

**THE HONORABLE BODY
Council Chambers
Municipal Building
North Tonawanda, New York 14120
Tuesday, May 5, 2026
6:28 P.M.**

REGULAR SESSION CALLED TO ORDER BY PRESIDENT RICHARDS

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

ROLL CALL

**Present: President Richards
Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey**

Absent: None

**Also Present: Mayor Austin J. Tylec
Assistant City Attorney Mario Gregori**

*****STUDENT GOVERNMENT DAY*****

Mayor: Graeme Ashby City Attorney: Haydee Moore City Judge: Eden Trometer
City Clerk/Treasurer: Eric Grinnell Council President/ 1st Ward Alderperson: Jayce Anderson
Alderperson at Large: Addy Lebarron Alderperson at Large: Richie Andres
2nd Ward Alderperson: Sophie Mussel 3rd Ward Alderperson: Kurt Davidson

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION-

Alex Domaradzki Director of Parks and Recreation wanted to thank everyone involved in making Student Government Day a great success. We would like to search to see how many years the City of North Tonawanda has been organizing this day for our School Community.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION APRIL 21, 2026

**MOVED by Alderman Schulmeister SECONDED by Alderman Roe
That the minutes of the regular session held April 21, 2026, be approved as circulated and filed in the Office of the City Clerk.
Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.**

COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

#1. Alderman Schulmeister

April 29, 2026

North Tonawanda Common Council
 216 Payne Avenue
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120

**Re: Riviera Theatre Phase 4 Accessible Backstage and Dressing Room Application
 For funding through Niagara River Greenway Commission**

A resolution of the Common Council of the City of North Tonawanda supporting the Riviera Theatre Phase 4 accessible backstage and dressing room addition and its application for funding through the Niagara River Greenway Commission host community standing committee.

**MOVED by Alderman Murphy SECONDED by Alderman Schulmeister
 That the Common Council at a regular session meeting, held at City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue, North Tonawanda, New York at 6:30 PM on May 5th, 2026, approved the Resolution supporting the Riviera Theatre Phase 4 accessible backstage and dressing room addition and its application for funding through the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Community Standing Committee and it reads as follows:**

WHEREAS, the Riviera Theatre and Organ Preservation Society, Inc. owns and operates the historic 1926 Riviera Theatre located at 67 Webster Street in the City of North Tonawanda, a property listed on the National Register of Historic Places and recognized as a cornerstone of the City's cultural and economic identity; and

WHEREAS, the Riviera Theatre draws more than 100,000 visitors annually to downtown North Tonawanda, supporting local businesses, driving year-round tourism, and contributing to the vitality of the Niagara River and Erie Canal corridor; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Tonawanda selected the Riviera Theatre as one of 23 priority projects in its 2022 Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), recognizing the Theatre's expansions essential to the City's downtown and waterfront revitalization strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Riviera Theatre is identified in the City of North Tonawanda Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045 as a cultural and economic asset central to the City's long-term revitalization strategy; and

WHEREAS, the Riviera Theatre proposes construction of a 2,300 square-foot, ADA-accessible backstage and dressing room addition at its historic venue as Phase 4 of its multi-phase capital improvement initiative, replacing undersized, flood-prone basement dressing rooms with modern, accessible performer facilities directly connected to the stage; and

WHEREAS, this project will enhance performer accessibility, health, and safety; expand the Theatre's capacity to host larger and more diverse touring productions; and strengthen its role as a regional cultural anchor within the Niagara River Greenway corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Riviera Theatre has applied for funding through the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Community Standing Committee in support of this project; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Tonawanda fully supports this project as consistent with the City's strategic plans for downtown revitalization, cultural investment, and economic development along the Niagara River and Erie Canal corridor;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of North Tonawanda hereby expresses its strong support for the Riviera Theatre Phase 4 Accessible Backstage and Dressing Room Addition and endorses the Riviera Theatre and Organ Preservation Society, Inc's application for funding through the Niagara River Greenway Commission Host Community Standing Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council affirms that this project is consistent with the City of North Tonawanda’s 2022 Downtown Revitalization Initiative and its Comprehensive Plan 2025-2045, and that investment in the Riviera Theatre represents a priority for the downtown and waterfront revitalization of the City of North Tonawanda; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor of the City of North Tonawanda is hereby authorized to execute any documents or certifications necessary to support said application

Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

II. Attorney

April 22, 2026

**Hon. Mayor and Common Council
 City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue
 North Tonawanda, NY 14120**

Re: Proposed Lease Agreement – Thursdays on the Water Concerts

Dear Honorable Body:

Attached, for your review, is a proposed lease agreement between the City of North Tonawanda and JG Production and Entertainment, LLC, for the concert series commonly known as “Thursdays on the Water”, to be held at Gratwick Park. The promoter will provide a series of seven (7) concerts to be held on the following dates: July 9, July 16, July 30, August 6, August 13, August 20, August 27, 2026, with September 3 reserved as a possible rain date.

