



# SYRACUSE CITY

## Syracuse City Council Special Meeting Agenda

**August 25, 2020 – immediately following the City Council Work**

**Session, which begins at 6:00 p.m.**

Electronic Via Zoom Meeting

Streamed on Syracuse City YouTube Channel

Public meeting will be held electronically in accordance with House Bill 5002, Open and Public Meetings Act Amendments, signed into law on June 25, 2020. Pursuant to written determination by the Mayor finding that conducting the meeting with an anchor location presents a substantial risk to the health and safety of those who may be present due to infections and potentially dangerous nature of COVID-19 virus, public meetings will be held electronically for the next thirty (30) days. The YouTube live stream of the meeting can be found at the following [link](#).

Connect to the meeting using:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85392434856>

Meeting ID: 898 4351 2656

Connect via telephone: +1-301-715-8592 US

Meeting ID: 898 4351 2656

1. Meeting called to order.
2. Consideration and action to submit voter information pamphlet argument in favor of special election ballot proposition regarding general obligation bond for regional park to the Syracuse City Election Officer.
3. Consideration of adjourning into Closed Executive Session pursuant to the provisions of Section 52-4-205 of the Open and Public Meetings Law for the purpose of discussing the character, professional competence, or physical or mental health of an individual; pending or reasonably imminent litigation; or the purchase, exchange, or lease of real property (if necessary).
4. Adjourn.

In compliance with the Americans Disabilities Act, persons needing auxiliary communicative aids and services for this meeting should contact the City Offices at 801-825-1477 at least 48 hours in advance of the meeting.

#### **CERTIFICATE OF POSTING**

The undersigned, duly appointed City Recorder, does hereby certify that the above notice and agenda was posted within the Syracuse City limits on this 20<sup>TH</sup> day of August, 2020 at Syracuse City Hall on the City Hall Notice Board and at <http://www.syracuseut.com/>. A copy was also provided to the Standard-Examiner on August 20, 2020.

CASSIE Z. BROWN, MMC  
SYRACUSE CITY RECORDER



# COUNCIL AGENDA SPECIAL MEETING August 25, 2020

## Agenda Item #2

Submission of Argument in Favor of Park Ballot Proposition to Election Officer

### *Factual Summation*

- Any question regarding this agenda item may be directed at Mayor Gailey or Paul Roberts
- The review and revision of an argument in favor of the ballot proposition related to the park, as required by state law, was discussed during the Work Session.
- The final product will now be ready for a vote to submit it to the Election Officer.

### *Action Items*

The following items outline the actions to be taken:

1. Whether to Submit the argument in favor of the park ballot proposition to the election officer.

## Draft support statement for Voter Information Pamphlet

Where Syracuse farmland once produced onions, we now produce children. From 1880 until 1980, our population grew by just a couple thousand. Within the last 30 years, we have grown by ten times that amount and expect to again double our current population in the next 20 years. We are growing exponentially and we have our rich familial heritage to thank.

Our community tapestry holds a fondness for recreation. The Parks Development Master Plan has adopted the ratio of 5.6 acres of parkland per 1000 residents. Currently our city has 151 acres of developed parkland, which means with our population over 31k, we are already 35 acres short.

We have reached capacity in our Parks and Recreation department. Without the proposed regional park, we will shortly have to turn families away from city sponsored recreation as well as limit offerings. As our population increases, so will the need for programmable and open space. We must do more to preserve land for our present and future needs.

The proposed regional park will be built on 50 acres at 2000 West and Gentile. Some of its amenities include several full size athletic fields, basketball and pickleball courts, a large playground, pavilions to accommodate parties and family reunions, a grand performance pavilion, connecting walking and running trail systems and shaded seating and eating areas. Previously labeled a "white elephant" because of lack of fertility, this soil will be built up and enjoy line of sight open space, as it will neighbor the Nature Conservancy District. From beginning to end, it is expected to be completed within approximately 3 years.

The completion date is also expected to coincide with work on the West Davis Corridor, which will provide easy access and invite visitors to our community to participate in tournaments and events. With the loss of sales tax revenue from RC Willey, financial sustainability is imperative to our city. Future employers look for amenities that attract employees and this park will guide that investment.

We would like to pay for the park with a combination of city funds, personal and private donations, grants, and bonding. The most recent estimate for the park is approximately 33 million. The maximum amount we propose bonding for is 26 million. We will continue seeking all other means to fund this park while in the process of development and any funds gathered will be used to either decrease the amount we bond for or pay off the bond early. By starting now, we hope to curb the loss of value to funding ratio that inevitably occurs with inflation.

We propose combining the regional park bond with a current bond used for our city building, police and fire stations and public works building. For about \$4.50 more per month, we will distribute the costs more equitably for these facilities across current and future households.

This park is vital to Syracuse and we hope our citizens will see the wisdom in proceeding with the bond.