns/requests were discussed, and recommendations made.

- 1) Pete Fiala requested a stop sign at the corner of 12<sup>th</sup> Avenue and Gilmore Avenue last month. Traffic studies have been done on this intersection in the past and recently. The committee did not find any accidents at this intersection over the last two years. There is a stop sign at the intersections both north and south on Gilmore Avenue. There is not a lot of traffic at this intersection for most of the day. There have been no other complaints to the traffic committee regarding this intersection. The traffic officer will continue to monitor this intersection and the speed sign will be placed there this spring to monitor speeds. This request is denied.
- 2) Darlene Bolsover stated that the road and bike path markings on Sweeney Street have faded and are hard to see. Member Meisenburg has been advised and will put this on his list of streets to paint when the weather breaks.
- 3) Member Ferguson advised the committee that there needs to be a “No Outlet” sign placed on Manhattan Street just south of Tremont Street. Member Meisenburg will install a new sign.
- 4) Member Ferguson advised the committee that the “20 MPH” signs on Ruie Road and Abington Place are missing the “School Zone” signs that should be attached. Member Meisenburg will install the new signs.

The next Traffic Safety Committee meeting will be held on May 15, 2023 at 1800 hours.

Travel safely,  
 Robert J. Frank

**MOVED by Alderman Schmigel                      SECONDED by Alderman Lavey**  
**That the Common Council hereby receives and files the Traffic Safety minutes from their**  
**April meeting.**

**Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo                      (5)**

**Nays: None                      (0)**

**CARRIED.**

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**XXV. Monthly Reports**

**.1 Police Department**

**MOVED by Alderman Loncar                      SECONDED by Alderman Marranca**  
**That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Monthly Report.**

**Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo                      (5)**

**Nays: None                      (0)**

**CARRIED.**

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**COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHERS**

**A.**

**Adam Abramo**

**April 4, 2023**

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

**I Adam Abramo, 184 Stenzil Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 am requesting to be  
 appointed as Commissioner of Deeds for the City of North Tonawanda.**

**Thank you,  
 Adam Abramo**

**MOVED by Alderman Lavey                      SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel**  
**That the Common Council hereby grants approval for Adam Abramo, 184 Stenzil Street,  
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120 to be appointed as Commissioner of Deeds for the City of  
 North Tonawanda effective May 3, 2023 and expiring May 2, 2025**

**Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo                      (5)**

**Nays: None                      (0)**

**CARRIED.**

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**B.**

**NT National Little League**

**April 4, 2023**

**Donna Braun  
 City Clerk-Treasurer  
 City Hall / 216 Payne Avenue  
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120**

**Re: Parade Permit**

**Dear Ms. Braun:**

The North Tonawanda National Little League is requesting your assistance in obtaining Common Council approval for our annual opening day parade on May 13, 2023 and obtaining the necessary parade permit.

You are also invited to participate in the opening day parade and ceremonies for the 2023 Baseball-Softball season, which marks 71 years of service to the community.

The parade will form at 9:00am at the former Lowery Middle School on Payne Avenue. The parade will start at 9:30 following a route going south on Payne Avenue turning east on Wheatfield Street to our baseball complex at Wheatfield Street and Stephen Sikora Drive.

Please contact Rick Dentinger at 716-289-8492, if you have questions regarding the activities outlined above.

We look forward to seeing you on opening day.

Sincerely,  
Richard E. Dentinger  
Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman Loncar                      SECONDED by Alderman Marranta  
That the Common Council hereby grants a parade permit to the NT National Little League for their Opening Day Parade, Saturday, May 13, 2023, and also directs the Police Department to assist in regard to the parade route.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

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C.  
Carrousel Museum

April 6, 2023

Common Council  
City Hall – Main Floor  
216 Payne Avenue  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Greetings Common Council Members,

The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum is asking the council to approve the use of public facilities and the closing of a public street for the third annual Classics at the Carrousel fundraiser show Saturday, July 22<sup>nd</sup> from 11am – 3pm. The museum is seeking the use of Heritage Park and Felton Field and closing Thompson Street from Lincoln Avenue to Vandervoort Street for the duration of the event.

This will be the third edition of the Classics at the Carrousel Car Show, and the first year asking for the closure of the street. Last year we received 90 vehicles for the event and are expecting over 100 this year. The closing of the street will offer the public a safer venue to view all of the vehicles located in Heritage Park and Felton Field. Last year we lined up all the vehicles in the Heritage Park. This created safety issues, as the public were required to walk across an active Thompson Street to view half of the show. By closing the street to only local traffic, we are creating a safer environment for the public visiting the event. We are seeking barriers from the Department of Public Works and Auxiliary Police to man these barriers during the event (11am-3pm).

The Classics at the Carrousel is a large fundraising event for the museum, raising over \$5,000 last year. The event includes: a car show with prizes, music, a 50/50 raffle, a basket raffle, and food trucks. The event is free to the public to attend, and it is \$20 per vehicle to participate in the show. Last year's attendance was approximately 200 people, and we

expect between 300-400 people for this year's event. Neighbors have been informed of previous iterations, and only have parking concerns. The museum will continue to place signs up at the parking spots on Heritage Park and Geneva Street, stating it is not event parking. We already have an agreement with Monarch Kitchen Design to use their parking lot for visitor parking on the day of the event. With these plans in place, we are confident that the event will be a successful event for the public, the museum, and the city.

