

Tuesday, January 20, 2015 Council Meeting

PRESENTATIONS:

None

ADMINISTRATIVE UPDATE:

Agenda Item #1

The following claims have been filed in the Office of the City Clerk during the month of December 2014 the claims were subsequently referred to the Office of the Corporation Counsel.

NOTICE OF CLAIM

Brown, Duane Thomas 3601 Dudley Ave	In reference to vehicle damage caused by city snow plow
Jones, Patricia c/o Allstate Insurance Co	Vehicle damage caused by pothole
Williams, Dennis E. 724 Seymour Ave	In reference to property damage caused by city tree
Gurkan, Mehmet c/o Eric B. Grossman Attorney	In reference to false arrest
Compton, Donald 3035 Delancey Rd	In reference to false arrest
Walaszek, John 2945 Grand Ave	Vehicle damage caused by city snow plow
Davis III, James 1704 16 th Street	Vehicle damage caused by city snow plow
Elder, Tina / Dubuc, Audrey Smith, Micheal / Spillman, Earl B. c/o Leslie MacLean, Esq	In reference to personal injury
Scott, Diane 1615 Niagara Ave	Vehicle damage caused by pothole
Jones, Patricia c/o Law Offices of John Trop	In reference to vehicle damage
Williams, Shirley 2113 10 th Street	Vehicle damage caused by city snow plow

NOTICE REGARDING AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC FILING

SUPREME COURT CASES

Borden, Aaron

Index#: E154657/2014

Yours truly,

Carol A. Antonucci

CAA/kp

Agenda Item #2

RE: Informational Item: City Clerk's Report

DATE: January 6,
2015

Council Members:

The following is a report of the licenses issued and collections made in the Office of the City Clerk during the month of

December, 2014.

		<u>CONTROLLER</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
A1255-001 A012	Vital Statistics	\$ 3,414.00	\$ 3,414.00
A1255-004 A013	Copies of Records	\$ 470.00	\$ 470.00
A1255-004 A013	Certificates of Marriage	\$ 450.00	\$ 450.00
A2501-007 A043	Auction	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
A2501-014 A046	Electrician - Active	\$ 4,810.00	\$ 4,810.00
A2501-014 A046	Electrician - Inactive	\$ 640.00	\$ 640.00
A2501-014 A046	Electrician - Exam Fee	\$ 200.00	\$ 200.00
A2501-016 A047	Stationary Engineers	\$ 2,570.00	\$ 2,570.00

A2501-021 A048	Amusement Games		\$	\$
			100.00	100.00
A2542-000 A053	Dogs/NYS Agr.& Mkts	\$	\$	-
		210.00		\$
				210.00
A2542-000 A053	Additional Dogs		\$	\$
			2,275.00	2,275.00
A2545-001 A054	Marriage	\$	\$	\$
	License/NYSHD	1,012.50	337.50	1,350.00
A1255-002 A123	Commissioners of Deeds		\$	\$
			5.00	5.00
A2545-010 A128	Petroleum - Retail		\$	\$
			770.00	770.00
A2545-010 A128	Petroleum - Storage		\$	\$
			300.00	300.00
A2545-010 A128	Petroleum - Wholesale		\$	\$
			300.00	300.00
A2545-021 A316	Vending		\$	\$
			120.00	120.00
A2545-023 A318	Hunters/NYS DEC RAU	\$	\$	-
		42.51		\$
				42.51
A2545-023 A318	Hunters Fees		\$	\$
			2.49	2.49
A1255-003 A499	Notary Fee		\$	\$
			18.00	18.00
A1255-005 A528	Dog Release		\$	\$
			300.00	300.00
TA63008 A597	Marriage Performance		\$	\$
			525.00	525.00
A1255-006-A696	Photos/passport-license		\$	\$
			9.00	9.00

TOTAL:

\$	\$	\$
1,265.01	17,765.99	19,031.00
<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>

Check #	11985	NYS Dept.of Arg. & Mkts	\$
			210.00

Check #	<u>11959</u>	NYS Health Department	
			\$1,012.50

Check #	<u>ET</u>	NYS DEC RAU	\$
			42.51
	<u> </u>		

Agenda Item #3

RE: School District of the City of Niagara Falls, OSC – 21 (“OSC”)

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00 to the School District to assist in funding the operation of the OSC-21, public access channel (“OSC”). In order to effectuate this, an appropriation agreement with the School District is required.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel?

