Ordinance #2014-006

An ordinance amending chapter 850 of the Municipal Code to prohibit natural gas extraction

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Canandaigua as follows:

Sec. 1 That chapter 850, section 850-10 of the Municipal Code (entitled “Preservation of Natural Resources”), is hereby amended to add the following language:

§850.10.1 Natural gas extraction.
A. Findings.
The City Council of the City of Canandaigua finds, declares and determines that the exploration for natural gas, the extraction of natural gas and the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes in the urban environment of Canandaigua poses a significant threat to its residents’ health, safety and welfare. If natural gas exploration or extraction of the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes were to occur within the City, this activity would endanger the health, safety and welfare of City residents through the deposit of toxins into the air, soil, water, environment and the bodies of residents within the City. Clean air and water are essential to most resources and activities in the Canandaigua area, and the quality of the air and the water will be degraded by natural gas exploration and extraction activities and/or the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes, and natural gas exploration and extraction activities and the storage, transfer, treatment or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes may presently or in the future cause irreparable harm to the City’s water supply, and pollution of the water, soil, and air. This section is not directed at the regulatory scheme for the operation of natural gas wells under the Environmental Conservation Law §23-0101, the Oil, Gas and Solution Mining Law of New York State. It only addresses land use and nuisance concerns and the protection of the health, safety and welfare of the people of the City of Canandaigua and the enhancement of its physical environment.

B. Definitions.
(1) “Exploration” shall mean geologic or geophysical activities related to the search for natural gas or other subsurface hydrocarbons, including prospecting, geophysical and geologic seismic surveying and sampling techniques, which include but are not limited to core or rotary drilling or making an excavation in the search and evaluation of natural gas deposits.
(2) “Natural gas” shall mean any gaseous substance, either combustible or noncombustible, which is produced in a natural state from the earth and which maintains a gaseous or rarified state at standard temperature or pressure conditions, and/or gaseous components or vapors occurring in or derived from petroleum or other hydrocarbons.
(3) “Natural gas exploration and production wastes” shall mean any garbage, refuse, sludge, or other discarded materials, including solid, liquid, semisolid, or contained gaseous material that results from the exploration, drilling or extraction of natural gas.
C. Prohibited Uses.

(1) No person, firm or corporation shall conduct any exploration for natural gas; drill any well for natural gas; transfer, store, treat, or dispose of natural gas exploration or production wastes; or erect any derrick, building, or other structure or place any machinery or equipment for such purpose within the territorial boundaries of the City of Canandaigua.

(2) The storage, transfer, treatment and/or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes are hazardous wastes within the meaning of this Code. No person, firm or corporation shall engage in the storage, transfer, treatment and/or disposal of natural gas exploration and production wastes within territorial boundaries of the City of Canandaigua, including but not limited to the use of pipelines, flowlines, gathering lines, sweetening plants, separators, processing facilities, compression facilities, carbon dioxide removal facilities, bulk storage plants, hydrogen sulfide removal facilities, dehydration facilities, compressor stations, metering facilities, waste pits, chemical mixing or storage tanks, flowback pits or tanks, water and chemical mixture transfer and hauling stations. No permit issued after the effective date of this ordinance, by any state or federal agency, commission or board to any person, firm or corporation, which would violate the prohibitions of this section, shall be deemed valid within the City of Canandaigua.

Sec. 2 This ordinance shall be effective thirty (30) days following its enactment.

ADOPTED this ____ day of ________________, 2014

ATTEST:

__________________________
Nancy C. Abdallah
City Clerk/Treasurer
ORDINANCE #2013-006

AN ORDINANCE TO EXTEND FOR 9 MONTHS A MORATORIUM ON AND PROHIBITION OF NATURAL GAS AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION ACTIVITIES, UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF NATURAL GAS, AND DISPOSAL OF NATURAL GAS OR PETROLEUM EXTRACTION, EXPLORATION, AND PRODUCTION WASTES WITHIN THE CITY OF CANANDAIGUA.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Canandaigua as follows:

