

Council Chambers  
Tonawanda, New York  
January 20, 2015

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council

Present: Council President Zeisz  
Present Councilmembers: Gilbert, Hall, Koch  
Excused: Smilinich

Pledge of Allegiance and Silent Prayer led by Council President Zeisz

**Mayor's State of the City Address**

**COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR**

A letter from Mayor Davis and Councilmember Koch, to the Buffalo District Corps of Engineers, regarding the Town of Tonawanda Landfill.

Ordered filed

**COMMUNICATION FROM CITY OFFICIALS AND CORRESPONDENCE**

The following monthly reports were received by the City Clerk:

November minutes of the Planning & Zoning Board  
December Report of the Building Inspector  
December Activity Report of the Fire Department  
December minutes of the Plumbing Board  
January monthly report of the City Clerk

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Ordered filed

A letter from Kevin A. Rank, Building Inspector, dated January 14, 2015, announcing his retirement from the City of Tonawanda, effective January 31, 2015.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole

Ordered filed

*The Tonawanda Common Council, in an effort to conduct business in a timely fashion and maintain an open line of communication with the public, welcomes comments on resolutions.*

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## COMMENTS BY THE PUBLIC ON RESOLUTIONS

Roger Puchalski, 478 Adam Street ó On item #6, this increase is due to the required state mandate to update the sewers. But there's no sunset on that, so once the project is done, the rates gonna stay up but it shouldn't because taxpayers wouldn't be (inaudible) the project is already completed. So my question is, shouldn't there be a clause in here that says after that project is completed the rates will be diverted down to what they were, or has the Council considered bonding this project and thereby using, because I assume the interest rates are low, that taxpayers wouldn't be stuck with the rate that goes up and then doesn't come back down.

City Treasurer Joe Hogenkamp ó We are bonding that, that money's the sewer fund is a \$2 million dollar budget so our debt services are increasing, when we're paying back million dollar bonds, our debt service is increasing by \$100,000.00 to \$200,000.00 every year, so really, \$200,000.00 on a \$2 million dollar budget, old debts come off as new debts come on but we're gonna be adding a lot more new debts than replacing old debts. More money was committed to the general fund to reimburse the general fund for services that benefit the sewer fund but we are definitely, in fact we're meeting tomorrow to talk about financing these sewer projects through something called State EFC which is Environmental Facilities which is subsidized interest rates. On a \$2 million dollar budget, the impact of the debt service, I mean you can say it's gonna sunset 30 years from now if you want to but these debts are gonna be getting paid for 30 years.

Roger Puchalski ó So you are bonding it.

City Treasurer Hogenkamp ó Absolutely. The whole thing. The bonds are in the millions of dollars. You can say it's gonna sunset but none of us are gonna be here when you hit the sunset.

## MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

8. By the Council seconded by the Council  
Resolved, that the Common Council minutes from January 6, 2015, be accepted as filed.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz  
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

9. By Councilmember Gilbert seconded by Councilmember Koch  
Resolved, that the bills be allowed as audited and the City Clerk be directed to draw warrants on the Treasurer for the various amounts.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz  
Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

10. By Councilmember Koch seconded by Councilmember Gilbert  
Whereas, a \$25.00 Special Events application fee and application were received by the City Clerk for Ride for Roswell and  
Whereas, the application was reviewed and commented on by all appropriate department heads to insure the safety and well being of our residents, and  
Whereas, all details for the above named event must be coordinated with Police Captain Fred Foels and the event chairperson, now, therefore be it  
Resolved, that permission be granted to Roswell Park Alliance Foundation to hold Ride for Roswell on Saturday, June 27, 2015, from 6:30 A.M. ó 2:30 P.M. on various streets in the City of Tonawanda and be it further  
Resolved, that any overtime that is incurred during this event will be paid for by the Roswell Park Alliance Foundation and be it further

Resolved, that a Certificate of Insurance naming the City of Tonawanda as additional insured be filed with the City Clerk no later than June 1, 2015.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

11. By Councilmember Hall seconded by Councilmember Gilbert  
Resolved, that the following certificates of insurance and bonds for plumbers be filed and a license be issued for said plumbers to do business in the City of Tonawanda: Gary P. Blaser (Blaser Plumbing); Michael C. Diebold (E& S Contracting Services of WNY, Inc.); Christopher T. Haefner (Haefner Plumbing); Richard Lyons (Hastings & Son, Inc.); Jeffre H. Miller (T-Mark Plumbing, Inc.); Stephen Reddy (Niagara Plumbing, Inc.); John Wachala (Sunset Plumbing & Heating).

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

12. By Councilmember Gilbert seconded by Councilmember Hall  
Resolved, that at the recommendation of the City Engineer, Jason J. LaMonaco, P.E., that award of Environmental Engineering services to assist with the post closure monitoring and reporting of the Wales Avenue Landfill for 2015, be made to GHD Consulting Services, Inc., at a cost not to exceed \$18,500.00.

Councilmember Gilbert ó Could we have Mr. LaMonaco kind of just give a brief synopsis of where the project is so it's on the record for the people in the Gastown area?

