### THE HONORABLE BODY

Council Chambers Municipal Building North Tonawanda, New York 14120 Tuesday, February 15, 2022 6:30 P.M.

## REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT PECORARO

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### **ROLL CALL**

Present:

**President Pecoraro** 

Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar

Absent:

None

Also Present:

Mayor Austin J. Tylec

City Attorney Edward Zebulske III

#### **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

<u>Barbara Hughes, 1117 Sweeney St.</u> – Had concerns about the closure of Main Street for the Canal Fest and the change in the traffic pattern.

<u>Heidi Topolski, 394 Goundry St.</u> – Was questioning the effects of the traffic pattern by closing off Main Street for the Canal Fest.

<u>Peter Chenier, 1666 Eddy Dr.</u> – Said he is on the Canal Fest Committee and a truck driver, said that there are not many deliveries on Main Street but they are trying to do their best for the community.

<u>Darlene Bolsover</u>, 1337 Sweeney St. - Wanted to know the stipends for the board members and can they be posted on the website.

#### APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION FEBRUARY 1, 2022

MOVED by Alderman Schmigel SECONDED by Alderman DiBernardo That the minutes of the regular session held February 1, 2022, be approved as circulated and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.

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

(5) (0)

Nays: None CARRIED.

# **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS**

I.1 Mayor

January 31, 2022

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

Re: Appointment and Extension of Appointments - Housing Authority Board

Dear Honorable Body,

Please be advised, our office is properly aligning the terms of our North Tonawanda Housing Authority Board members. Due to improper appointment terms, we are amending the existing terms as follows:

- 1. Suzanne Hempel for a term to end January 31, 2026.
- 2. Lyle Dewiel for a term to end January 31, 2025.
- 3. Mark Berube for a term to end January 31, 2024.

The terms of the following members have expired or do not follow proper appointment terms and end at the close of business on January 31, 2022:

- 1. Michael Carney, 407 Bennett Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120
- 2. William Paton, 55 5th Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Please be advised, I am appointing the following new members to the North Tonawanda Housing Authority Board:

- 1. Colleen Osborne, 377 Roncroff Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for a five (5) year term effective February 1, 2022 expiring January 31, 2027.
- 2. Angela Johnson, 861 Thomas Fox Drive West, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for a one (1) year term effective February 1, 2022 expiring January 31, 2023.

Moving forward, future appointments or reappointments will follow a five-year term so every year there is only one member expiring. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Austin J. Tylec Mayor

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro SECONDED by Alderman DiBernardo That the Common Council hereby receives and files the amended reappointments to the Housing Authority Board as follows:

- 1. Suzanne Hempel for a term to end January 31, 2026.
- 2. Lyle Dewiel for a term to end January 31, 2025.
- 3. Mark Berube for a term to end January 31, 2024.

And the Common Council hereby receives and files the appointments of the following to the Housing Authority Board:

- 1. Colleen Osborne, 377 Roncroff Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for a five (5) year term effective February 1, 2022 expiring January 31, 2027.
- 2. Angela Johnson, 861 Thomas Fox Drive West, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 for a one (1) year term effective February 1, 2022 expiring January 31, 2023.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
CARRIED.
(5)

I.2 Mayor

#### February 2, 2022

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

Re: Citizens Financial Advisory Committee

Dear Honorable Body,

Please be advised that I have initiated North Tonawanda's first Citizens Financial Advisory Committee.

The purpose of this committee is to help improve our budget process, support our accounting department, work with elected leaders, and be a resource for our community. I am appointing the following citizens to serve:

William J. VanDewater, 1098 Nash Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Michele Golding, 23 Rose Circle, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Jeannette Toth, 382 Homestead Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120. Timothy Pieper, 477 Woodward Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Combined, these citizens have extensive backgrounds in municipal budgets, accounting practices, and financial planning. They are dedicated to helping our city prosper and I am confident they will be a resource for us all.

Please reach out to any of these members or my office for more information. Thank you.

