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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

March 15, 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
- Vince DeLeonardis
- Tina Carton



1 MAYOR KELLY: Good morning. Welcome
2 to pre-agenda. Today is March 15th. It
3 is 10 a.m.

4 Tomorrow evening we have one public
5 hearing, and that is 2021 water and sewer
6 resolution. I'll just ask Commissioner
7 Scirocco to say a few words.

8 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
9 Mayor.

10 Yes, tomorrow night we'll be
11 adopting the 2021 water and sewer rates
12 as we do every year. I can tell you that
13 the water rates -- there will be no
14 changes in the water rates themselves.
15 But the sewer rates which is separate
16 from the water rates, there'll be a four-
17 dollar basic service charge in regards to
18 the increases that get passed on to the
19 city from the county. I can tell you
20 that, from 2016 to 2020, the county
21 raised their rates forty-three percent.
22 We did use some fund balance to try to
23 offset some of that, but they started
24 catching up on us a little bit now.

25 And just to kind of put it in a



1 little bit of perspective again, it went
2 from 2.7 million to 3.9 million. That's
3 the county portion of the sewer budget.
4 So again, like I said, there'll be a
5 four-dollar basic service charge, and I
6 can elaborate a little more on that
7 tomorrow night.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you,
9 Commissioner.

10 We don't have any presentations
11 tomorrow night. Are there any edits or
12 changes to the consent agenda?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

15 On to the Mayor's Department. My
16 first item is a discussion and vote,
17 annual salary approval for the Saratoga
18 Springs Housing Authority.

19 My second item is discussion and
20 vote, appointment to the Saratoga Springs
21 Housing Authority.

22 My third item is discussion and
23 vote, appointment to the Civil Service
24 Commission.

25 My fourth item is an appointment to



1 the Design Review Commission for an
2 alternate position.

3 My fifth item is an appointment to
4 the Planning Board for an alternate
5 position.

6 My sixth item is an appointment to
7 the Zoning Board.

8 And my seventh item is an
9 announcement, the 2002 Open Space Plan
10 update. And I'd like to bring Tina
11 Carton in to just give us a brief update.

12 MS. CARTON: Good morning. The City
13 of Saratoga Springs is proud to announce
14 a long-awaited update to the 2002 Open
15 Space Plan. It's been almost twenty
16 years since the city last updated the
17 Open Space Plan. The revision will build
18 on the previous plan by revising those
19 sections that are no longer accurately
20 reflecting the character needs and goals
21 of the community.

22 The 2021 Open Space Plan update will
23 establish criteria for the expenditure of
24 bond funds; inventory remaining open
25 spaces; as well as identify special areas



1 for protection, preservation,
2 conservation, potential parks and both
3 active and recreational needs. The Open
4 Space Plan is being developed by the City
5 of Saratoga Springs, Administrator of
6 Parks, Open Space, Historic Preservation
7 and Sustainability, and guided by an Open
8 Space Steering Committee. City staff
9 will facilitate the planning process with
10 technical assistance from MJ Engineering
11 and Land Surveying.

12 In the next week, a project website
13 is going to be launched as well as a
14 community survey that's going to be
15 distributed. And we look forward to
16 hearing from the community to assess
17 their needs and their priorities for the
18 acquisition, funding, and maintenance of
19 open space within the City of Saratoga
20 Springs.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Tina.

22 Any comments from the council?

23 Thank you, Tina.

24 Yeah, my next item is an

25 announcement: Woodlawn/Shelters of



1 Saratoga Building update.

2 And then my ninth item is
3 discussion, Police Reform Task Force.
4 And I think Vince is on here.

5 So Vince, can you just give us an
6 overview of how this will go tomorrow?

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thanks.

8 MR. DELEONARDIS: Sure. So as I
9 indicated at the last council meeting,
10 the task force has completed their work
11 and provided a recommendation that's
12 available to the public. It's located on
13 the city's website. And we are now going
14 to be reviewing that plan and determining
15 which of the recommendations the council
16 has the ability to implement.

17 So I have met with all of the
18 commissioners with the one exception of
19 Commissioner Franck who I'm planning on
20 meeting with either today or very early
21 tomorrow. And we will be discussing that
22 further tomorrow and hopefully have a
23 resolution draft available for public
24 review so that the public can have an
25 opportunity to review that and provide



1 comment and input in advance of what is
2 anticipated to be a special city council
3 meeting on or before April 1st.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you,
5 Vince.

