

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE & ORDINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, JULY 18, 2023, 7:00 PM
HURLEY BUILDING, 205 SALTONSTALL STREET
VIRTUALLY: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/84936309067>
LIVE STREAM: <https://fingerlakestv.org/live/>

Environmental Committee:

Karen White, Chair
Sim Covington, Jr.
Erich Dittmar
Renée Sutton

Other Council Members Present:

Thomas Lyon
Steve Uebbing
Ellen Polimeni
Dan Unrath
Mayor Palumbo

City staff:

John Goodwin, City Manager
David Hou, Corporation Counsel

Chair White opened the meeting and she welcomed those present.

Chair White reviewed the update from the Canandaigua Lady. John Brennan, on behalf of the owners of the Canandaigua Lady, presented a two phased dock modification request at May 2nd Planning and Finance Committee meeting. Phase 1 would add a slip on the east side of the dock to allow for a 10-person excursion boat. At the meeting, Council encouraged Mr. Brennan to explore an electric boat and to also look into “educational” elements/programming during small boat excursions. As this is an amendment to the easement for the dock, City Council approval is necessary. John Brennan, Captain of the Canandaigua Lady, presented. He said that their main focus is the small tour boat. It would be more efficient for them to have a smaller boat for weekday groups in stead of taking out the Lady when it isn’t cost effective. Chair White asked if they are using a temporary mooring or a long-term option. Mr. Brennan said it would be a long-term option would be best. Councilmember Uebbing went on a boat on Keuka Lake, which was educational in nature, he liked the idea of doing something with the Lady and a small tour boat, similar to what is being discussed. Councilmember Sutton asked if the Lady goes out with less passengers when it isn’t cost effective and yes, they do, Mr. Brennan confirmed. Discussion on making a classroom out of the boat could happen, they are open do exploring at some point. Councilmember Sutton said that she is not in favor of adding another dock to the area. Mr. Brennan said it wouldn’t be a dock, just an additional hoist. Councilmember Polimeni, said that this is similar to what Captain Gray did several years ago, she is in favor of having this as an opportunity. Karen, from 252 North Main Street, runs Oliver Phelps Bed and Breakfast, she refers guests to other Lakes because we do not have this opportunity. Mayor Palumbo is in favor of moving this forward. Councilmember Dittmar motioned to accept phase one, Councilmember Covington seconded, vote passed 3 -1 with Councilmember Sutton voting no.

Chair White moved to review the CLWA Presentation. Councilmember Polimeni presented on the Watershed Association and introduced, Doug and Mrs. Polimeni have been meeting with local Town Boards on the Association, for what they review and address for the area. The Town of Canandaigua is the only location they haven’t visited, it will be later this month. Councilmember Polimeni, introduced

angles. Mayor Palumbo agrees that the infrastructure issues remain and it is best to wait to see what happens. Councilmember Sutton said that we are all responsible for protecting and taking care of the environment. Carbon emissions are the core of this problem and we have the opportunity to make change, but we should take an opportunity to explore.

Chair Dittmar moved to review the Senior Citizen Exemption. The City provides a property tax exemption in accordance with Real Property Tax Law section 467, to senior citizens with limited income. The senior citizens exemption was raised for the City in 2008 to \$28,899. Prior to that, the last revision was in 1995 raising the maximum to \$22,500. A presentation was made at the July 11th Finance Committee meeting and it was requested that discussion continue at the Ordinance Committee. Mr. Goodwin noted that they want to evaluate for three years. Councilmember White said that she liked the idea and wondered if \$32K could be raised. Mr. Goodwin said that they are adding a slight bump and not taking away what is considered income. Councilmember Covington asked if the impact is what would be studied. Councilmember Sutton asked about the adjustments, not including Social Security and taxable IRA distributions. Councilmember Sutton asked to review the law. Mr. Goodwin noted that this would be impacted on the 2024 assessment roll it doesn't become effective until July of the new year. There is a deadline of March to review all the details and put the law together. December 31, 2023 is the deadline, which Council can adopt at the December meeting. Chair Dittmar said that the basic recommendation would be best for the City to apply. Councilmember Sutton said that she is in favor of what is being recommended, but didn't really understand why their income is apart of the discussion and should be rolled out. She is in favor of increasing the cap. Mr. Goodwin reviewed the spreadsheet from the presentation and showed the various options. Councilmember Uebbing said that maybe this should be circled back to the Finance based on Councilmember Sutton's questions. Chair Dittmar said that he agrees to move this back to Finance for review. Mr. Goodwin said that reviewing the denials, it was income range up to 38- 40K. Chair Dittmar moved this back to finance.

Chair Dittmar reviewed, Amendments to City Code Chapters 300 "Unsafe Buildings" and 748 "Housing Standards" A proposed ordinance amending Chapters 300 and 748 to allow for additional due process for recipients of orders to vacate unsafe structures. This amendment would allow occupants of structures that have been determined to be unsafe/dangerous, the right, upon written request, to have a hearing within three business days on the issue of whether the structure is unsafe. This right would be in addition to the existing right of occupants to have a hearing when the initial notice of unsafe structure is served under Chapter 300. Chair Dittmar asked Mr. Hoy for clarification. Mr. Hou reviewed the precedent. Councilmember Covington motioned to move forward with this request for three business days, seconded by Councilmember White. Mr. Hou said it is a matter of due process, it gives a timeframe to mitigate the situation. Making sure they have the right to this request. Councilmember Covington said it is another opportunity to extend an olive branch. Mayor Palumbo asked if this for the renter or the occupant. Mr. Hou said that this is for the resident. Mr. Hou said that accountability lies with the landlord, this section is dealing with the 1% of cases and notices have been given. This is the last stage before a forced eviction. Mr. Hou continued that they are able to have a hearing to contest their situation and by the time we get to this point the violation has been well established. The motion passed and carried.

Chair Dittmar reviewed, parking on Howell Street near Sonnenberg. Parking is currently restricted along the north side of Howell from Park Street to Charlotte Street. Due to parking complaints from Howell Street residents, City Staff recommends changing the current parking restriction. Chapter 648-21 Parking, standing and stopping restrictions would be amended for Howell Street to read; *no parking on the south side from Park Street to Charlotte Street*. Mr. Goodwin showed a map of the area. Reviewed the complaints that the City has received and moving the parking will address. Councilmember Sutton asked why the parking was the designed the way it was, what was the reason. Councilmember White doesn't

want to limit access and would like to expand the parking. Councilmembers discussed multiple parking options. Councilmember Unrath said that he is in favor to flip the parking. Councilmember White motioned to add parking on the North side, Councilmember Covington seconded. Before the vote, Councilmember Covington clarified keeping the parking on the South side, allowing for parking on both sides. The motion passed and carried.

Mr. Goodwin noted the CCA power program as residents are starting to receive letters. Residents can choose to opt out and remain with RGE or move to 100% renewable which is a financial impact to residents or stay with the standard supply rate. The three rates available are fixed and residents are now given the opportunity which way they choose to go. If you have not received your letter, the details are available at Gateway 585-244-0244. There is an information session tomorrow at Wood Library. Details are available on the City's website.

Councilmember Uebbing discussed the potential of creating an incentive around the gas stove ban with property tax. Councilmember White asked to have it on the discussion for the next Environmental meeting.

Chair Dittmar closed the meeting at 8:39 pm.