Section 1. Legislative Purpose and Intent. The purpose of this ordinance is to extend by 9 months the existing twelve (12) month moratorium on and prohibition of natural gas and petroleum exploration, extraction and/or support activities in the City of Canandaigua. The City Environmental Committee has held numerous public meetings and gathered significant amounts of information in order to address the issues initially identified in support of said moratorium. The Environmental Committee has identified issues they believe to be relevant to the health and welfare of City residents, they have researched the various topics of concern and reported back to the Committee, and they have listened to presentations by experts in this field. The Environmental Committee intends to recommend a City-wide ban of such activities to the City Council as well as other ordinances as may be necessary for the protection of its residents. City staff is in the process of drafting such ordinances and/or procedures. Additionally, a review of the City’s Comprehensive Plan has been initiated and this issue needs to be addressed by the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee. An additional 9 months will allow for development of the relevant ordinances, review of same by the City Environmental Committee and the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee, outside agencies, and the public, as well as possible adoption.

Section 2. Amended Language. The twelve (12) month City-wide moratorium also known as Ordinance #2012-006, “An ordinance to enact a moratorium on and prohibition of natural gas and petroleum exploration and extraction activities, underground storage of natural gas, and disposal of natural gas or petroleum extraction, exploration, and production wastes within the City of Canandaigua”, which became effective on August 4, 2012 and which shall expire on August 4, 2013 is hereby extended until May 4, 2014.

Section 3. Invalidation. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this ordinance shall be judged by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part thereof directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment shall have been ordered.
Section 4. Referrals.
A. Pursuant to City Code Section 850-8 this Ordinance shall be referred to the City Planning Commission for its review and a report back to the City Council within 30 days of receipt of said referral.
B. Pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law Section 239-m this Ordinance shall be referred to the Ontario County Planning Board for its review and recommendation.

Section 5. Effective Date.
This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from its adoption.

Adopted this ___ day of ______, 2013.

ATTEST:

________________________________________
Nancy C. Abdallah
City Clerk/Treasurer
ORDINANCE #2012-006

AN ORDINANCE TO EFFECT A MORATORIUM ON AND PROHIBITION OF
NATURAL GAS AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AND EXTRACTION
ACTIVITIES, UNDERGROUND STORAGE OF NATURAL GAS, AND
DISPOSAL OF NATURAL GAS OR PETROLEUM EXTRACTION, EXPLORATION,
AND PRODUCTION WASTES WITHIN THE CITY OF CANANDAIGUA.

Be it enacted by the City Council of the City of Canandaigua as follows:

Section 1. AUTHORITY AND INTENT; FINDINGS; PURPOSE

A. AUTHORITY AND INTENT

The City Council of the City of Canandaigua hereby adopts this Ordinance pursuant to
the authority granted to the City Council under the New York State Constitution, and the laws of
the State of New York, including but not limited to the following authorities: the City Charter of
the City of Canandaigua; General City Law §19; General City Law § 20 (13), (21), (22), (24),
and (25); New York State Constitution Article IX, Section 2 (c)(ii)(6); New York State
Constitution Article IX, Section 2(c)(ii)(10); Statute of Local Governments §10(1) and (7);
Environmental Conservation Law § 17-1101; Environmental Conservation Law §19-0703;
Environmental Conservation Law § 27-0711; and Public Health Law § 228 (2) and (3).

This Law is a police power and land use regulation. This Law is intended and is hereby
declared to address matters of local concern, and it is declared that it is not the intention of the
City to address matters of statewide concern. This Ordinance is intended to act as and is hereby
declared to exercise the permissive “incidental control” of a land use law that is concerned with
the broad area of land use planning and the physical use of land and property within the City of
Canandaigua, including the physical externalities associated with certain land uses, such as
negative impacts on roadways and traffic congestion and other deleterious impacts on a
community.

B. FINDINGS

The City Council finds, determines, and makes the following declarations of findings:

1. Canandaigua is a historic, lakefront city in Ontario County that takes great pride
   in its character, heritage, and scenic beauty and other natural resources. It is a
   participating member of the Canandaigua Lake Watershed Council that works to
   protect the Canandaigua Lake Watershed area.

2. The City of Canandaigua Water Treatment Plant, which uses the waters of
   Canandaigua Lake as its sole source, produces 1.44 billion gallons of water for
   distribution.

3. Maintaining the quality of Canandaigua Lake is critical to protecting the natural
   environment of the City, the general health and welfare of City residents, and the local
   economy.

