

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 2, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Meg Kelly, Mayor
- Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
- John P. Franck, Commissioner
- Michele Madigan, Commissioner
- Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
- Robin Dalton, Commissioner
- Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
- Tara Gaston, Supervisor



1 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Good
2 evening. Welcome to city council meeting
3 Tuesday, February 2nd. It is 7 p.m. We
4 have no public hearings tonight.

5 Roll call, please?

6 Secretary to City Council:

7 Commissioner Franck?

8 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Present.

9 Secretary to City Council:

10 Commissioner Madigan?

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Present.

12 Secretary to City Council:

13 Commissioner Scirocco?

14 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.

15 Secretary to City Council:

16 Commissioner Dalton?

17 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

18 Secretary to City Council: Mayor

19 Kelly?

20 MAYOR KELLY: Here.

21 Secretary to City Council:

22 Supervisor Veitch? He's here. I see

23 him.

24 And Supervisor --

25 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.



1 Secretary to City Council: --

2 Gaston?

3 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Please
5 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 I pledge allegiance to the flag of
7 the United States of America and to the
8 republic for which it stands, one nation,
9 under God, indivisible, with liberty and
10 justice for all.

11 Thank you. Next on the agenda is
12 the public comment period. I would ask
13 you to keep your comments brief, up to
14 two minutes. There will be a bell to
15 signify the end of your time. Public
16 comment period will begin -- will
17 continue for fifteen minutes. Please be
18 respectful to the speakers and address
19 the council as a whole.

20 As a reminder, public comment is not
21 a dialogue or a discussion with the
22 council. However, at the end of the
23 public comment period, any council member
24 may respond to any comment. Anyone who
25 wishes to address the council upon any



1 issue may now raise their hand on the
2 bottom of their Zoom screen, and we will
3 call you in.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Mayor, go
5 ahead. And you see Claudia (ph.)?

6 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Claudia. Let's
7 see. Am I unmuting them? Yeah, I have
8 to unmute them, hold on.

9 MS. KRAMER: Thank you.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. You're on --

11 MS. KRAMER: Thank you.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- Claudia. Thank
13 you.

14 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mayor. I
15 was trying to raise my electronic hand,
16 but I figured my regular hand will work,
17 too. Thanks for recognizing me and for
18 this opportunity to make comments
19 tonight.

20 As you know, I'm representing
21 residents who live on the east side and
22 who are opposed to the fire EMS facility
23 being located on the horse track grounds.
24 This is something that came up last year
25 right at the beginning of the pandemic,



1 and we asked you to table your
2 consideration of the agreement, the lease
3 agreement, but that went forward. And
4 now tonight, you have the accepting a bid
5 for additional design engineering
6 services is my understanding.

7 And we are asking you to again, once
8 again, to hold off on going forward with
9 that. We still have many concerns about
10 the siting of this particular facility.
11 There has been no city-wide study to
12 evaluate the best location for this
13 facility and how it would be able to
14 respond to people all over the city in
15 the best, most efficient way. There has
16 been no environmental impact statement to
17 study the environmental and historic
18 impacts of a facility like this on the
19 racetrack grounds, and we are asking for
20 that to be conducted before you go
21 forward with this kind of proposal.

22 And, you know, to be frank, it -- it
23 does seem very concerning that you're
24 going forward with a five- to six-
25 million-dollar project when everyone



1 knows this city's budget revenue went
2 down last year by over -- I believe over
3 six million dollars. And people were
4 laid off, and we had to delay other
5 projects and other funding. So it just
6 seems like there's a lot up in the air,
7 and the litigation is still pending. Ad
8 so we are asking you to not make a
9 decision to go forward with that
10 particular bid award tonight.

11 Thank you for your consideration.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Holly (ph.)?

14 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Holly.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Yeah.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Go ahead.

18 Yeah.

19 MS. HAMMETT: Hi.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Hi.

21 MS. HAMMETT: Good evening. I just
22 need to -- I got to read my statement.

23 I'm here tonight to ask the city
24 council to publicly support the Police
25 Reform Task Force. We're fortunate to



1 have a representative and conscientious
2 task force exploring and addressing the
3 complex and controversial issues related
4 to policing. Wanting and needing public
5 input, the task force released a survey
6 last week. I ask all of you to complete
7 the survey yourselves and encourage your
8 constituents to do the same.

9 Given this council will be voting on
10 task force recommendations by April
11 4th -- April 1st, I implore all of you to
12 take an active interest now in the issues
13 being addressed and not wait until the
14 recommendations are before you. You and
15 your deputies could be attending these
16 meetings to listen and learn. Your lack
17 of visible interest gives the impression
18 this task force and its mission are not
19 important.

20 As our elected city leaders, I ask
21 you to lead. Acknowledge that racism and
22 distrust of law enforcement is epidemic
23 in our country. Help city employees and
24 residents understand that Saratoga
25 Springs is not and cannot be immune from



1 racism and systemic problems in its
2 police department because we are a city
3 and a state and a country founded on the
4 premise of white supremacy, and it is in
5 our blood. That does not make those of
6 us who are white bad. None of us were
7 the founders of this country or enslaved
8 anyone.

9 However, as Isabel Wilkerson
10 explains, when we buy or inherit a house
11 with bad plumbing and structural
12 problems, those problems are not our
13 fault as we did not create them, but they
14 are our responsibility. To not fix the
15 problems is negligent. To cover them up
16 and sell the house is immoral. She also
17 points out that when one is diagnosed
18 with a serious illness that is
19 hereditary, one should not feel ashamed
20 and hide the diagnosis. One should
21 research to understand the illness and
22 best treatment options and how to prevent
23 this condition from being passed down to
24 the next generation.

25 Please do your research. Listen to



1 learn --, and learn from those who have
2 already done research. Listen to those
3 who have lived experience and support
4 police reform efforts to make everyone
5 feel safer.

6 Thank you.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8 MS. HAMMETT: Is that the time bell
9 or --

10 MAYOR KELLY: That is the time bell.

11 MS. HAMMETT: -- is that an alarm?

12 Oh.

13 MAYOR KELLY: That's the time bell.

14 Thank you.

15 Lisa, anybody else?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Yes. Darlene
17 (ph.).

18 MAYOR KELLY: Darlene, you're on --

19 DARLENE: Hi.

20 MAYOR KELLY: -- yeah.

21 DARLENE: Yes. Hi.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Do you have video,
23 Darlene? Or no?

24 DARLENE: Yeah. Hi. Sorry about
25 that.



1 MAYOR KELLY: That's okay.

2 DARLENE: I wanted to speak up. I
3 am a resident of the City of Saratoga
4 Springs, and I've been trying to discuss
5 with the city for a long time that we
6 have a water problem. It's not only a
7 Public Works, but it's a Public Safety
8 problem, too. And last time the council
9 said that they drank the water, but I
10 have done specific tests, and I found
11 that we do have chloroform -- coliform
12 bacteria within the water system. And
13 the bacteria is within where I live with
14 the housing authority, and it's -- it's
15 not within the rest of the city, which I
16 hope not. But I still want something
17 done, and our code enforcement officers
18 have a responsibility, and the council
19 has a responsibility of making sure that
20 we have safe, drinkable water.

21 And I am going to end it at that.
22 And I am also going to do second tests,
23 and I'm going to put that on video for
24 you all.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Thank you.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Anyone else? Please
3 raise your hand if you want to speak.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: I don't see
5 anyone else, Mayor.

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Perhaps your
7 response is -- and to --

8 MAYOR KELLY: I do, too,
9 Commissioner. I do, too. Just hold on
10 one minute.

11 I see this 518. Who's 690 number?
12 Do they want to speak?

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: They're
14 muted. I'm not sure. I don't --

15 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Then --

16 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: -- think so.
17 Okay.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Then I will turn it
19 over to the council for comments.

20 Commissioner Dalton, if you want to
21 go, go ahead.

22 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah. I just
23 had two comments, actually. One was to
24 Ms. Kramer (ph.). I take exception to
25 her saying she represents residents of



1 the Saratoga Springs east side
2 neighborhood. I am one of those
3 residents, and she does not represent me.
4 So I wish she would be more specific in
5 terms of the group that she's speaking
6 of.

