

COMMON COUNCIL
of the
CITY OF SYRACUSE

(09/12)

REGULAR MEETING – SEPTEMBER 15, 2025

1:00 P.M.

1. *Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag*
2. *Invocation*
3. *Roll Call*
4. *Minutes – September 2, 2025*
5. *Public Hearing – Relative to Item #14, “Agreement – With Axon Enterprises, Inc., to provide the Police Department with Axon Air Remote licensing, along with equipment and related software. Axon Air Remote is part of the “Drone as a First Responder” program, for a period of five (5) years effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Total amount not to exceed \$57,001.20, charged to Account #592003.02.31225 Project #207632325.” (Public Hearing to be held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:30 PM)*
6. *Petitions*
7. *Committee Reports*
8. *Communications*

NEW BUSINESS

BY PRESIDENT HUDSON:

9. *Resolution - Approving the Appointment of Various Persons as Commissioners of Deeds for 2025/2026.*

BY COUNCILOR CALDWELL:

10. *Accept – From the Everson Museum a donation of a “half pipe” structure part of the 2025 exhibition Dead End by William Strobeck. The half pipe (Appendix “A”) will be installed in Kirk Park as part of a project to repurpose the underused tennis courts into a new multi-use recreation space, maintained by the City Parks Department. The half pipe will receive a protective outdoor coating to ensure durability against weather conditions and to meet public safety standards.*
11. *Agreement – With Elite Gaming, for services related to instructional e-gaming programs for youth at Wilson Park and Southwest Community Centers, during the after-school recreation program between September 29, 2025-December 31, 2025. The program includes delivery of up to 48 hours of ESports instruction, instructional staff, programming designing various ESports game titles for various age groups, assessment of existing equipment for preparation, and ongoing support as needed. The Parks department will work closely with API to administer. The total cost not to exceed is \$13,750, charged to Account #01.70200.541500.*
12. *Amend – Ord. #96 (03/03/2025) “Waiver of Residency – As set forth in Section 8-112 (2) of the Charter of the City of Syracuse – 1960, as amended, to authorize the Department of Parks, Recreation & Youth Programs to waive the residency requirement to hire up to one hundred (100) lifeguards that are non-city residents, during the 2025 Summer Season.” Amend to include lifeguards hired during the 2025-2026 indoor pool season.*
13. *Appropriate Funds – From Account #541500.01.71400 in the amount of \$25,000 to the Syracuse Parks Conservancy for fiscal year 2024-2025.*

BY COUNCILOR MAJOK:

14. *Agreement – With Axon Enterprises, Inc., to provide the Police Department with Axon Air Remote licensing, along with equipment and related software. Axon Air Remote is part of the “Drone as a First Responder” program, for a period of five (5) years effective July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Total amount not to exceed \$57,001.20, charged to Account #592003.02.31225 Project #207632325. (Public Hearing to be held on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 5:30 PM)*
15. *Agreement – With Emergency Training Consultants, for Firefighter Civil Service test preparation instruction course, for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026, on behalf of the Department of Fire. Total amount not to exceed \$6,000 charged to Account #34100.01.541630. The Mayor has waived the RFP process.*

16. *Authorize – Syracuse Office Environments (SOE) (RFP #26-021) to serve as a furniture, fixtures and equipment (FFE) vendor for the Fire and Police Department's relocation to 1153 West Fayette Street, for a four (4) month period from the date of execution. SOE will receive, store, deliver, and install the FFE in accordance with the project's scheduled timeline. Total cost not to exceed \$879,000 charged to Account #599807.07.13555.705482525.*
17. *Agreement – With TelServ, d/b/a/ New Era Technology CT, to service the aging phone system and related equipment in the Police Department facilities. All required maintenance and repair services will be provided, for the period of one-year effective July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026. Total cost not to exceed \$15,000, charged to Account #540710.01.31230. The Mayor waived the RFP process.*
18. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department Command Post Capital Improvement Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$750,000.*
19. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department Command Post Plan, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to replace the Police Department's Mobile Command Post. Total cost not to exceed \$750,000.*
20. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department Radio Replacement Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$500,000.*
21. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department Radio Replacement Plan, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to upgrade and replace the portable and mobile radio systems and related equipment used by the Police Department that are reaching end-of-life. Total cost not to exceed \$500,000.*
22. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department COPS Camera Replacement Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$385,000.*
23. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department COPS Camera Replacement Program, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to replace end-of-life COPS Cameras and related equipment throughout the City. Total cost not to exceed \$385,000.*
24. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department Replacement Vehicles Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$3,241,000.*

25. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department Replacement Vehicles Plan, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to purchase replacement vehicles as detailed in Appendix “A”. Total cost not to exceed \$3,241,000.*
26. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department Information Technology Server Upgrades Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$100,000.*
27. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department Information Technology Server Upgrades Plan, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to replace end-of-life servers, switches, firewalls, and related equipment. Total cost not to exceed \$100,000.*
28. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the 2025/2026 Police Department Handgun Upgrade Plan. Total amount not to exceed \$150,000.*
29. *Authorize – The 2025/2026 Police Department Handgun Upgrade Plan, as part of the 2025/2026 Capital Improvement Plan, to replace handguns and transition to a new optics system. Total cost not to exceed \$150,000.*
30. *Appropriate Funds – From the Unallocated Cash Capital Account #599007.01.99999 in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, for the Patrol Rifle Replacement Project, on behalf of the Police Department, to replace the aging inventory of patrol rifles.*
31. *Appropriate Funds – From the Unallocated Cash Capital Account #599007.01.99999 in an amount not to exceed \$785,000, for the Niche Records Management System project, on behalf of the Police Department, to upgrade its Record Management Systems for data usage best practices and reporting requirements.*
32. *Purchase w/c/b – From Electronic Data Corporation (EDC), AIMS annual support and related supplies on behalf of the Department of Police, for the period of July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2026. Total cost not to exceed \$28,000 charged to Account #540530.01.31230.*

BY COUNCILOR PANIAGUA:

33. *Local Law - Of the City of Syracuse to amend the Budget for the year July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, relative to the Syracuse City School District, to increase the General Fund Operating Budget, from \$611,001,627 to \$619,965,681, as detailed in Appendix “A” (Resolution #0825-042.)*

34. *Agreement – With BPAS, for Affordable Care Act (ACA) consulting services, which includes guidance, data tracking and reporting, tax assistance and financial impact consulting, for the period of three (3) years from the date of execution, with two (2) one (1) year renewal options with the approval of the Mayor and Common Council. Total cost not to exceed \$9,000 annually, charged to Account #590601.01.90600.*
35. *Approve – Labor Agreement between the City of Syracuse and the Council 66 (Middle Managers) for the period of January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2028. Effective 1/1/26 3% general wage increase, 1/1/27 3% general wage increase, and 1/1/28 3% general wage increase. Other terms and conditions are detailed in the contract.*

BY COUNCILOR GETHERS:

36. *Permission – (revocable) To Jenoptik North America Inc., DBA Jenoptik Smart Mobility Solutions LLC, to construct, own, operate and maintain a Citywide Deployment of Automated Speed and Red-Light Enforcement Cameras into the City right-of-way under the previously approved Master Service Agreement. The cameras will be located on either Jenoptik installed poles, City owned light poles, or traffic signal poles. The cameras may also be located on utility-owned poles by agreement with the utility owner. Important terms and conditions are detailed in the legislation.*
37. *Agreement – With Environmental Hearing & Visual Consultants, Inc., to provide OSHA-mandated hearing tests for employees designated to be in the City's Hearing Conservation Program, for the three (3) year period of October 1, 2025 – September 30, 2028, on behalf of the Department of Public Works. Total cost not to exceed \$19,500 (\$6,500 annually) charged to Account #541500.01.14900. The Mayor waived the RFP process.*
38. *Agreement – With LAZ Parking NY/NJ (RFP #25-253) for the operation and maintenance of the City-owned public parking structures, on behalf of the Department of Public Works. The term shall be for three (3) years from the date of execution, with two (2) two-year renewal options with the approval of the Mayor and the Common Council. Total cost not to exceed \$3,346,546 charged to Account #01.81800.541500.*
39. *Appropriate Funds – From the 2025/2026 Sewers Cash Capital Account in the amount of \$673,000 for the 2025/2026 Sewers Capital Equipment Program, to purchase vehicles detailed in Schedule "A."*
40. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the DPW 2025/2026 Lighting Upgrades in Parks Capital Improvement Program. Total amount not to exceed \$200,000.*