6 Any comments from the council?

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I had one
8 comment. I did get a chance to meet with
9 Vince, and I'm making my way through the
10 resolution. Thanks for sending it to me,
11 although you did pull out sections and
12 read them to me as we sat through our
13 meeting.

14 I'm wondering if we shouldn't have
15 two meetings. I know it's a bigger
16 commitment, but the public never likes it
17 when we have a public hearing the same
18 night that we vote on something. And
19 this is such an important document to the
20 eleven-member task force, plus members of
21 the public. I'm just wondering if we
22 should have a separate meeting to have a
23 public hearing with public comment, of
24 course, some discussion by the council,
25 and then a follow-up meeting a few days



1 later. Keep the public hearing open if
2 necessary, or just have public comment,
3 and then be prepared to vote on the
4 document.

5 MR. DELEONARDIS: So I will defer,
6 of course, to council and any
7 determination regarding meetings. The
8 only point that I would like to clarify
9 is, we are moving forward by way of a
10 resolution. So there will not be a
11 formal public hearing that would be open.
12 There will be, of course, the opportunity
13 for public comment and input but not a
14 formal public hearing.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Right, and that
16 public --

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well --

18 MAYOR KELLY: -- comment can start
19 right after the Tuesday meeting, and
20 it'll keep coming in until we --

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So can't we
22 have a public hearing if we would want to
23 have a public hearing, or --

24 MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

25 MR. DELEONARDIS: You can't --



1 MAYOR KELLY: -- have a meeting with
2 public comment. I mean, I don't know why
3 we have to do a public hearing. I just
4 don't --

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I think we
6 should have a public hearing, allow
7 people to have more time than two minutes
8 to -- you don't want them to go on
9 fifteen, twenty, thirty minutes. There's
10 been a lot of public comment already.
11 But this is the first time this is before
12 us as a city council, and we ultimately
13 are the people that are going to vote on
14 this and send this to the state. And I
15 think this rises to the occasion of a
16 public hearing and before the city
17 council, but that's just my opinion.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

19 (Indiscernible) --

20 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Isn't the
21 criteria for a public hearing
22 (indiscernible)? Do we need a public
23 hearing for this, or can we just do
24 public comment?

25 MAYOR KELLY: No, you don't --



1 MR. DELEONARDIS: You can just do
2 public comment. The governor's executive
3 order actually indicated that a
4 municipality is required to act by local
5 law or resolution on or before April 1st.
6 And we could have proceeded under the
7 local law realm. However, because of the
8 time constraint, we really -- we were
9 provided with the document on March 5th,
10 and we have to have action and provide
11 that to the state on or before April 1st.
12 So because of the limitation on time, if
13 we move or are moving forward with a
14 resolution instead of a local law. The
15 resolution does not require a public
16 hearing.

17 But to Commissioner Madigan's point,
18 the council can at any time request one.
19 Or you can have public comment; you can
20 enlarge the normal two-minute time but
21 still keep it a public comment. You have
22 options.

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: The only thing
24 I witnessed at the March 3rd task force
25 meeting when they were offering



1 discussion and seeking public input was
2 that the difference between having
3 someone come in and state their comment
4 versus being able to state your comment
5 and ask a question and have your question
6 be answered I guess is, like, to me a
7 very important difference. I think that
8 there's going to be people who are making
9 comments, who have questions, and not
10 being able to answer them in that moment
11 could cause some frustration.

12 MR. DELEONARDIS: Well, that
13 situation aims equally for a public
14 comment and a public hearing. Neither
15 are directly affording the public the
16 opportunity to engage in a dialogue, but
17 both provide the public with an
18 opportunity to give the council their
19 input and comments and suggestions.

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Got you.

21 Sorry, I'm not --

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Maybe --

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Go ahead.

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Maybe we
25 should do a workshop then, if there's --



1 the framework of a workshop seems less
2 restrictive. I don't know. If we were
3 going to pass a local law, we would
4 certainly have to have a public hearing.

5 I'm looking for a way to allow the
6 public additional input to the city
7 council specifically prior to just
8 putting it on the agenda for a vote. I
9 guess that's -- I mean, I guess they can
10 chime in on Tuesday night and then again
11 when we have the special meeting. I
12 don't know. I think a workshop, public
13 hearing. I think we need to allow time
14 for the public to weigh in a bit more to
15 the city council.

16 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Vince, I
17 haven't read the document in full, but
18 I've read some of the comments over the
19 weekend that came through to the city
20 website. Are the chair -- I think it was
21 two chair members of the task force. Are
22 they going to weigh in on this and then
23 go through this with us?

