

**PHYSICAL SERVICES
COMMITTEE MEETING
May 18, 2026**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Myer, Councilor Plunkett, Councilor Ashline, and Councilor Kennedy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilor FitzGibbons; Councilor Lautensack; Councilor Thompson; Mayor, Robert Corradino; City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli; Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation; Fire Chief, Paul Conzone; Director of Code Enforcement, Michael Cleary II; Abby Jenkins, Deputy Director of Economic Development; Director of Information Technology, Steve Coffey.

MEDIA PRESENT: No media present.

OLD BUSINESS: There was no old business.

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 4, 2026, Committee Meeting was made by Councilor Ashline and seconded by Councilor Plunkett. Minutes were approved unanimously.

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. The Zoning and Planning Office has received a request for Use of Public Space from Mr. Barry Dawson, owner of a single-family dwelling located at 230 West Eighth Street, in order to replace an existing concrete step.**

Councilor Myer stated that he met with Zoning and Planning Administrator, Jeff McGann regarding the request and explained that the property owner is constructing an addition to the rear of the home. Due to the right of way extending close to the eaves of the house, the owner is requesting to extend the porch and step area to approximately four by six feet and add a roof over the entrance to improve accessibility. Councilor Myer noted that the proposed improvements would enhance the appearance of the property and positively impact the neighborhood.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the request from the Zoning and Planning Office. Councilor Plunkett seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

- 2. The Zoning and Planning Office has received a request for Use of Public Space from Oswego Hospital, regarding the property located at 110 West Sixth Street, in order to install bike racks.**

Director of Code Enforcement, Michael Cleary II, explained that the hospital is proposing to install a 14-by-14-foot concrete pad between the building and the sidewalk to accommodate pedestal-style bike racks designed for larger electric bicycles, as traditional bike racks have proven unsuitable for e-bikes due to their size and wider tires. Councilor Myer stated that he reviewed the proposed location with Jeff McGann and noted that the placement and design appeared appropriate and would better accommodate the larger bicycles used by hospital staff and visitors.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from the Zoning and Planning Office. Councilor Kennedy seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

- 3. The Office of Economic Development has received a request from Gina Holsopple for Use of Public Space to host the Gina Marie Music Studio Festival on July 19, 2026, and August 2, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.**

Councilor Myer noted that the applicant was not present to provide additional details regarding the request. Councilor Ashline inquired about the location of the requested public space, stating that it was not included in the meeting packet. Councilor Myer indicated that he did not have further information available at that time. Councilor FitzGibbons stated that the application identified the requested location as the pocket park located between the buildings on Water Street.

(Further Discussion was made regarding this item after Agenda Item #5 was resolved)

Councilor Myer invited Gina Holsopple to provide an overview of the proposed event. Gina Holsopple explained that the Gina Marie Music Studio Festival is intended to highlight student bands alongside Central New York performers and would be held as a Sunday afternoon event in the pocket park. She stated that the festival would run from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., with setup beginning around 11:00 a.m. and cleanup completed by approximately 6:00 p.m. Gina noted that the event would include small vendors positioned along the perimeter while keeping central areas open for attendees, with participants bringing lawn chairs and performances taking place under a temporary stage covering. She added that the festival is designed to be a family-friendly community event where passersby can stop and listen.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

- 4. The Office of Economic Development has received a request for Use of Public Space from Diane Catalone to host a Wedding Ceremony at Breitbeck Park on Saturday, August 8, 2026, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

Councilor Myer stated that he spoke with Ms. Catalone prior to the meeting, as she was unable to attend, and shared that the location and date held personal significance for the couple, as they met at Breitbeck Park and selected the date because of its connection to the number eight.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Kennedy seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

- 5. The City Clerk's Office has received a request from Elizabeth Allen, on behalf of Rachael's Warrior Run, in order to place thirty (30) signs along popular roadways in order to promote an upcoming 5K.**

Councilor Myer stated that he had spoken with Craig Rebeor, who advised that similar requests had been approved in the past and that he did not anticipate any issues. Councilor Thompson expressed concern regarding the proposed duration of approximately two and a half months and the number of signs requested, noting that the locations of the signs were not entirely clear and suggesting that the number of signs be reduced to approximately 20 and the display period shortened. Elizabeth Allen responded that the signs would primarily be placed along Utica Street near the high school, Route 104 near the college, East Bridge Street, shopping plaza areas, and on some private residential properties with permission from property owners. Councilor Thompson asked whether the timeframe could be reduced, and Elizabeth Allen agreed to shorten the display period to begin around June 22, 2026, while emphasizing that the signage was important for promoting participation in the event. Councilor Lautensack suggested that the signs be removed promptly following the close of registration or immediately after the race, and Elizabeth Allen confirmed that the signs had been removed promptly following prior events and would again be removed no later than August 23, 2026. Councilor Thompson also asked whether the signs would be properly maintained throughout the display period, and Elizabeth Allen confirmed that any damaged or fallen signs would be maintained or replaced as needed. Councilor Myer then proposed amending the resolution to reduce the number of signs from 30 to 20 and to revise the approved display period from June 22, 2026, through August 23, 2026. City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli raised a point of order and recommended that, now that the motion to amend had been adopted, the committee should proceed with a motion and vote on the amended resolution.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Plunkett made a motion to amend the request from Elizabeth Allen. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion to amend, it passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request as amended from Elizabeth Allen. Councilor Plunkett seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

THE RESOLUTION WILL BE AMENDED AND FORWARDED TO THE FULL COUNCIL.

6. The City Clerk's Office has received a request from the Oswego Rotary Club for Use of Public Space in order to install a Peace Pole at Veteran's Park.

