

Carmella Mantello
Mayor



Seamus Donnelly
Deputy Mayor

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For Immediate Release: March 11, 2024
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MAYOR MANTELLO ISSUES EMERGENCY DECLARATION FOLLOWING LANDSLIDE

Editor's note: Attached is the emergency declaration and memo.

TROY, NY – Mayor Carmella Mantello issued an emergency declaration following a landslide on Spring Avenue early this morning. The landslide impacted a total of five power poles, two of which were severed at the base.

“This emergency declaration is necessary to not only repair the damage, but to prevent any further disasters from occurring in the area,” said Mayor Mantello. “The safety of our citizens is my top priority, which is why a short-term and long-term solution is necessary for this problem.”

The emergency declaration describes the nature of the problem and preliminary mitigation measures necessary to reestablish slope stability and public safety. The solution includes a total of six new poles on the West side of Spring Avenue, relocating the 4,160-volt primaries and Verizon service. In addition, five drains will be installed in the embankment face to help with drainage and prevent buildup of water pressure. There will also be installations to help with overall slope stability and public safety. It is anticipated that these repairs and additions will take around one week to complete. Spring Avenue, from Linden Avenue to Walker Avenue, will be closed until the project is complete.

“Thank you to our partners at National Grid and other departments,” Mantello continued. “Your hard work and diligence are so appreciated as we deal with this disaster.”

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EMERGENCY DECLARATION

March 11, 2024

Emergency Action relating to the remediation measures required to address the landslide situated along the easterly side of Spring Avenue located approximately 260 feet north Spring Avenue ballfield.

On March 11, 2024, at approximately 4:30 a.m., City Engineer Russ Reeves responded to a landslide that occurred on Spring Avenue. The landslide is situated approximately 250 feet North of the Spring Avenue ballfield. During the landslide event, mud, trees and debris had been deposited from the embankment sloped soils and caused the damage that is depicted in photographs 1-3 (see attached memo). The affected area is more specifically located at the end of Hawthorne Avenue along the embankment sloped face.

A total of five power poles were affected by the landslide, two of which were severed at the base of their poles. The line voltage is 4,160 volts. This emergency declaration and the attached memo describe the nature of the problem and preliminary mitigation measures necessary to reestablish slope stability and public safety.

As Mayor, I must take immediate steps to protect the public as well as the City's critical infrastructure. This emergency declaration will afford immediate remediation measures to take place to reduce the opportunity for further movement with the embankment soil mass and take all necessary steps to maintain public safety for the residents along Hawthorne Avenue, as well as pedestrians and traffic along the East Side of Spring Avenue. Therefore, to ensure the safety of our City of Troy residents, I am taking the following action to protect the public health and safety:

Pursuant to §C-40 of the City Charter, I hereby declare a public emergency to mobilize all available City resources required to protect lives and property and otherwise to address this landslide and its consequences. This shall include but not be limited to procurement of materials, commodities, and services as may be necessary.

The City administration reserves the right to take additional appropriate actions necessary to address the public safety issues that may arise from these circumstances.


Carmella R. Mantello, Mayor, City of Troy

Cc: Deputy Mayor, Comptroller, Council President, Corporation Counsel, OGS Commissioner, Department of Public Utilities, Chief of the Fire Department, Chief of the Police

Carmella Mantello
Mayor



Russ Reeves CEng., P.E.
City Engineer
Commissioner of Public Utilities

Seamus Donnelly
Deputy Mayor

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To: Carmella Mantello, Mayor

From: Russ Reeves CEng, P.E. City Engineer-Commissioner of Public Utilities

Subject: **Emergency Declaration for the remediation measures required to address the landslide situated along the easterly side of Spring Avenue located approximately 260 feet north of the Spring Avenue ballfield.**

Date: March 11, 2024

Dear Mayor,

On March 11th at approximately 4:30am, I responded to a landslide that occurred on Spring Avenue. Photograph 1 shows the area where the landslide had occurred. This is situated approximately 250 feet North of the Spring Avenue field. During the landslide event, mud, trees and debris had been deposited from the embankment sloped soils and caused the damaged that is depicted in photographs 1-3. The affected area is more specifically located at the end of Hawthorne Avenue along the embankment sloped face.



Photograph 1

(Landslide Area East Side of Spring Avenue)



Photograph 2
(Close-up view of the landslide)

1). Over-All Description:

It is estimated that the overall affected area is approximately 80 feet wide and 100 feet long as measured along the embankment sloped face. This area of Spring Avenue and other portions of Spring Avenue are problematic and historically are susceptible to landslides. Recent heavy rains caused the embankment clay soils to become substantially saturated, reducing their internal cohesive strength and essentially making the embankment top heavy due to the large presence of water. This resulted in the instability of the embankment soil mass causing the resulting landslide. Photographs 2 and 3 show typical views of the affected landslide area, downed trees and power poles respectively.

A total of five power poles were affected by the landslide, two of which were severed at the base of their poles. The line voltage is 4,160 volts. This emergency declaration describes the nature of the problem and preliminary mitigation measures necessary to reestablish slope stability and public safety.

A total of six new poles will be situated on the Westerly side of Spring Avenue and the 4,160 volt primaries and Verizon service will be relocated to these new poles. A total of five finger drains will be installed within the embankment face so as to properly drain the soil mass and prevent a buildup of pore water pressure within the embankment. Filter fabric will then be placed over the modified and reduced slope face. Number #8 rip-rap shall be placed as a surcharged weight over the face of the embankment so as to improve the overall slope stability and maintain public safety as it relates to this landslide condition. Some geotechnical engineering will likely be required to establish the in-situ soil properties.



Photograph 3

This emergency declaration will afford immediate remediation measures to take place – so as to reduce the opportunity for further movement within the embankment soil mass and take all necessary steps to maintain public safety for the residents along Hawthorne Avenue as well as pedestrians and traffic along the East Side of Spring Avenue.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to call.

Very truly yours,

Russ Reeves P.E.
R. Russell Reeves, CEng., P.E.

Troy City Engineer-Commissioner of Public Utilities

Approval:

Carmella R. Mantello
Carmella Mantello, Mayor

Date

3/11/24

Cc: Seamus Donnelly, Deputy Mayor , A. Golden, Assistant Operations Manager