Respectfully, Austin J. Tylec

MOVED by Alderman Lavey SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel
That the Common Council hereby receives and files the following appointments to the
Citizens Financial Advisory Committee:

William J. VanDewater, 1098 Nash Road, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Michele Golding, 23 Rose Circle, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 Jeannette Toth, 382 Homestead Drive, North Tonawanda, NY 14120. Timothy Pieper, 477 Woodward Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
CARRIED.
(5)

I.3 Mayor

February 4, 2022

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

Re: Zoning Board of Appeals - Realignment of Terms

Dear Honorable Body,

Please be advised that our office is properly aligning terms for the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Due to the improper appointment of terms, we are amending the term of Kenneth Braun, 175 Lincoln Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 to expire on December 31, 2023.

In addition, I am appointing Scott Kuebler, 220 Tremont Street, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 to fill the vacancy left by Mitchell Dreier. Mr. Dreier was hired by the Building/Code Department effective January 26, 2022 and resigned from his position on this committee.

Scott Kuebler will complete the vacated term effective February 4, 2022 and expire on December 31, 2024.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully, Austin J. Tylec Mayor

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Pecoraro That the Common Council hereby amends the term of Kenneth Braun, 175 Lincoln Avenue, North Tonawanda, NY 14120 to expire on December 31, 2023 for the Zoning Board of Appeals and receives and files the appointment of Scott Kuebler, 220 Tremont Street to the Zoning Board of Appeals effective, February 4, 2022 till December 31, 2024.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro Nays: None

(0)

CARRIED.

III.1 Clerk-Treasurer

**February 3, 2022** 

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

**Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:** 

Please be advised that I have received payment in full for back City, School and County taxes, per their tax agreement with the City, for the following parcel:

176.17-2-40 1183 Payne Avenue Foster

Therefore, please pass the necessary resolution withdrawing this parcel from the appropriate In Rem foreclosure proceeding.

Thank you for you cooperation.

Very truly yours, Denise Proefrock Assistant City Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel That the Common Council hereby approves the removal of the following parcel:

176.17-2-40 1183 Payne Avenue Foster

From the appropriate In Rem foreclosure proceeding for payment in full of City, School, and County taxes. Subject to review by the City Attorney.

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

**(5)** 

Nays: None CARRIED.

(0)

## III.2 Clerk-Treasurer

Date: February 7, 2022

To: Mayor/Common Council

From: Donna L. Braun - City Clerk/Treasurer

Subject: Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution - 2022

New Regulation 315.4 outlines additional reporting requirements for elected or appointed officials and more clearly defines the process for reporting time worked by those officials.

This regulation became effective August 12, 2009.

I offer the following resolution for your consideration:

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of North Tonawanda hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report (see attached) the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these Officials to the Clerk of this body.

Sincerely, Donna L. Braun City Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel That the Common Council at a regular session meeting, held at City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, New York at 6:30 PM on February 15, 2022 the following resolution was passed and reads as follows:

**BE IT RESOLVED,** that the City of North Tonawanda hereby establishes the following as standard work days for elected and appointed officials and will report the following days worked to the New York State and Local Employees' Retirement System based on the record of activities maintained and submitted by these Officials to the Clerk of this body:

## 2022 Elected/ Appointed Work Schedule City of North Tonawanda New York

### **ELECTED OFFICIALS:**

TITLE	NAME	STANDARD WORKDAY	TERM BEGINS/ENDS	PARTICIPATES IN TIME KEEPING	DAY/MONTH
Mayor	Austin J. Tylec	7	01/01/22 - 12/31	1/25 Y	20
Clerk-Treasurer	Donna L. Braun	7	01/01/22 - 12/31	1/23 Y	20
Attorney	Edward Zebulske III	7	01/26/22 - 12/31	1/22 Y	20
2 <sup>nd</sup> Ward Alderman	Frank DiBernardo	6	01/01/22 - 12/3	1/23 N	20
Alderman at Large	Robert E. Pecoraro	6	01/01/20 - 12/3	1/23 Y	20
Alderman at Large	Joe Loncar	6	01/01/22 - 12/3	1/25 N	20
3 <sup>rd</sup> Ward Alderman	Joseph Lavey Jr.	6	01/01/22 - 12/3	1/23 N	20
1st Ward Alderman	Robert Schmigel	6	01/01/22 - 12/3	1/23 N	20
	AP	POINTE	O OFFICIAL	LS	
Adm. Assistant Mayor's Office	Angela Johnson	7	01/01/22 - 12/3	1/25 Y	20
Asst. City Attorney	Nicholas B. Robinson	6	02/07/17 - 12/3	1/22 Y	20