7 Secondly to Ms. Hammett (ph.) and
8 her talk discussing about our
9 participation in this task force. I have
10 watched every single meeting. I can't
11 always watch them live, but that does not
12 mean that I haven't taken an interest or
13 haven't been viewing them. But in many
14 cases, involvement or interference from
15 the city council goes contrary to what
16 the Executive Order 203 states. And so I
17 would not take -- however, she sees our
18 lack of participation as a negative thing
19 because that's just not how this process
20 was meant to happen.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
22 Commissioner.

23 Anybody else?

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I've
25 got it --



1 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah --

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Go ahead,
3 Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay. I
5 just want to say that I think the water
6 in the city is safe. I don't find any
7 issues with the water in the city.

8 And I think -- Darlene, I think
9 you're on Jefferson Street, so I'm going
10 to send somebody over there to check it
11 out to make sure that there are no issues
12 over there. And if there are issues over
13 there, well, we'll just take appropriate
14 action. So rest assured that I don't
15 think we want to have any issues with any
16 residents in the city again. I think the
17 water's safe, so I don't have a problem
18 with that.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
20 Commissioner.

21 Commissioner Madigan?

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I have two
23 responses. The first is about the fire
24 EMS because there seems to be some
25 confusion about the city's financial



1 situation. First of all, we did not have
2 any layoffs in the city. We did have a
3 furlough program last summer, but we have
4 not had any layoffs. Our bonding
5 capacity remains very healthy, and this
6 is what this project would be. A five-
7 to six-million-dollar project would be
8 issued in debt, and right now interest
9 rates are extremely low, and that's why
10 we continued to move this project
11 forward. It's our cash flow and our
12 general operating funds that are
13 suffering quite a bit as a result of
14 COVID-19. And those are real concerns
15 that I have, and I address this with the
16 council and the public regularly.

17 But at this point in time, I think
18 one of the best things we can do for our
19 economy is invest in projects,
20 infrastructure projects, construction
21 projects. So I just wanted to clear up
22 the issue with the city's finances. It
23 really is our basic day-to-day operating
24 budget that has some stress, a lot of
25 stress on it as a result of COVID, but



1 our bonding capacity still remains
2 healthy. And the city has taken it upon
3 themselves to refinance debt since I've
4 been here several times, which has saved
5 us an additional five million dollars in
6 future bonding capacity.

7 My second comment is about the task
8 force. I am very interested in what's
9 going on, and I, like Commissioner
10 Dalton, do watch the meetings and agree
11 with her that sometimes it's not always
12 appropriate to have council members show
13 up, certainly in front of the planning
14 board or the zoning board and perhaps
15 with this task force.

16 However, I have reached out to both
17 co-chairs, and I've yet to receive a
18 response from them, asking them if they
19 would like to meet with me one-on-one.
20 Now, every now and then I do miss an
21 email, so I don't want to say they have
22 not reached out to me. But I have not
23 really heard back from them with my offer
24 to meet with them and discuss sort of my
25 knowledge in terms of being with the city



1 for the last ten years and what I might
2 be able to offer to the task force.

3 I do watch the meetings, and I've
4 also made myself available to both of my
5 appointees. And while I have -- it's
6 been a little while since I've talked to
7 them, I have made it clear that I'm
8 available to them when they need me. And
9 I do expect that I'll be meeting with
10 them to get a more firm update going
11 forward.

12 Thank you.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
14 Commissioner.

15 And I would also like --

16 Commissioner Franck, I'm sorry. Do
17 you have anything to add? Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No.

19 MAYOR KELLY: So I would just like
20 to add something on the task force also,
21 that the idea of this task force, it was
22 created by the council as an independent
23 group to work on this topic without the
24 influence of the council. That's what it
25 was for. So we can add to it, but we

1 want to see what they come up with. And
2 they hand it over to us, and then we can
3 look at it.

4 But so I do take offense to
5 leadership in that conversation because
6 we have the council that leads, and we
7 are leading really well. And we are not
8 interfering with the task force. If we
9 were on the task force or sitting there
10 every day, we'd be getting beat up, too.
11 So we're staying away, and that's what we
12 need to do. We could watch it online.
13 We don't have to go to every meeting, and
14 we don't have to see it. We could see it
15 after.

16 So I just think that it's not a fair
17 statement to say that we're not involved
18 and we don't care. That is not the case
19 of this council, and it would take -- I
20 personally take offense to that.

21 So that's all I have. Thank you.

22 MS. HAMMETT: I -- I didn't say you
23 didn't care, or you weren't paying
24 attention. I was saying how it appears
25 publicly --



1 MAYOR KELLY: You said lead, lead,
2 lead. This isn't a dialogue. Thank you.

3 Okay. Anybody else?

4 Okay. Then at this time, I'm going
5 to ask Commissioner Dalton. She has an
6 item that she wants to move up to the top
7 of the agenda. And you want to add an
8 item.

9 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes, I did. I
10 wanted to make a motion to add an
11 announcement at this time.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Can you --

13 COMMISSIONER DALTON: So --

14 MAYOR KELLY: -- tell me what the
15 announcement is?

16 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes. The
17 announcement is about Black History
18 Month.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. And that's a
20 motion?

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

22 MAYOR KELLY: And is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25 All those in favor say aye.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

3 The matter passes. Go ahead,
4 Commissioner.

5 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you very
6 much, Mayor, and thank you for moving
7 this up. I know my agenda is dead last,
8 so sometimes we lose some visibility by
9 the end of the meeting.

10 But I just wanted to announce that
11 as of yesterday we have started Black
12 History Month, and I think that's
13 something that the city needs to
14 celebrate and be involved in. And to
15 that end, the community outreach
16 committee that I know has presented to
17 this council and has been active in the
18 community has been working on a number of
19 special events to help celebrate Black
20 History Month. And I wanted to encourage
21 the city council to each consider
22 appointing someone to this community
23 outreach committee to be involved in
24 events celebrating Black History Month.
25 I know one of the panels that we're



1 working on, but I think it's very
2 impactful for everyone in Saratoga. And
3 I'm hoping something that a lot of people
4 watch and listen to is what it's like to
5 be black in Saratoga and have a panel of
6 people speaking to that as one element of
7 how we're celebrating Black History
8 Month, which goes from February 1st
9 through March 1st of this year.

10 So I just wanted to make that
11 announcement and hope that you will all
12 consider appointing someone to this
13 committee, which as I said before our
14 mission is to address race and bias in
15 Saratoga Springs through culture,
16 awareness, and education. And so we are
17 looking forward to Black History Month
18 and working on lots of different events
19 to appeal to all of Saratoga Springs.

20 So that concludes my announcement,
21 unless anyone has anything else to say.

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I do. I'm
23 assuming you're going to -- I think this
24 is great, and thank you for doing that
25 and moving it up to the beginning of the



1 agenda so people have an idea of what
2 we're doing. So thank you for taking the
3 lead on this.

4 I'm assuming you're going to want an
5 appointee fairly quickly since we're into
6 the month?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So I'll try
9 to get somebody to you like within the
10 next twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.
12 I'll follow up with an email with all of
13 you, if that would be helpful.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I appreciate
18 that.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And thank
20 you. Thank you.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Anything else,
22 Commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's it.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

25 On to the consent agenda. Are there



1 any changes or additions or edits to the
2 consent agenda? I move that the city
3 council approve the consent agenda as
4 included with this agenda, this is a
5 motion. Is there a second?

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

9 All those in favor say aye.

10 IN UNISON: Aye.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

12 The matter passes.

13 On to the Mayor's department. My
14 first item is discussion and vote, accept
15 the Saratoga Springs Recreation Center
16 donation from Mayor Scott Johnson.
17 Former Mayor Scott Johnson and Julie
18 Johnson would like to donate fitness
19 equipment to the Recreation Department.
20 The total value is estimate to be \$6,700.
21 Scott and Julie are donating a Universal
22 weigh station, a TRUE Fitness treadmill,
23 and a P/Core rower.

24 With the assistance of the
25 Department of Public Works, the



1 Recreation Department will pick up the
2 new equipment and install in the
3 recreation center for public use. For
4 the information for the public will be
5 available after the Recreation Department
6 establishes protocol for the new
7 equipment.

8 I move that the city council accept
9 the donation for the Saratoga Springs
10 Recreation Center from Mayor Scott
11 Johnson. This is a motion. Is there a
12 second?

13 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

16 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
17 Former --

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- Mayor Scott
20 Johnson.

