

**COMMON COUNCIL**  
**Regular Session**  
**March 1, 2016**

**Present:** Alderman Gressler, Alderman Shaffer, Alderwoman Jodway, Alderman Welyczko, Alderman Ruffing, Alderman Carter, Alderman Atutis, City Treasurer David Petkovsek, City Attorney Jennifer Chrisman, Mayor Mark Blask, City Clerk Kira Andrilla.

**Absent:** Alderman DeLuca

**Comments from the floor:**

Mr. Bill Bennett asked about the comment period at the end of the meeting for comments from the floor. Mayor Blask thought that was a great idea. Mayor explained why it's a good idea to have at the beginning of the meeting. Moving forward there will be one at the beginning of the meeting and one at the end.

Mr. Mike Ryan asked how the 2016 budget process was coming. Mayor Blask announced that the tentative budget will be in the Clerk's office on March 20<sup>th</sup>, April 5<sup>th</sup> will be a Public Hearing on the tentative budget and a special meeting will be on the 11<sup>th</sup> to pass the budget. Mayor explained that he was not interested in the override State tax cap resolution.

**Minutes:**

The minutes of the February 2, 2016 Regular Session were approved as printed and placed on file in the City Clerk's office on motion of Alderman Carter and seconded by Alderman Shaffer.

All in favor: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis

Absent: DeLuca

**Bills:**

Bills for the period of February 2, 2016 through March 1, 2016 in the amount of **\$108,675.58. Current Check numbers 19596-19613, prepaid \$21,134.62 Check numbers 19464, 19465, 19467, 19499, 19500, 19501, 19506, 19507, 19589, 19590, 19591, 19592, 19593** were approved as audited on motion of Alderman Carter and seconded by Alderman Shaffer.

Roll Call: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis

Absent: DeLuca

## **Monthly Report:**

The report of the City Clerk and Court Clerk for the month of February, 2016 was accepted and placed on file on motion by Alderwoman Jodway and seconded by Alderman Shaffer.

All in favor: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis  
Absent: DeLuca

## **Resolution #22**

### **LOCAL LAW # 1 OF 2016**

**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE CITY CHARTER AND LOCAL LAW #7 OF 2014 TO SEPARATE THE CANAL HARBOR AND TOURISM COMMISSION INTO TWO SEPARATE BOARDS  
BE IT ENACTED BY THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LITTLE FALLS AS FOLLOWS:**

#### **Section 1: Factual Statements**

The City of Little Falls by Local Law #3 of 2008 amended the City Charter, adding subsection p to section 204 of Article 2 of the City Charter setting forth the establishment and power of appointment of the Canal Harbor Commission and adding section 516 to Article 5 of the City Charter setting forth the Powers and Duties of the Canal Harbor Commission.

The City of Little Falls by Local Law # 7 of 2014 again amended the City Charter by combining Canal Harbor Commission established by Local Law # 3 of 2008 and the Tourism Committee

After having been a combined board for the year 2015 it has been determined that the duties and responsibilities of Canal Harbor and Tourism Commission would better be served by splitting the Commission into the Canal Harbor Commission and the Tourism Board.

As such, the Article 2, Section 204 (p) and Article 5, Section 516 of the City of Little Falls Charter shall be amended and subsection (q) shall be added to Article 2, Section 204 setting forth the establishment and power of appointment of the Tourism Board and Section 517 shall be added to Article 5 of the City of Little Falls Charter setting forth the Powers and Duties of the Tourism Board.

A public hearing was held on March 1, 2016 at 6:15p.m. having been duly noticed in the Little Falls Evening Times.

**Section 2: Local Law #7 of 2014 and Article 2, Sections 204 (p) and (q) and Article 5, Sections 516 of the City of Little Falls Charter shall be amended as follows:**

1. City Charter Article 2, Section 204 (p) shall be amended and read as follows:

There shall be five members of the CANAL HARBOR COMMISSION. Four members, whose term of office shall be four years, shall be appointed by the Mayor with the consent of the Common Council. One member may be a business professional, but is not required to be a resident of the City of Little Falls. The remaining members shall be residents of the City of Little Falls. The fifth member shall be a member of the Common Council to be appointed by the Mayor in the month of January following an election year of the Common Council and shall serve for a two year term.

2. That Article 5 of the City Charter shall be amended as follows: Section 516. Organization, Powers and Duties of the Canal Harbor Commission. **The Canal Harbor Commission shall elect one of its members to be Chairperson of said Commission who shall be the presiding officer of the Commission. Three members shall constitute a quorum, but no action of the Commission shall be taken except by the concurring votes of at least three members of the Commission.**

The Canal Harbor Commission shall manage, operate, maintain and govern the Canal Harbor Terminal Building. The Commission shall have full authority to engage, hire, oversee, discharge and fix the compensation of a vendor or vendors for and lease concessions and collect payments therefore which shall be deposited with the Treasurer of the City of Little Falls who shall maintain a separate ~~account~~ **accounting** of said revenues. Purchases made by the Commission and all expenses incidental to the management and maintenance of the Canal Harbor Terminal Building shall be made only upon submission of Proper vouchers made by the Chairperson of said Commission and audited by said Commission, and such expenditures and payments shall be chargeable to and payable from the ~~account~~ **budget** maintained by the City Treasurer for said purposes.

