

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
JANUARY 30, 2025  
2:00 PM

PRESENT: Council Members: John Hill, Kylee Johnson,  
Barry Smith, Michael Reed, Paul Myers  
City Clerk: Tracy Chamberlain  
City Comptroller: Robert Earley  
Police Chief: Jamie Deck  
Dog Control Officer: Timothy Haynoski  
Empire Animal Rescue Society: Courtney Valent, Tawnee Bocharski  
Youth Bureau Director: Markie Phillips  
Youth Board Member: Chuck Talbot  
Grant Administrator: Jay Bartoszek  
Rail Museum Director: Jaré Cardinal  
City Historian: James Griffith  
Library Director: Jennifer Stickles  
Library Board Member: Susan Zaprowski  
ABSENT: Mayor Sandra Magiera

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 PM. The purpose of the meeting was to continue the review of proposed 2025-2026 City Budget.

Police Chief Jamie Deck reviewed the 2025-2026 Police Department and Juvenile Officer proposed budgets. He has budgeted personnel to include four new officers. He proposed to purchase one new vehicle, 8 new body worn camera, 10 new pistols, a gun cleaning machine, a drug detector, 2 vehicle radar guns and half of the cost of a new weather resistant drone, being split with the Fire Department.

Dog Control Officer Tim Haynoski reviewed the amounts in the Control of Animals proposed budget. The personnel line now includes the three Dog Caretakers. There was discussion regarding NYS grant funds for the building of a kennel and the Veterinarian Expense line to assist Empire Animal Rescue Society (EARS) with spay and neutering and vaccines. Council Member Smith asked for EARS financial audit.

Youth Bureau Director Markie Phillips reviewed the Youth Program, Playgrounds and Youth Grant proposed budgets. She proposed to reduce the number of playgrounds that are monitored and end the program a week earlier due to staffing issues the last week in August. The playground and Arts-A-Live staff supervisors wages will increase with the help of the Ralph Wilson Foundation Grant. There was discussion regarding the ice pond staffing through the Youth Bureau. She is looking into grants to possibly install a splash pad. It was noted that the Youth Center building needs the roof repaired or replaced. She is still looking to upgrade the Summit Street and Academy Street basketball courts.

Grant Administrator Bartoszek reviewed the Grant Writer Services budget. He suggests looking into grant writing software.

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
JANUARY 30, 2025  
PAGE TWO

Rail Museum Director Jaré Cardinal reviewed the progress at the Museum. They have done fund raisers and some roof repair. They have upgraded electric in the freight house, which is used for parties, train show, puppet shows and the hope to have a farmer's market. They received a Fentier Village car to be restored. She noted the excursion train to transport passengers to the Buffalo area is still be worked on.

At this time Council Member Myers arrived to the meeting.

City Historian Griffith discussed the City Historian budget. He thanked the Council for hiring Fred Saradin, who has connections they can utilize. He noted a Fancher Furniture dinning room set was donated, which they hope to house of the first floor of the museum. They are doing video interviews with local lifetime residents for City history. There is a problem with odor from a neighboring building resident. It was suggested to look into an air purifier.

Library Director Stickle reviewed the proposed 2025-2026 Library budget. The Library proposed a wage increases of 2%, with the exception of the two newest employees. The total projected budget expenses are \$243,127.00 with \$13,400.00 in revenue, for a total requested of \$229,727.00. Council Member Smith asked that minutes be provided to the Council Members. Clerk Chamberlain noted she can distribute them.

The budget review will continue on Monday, February 3, 2025.

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 PM.

  
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Tracy Chamberlain, City Clerk

DATED: February 21, 2025