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JANUARY 1, 2014

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK

The January 1, 2014 Organizational Meeting of the Niagara Falls City Council was called to order by Council Chairman Glenn Choolokian at 11:08 AM in the Council Chambers.

The prayer was said by Reverend Raymond Allen and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was said by all in attendance.

The Oath of Office was then administered to Council Members Kristen Grandinetti, Andrew Touma, and Charles Walker by The Honorable Angelo Morinello, City Court Judge.

The Roll was called with Council Members Robert Anderson Jr., Glenn Choolokian, Kristen Grandinetti, Andrew Touma and Charles Walker present.

Council Chairman Choolokian called for nominations for Council Chairman.

Council Member Walker was nominated by Council Member Grandinetti. The nomination was seconded by Council Member Andrew Touma.

As there were no further nominations, nominations were closed and the vote was called.

Yeas	5
Nays	0

Council Member Walker was unanimously elected Council Chairman for 2014.

The Oath of Office was then administered to Council Chairman Walker by The Honorable Angelo Morinello.

The Honorable Angelo Morinello then administered the Oath of Office to Niagara County Legislators representing the City of Niagara Falls:

Dennis Virtuoso  
Owen Steed  
Jason Zona  
Mark Grozio

A Moment of Silence was observed for Reverend Jimmie Seright who recently passed away.

RESOLUTION: COUNCIL, 2014 MEETING SCHEDULE, 2014-1  
BY: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Agenda Item #1

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York, that it hereby adopts the following 2014 City Council Meeting dates as the official

2014 CITY COUNCIL AGENDA AND MEETING SCHEDULE.

5 pm -Work Session            6 pm -Council Meeting

January 6	July 7
January 21 - Tuesday	July 21
February 3	AUGUST RECESS
February 18 - Tuesday	September 2 - Tuesday
March 3	September 15
March 17	September 29
March 31	October 14 - Tuesday
April 14	October 27
April 28	November 10
May 12	November 24
May 27 - Tuesday	December 8
June 9	December 22
June 23	

Yeas	5
Nays	0

ADOPTED

All the Council Members wished the citizens a Happy & Healthy New Year.

There being no further business to come before the Council, Council Chairman Walker adjourned the Meeting at 11:25 p.m.

Carol A. Antonucci  
City Clerk



**JANUARY 6, 2014**

**REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING**

**NIAGARA FALLS, NEW YORK**

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The first session of the January 6, 2014 Niagara Falls City Council Meeting was called to order by Council Chairman Charles Walker at 5:04 P.M. in the Council Chambers.

Present: Council Chairman Charles Walker, Council Members Robert Anderson, Glenn Choolokian, Kristen Grandinetti and Andrew Touma.

Also present: Mayor Paul A. Dyster, City Administrator Donna Owens, Corporation Counsel Craig H. Johnson, Deputy Corporation Counsel Thomas O'Donnell and City Controller Maria Brown.

Council Member Grandinetti moved to approve the Minutes from the City Council Meeting of December 23, 2013.

Yeas

5

Nays

0

APPROVED

In the Administrative Update, City Administrator Donna Owens reported that Public Works Director David Kinney and Deputy Director John Caso were tracking weather and road conditions since the beginning of the weather event over the weekend, and City streets were being constantly salted. Council Member Grandinetti inquired about the salt that was being used, and the effect of the salt on the roads when the temperatures had dropped so low. Mayor Paul Dyster added that the John Duke Senior Center, the LaSalle Facility, the Library and all the City schools would be closed on Tuesday due to the weather conditions. Council Chairman Walker noted the amount of branches from the last storm that still have not been picked up, and asked if all the DPW crews were only on snow removal. The Mayor responded that the tree branches were a low priority as long as they were not blocking the roadway, and asked for patience from the citizens in dealing with the damages caused by the weather conditions.

Mayor Dyster said that the City is also dealing with water main breaks due to the weather conditions, and noted that no one in the City is without water service. He thanked the outside water crews, the DPW workers and all those who were working to deal with the issues. He added that the Governor had asked all the Mayors in Western New York to keep him informed of issues relating to the weather, and the Mayor would be part of a conference call with the Governor later in the day.

Council Member Grandinetti asked if there were any warming centers in the City, and the Mayor said that the John Duke Senior Center and the LaSalle Facility could be used as warming centers if there was an emergency situation.

Council Member Grandinetti asked that the City Administrator provide an update on the sanitation contract at the next Council Meeting. She also asked that Human Resources Director Ruby Pulliam provide an update on ADA compliance at the next Council Meeting.

Council Member Touma said that he had received a letter from a citizen complimenting the response of the Fire Department to a call about sparking wires during recent ice storm.