24 MR. DELEONARDIS: The chairs and the
25 entire task force has weighed in by way



1 of their recommendations, and you have
2 the document that's been approved by the
3 task force there. The recommendations
4 are what they are. They're pretty clear.

5 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: And no, I
6 understand that part. But if there was
7 questions from the council members on
8 certain sections, they could explain
9 their reasoning for it.

10 And then the second question is, is
11 it a yes/no vote, or is a situation where
12 this goes in front of the council and
13 then they amend it?

14 MR. DELEONARDIS: So the resolution
15 that's been prepared is just a draft --

16 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay.

17 MR. DELEONARDIS: -- and that's for
18 council discussion (indiscernible).
19 Anticipation is that tomorrow evening at
20 the meeting we will discuss that draft.
21 I'll probably read it and, based on input
22 from council, make any edits or revisions
23 to it and then make that document
24 publicly available so that the public has
25 the opportunity to review it, digest it,



1 and provide comments on it between now
2 and the end of the month when the special
3 council meeting was scheduled.

4 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay. Thank
5 you.

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Commissioner
7 Franck, to one of your questions, I have
8 been watching all these meetings happen
9 over the last seven months and following
10 it very closely. And once the
11 recommendations were made by the task
12 force, I contacted the co-chairs to see
13 if they would be willing to make
14 themselves available if I had any
15 questions as we finalized this process.
16 And they were very amenable to that
17 suggestion. So I can't speak for the
18 task force, but I would encourage you to
19 contact them and if you have questions,
20 see if they're -- see if they can answer
21 them for you in advance of whatever
22 meeting we're having.

23 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. I just
24 thought if the questions were asked on
25 the Zoom meeting, then the people who



1 were watching the meeting would also --
2 that may answer some of their questions.
3 That's all -- I mean, I know we can reach
4 out to them directly.

5 But again, I still have to meet with
6 Vince, so I don't want to -- because he
7 might be able to explain most of it to
8 me, the questions I do have.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes.

10 MAYOR KELLY: So going forward, I'm
11 looking at March 23rd for another special
12 city council meeting for police reform.
13 Is everybody okay with that? At 7 p.m.

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes, I'm
15 fine --

16 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah.

17 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- with that.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I'm
20 okay with the meetings that came out.
21 Just don't be surprised if the public
22 doesn't think that's enough time before
23 the city council.

24 MAYOR KELLY: I'm adding a meeting.
25 Is everybody okay with that? I just --



1 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, you are
2 adding a meeting?

3 MAYOR KELLY: Yes, I'm adding a
4 meeting. The meeting is all set for the
5 31st to vote on this. I'm adding another
6 meeting next week at 7 p.m., March 23rd.
7 Is everybody okay with that?

8 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, I'm
9 good with it.

10 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I am --

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I have to
14 check my calendar, but I do appreciate
15 the add of a meeting. But I believe I
16 am. What day did you say that was?
17 March 23rd?

18 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: It's a
20 Tuesday.

21 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Next Tuesday.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Okay --

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I
24 should be fine.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. We'll move on



1 from this discussion.

2 Thank you, Vince.

3 And I'll turn it over to
4 Commissioner Franck.

5 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
6 Mayor.

7 We just have two items for tomorrow
8 evening. One is just -- there's an
9 extension of bid for the laboratory
10 services to CNA Environmental, LLC.

11 And then the second is, again, just
12 an update on the -- there's been no
13 changes, but just another update on the
14 temporary outdoor seating. We've
15 received a number of calls, so we just
16 wanted to clarify a couple of items.

17 And that's it.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you.

19 On to Finance.

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

21 I'll do an update, my first item,
22 city finances.

23 In addition, I'm going to add a
24 separate item to my agenda to announce
25 meetings of each department regarding



1 some 2021 budget amendments. It does
2 look like as I will give the update on
3 city finances that the number 7.7 million
4 that we're going to receive in federal
5 fiscal aid, I've seen two numbers
6 floating around: 7.7 or 8 million
7 dollars. But I believe it is 7.7 million
8 dollars. If that changes, I will update
9 the council. I'm also feeling fairly
10 optimistic about restoration of VLT aid,
11 but we don't have a definitive
12 confirmation or anything on that number
13 at this point and time.

