

RESOLUTION No. 2019-

RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING OPEN GOVERNMENT

BY:

Council Member Bill Kennedy
Council Member Ezra Scott, Jr.
Council Member Kenny Tompkins
Council Member Christopher Voccio

WHEREAS, every March when Sunshine Week is being observed, government officials, the media and citizens show their support for open government; and

WHEREAS, the Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government prepared a list of Best Practices which they believe every municipality should follow in support of open government.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the City Council of Niagara Falls, NY does hereby support Open Government and is committed to the Best Practices as provided by the Buffalo Niagara Coalition for Open Government;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of Niagara Falls, NY:

- 1) Will post our meeting agendas and agenda documents online, at least 48 hours before our meetings occur.
- 2) We will post draft meeting minutes online, two weeks after our meetings.
- 3) We will allow citizens to speak at the beginning of our meetings regarding agenda items or non-agenda items, before we vote.
- 4) We support video recording of our meetings and posting the video online for the public to see. We are already recording and posting our meetings online or we are committed to making this happen as soon as possible.
- 5) We believe government meetings should be conducted in public for citizens to observe and we will only conduct executive sessions in accordance with the New York State Open Meetings Law. We understand that a motion to hold an executive session to discuss “litigation”, “personnel” or “collective bargaining” is not sufficient, as the Open Meetings Law requires motions to state more information when holding an executive session.
- 6) As a local government with a population under 50,000, we support having our elected officials voluntarily complete an Annual Financial Disclosure Form and posting the completed forms on our government website for the public to see.

Kennedy _____ Scott _____ Tompkins _____ Voccio _____ Touma _____