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

22 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor say
23 aye.

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?



1 The matter passes.

2 Second item is an announcement.

3 Mayor's Department food drive and benefit
4 to Franklin Community Center and Mother
5 Susan Anderson Women and Children's
6 Emergency Shelter. The Mayor's office
7 will host a drive through food drive at
8 Vanderbilt Avenue Recreation Center on
9 February 11th through the 13th. The food
10 drive will benefit the Franklin
11 Recreation Center and Mother Susan
12 Anderson Shelter. Those who wish to
13 contribute items to the food drive may
14 arrive at the rec center at 15 Vanderbilt
15 Avenue during one of the following drop-
16 off times: 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday,
17 February 11th; 2 to 6 Friday, February
18 12th; 9 to 12 Saturday, February 13th.
19 COVID protocols will be in place. Please
20 wear a mask. Details including requested
21 donation items are on our city website.

22 Third item is discussion and vote
23 authorization for the Community
24 Development Planner to execute HUD-
25 mandated environmental reviews as a



1 certifying officer. For the past three
2 years as a city development community
3 planner, Lindsey Connors (ph.) has
4 successfully completed dozens of
5 environmental reviews for city CDBG
6 funded project as required by federal
7 regulations. Given the recent retirement
8 of her immediate supervisor, we are
9 requesting that the council authorize Ms.
10 Connors to act as a certifying officers
11 for these environmental reviews.

12 I move that the city council
13 authorize the City Community Development
14 Planner to execute the HUD-mandated
15 environmental reviews as certifying
16 officer. This is a motion. Is there a
17 second?

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

24 The matter passes.

25 My fourth item is discussion and



1 vote, approval for Mayor to sign Saratoga
2 County Office for the Aging
3 Transportation Agreement 2021. This item
4 and the following item are annual
5 agreements with the County's Office of
6 the Aging for Transportation and
7 Nutrition Programs for seniors in
8 Saratoga Springs.

9 I move that the city council approve
10 the mayor to sign Saratoga County Office
11 for the Aging Transportation Agreement
12 2021. This is a motion. Is there a
13 second?

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

17 All those in favor say aye.

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

20 The matter passes.

21 The next item is discussion and
22 vote, approval for the mayor to sign
23 Saratoga County Office for the Aging
24 Nutrition Agreement 2021. I move that
25 the city council approve the mayor to



1 sign the Saratoga County Office for the
2 Aging Nutrition Agreement 2021. This is
3 a motion. Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

6 All those in favor say aye.

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

9 The matter passes. That concludes
10 my agenda. I'm going to switch it over
11 to Accounts.

12 Commissioner Franck?

13 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
14 Mayor. The first item is award of bid
15 for to bond counsel to Walsh & Walsh upon
16 the recommendation of the Finance
17 Department. I move to award the bid for
18 bond counsel to Walsh & Walsh, as
19 included with this agenda, and that's a
20 motion.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25 All those in favor say aye.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

3 The matter passes.

4 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
5 Mayor. The second is award of bid fiscal
6 advisory services to Fiscal Advisors &
7 Marketing. Upon the recommendation of
8 the Finance Department, I move to award
9 the bid for fiscal advisory services to
10 Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, as included
11 with this agenda. And that's a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Can I just ask
16 what that is? I'm just not sure what it
17 is.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So Fiscal
19 Advisors & Marketing is -- they've served
20 the city for a few years. They work with
21 Walsh & Walsh. We primarily use them for
22 services when it comes to bonding. And
23 yeah, they give us advice on finances.
24 They're like the big one --

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON:



1 (Indiscernible).

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- pretty
3 much in the whole state. So yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Cool.

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: They provide
6 us spot-on guidance.

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Awesome.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So --

9 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor --

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's the
11 best I can say.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- say aye. Oops, I'm
13 sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: What?

15 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor say
16 aye.

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

19 The matter passes.

20 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
21 Mayor. The third and last item for this
22 evening on my agenda is award of bid for
23 resilient wedge gate valve to Blair
24 Supply Corp. Upon the recommendation of
25 the Department of Public Works. I move



1 to award the bid for resilient wedge gate
2 valve to Blair Supply Corp. in an amount
3 not to exceed \$43,730. And that's a
4 motion.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

6 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

11 The matter passes.

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
13 Mayor. That concludes my agenda.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
15 Commissioner.

16 On to Finance, Commissioner Madigan.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
18 Mayor. My first announcement and I'm
19 wearing red to kick this off is the
20 American Heart Association Go Red for
21 Women National Wear Red Day which is on
22 February 5th, 2021. The American Heart
23 Association is holding its annual Go Red
24 for Women campaign to help raise
25 awareness of heart disease in particular



1 among women. Heart disease is often
2 generally associated with men, but
3 cardiovascular disease is the number one
4 killer of women.

5 So National Wear Red Day aims to
6 raise funds for research and to this
7 misunderstood disease with women. A key
8 fundraiser of the movement this year is
9 Friday, February 5th, when they are
10 asking everyone to wear red. So I'm
11 going to encourage everyone to
12 participate. We'll see what we can do
13 about getting those hearts. If you make
14 a small donation to the American Heart
15 Association, you usually get one of those
16 heart pins.

17 I also forwarded on an email to the
18 Department of Public Works about lighting
19 up our buildings starting Thursday or
20 Friday all red. We've done that in the
21 past. It's been a little busy. I lost
22 track of that, but I did forward that to
23 the commissioner and the deputy and the
24 business manager. The American Heart
25 Association has asked if we will



1 participate again this year, and what we
2 usually do is put some red candles in the
3 windows to show our support for the
4 American Heart Association.

5 My second --

6 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: We're on
7 it --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes? I'm
9 sorry.

10 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: We're on it,
11 Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, thank you
13 very much because I know I sent the email
14 a little bit late.

15 Item number two is an announcement,
16 city hall department addresses and suite
17 numbers. We're going to have a new city
18 mail receptacle that we will be using
19 beginning March 1st that will now include
20 department suite numbers. Departments,
21 please use these numbers for all mail
22 going forward, and people who want to
23 send mail to the city should use these
24 suite numbers. All of these numbers will
25 be posted on the city website. If anyone



1 has any questions, please contact Rachel
2 Patrina (ph.) in communications at
3 extension 2576 at city hall.

4 Item number three is an update on
5 city finances. As I stated at the first
6 meeting of 2021, this will be a recurring
7 topic at most 2021 city council meetings.
8 It's a critical message that I think
9 needs to be heard. The most recent
10 development is that New York State Office
11 of the State Comptroller has informed us
12 that they will be onsite for a 2021
13 budget audit regarding the impact of
14 COVID-19 on city finances. We are well-
15 prepared for this audit. It is important
16 that the council makes careful,
17 disciplined budget decisions on essential
18 services, departmental plans and
19 priorities and expenditures that these
20 might require, and is aware of the
21 amounts of actual cash on hand at all
22 times as we go forward.

23 We have borrowed 11.3 million and
24 sufficiently burdened future
25 administrations. Discipline now is going



1 to help us as we go into 2022. The New
2 York State Governor's executive budget
3 has removed an additional 1.5 million
4 dollars in revenue from our current
5 operating budget, based on what we
6 budgeted for 2021. If this is sustained
7 by the New York State legislature, the
8 city will have to adjust to a substantial
9 revision in revenue available to support
10 current operating expenses through 2021.

11 We have responded with letters to
12 the Governor from the Finance Department
13 and the Mayor's Department and each of
14 our state representatives making a strong
15 case for reinstatement of VLT Aid. And I
16 have submitted my testimony to testify on
17 February 11th in front of the joint
18 legislature to also make the case to
19 reinstate the VLT Aid and also one-
20 hundred percent of our AIM aid that we
21 receive from New York State.

22 We can't borrow our way out of this.
23 We have done a lot of borrowing, but I
24 think we've done a sufficient amount of
25 borrowing. Working on a 1.9 trillion



1 dollar release package that does include
2 aid for state and local governments.
3 Without relief, the city remains poised
4 to experience a substantial dip in cash
5 flow come June of 2021, which will result
6 in insufficient funds to meet payroll and
7 other expenditures. So let's hope things
8 go well with the 1.9 trillion dollar aid,
9 and feel free to reach out to me anytime
10 if you have any comments or questions.