Sincerely,  
 Ian K. Seppala  
 Executive Director

**MOVED** by Alderman Lavey

**SECONDED** by Alderman Schmigel

That the Common Council hereby grants permission for the Carrousel Museum to have use of Heritage Park and Felton Field with the closing off of Thompson Street from Lincoln to Vandervoort, Saturday, July 22, 2023 from 11am to 3pm, for their Classics at the Carrousel event. The council also directs DPW and the Police Department to assist for said event.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo

(5)

Nays: None

(0)

**CARRIED.**

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**D.**

**Lisa Gebbia**

April 14, 2023

Common Council  
 City Hall – Main Floor  
 216 Payne Avenue  
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Common Council,

I am asking for your approval for my portion of Payne Avenue to be blocked off for this years Porchfest on August 20, 2023.

Last years event at our address 128 Payne was so crowded that it spilled onto the street.

I don't want to put anyone in harms way, so I asked my neighbors if they would mind if I request with the Council and they were happy to help.

If there is any information that is needed please feel free to reach out.

Lisa Gebbia

**MOVED** by Alderman Loncar

**SECONDED** by Alderman Marranta

That the Common Council hereby grants permission to close off Payne Avenue between Goundry Street and Christiana Street, Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 12pm to 6pm for a Porchfest, and directs the DPW to provide barricades for said event.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranta, DiBernardo

(5)

Nays: None

(0)

**CARRIED.**

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E.  
Platter's Chocolate Factory

March 22, 2023

Mayor Tylec and Common Council  
City Hall – Main Floor  
216 Payne Avenue  
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Dear Mayor Tylec and Common Council,

We are requesting approval for Platter's Chocolate Factory to hold our annual Sponge Candy 5K Race on September 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023. We are thrilled to host again this year as it will be the 6<sup>th</sup> race we are able to bring to North Tonawanda. We are hoping the sanctioned course route can be the same as in years prior, additionally the race start time of 3:00pm.

The Sponge Candy 5K has become a tradition for our community, allowing for residents, volunteers and race participants to enjoy a fun filled day while giving back to non-profits. Over the last five races, Platter's Chocolate Factory and the community have raised over \$40,000! Together we have donated to the Samaritan's Purse Disaster Relief fund, Olivia's Bears, and to Joyful Rescues. This year our plan to partner with and donate to Special Olympics NY, Inc. an organization chosen by team members of Platter's Chocolate Factory.

Previously, at the Council's request, we started early and put signs throughout the neighborhood along with door flyers. This worked out very well and upon approval we will start immediately to post on social media, place signage at Platter's Chocolate Factory, and two to three weeks before the race, canvas the neighborhood with signage.

I am seeking approval for the race, so we begin planning. Please contact me with any questions. Thank you for your consideration and support.

Sincerely,  
Heidi Urban  
Vice President

MOVED by Alderman Lavey                      SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel  
That the Common Council hereby grants permission to Platter's Chocolate Factory to hold their annual Platter's Chocolates SpongeFest 5K Race event Saturday, September 16, 2023 and directs the Police Department and the DPW to assist with necessary accommodations for said event.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

F.  
Carnegie Art Center

April 21, 2023

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

Re: Carnegie Art Spree! Festival Street Closure Request

To the North Tonawanda Common Council,

The staff and Board at the Carnegie Art Center are requesting your approval for street closures in the boundaries of Sweeney Street, Webster Street, and the Renaissance Bridge

for a new local art festival on the dates of Saturday, August 19 and August 20, 2023 from 9am – 5pm. The Carnegie Art Center organized the Canal Fest Arts and Crafts show for many years and after much evaluation and vendor/attendee feedback has decided to shift focus to a more curated event. The Carnegie Art Spree! Festival will be a juried art festival showcasing local artists with booth spaces and highlighting the Downtown District of North Tonawanda. Appropriate insurance riders for the event have been priced and will be purchased after final approval from the Common Council. We are coordinating with the City of Tonawanda to have this event continue across the bridge along Main Street. In addition, the Carnegie Art Center is proposing to pay the City of North Tonawanda a fee of \$4,000 to offset DPW, police, and emergency services coverage.

The purpose of the Carnegie Art Center is to sponsor, promote and encourage the development of visual and performing arts. The organization provides educational and cultural enrichment to the Western New York region. Like many volunteer-based non-profits, the Carnegie has seen steep declines in revenue. The Carnegie Art Spree! Festival will help bolster our mission and serve as a much needed fundraiser for our programming, operations, and long term goals of sustainable business practices.

Your approval will help support our mission, underscore the importance of and commitment to the arts in North Tonawanda, and emphasize our local business and historic district downtown. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,  
Kristin Derby

**MOVED** by Alderman Marranca      **SECONDED** by Alderman Loncar  
That the Common Council hereby grants permission to the Carnegie Art Center to close Sweeney Street, Webster Street and the Renaissance Bridge, Saturday, August 19<sup>th</sup> and Sunday, August 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023 from 9am to 5pm for the Carnegie Art Spree! Festival and directs the Police Department and the DPW to assist with necessary accommodations for said event.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, Lavey, Loncar, Marranca, DiBernardo (5)

Nays: None (0)

**CARRIED.**

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#### AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Alex Domaradzki and Michelle Bernas – Thanked the Council and City Officials for Student Government Day.

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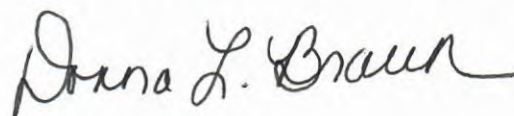
#### ADJOURNMENT

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

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Time of Adjournment: 7:15 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Braun  
City Clerk-Treasurer