4. Preservation of the City’s irreplaceable scenic sites, air quality and water quality,
   and priceless and unique character, is of significant value to the inhabitants of the City.
and to the tourists who visit here.
5. The City's rich natural environment is a valuable asset that creates a sense of identity and well-being for residents of the area. Preserving and protecting the small town character, and scenic, recreational, and other natural resources of the City is important for both a healthy environment and vibrant economy. Aesthetic issues are real and evoke strong reactions from people. They deeply affect the way people feel about a place - whether or not businesses will want to locate, or people will want to live in and visit a place.
6. Allowing the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance could impair the existing character of the City, as such activities may have the potential to produce a combination of negative impacts upon the environment and people living in or in proximity to the communities in which they are located. Such negative impacts may include, without limitation, traffic, noise, vibrations, fumes, damage to roadways, degradation of water quality, degradation of air quality, decreased availability of affordable housing, damage to and loss of agricultural lands and soils, damage to and loss of open space, natural areas, and scenic views, decreased recreational opportunities, and damage to the tourism industries.
7. If one or more of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance are conducted within the City, traffic generated thereby could be hazardous or inconvenient to the inhabitants of the City and could be dangerous to pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists, and could result in traffic congestion that could delay emergency response times for medical emergencies, fires, and accidents. Roads are a critical public resource and constitute a major investment of the public's money. The City is not in a position to bear the high costs associated with the road use impacts that accompany many of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance.
8. If one or more of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance are conducted within the City, the air pollution, dust and odors generated thereby (whether onsite or by truck traffic to and from the proposed site of such activities) could be hazardous or inconvenient to the inhabitants of the City. Air pollution is a known hazard to the public health.
9. Allowing one or more of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance to be conducted within the City could negatively impact the quality of water resources within the City. Water pollution is hazardous to the public health.
10. If one or more of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance are conducted within the City, noise, vibrations, and light pollution typically caused by such activities could be hazardous or inconvenient to the inhabitants of the City. Noise, traffic congestion, nighttime lighting, and vibrations can have negative effects on human health and wildlife.
11. The creation, generation, keeping, storage or disposal of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes (as that term is defined at Section 2 of this Ordinance) within the City could have a negative impact on the public health, safety and welfare of the inhabitants of the City.
12. The high costs associated with the disposal of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes (as that term is defined at Section 2 of this Ordinance) have in other localities resulted, and could in our City result, in persons seeking to avoid such costs by depositing such material along roadways, in
vacant lots, on business sites, in the private dumpsters of others, or in other unauthorized places. Such activities could pose a hazard to the public health, safety, and welfare of the inhabitants of the City.

13. The explicit proscription of the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance is a legitimate goal of land use laws. The exclusion of specified industrial uses is a legitimate goal of such laws:

C. PURPOSE
The Purpose of this Ordinance is to enable the City of Canandaigua to stay the construction, operation, and establishment of, and the submission and processing of applications for building permits, certificates of occupancy, and other City-level approvals respecting, the activities prohibited by Section 3 of this Ordinance, for a reasonable time, so as to allow the City time to study the impacts, effects, and possible controls over such activities and to consider enacting laws to address the same. The City Council finds that a moratorium of one (1) year duration, coupled with a mechanism for a ‘hardship use variance’ procedure, will achieve an appropriate balancing of interests between the public need to safeguard the character and other resources of the City of Canandaigua and the health, safety, and general welfare of its residents, and the rights of individual property owners or businesses desiring to conduct such activities during such period.

Section 2. DEFINITIONS

For purposes of this law, the following terms shall have the meanings respectively set forth below:

Agriculture Use--- Land used for the production of crops and/or livestock and livestock products (as those terms are defined at Section § 301 of the New York State Agriculture and Markets Law).

Board of Appeals --- The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Canandaigua.

Below-Regulatory Concern --- Radioactive material in a quantity or of a level that is distinguishable from background (as that phrase is defined at 10 CFR §20.1003), but which is below the regulation threshold established by any regulatory agency otherwise having jurisdiction over such material in the City of Canandaigua.

City --- The City of Canandaigua, Ontario County, New York.

City Council --- The City Council of the City of Canandaigua.

Gathering Line, Or Production Line --- Any system of pipelines (and other equipment such as drip stations, vent stations, pigging facilities, valve box, transfer pump station, measuring and regulating equipment, yard and station piping, and cathodic protection equipment), used to move oil, gas, or liquids from a point of production, treatment facility or storage area to a transmission line, which is exempt from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s jurisdiction under
section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act, and which does not meet the definition of a “Major utility transmission facility” under the Public Service Law of New York, Article 7, §120(2)(b).

