

**REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 28, 2014  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
[www.lackawannany.gov](http://www.lackawannany.gov)**

**Regular session of the Lackawanna City Council met in the Council Chambers, Council President Henry Pirowski presiding. The meeting was preceded by the Pledge of Allegiance led by Council President Pirowski.**

**Meeting called to order  
NB: Meeting being recorded**

**Roll Call: Council Present: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski  
Dept Heads: Present: Public Works, Public Safety, Comptroller, Development,  
Law, Recreation, Assessor**

**Approval of Minutes:** of regular meeting of April 7, 2014

Moved by Pirowski, seconded by Jerge to adopt minutes of April 7, 2014 as written  
Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski Carried 5-0

**Departmental Reports:**

1. City Compt. – AP Check listing #38, March 27, 2014.
2. City Compt. – AP Check listing #39, March 31, 2014.
3. City Compt. – AP Check listing #40, April 3, 2014.
4. City Compt. – AP Check listing #41, April 10, 2014.
5. City Compt. – AP Check listing #42, April 17, 2014.
6. City Compt. – Statement of Cond. Of Appropriations, March 31, 2014.

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to receive and file departmental reports one through six  
Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski Carried 5-0

**Communications from Department/Division Heads:**

**Sale of Police Vehicles**

7. To: City Council

This letter serves to request your Honorable Body approve and allow the purchasing agent, Tom Nicometo, to sell the following marked police vehicles:

**Car #21-2007 Ford-VIN#1FMEU73E07UA88248 (135,000 miles)**

**Car #24-2008 Ford-VIN#2FAHP71VX8X131067 (160,000 miles)**

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation in the above regard.

**DANA J BRITTON-DIRECTOR of PUBLIC SAFETY**

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Iafallo to approve request, Purchasing Agent authorized to sell police vehicles

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

**Land Bank Acquisition at In Rem Auction**

8. To: City Council

This letter shall serve to confirm that the City of Lackawanna is requesting that the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation, acquire two Properties at the next City of Lackawanna In Rem auction.

The properties are as follows;

205 Ridge Rd SBL# 141.43-3-14.1

330-336 Ridgewood Circle SBL# 142.12-2-18

The purpose of this acquisition is to rehabilitate the properties thereby returning them to the tax rolls. Rehabilitation would be completed by BENLIC and not City Tax Dollars.

I would therefore encourage the City Council to pass the attached Resolution allowing BENLIC to acquire these properties at our next In Rem Auction in late May 2014.

**FRANK E KRAKOWSKI-CITY ASSESSOR**

**A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY MAYOR GEOFFREY M SZYMANSKI OF THE CITY OF LACKAWANNA**

**WHEREAS**, in July 2011 in recognition of the growing problem of distressed, vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties, New York State passed the Land Bank Act, as Article 16 of the New York State Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, which authorizes any Foreclosing Governmental Unit (FGU) to create a land bank to strategically acquire, improve, assemble, and sell these properties; and

**WHEREAS**, under this law, the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporation (BENLIC) was formed in May 2012 via an intermunicipal agreement among the county's four FGUs: Erie County and the Cities of Buffalo, Lackawanna, and Tonawanda; and

**WHEREAS**, county-wide land banks have proven highly successful in Michigan, Ohio, and other regions experiencing growing numbers of problem properties by supporting municipal and regional revitalization efforts by strategically acquiring, improving, assembling, and selling these properties; and

**WHEREAS**, BENLIC (the land bank) seeks to work collaboratively with the cities, towns, and villages within Erie County to address the growing problem of distressed, vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Lackawanna, Erie County, has recognized the need to address the growing issue of distressed, vacant, abandoned, and tax-delinquent properties and is desirous of partnering with BENLIC to address this problem.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that City of Lackawanna hereby officially requests that BENLIC acquire one or more properties from the list of prioritized properties below (addresses and Section Block Lot (SBL) numbers included):

1<sup>st</sup> Priority Property 205 Ridge Road SBL # 140900 141.43-3-14.1

2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Property 330-336 Ridgewood Circle SBL # 140900 142.12-2-18

; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Lackawanna has completed the required Standardized Inspector’s Reports and Maintenance, Disposition and Reuse Plans (SIR/MDR plans) each property listed above and has attached the SIR/MDR plans to this resolution; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Lackawanna agrees to pay the costs associated with foreclosure of each property selected by BENLIC from the above list of properties; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Lackawanna agrees to maintain each property selected by BENLIC during the time in which BENLIC holds title to the property; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that pursuant to section 1610 of the New York Not-for-Profit Corporation Law, should BENLIC acquire one or more properties from the above list, the City of Lackawanna hereby agrees to remit to BENLIC fifty percent of the real property taxes collected for a period of five years on the specific parcel(s) of real property identified below:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Priority Property                      205 Ridge Road                      SBL # 140900 141.43-3-14.1
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Priority Property                      330-336 Ridgewood Circle                      SBL # 140900 142.12-2-18

; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that should the Mayor of the *City of Lackawanna* object to the foreclosure or sale of a parcel of property selected by BENLIC at any time after the commencement of the foreclosure proceeding, the *City of Lackawanna* shall indemnify BENLIC for any costs/liabilities associated with such tax foreclosure action; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution will be sent to the Chairperson of the Buffalo Erie Niagara Land Improvement Corporations; the Commissioner of the Erie County Department of Environment and Planning; the Director of the City of Buffalo’s Office of Strategic Planning; and the Mayors of the cities of Buffalo and Tonawanda.

**This Resolution shall take effect immediately**

Moved by Jerge seconded by Pirowski to table for study

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

**Communications from Citizens**

**Block Party-May 3, 2014 in Honor of Cleveland Myles**

9. To: City Council

Dear members of the Council. First, let me express our gratitude for the vote to re-name the portion of Holbrook to “Cleveland Myles Way”. On behalf of our family, we thank you.

Secondly, we are asking for permission to close off Holbrook Street from Wilmuth to Phillips Place on May 3, 2014 from the hours of 12 noon-6 pm. This is to have a block party to say thank you to the community and to celebrate along with our family.

Please call me or respond in writing. The name will be put up on May 2, and this is the reason for the request for the 3<sup>rd</sup>, if it is at all possible, or May 4<sup>th</sup> as the rain date.

**MRS. BRIDGET JOHNSON**

Moved by Jerge seconded by Noman to approve request for block party honoring Cleveland Myles on May 3, 2014 (rain date May 4<sup>th</sup>)

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

**Lackawanna Community Youth Parade**

10. To: City Council

The Lackawanna Community Fun Days Planning Committee would like to thank you for your support of our efforts to unify the City of Lackawanna and provide residents with access to important resources for the past two years. With your support, over 40 local community organizations participated in our Health, Wellness, and Resource Fair including Child and Family Services, Catholic HEALTH, Baker Victory Services, Meals on Wheels and many more. The addition of Kid’s Day allowed us to provide a fun, safe and educational environment for over 400 children and families and display our talented youth with performances by C&M Dance and the LA Invaders Drill Team.

It is important that we keep the momentum going and begin to start planning for Community Fun Days 2014. This year we are expanding our reach as we plan four days of events to give residents throughout the City of Lackawanna more access to critical resources. We have added a Health, Wellness, & Resource Fair on Tuesday May 6<sup>th</sup> at Second Baptist Church, a 50 & Older Basketball Tournament and concert at Jeffrey Taggart Memorial Playground on June 7<sup>th</sup> in partnership with the Taste of Lackawanna, and our main event Friday July 25<sup>th</sup> Senior Day and Saturday July 26<sup>th</sup> Kid’s Day, at 560 Ridge Road, next to the Lackawanna Library.

The Community Fun Days Planning Committee is requesting your approval for the following:

1. All of the events outlined above
2. The use of the City of Lackawanna’s portable restrooms for our main events, Friday, July 25<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> at 560 Ridge Road
3. The use of Ridge Road for our Youth Parade on Saturday, July 26<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 am - 11:30 am from City Hall, 714 Ridge Road to the Lackawanna Library, 560 Ridge Rd.

Enclosed, you will find our 2014 schedule of events. Our goal is to strengthen our partnership with you and make you a part of our event. The City of Lackawanna’s residents have shown an interest in seeing this event grow and we plan to work with the community to make sure it continues to be a success.

The purpose of Lackawanna Community Fun Days is to provide the community with a safe and fun environment to celebrate our community and its diversity while giving Lackawanna residents the opportunity to access important resources and information to improve their quality of life. Your support is critical and we would not have been successful without you. 2014 is here and we hope to continue working with you for years to come.

**JOHN E INGRAM-CHAIRMAN**

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Noman to approve request for Lackawanna Community Fun Days Parade on July 26<sup>th</sup> and use of portable toilets

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

**Business Licenses:**

**“A Place in the Park”- Salon and Day Spa-1283 Abbott Rd**

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to approve business license

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

**Executive Session**

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Jerge to enter into executive session at 7:25 pm

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried -5-0

Meeting reconvened at 7:53 pm

**Roll Call:**

Council: Present: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

**Adjournment**

Moved by Pirowski seconded by Iafallo, meeting is adjourned

Yeas: Noman, Iafallo, Jerge, Lewis, Pirowski

Carried 5-0

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Henry R. Pirowski, Council President

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Jacqueline A Caferro, City Clerk