11 So when I'm talking about this,
12 because I noticed the confusion we had at
13 the beginning of the meeting, this is
14 really about cash flow and general
15 operating expenses. This is not about
16 our debt, our debt servicing, or
17 financing other infrastructure, water,
18 sewer, building-type projects. That's a
19 whole other way of looking at some of
20 our -- it's a whole other budget that
21 gets managed in a whole other way. Happy
22 to explain that to any member of the
23 public who wants more information about
24 that, or any member of the council who
25 would like more information about that.



1 Any comments?

2 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner, just if
3 you could touch on VLT. Maybe you did
4 send a letter, right? And I sent the
5 letter --

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I did touch
7 on VLT.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I did say
10 that I sent a letter --

11 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- and that
13 you sent a letter. I don't know if you
14 missed that.

15 MAYOR KELLY: I did. Sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And that we
17 were both -- that we both sent letters,
18 and then I had already registered to
19 testify between the joint legislature.
20 And anyone who would like --

21 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- to join
23 me, the mayor, Commissioner Dalton, I can
24 make sure that you have the links, and
25 you're prepared to send in some testimony



1 for that. So --

2 MAYOR KELLY: So I did request a
3 letter to come from the council, too. So
4 I want to --

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

6 MAYOR KELLY: -- get that done. So
7 I have our consultant working on that --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

9 MAYOR KELLY: -- and we can get that
10 done, too. And then I definitely will
11 sign up to testify, and --

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

13 MAYOR KELLY: -- just we'll talk
14 about that. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. I
16 mean, I think the more letters and the
17 more joint letters and individual letters
18 that we send --

19 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- the
21 better. We really do need that funding.
22 We are --

23 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- dependent
25 on it.



1 One positive is I did listen to a
2 podcast. I believe it was Senator
3 Aubato who is very much in support of
4 reinstating this aid and understands that
5 communities rely on it. Communities such
6 as ourselves, we're used to having it,
7 rely on it for our public safety and to
8 help maintain property taxes.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum.

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So I
11 thought --

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
13 Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- that was a
15 positive.

16 Okay. Any other comments about
17 what's coming up? All right.

18 Item number four is a discussion and
19 vote, the 2021 tax resolution. Each year
20 we are required to vote on the tax
21 resolution that confirms county and city
22 tax rates, tax levy totals as well as the
23 special assessment district information.
24 2021 tax bills have been generated,
25 processed, and went out in the mail



1 today, and our tax payers should be
2 receiving them some time during the week
3 this week.

4 I move that the city council approve
5 the 2021 tax resolution as included with
6 the agenda. This is a motion.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

8 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

10 All those in favor say aye.

11 IN UNISON: Aye.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

13 The matter passes.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

15 Item number five, discussion and vote,
16 authorization for the mayor to sign an
17 agreement with Walsh & Walsh, LLP for
18 bond counsel services. Walsh & Walsh is
19 a local law firm that has served the city
20 for several years. They are very
21 familiar with our form our government,
22 the city's economy, as well as its needs.
23 They've been readily available for on-
24 the-spot guidance, as well as council
25 presentations. Their fees are



1 competitive and reasonable. This is the
2 best choice for the city. This is a
3 three-year contract for \$16,000 a year,
4 \$48,000 for three years. It was approved
5 by the city attorney, Purchasing,
6 Finance, Risk and Safety.

7 I move that the city council
8 authorize the mayor to sign an agreement
9 with Walsh & Walsh, LLP for bond counsel
10 services as include with the agenda, this
11 is a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 All those in favor say aye.

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

18 The matter passes.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Discussion
20 and vote, authorization for the mayor to
21 sign an agreement with the Fiscal
22 Advisors & Marketing, Inc. for fiscal
23 advisory services. Fiscal Advisors &
24 Marketing also has a local law office.
25 They have also served the city for



1 several years and work well with Walsh &
2 Walsh. They, too, are very familiar with
3 our form of government, the city's
4 economy, as well as its needs. They've
5 been readily available for on-the-spot
6 guidance, as well as council
7 presentations. Their fees are
8 competitive and reasonable. Again, this
9 is the best choice for the city.

10 This is a three-year contract, based
11 on the proposal included with the
12 contract approximately 30,000 per year.
13 It was approved by the city attorney,
14 Purchasing, Finance, and Risk and Safety.

15 I move that the city council
16 authorize the mayor to sign agreements
17 with Fiscal Advisors & Marking, Inc. for
18 fiscal advisory services as included with
19 the agenda, this is a motion.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

23 All those in favor say aye.

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?



1 The matter passes.

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

3 Item number seven is a discussion and
4 vote, authorization for the mayor to sign
5 an agreement with CivicPlus for website
6 and design maintenance. CivicPlus
7 designed, implemented, and it has
8 serviced the city website for several
9 years. This is a complicated, multiyear
10 plan, design, and conversion which
11 improved the city web immensely over the
12 last version when I first started with
13 the city. It would cost the city
14 hundreds of thousands of dollars and
15 several more years to engage in a new
16 endeavor. It would require countless IT
17 hours that the city is not in a position
18 to give up.

19 At this time, we are looking for an
20 additional year of maintenance and
21 service. If we engage these services
22 now, we are eligible for a cut rate at a
23 significant discount that allows us to
24 use credits accumulated over the duration
25 of our contract. This is a one-year



1 contract based on the proposal included
2 with the contract, approximately \$8,150
3 per year. It's approved by the city
4 attorney, Purchasing, Finance, and Risk
5 and Safety.

6 I move that the city council
7 authorize the mayor to sign an agreement
8 with CivicPlus for website design and
9 maintenance as included with the agenda,
10 this is a motion.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: So one quick
15 question. I thought that I had heard
16 that CivicPlus, because we've used them
17 for so long, we were eligible for some
18 kind of a free upgrade in terms of
19 (indiscernible) --

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: We --

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: And so I don't
22 know if whether or not we could explore
23 it. Obviously, free is free, and free
24 upgrades are great. So that's --

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: We are



1 eligible for that --

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Sure.

3 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- and we
4 have been trying to work on that project.
5 And that project is also a pretty big
6 project, but --

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Sure.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- the deputy
9 commissioner of finance, Deidre Ladd, has
10 been following up on that. And I'll ask
11 her to provide the council or yourself,
12 Commissioner Dalton, with a little bit of
13 an update on where we're headed and sort
14 of a time frame for that. It's another
15 reason to stay with them. So we can make
16 some changes to the way we navigate,
17 colors, and photos, and it might be -- it
18 just needs a little -- it does need some
19 attention. You know? It does, but --

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I know how
21 (indiscernible) y'all are, so --

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- I
24 appreciate that Deidre has taken that on.
25 Thank you.



1 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. Thank
2 you very much.

3 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor say
4 aye.

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

7 The matter passes.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.
9 Item number nine is budget transfers to
10 contingency, lines 1 through 2, transfer
11 funds from contingency to the Accounts
12 Department to cover eScriber contract
13 costs in the amount of \$2,364.17 for
14 services prescribed by the state under
15 COVID-19 requisites for verbatim
16 transcripts of each city council meeting.
17 There are in addition to -- I don't know
18 what that says -- to 7,000 -- I don't
19 know what that says. These are in
20 addition to some other funds contributed
21 by Risk and Safety from its programming
22 budget.

23 Thank you to Risk and Safety.

24 The contingency budget appropriation
25 currently has a balance of \$250,000.



1 Following approval of this transfer,
2 there will be \$244,635.83 available. The
3 city will not need to appropriate --
4 okay. Great.

5 I move that the city council approve
6 the budget transfers contingency as
7 included with the agenda, this is a
8 motion.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

15 The matter passes.

16 Commissioner, you missed number
17 eight, payroll.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, payroll
19 transfers. Thank you very much.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum.

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So back to
22 number eight, discussion and vote, budget
23 transfers payroll, budget transfer lines
24 1 through 5. Move funds from the Camp
25 Saradac director to clinics and summer



1 recreation programs in the amount of
2 \$88,082.60. This is part of the
3 reorganization of the department for 2021
4 budget neutral operations.