Injection Well --- A bored, drilled or driven shaft whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, or a dug hole whose depth is greater than the largest surface dimension, through which fluids (which may or may not include semi-solids) are injected into the subsurface and less than ninety (90) percent of such fluids return to the surface within a period of ninety (90) days.

Land Application Facility --- A site where any Natural Gas Exploration and/or Petroleum Production Wastes are applied to the soil surface or injected into the upper layer of the soil.

Natural Gas --- Methane and any gaseous substance, either combustible or non-combustible, which is produced in a natural state from the earth and which maintains a gaseous or rarefied state at standard temperature and pressure conditions, and/or gaseous components or vapors occurring in or derived from petroleum or other hydrocarbons.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Exploration Activities --- Geologic or geophysical activities related to the search for natural gas, petroleum or other subsurface hydrocarbons including prospecting, geophysical and geologic seismic surveying and sampling techniques, but only to the extent that such activities involve or employ core, rotary, or any other type of drilling or otherwise making any penetration or excavation of any land or water surface in the search for and evaluation of natural gas, petroleum, or other subsurface hydrocarbon deposits.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities --- The digging or drilling of a well for the purposes of exploring for, developing or producing natural gas, petroleum or other subsurface hydrocarbons, including without limitation any and all forms of shale fracturing.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes --- Any of the following in any form, and whether or not such items have been excepted or exempted from the coverage of any federal or state environmental protection laws, or have been excepted from statutory or regulatory definitions of “industrial waste,” “hazardous,” or “toxic,” and whether or not such substances are generally characterized as waste: (a) below-regulatory concern radioactive material, or any radioactive material which is not below-regulatory concern, but which is in fact not being regulated by the regulatory agency otherwise having jurisdiction over such material in the City, whether naturally occurring or otherwise, in any case relating to, arising in connection with, or produced by or incidental to the exploration for, the extraction or production of, or the processing, treatment, or transportation of, natural gas, petroleum, or any related hydrocarbons; (b) natural gas or petroleum drilling fluids; (c) natural gas or petroleum exploration, drilling, production or processing wastes; (d) natural gas or petroleum drilling treatment wastes (such as oils, frac fluids, produced water, brine, flowback, sediment and/or any other liquid or semi-liquid material); (e) any chemical, waste oil, waste emulsified oil, mud, or sediment that was used or produced in the drilling, development, transportation, processing or refining of natural gas or petroleum; (f) soil contaminated in the drilling, transportation, processing or refining of natural gas or petroleum; (g) drill cuttings from natural gas or petroleum wells; or (h) any other wastes associated with the exploration, drilling, production or
treatment of natural gas or petroleum. This definition specifically intends to include some wastes that may otherwise be classified as “solid wastes which are not hazardous wastes” under 40 C.F.R. § 261.4(b). The definition of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes does not include (i) recognizable and non-recognizable food wastes, or (ii) waste generated by Agriculture Use.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes Disposal/Storage Facility --- Any of the following: (a) tanks of any construction (metal, fiberglass, concrete, etc.); (b) impoundments; (c) pits; (d) evaporation ponds; or (e) other facilities, in any case used for the storage or treatment of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes that: (i) are being held for initial use, (ii) have been used and are being held for subsequent reuse or recycling, (iii) are being held for treatment, or (iv) are being held for storage.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration Or Production Wastes Dump --- Land upon which Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes, or their residue or constituents before or after treatment, are deposited, disposed, discharged, injected, placed, buried or discarded, without any intention of further use.

Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Support Activities --- Shall mean and be any one or more of the following: (a) Natural Gas Compression Facility; (b) Natural Gas Processing Facility; (c) Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes Disposal/Storage Facility; (d) Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes Dump; (e) Land Application Facility; (f) Non-Regulated Pipelines; (g) Underground Injection; or (h) Underground Natural Gas Storage.

Natural Gas Compression Facility --- Those facilities or combination of facilities that move natural gas or petroleum from production fields or natural gas processing facilities in pipelines or into storage; the term shall include equipment for liquids separation, natural gas dehydration, and tanks for the storage of waste liquids and hydrocarbon liquids.