Agenda Item #4

RE: Niagara Community Action Program Inc.

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$27,500.00 for the Niagara Community Action Program Inc. so that it may continue to provide assistance to qualified City residents during fiscal year 2015. This will require that the City enter into a Funding Agreement with this entity.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute a Funding Agreement in form satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel?

Agenda Item #5

RE: *Niagara Military Affairs Council (“NIMAC”)*

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$2,500.00 for the non-profit agency listed above. In order to effectuate this, an appropriation agreement with NIMAC is required.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel for NIMAC?

Agenda Item #6

RE: *Niagara Arts & Cultural Center (“NACC”)*

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$30,000.00 for the non-profit agency listed above. In order to effectuate this, an appropriation agreement with the NACC is required. Funding is available from Tourism Fund Balance.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel for the NACC?

Agenda Item #7

RE: *Niagara Falls Block Club Council (“COUNCIL”)*

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the non-profit agency listed above. In order to effectuate this, an appropriation agreement with the Council is required.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel for the Council?

Agenda Item #8

RE: *Niagara Falls Beautification Commission (“NBC”)*

Council Members:

The 2015 Budget contains an appropriation in the amount of \$10,000.00 for the non-profit agency listed above. In order to effectuate this, an appropriation agreement with NBC is required. Funding is available from Tourism Fund Balance

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form acceptable to the Corporation Counsel for the NBC?

Agenda Item #9

RE: Dollars to be put in reserve in 2015 budget which exceeded the tax cap

Council Members:

During the 2015 budget process culminating with the City Council's override votes on Mayoral vetoes, the final adopted budget exceeded the tax cap amount imposed by the General Municipal Law by \$280,485. This amount was calculated by the City Controller and confirmed by the office of the New York State Comptroller (see copy attached). The City is now required to reserve this sum of money and factor it in to the 2016 budget process. Therefore, it is requested that the sum of \$280,485 be placed in reserve for this purpose.

Funding is available from Fund Balance.

Will the Council so approve?



Tax Cap Review
LocalGov to: maria.brown

12/31/2014 09:50 AM

History: This message has been forwarded.

12/31/2014

Maria Brown
City Controller
City of Niagara Falls
PO Box 69
Niagara Falls, NY 14302

Report No: 2014-991-TC

Dear Mrs. Brown:

Chapter 97 of the Laws of 2011 established a tax levy limit on all local governments in New York State, effective January 1, 2012. This law requires that local governments maintain any property tax levy increase to no more than 2 percent or the rate of inflation, whichever is less. The law does provide exemptions for certain specific costs and allows the governing board to override the tax levy limitation with a supermajority vote.

We have reviewed the supporting documentation and calculation of your tax levy limit and determined that your tax levy for the fiscal year ending in 2015 exceeded the allowable limit by \$200,484.94, and that your governing board has not voted to override the tax levy limitation. Local governments that enact a property tax levy that is higher than the allowable limit must either decrease the tax levy, or put these excess funds into a reserve, in accordance with Chapter 97, and use them to offset the property tax levy in the subsequent fiscal year. If you have already acted to reduce your tax levy to an amount within the tax levy limit, no further action is necessary. If you have not reduced your tax levy, you must place the excess amount into reserve.

Our Accounting Bulletin provides guidance on this issue and can be found here: www.osc.state.ny.us/localgov/pubs/releases/2011_12taxcspreserve.pdf. If you have any questions, please contact our Buffalo Regional Office at 716-847-3647.

Sincerely,

Gabriel F. Deyo
Deputy Comptroller
Division of Local Government and
School Accountability

Agenda Item #10

RE: Agreement with Niagara County Office for the Aging

Council Members:

In the past, the City has served as a contractor for the Niagara County Office for the Aging by providing information and assistance services to persons 60 years old or older who meet Office for the Aging eligibility requirements. These services are performed at 1201 Hyde Park Boulevard, Niagara Falls, New York. The City is paid an amount not to exceed \$9,025.00 for these services. The term of the agreement is January 1, 2015 through December 31, 2015.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form and content satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel?

