

**PHYSICAL SERVICES  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
June 1, 2026**

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

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

Councilor Kennedy was excused.

***OTHERS PRESENT:*** Councilor FitzGibbons; Councilor Lautensack; Councilor Thompson; City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli; Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation; City Clerk, Mark Tesoriero; Deputy City Clerk, Greg Caster.

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

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

A motion to approve the minutes of the May 18, 2026, Committee Meeting was made by Councilor Plunkett and seconded by Councilor Ashline. Minutes were approved by a vote of 3-0-1.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

- 1. The Zoning and Planning Office has received a request from Mr. Gregory Peddle, owner of a single-family dwelling located at 16 West Eighth Street, for Use of Public Space in order to replace an existing concrete walkway, together with installation of a flower garden border/retaining wall.**

Councilor Myer advised that the item would be removed from the agenda because further research determined that the project was not located within public space and therefore would not require committee action. After Chairman Myer read Item 2 on the Physical Services Committee Meeting Agenda, Councilor Thompson raised a point of order, asking whether a vote was required to table the item before it could be removed from the agenda. Councilor Myer then sought clarification from City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli, regarding the proper procedure. Kevin advised that the chair had the authority to remove the item from the agenda without a motion or vote and noted that, in the future, the chair could simply announce that the item had been pulled. Councilor Myer acknowledged the clarification, and Kevin confirmed that no procedural error had occurred and that a vote was unnecessary.

- 2. Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, has received a request from Suzanne Maniccia for Use of Public Space to host chair yoga classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays at the McCrobie Building.**

No comment was made towards this item.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation. Councilor Myer seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

- 3. The Oswego Renaissance Association and SUNY Oswego request Use of Public Space to place their annual block challenge and pride project signage in the designated locations.**

Paul Stewart, Director of the Oswego Renaissance Association, explained that the organization was entering its 13th year and had recently received funding for an additional five years. Paul provided an overview of ORA's neighborhood improvement program, which encourages resident participation through matching grants for exterior home improvements and requires a minimum of five households on a block to participate as a cluster. He stated that the program has produced strong results over many years and noted that a new target area had been established near the hospital. He requested permission to install Block Challenge signs at designated locations, consistent with past practice, with signs to be erected in June and removed by November 15.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Oswego Renaissance Association. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

***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 from Canale's Restaurant to host Canale's Anniversary Party on Sunday, July 5, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Nick Canale, representing Canale's Restaurant, explained that the event has been held annually since the restaurant's 60th anniversary 13 years ago. He stated that the celebration consists of a band performing on the front patio, tents set up in the parking lot, and a spaghetti-eating contest held later in the afternoon. He noted that the street in front of the restaurant is closed earlier in the day to allow for event setup and that the event typically provides several hours of entertainment for residents and visitors following the parade before normal business operations resume for the evening. Councilor Myer commented that the event appears to be well attended and noted that, despite living nearby, he has not observed any issues associated with it.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

- 5. The Office of Economic Development has received a request for Use of Public Space from Fort Ontario to host the Fort Ontario Rev War Battle at Washington Square Park on Saturday, June 13, 2026, from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.**

Councilor Myer reported that he had spoken with a representative from Fort Ontario prior to the meeting. He explained that the event would include a parade beginning at Washington Square Park and proceeding to Fort Ontario, followed by a historical battle reenactment. Councilor Myer noted that he had attended similar reenactments in the past, found them to be interesting and educational, and expressed his belief that the event would be a positive addition for the community.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Plunkett seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

- 6. The Office of Economic Development has received a request from Janet Anderson for Use of Public Space to host Porchfest 2026 on Sunday, September 20, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.**

Janet Anderson stated that she had been involved with Porchfest since its inception 11 years ago and described it as a successful community event driven entirely by volunteers. She explained that performers donate their time and host locations participate without compensation, contributing to a community tradition that has grown over the years. She expressed her support for the continuation of the event and requested its approval. She also inquired about the process for obtaining street barriers needed for the event. Councilor Myer responded that such requests are typically coordinated through the Office of Economic Development, which then works with the Department of Public Works to arrange for the barriers.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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- 7. The Office of Economic Development has received a request from John Bletch to host Drumfest 4 on Saturday, July 25, 2026 from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