Natural Gas Processing Facility --- Those facilities that separate and recover natural gas liquids (NGLs) and/or other non-methane gases and liquids from a stream of produced natural gas, using equipment for any of the following: cleaning or stripping gas, cooking and dehydration, residual refinement, treating or removing oil or condensate, removing water, separating NGLs, removing sulfur or carbon dioxide, fractionation of NGLs, or the capture of CO₂ separated from natural gas streams.

Non-Regulated Pipelines --- Those pipelines that are exempt or otherwise excluded from regulation under federal and state laws regarding pipeline construction standards or reporting requirements. Specifically includes production lines and gathering lines.

Person --- Any individual, public or private corporation for profit or not-for-profit, association, partnership, limited liability company, limited liability partnership, firm, trust, estate, and any other legal entity whatsoever which is recognized by law as the subject of rights and duties.
Pipeline --- All parts of those physical facilities through which petroleum, gas, hazardous liquids, or chemicals move in transportation (including pipes, valves and other equipment and appurtenances attached to pipes and other equipment such as drip stations, vent stations, pigging facilities, valve boxes, transfer pump stations, measuring and regulating equipment, yard and station piping, and cathodic protection equipment), whether or not laid in public or private easement or private right of way within the City. This includes, without limitation, gathering lines, production lines, and transmission lines.

Radioactive Material --- Material in any form that emits radiation, but only if such material has been moved from its naturally occurring location through an industrial process. Such material is “radioactive material” for purposes hereof, whether or not it is otherwise exempt from licensing and regulatory control pursuant to the NYS Department of Labor, the US Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the US Environmental Protection Agency, the US Department of Energy, the US Department of Transportation, or any other regulatory agency.

Radiation --- The spontaneous emission of particles (alpha, beta, neutrons) or photons (gamma) from the nucleus of unstable atoms as a result of radioactive decay.

Subsurface --- Below the surface of the earth, or of a body of water, as the context may require.

Transmission Line --- A pipeline that transports oil, gas, or water to end users as a public utility and which is subject to regulation either by: (a) the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission’s jurisdiction under section 1(b) of the Natural Gas Act, or (b) as a “Major utility transmission facility” under the Public Service Law of New York, Article 7, §120(2)(b).

Underground Injection --- Subsurface emplacement of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction, Exploration or Production Wastes by or into an Injection Well.

Underground Natural Gas Storage --- Subsurface storage, including in depleted gas or oil reservoirs and salt caverns, of natural gas that has been transferred from its original location for the primary purpose of load balancing the production of natural gas. Includes compression and dehydration facilities, and pipelines.

Section 3. MORATORIUM AND PROHIBITION.

A. From and after the effective date of this Ordinance, no application for a permit, zoning permit, special permit, zoning variance (except as contemplated by Section 7 of this law), building permit, site plan approval, subdivision approval or other City-level approval shall be accepted, processed, approved, approved conditionally, or issued for the construction, establishment, or use or operation of any land, body of water, building, or other structure located within the City for any of the following: (i) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Exploration Activities; (ii) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities; or (iii) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Support Activities.

B. From and after the effective date of this Ordinance, no Person shall use, cause, or permit to be used, any land, body of water, building, or other structure located within the City for
any of the following: (i) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Exploration Activities; (ii) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities; or (iii) any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Support Activities.

C. The moratorium and prohibition set forth above in Sections A. and B. of this Section are not intended, and shall not be construed, to: (i) prevent or prohibit the right to use roadways in commerce or otherwise for travel; (ii) prevent or prohibit the transmission of natural gas through utility pipes, lines, or similar appurtenances for the limited purpose of supplying natural gas to residents of or buildings located in the City; or (iii) prevent or prohibit the incidental or normal sale, storage, or use of lubricating oil, heating oil, gasoline, diesel fuel, kerosene, or propane in connection with legal Agriculture, residential, business, commercial, and other uses within the City.

D. The initial term of this moratorium and prohibition shall begin on the effective date of this Ordinance and shall expire on the earlier of (i) that date which is one year after said effective date, or (ii) the effective date of a duly enacted repeal of this Ordinance.