5 I move that the city council approve
6 the budget transfers payroll as included
7 with the agenda, this is a motion.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

11 All those in favor say aye.

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

14 The matter passes.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

16 I'll jump to my item number ten now. So
17 this is to set a public hearing, Local
18 Law Number 1 of 2021, a local law to
19 defer scheduled payments of taxes during
20 the COVID-19 emergency. The governor has
21 signed a bill authorizing property tax
22 deferments and installment payments while
23 the COVID-19 state of emergency is in
24 effect. The law permits municipalities
25 to adopt a local law to defer payments of



1 property taxes and other levies for a
2 period not to exceed 120 days past the
3 original payment due date, or to permit
4 as many installment payments as necessary
5 to be determined by the local legislative
6 body for a period not to exceed 120 days
7 past the original payment due date during
8 the state of emergency.

9 The city already permits four
10 installment payments per year, which is a
11 longer period of time than the bill
12 allows. So its focus will most likely or
13 will be on allowing our taxpayers
14 additional time to make their property
15 tax payments, the 120-day deferral. The
16 legal department will craft the local law
17 best suited for the city. It will be
18 presented at the 2/16/21 city council
19 meeting in time for the 2021 tax payment
20 due dates, which are on or about March
21 1st through June -- and then June 1st,
22 September 1st, and December 1st.

23 A public hearing is required for a
24 local law, and I think we only need five
25 minutes for that.



1 Secretary to City Council: Excuse
2 me. 6:55 on the 16th.

3 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you
4 very much. And that will complete my
5 agenda.

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.
7 Thank you, Commissioner.

8 On to Public Works, Commissioner
9 Scirocco.

10 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
11 Mayor. The first item on my agenda is
12 discussion and vote. This is
13 authorization for the mayor to sign a
14 contract with Blair Supply Corporation
15 for resilient wedge gate valves. The
16 purchase of two 24 resilient wedge gate
17 valves with accessories is needed in
18 order to replace aging, gear-operated
19 valves in the city's water distribution
20 system. One of the existing valves is
21 known to be inoperable, while the other
22 valve is highly suspect given the age,
23 approximately eighty-seven years old, of
24 the gear mechanisms and internal
25 components.



1 When installed, the new valves will
2 provide critical control of flow to the
3 large diameter water main located along
4 North Broadway. This is part of a
5 broader program to replace other large
6 gear-operated valves in the distribution
7 system that have reached their life
8 expectation as far as functionality and
9 reliability.

10 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
11 sign a contract with Blair Supply
12 Corporation for resilient wedge gate
13 valves in the amount not to exceed unit
14 bid price per proposal. And I put that
15 in the form of a motion.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second.

17 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

23 The matter passes.

24 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second item
25 on my agenda is discussion and vote.



1 This is authorization for the mayor to
2 sign Tree City USA application. This is
3 an annual renewal application for the
4 City of Saratoga's Tree City USA
5 recognition.

6 City of Saratoga Springs has been
7 nationally recognized as a Tree City USA
8 community by the Arbor Day Foundation to
9 honor its commitment to community
10 forestry since 2016. The renewal
11 application must be submitted annually to
12 ensure that the community is following
13 the four standards to become a Tree City
14 USA community. First, having a tree
15 department, also a tree ordinance,
16 spending at least two dollars per capita
17 on the urban forestry, and finally an
18 Arbor Day observation and proclamation.
19 The city has met all of these
20 requirements.

21 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
22 sign the Tree City USA application. And
23 I put that in the form of a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

2 All those in favor say aye.

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

5 The matter passes.

6 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Third item

7 on my agenda is discussion and vote.

8 This is authorization for the mayor to

9 sign a Tree City USA Growth Award

10 application. The Tree City USA Growth

11 Award is presented by the Arbor Day

12 Foundation to participating Tree City USA

13 communities that demonstrate a high level

14 of tree care and community engagement.

15 The following are just two examples

16 of how the Department of Public Works,

17 along with the city arborist, have

18 significantly improved our community

19 forestry. DPW has established a

20 partnership with BOCES in which a student

21 intern from their forestry program can

22 assist the city's Urban Forestry Division

23 through tree planting and aftercare.

24 Also a special program was initiated by

25 the city arborist in conjunction with the



1 city engineer to obtain permission to
2 extract a row of evergreen hedges from a
3 development site and transplant them in a
4 city park.

5 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
6 sign a Tree City USA Growth Award
7 application, and I put that in the form
8 of a motion.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

15 The matter passes.

16 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And Mayor,
17 I'd like to add an item to my agenda.

18 This is an announcement for VLT aid.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Yeah. Is that
20 a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25 All those in favor say aye.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

3 The matter passes.

4 Go ahead, sir.

5 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
6 Mayor.

7 And again, this is an announcement,
8 VLT aid. As the city council is aware,
9 Governor Cuomo's executive budget for the
10 State's fiscal year 2022 eliminates VLT
11 aid to all municipalities except for
12 Yonkers. City residents will recall that
13 Governor Cuomo proposed the elimination
14 of VLT aid last year as well.
15 Eliminating VLT aid in good economic
16 times is a concern. But now with the
17 impacts of the pandemic on state and
18 local government budgets, we need to be
19 more vigilant in fighting for our fair
20 share of state aid. Our residents know
21 what a challenge this budget year was for
22 all of us, and elimination of VLT aid
23 only make the situation worse.

24 The council received correspondence
25 from our state legislative delegation,



1 sent to the governor and legislative
2 minority leaders, advocating for
3 restoration of VLT aid. I believe we
4 need to loudly join their call with a
5 follow-up letter. I also believe we need
6 to bring together our colleagues at the
7 County Board of Supervisors and form a
8 coalition with other municipalities that
9 receive VLT aid. Our message will be
10 louder together. I am willing to work
11 with anyone on the council on this and
12 will be putting together backup
13 documentation to justify our claim to VLT
14 aid.

15 Prior to VLT aid becoming Section
16 54-L of the state finance law as it was
17 passed in 2007 state budget as Chapter 57
18 of the laws of 2007, there were bills
19 introduced in the state legislature to
20 authorize VLT aid to municipalities.
21 Some of the justifications were related
22 to providing the necessary services but
23 also to minimize property tax increases.
24 Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County have
25 done both over the years while hosting a



1 successful VLT facility that has
2 benefited the state education system.
3 These are not just arbitrary host
4 benefits. VLT aid is a partnership
5 between the state and local government to
6 host facilities that generate enormous
7 revenue primarily for state education.

8 This is an important issue for our
9 tax payers, and we need to focus our
10 efforts, work with other elected
11 officials, and advocate to ensure we get
12 our fair share for hosting a world-class
13 VLT facility.

14 And that concludes my agenda.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, I
18 just -- I have a comment. I mean, we've
19 been on this, and we welcome you to
20 testify. I'll send you the website link.
21 Send in the testimony that you've just
22 read to the council here tonight and to
23 the public, but we have definitely been
24 on top of this. The mayor, myself, and
25 Commissioner Dalton and I went down last



1 year, and we got the aid fully restored,
2 and then it was cut by twenty percent as
3 a result of COVID. And we've been doing
4 the work this year, too. I've already
5 got my letters out. The mayor's got a
6 letter out and has asked a consultant to
7 work on a joint letter. But individual
8 letters are helpful, and making sure you
9 sign up to testify on local government
10 day will be also very useful.

11 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Again, I
12 don't have a problem going down and
13 testifying. But I guess what I -- I
14 guess what I'm trying to say --

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, you
16 would be able to do it virtually.

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: But I guess
18 what --

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- I'm
21 trying to say is there's strength in
22 numbers, and I think it's important that
23 we need to get together with other
24 municipalities that have lost VLT aid
25 because I'm sure they're hurting just as



1 bad. And I think if we work with them
2 along with our own county and maybe some
3 of the other municipalities, I think
4 again it just makes more sense. The more
5 people you've got behind you, I think the
6 more people listen to your message. So
7 that's all I'm saying.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, I think we all
9 agree with that, and I appreciate the
10 words. And I think that including the
11 county is a great idea.

12 So yes. Tara, if you want to say
13 something, you can.

14 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you. I
15 don't want to --

16 MAYOR KELLY: That's okay.

17 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- interject.
18 The county is working on a letter. It's
19 going to be a little bit broader than VLT
20 because there are some other items in the
21 budget that also impact the county and
22 not the city specific. But we are also
23 absolutely advocating for this as well
24 and are happy to sign on --

25 MAYOR KELLY: So --



1 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- and work
2 together as best we can.