41. *Authorize – The DPW 2025/2026 Lighting Upgrades in Parks Capital Improvement Program. Funds will be used to upgrade existing light fixtures at Clinton Square Ice Rink, Franklin Square, and various areas along the Creekwalk to LED fixtures, and to add solar lights in City-owned Parks that do not have lighting or sufficient lighting. Total cost not to exceed \$200,000.*
42. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the DPW 2025/2026 Street Lighting Capital Improvement Program. Total amount not to exceed \$315,000.*
43. *Authorize – The DPW 2025/2026 Street Lighting Capital Improvement Program, to replace street lighting that is obsolete, past its useful life expectancy, or has been damaged beyond repair. Total cost not to exceed \$315,000.*
44. *Bond Ordinance – Authorizing the issuance and sale of bonds of the City of Syracuse to defray the cost of the DPW 2025/2026 Interstate Lighting Upgrades Program. Total amount not to exceed \$500,000.*
45. *Authorize – The DPW 2025/2026 Interstate Lighting Upgrades Program, to replace end-of-lifespan and damaged interstate lighting equipment that is considered obsolete and past its useful life on Interstates 690 and 81, including the on and off ramps. Total cost not to exceed \$500,000.*
46. *Permission – (revocable) To SUNY College of Environmental Science and Forestry (ESF) to construct, own, operate and maintain an electrical meter panel and four (4) underground conduits (one 2” and three 1 ¼”) for electrical services in the Standart Street (700 Block) right-of-way. SUNY ESF shall pay an annual fee of \$0.95 per linear foot per 2” conduit, and \$0.60 per liner foot per 1 ¼” conduit for a total payment of \$47.63 (annually).*
47. *Permission – (revocable) To WL, LLC, to own, operate, maintain and repair existing underground vaults and supported sidewalks above in the City right-of-way located in the 100 Block of Bank Street (Alley).*
48. *Rescind – Ord. #362 (05/27/2025) “Permission – (revocable) To Syracuse University, to construct, own, operate and maintain an underground communications ductbank, consisting of four (4) 4” conduits and one (1) communication vault in the University Place (500 Block) right-of-way. Syracuse University shall pay an annual fee of \$1.85 per liner foot per 4” conduit for a total payment of \$1,221 (annually).”*

BY COUNCILOR NAVE:

49. *Resolution – To appoint Octavia Gernhart to the Citizen Review Board to fill the vacant seat of Olivier Sekarore as the First Council District representative for a term ending December 31, 2026.*

BY COUNCILOR HOGAN:

50. *Special Permit – Authorizing the revocation of a Special Use Permit granted to 1202-1206 East Colvin Street. The property has been the site of recent unlicensed cannabis sales, unlicensed tobacco sales, and unlawful sale of flavored vapor product, detailed in the Exhibit “A” Report, which violates the terms and conditions of the Special Use Permit. (Public Hearing was held on Wednesday, August 27, 2025, at 5:00 PM).*
51. *Authorize – The Department of Assessment to retain an appraiser (Integra Realty Resources) for the property at 571-581 East Genesee Street (Tax Parcel 102.-04-01.0) for potential disposition purposes. A prospective developer, as the result of a competitive RFP process, proposes demolishing existing improvements and constructing a mixed-use building with one hundred and thirty-eight (138) residential apartments. Total cost not to exceed \$6,000 for a summary appraisal report, charged to Account #13550.01.541500.*
52. *Authorize – A Tax Exemption Agreement with Southside Renaissance Housing Development Fund Corporation (the “Corporation”) pursuant to Section 573 and Section 577 of Article 11 of the New York State Private Housing Finance Law and Section 402 of the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, that involve a portion of eight properties, detailed in the legislation, to construct seventy-five (75) units of affordable senior housing, over approximately 1.3 acres (eight (8) properties), and managed by St Nicks Alliance in partnership with the Women’s Economic Institute (WEI), as detailed in the legislation. The agreement will be for the period of fifteen (15) years, with one (1) fifteen (15) year renewal option subject to the approval of the Mayor and Common Council. The annual payment to the City would be 10% gross revenue less utilities or \$525 per unit annually, plus a two percent (2%) annual escalator; the first year’s liability would be \$39,375.*
53. *Authorize – A Tax Exemption Agreement with BLD South Avenue Housing Development Fund Corporation (the “Corporation”) pursuant to Section 573 and Section 577 of Article 11 of the New York State Private Housing Finance Law and Section 402 of the New York State Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, for the property (vacant lot) located at 680 South Avenue (SBL 086.-05-14.0), to construct fifty-one (51) units of workforce housing. The agreement will be for the period of fifteen (15) years, with one (1) fifteen (15) year renewal option subject to the approval of the Mayor and Common Council. The annual payment to the City would be 10% gross revenue less utilities, or \$525 per unit annually, plus a two percent (2%) annual escalator; the first year’s liability would be \$26,775.*