3. That Article 2, Section 204 shall be amended to add subsection (q) which shall read as follows:

**Seven members of the TOURISM BOARD whose term of office shall be four years and who shall be appointed by the**

**Mayor with the consent of the Common Council. Two members may be a business professional, but is not required to be a resident of the City of Little Falls. The remaining members shall be residents of the City of Little Falls.**

4. That Article 5, shall be amended to include Section 517 which shall read as follows: Section 517. Organization, Powers and Duties of the Canal Harbor Commission. **The Tourism Board shall elect one of its members to be Chairperson of said Board who shall be the presiding officer of the Board. Four members shall constitute a quorum, but no action of the Board shall be taken except by the concurring votes of at least four members of the Board.**

The Tourism Board shall have the authority to develop tourism, to market and promote the City as a whole and shall concentrate on attracting more people to the City of Little Falls. Any expenditures of the Tourism Board shall be for such stated purposes and shall be chargeable to and payable from the **budget** maintained by the City Treasurer for said purposes.

### **Section 3. Separability**

If any part or provision of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person or circumstance be adjudged invalid by any court of competent jurisdiction, such judgment shall be confined in its operation to the part or provision or application directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been rendered and shall not affect or impair the validity of the remainder of this Local Law or the application thereof to other persons or circumstances, and the Common Council of the City of Little Falls hereby declares that it would have passed this Local Law or the remainder thereof had such invalid application or invalid provision been apparent.

### **Section 4. Repeal.**

All ordinances, local laws and parts thereof inconsistent with this Local Law are hereby repealed.

### **Section 5. Effective Date**

This local law shall take effect thirty days after it has been filed as provided in Section 27 of the Municipal Home Rule Law.

Motion to approve Local Law #1 of 2016 was made by Alderwoman Jodway and seconded by Alderman Gressler.

Roll Call: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis

Absent: DeLuca

**Resolution #27**

**March 1, 2016**

**RESOLUTION No. 27 OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE  
CITY OF LITTLE FALLS**

WHEREAS, the budget is presented to the City of Little Falls in March of each year;  
and

WHEREAS, the public hearing on the Tentative Budget is required to be held  
pursuant to the City of Little Falls Charter, Article 7, Section 702;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Little  
Falls, that a Public Hearing shall be held on April 5, 2016 at 6 p.m. at City Hall, Little  
Falls, NY to hear all interested parties on the Tentative Budget. The City Clerk shall  
duly advertise Notice of the Public Hearing in the Evening Times, Little Falls, NY the  
official newspaper of the City on at least five (5) days before said hearing.

This resolution shall take effect upon passing hereof by the Common Council.

Dated: March 1, 2016

Motioned by Alderman Ruffing

Seconded by Alderman Shaffer

Roll Call: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis

Absent: DeLuca

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Kira M. Andrilla

City Clerk of the City of Little Falls

**Resolution # 28**

**March 1, 2016**

**RESOLUTION No. 28 OF THE COMMON COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF LITTLE FALLS**

WHEREAS, the New York State Land Bank Act, Article 16 of the New York Not For Profit Corporation Law, permits local government entities to enter into an intergovernmental agreement to establish a land bank; and

WHEREAS, there is a continuing need to strengthen and revitalize the economy of the State of New York and the County of Herkimer; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the State of New York, the County of Herkimer, and the City of Little Falls to confront the problems caused by vacant, abandoned, and tax delinquent properties through the creation of land banks in a coordinated manner to foster the development of that property by returning property to productive use in order to strengthen the economy, improve the quality of life, and improve the financial condition of the municipalities, now; and

WHEREAS, Herkimer County as the foreclosing governmental entity for the City of Little Falls has endorsed and is supporting the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank; and

WHEREAS, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District and its standing committee Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful has submitted its application for the establishment of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank which is under current review by the State of New York;

NOW THEREFORE, upon the recommendation of the City of Little Falls Property Maintenance and Codes Board, the City of Little Falls Common Council endorses and supports the establishment of the Greater Mohawk Valley Land Bank; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this Resolution be forwarded to interested parties of the six county region including Senator James J. Seward, Senator Hugh T. Farley, Assemblyman Marc W. Butler, Assemblywoman Claudia Tenney, and Assemblyman Anthony J. Brindisi, the governing bodies of Herkimer, Fulton, Oneida Otsego and Schoharie Counties, the Mohawk Valley Economic Development District and Keep Mohawk Valley Beautiful.

This resolution shall take effect upon passing hereof by the Common Council.

Dated: March 1, 2016

Motion by Alderwoman Jodway

Seconded by Alderman Welyczko

Roll Call: Gressler, Shaffer, Jodway, Welyczko, Ruffing, Carter, Atutis

Absent: DeLuca

Mr. Albrecht was in attendance to answer any questions and explained to the Council what the land bank entailed. There were others in attendance such as Mr. Mike Lonis, Mrs. Jayne Ritz and Mr. Bill Bennett that also expressed their feelings on the land bank.

**New Business:**

Alderman Carter informed the Council that near Lock 17 there are two old stone carts. He isn't sure what the Canal Corp will do with them.

Alderwoman Jodway asked about the hole going into Subway. It was explained that, that section is not City property. That would be Shoppers Square responsibility. Mayor mentioned speaking to John Sullivan about it.

**Mayor Comments:**

Mayor announced that Mark Feane is the new Urban Renewal Director. He will be starting on January 29<sup>th</sup> and working 19 hours a week.

The Planning Board will be meeting monthly to work on the master plan. A copy of the plan has been giving to the board to look at. It's been 42 years since the master plan was updated. Mayor Blask feels that there is a lot of energy on the board to get this done. There will be a public hearing for input.

**Adjournment:**

Meeting was adjourned at 7:57p.m. With the motion made by Alderman Carter and seconded by Alderman Gressler with all in favor.

Next meeting will be April 5, 2016. Public Hearing 6:00 pm, Bills will be at 6:30 pm with a regular session of the Common Council at 7:00 pm. **Any questions please contact City Clerk.** Thank you