

CITY OF OSWEGO



AGENDA

Physical Services Committee
Common Council Chambers – City Hall
August 3, 2026
6:30 PM

Roll Call **William Myer, Chairman**
Timothy Plunkett
Jonathan Ashline
Chance Kennedy

Approve minutes of the July 20, 2026 Committee meeting.

I. Old Business

1. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Collin Seeley of the Oswego County OASAS to host the Community Health Outreach Fair on August 26, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

II. New Business

Authorization

1. Councilor Chance Kennedy requests discussion regarding a request from Sierra Sullivan of the Harborfest Board of Directors inquiring about the donation of a couch to Oswego Harbor Festivals, Inc.
2. The Zoning and Planning Office received a request for Use of Public Space from National Grid for property located at 249 West Fifth Street, to install a utility pole.
3. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Susan McBrearty to host a West 5th Street Block Party on Saturday, August 15, 2026 starting at 5:00 p.m.
4. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Christine Wills to host a Glow and Flow event on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
5. Mayor Robert A. Corradino received a request for Use of Public Space from Eason Lee to hold a wedding ceremony at Breitbeck Park on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

PHYSICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE MEETING August 3, 2026
--

Chair Myer called the meeting to order at 6:43 p.m.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair William Myer, Councilor Plunkett, Councilor Ashline, and Councilor Kennedy.

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilor FitzGibbons; Councilor Lautensack; Mayor Robert A. Corradino; Fire Chief, Paul Conzone; Zoning and Planning Administrator, Jeff McGann; City Engineer, Elizabeth Chrestler; City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli.

MEDIA PRESENT: No media present.

A motion to approve the minutes of the July 20, 2026, Committee Meeting was made by Councilor Plunkett and seconded by Councilor Ashline. Minutes were approved unanimously.

OLD BUSINESS:

- 1. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Collin Seeley of the Oswego County OASAS to host the Community Health Outreach Fair on August 26, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

Collin Seeley explained that the event is being organized through the Prevention Coalition's Cultural Humility Subcommittee to help address barriers to accessing health care and prevention services, including cancer screenings, disability services, and substance-use prevention resources. The event is proposed to be held at Breitbeck Park and would provide information and services to community members who may face language or accessibility barriers. Seeley stated that materials will be available in multiple languages, including Spanish and Russian, and an American Sign Language interpreter is planned. Vendors will also provide activities for children to help address childcare barriers. Approximately 13 vendors have expressed interest, with an estimated 25–30 attendees expected. The event would also include outdoor activities.

Councilor Kennedy asked whether this would be the first year for the event. Collin confirmed that it would be the first year. Councilor Kennedy asked how the event would be advertised. Collin explained that a flyer has been prepared and will be distributed once the location is approved. Promotion will include social media, local libraries, parks, businesses, and other community locations. Councilor Kennedy reminded Collin that approval of the request would not occur until the following Monday. Collin acknowledged this.

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

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

NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Councilor Chance Kennedy requests discussion regarding a request from Sierra Sullivan of the Harborfest Board of Directors inquiring about the donation of a couch to Oswego Harbor Festivals, Inc.**

Sierra Sullivan explained that Harborfest is currently using a red couch in the new VIP members' lounge that had previously been permitted for their use. The couch is no longer in regular service and has some wear and tear. Sullivan asked whether the couch could be donated to Harborfest or whether the City could negotiate a purchase price rather than having the couch go to auction.

Councilor Myer explained that, based on guidance from the City Attorney, the couch would need to be assigned a fair market value, potentially requiring an appraisal or other method of establishing its value.

Rono Smith stated that research into comparable used couches indicated a value of approximately \$400–\$700 for a seven-year-old couch in similar condition. He offered to provide the information in writing for the Committee's consideration.

Councilor Myer stated that the Committee would need the proposed valuation in writing and suggested tabling the matter while confirming the legal requirements with the City Attorney. Councilor Thompson asked about the original and current value of the couch. Smith stated that a comparable new couch could cost approximately \$5,500. Thompson noted the significant amount of taxpayer funds invested in the couch, including the original purchase and replacement cushions, and expressed the opinion that the couch should proceed through the City's auction process to ensure a fair and legally appropriate sale. He noted that Harborfest would be welcome to participate in the auction.

Sierra asked when the auction would take place and how she could obtain information about the process.

Councilor Thompson stated that the Committee would follow up with the auction information. Councilor FitzGibbons expressed concern about creating an exception to the City's established process for disposing of municipal property. He stated that the auction process provides a fair and transparent method of determining value and protects the interests of the City, taxpayers, and the Comptroller's Office. Councilor Thompson confirmed that the couch was already scheduled for auction and agreed that the auction process was appropriate. He thanked Sierra for her participation and stated that he would provide her with information regarding the auction.

2. The Zoning and Planning Office received a request for Use of Public Space from National Grid for property located at 249 West Fifth Street, to install a utility pole.

Zoning and Planning Administrator, Jeff McGann, explained that National Grid is requesting the new pole to provide electrical service to the property, formerly known as Bill's Grocery and most recently occupied by a hair salon. The property owners, the Castaldos, received a special permit to convert the commercial space into an additional rental unit. As part of the approved site plan, significant hard surface will be removed and replaced with green space to create a more residential appearance. The new electrical service requires heavier-gauge wire and therefore a stronger utility pole.

