

**CITY OF LOCKPORT**  
**COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS**

Lockport Municipal Building

Regular Meeting  
Official Record

August 27th, 2025  
6:00 P.M.

Mayor John Lombardi III called the meeting to order.

**ROLL CALL**

The following Common Council members answered the roll call:

Aldermen Fogle, Craig, Lupo, Mullane, Devine, Kirchberger

**INVOCATION** – Pastor Steve O'Mara

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**RECESS**

Recess for public input.

**082725.1**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

On motion of Alderman Devine seconded by Alderman Mullane the minutes of the Regular meeting of August 13th, 2025 are hereby approved as printed in the Journal of Proceedings. Ayes 6.

**FROM THE MAYOR**

**Appointments:**

8/13/2025 Jennifer Previte, 54 Regent Street, has been appointed to Staff Accountant of the Accounting Department effective August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025. The appointment is permanent and subject to the City of Lockport Civil Service Rules and Regulations.

**FROM THE CITY CLERK**

The Clerk submitted payrolls, bills for services and expenses, and reported that the Department Heads submitted reports of labor performed in their departments.

Reviewed by the Finance Committee.

**Communications** (which have been referred to the appropriate City officials)

8/6/2025 Amanda Schaus, Assistant Principal at the Lockport City School District requesting permission to hold the Homecoming Parade on Saturday October 4<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

8/10/2025 John Lang (aka Bills' Elivs) requesting permission to hold the annual Bills Elvis Charity Foundation Downtown Tailgate Event on October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025.

8/7/2025 Judith Kelley, Pot-O-Gold, provided 30-Day Advance Notice of their application to the NYS Liquor Authority.

8/25/2025 Residents of Hawley and Caledonia Streets wrote a letter requesting a 4 way stop at their intersection.  
(Forwarded to the Traffic Advisory Committee.)

8/25/2025 Emily Stoddard, City Clerk – notification that the Lockport Municipal Offices will be closed on Monday September 1<sup>st</sup> in observance of Labor Day. Garbage will be collected on the day following regularly scheduled collection that week. Bulk items will be collected the week of September 8th.

## **MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS**

### **082725.2**

By Alderman Craig:

**Resolved** that the Mayor and City Clerk be authorized to issue orders in favor of the claimants for payrolls, bills and services to be paid on August 28th, 2025.

Seconded by Alderman Devine and adopted. Ayes 6.

### **082725.3**

By Alderman Craig:

**Resolved** that the Mayor and Common Council do hereby extend congratulations and appreciation to the following City employees for their years of dedicated service to the City of Lockport:

<u><b>Employee</b></u>	<u><b>Years of Service</b></u>	<u><b>Title</b></u>
Adam Piedmont	20	Police Detective
Matthew Streckewald	20	K-9 Officer
Scott Previte	5	Network Coordinator

Seconded by Alderman Kirchberger and adopted. Ayes 6.

### **082725.4**

By Alderman Craig:

**Whereas** under New York State law, electric bicycles (“e-bicycles”) are legal and classified into three categories, each with specific speed and operational restrictions; and

**Whereas** municipalities are authorized to enact local regulations regarding the use of e-bicycles within their jurisdictions; and

**Whereas** e-bicycles are generally permitted on roads with speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less, and in bike lanes, with requirements for helmets, lights, and motor limits, but do not require registration, licensing, or insurance; and

**Whereas** recent accidents involving e-bicycles, including fatalities in Clarence and Niagara Falls, as well as numerous unreported incidents, demonstrate the potential risks to public safety when e-bicycles are operated without adherence to traffic and safety laws; and

**Whereas** in the City of Lockport, e-bicycle riders have been observed operating on sidewalks, business districts, and park walking paths, creating hazards for pedestrians and conflicts with traffic; and

**Whereas** the Common Council finds it necessary to establish clear local regulations to protect the health, safety, and welfare of residents and visitors.