3 MAYOR KELLY: So could you and maybe
4 Supervisor Veitch do your own letter for
5 VLT for us?

6 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Absolutely.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. So that would
8 be terrific. That's what we're trying to
9 do to get -- we'll send it as a council.
10 You'll send it as the supervisors. And
11 then we're going to be trying to hit them
12 from all angles. That's all we're
13 saying. So I appreciate that. Thank
14 you.

15 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah. We also
16 have a racing and gaming committee
17 meeting on Thursday, and I believe this
18 is going to be taken up at that meeting,
19 so --

20 MAYOR KELLY: Great.

21 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- we'll keep
22 you posted. But signing on a letter, not
23 a problem. Happy to do it.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Okay.

25 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: And we should be



1 doing it.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Great. So I could
3 send you a copy of the letter that I sent
4 out, and then you could draft your own
5 from that if you want.

6 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Great. Thank
7 you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: I could do that.

9 But thank you, Tara. And thank you,
10 Matt. And thank you, Commissioner
11 Scirocco.

12 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Anything else?

14 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: That's it.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

16 Let's move on to Public Safety,
17 Commissioner Dalton.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
19 Mayor. The first item on my agenda is a
20 COVID-19 update. I have been swamped
21 over the last few days with other issues
22 pertaining to public safety, and I like
23 to hear the most up to the minute update.
24 So I've asked Supervisor Gaston to take
25 the full COVID-19 update for tonight, and



1 she will do that when she gets to her
2 agenda.

3 So the second item on my agenda is
4 to set a public hearing to amend Chapter
5 58 of the City Code entitled alarm
6 systems. Over the years, we have removed
7 the mention of fee amounts in public
8 safety codes. This amendment to take up
9 any mention of fee amounts in Chapter 58
10 and instead allows these to be
11 established by the council from time to
12 time by resolutions of the city council.
13 I'd like to set a public hearing for the
14 next city council meeting to discuss this
15 and set these (indiscernible) fees.

16 Secretary to City Council: We can
17 do it at the same time at 6:55.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Perfect.

19 Thank you very much.

20 The third item on my agenda is
21 discussion and vote, authorization for
22 the mayor to sign an agreement with
23 Hixny, which is Healthcare Information
24 Exchange of New York. And this is pretty
25 exciting. This agreement allows us,



1 specifically EMTs and paramedics and fire
2 department, to access patient records
3 with the patient's permission should an
4 emergency arise. Meaning, if you have a
5 pre-existing medical condition and we
6 were to respond to a 911 call or an
7 emergency call to your home and you were
8 not in a state of consciousness to be
9 able to articulate what your previous
10 health issues might be, this would allow
11 us to know in advance and respond more
12 appropriately. It would also be able
13 to -- it would also allow for us to
14 analyze medical trends in our community,
15 allowing providers the opportunity to be
16 better educated and trained on specific
17 issues that face Saratoga Springs.

18 So this is at no cost to us, and I
19 think it's a really exciting program for
20 us to be able to sign on to. And so I'd
21 like to make a motion to authorize the
22 mayor to sign the agreement with Hixny.
23 This is a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

2 All those in favor say aye.

3 IN UNISON: Aye.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

5 The matter passes.

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

7 The fourth item on my agenda is a
8 discussion and vote, authorization for
9 the mayor to sign a contract with CHA
10 Consulting for architectural design
11 services. This is for the schematic
12 design of the third fire station plus EMS
13 station.

14 I make a motion to authorize the
15 mayor to sign the contract with CHA
16 Consulting for architectural design
17 services. This is a motion.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

24 The matter passes.

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.



1 The fifth item on my agenda is discussion
2 and vote, authorization for the mayor to
3 sign a contract with CHA Consulting for
4 civil engineering design services. This
5 is for the civil engineering design for
6 the third EMS station.

7 I make a motion to authorize the
8 mayor to sign the contract with CHA
9 Consulting for civil engineer design
10 services. This is a motion.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 All those in favor say aye.

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

18 The matter passes.

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

20 The sixth item on my agenda is a
21 discussion and vote, authorization for
22 the mayor to sign a contract with Hueber
23 Breuer Construction Company for
24 consultant support services. This is for
25 consultation services to help guide us



1 through the schematic and civil
2 engineering designs for the third
3 station. Hueber Breuer has been
4 instrumental in getting us to where we
5 are, and I look forward to working with
6 them in the future.

7 I make a motion to authorize the
8 mayor to sign a contract with Hueber
9 Breuer for consultant support services.
10 This is a motion.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I just want
16 to say I think that they have been
17 excellent. Like, we did some good due
18 diligence to select them and couldn't be
19 more pleased.

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: They are
21 operating in a way that really minimizes
22 any financial risk and capital outlay on
23 our end and are helping us put together
24 schematics so that we can apply for state
25 aid and grants when they come up --



1 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I know.

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- and are
3 just helping us get the most responsible
4 financial steps forward and continuing
5 this project without putting the city in
6 any kind of, like, financially liable
7 situation. So I don't think they could
8 have done a better job. And I'm really
9 anxious --

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- to have
12 them back on board.

13 Have we voted? I don't --

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Good.

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I don't think
16 so.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. All those in
18 favor say aye.

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

21 The matter passes.

22 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you very
23 much to the council for all of those.

24 The seventh item on my agenda and
25 announcement about retirements, we have



1 four retirements. I'm going to do two
2 now, and two at the next city council
3 meeting if that is all right with you
4 all.

5 The first retirement is the
6 retirement of Lt. Mark Bellantoni from
7 the Saratoga Springs Fire Department.
8 And I'm just going to read this quick
9 memo from Chief Dolan.

10 Effective January 29th, 2021, Lt.
11 Mark Bellantoni is retiring from SSFD.
12 Mark began his career at the department
13 on December 18th, 2010. He had
14 experience as a firefighter and paramedic
15 prior to Saratoga Springs and was
16 assigned to group 2 where he honed his
17 skills. He took his craft seriously and
18 passed on his knowledge to everyone who
19 was willing to listen. Firefighter
20 Bellantoni was exceptional when it came
21 to public education. He was always
22 willing to teach kids the importance of
23 fire safety, and it was evident early on
24 in his career that he was an incredibly
25 strong community force.



1 On January 5th, 2019, Mark was
2 promoted to lieutenant. As a new
3 lieutenant, he was assigned to fire at
4 Fire Prevention Bureau where he would
5 perform fire inspection and provide
6 education to the public. Lt.
7 Bellantoni's ability to speak with the
8 public allowed him to excel in this role.
9 Lt. Bellantoni's retirement comes sooner
10 than expected as a result of an injury
11 sustained while in the performance of
12 duty. The Saratoga Springs Fire
13 Department would like to wish Lt. Mark
14 Bellantoni a happy and healthy
15 retirement. His work ethic and attitude
16 will not soon be forgotten.

17 Sorry. I get a touch emotional.
18 It's hard seeing anyone retire from this
19 department. They're just such a loss.

20 Anyhow, we wish Lt. Bellantoni the
21 absolute best in his retirement, and I
22 thank him for his years of service in the
23 fire department.

24 Secondly, I'd like to announce the
25 retirement of a longtime employee in our



1 traffic department, Tom Armstrong (ph.).
2 He served our city for over thirty-nine
3 years in our traffic maintenance
4 department as the traffic control
5 maintainer. Tom's family has a history
6 of long, dedicated service to the city.
7 His father worked for the Department of
8 Public Safety for forty years, and his
9 mother worked for the city court for
10 forty-two years.

11 Tom was one of those employees who
12 quietly worked behind the scenes, but his
13 hard work contributed to making the city
14 street network safer and better managed.
15 In the 1980s until 1989, Tom was working
16 with one part-time employee to maintain
17 the entirety of city traffic signs and
18 pavement markings. For nearly four
19 decades, Tom was also responsible for
20 setting up and removing all of the
21 special traffic control needs for the
22 annual thoroughbred horse racing season.
23 Tom worked closely with the police
24 department to provide all of the traffic
25 controls -- all of the traffic control



1 needs for all of the special events which
2 required special street closings. Tom
3 assisted in many other areas of the
4 department's mission, such as traffic
5 signal installation and maintenance and
6 assisted with the construction of the
7 current Public Safety garage.