E. This moratorium and prohibition shall apply to all real property within the City.

F. Under no circumstances shall the failure of the City Council of the City, the Board of Appeals of the City, the Planning Commission of the City, or the Zoning Officer or Code Enforcement Officer for the City to take any action upon any application for a permit, zoning permit, special permit, zoning variance, building permit, site plan approval, subdivision approval, or other City-level approval constitute an approval by default or an approval by virtue of expiration of time to respond to such application.

Section 4. PENALTIES.

A. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be an unclassified misdemeanor as contemplated by Sections 55.10 and 80.05 of the New York State Penal Law, and, upon conviction thereof, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than One Thousand Dollars ($1,000) or imprisonment for at least 15 days but no more than one year, or both, for the first offense. Any subsequent offense within a three month period shall be punishable by a fine of not more than Two Thousand Five Hundred Dollars ($2,500) or imprisonment for a period of not more than 30 days but no more than one year, or both. Each day that a violation of this Ordinance exists shall constitute a separate and distinct offense.

B. Compliance with this law may also be compelled and violations restrained by order or by injunction of a court of competent jurisdiction, in an action brought on behalf of the City of Canandaigua by the City Council.

Section 5. LEGAL, PRE-EXISTING NON-CONFORMING USE

Notwithstanding any provision to the contrary, any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities that are being conducted in the City as of the effective date of this Ordinance shall be subject to the following:
A.1. If, as of the effective date of this Ordinance, substantive Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities are occurring in the City, and those activities are in all respects being conducted in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations, including without limitation all valid permits required to be issued by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") and all other regulating agencies, then and only then such Activity shall be considered a pre-existing, non-conforming use and shall be allowed to continue, subject, however, to the provisions of paragraphs B. and C. of this Section.

2. Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities that are being conducted in the City as of the effective date of this Ordinance and which do not qualify for treatment under the preceding paragraph A. 1. of this Section shall not be grandfathered, and shall in all respects be prohibited as contemplated by Section 3.

B. Upon the depletion of any well which is allowed to remain in operation after the effective date of this Ordinance by virtue of paragraph A. 1. of this Section, or upon any other substantive cessation of Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities (otherwise grandfathered by virtue of paragraph A. 1. of this Section) for a period of more than twelve (12) months, then and in such event the non-conforming use status of such Activity shall terminate, and thereafter such Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities shall in all respects be prohibited as contemplated by Section 3.

C. Notwithstanding any provision hereof to the contrary, the pre-existing, non-conforming status conferred and recognized by paragraph A. 1. of this Section is not intended, and shall not be construed, to authorize or grandfather any Natural Gas and/or Petroleum Extraction Activities extending beyond whatever well bore is authorized in any DEC permit in existence as of the effective date of this Ordinance. Any expansion or attempted or purported expansion shall not be grandfathered under paragraph A. 1. of this Section, and instead shall in all respects be prohibited as contemplated by Section 3.

Section 6. INVALIDITY OF ANY CONFLICTING APPROVALS OR PERMITS.

Except as contemplated by Section 7 of this Ordinance, no permit or approval issued by the City shall be deemed valid when or to the extent that such permit or approval purports to allow or permit any activity that would violate the prohibitions set forth at Section 3 of this Ordinance.

Section 7. HARDSHIP USE VARIANCE.

The Zoning Board of Appeals of the City of Canandaigua is hereby authorized to accept and review (after public notice and hearing and in accordance with the requirements of law and of this Ordinance) requests for a hardship use variance from application of the provisions of this Ordinance by persons aggrieved hereby.

No such use variance shall be granted by the Board of Appeals without a showing by the applicant that applicable zoning regulations and restrictions have caused unnecessary hardship.
A. **Unnecessary Hardship.** In order to prove such unnecessary hardship the applicant is required to demonstrate to the Board of Appeals that, with respect to every permitted use under the zoning regulations for the particular district where the property is located, each of the following four criteria is satisfied: (1) the applicant cannot realize a reasonable return on the entire parcel of property, and such lack of return is substantial as demonstrated by competent financial evidence; (2) the alleged hardship relating to the property in question is unique, and does not apply to a substantial portion of the district or neighborhood; (3) the requested use variance, if granted, will not alter the essential character of the neighborhood; and (4) the alleged hardship has not been self-created.