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that the Common Council of the City of Lockport hereby adopts the following regulations governing the use of e-bicycles and e-scooters within the City:

1. **Use on Streets:** E-bicycles may only be operated on City streets where such use is permitted under New York State law, specifically roads with posted speed limits of 30 miles per hour or less.
2. **Sidewalk Restriction:** The operation of e-bicycles and e-scooters on public sidewalks, whether in residential neighborhoods or business districts, is prohibited.
3. **Parks and Pathways Restriction:** The operation of e-bicycles and e-scooters in City parks and on public walking or recreational paths is prohibited, unless expressly designated by the City.
4. **Helmet & Equipment Compliance:** Operators must comply with all New York State requirements regarding helmets, lights, and equipment standards.
5. **Enforcement:** The Lockport Police Department is authorized to enforce these regulations through verbal warnings, written violations, appearance tickets, and fines.
6. **Impoundment Authority:** The Lockport Police Department may impound e-bicycles or e-scooters found to be operated in violation of this resolution. Release of an impounded vehicle shall require proof of ownership and payment of an impound fee as established by the City.
7. **Local Law Violation:** A new section shall be added to the City Charter making violations of this resolution a local law offense, thereby authorizing the issuance of appearance tickets for enforcement purposes.

**Be it further resolved**, that this resolution shall take effect immediately and shall be incorporated into the City Charter and Code of Ordinances accordingly.

Seconded by Alderman Lupo and adopted. Ayes 6.

**082725.5**

By Alderman Kirchberger:

**Whereas** a tailgate fundraiser has been organized by Lockport Main Street, in conjunction with Bills Elvis Charity Foundation (John Lang), Lock 34 Bar & Grill, and Gonzos, to benefit the Challenger Sports of WNY; now, therefore, be it

**Resolved** that pursuant to their request, Lockport Main Street, Inc. is hereby granted permission to hold a tailgate fundraiser on Main Street on Monday, October 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 12:00 pm until 7:00 pm, with the following provisions:

- 1.) Permission for the closure of Main Street from Cottage Street to Pine Street
- 2.) Permission to place portable sanitation units on Main Street for this event
- 3.) Access to electricity available at the light posts along Main Street

- 4.) Temporary “No Parking” on Main street from 6am-7pm on 10/13
- 5.) Waiver of the Local Open Container Law during event
  - Each licensed entity has applied with the NYS Liquor Authority for a Temporary Beer, wine and cider permit. Lock 34 Bar will be licensing 71 Main St. – 51 Main St.
  - Gonzos will be Licensing 50 Main St. – 1 Main St.
- 6.) Use of the city stage

**Resolved** that the Director of Highways, Parks and Water Distribution is hereby authorized and directed to arrange for delivery and pick-up of city barricades and trash receptacles as needed, and be it further

**Resolved** that the fundraiser will include music, food, games, raffles and beer tents, with said permission subject to Lockport Main Street, Inc. filing a certificate of insurance with the City Clerk naming the City of Lockport as additional insured.

Seconded by Alderman Craig and adopted. Ayes 6.

#### **082725.6**

By Alderman Fogle:

**Resolved** that pursuant to their request, Lockport High School is hereby granted permission to conduct a Homecoming Parade in the City of Lockport on Saturday, October 4th, 2025 starting at 11:00am, subject to approval of the parade route by the Police Chief and issuance of a parade permit by the City Clerk.

Seconded by Alderman Mullane and adopted. Ayes 6.

#### **082725.7**

By Alderman Devine:

**Whereas** the Common Council of the City of Lockport previously adopted Resolution No. 081325.8 on August 13<sup>th</sup>, 2025, granting approval for Gospel Festival at Outwater Park and

**Whereas** the sponsoring organization has requested a change in the approved date from August 30<sup>th</sup> to September 13<sup>th</sup>, and;

**Whereas** the Common Council finds it in the best interest of the City to accommodate this request.

**Now therefore be it resolved**, that Resolution No. 081325.8 adopted on 8/13 is hereby amended to approve the new date of September 13<sup>th</sup> for Gospel Festival at Outwater Park, from 12noon – 7:00pm, with all other terms and conditions of the original resolution remaining in full force and effect.