Agenda Item #11

RE: Access Agreement for agents of Uniland Development Company to have access to Rainbow Center Mall for the purpose of conducting environmental inspections

Council Members:

During the City Council meeting held on November 24, 2014, the City Council designated Uniland Development Company as the preferred developer for the adaptive re-use of the former Rainbow Center Mall. As part of the diligence Uniland Development Company must perform, it is requesting access to the former Rainbow Center Mall premises for the purpose of conducting various environmental reviews and tests, along with any and all other due diligence initiatives required during the development of the project.

Access to the former Rainbow Center Mall premises is proposed to be permitted pursuant to terms and conditions contained in an Access Agreement approved by the Corporation Counsel.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an Access Agreement in form and content satisfactory to the Corporation Counsel?

Agenda Item #12

RE: City Employee Retirement Incentive Program

Council Members:

The City of Niagara Falls developed a City Employee Retirement Program for employees who were eligible to retire on or before December 31, 2014, pursuant to criteria established by the City of Niagara Falls and the New York State Retirement System. The incentive amount is \$20,000 payable over a period of five years, with the first payment to be made during January 2015. Elected officials, fire and police officers, and department heads were excluded from this incentive program.

Accordingly, twenty-one employees meeting both New York State and City criteria took advantage of the program, retiring during the period of November 6 through December 31, 2014.

The attached is the proposed reorganization of affected departments. Where possible, positions have been eliminated or downgraded to alleviate savings that will be allocated towards fulfillment of incentive obligations while maintaining essential services.

Will the Council so approve?

NOTE: SEE ITEMS #12A, 12B, 12C

Agenda Item #12A

*RE: City Employee Retirement Incentive Program – Reorganization of
City Controller's Office*

Council Members:

The City of Niagara Falls developed a City Employee Retirement Program for employees who were eligible to retire on or before December 31, 2014, pursuant to criteria established by the City of Niagara Falls and the New York State Retirement System. The incentive amount is \$20,000 per person, payable over a period of five years, with the first payment to be made during January of 2015. Elected officials, fire and police officers, and department heads were excluded from this incentive program.

Accordingly, 21 employees meeting both New York State and City criteria took advantage of the program, retiring during the period of November 6th through December 31, 2014. Attached is a proposed reorganization of the City Controller's Office which is made possible as a result of some of these retirements. Where possible, positions have been eliminated or downgraded to maximize savings that will be allocated towards fulfillment of incentive obligations while maintaining essential services.

Will the Council so approve?

Agenda Item #12B

*RE: City Employee Retirement Incentive Program – Reorganization of
Niagara Falls Fire Department Office*

Council Members:

The City of Niagara Falls developed a City Employee Retirement Program for employees who were eligible to retire on or before December 31, 2014, pursuant to criteria established by the City of Niagara Falls and the New York State Retirement System. The incentive amount is \$20,000 per person, payable over a period of five years, with the first payment to be made during January of 2015. Elected officials, fire and police officers, and department heads were excluded from this incentive program.

Accordingly, 21 employees meeting both New York State and City criteria took advantage of the program, retiring during the period of November 6th through December 31, 2014. Attached is a proposed reorganization of the Niagara Falls Fire Department Office which is made possible as a result of some of these retirements. Where possible, positions have been eliminated or downgraded to maximize savings that will be allocated towards fulfillment of incentive obligations while maintaining essential services.

Will the Council so approve?