8 I want to thank Tom for his many
9 years of dedicated service to our city
10 and wish him the very best with all his
11 future endeavors. I often think that the
12 people that work in our traffic
13 department get overlooked for their
14 contributions to the city. And so I just
15 want to especially thank Tom for his
16 incredible service in our department and
17 for all he's done for the City of
18 Saratoga Springs and wish him well in his
19 retirement.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
21 Commissioner Dalton. I wish them both
22 well.

23 Mark and Tom, enjoy retirement. I'm
24 jealous. So --

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you for



1 (indiscernible).

2 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Okay. Anything
3 else, Commissioner?

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's it.
5 Thank you very much.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

7 On to supervisors. Supervisor
8 Veitch?

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you,
10 Mayor. First on my agenda and the only
11 thing on my agenda is just a quick review
12 of the buildings and grounds committee at
13 the county. We had a meeting yesterday
14 at the county, and we're going to have
15 another meeting next Monday at the county
16 as well.

17 So first is just a report that we
18 are planning on renewing our lease with
19 the Gateway House of Peace in Milton.
20 They provide end of life services for
21 folks who need a quiet, peaceful place.
22 And we rent a house from them for a
23 nominal fee for that purpose, and it's a
24 five-year lease and with a five-year
25 renewal. It's actually replacing the



1 current lease that we have with them,
2 which was five years with a five-year
3 renewal as well. So we're glad to have
4 them as our tenant, and we appreciate all
5 the great work that they do. So
6 hopefully, we will pass that at our next
7 board meeting.

8 And actually it's just a quick
9 report that we did just send out some
10 bids for our building at Woodlawn Avenue
11 for an online auctioneer to sell the
12 building, and our bids were returned. We
13 are reviewing those bids, and we're
14 hoping to be able to hire somebody by our
15 next board meeting in a couple of weeks.
16 That is the reason for our special board
17 meeting -- our special buildings and
18 grounds meeting on Monday to propose our
19 auctioneer.

20 The other things that we talked
21 about at our first meeting for this year
22 really is reviewing our onsite signage at
23 the county. The committee is looking at
24 changing our lighting to LED lighting
25 around the county, looking at solar both



1 onsite and at the county farm, and lots
2 of other things on the agenda for 2020
3 (sic) for buildings and grounds, so it
4 should be a busy year for us.

5 But I just wanted to do a quick
6 report, and that's it for my agenda.
7 Thank you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor.
9 Supervisor Gaston?

10 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you. The
11 first item on my agenda is a COVID-19
12 update. Our dashboard is up. We are
13 going to be replacing it with a new, more
14 compact version soon that's going to
15 provide all of the same information. But
16 for right now it shows that our seven-day
17 rolling positivity rate for the county is
18 at 4.1 percent, which is incredible.
19 We've, I think, forty percent dropped now
20 in the past week and a half, two weeks,
21 which goes to show that once we get over
22 that holiday hump as people are engaging
23 in the appropriate behaviors, masking,
24 distancing, staying home when they're
25 ill, we're really making a difference.



1 And that's fantastic, and I appreciate
2 all the people who are working to make
3 that happen.

4 Unfortunately, we are now at 121
5 deaths of Saratoga County residents as a
6 result of COVID-19-related illness. I
7 don't have information on all of them
8 yet. A number of them are coming from
9 facilities that are first reported to the
10 state, and then it comes down to the
11 county. So we don't have all of that
12 information, although the latest one was
13 an individual from the town of
14 Providence.

15 We're also at fifty-eight
16 hospitalizations with COVID-related
17 illness, which if everyone remembers
18 about a week ago we were about twice
19 that. So slowly but surely, we're
20 getting there. Our vaccination rate in
21 the county, we're at 22,000 county
22 residents that have received at least one
23 vaccine and five and a half thousand that
24 have completed the series. These are
25 county residents who have been vaccinated



1 not necessarily by Saratoga County public
2 health services. As we've said a number
3 of times our vaccines from the State are
4 extremely limited. So this does count
5 individuals who reside in the county but
6 who travel to other locations within the
7 state, including the state-run facilities
8 to get vaccinated. However, we're
9 getting pretty far along there, and
10 that's good. We're hoping to keep it up
11 and get more vaccines from the county.

12 I do want to make it clear. I
13 continue to get a lot of questions about
14 the city center. The county's agreement
15 with the city center is for the purpose
16 of holding it so that we can use it when
17 sufficient vaccines have been obtained.
18 At this time, we do not have a date when
19 it will be activated for use as a mass
20 vaccination center. However, we are
21 exploring all options, including
22 partnering with the State of New York to
23 use it as a facility, which would both
24 increase the number of vaccines in our
25 community but also expand the



1 eligibility. That's very important to
2 our public health personnel. We
3 obviously want to make sure that those
4 who are at highest risk are vaccinated as
5 soon as possible.

6 To that end, we did hold -- we did
7 get an allocation of 400 vaccines very
8 unexpectedly. We were informed of this
9 last Sunday, and they all went to a
10 population age sixty-five and older,
11 although I would say the vast majority
12 were seventy-five and older. Those
13 individuals were pulled from special
14 needs registries and lists across the
15 county, and we enlisted the assistance of
16 supervisors in the city. We enlisted the
17 assistance of the police department and
18 fire department to provide the names of
19 individuals, in addition to the county
20 list, of who would be -- who would have
21 the most barriers to accessing the
22 vaccine.

23 Given this was a one-time
24 allocation, that's why the decision was
25 made to first aim towards those who would



1 have the most barriers to accessing the
2 vaccine on their own. That was completed
3 on Saturday. Approximately 200 seniors
4 were vaccinated at Public Health Services
5 in (indiscernible) and approximately 200
6 received vaccines in their home because
7 they were indicated as home-bound and
8 unable to leave their home. And so EMS,
9 our own public safety personnel,
10 supported that as well as EMS across the
11 county.

12 There were a couple of news articles
13 on it, and it was actually the first
14 unplanned, quick-developed, mass
15 vaccination in homes in the state. There
16 was a similar delivery in Albany County,
17 but that was actually planned over a
18 significant period of time. This is the
19 first one as a result of an unexpected
20 allotment, and I think our public health
21 staff and EMS across the county performed
22 admirably, and I appreciate them getting
23 that out.

24 There were a lot of tears and a lot
25 of happy faces on Saturday. And it is my



1 sincere hope that New York State sees
2 what we've been able to do and expands
3 our availability because that's the work
4 that public health is really good at, and
5 that's what they were doing, and they
6 want to keep doing that.

7 So today the governor did make some
8 additional announcements regarding
9 vaccines, expanding eligibility to
10 include restaurant workers and taxi
11 drivers. Unfortunately, this was another
12 announcement that was made prior to the
13 distribution of written guidance. At
14 this time, Public Health does not have
15 any guidance indicating whether we or
16 another facility is to be vaccinating
17 this population, in addition to what
18 qualifies under these particular
19 populations.

20 In general, essential workers have
21 had to prove their employment, sometimes
22 by a pay stub. Obviously with
23 hospitality, restaurant workers and taxi
24 drivers, whether that include Uber or
25 Lyft drivers or other groups, is unclear



1 at this time. Because of the memorandum
2 of understanding we had to sign with New
3 York State to get any vaccines, we do
4 require that written guidance before we
5 can expand our own availability. So the
6 commissioner has already reached out to
7 the Department of Health and requested
8 clarification on that in writing so that
9 we know who we are allowed to vaccinate.
10 His goal is to vaccinate whoever we're
11 allowed to. So, we want to make sure
12 that we have that as quickly as possible.

13 The last real announcement with
14 regards to vaccination and COVID is I've
15 also received a number of questions about
16 a clinic held at Prestwood Chase. At
17 this time, Saratoga County Public Health
18 Services has not engaged in any clinics
19 onsite. The distribution clinic that was
20 held at Prestwood Chase was not handled
21 through the county, nor did the vaccines
22 come through the county. In fact, our
23 commissioner found out about it the same
24 time as many of us, which was through
25 Facebook posts and through the news. I



1 believe that they arranged their own
2 developing of the distribution and
3 obtaining the vaccines, but it did not
4 take part through us.

5 It is the intention of Public Health
6 that there are no -- you can't get a
7 priority or increased access depending on
8 who you are or who you know or money, and
9 all of our senior living facilities, all
10 of our persons in general in the county
11 should be treated with regards to their
12 public health risk and not who they know
13 or what access. So I just want to make
14 that clear. I obviously have no problem
15 with seniors being vaccinated but do want
16 to make it clear that that is not the
17 county itself engaging in that
18 distribution, although again as soon as
19 we get those vaccines we are happy to do
20 that throughout the county.