Terry Gorman, on behalf of the Oswego Rotary Club, explained that the Peace Pole Project is a global initiative promoting peace and unity across cultures, founded in Japan in 1955 and carried forward internationally, with more than 250,000 Peace Poles installed worldwide. He noted that Rotary International emphasizes peacebuilding as a core focus area, and that several Rotary clubs in Central New York, including the Fulton Rotary Club, have already participated by installing a Peace Pole at Veterans Park. Gorman stated that the Oswego Rotary Club is seeking to install an 8-foot Peace Pole at Veterans Park bearing the message "May Peace Prevail on Earth" in multiple languages, with suggested languages including English, Polish, French, Irish Gaelic, Italian, German, and Spanish, as well as representation of the Haudenosaunee Nation, while noting that up to eight languages can be included. He described plans for a community dedication ceremony involving local leaders, dignitaries, and the public, including remarks, music, and an unveiling, and confirmed the club's request for city support. Councilor Myer stated that he had spoken with the commissioner earlier in the day and was advised that there would be no issue identifying a suitable location within Veterans Park for the installation. Councilor FitzGibbons noted that he and Councilor Lautensack had met earlier regarding the request and that the Rotary Club had been collaborative in considering appropriate placement, adding support for the initiative and emphasizing Rotary's local service impact. Councilor Kennedy stated that he had discussed the matter prior to the meeting and supported the initiative, and suggested that Arabic be considered as one of the languages due to the presence of Arabic-speaking communities in the broader region. Terry Gorman responded that there is still time to finalize the language selection and that further discussion would be held to narrow the choices.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the City Clerk's Office. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

7. CiTi Boces Art Educator, Laurel Lautensack, in partnership with the Oswego Department of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, the Oswego Fire Department, and local community mental health organizations, requests approval of a proposal for Use of Public Space to implement a community public art initiative.

Art educator Laurel Lautensack explained that the project is intended to provide hope and emotional support through public art, using fire hydrants as highly visible installations created by students in collaboration with community partners. She stated that the initiative would involve students designing artwork centered on themes such as hope, kindness, resilience, and belonging, and that the project is intended to help address mental health concerns affecting youth in the community. She further noted that the project would be fully coordinated with the Department of Public Works and the Fire Department to ensure compliance with safety requirements, including hydrant functionality and appropriate color coding, and that funding would be provided through mental health partner organizations with no cost to the City.

Councilor Thompson requested clarification regarding the number and location of hydrants to be included, and Laurel responded that specific hydrants would be selected in coordination with DPW and the Fire Department based on testing, visibility, and safety considerations, with initial thoughts focusing on downtown areas and locations near recent community tragedies, while noting flexibility in placement.

Councilor Thompson further asked whether residential areas would be included, and Laurel stated that the initial phase would focus on high-visibility commercial areas and parks.

Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, stated that DPW would work with the Fire Department to identify appropriate hydrants, ensure proper flow and functionality, and avoid hydrants that may require replacement. He noted that color coding of hydrant tops is recommended but not strictly required under association guidelines, with certain colors used to indicate water flow capacity, and that black should be avoided as it indicates a hydrant is out of service. He estimated that approximately four to five hydrants could be included in an initial phase and supported beginning the project in downtown and park areas before considering expansion in future phases.

Councilor Thompson asked whether residential areas would be included in the future and whether homeowners could paint hydrants themselves.

Craig responded that any such requests would require Council approval and noted concerns about unauthorized painting being considered vandalism. He also raised operational concerns regarding maintaining hydrant identification standards and ensuring consistency.

Councilor Thompson also asked about the specific portion of the hydrant to be painted.

Fire Chief, Paul Conzone, clarified that only approved portions of the hydrant exterior would be used, while functional components such as threads must remain unobstructed and protected. He further noted that hydrants must remain fully operational and that DPW and Fire Department staff would need to oversee preparation and maintenance during installation.

Councilor Thompson expressed concern about maintaining hydrant functionality, paint durability, and potential impacts to emergency response, while acknowledging the potential value of the program as a pilot initiative.

Paul responded that hydrant identification is supported through mapping tools and operational knowledge, and that the small number of hydrants proposed in a limited geographic area would be manageable. He emphasized the importance of proper coordination during painting to ensure hydrants remain in good working order.

Councilor FitzGibbons stated that the project could provide a positive opportunity for increased community awareness of hydrant locations and maintenance and suggested that a pilot phase could be used to evaluate potential expansion, including opportunities for community “adoption” and ongoing maintenance of hydrants by neighborhood groups.

Councilor Myer suggested including locations such as community support facilities, including Haven of Hope and similar organizations, and Laurel agreed that such locations could be appropriate partners. She also noted that mental health organizations such as Hillside and Farnham would assist in funding the project.

Council members and staff generally expressed support for the initiative as a pilot program, with emphasis placed on ensuring safety coordination, limiting initial scope to commercial and public areas, and maintaining proper hydrant functionality and compliance with fire safety standards.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from Laurel Lautensack. Councilor Kennedy seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

- 8. The Zoning and Planning Office requests a rescission of Resolution 129 dated April 27, 2026, approving Use of Public Space for Michael Cloonan to install a driveway expansion at 31 Bronson Street due to administrative errors.**

Councilor Myer explained that Mr. Cloonan had applied for a permit to widen his driveway, but it was later determined that there had been an error in the interpretation of the right of way for the property. He stated that the driveway expansion did not actually encroach upon public space and therefore did not require public space authorization. Councilor Myer noted that rescinding the resolution would correct the administrative issue and allow the property owner to proceed with the driveway work as permitted.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Kennedy made a motion to approve the request from the Zoning and Planning Office. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed unanimously.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:09 p.m. by Councilor Kennedy. A second was made by Councilor Ashline, resolution passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Egor Golubchikov