

# CITY OF OSWEGO



## AGENDA

Planning and Development Committee  
Common Council Chambers – City Hall  
February 2, 2026  
6:30 PM

Roll Call      **Laurel Lautensack , Chairman**  
Shane Thompson  
John FitzGibbons

Approve minutes of the January 20, 2026 Committee meeting.

### **I. Old Business**

### **II. New Business**

#### **Authorization**

1. The Zoning and Planning Office requests that a public hearing be scheduled for the property known as 30 Byer Road, for the proposed zone change from TN2, Traditional Neighborhood 2 to PD, Planned Development pursuant to Section 280-96 of the Zoning Ordinance.
2. City Assessor, Kevin Hill, requests discussion regarding the expansion of the Senior Citizen Exemption for Property Tax Calculations.

**PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
February 2, 2026**

Chairman Lautensack called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

***MEMBERS PRESENT:*** Councilor Lautensack, Councilor Thompson, and Councilor FitzGibbons.

***OTHERS PRESENT:*** Councilor Myer; Councilor Kennedy; Councilor Ashline; Councilor Plunkett; City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli; Planning and Zoning Advisor, Jeff McGann; Director of Economic Development, Amy Murphy; City Assessor, Kevin Hill; Director of Economic Development, Amy Murphy; Mayor Robert Corradino.

***MEDIA PRESENT:*** No media present.

***OLD BUSINESS:*** There was no old business.

A motion to approve the minutes of the January 20, 2026, meeting was made by Councilor Thompson and seconded by Councilor FitzGibbons. Minutes were approved unanimously.

***NEW BUSINESS:***

**1. The Zoning and Planning Office requests that a public hearing be scheduled for the property known as 30 Byer Road, for the proposed zone change from TN2, Traditional Neighborhood 2 to PD, Planned Development pursuant to Section 280-96 of the Zoning Ordinance.**

Planning and Zoning Advisor, Jeff McGann, explained that the next step in the process is to notify the residents near the area of this possible zoning change being requested through a public hearing.

***COMMITTEE DECISION:*** Councilor FitzGibbons made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to the Full Council the request from Planning and Zoning Advisor, Jeff McGann. Councilor Thompson seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.

***THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PART OF THE MEETING WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE FULL COUNCIL.***

**2. City Assessor, Kevin Hill, requests discussion regarding the expansion of the Senior Citizen Exemption for Property Tax Calculations.**

City Assessor, Kevin Hill, provided an overview of the Senior Citizen Property Tax Exemption authorized under Section 467 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law, explaining that the exemption is optional for municipalities and school districts and is currently offered by the City of Oswego, Oswego County, and the Oswego City School

District. He explained that the exemption applies to qualified senior citizens aged 65 and older with annual incomes below \$37,400 and currently provides a maximum exemption of 50 percent of taxable assessed value for incomes of \$29,000 or less, decreasing in five percent increments as income increases. Kevin noted that in December, Governor Hochul signed legislation allowing municipalities to adopt an expanded exemption with a maximum of 65 percent by creating additional income categories, including a 65 percent exemption for incomes of \$26,000 or less and new 60, 55, and 50 percent exemption levels for incomes between \$26,000 and \$29,000, while existing income brackets above \$29,000 would remain unchanged. He stated that the City currently has 184 senior households receiving the exemption, exempting \$8,183,588 in taxable assessed value and providing approximately \$85,000 in annual city tax savings, averaging \$460 per household, with the exemption accounting for six-tenths of one percent of the total city tax levy. Kevin explained that 106 households would be eligible for additional savings under the new provision, averaging approximately \$160 per year, including 23 households with military veterans, and that the estimated impact of adopting the expanded exemption would be approximately 1.3 cents per \$1,000 of assessed value, or \$3.25 annually on a \$250,000 home. He described the proposal as a means of providing meaningful relief to vulnerable residents with minimal impact on other taxpayers and also explained that the local law includes a housekeeping update to the water and sewer discount tied to the senior exemption, noting that income limits were increased in 2022 but corresponding code language was inadvertently omitted, that the City has been administering the updated income levels since that time, and that the correction would have no fiscal impact. Councilor FitzGibbons raised questions regarding the use of the term “water rents” and discussed the importance of consistent terminology in the City Code. Kevin agreed to review the language for consistency while clarifying that the provision refers to quarterly water and sewer user charges and does not alter existing discounts. Councilor Myer asked how eligible seniors would be notified. Kevin responded that the process would be automatic based on annual income recertification, with updated savings reflected on tax bills and the potential for additional outreach. Councilor Thompson expressed strong support for the proposal, citing the fixed incomes of senior residents, the impact of recent reassessments, and the minimal cost to other taxpayers. Kevin explained that despite the item being listed as a discussion item, a motion would be required to authorize a public hearing on Proposed Local Law No. 1 of 2026, with the public hearing scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup> and adoption anticipated at the February 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting to allow implementation for the 2026 assessment roll and 2027 city taxes. Councilor FitzGibbons stated his support for the proposal and asked whether editorial changes to the term “water rents” could be made concurrently, noting that the term is not commonly used by the public. City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli, responded that “water rents” appears throughout the City Code and may be specific to the City of Oswego, that he would confirm its use in the Charter and Code, and that any revisions would need to be consistent throughout, while clarifying that the provision refers to quarterly water and sewer charges classified by the State as a special assessment.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Thompson made a motion to forward a favorable recommendation to the Full Council the request from City Assessor, Kevin Hill. Councilor FitzGibbons seconded the motion, it was approved unanimously.

***THE RESOLUTION THAT WAS PART OF THE MEETING WILL BE FORWARDED TO THE FULL COUNCIL.***

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:41 p.m. by Councilor FitzGibbons. A second was made by Councilor Thompson, it was approved unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Egor Golubchikov