

**MINUTES**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**  
**TUESDAY, JUNE 21, 2022 7:00 PM**  
**HURLEY BUILDING, 205 SALTONSTALL STREET**  
<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83871733845>

Members present: Mayor Bob Palumbo  
Nick Cutri  
Dan Unrath  
Karen White  
Sim Covington, Jr.  
Thomas Lyon  
Steve Uebbing

City Staff Present: John Goodwin, City Manager  
David Hou, Corporation Counsel

Absent: Erich Dittmar  
Renee Sutton

The Mayor opened the meeting at 7:07pm. Welcomed members present. Mayor Palumbo explained the reason for the session as quorum could not be met for the Environmental and Ordinance Committee meetings, so it moved to be a Committee of the Whole meeting.

The Mayor reviewed the Special Event request from the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Association for their ribbon cutting and open house for their new location on Mill Street, underneath the Farmer's Market Pavilion. The event will take place on September 8<sup>th</sup> from 4:30 – 7:30 pm. Lynn Klotz from CLWA explained that they had outgrown their space and really happy to find space near Main Street. Senator Helming will be attending. Lindsay McMillian from CLWA added that they are very happy about engaging with the public and helping them to learn more on watershed education. Councilmember White asked about cleaning the parking lot for the event. City Manager Goodwin said that notice will be given in advance to alert the public that park there and will be working with the BID to coordinate. Councilmember-at-Large Uebbing motioned to approve the event, seconded by Councilmember Lyon, unanimously passed and carried.

The Mayor reviewed the second Special Event request for PickleFest. The competitive event will take place at both Sonnenburg and Baker parks from August 19 – August 25<sup>th</sup>. City Manager said that this event was held last year but this is required the be approved as a formal event. Councilmember White motioned to approve and Councilmember Lyon seconded, unanimously approved and carried.

The Mayor reviewed the Grant Application for the the City was awarded a New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Zero-Emissions Vehicles grant totaling \$358,984 to purchase and install four solar charging stations (eight level 2 charging ports). The City Manager requested a proposal from MRB Group for grant administration and recommends appropriating the \$3,500 cost from the funds received as part of the community solar program. City Manager Goodwin said that Source Power donated \$50 for every person that signed up and that money was set aside. The City would like to use a small portion of it to administer the grant and get the charging stations here with the paperwork administration. Green Spot did present to Council and that is a new potential partner and more time is needed before moving forward with Green Spot. The City is looking to apply again to this grant to help the Coach Street Parking Lot to expand the charging station. Councilmember

Lyon motioned to approve this and move it to full Council, seconded by Councilmember Cutri. Unanimously passed and carried.

The Mayor introduced the contract for the school resource officer agreement with the Canandaigua City School District. City Manager Goodwin explained that this is an annual contract with the School District that is set to expire in July. Last year, he requested a three-year agreement and will be doing so again this year. This has been a very successful program. Jamie Farr, Superintendent of the School District spoke and said, the SRO program is added security for the schools and given the data on active shooters in the schools, having a presence will help end these situations sooner. The SRO Program certainly helps keep the school safer and also helps staff/students make you feel safer. Farr explained that the Canandaigua City School District was one of the first schools to have a behavior intervention team and that comprises of school administrators, counselors and mental health staff, City Police, Sheriff's Office, State Police officers and then County agencies. The group meets by-weekly to review events going on at the school, the community and what are some of the treats that we need to be aware of, student/family issues as well and the follow up of these issues at every meeting. The focus is providing resources to families and students to help prevent the unthinkable. We have presented this program regionally as a successful program and our SROs are there at every meeting. They have a lot of inside information that is import. We have completely revamped our safety procedures and need to give a lot of the credit to the SRO Officers leading this change. The SROs have attended and participated in these trainings with staff and our approach is much more aggressive that what you many find in a typical lockdown type situation. Farr continued to explain that the District has been presenting this program regionally and big credit needs to be given to the SROs. In addition to their safety work, the SROs are forming really great relationship with our students and families. The SRO Officers have been great at working through negative situations too when there might a legal situation. They have been able to help connect families with different resources and they just do so much more for us and ultimately the community. Councilmember Lyon asked the State Comptroller findings for mental health trainings. Superintendent Farr explained that out of the 20 districts they audited only two had provided every facet of the mental health training as requested by law, and Canandaigua was one of those two districts. Out of the files pulled by the State, showed staff that had not fully completed the training by the date due, but had completed the training by the end of September being in compliance with the request. Canandaigua Police Chief Matt Nielsen commented on the mental health intervention team work and the relationship building the SRO Officers have accomplished with at risk students and their families to advert any potential issues. CPD has been investing in training for mental health and de-escalation tactics and there are four officers that are trained in youth officer work. The work the officers have done to establish relationships with the student is something that cannot be duplicated with just an officer showing up to respond to a call. Chief Nielsen said the work they are doing by being present is necessary and appreciated by the School District. Councilmember White explained that she has not been in favor of having an armed officer at the school and the research that she has done suggests that increasing the number of school nurses and teachers' aids and counselors is better for a response to situations and she believes the funding should be apart of the school budget. White said the school budget is 80.5 million and the City Budget is 16.7 million and believe discussion needs to be on the funding as it should go to the school with a wider tax base. She isn't supporting this until the funding is rearranged. City Manager Goodwin reviewed that we have one part time SRO that is 100% funded by the School District and one full time officer, that acts as our Youth Officer and is split 50/50 between the City and the District. We do have an option to add a full-time officer funded by the school district if allowed, in this contract. Councilmember Uebbing asked if there was a time when the officer was funded by the City fully and yes that has happened in the past, according to Goodwin. Councilmember Lyon asked on the percentage of disciplinary cases the SROs are involved with and Mr. Farr confirmed only when there is a crime committed. The Mayor asked about the BIT and their involvement, Mr. Farr reviewed that they are meeting over zoom and 20 to 30 people attend, it's not just City Police but Sherriff's Office, State Troopers, meet to review any student or family that could be in crisis and helping those student and families. He cited a recent example of an issue at 10 pm at night with a student