14 But I do want to sort of canvas the
15 council on some priorities that you might
16 have, or somewhere where maybe we cut
17 your budgets back, like, just too much.
18 And maybe you're just finding some
19 difficulties going forward working within
20 your budget. I know in the Mayor's
21 Office, for example, we really cut into
22 things like flags and, I mean, just these
23 little things that we really cut back on.
24 So I'm going to ask you all to review
25 your budgets, and we'll set up those



1 meetings and see what we can do about
2 reinstating some funds as we move through
3 the rest of the year.

4 Of course, we're going to need to
5 plan for union-negotiated salary
6 increases at the end of December, and we
7 did budget five million dollars in
8 federal fiscal aid in the 2021 budget.
9 But I think this is a good opportunity to
10 just start looking at the budget process
11 again. We're already into March, and
12 this will also potentially help us with
13 the 2022 budget.

14 I'll also be setting a public
15 hearing for the New York State Power
16 Authority Energy Services Program as to
17 cost recovery agreement for street
18 lights. This will allow us to vote on
19 the night the master cost recovery
20 contract and proceed with this program.
21 It's slated to save the city some money
22 during the fifteen years of the
23 financing, and after the financing it
24 will save a significant amount of money,
25 up to \$300,000 per year. And this is in



1 addition to the environmental benefits
2 that come with this program. It's just
3 moving our lights over to LED. And it's
4 another program that earns Saratoga
5 Springs accolades on being able to at
6 least have infrastructure set to do more
7 smart city initiatives in our streets.
8 Especially if we can have the fiber
9 moving along at the same as the connected
10 street lights, we'll have a good
11 infrastructure platform going forward for
12 future councils.

13 And that completes my agenda.

14 Thanks.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

16 On to Public Works, please.

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
18 Mayor.

19 First item on my agenda is
20 discussion and vote. This is for the
21 mayor to sign a contract with Morbark,
22 LLC, for the Morbark Wood Hog Horizontal
23 Grinder. That's the grinder that we use
24 to grind up the leaves and debris out to
25 the compost site (indiscernible).



1 The second item on my agenda is
2 discussion, authorization for the mayor
3 to sign intermunicipal agreement between
4 the County of Saratoga and the City of
5 Saratoga for the management of single-
6 stream recyclables collection. Again,
7 that's a contract with the county. We
8 took over that a few years ago. It's
9 recycling a portion of our
10 (indiscernible) Avenue site. And I
11 believe they pay the city roughly around
12 \$35,000 for this (indiscernible) take
13 care of it.

14 Third item on my agenda is
15 discussion and vote. This is approval to
16 pay invoice number 014338 to SRI Fire
17 Sprinkler, LLC, in the amount of
18 \$5,093.12 for sprinkler inspection.

19 Fourth item on my agenda is
20 discussion and vote, authorization for
21 the mayor to sign a contract with
22 Palette Stone Corporation for asphalt
23 concrete.

24 And the fifth item on my agenda is
25 discussion and vote, authorization for



1 the mayor to sign a contract with
2 Palette Stone for crushed stone.

3 The sixth item on my agenda is an
4 appointment to the Climate Smart Task
5 Force.

6 Seventh item on my agenda is
7 approval to adopt the 2021 water and
8 sewer rates resolution.

9 And I'd like to add one item to my
10 agenda, which is discussion and vote.
11 This is authorization for the mayor to
12 sign a contract with the DEC for street
13 tree inventory and Urban Forest
14 Management Plan grant award. And I'll
15 have more on that tomorrow night.

16 And that concludes my agenda.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
18 Commissioner.

19 On to Public Safety.

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
21 Mayor.

22 The first item on my agenda will be
23 a COVID-19 update.

24 The second item on my agenda will be
25 a discussion and vote to accept a



1 donation.

2 The third item on my agenda will be
3 an announcement --

4 Ooh, sorry. Alarm went off.

5 -- will be an announcement for
6 Public Safety 2020 annual report.

7 And that concludes my agenda.

8 MAYOR KELLY: And the supervisors
9 have a few items.

10 Supervisor Veitch has four items.
11 The first item is government review on
12 efficiency update: Second item is 2021
13 legislative program; third item is
14 building and grounds update; fourth item
15 is NACo Virtual Legislative Conference.

16 Supervisor Gaston has four items
17 also: COVID-19 update, Executive Order
18 203 report, local law regarding a third-
19 party food delivery service fees, and her
20 last item is a NACo Conference and county
21 government month.

22 Is there any other business from the
23 council at this time?

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No. Thank
25 you.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Then we are adjourned.

2 Thank you.

3 (Meeting adjourned)

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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

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Date: March 24, 2021

Date Approved: 4/6/2021

Vote: 5 - 0