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
 PROPOSED REORGANIZATION OF CITY DEPARTMENTS FROM RETIREMENT INCENTIVE
 2015 AMENDED BUDGET

Acct Code	Department	Job Title	Current Grade	Current Salary	FICA	Current Salary Expense	Proposed New Title	Proposed New Grade	Proposed New Salary	FICA	Proposed New Salary Expense	Cost/Savings
A.3410.0001	Fire Admin.	Jr. Account Clerk-Fire	CS-8	36,638	2,852	39,490	Jr. Account Clerk	CS-9	32,566	1,726	34,292	(35,145)
A.3410.0001	Fire Admin.	Principal Clerk	CS-12	42,480	3,251	45,731	Principal Clerk	CS-12	33,722	2,380	36,102	(9,629)
		TOTAL:		\$79,118	6,103	\$85,221			\$68,288	\$4,106	\$72,394	(\$12,829)

Agenda Item #12C

*RE: City Employee Retirement Incentive Program – Reorganization of
Department of Public Works/Parks Office*

Council Members:

The City of Niagara Falls developed a City Employee Retirement Program for employees who were eligible to retire on or before December 31, 2014, pursuant to criteria established by the City of Niagara Falls and the New York State Retirement System. The incentive amount is \$20,000 per person, payable over a period of five years, with the first payment to be made during January of 2015. Elected officials, fire and police officers, and department heads were excluded from this incentive program.

Accordingly, 21 employees meeting both New York State and City criteria took advantage of the program, retiring during the period of November 6th through December 31, 2014. Attached is a proposed reorganization of the Department of Public Works/Parks Office which is made possible as a result of some of these retirements. Where possible, positions have been eliminated or downgraded to maximize savings that will be allocated towards fulfillment of incentive obligations while maintaining essential services.

Will the Council so approve?

CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
 PROPOSED REORGANIZATION of CITY DEPARTMENTS FROM RETIREMENT INCENTIVE
 2015 AMENDED BUDGET

Acct Code	Department	Job Title	Current Grade	Current Salary	PICA	Current Salary Expense	Proposed New Title	Proposed New Grade	Proposed New Salary	PICA	Proposed New Salary Expense	Cost/Savings
A.1610.0001	Parks Admin.	Administrative Assistant	CS-10	55,328	4,233	59,561	Administrative Assistant	CS-17	42,582	3,242	45,824	(13,736)
A.1620.2500	City Hall Bldg.	Cleaner	HR1Y-1	31,275	2,892	34,167	Cleaner	HR1Y-4	23,844	1,204	25,048	(7,907)
A.1620.2330	Carnegie Bldg.	MW-1	HR1Y-6	34,241	2,610	36,851	MW-1	HR1Y-6	27,075	2,072	29,147	(7,704)
		TOTAL		\$120,844	\$9,735	\$130,579			\$93,451	\$5,518	\$98,969	(31,610)

01/12/2015

Agenda Item #13

RE: Parking passes for employees of the Sheraton Hotel for access

To City parking lot located at Third Street and Niagara Street

Council Members:

The operator of the Sheraton Hotel has allowed the City to occupy approximately 676 square feet in its hotel building on a rent-free basis for the operation of the Ranger Program conducted under the auspices of the NFPD and the Office of Community Development. The City Assessor advises that the approximate fair market rent for this space is \$750.00 per month. The operator of the Sheraton has requested that in consideration for it allowing the City to occupy this space on a rent-free basis, it be granted access to up to 18 parking passes for parking privileges at the City-owned lot at the corner of Third Street and Niagara Street. Such access to these parking passes for no cost will continue for so long as the operator of the Sheraton Hotel allows the City to conduct its Ranger Program at the Sheraton Hotel location on a rent-free basis. The Director of the Department of Public Works will coordinate this initiative.

Will the Council so approve and authorize the Mayor to execute an agreement in form and content approved by the Corporation Counsel?

Agenda Item #14

RE: Adjustment to 2015 City Budget

Council Members:

The 2015 budget process is now complete. A review of the final budget reveals that a clerical error was made in the Department of Parks and Public Works budget as it pertains to the Community Beautification Division (Account Code A.8510.0000) in that an appropriation in the amount of \$28,430 was made for a Clean Neighborhood Aide position when in fact that appropriation should have been designated for a Clean Neighborhood Inspector position. Please see the attached page for this budget item.

It is therefore requested that the attached page be corrected to designate the appropriation of \$28,430 for the position of Clean Neighborhood Inspector and the appropriation of \$28,430 for the job title Clean Neighborhood Aide be deleted.

Will the Council so approve?