54. *Amend – Ord #738 (10/30/2023), “Authorize - An Exemption Agreement with La Liga Westside Village Housing Development Fund Corporation (“the Corporation”) pursuant to Section 573 and Section 577 of Article 11 of the New York Private Housing Finance Law and Section 402 of the New York Not-For-Profit Corporation Law, to construct 68 affordable housing units at scattered sites throughout the City, as detailed in the legislation. The term would be for the period of fifteen (15) years and each year based on 10% of the difference between gross rent minus utilities, or \$36,850, whichever is greater”. Amend to add additional properties, as detailed in Appendix “A” and “B.”*
55. *Amend – Ord #363 (05/27/2025), “Authorize – The City to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement, with Rescue Mission Alliance of Syracuse (Rescue Mission) for the City-owned properties located at 120-122 Seymour Street, 116-118 Seymour Street, and 252-254 Onondaga Street West & Seymour Street at a total cost of \$300,000, to integrate the parcels to support the development of the Mission Exchange Building which will serve as a multi-use space, featuring a warehouse to support Social Enterprise efforts, as well as a two-story retail and office building. Legal description & map detailed in Appendix “A.” Funds will be deposited in Account #426610.01.000000”. Amend the second paragraph of the legislation, to include language that covers the outstanding taxes (\$71,500 plus \$98,302.52). Whereas the proceeds from the sale would apply to the outstanding taxes or in certain cases allow the City to cancel and discharge the balance. All other terms remain the same.*
56. *Special Permit – To establish a ‘Parking Lot’ on the property located at 1171 West Fayette Street & Magnolia Street. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposal. Michael Lehmann, Deputy Commissioner of Asset Management, applicant. City of Syracuse, owner.*
57. *Special Permit – To establish a “Food & Beverage, Retail” on the property located at 2000 South Avenue. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposal. Ammar Alawdi, owner/applicant.*
58. *Zone Change – Text Amendments for ReZone: City of Syracuse Zoning Ordinance and Official Zoning Map, to all articles to 1) correct scrivener and grammatical errors and omission; 2) change reference to zone districts from “zoning district” to “zone district”; 3) change references from “use” to “use type” as appropriate; 4) correct internal and external cross-references in text and tables; and 5) to remove all references to the “ Administrative Manual” and amend Article 1, Article 2, Article 3, Article 5, and Article 7, as detailed in the legislation and resolution. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposal. City of Syracuse, Zoning Administrator, applicant.*
59. *Zone Change – For the property located at 520-522 Fabius Street, from Small Lot Residential (R3) Zone District to the Low Density Residential (R2) Zone District. No one spoke in favor of or in opposition to the proposal. Terri Williams, owner/applicant.*

BY COUNCILOR WILLIAMS:

60. *Agreement – With Mosaic Consulting Group (RFP #25-266) for Software Implementation Services for UKG Pro (Human Capital Management and Payroll Modernization, from the date of execution for the period of eighteen (18) months expiring March 2027. Total cost not to exceed \$900,000, paid monthly over the term of the contract at \$50,000 per month, charged to Account #599807.07.700045423.*
61. *Authorize – The Department of Assessment to retain an appraiser (Bruckner, Tillett, Rossi, Cahill & Associates) for the property at 108 Elmwood Avenue (Tax Parcel 079.-18-07.0) for potential disposition purposes. The owner of the property at 106 Elmwood Avenue would like to purchase the property. Total cost not to exceed \$1,050 for a summary appraisal report, charged to Account #13550.01.541500.*
62. *Lease Agreement - With the Syracuse City School District, for a portion of the premises located at 516 Prospect Avenue, as detailed in Appendix “A”, for the term of twenty-seven (27) months, commencing on April 1, 2025-June 30, 2027. The City acquired this Property in April 2025, on behalf of the School District. The payments will represent repayment from the School District for the purchase of the Property, as detailed, April 1-June 30, 2025, \$249,908.06; July 1, 2025-June 30, 2026, \$376,064.06; and July 1, 2026-June 30, 2027, \$239,775, to be deposited in an account to be determined by the Commissioner of Finance. SCSD Board approved Resolution #0625-228 is attached.*
63. *Approve - Settlement – Raykeisha Rouse v. City of Syracuse et al., Index No. 001080/2021, relative to serious injuries as a result of a motor vehicle accident. Settlement amount of \$110,000, from Account #599305.01.93000.*
64. *Approve - Settlement – Jonnell Robinson vs. City of Syracuse, relative to property damage arising from a water main leak. Settlement amount of \$15,905.61, from Account #599298.05.93000.*

BY COUNCILOR JONES-ROWSER:

65. *Appropriate Funds – From Account #595946.01.9000 in an amount not to exceed \$1,250,000 to enter into an agreement with Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency (SURA), to allow Home HeadQuarters to utilize the funds, as detailed in the legislation and Appendix “A”.*

66. *Agreement – With Syracuse Urban Renewal Agency (SURA) to enter in an agreement with Home HeadQuarters to facilitate \$750,000 to offset development cost for 27 single family town homes in the Tipp Hill Neighborhood and to facilitate \$500,000 to support the Urgent Care Home Improvement Program (UCHIP), which provides low-interest financing for critical home repairs to income-qualified individual under 80% AMI. Preference for funding will be given to income qualified homeowner residing in the Salt Spring and Tipp Hill neighborhoods. Total amount not to exceed \$1,250,000, detailed in the SURA Board Resolution (Appendix “A”). The Mayor waived the RFP process.*
67. *Agreement – With The Department of Housing and Urban Development, (HUD) regarding the FY2023 Community Project Funding grant, for Blight Busting and Emergency Repair Program, on behalf of the Department of Neighborhood and Business Development. The City will identify eligible properties with internal and external code violations to engage in blight remediation and emergency abatement projects to stabilize and preserve existing housing. Total amount not to exceed \$1,000,000.*
68. *Amend – Ord. #595 (07/07/2025), “Agreement – With Home HeadQuarters, (HHQ) to provide support to the Financial Empowerment Center (FEC), for free financial counseling to City household, for the period of July 1, 2024-August 31, 2025. Total cost not to exceed \$362,267, charged to Accounts #01.90000.593003 (\$175,000) and #01.90000.593003 (\$187,267). There is a 21% administrative fee”. Amend to extend the contract to expire October 31, 2025 and increase the cost not to exceed to \$375,000.*
69. *Amend – Ord. #205 (04/08/2024), “Sell – All right, title and interest of the City of Syracuse in and to the premises known as 728 East Laurel Street, a wood house and garage, to the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation for the total sum of \$326 (District 1).” Amend the property description from “31 x 132.95 L 10 x 44 wood house & garage” to “31 x 132.95 vacant lot”. All other terms and conditions remain the same.*
70. *Amend – Ord. #207 (04/08/2024), “Sell – All right, title and interest of the City of Syracuse in and to the premises known as 634 East Division Street, a wood house unfinished, to the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation for the total sum of \$326 (District 1).” Amend the property description from “49.25 x 107.25 wood house unfinished” to “49.25 x 107.25 vacant lot” All other terms and conditions remain the same.*
71. *Sell – All right, title and interest of the City of Syracuse in and to the premises known as 113 Fairfield Avenue, a vacant lot, to the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation for the total sum of \$326 (District 2).*

72. *Sell – All right, title and interest of the City of Syracuse in and to the premises known as 122 Fairfield Avenue, a vacant lot, to the Greater Syracuse Property Development Corporation for the total sum of \$326 (District 2).*