Councilor FitzGibbons asked whether the new pole would be installed alongside the existing pole or whether the existing pole would ultimately be removed. He noted concerns from constituents about old poles being left in place after new poles are installed.

Jeff confirmed that the new pole would initially be installed while the existing pole remains. He explained that he and City Attorney, Kevin Caraccioli, have been working with National Grid to address the issue. In some cases, National Grid cuts down its pole but leaves Verizon or Spectrum infrastructure attached, resulting in the old pole remaining for an extended period. The City is working with the utilities to have their lines transferred more quickly so the old poles can be removed sooner.

Councilor FitzGibbons stated that he supports the new pole but emphasized the importance of coordinating with the other utilities so residents are not left with two poles unnecessarily. He cited concerns including difficulty mowing around multiple poles and the appearance of abandoned or partially cut poles. He encouraged a coordinated process as part of future requests for new service.

Jeff agreed and said the City is continuing to press National Grid to expedite the transfer of other utilities' lines. He also noted that when poles are removed, City-owned streetlights have sometimes been taken down and left along roads or in yards. The City is now having the streetlights secured to the new poles so contractors can later reinstall them properly. He said progress is being made on the issue.

Councilor FitzGibbons reiterated the importance of maintaining existing utility infrastructure in a respectful and coordinated manner while accommodating new service. He welcomed the improvement to the neighborhood and the opportunity to address these concerns going forward. Jeff offered to include Councilor FitzGibbons in future email communications regarding coordination with National Grid and the other utilities.

Councilor Thompson asked about the location shown on the drawing, specifically whether the new pole would be sufficiently set back from the corner so that it would not obstruct the stop sign at the four-way intersection.

Jeff confirmed that the proposed pole location is set back from the corner by a significant distance.

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

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

- 3. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Susan McBrearty to host a West 5th Street Block Party on Saturday, August 15, 2026 starting at 5:00 p.m.**

Susan McBrearty explained that this would be the seventh annual block party, with no prior incidents. She requested closure of West Fifth Street between Van Buren and Lake Streets and a waiver of the noise ordinance. She noted that a small two-person band would perform with limited amplification. Sound check would begin at 5:00 p.m., with music from approximately 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., and the event expected to conclude by 10:00 p.m.

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

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

- 4. The Office of Economic Development received a request for Use of Public Space from Christine Wills to host a Glow and Flow event on Saturday, August 15, 2026 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.**

Kim McPherson and Christine Wills explained that the gathering would involve approximately 30–40 friends using kayaks, canoes, and paddleboards, with no motorized vessels. The group would launch from behind Breitbeck Park and remain outside the boating channel. There would be no vendors or food trucks, and music would be limited to a small radio or boombox.

Councilor Myer asked about the location and expressed concern about the safety of participants around commercial vessels.

Fire Chief, Paul Conzone, said the group would be located behind Breitbeck Park and outside the boating channel. He noted that the gathering would provide an opportunity for the Fire Department to conduct nighttime training and monitor participant safety. Any additional staffing would be covered within the existing overtime budget.

Councilor Kennedy asked whether the gathering would create additional training or costs for the Fire Department. Chief Conzone confirmed that it would not create costs beyond the existing overtime budget and said the department supported the gathering.

Councilor Thompson asked about expected attendance. Ms. Wills estimated 30–40 people and clarified that the gathering was not being publicly advertised.

Councilor Thompson expressed support for the gathering and its use of the waterfront. He noted that no rain date was listed and suggested adding one. The committee agreed to amend the request to include August 22, 2026, as the rain date.

Councilor FitzGibbons supported the gathering but emphasized the importance of water safety, including personal flotation devices, whistles, and other required safety equipment for nighttime paddling. Ms. Wills said the group had discussed safety measures and planned to provide glow sticks for participants.

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

Councilor Ashline made a motion to approve the request as amended from the Office of Economic Development. Councilor Kennedy seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

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

5. Mayor Robert A. Corradino received a request for Use of Public Space from Eason Lee to hold a wedding ceremony at Breitbeck Park on Monday, August 10, 2026 at 6:00 p.m.

Eason Lee explained that he and Kayla Volkomer would hold a small ceremony of approximately 24 people near the tree between the bell and the lake. Setup would begin at 3:00 p.m., with chairs, an aisle, and decorations on the tree. All items would be removed by approximately 7:00–8:00 p.m.

Councilor Myer asked whether the pavilion had been rented. Eason clarified that the request was only for the wedding ceremony.

Councilor Myer and Councilor FitzGibbons congratulated Mr. Lee on his upcoming wedding. Eason thanked the council and expressed his excitement about calling Oswego home.

Eason Lee received a round of applause.

COMMITTEE DECISION: Councilor Plunkett made a motion to approve the request from Mayor Robert A. Corradino. Councilor Kennedy seconded the motion, it passed unanimously.

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

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 7:08 p.m. by Councilor Ashline. A second was made by Councilor Plunkett, resolution passed unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Egor' followed by a stylized surname.

Egor Golubchikov