

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #104 of 2020

**ENDORISING AND SUPPORTING THE ADOPTION OF THE REVISED OWASCO
LAKE WATERSHED RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Sponsored by Councilor McCormick

October 29, 2020

WHEREAS, Owasco Lake is the source of public water supply for the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco, and approximately forty-five thousand water users within Cayuga County; and

WHEREAS, the water quality of Owasco Lake is directly impacted by its watershed, which includes the lake, its tributaries, and all watercourses tributary thereto, and comprises approximately 205-square miles over Cayuga, Onondaga and Tompkins counties; and

WHEREAS, in 1984, pursuant to Public Health Law Section 1100, the New York State Department of Health adopted Title 10 of the New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, which is commonly referred to as the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations (the “Watershed Rules and Regulations”), a copy of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein; and

WHEREAS, the Watershed Rules and Regulations were adopted with the goal of enhancing protection and preservation of the water quality in Owasco Lake; and

WHEREAS, under the Watershed Rules and Regulations, the City of Auburn and the Town of Owasco are responsible for inspecting the watercourses within the watershed and for reporting violations in cases of noncompliance with the Cayuga County Health Department; and

WHEREAS, since 1984, the lands within the Owasco Lake Watershed have witnessed cumulative changes in land use and development; and

WHEREAS, in 2016, Owasco Lake showed its first detectable levels of toxins associated with harmful blue green algae blooms in its raw and finished (treated) water; and

WHEREAS, these harmful blue green algae blooms have resulted in cooperative efforts by the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco and Cayuga County, to work with the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council., to inspect, monitor, test, and, when necessary, treat the waters of the watershed, in order to protect the Owasco Lake which is the public supply of water; and

WHEREAS, in 2017, as a part of the continued efforts to protect water quality, the City of Auburn, the Town of Owasco and Cayuga County passed resolutions endorsing a project to update and revise the 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, at the outset of the project, a Project Steering Committee was organized to lead the process by which the existing rules would be revised. This Committee included representatives from the City, the Town, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, the Cayuga County Board of Health, as well as interested farmers; and

WHEREAS, over the last three years, the Steering Committee has worked together with staff representatives and Project Stakeholder groups, to hold eight (8) Steering Committee meetings, five (5) public meetings, and more than ten (10) staff meetings, in a coordinated effort to create and recommend a revised draft of the Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

WHEREAS, in October 2020, approximately four (4) years after the first harmful blue green algae blooms were detected in Owasco Lake, a final draft of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations was transmitted to the City Council of Auburn, the Town Board of Owasco, Cayuga County, the public stakeholders, and the general public for review, consideration and support; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn now wishes to express its support for the adoption of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, a copy of which are attached hereto and incorporated herein, by the New York State Department of Health.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby express its appreciation and thanks to the Watershed Rules and Regulations Project Steering Committee, the Extended Staff Working Group Affiliations, Project Stakeholder Groups, staff and the public at-large for all of the cooperative efforts and time spent in creating the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby endorse and support the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, which are attached hereto and made a part of this Resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby request that the New York State Department of Health repeal the existing 1984 Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, which are cited at 10 New York Codes, Rules and Regulations, Section 104.1, and replace the same with the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations, attached herein; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby request that that a certified copy of this Resolution together with a copy of the revised Owasco Lake Watershed Rules and Regulations be prepared and transmitted to the Cayuga County Department of Health so that it may be further transmitted to the New York State Department of Health for adoption; and

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

Seconded by Councilor Giannettino

	Ayes	Noes
Councilor McCormick	X	
Councilor Giannettino	X	
Councilor Cuddy	X	
Councilor Locastro		X
Mayor Quill	X	
Carried and Adopted	X	