Council Member Anderson asked that the Mayor look into the use of Casino funds for tax relief for citizens, and the Mayor spoke on a program funded with Casino dollars that provides tax incentives for businesses.

This Session ended at 5:25 PM

Chairman Walker reconvened the Meeting at 6:01 P.M. in the Council Chambers with all Council Members present. The Prayer was said by Council Member Anderson and the Chairman led the gathering in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Chairman asked if anyone wished to speak on Agenda Items or Community Interests, and the following spoke:

Katherine Johnson	Agenda Item #8
Kathie Kudela	Agenda Item #8
Paul Gromosiak	Congratulations to Chairman Walker & Council Member Touma; need for Niagara Experience Center; closing of local History Dept. at Library is disgraceful
Ron Anderluh	Congratulations to Chairman Walker & Council Member Touma; use Casino cash for tax decrease. Eliminate 2-tier tax system and all need to work together for the good of the city

THE FOLLOWING COMMUNICATIONS WERE SUBMITTED BY THE MAYOR

CONTRACT: NIAGARA COMMUNITY ACTION PROGRAM, INC., FUNDING

Agenda Item #1

The 2014 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 2014. 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?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas	4
Anderson, Choolokian, Grandinetti, Touma	
Nays	0
Abstain	1
Chairman Walker	

APPROVED

CONTRACT: NIAGARA MILITARY AFFAIRS COUNCIL, FUNDING

Agenda Item #2

The 2014 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?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas	5
Nays	0

APPROVED

CONTRACT: NIAGARA FALLS BEAUTIFICATION COMMISSION, FUNDING

Agenda Item #3

The 2014 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?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas	5
Nays	0

APPROVED

CONTRACT: NF BLOCK CLUB COUNCIL, FUNDING

Agenda Item #4

The 2014 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?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

APPROVED

PUBLIC WORKS: REORGANIZATION

Agenda Item #5

The DPW Director advises that a Welder position in the Central Garage (A.1640.0000.0110.000) included in the DPW 2014 budget is not needed. The designated salary for this position is \$30,566.00. The position that is needed, however, is a Junior Account Clerk in the DPW Administration division (A.1490.0001.0110.000). The salary designated for this position is \$22,559.38. Benefits budgeted for each position are the same and are separately budgeted. Abolishing the Welder position and creating the Junior Account Clerk position will result in a savings of \$8,006.62.

Will the Council so approve?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

APPROVED

CONTRACT: WATER BOARD, SAFETY SPECIALIST, SHARING

Agenda Item #6

In 2008 the City and Water Board entered into a Municipal Cooperation Agreement to share a Safety Specialist.

The current Agreement expires on December 31, 2013 and has been a benefit to both the City and the Water Board.

It is recommended that the City enter into an Amendment with the Water Board to provide for an additional four (4) year term commencing on January 1, 2014 and ending on December 31, 2017 with the other terms remaining the same.

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

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

APPROVED

CONTRACT: COOPER SIGN, SIGNAGE FOR 19<sup>TH</sup> ST. PARK, FUNDING

Agenda Item #7

During the City Council meeting on December 23, 2013, the Council unanimously approved naming the City Park on 19<sup>th</sup> Street in memory of Louis S. Serianni. Attached hereto (on file in the City Clerk's Office) is a copy of the City Council resolution, together with a copy of an artist rendering of the sign proposed to be created, along with a quote from Cooper Sign in the amount of \$1,296.00 to create the sign. Installation will be accomplished by DPW crews.

Funding is available from the 2013 Tourism Signage line.

Will the Council so approve?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

APPROVED

CONTRACT: NIAGARA ARTS & CULTURAL CENTER, FUNDING

Agenda Item #8

The 2014 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?

Council Member Grandinetti moved that the communication be received and filed and the recommendation approved.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

APPROVED

RESOLUTION: INVESTMENT POLICY, ADOPTION, 2014-2  
BY: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Agenda Item #9

WHEREAS, New York law requires the governing board of each municipality to adopt an investment policy; and

WHEREAS, the objectives of the investment policy are:

1. to conform with legal requirements
2. to provide for the safety of principal
3. to provide for sufficient liquidity to meet operating requirements
4. to obtain a reasonable rate of return; and

WHEREAS, the attached (on file in the City Clerk's Office) investment policy is designed to satisfy these objectives.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Niagara Falls, New York, that it hereby adopts the attached investment policy.