Councilor Myer noted that Mr. Bletch was unable to attend the meeting but had spoken with him beforehand regarding the event. He explained that Drum Fest features participants gathering with drums for musical performances and dancing at Veterans Stage. He described the event as a community-oriented activity that appeared to be enjoyable for attendees and expressed his interest in attending this year's event.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Plunkett seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

- 8. The Office of Economic Development has received a request for Use of Public Space from Michelle Merritt to host the St. Mary's Bazaar on July 17 and July 18, 2026, as well as a waiver of the Open Container Ordinance and the Noise Ordinance.**

Michelle Merritt stated that the St. Mary's Bazaar is a longstanding annual community event that has been held for many years and is scheduled to take place again this year. She explained that the event would operate from 3:30 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. each day and that cleanup would be completed with the area returned to normal conditions by the following Monday. Councilor Myer commented favorably on the event, noting that he had attended in the past and enjoyed both the atmosphere and the food.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Plunkett seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

- 9. The Office of Economic Development has received a request for Use of Public Space from The Hole to host the Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser on Saturday, June 27, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.**

Darlene Garcia, Vice President of Habitat for Humanity, addressed the committee and explained that Habitat for Humanity was partnering with The Hole to conduct the Cornhole Tournament Fundraiser in support of its Aging in Place Program, which provides home accessibility improvements such as grab bars and wheelchair ramps to help residents remain safely in their homes. As an example, she described a recent project involving the installation of a ramp for a resident returning home from surgery in a wheelchair. Councilor Ashline inquired about sanitation and cleanup plans for the event. Darlene responded that organizers would be responsible for all setup and cleanup activities, including providing and removing all equipment and materials, and that no city resources would be required for those purposes.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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**10. Approve Fee Waiver Request for Sunset Concert Series 2026.**

Steve Defren, one of the directors of the concert series, explained that he oversees the jazz band component of the program, while Trevor Jorgensen directs the concert bands. Steve stated that the concert series has been a longstanding community tradition for approximately 90 years and is held every Wednesday evening at Breitbeck Park. He advised that the request was limited to a waiver of the trailer rental fee associated with the event.

**COMMITTEE DECISION:** Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Ashline seconded the motion, resolution passed by a vote of 3-0-1.

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

**11. Chairman William Myer requests discussion regarding an addition to the Franklin Square Sign.**

Steve Phillips, one of the organizers of Porchfest, explained that the event is in its 12th year and has grown significantly from 11 bands and approximately 100 attendees in its early years to about 80 bands and several thousand attendees in the most recent year. He requested permission to add a small sign reading "Home of Oswego Porchfest 2015" beneath the existing Franklin Square signs at two park entrances, noting that the organizers would fund both the fabrication and maintenance of the signage. Craig Rebeor, Commissioner of Public Works and Parks and Recreation, commended Porchfest as a successful community event but expressed concern about the appropriateness of installing permanent or semi-permanent promotional signage in a city park, suggesting that such requests could lead to similar proposals from other events. He recommended that, if considered, any signage be limited in duration, potentially aligned with the park season, and noted that alternative methods of recognition should be explored. Councilor Thompson also supported Porchfest but echoed concerns about setting a precedent and suggested that other display options, such as temporary signage or A-frames, be considered instead. Steve Phillips responded that the intent was not to advertise but to recognize the neighborhood and community contributions associated with Porchfest, adding that similar recognition for other major community events could be beneficial to the city's identity. Councilor FitzGibbons supported the value of recognizing community contributions but also cautioned against visual clutter and emphasized the need for thoughtful approaches to public acknowledgments. Councilor Myer concluded that the matter would remain at the discussion stage with no resolution or action taken, and that further consideration of alternative approaches would continue.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 6:52 p.m. by Councilor Plunkett. A second was made by Councilor Ashline, resolution passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,



Egor Golubchikov