Zoning Board	Kenneth Braun	6	01/01/19 - 12/31/23	Y	3
Planning Board	Thomas Jaccarino	6	01/01/20 - 12/31/26	Y	3
			Donna L. Braun City Clerk-Treasurer		
Ayes: Alderma Nays: None CARRIED	an Schmigel, DiBerna	rdo, Lav	ey, Loncar, Pecoraro		(5) (0)

III.3 Clerk-Treasurer

February 8, 2022

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

Re: Volunteer Fire Companies Fundraising 2022

## 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 2022.

I thank you in advance for your anticipated cooperation.

Sincerely, Donna L. Braun City Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro SECONDED by Alderman DiBernardo 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 2022.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
CARRIED
(5)

III.4 Clerk-Treasurer

February 7, 2022

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

Dear Honorable Mayor and Common Council:

Attached you will find the Cash Statement of all accounts for the end of year 2021, to be received and filed.

Respectfully, Donna L. Braun City Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Lavey
That the Common Council hereby receives and files the attached Cash Statement of all
accounts for the end of year 2021.

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

(5)

Nays: None CARRIED

(0)

CIMILLED

VII. Accountant

February 10, 2022

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 February 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 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 DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Schmigel
That the Common Council hereby authorizes for payment the current Abstract of Claims
for Common Council Audit dated February 15, 2022, and further authorizes the Mayor
and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant:

01	General Fund	\$373,605.60
02	Water Fund	35,514.18
04	Sewer Fund	66,991.39
07	Trust & Agency Fund	3,656.25
00	Final Total	\$ 479,767.42

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro Nays: None

CARRIED.

(5) (0)

XIV. Youth, Recreation, Parks & Seniors

February 1, 2022

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

Dear Mayor Tylec and Common Council,

In partnership with the North Tonawanda Botanical Garden Organization, we are requesting the Council approve the attached amendment to the original Local Waterfront Revitalization Program adopted by New York State. This amendment includes the inclusion of the most recent Botanical Gardens Master Plan.

In discussion with the grant writers, and with New York State representatives along with NTBGO board members, approving this amendment into the originally approved LWRP would be the most practical way to enhance any grant applications for future projects at our Botanical Gardens that NTBGO or our department would apply for to fund facility improvements through the NYS Consolidated Funding Application Program. Before the New York State can review and approve the amendment they require approval at the local level from the City's governing agency.

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

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro SECONDED by Alderman Lavey
That the Common Council hereby approves the attached amendment to the original Local
Waterfront Revitalization Program adopted by New York State that includes the inclusion
of the most recent Botanical Gardens Master Plan.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
(5)

CARRIED.

XXV. Monthly Reports

.1 Senior Citizen Center .2 Clerk-Treasurer

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Lavey
That the Common Council hereby receives and files the aforementioned Monthly Reports.

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

Nays: None

(0)

CARRIED.

XXXII. Community Development

**February 7, 2022** 

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

Re: Community Development Block Grant Program – Request for Required Public Hearings

Dear Honorable Body,

In consideration of two possible applications to the New York State Office of Community Renewal Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Economic Development program, per CDBG regulations, the City of North Tonawanda is required to hold a public meeting to discuss CDBG activities and the potential application. The hearing must be held at a meeting with a quorum of the Common Council.