21 Are there any COVID-specific
22 questions before I move on to my next
23 agenda items?

24 MAYOR KELLY: No, I'm good. Thank
25 you.



1 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

2 The second item on my agenda is a
3 report from the health committee. Again,
4 I chair the health and social services
5 committee this year. A lot of our work
6 is going to be focused on COVID-19, but
7 there are also some concerns sort of
8 tangential to COVID-19. Over the year
9 2020, from 2019 to 2020, our suicide rate
10 in the county dropped twenty-five
11 percent. That includes the time period
12 covered by COVID. That is excellent
13 news. Unfortunately, our rate of
14 overdose deaths nearly doubled. This is
15 a problem that the Director of Mental
16 Health is looking into and that we are
17 hoping to engage in some programs and
18 additional supports for our county. This
19 has been a very difficult time for
20 individuals, whether they have substance
21 use disorders or not. And we are hoping
22 to expand our programs in that regard to
23 assist people as we recover from COVID-
24 19. Obviously even right now with the
25 shortage of vaccines, it's taken a toll



1 on a lot of individuals, and we want to
2 make sure to help support people through
3 this as best we can.

4 The other major item that we're
5 going to be handling in the near future
6 is the Emergency Rental Assistance
7 Program. Due to the leadership of
8 Commissioner of Social Services Tina
9 Potter, the county was awarded 6.8
10 million dollars from the U.S. Treasury to
11 provide support for renters who have
12 suffered financial hardships as a result
13 of COVID-19. New York State has
14 indicated that they are developing an
15 application portal right now. We are
16 awaiting the completion of that to make
17 sure that it adequately serves the
18 residents of Saratoga County. And as
19 soon as we know that, we will be
20 utilizing that, hopefully, or our own
21 program to make sure that we can provide
22 quick access to applications. There are
23 some concerns. You can't duplicate
24 federal funds that have been received
25 from other places, other forms of rental



1 insurance -- sorry, rental assistance,
2 and we want to be able to check for
3 things. Unemployment benefits are an
4 automatic qualifier for this program, so
5 we want to be able to tie into that and
6 move things along as quickly as possible,
7 and that's going to require connecting
8 with the New York State program so that
9 we can get that done and not put
10 additional barriers in the way of
11 persons.

12 The primary focus is going to be on
13 renters who are under a fifty-percent of
14 the average income in Saratoga County.
15 And it can go up to eighty percent, but
16 at least the first pass-through is going
17 to be a fifty percent and below. As soon
18 as we have more information on that
19 program, I will release that. We do have
20 to spend at least sixty-five percent of
21 the money by the end of September, and
22 all hundred percent of it needs to be
23 sent by the end of 2021. So I can assure
24 you that we are looking -- also our
25 county treasurer wants to get it out as



1 quickly as possible well, so we will be
2 looking to get this out as soon as
3 possible. And I appreciate Commissioner
4 Potter for all of her work in very
5 quickly finding out about this, applying,
6 even if it shocked the county treasurer
7 that federal monies were put into our
8 account that quickly, which does not
9 normally happen.

10 COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's
11 awesome.

12 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Yes. I think it
13 will be a great help. One of the big
14 things is landlords and renters both can
15 apply, and so it can also assist some of
16 our landlords, particularly the smaller
17 ones that have had a couple of units
18 they're renting and they want to assist
19 their renters. They've been taking some
20 of the hit as well. This will be able to
21 benefit both renters and our landlords in
22 that.

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Do you know
24 offhand if that applies to commercial and
25 residential? Or would it just be -- it



1 doesn't apply to businesses who are
2 (indiscernible). It would just apply to
3 residential renters.

4 SUPERVISOR GASTON: At this time, my
5 understanding is it's just residential.

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay. Just
7 clarifying. Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GASTON: It is also
9 available to cover utility costs during
10 those times as well for persons who
11 otherwise meet the eligibility
12 requirements. Utility is pretty narrowly
13 defined. Like, we would think of gas,
14 oil, power. It's not internet and phone
15 and those sorts of things that are often
16 considered utilities by people. That is
17 not how they're defined, unfortunately,
18 in the guidance that we have.

19 And on a related note, this Thursday
20 at 5 p.m. there will be a special board
21 meeting to contemplate the
22 recommendations of the Commissioner of
23 Public Health with regards to high-risk
24 sports. It's a full special board
25 meeting, not just of the health



1 committee. We will be looking at the
2 recommendations the commissioner has put
3 forward for engaging in those sports,
4 which allow them under certain criteria.
5 The Board of Supervisors also serves as
6 the Board of Health as the health
7 authority for the county, so we can also
8 place additional guidelines or request
9 additional items be included as well.
10 And that's what the purpose of the
11 meeting will be, to discuss that, and
12 whether we want to make any amendments to
13 the recommendations as put forward by the
14 commissioner.

15 Are there any other questions
16 regarding that? Okay.

17 The third item on my agenda is an
18 update from the technology and resiliency
19 committee. Much like Commissioner
20 Madigan discussed updating the city's
21 website, the county has needed some
22 technology refreshers for a little bit.
23 As a fun first item coming out of this
24 brand new committee that I chair, we are
25 looking at a significant upgrade of our



1 technology, servers, storage, security,
2 and supporting a remote work system.
3 This will be an approximately \$600,000
4 outlay. However, there have been
5 significant demands placed on our IT
6 department throughout COVID supporting
7 remote work, additional technology needed
8 by departments to run requirements
9 through COVID, including the Public
10 Health Department. And these upgrades,
11 we're originally hoping to take place in
12 the next two or so years. They're sorely
13 needed now, and so it actually moved
14 forward with unanimous support of the
15 technology committee, and we'll see what
16 the full board views. It is a
17 significant outlay. This is a very
18 difficult time to put forward that sort
19 of money, but I think it's really
20 important for us to both improve the
21 support of the technology the county
22 needs to run, but it's also going to
23 allow us to make some additional changes.
24 The website was a discussion that we had,
25 in addition to some other items, and --



1 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Well, I was
2 just going to say I did notice one thing
3 that I was really, really grateful for.
4 I watch all the sheriff's department
5 police policy review meetings, and the
6 last two were on Zoom. And it just -- I
7 was so excited. I was, like, jumping up
8 and down. So just even little changes
9 like that are very appreciated on my end
10 as a resident and as a member of the city
11 government here. So yay, thank you for
12 that.

13 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Well, I'm very
14 fortunate that despite the fact that this
15 is a new committee, Supervisor Veitch has
16 been working on some of those upgrades
17 through the buildings and grounds
18 committee. And so those two departments
19 will be working closely together to do
20 things like livestreaming our own
21 meetings, especially a number of ours
22 take place during the work day. It can
23 be difficult to attend, and I think
24 that's a necessary upgrade that hasn't
25 been around for a while.



1 The other part of the committee is a
2 resiliency part, and we're going to be
3 looking at how the county can better
4 react to the stressors that can be placed
5 on us. We've obviously learned some
6 lessons through COVID-19, but there's
7 also a lot that we can learn and a lot of
8 recommendations we can put forward for
9 all of our county departments with
10 regards to climate chaos, man-made
11 disasters, and just general growth. So
12 those are all things that we are looking
13 at at the county. Through that
14 committee, we're hoping to come up with a
15 resiliency plan, and we're going to meet
16 with each department ideally in
17 coordination with the Government Review
18 and Efficiency Committee that Supervisor
19 Veitch chairs to talk about how we can
20 work better as a board of supervisors and
21 each of our departments together to
22 respond to stressors and better engage
23 with the public.

24 So two heavy lifting committees, but
25 we've got a lot of work going and really



1 excited to move both of those forward
2 and, obviously, especially with
3 technology and resiliency, there will be
4 a lot of public outreach and engagement
5 with that in particular.

6 Are there any questions about that?

7 Okay. Then that concludes my agenda.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor.

9 Any other business from the council?

10 Then we are adjourned. Thank you. Have
11 a nice night.

12 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

13 (Meeting adjourned)

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25



1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25

C E R T I F I C A T I O N

I, Amanda G. Stockton, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Amanda G. Stockton

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

New York, NY 10001

Date: February 15, 2021