Seconded by Alderman Lupo and adopted. Ayes 6.

**082725.8**

By Alderman Devine:

**Resolved**, that pursuant to Corporation Counsel approval, the Chief Operator- Water Filtration Plant is authorized to go out to bid and/or enter into a purchasing contract for the purchase of chemicals.

Seconded by Alderman Kirchberger and adopted. Ayes 6.

**082725.9      Withdrawn**

By Alderman Devine:

Resolved, that the reading of the foregoing resolution be and the same are hereby waived.

Seconded by Alderman Lupo and adopted. Ayes 6.

**082725.10**

By Alderman Kirchberger:

**Whereas** the Bewley Building is a historic five-story structure located in the heart of downtown Lockport, New York, currently housing approximately 200 individual offices on its second and third floors and 10 retail stores on the first floor, serving as a vital economic and community anchor for the city; and

**Whereas** the proposed project by PathStone Development Corporation seeks to convert the existing office and retail spaces into 82 one-bedroom and 18 two-bedroom low-income apartments, with only three commercial spaces remaining, at an estimated cost of sixty-six million dollars, requiring tax-exempt bonds, tax credits and low-interest loans provided by the New York State Housing Finance Agency; and

**Whereas** the Bewley Building is located adjacent to Urban Park Towers, an existing affordable housing community serving households with incomes at or below 60% of the Area Median Income, which in 2024 required 231 ambulance calls and in the first six months of 2025 required 45 police calls, indicating a significant demand for public services and support already present in the immediate vicinity;

**Whereas** large-scale, concentrated public housing projects have historically contributed to the clustering of poverty, which research shows can amplify social challenges such as crime, drug use, and school dropouts, and may place additional pressure on local schools, healthcare, law enforcement, and social services; and

**Whereas** when a significant number low-income residents are concentrated in one area, the risk of social dysfunction may increase, potentially radiating outward and affecting neighboring businesses and property values, and may attract residents with greater social and economic needs from other areas, further straining local resources and service; and

**Whereas** the City of Lockport has demonstrated a strong commitment to revitalizing its downtown through mixed-use development, historic preservation, and the creation of a vibrant,

walkable environment that attracts a diverse mix of residents and businesses, and has identified a demonstrated demand- for market-rate housing and contued commercial vitality in the downtown core; and

**Whereas** the conversion of the Bewley Building to a predominantly low-income housing facility would reduce the availability of office and retail space in the downtown area, potentially undermining the city's ongoing efforts to attract new businesses, professionals, and investment, and could disrupt the balance of housing options necessary for a thriving, inclusive community; and

**Now, therefore, be it resolved**, that the Mayor of the City of Lockport and the Common Council respectfully opposes the proposed conversion of the Bewley Building from its current use as a commercial and office hub to a concentrated low-income housing development, and urges all Federal, State, County and other stakeholders to consider alternative proposals that promote a balance of affordable, market-rate, and commercial uses, support the preservation of historic character, and foster the continued economic and social vitality of downtown Lockport.

**Be it further resolved** that the Mayor and Common Council encourages PathStone Development Corporation, the New York Housing Finance Agency, and other relevant parties to work collaboratively with the City of Lockport and local stakeholders to explore development options that align with the city's comprehensive plans for downtown revitalization , historic preservation, and creation of a diverse, sustainable, and resilient urban core, and

**Be it further resolved** that the Mayor and Common Council calls for a comprehensive impact assessment of any proposed large-scale affordable housing project in downtown Lockport, including analysis of its effects on public services, local businesses, property values, and the broader community, prior to any final decision on the Bewley Building's future use.

**Be it further resolved** that this resolution of opposition shall supersede any prior letters of approval issued by the City of Lockport, its agents, employees, or assigns.

Seconded by Alderman Mullane and adopted. Ayes 6.

**082725.11**

## **ADJOURNMENT**

At 6:17pm Alderman Fogle moved the Common Council be adjourned until 6:00pm Wednesday, September 10th, 2025.

Seconded by Alderman Devine and adopted. Ayes 6.

EMILY STODDARD  
City Clerk