

COMMON COUNCIL
of the
CITY OF SYRACUSE

(09/15)

REGULAR MEETING - SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

1:00 P.M.

1. *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag – (Led by the Hon. Helen Hudson, President of the Syracuse Common Council)*
2. *Invocation – (Led by Deacon Nick Alvara, St. Joseph’s Church, Syracuse, New York)*
3. *Roll Call – (Present – 6; Councilors Caldwell, Allen, Monto – Absent)*
4. *Minutes – September 5, 2023 – (Adopted 6 – 0)*
5. *Petitions – (Relative to the proposed Special Permit for a Car Wash at 1001 East Brighton Avenue)*
6. *Committee Reports – (Neighborhood Preservation; Public Works)*
7. *Communications – (From Sustainable Comfort, a letter accepting the permission, terms and conditions outlined in Special Ordinance #540-2023.)*

NEW BUSINESS

BY PRESIDENT HUDSON:

- WD** 8. *Resolution - Approving the Appointment of Various Persons as Commissioners of Deeds for 2023/2024.*

WD

BY COUNCILOR CALDWELL:

- 6-0** 9. *Application & Agreement – To and With Better Cities for Pets, for the Keep Us Together initiative in an amount not to exceed \$20,000. Keep Us Together, in partnership with Cuse Pit Crew, will provide access to care and resources for pet owners in need, and will work with dog control and other animal humane organizations to help provide food, medical bill payments, euthanasia, dog training, and transportation for vaccination and spay/neutering appointments. This initiative will target low-income pet owners in zip codes 13204 and 13205. There is no local match required.*

638

BY COUNCILOR GREENE:

- 6-0** 10. *Advertise Public Hearing – Relative to, authorizing the approval of a ten (10) year Cable TV Franchise Agreement with Spectrum Northeast, LLC (Spectrum), to commence on the date of approval by the New York State Public Service Commission. Under the terms of this agreement, Spectrum will continue to pay the 5% gross receipts franchise fee and will follow City permitting rules for operating within the right-of-way. (Public Hearing to be held on October 2, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.)* **639**
- H** 11. *Authorize – The approval of a ten (10) year Cable TV Franchise Agreement (renewal) with Spectrum Northeast, LLC (Spectrum), to commence on the date of approval by the New York State Public Service Commission. Spectrum is a direct subsidiary of Charter Communication, Inc. (“Charter”). Charter is the successor in interest to Time Warner Cable which was approved by the Mayor and the Common Council to operate the Cable TV Franchise through the adoption of Ord. #491-1997. Spectrum will continue to pay the maximum allowed by law (5% gross franchise fee) that’s currently being collected and will be required to follow City permitting rules for operating within the right-of-way. (Public Hearing to be held on October 2, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.)* **H**
- H** 12. *Agreement – With Spectrum Northeast, LLC (Spectrum) to accept a donation of studio equipment at an estimated value of \$4,500. Under the new City-Spectrum cable television franchise agreement, the requirement to maintain a public studio facility has been discontinued. The equipment will be free, but the City will incur the cost of removal, as detailed in the agreement. (Public Hearing to be held on October 2, 2023, at 1:00 P.M.)* **H**
- 6-0** 13. *Agreement – With Bonadio Group, for the audit of certain engineering consultant contracts, on behalf of the Department of Finance, to examine the indirect cost rate charged to the grants by the consultants and to review all invoices paid to the consultants for both direct and indirect costs, to expire on June 30, 2025. NYS DOT requires an indirect cost allocation (overhead) audit of certain projects that utilize engineering consultant contracts in excess of \$300,000 to provide assurance that the consultants have invoiced the City in accordance with the contracts. Total estimated cost is between \$7,000 - \$10,000 per grant, charged to Account #07.599807, with subsequent 80% reimbursement from the State and Federal Governments. The Mayor has waived the RFP process.* **640**
- 6-0** 14. *Agreement – With CivicPlus, on behalf of the Office of Analytics, Performance & Innovation, to cover the maintenance costs of the SeeClickFix software product, the platform used by the City for its SYRCityLine’s constituent service request portal, for the period of January 1, 2022 – December 31, 2023. Total cost not to exceed \$125,589 charged to Account #16800.540530.* **641**

- 6-0 15. Amend – Ord #318 (06/05/2023), “Authorize - Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the City and Harvard Kennedy School Government Performance Lab at Harvard University (d/b/a) “GPL”, on behalf of the Office of Accountability, Performance, & Innovation, to provide services to the City to develop and execute innovative initiatives relative to the City’s procurement processes, for the period of one (1) year commencing from date of execution. No cost to the City. The Mayor waived the RFP process”. Amend to extend the contract to expire on April 30, 2025. All other terms and conditions remain the same. **642**
- 6-0 16. Approve – Settlement – Aurelia Giardina v. City of Syracuse (Index No. 004454/2023) relative to personal injury from a slip and fall at the Clinton Square Ice Rink, in the month of December 2022, in the amount of \$90,000 from Judgement and Claims Account #599308.01.93000. **643**
- 6-0 17. Confirm – Reappointment by the Mayor of Leah Witmer as Director of the Bureau of Administrative Adjudication for a five (5) year term. **644**
- 6-0 18. Correct Tax Rolls – (455 North Franklin Street & Plum Street, 211 Lincoln Park Drive, 201 South Midler Avenue & Northcliff Road, and 105 Gebhardt Avenue, to change the assessment roll for tax years 2023/2024 and tax years 2017/2018, 2018/2019, 2019/2020, 2020/2021, and 2021/2022) as detailed in Appendix “A” and “B”. **645**
- 6-0 19. Resolution – To reappoint Susan Straub to the Board of Assessment Review for a five (5) year term to expire September 30, 2028, pursuant to Section 523 of the NYS Real Property Tax Law. **23-R**