and the SROs are the first call, making that home visit and assessing the treat level and the approach to the situation. They are responsive twenty-four hours a day. Councilmember White asked about the funding commitment from the City. Goodwin clarified that the City funds about \$75K for the full-time officer with all the benefits and for the part time officer is completely funded by the district. Councilmember White asked if the school district can afford the costs. Mr. Farr explained that one of the challenges is that the City's budget cycle and the school district do not line- up, which presents a challenge. Mr. Farr suggested that should the program change, they would return to retired SROs that would work part time. Councilmember Uebbing cited the loss of the SRO program for the Rochester City School District and working with colleagues in that District have told him losing the program has had a huge set back in response time to issues facing the District and the Rochester community at large. He further explained that essentially the program as a whole is preventative and should be maintained as it benefits not just the school district but the City as a whole. Councilmember White said the school should fund the program. The Mayor asked for a resolution to move this to the full Council. Councilmember Cutri motioned to move the SRO program to the full Council meeting, seconded by Councilmember Uebbing. Councilmembers Lyon and White were opposed with Councilmembers Covington, Uebbing, Cutri and Unrath moving to approve it.

The mayor reviewed the added agenda item from Councilmember White on Code Enforcement. Councilmember White explained that one of her constituents has been communicating with the City with her complaints about her neighbors who are renters who are in violation of code enforcement and she has sent pictures to the department. Councilmember White asked why does it take so long to work with Code Enforcement and could there be a more efficient way working with the landlords to quickly respond to complaints. Councilmember White has viewed properties in the City that are poorly maintained and believes that our Code Enforcement is a little weak in their response. Goodwin suggested that Code could get more aggressive, but due process has to take place allowing the homeowner to correct any violation and if they don't, then they are sent to court. The court will then give time to correct the violation, and when needed, the court would have scheduled a trial, the adjunction process would have to happen. Councilmember White suggests that since the City has a plan for snow and grass removal when homeowners are not complaint, something similar should be done here too. Goodwin said that efforts are made to give the homeowner time to be complaint with the violations. David Hou gave broader content and he cannot speak to the direct efforts referenced, for properties that are considered habitual violations taking them to City Court provides a limited remedy and can be very productive to move things forward. Hou explained, that you cannot go onto the property and removing items, you would need to get injunctive relief and they areas are more complicated. Councilmember White believes a broader discussion and feels that our standards are a little low. Councilmember Uebbing asked about property left on the area owned by the City and Goodwin clarified that it the property is a public health hazard or a safety hazard we will remove it. The City charges a fee and we also provide a bulk waste collection at the transfer station as a way of removal. Councilmember Uebbing asked if the City has the staff to be working in a way that Councilmember White is alluding too, to which Goodwin explained that the City can have someone drive around the City actively seeking violations, but currently do not and resources would need to be added. Both current Code Officers do respond to issues they see when conducting their inspections both commercial and residential. Mike Yaeger, feels the program should be for all properties and not just rental properties. The Mayor thanked Mike for his comments and no other comments were made from Councilmember present.

The Mayor moved to the next topic on vacancy tax discussion and said that since Councilmember Sutton was not able to attend the discussion would move to the next meeting as she requested the discussion of the topic.

Councilmember White motioned to adjourn the meeting into Executive Session to discuss contact details, seconded by Councilmember Cutri, unanimously passed and carried. The meeting adjourned at 8:09 pm.