B. **Reasonable Rate of Return.** In evaluating whether the applicant can realize a reasonable rate of return, the Board of Appeals must examine whether the entire original or expanded property holdings of the applicant are incapable of producing a reasonable rate of return (and not just the site of the proposed development project). No use variance shall be granted unless, in addition to satisfying all other applicable provisions of law and this Ordinance, the Board of Appeals finds that the applicant has clearly demonstrated, by detailed, written “dollar and cents” proof, the inability to obtain a reasonable return for the entire parcel (and not just the site of the proposed project) and for each and every permitted use in the district (including those uses permitted by special use permit).

C. **Unique Hardship.** No use variance shall be granted unless, in addition to satisfying all other applicable provisions of law and this Ordinance, the Board of Appeals finds that the entire parcel of which the project is a part possesses unique characteristics that distinguish it from other properties in the area.

D. **Essential Character of the Neighborhood.** In making its determination of whether the proposed development project will alter the essential character of the neighborhood, the Board of Appeals shall take into account factors that are of vital importance to the citizens of the City including without limitation: (1) the City’s irreplaceable recreation and tourism sites, (2) the extent of hazard to life, limb or property may result from the proposed development project, (3) health impacts, (4) the social and economic impacts of traffic congestion, noise, dust, odors, emissions, solid waste generation and other nuisances, (5) the impact on property values, and (6) whether the applicant will use a style of development that will result in degradation to the air quality, water quality and environment of the City. In order to find that the proposed development project does not alter the essential character of the neighborhood, the Board of Appeals shall interpret the public interest in said essential character of the neighborhood to require, at a minimum, that the project will not do any of the following: (a) pose a threat to the public safety, including public health, water quality or air quality, (b) cause an extraordinary public expense, or (c) create a nuisance.

E. **Self-Created Hardship.** The Board of Appeals may find that the applicant suffers from a self-created hardship in the event that the Board finds that (1) the applicant’s inability to obtain a reasonable return on the property as a whole results from having paid too much or from a poor investment decision; (2) the applicant previously divided the property and is left with only a portion which suffers from some unique condition for which relief is sought and which did not apply to the parcel as a whole; or (3) when the applicant purchased the
property, he or she knew or should have known the property was subject to the zoning restrictions.

In the event the Board of Appeals grants a hardship use variance from the provisions of this Ordinance to the applicant, the applicant shall be required to comply with all provisions of the City's then applicable zoning laws and other laws and regulations, including the New York State Quality Review Act, if applicable, together with any amendments to such law or regulations which may be enacted during the term of this Ordinance. Any hardship use variance that is granted shall grant only the minimum variance that the Board of Appeals deems necessary and adequate to address the unnecessary hardship proven by the applicant, and at the same time preserve and protect the character of the neighborhood and the health, safety and welfare of the community.

Section 8. SEVERABILITY.

If any word, phrase, sentence, part, section, subsection, or other portion of this Ordinance, or the application thereof to any person or to any circumstance, is adjudged or declared invalid or unenforceable by a court or other tribunal of competent jurisdiction, then, and in such event, such judgment or declaration shall be confined in its interpretation and operation only to the provision of this Ordinance that is directly involved in the controversy in which such judgment or declaration is rendered, and such judgment or declaration of invalidity or unenforceability shall not affect or impair the validity or enforceability of the remainder of this Ordinance or the application hereof to any other persons or circumstances. If necessary as to such person or circumstances, such invalid or unenforceable provision shall be and be deemed severed herefrom, and the City Council of the City of Canandaigua hereby declares that it would have enacted this Ordinance, or the remainder thereof, even if, as to particular provisions and persons or circumstances, a portion hereof is severed or declared invalid or unenforceable.

Section 9. SUPERSEENDING INTENT AND EFFECT.

During the time this Ordinance is in effect, it is the specific intent of the City Council to supersede any inconsistent provisions of any and all other local ordinances, local laws or local resolutions of the City of Canandaigua.

Section 10. REFERRALS.

A. Pursuant to City Code Section 850-8 this Ordinance shall be referred to the City Planning Commission for its review and a report back to the City Council within 30 days of receipt of said referral.

B. Pursuant to NYS General Municipal Law Section 239-m this Ordinance shall be referred to the Ontario County Planning for its review and recommendation.

Section 11. EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance shall take effect thirty (30) days from its adoption.
Adopted this ___ day of ______, 2012.

ATTEST:

______________________________
Nancy C. Abdallah
City Clerk/Treasurer