City Engineer Jason LaMonaco ó It's basically an ongoing process. The landfill was closed and what the city has to do now is, we have to go through at each monitoring location throughout the site, we grab samples, send it to the lab, we get our lab results back and put together a reports. It gets submitted to the DEC for review on an annual basis, so actually what you're doing is, it's a measurement to make sure that the integrity of the cap remains and that there's not a leak or something that's leaching out from that site, so it's a recurring maintenance.

Councilmember Gilbert - So we're in good shape there right now.

City Engineer LaMonaco ó Yes. We haven't had any issues, the cap's been holding up for, I'd like to say, when did we close that Carl, about 12 years ago?

Council President Zeisz ó I think even longer than that.

City Engineer laMonaco - We haven't had anything show up which is good. We keep getting negatives which in this case is a positive.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

13. By Council President Zeisz seconded by Councilmember Hall  
Resolved, that effective January 1, 2015, the Sewer User Rate is increased from \$4.73 to \$5.44 per 1000 gallons and be it further  
Resolved, that effective January 1, 2015, the minimum annual charge for sewer consumption is 40,000 gallons or \$217.60.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

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#### **COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC AFTER RESOLUTIONS**

There were no comments from the public after the resolutions.

#### **COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCILMEMBERS AFTER RESOLUTIONS**

Councilmember Gilbert ó I got the privilege to go watch the Tonawanda Cheerleaders at their ECIC Tournament and the girls all did really well and it was nice to see a lot of the Tonawanda people there supporting, more than a lot of the other schools. I saw the letter that Kevin Rank submitted for his retirement, I wish him the best. The sign of a good Building Inspector is when all the builders in the area hate you and I used to get calls all the time about how they hate Kevin Rank and my answer was that he's doing his job and you benefit because of it, so I hope our next building inspector is as thorough as Kevin is and I wish him the best. Thank you to the Mayor for his State of the City Address, it was great, I really appreciate it. And the sewer bills, that is an ongoing problem that I don't like, I'm sure the Council doesn't like but unfortunately, until we come up with a better system, and Councilwoman Koch's been wracking her brain, I've been wracking my brain, to try and figure out ways to do it the most fair, and I haven't been able to come up with it and until we do, this is probably the fairest way we can go about it and I hate it but it's a necessary evil.

Councilmember Hall ó Congratulations to Kevin on his future retirement in a couple of weeks and also good luck to Officer Toth who retired this month.

Councilmember Koch ó Thank you to the Mayor for delivering the State of the City Address and congratulations and thank you to Kevin and Tim Toth. I wish you both well in your next chapter of your life. I'd like to thank the Historical Society for printing a copy of the first ever Tonawanda News. On April 2, 1880, that's when the Tonawanda News published its first paper and it became a source of information for so many citizens in the Tonawandas. For the past 134 years, many of us have utilized the Tonawanda News to publish information of a loved ones marriage, birth of a child or the sad news that a loved one has passed. The news (inaudible) our athletes and teams, highlighted our honor roll students and kept the community informed on important news stories that affected our area and region. The news reported on Council resolutions and how they impact you, (inaudible) the city has received and economic development stories. The Tonawanda News was more than newspaper that was delivered to our doorsteps or to our local convenient stores, this was a way to keep the community connected and help promote our Twin Cities. Sadly, the Tonawanda News will cease publication as of January 31<sup>st</sup> and I would like to personally thank the Tonawanda News for 134 years of

memories for our community, citizens, and all those that they serve. It will be deeply missed. To the writers who reported, thank you doesn't seem like enough, and to all those who played a role in the Tonawanda News as being a part of our community, thank you.

Mayor Davis ó I've said a lot, so I'm trying to keep my comments short. I just want to echo the sentiments to Officer Tim Toth and our Building Inspector, Kevin Rank on their retirement. I associate Kevin with kind of like the New York Yankees. You either love them or you hate them. I'd also like to add to that list Assistant Chief Mark Schulte and Dick Goodman at the sewer department. All four of them gave many years of dedicated service to the city and I wish them good luck and God speed in their future endeavors. The fire today on Hinds Street, and I just want to thank the quick action of our police department, more importantly the quick action of our fire department for making thingsí not letting things get out of control. Things could have been a lot worse. I'd like also to thank our North Tonawanda fire department and Sheridan Park for also assisting at the scene, and Grand Island and Ellicott Creek for back filling and backing up our fire department while we fought the fire. Jenn kind of put it perfectly about the Tonawanda News and I'm not really gonna add anything else to it other than I hope the other news publications pick up the slack in their absence.

Council President Zeisz ó All I have is just to wish everyone in their retirement the best of luck and thank all of you for coming tonight, have a great night, drive home safely, and we'll see you again. God Bless you.

**ADJOURNMENT**

14. By Councilmember Hall seconded by Councilmember Koch  
Resolved, that this Common Council adjourn until February 3, 2015.

Ayes: Gilbert, Hall, Koch, Zeisz

Nays: None

Resolution declared adopted

\_\_\_\_\_  
Deputy City Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date Filed