**BUDGET
PERSONNEL**

DEPARTMENT: PARKS & PUBLIC WORKS
 DIVISION: COMMUNITY BEAUTIFICATION
 CODE: A.8510.0000

JOB TITLE	CODE	2014 ADOPTED		2015 ADOPTED	
		APPROPRIATION		APPROPRIATION	
Clean Neighborhood Aide	4212	-	-	1	28,430
Clean Neighborhood Inspector	4620	1	52,519	-	-
TOTAL		1	\$ 52,519	1	\$ 28,430

Agenda Item #15

RESOLUTION No. 2015

RELATIVE TO HONORING THE MEMORY OF FRANK L. CIMINELLI

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member Robert Anderson, Jr.
Council Member Glenn Choolokian
Council Member Kristen Grandinetti
Council Member Charles Walker

WHEREAS, Frank L. Ciminelli, founder of several local construction and real estate development companies, passed away on December 26, 2014, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ciminelli was perhaps best known in recent years for his leadership of Ciminelli Real Estate Corporation, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ciminelli was responsible for the development of millions of square feet of commercial real estate across several states, including in the City of Niagara Falls, perhaps most notably the Niagara Falls Public Safety Office on Main Street, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Ciminelli's success in business can be attributed in large measure to his honesty, integrity, and commitment to quality work, and

WHEREAS, he was involved in many civic and charitable organizations, including Catholic Charities, Sisters Hospital Foundation, the University at Buffalo Foundation, the Bishop's Lay Advisory Council, St. Luke's Mission of Mercy, Boys' Town of Italy, The Erie Community College Foundation, Business Backs the Bills, the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, the Catholic Charities Appeal, Kenmore Mercy Foundation, Trocaire College, Children's Hospital of Buffalo, Roswell Park Alliance, United Way of Buffalo and Erie County, Sisters of Mercy of the Buffalo Regional Community and many others, and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls wishes to remember Mr. Ciminelli's contributions to our city and region,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York hereby honors Mr. Frank L. Ciminelli for his contributions to the well-being of the people of Western New York, in both his business and philanthropic endeavors.

Agenda Item #16

RESOLUTION No. 2015

RELATIVE TO REMEMBERING NEW YORK GOVERNOR MARIO CUOMO

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma
Council Member Robert Anderson, Jr.
Council Member Glenn Choolokian
Council Member Kristen Grandinetti
Council Member Charles Walker

WHEREAS, Mario M. Cuomo, who served as Governor of the State of New York from 1983 to 1994, passed away on January 1, 2015, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cuomo also served as the Secretary of State of New York from 1975 to 1978, and as Lieutenant Governor from 1979-1982, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cuomo's resume of legislative accomplishments includes comprehensive ethics reform for state lawmakers, the Rebuild NY Transportation Bond Act, increases in assistance to local law enforcement agencies in order to reduce crime, the enactment of the nation's first seat belt laws, the development of family support programs for the disabled, initiatives that succeeded in reducing the costs of prescription medications, the appointment of the first two female judges on the New York Court of Appeals, as well as the appointment of the first African-American and Hispanic Judges, and

WHEREAS, Mr. Cuomo's commitment to public service is captured in part by his words, "You find your own good in the good of the whole. You find your own individual fulfillment in the success of the community...", and

WHEREAS, the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls wishes to remember Mr. Cuomo and his legacy of public service,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York hereby honors Mario M. Cuomo for his contributions to the State of New York and encourages the people of the City of Niagara Falls to honor his memory through their own commitment to public service and to the good of their community.

Agenda Item #17

RESOLUTION No. 2015

RELATIVE TO REAPPOINTMENT AND APPOINTMENT
TO THE TOURISM ADVISORY BOARD

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby reappointed or appointed to the City of Niagara Falls Tourism Advisory Board effective immediately, for a term expiring on the date that appears opposite their names:

REAPPOINTMENT

TERM EXPIRES:

Willie Price
91 Deuro Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

12/31/2015

Laurie Davis
1316 24th Street
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

12/31/2015

Lisa Vitello
4859 Terrance Drive
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

12/31/2015

Mark Mistriner
2945 North Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14301