I would like to formally request authorization to hold two required public meetings for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program to be held on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00PM for Dockside Bar & Grill's CDBG application and on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:15PM for the CDBG Microenterprise program. Both meetings will be held in the Common Council chambers immediately preceding the regularly scheduled Common Council meeting.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kindest regards, Laura Wilson Dir. Community Development

MOVED by Alderman DiBernardo SECONDED by Alderman Pecoraro That the Common Council hereby grants permission for Community Development to hold two required public meetings for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:00PM for Dockside Bar & Grill's CDBG application and on Tuesday March 1<sup>st</sup>, at 6:15PM for the CDBG Microenterprise program.

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

Nays: None

CARRIED.

## **COMMUNICATIONS FROM OTHERS**

A. Historical Society of the Tonawandas

January 28, 2022

North Tonawanda City Hall 216 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Attn: Common Council

The Historical Society of the Tonawandas requests the use of the Common Council Room for their March 9, 2022 Program Meeting from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. This is an educational program focused on history of the Twin Cities open to our members and the public.

Our speaker that evening will be Val Cronin, a resident of North Tonawanda and member of the Camber of Commerce, who will be giving a talk on the suffragettes' movement in the Tonawandas of late 1800s to early 1900s.

The program is followed by a social gathering with coffee, tea, water and cookies provided by Society members.

We anticipate between 30-40 members and others will be attending.

We have been grateful in the past for the use of your facilities and hope that you will approve our request at this time, as we all try to move toward normalizing our endeavors.

Yours truly, Jill E. Townson Program Committee Chair

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro SECONDED by Alderman DiBernardo That the Common Council hereby grants permission for the Historical Society of the Tonawandas to hold a Program Meeting in the Common Council room on Wednesday, March 9, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
CARRIED.
(5)

В.

Canal Fest of the Tonawandas

February 9, 2022

North Tonawanda City Hall 216 Payne Avenue North Tonawanda, NY 14120

### **Honorable Common Council:**

Thank you for allowing Rick and I the time at the workshop meeting last night. As discussed in order to continue with planning for the Canal Fest 2022 we need a letter of support from the city allowing us to request to the State and the State DPW permission to close Main Street truck route in North Tonawanda for the week from Sunday July 17 to Sunday July 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022. This is a very important step for us to continue the planning of the event. Canal Fest is very important to non for profits in the twin cities and with us not being able to have the event over the 2 years has hurt these non for profits.

I would also like to schedule a meeting with the council to firm up city approval of the event so we can secure our sponsors. We have in the past always did this in February in years past and then worked out the contract. I understand there are some concerns.

Thank you again for your time and hope to be hearing from you soon.

Best regards,
Peter Chenier
President of the Canal Fest of the Tonawandas

MOVED by Alderman Lavey SECONDED by Alderman Pecoraro
That the Common Council hereby supports the Canal Fest of the Tonawandas in requesting
from New York State and the State DPW to close off Main Street truck route from Sunday
July 17, 2022 thru Sunday July 24, 2022 for Canal Fest week.

Ayes: Alderman Schmigel, DiBernardo, Lavey, Loncar, Pecoraro
Nays: None
(5)

CARRIED.

## LATE COMMUNICATION

MOVED by Alderman Pecoraro SECONDED by Alderman Lavey
Communication was tabled and not brought to the floor.

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

Nays: None
CARRIED.

(5)

## **AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION**

Rich Madej, 499 Witmer Road – Wants to know the progress on Witmer Road and the drainage issues. Alderman Schmigel and the Mayor are looking into it along with the City Engineer.

<u>Darlene Bolsover, 1337 Sweeney St.</u> – Has concerns about the State ditch on Sweeney St. with the new development.

Joe Midura, 115 10th Ave. - Asking the Mayor about his newsletter.

<u>BJ VanDewater</u>, 1098 Nash Rd – Said that he likes to follow the Facebook pages it keeps him informed.

<u>Peter Chenier, 1666 Eddy Dr.</u> – Thanked the Council and the Mayor, also the DPW and city workers, really appreciates them.

Mike Koenig, 196 S. Meadow Drive – Wanted to thank the DPW and Police and Mark Zellner – Great Job!!

## **ADJOURNMENT**

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

Time of Adjournment: 7:35 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna L. Braun City Clerk-Treasurer