BY COUNCILOR GETHERS:

- 6-0 20. Agreement – With Fisher Associates, JMT of New York, Inc., Creighton Manning Engineering LLP, and Barton & Loguidice D.P.C., for Traffic and Transportation Engineering Services, on behalf of the Department of Public Works, for a period of one (1) year from the date of execution, with two (2) one-year renewal options subject to the approval of the Mayor and the Common Council. The services will include assisting the City with design and implementation of transportation projects, safety reviews, and to ensure compliance with State and Federal guidelines. Total cost not to exceed \$275,000 charged to Account #541500.01.81800. **646**
- 6-0 21. Amend – Ord. #469 (07/03/2023) “Purchase w/c/b – From T.H. Kinsella, disposal services for hard fill, for the period of July 1, 2023 – June 30, 2024, on behalf of the Department of Public Works. Total cost not to exceed \$15,000 charged to Account 06.81100.540552.” Amend to increase the rate per ton from \$2.25 to \$3.50 and increase the cost not to exceed \$20,000. All other terms remain the same. **647**
- 6-0 22. Appropriate Funds – From the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (ARPA) in an amount not to exceed \$38,803, to be used to purchase ten (10) Cart Tippers needed for the Cart Roll-out Program, deposited in Account #08.599808.14905.800012922. **648**

BY COUNCILOR SCHULTZ:

- 6-0** 23. Agreement – With Strategic Development Specialists, LLC, for Infrastructure Improvements Funding Procurement in conjunction with the I-81 viaduct project, on behalf of the Department of Engineering, for a period of one year from the date of execution. Strategic Development Specialists, LLC will seek out and apply for all relevant grant funding to be used for the repair or replacement of aging infrastructure in the areas adjacent to the viaduct removal. Total cost not to exceed \$60,000 from ARPA Account #08.8.121505.800011922, an account established by the Commissioner of Finance for the I81 Master Planning Project. **649**
- 6-0** 24. Transfer Funds - From ARPA Account 08.8.12105.800043722 in the amount of \$60,000, as detailed in the legislation, to Account 08.8.121505.800011922, to support an agreement with Strategic Development Specialists, LLC, for Infrastructure Improvement Funding Procurement in conjunction with the II-81 viaduct project. **650**
- 6-0** 25. Authorize - The Mayor on behalf of the City of Syracuse to endorse an application by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for the Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods Program (RCN) for funding for transportation infrastructure projects, especially within the new 15th Ward neighborhood, administered by the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT) and execute a municipal endorsement or written instruments associated with the application as necessary. **651**
- 6-0** 26. Application & Agreement – With U.S. Department of Transportation, (USDOT) Reconnecting Communities and Neighborhoods (RCN) Program, as a co-applicant NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will serve as lead funding applicant. If awarded, NYSDOT and the City plan to pursue Neighborhood Access and Equity funding through the Regional Partnerships Challenge for an estimated award of \$150-\$180 million, to support the removal, redesign, and construction for Interstate 81, as well as the building of new streets, modernizing current street, and the construction of a Linear Park in the New 15th Ward neighborhood. No local match is required. **652**

BY COUNCILOR HOGAN:

- 27.** Special Permit – To approve a Car Wash on the property located at 1001 East Brighton Avenue. No one spoke in favor and six (6) people spoke in opposition to the proposal. The Planning Commission granted four (4) waivers in regard to the allowed number of signs, the allowable square footage of the sign area, driveway and curb cut width, and lighted signs close to signalized intersections regulations. Joe Hucko–Brighton Mews, LLC, owner/applicant.
- Sent back to Planning Commission
- Sent back to Planning Commission

6-0 28. *Accept – From Onondaga County, an investment to establish a South Salina Façade Improvement “Main Street” Program, to target building renovations to commercial and mixed-use structures, within specific boundaries of South Salina Street between Adams Street and Seneca Turnpike. Total amount not to exceed \$1,250,000. No City funds are required. Any matching funds will be provided by the private owner of the benefiting structure.* **653**

6-0 29. *Accept – From Onondaga County, an investment to establish a South Salina Façade Improvement “Main Street” Program, to target building renovations to commercial and mixed-use structures, within specific boundaries of West Onondaga Street and South Avenue, between South Salina Street and Hovey Street. Total amount not to exceed \$1,250,000. No City funds are required. Any matching funds will be provided by the private owner of the benefiting structure.* **654**

BY COUNCILOR MAJOK:

6-0 30. *Amend – Ord. #405 (06/21/2022) “Contract – With Solon Quinn Studios, for professional services to include marketing, photography, videography, graphic design, and microsite development services, on behalf of the Police Department, to expand on the recruitment and public relations efforts. The term will be from June 1, 2022-May 31, 2023, with two (2) one-year renewal options with the approval of the Mayor and the Common Council. Total cost not to exceed \$205,000, charged to Account #541500.01.31230.” Amend to authorize the first of two (2) one-year renewal options, from June 1, 2023 – May 31, 2024. Total cost not to exceed \$205,000 from Account #541500.01.31230. All other terms remain the same.* **655**

(SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA – SEPTEMBER 18, 2023)
WAIVER OF THE RULES REQUIRED TO INTRODUCE:

BY COUNCILOR HOGAN:

6-0 31. *Resolution - Affirming the City of Syracuse and the Syracuse Housing Authority’s commitment to advance the community vision of the East Adams Street Neighborhood Transformation Plan for the benefit of current and future residents, businesses, and community anchors within the new 15th Ward.* **24-R**

Syracuse Common Council
Adjourned at 1:10 PM