Should your Honorable Body concur, please authorize the Mayor to execute the Lease Agreement between the City of North Tonawanda and JG Production & Entertainment, LLC, subject to any further review by the City Attorney.

**Very truly yours,
 Edward A. Zebulske, III
 City Attorney**

MOVED by Alderman Schulmeister SECONDED by Alderman Roe
That the Common Council hereby approves the attached Lease Agreement between the City of North Tonawanda and JG Productions & Entertainment, LLC, for the aforementioned dates for “Thursdays on the Water Concerts”.

Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

VII. Accountant

April 30, 2026

**Honorable Austin J. Tylec, Mayor
 and Common Council
 City Hall, 216 Payne Avenue
 North Tonawanda NY 14120**

Dear Honorable Body:

In accordance with Article V, Division 1, Section 5.002 and 5.003 of the City Charter, an Abstract Sheet, comprised of a Warrant of Claims, has been submitted by this office for your review and approval.

Accordingly, please authorize for payment the current Warrant of Claims for Common Council audit, dated May 5th, 2026, and further authorize the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant.

Warm regards,
Jeffrey R. Zellner
City Accountant

MOVED by Alderman Murphy **SECONDED** by Alderman Lavey
That the Common Council hereby authorizes for payment the current Abstract of Claims for Common Council Audit dated May 5th, 2026, and further authorizes the Mayor and City Clerk-Treasurer to respectively sign and countersign said Warrant:

01	General Fund	\$470,178.73
02	Water Fund	\$31,241.00
04	Sewer Fund	\$69,888.27
06	Capital Project Fund	\$468,057.49
07	Trust & Agency Fund	<u>\$17,210.48</u>
00	Final Total	<u>\$1,056,575.97</u>

Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)
Nays: None (0)
CARRIED.

XVII. Traffic Safety

April 20, 2026

Donna Braun
City Clerk-Treasurer
216 Payne Avenue
North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Traffic Safety Minutes:

The April meeting of the North Tonawanda Traffic Safety Committee was called to order at 1800 hours. Roll call showed the following members present: M. Meisenburg, R. Frank, M. Lemke, N. Ferguson, Richard Hall and R. Orłowski. The minutes from the previous meeting were read and accepted, the following new concerns/requests were discussed, and recommendations made.

1. Request from local resident stating that there should be no parking signs at Deerfield and Ohio St. Specific location would be on the north side of Ohio Street directly across from Deerfield St. Resident states that when cars are parked on the north side it's difficult to make a right turn heading towards Niagara Falls Blvd. Reason being is that drivers coming from the boulevard with cars parked in this location there is no room for 2 cars to get through. The vehicles coming from the boulevard are also going at a higher rate of speed. The committee agreed to the request.
2. Request from the traffic safety committee that the 3-way intersection Payne and East be put on flash for a month. There will be a sign on East stating that cross-traffic does not stop. With the new aquatic center going in on Payne Ave. We will have a permanent working traffic signal at Payne and Maple Terrace. Within 500 ft. we have another traffic signal at Payne and Walck intersection. We feel with this new aquatic center there will be a substantial amount of traffic increase causing vehicle congestion. Taking the signal down at East Ave. / Payne and putting a

Observance Service by the Tonawanda's United Veterans Council, directing the DPW to provide barricades for said event and the Police Department to assist with traffic.

Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

B.

Herschell Carrousel Museum

April 28, 2026

Common Council

City Hall / 216 Payne Avenue

North Tonawanda, NY 14120

Common Council Members,

The Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum is seeking to erect a privacy fence on campus and will need a building permit. As with projects in the past, we are seeking a waiver of building permit fees for the construction of the fence.

Sincerely,

Ian K. Seppala

MOVED by Alderman Schulmeister **SECONDED** by Alderman Lavey

That the Common Council hereby grants permission to waive the building permit fees to the Herschell Carrousel Factory Museum for the construction of their fence.

Ayes: Alderman Schulmeister, Roe, Murphy, Lavey, Richards (5)

Nays: None (0)

CARRIED.

AUDIENCE PARTICIPATION

Carrie Ashby-1053 Walck Road-She would like to ask the city to look into installing more lighting on Walck Road in the section of the curve heading towards the Golf Course. The Mayor said he would address it with the City Engineer and National Grid.

ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Alderman Lavey

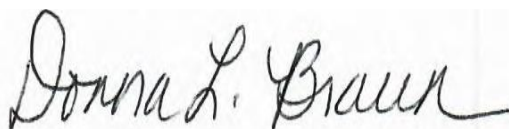
SECONDED by Alderman Murphy

That this regular session of the Common Council be and hereby is adjourned.

CARRIED.

Time of Adjournment: 6:51 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,



Donna L. Braun
City Clerk-Treasurer