12/31/2015

Gay Molnar
2114 River Road
Niagara Falls, NY 14304

12/31/2015

Mickey Dumas
1023 South Avenue
Niagara Falls, NY 14305

12/31/2015

\ Shawn Weber 250 Rainbow Boulevard Niagara Falls, NY 14303	12/31/2015
Perry Jost 327 Buffalo Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14303	12/31/2015
Dan Mehzir 2208 Weston Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14305	12/31/2015
Ernest Lucantonio 2450 Forest Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14301	12/31/2015
Adrienne Bedgood 2256 South Avenue Niagara Falls, NY 14305	12/31/2015
Kim Congi 8416 Carol Court Niagara Falls, NY 14304	12/31/2015
Ronald Droegmyer 300 3 rd Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303	12/31/2015

<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
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Angela Berti Prospect Street & Old Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303	12/31/2015
Jason Murgia 101 Old Falls Street Niagara Falls, NY 14303	12/31/2015
Patrick Proctor 454 Main Street Niagara Falls, NY 14301	12/31/2015

RESOLUTION No. 2015-

RELATIVE TO CITY COUNCIL PROCEDURES,
PUBLIC SPEAKERS TIME LIMIT

BY:

Council Chairman Andrew Touma

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that pursuant to Section 3.9.d of the City Charter, paragraph 3 of Item V of the Format for the Agenda, as adopted on November 27, 1989 and as amended on July 23, 1990, January 21, 1992 and October 18, 1993, is amended to read as follows:

3. The Chairman will enable members of the public to speak on any topic of concern to the welfare of the City for a time not to exceed [**five (5)**] **three (3)** minutes for each person; he may limit the number of speakers on a topic or agenda item or the overall public speaking time if the same will unduly delay the commencement of the agenda. **All remarks shall be addressed to the Council as a body and not to any member thereof. Speakers shall observe the commonly accepted rules of courtesy, decorum, dignity and good taste and should refrain from making comments regarding individuals, including elected officials and City employees, unless such comments pertain to such individual's duties within City government. Although they may, nothing herein shall require the Mayor or the Council to answer questions or engage in debate at any City Council meeting.**

Additions are **underlined**. Deletions are in [**brackets**].

Agenda Item #19

RESOLUTION No. 2015-

RELATIVE TO CREATION OF A CITY OF NIAGARA FALLS
FINANCIAL ADVISORY PANEL

BY: Council Chairman Andrew Touma

WHEREAS, the recent budget process has demonstrated that the City of Niagara Falls is facing significant financial stress in the year 2015 and beyond; and

WHEREAS, if left unaddressed, these financial difficulties may negatively impact City taxpayers through either higher taxes and/or reduction of necessary services; and

WHEREAS, to confront these issues in a meaningful way, it is necessary for the Niagara Falls City Council to have a thorough understanding of the nature of these economic difficulties, as well as access to proven and innovative solutions to the same; and

WHEREAS, to facilitate this, the City Council has determined that it would be prudent to solicit the advice and support of a panel of financial experts from outside City government to provide it with assistance as to these matters.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that pursuant to Section 3.6(a) of the City Charter, the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York does hereby create a citizen Financial Advisory Panel to complement the effectiveness of this Council by providing it with recommendations on the City's fiscal policy, long-term financial commitments, capital improvements, budget items, management and delivery of services; additionally, the Financial Advisory Panel may also undertake special projects as directed by this Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Financial Advisory Panel shall consist of no more than seven (7) members and that all members of the Financial Advisory Panel will be selected by and serve at the pleasure of the City Council, for a period ending no later than December 31, 2015 and will not be compensated for their activities on the Panel; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Financial Advisory Panel will be responsible for establishing operating policies and/or by-laws in furtherance of its duties and shall work closely with the City Controller and her staff as well as all other department heads for the purpose of gathering the information necessary for its analysis and deliberations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Financial Advisory Panel will provide advice and recommendations only and will be required to submit the same to the City Council as requested by the City Council. The Panel will have no formal decision-making role, and will have no access to confidential supervisory or other confidential information, and will not have access to or discuss any non-public information regarding specific City financial matters; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that all meetings of the Panel will be open to members of the public.