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION: NIAGARA GAZETTE, DESIGNATION AS OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER, 2014-3  
BY: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Agenda Item #10

BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of Niagara Falls, New York, that the designation of the Niagara Gazette as the official newspaper of the City of Niagara Falls, New York for purposes of printing and/or publishing of all legal notices, public hearing notices and any other matters required by law or by the City Council or the Boards of the City to be printed and/or published is hereby continued.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this designation shall be in effect for the year 2014, but such designation shall not thereafter lapse until superseded

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION: TRAFFIC ADVISORY COMMISSION, APPOINTMENT, 2014-4  
BY: ALL COUNCIL MEMBERS

Agenda Item #11

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individual is hereby re-appointed to the City of Niagara Falls Traffic Advisory Commission Board for the term expiring on the date which appears opposite their name:

RE-APPOINTMENT TERM EXPIRES:

Chester Hyla 12/31/2018

Yeas 5  
Nays 0

ADOPTED

RESOLUTION: PLANNING BOARD, APPOINTMENTS  
BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS ANDERSON, CHOOKOKIAN

Agenda Item #12

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby re-appointed to the City of Niagara Falls Planning Board for the term expiring on the date which appears opposite their names:

<u>RE-APPOINTMENTS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
Laurie Davis	12/31/2016
Willie Dunn	12/31/2016

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the following individual is hereby appointed to the City of Niagara Falls Planning Board for the term expiring on the date which appears opposite their name:

<u>APPOINTMENTS</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
Nicholas Stopa	12/31/2016
Council Member Grandinetti moved to Table the Resolution	
Yeas	4
Anderson, Grandinetti, Touma, Chairman Walker	
Nays	1
Choolokian	

TABLED

Council Member Grandinetti said she recently got a lost of the Boards & Commissions that shows the vacancies & she wants a chance to look at the List before she votes for any appointments

RESOLUTION: ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, APPOINTMENTS  
BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS ANDERSON, CHOOKOKIAN

Agenda Item #13

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individuals are hereby reappointed to the City of Niagara Falls Zoning Board of Appeals for the term expiring on the date which appears opposite their names:

<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
Samuel Archie	12/31/2016
Robert Ventry	12/31/2016
Council Member Grandinetti moved to Table the Resolution	
Yeas	4
Anderson, Grandinetti, Touma, Chairman Walker	
Nays	1
Choolokian	

TABLED

RESOLUTION: WATER BOARD APPOINTMENT  
BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS ANDERSON, CHOOKOKIAN

Agenda Item #14

BE IT RESOLVED, that the following individual is hereby appointed to the City of Niagara Falls Water Board for the term expiring on the date which appears opposite their names:

<u>APPOINTMENT</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES:</u>
Harry R. Palladino	12/31/2016
Council Member Grandinetti moved to Table the Resolution	
Yeas	4
Anderson, Grandinetti, Touma, Chairman Walker	
Nays	1
Choolokian	

TABLED

RESOLUTION: SECRETARY TO THE COUNCIL, APPOINTMENT, 2014-5  
BY: COUNCIL MEMBERS GRANDINETTI, TOUMA, CHAIRMAN WALKER

Agenda Item #15

WHEREAS, the current Confidential City Council Secretary has retired effective Monday, December 31, 2013; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that pursuant to the authority of Section 3.2.e of the City Charter, Ryan Undercoffer is hereby appointed as Confidential Secretary to the City Council effective Tuesday, January 7, 2014.

Yeas	3
Grandinetti, Touma, Chairman Walker	
Nays	1
Choolokian	
Abstain	1
Anderson	

ADOPTED

Council Member Anderson said he was not part of the process & would therefore abstain from the voting

Council Member Choolokian said it's a shame that the former Chief of Staff was forced to retire & the Council lost a good person

RESOLUTION: MARRIAGE OFFICER, APPOINTMENT, 2014-6  
BY: COUNCIL MEMBER TOUMA, CHAIRMAN WALKER

Agenda Item #16

WHEREAS, Niagara Falls has an international reputation as The Honeymoon Capital; and

WHEREAS, couples arrive at the City Clerk's Office from all over the world to obtain a marriage license; and

WHEREAS, it is advantageous for the City and convenient to the couple to have these marriages solemnized within the municipal boundaries of the City of Niagara Falls; and

WHEREAS, the Council finds it appropriate to maintain the existing number of Marriage Officers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of Niagara Falls, New York that in accordance with Section 11-c of the New York Domestic Relations Law, Kristen Grandinetti, a resident of the City of Niagara Falls, New York, be reappointed as a Marriage Officer for the City of Niagara Falls for a term of four years.

Yeas	5
Nays	0

ADOPTED

There being no further business to come before the Council, Chairman Walker adjourned the Meeting at 6:30 P.M.

Carol A. Antonucci  
City Clerk

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