

PRESENT Mayor Cota, Trustee Collesano, Trustee Conde, Trustee Coppins, Trustee Fittante, Law Counsel Leone, Clerk Fundis, Treasurer Longwell, Deputy Clerk Cassick, Superintendent Mang, Engineer Marino, Police Chief Salada, Fire Inspector Beebe, Recreation Director McDermott, Historian Piper

EXCUSED Building Inspector/Zoning Officer Candella

PUBLIC HEARING Mayor Cota opened the public hearing at 6:00pm on the special use permit application submitted by Nicole Ferrari to permit a dog grooming business in her residential detached garage located at 360 N. 2nd Street, Lewiston, NY 14092 SBL #101.06-3-51.2.

Law Counsel Leone stated that the board is not ready to act on this item at this time due to missing information. A short form SEQR needs to be completed and this will need to be reviewed and approved by the Niagara County Planning Board before the trustees can make a decision.

Property owner of 215 Mohawk submitted a list of concerns and stated that she does not feel a dog grooming business is appropriate for the neighborhood.

PRESENTATION – LIONS CLUB

The Lions Club gave a brief presentation on overdose prevention and services available in the community and would like to host training in the Red Brick gym; if approved, the Lions Club would like to sponsor the event with refreshments.

Mayor Cota said he embraces this direction and sees the value in this for the village residents. Cota will coordinate with Recreation Director McDermott for gym availability.

CALL TO ORDER Mayor Cota called the meeting to order with the Pledge of Allegiance at 6:07pm.

MINUTES A motion was made by Trustee Collesano seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the July 20, 2026 meeting minutes.

BILLS A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the August 2026 bills presented by Treasurer Longwell in the following amounts:

General: \$320,619.24

Trust & Agency: \$7,173.59

Total: \$327,792.83

REPORTS **Police Salada** said they are ramping up for the busy festival season coming up, and the department has acquired two new e-bikes for police to be able to stay close on Center Street and show our presence, especially during festivals, Artpark events and busy weekends.

Historian Piper gave an update on the columbarium wall, a proposed fence and veterans signs for the cemetery. Piper also addressed concerns with loitering in the cemetery. Police Chief Salada said he will send some officers and set up cameras.

Recreation Director McDermott said the summer programs had fantastic numbers, and we are transitioning to our fall season. Upcoming events are a Big Foot Scavenger Hunt and additional family fun nights throughout October.

LIAISON REPORTS **Upward Niagara**
Mayor Cota gave a brief update on the chamber's involvement with the village's Haunted Lewiston tourist initiative.

Artpark

Trustee Coppins said she met with Artpark president, Dave Wendekendt about patrons wanting access to the Richard F. Soluri Park being charged for parking, which he stated NYS is requiring. Other concerns were addressed with concerts being scheduled during large events like Jazz and Peach Festival.

Lewiston Council on the Arts

Mayor Cota said that Art Fest went exceptionally well. The set up and layout were great and overall; it was run really well.

Master Plan Advisory Committee

Mayor Cota said applications are available. We will extend the cut off for submission to October 1, 2026 to give candidates more time.

**OLD
BUSINESS****Special Use Permit Request – Dog Grooming Business at 360 N. 2nd Street**

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to table the issuance of a special use permit for one year to Nicole Ferrari to operate a dog grooming business out of the detached garage at 360 N. 2nd Street, and to schedule a public hearing on Monday, October 5, 2026 at 6pm.

A discussion ensued with Ferrari, Law Counsel Leone and the Trustees regarding the process and what steps needed to be taken to obtain all required information

Michael Dowd – Property Purchase Request

After a brief discussion, Michael Dowd stated that he will submit an official proposal for the property he is interested in purchasing. No action was taken.

**NEW
BUSINESS****Peach Festival & Parade 2026**

A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Trustee Coppins and passed unanimously to approve the request made by the Kiwanis Club of Lewiston for use of Academy Park from September 5, 2026 through September 19, 2026 to host the 68th Annual Peach Festival from September 10, 2026 to September 13, 2026 and the Peach Fest Parade and the closing of Center Street on Saturday, September 12, 2026 from 10am to 1pm.

Facilities Use Request – Tom Deal Grand Opening Celebration Event

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Tom Deal for use of Academy Park on August 20, 2026 from 5pm to 11pm for a grand opening celebration event.

Facilities Use Request - Lewiston Artisan Halloween Market

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Rachel Jolbert to extend her current rental agreement for use of Academy Park through October 30, 2026 to hold a Lewiston Artisan Market Halloween Eve event from 5pm to 9pm.

Historic Preservation Commission Appointment – David Giusiana

A motion was made by Trustee Fittante seconded by Trustee Coppins and Trustee Conde in unison and passed unanimously to approve the mayor's appointment of David Giusiana as a member of the Historic Preservation Commission to fill the unexpired term of James Baptiste, until June 2029.

Village Tree Removal Request at 703 Center Street

A motion was made by Trustee Conde seconded by Trustee Fittante and passed unanimously to approve the request made by Sam Talarico to remove a tree on village right of way at 703 Center Street at the owner's expense.

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A LIVESTREAMING POLICY FOR
MEETINGS OF THE VILLAGE OF LEWISTON BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins and seconded by Trustee Collesano to approve the following resolution:

WHEREAS, the Board of Trustees of the Village of Lewiston desires to enhance public access to Village government and promote transparency in municipal operations; and

WHEREAS, the Board recognizes that livestreaming public meetings provides an additional means for residents and interested parties to observe Village business; and

WHEREAS, the Board further recognizes that livestreaming is intended to supplement, and not replace, the requirements of the New York State Open Meetings Law;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Board of Trustees hereby adopts the Village of Lewiston Livestreaming Policy attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Village Clerk and such other Village officials and employees as may be designated are authorized to take all actions necessary to implement the policy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that technical interruptions, equipment failures, internet outages, or other disruptions affecting a livestream shall not affect the validity of any meeting or action taken by the Board, provided the meeting otherwise complies with applicable law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

Clerk Fundis polled the board and the motion passed with the following results:

Collesano – Yes Conde – No Fittante – Yes Coppins – Yes Cota - Yes

DISCUSSION Public Meeting Live Streaming

At this time the Village of Lewiston will be putting a hold on Live Streaming Upgrades due to larger internal IT upgrades.

Lewiston Landing Boat Docks

Mayor Cota said the village has been working directly with the dock manufacturer, Wahoo Docks, and a lot of progress has been made. We are leaning towards a removable dock system.

REPORTS

Superintendent Mang gave an update on permanent no parking signs being installed on North 8th and North 9th Street, leak detections projects, and paving.

Mayor Cota said he has driven around with Mang to identify issues and causes regarding recent flooding issues. We are working with NYS and our engineers.

A discussion ensued on striping along Center Street to create designated parking spots and prohibited areas that are too close to the crosswalks that can be hazardous.

Engineer Marino gave an update on the docks, the chamber building and electrical upgrades at Red Brick.

ADJOURN

A motion was made by Trustee Coppins seconded by Trustee Conde and passed unanimously to adjourn the meeting at 7:20pm.

Shannon Fundis, Clerk