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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

March 15, 2022

Held at

474 BROADWAY

SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK 12866

PRESENT:

RON KIM, Mayor

DILLON MORAN, Commissioner of

Accounts

JAMES MONTAGNINO, Commissioner of

Public Safety

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MAYOR KIM: We're gonna start our public hearing. Our first public hearing is for the 2022 water and sewer rates. Is there anyone that wishes to be heard on that matter (indiscernible) microphone, identify yourself and you have two minutes. Anyone on the 2022 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) someone for the 2022 water and sewer? Okay. We'll move on because we have a very (indiscernible). For the second public hearing we have (indiscernible).

MS. BOSSHART: Hello. Samantha Bosshart with the Saratoga Springs Preservation Foundation. I wanted to speak about the amendment to the outdoor dining. While we fully support expanding the outdoor dining for three years to allow for businesses to adjust to COVID and its remaining uncertainties, we do feel that the aesthetics and how that impacts the streetscape needs to be part of this

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process. Right now, as it's worded, the
2 -- the application doesn't call for any
3 information about what the materials or
4 what the -- the spaces will look like.
5 With that said, existing sidewalk cafes
6 businesses who have been doing this for
7 years, and who have gone through the
8 process, I think it's relatively unfair
9 that sidewalk cafes that are getting
10 this extended outdoor dining don't have
11 a similar review. If this were for one
12 year, perhaps that would be acceptable,
13 but to extend it for three years,
14 without any sort of review, I think
15 merits some -- some -- some discussion.
16 I know that this is the chair of the
17 Design Review Commission feels that also
18 that there should be a review. I
19 understand that there's a time, you
20 know, issue to get this started as
21 quickly as possible, but the Design
22 Review Commission already has a review
23 process in place for these types of
24 settings, and they have a history a
25 proven track record of doing that, and I

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2 think it's something that could easily
3 be adopted as part of this process as
4 far as appearances. And then oftentimes
5 that is part of a consent agenda. And
6 if -- I think it's unfair to wait three
7 years to decide whether or not things
8 are appropriate, after business owners
9 have made investment in these materials,
10 only to later possibly find out that
11 they're not appropriate. And so at that
12 point, I guess I would kindly ask for
13 that consideration as an amendment to
14 this amendment. Thank you.

14 MAYOR KIM: Does anyone else wish
15 to be heard (indiscernible)?

16 FEMALE SPEAKER 1: Ron, I don't
17 think your mic is on.

18 MAYOR KIM: So until we get that
19 (indiscernible) I'll just
20 (indiscernible). Does anyone wish to be
21 heard on the Chapter 136 outdoor dining?
22 Anyone else? Seeing no one else we'll -
23 - I believe we're closing that public
24 hearing, correct? So now we'll move on
25 to public hearing on Caroline Street

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2 traffic control. Anyone wish to be
3 heard on the Carolina Street traffic
4 control public hearing that Commissioner
5 Montagnino set. Step up and identify
6 yourself.

6 MS. OMALLEY: Hi. Olivia O'Malley,
7 McArthur Drive. I'd first like to note
8 that two out of three of these measures
9 have permanently gone into effect ahead
10 of this public hearing. I am strongly
11 opposed to the extension of the one-way
12 traffic headed east on Caroline Street
13 pass Schuyler Drive. This Measure
14 provides practically no benefit to the
15 safety of the schoolchildren and at
16 great cost to the residents of the
17 neighborhood. The one-way is from 7:00
18 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., and it does not
19 restrict that to school days. That's 11
20 hours, seven days a week. I personally,
21 feel school dismissal is the most
22 problematic time. Parents have a 20-
23 minute window to drop kids off in the
24 morning, so the traffic is more spread
25 out. At dismissal, parents are all

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2 leaving at the same time, so this -- the
3 same time kids are walking home, so
4 there's a steady stream of traffic down
5 Caroline Street. In a recent e-mail
6 from the school principal, he said
7 approximately 50 students were picked up
8 by parents five years ago. Now they
9 average 140 student -- students being
10 picked up by parents each day, and
11 nearly three times as many parent
12 pickups. The extension of the one-way
13 is not helpful because nearly all of the
14 cars coming down Caroline Street are at
15 the time -- at the time we're walking
16 are coming from the school. So the one-
17 way does nothing to reduce the number of
18 cars. Those cars are coming up behind
19 us as we walk home. This is incredibly
20 dangerous. The National Highway Traffic
21 Safety Administration safety tips for
22 pedestrians say to walk on a sidewalk,
23 and if none is available, to walk facing
24 traffic and as far from cars as
25 possible. They further go on to say
 never assume drivers see you, they could

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be distracted or impaired. It's best to
2 make eye contact with drivers to make
3 sure you are seen. We cannot make eye
4 contact with drivers to ensure they see
5 us or our children when they are
6 approaching from behind us. The measure
7 we are proposing would restrict cars
8 from traveling east on Caroline Street
9 one posted at school arrival and
10 dismissal only so roughly 20 minutes in
11 the morning and afternoon. This is the
12 same thing done at Lake Avenue School
13 for the car line on Regent Street. This
14 measure would have far less impact on
15 the neighborhood traffic 20 minutes
16 twice a day on school days, versus --

17 MAYOR KIM: You can wrap up.

18 MS. O'MALLEY: -- 11 hours a day,
19 seven days a week, 365 days a year and
20 significantly reduced the risk to
21 pedestrians. We are the reason these
22 safety measures are being considered.
23 We brought this issue to the city and
24 called for increased safety measures.
25 We are the ones that walk this walk

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1 every day with one, two or three

2 children. We are also the ones that

3 live and drive in this neighborhood --

4 MAYOR KIM: Ma'am --

5 MS. OMALLEY: -- and our --

6 MAYOR KIM: -- your --

7 MS. OMALLEY: -- voices are being -

8 -

9 MAYOR KIM: -- your --

10 MS. OMALLEY: -- ignored.

11 MAYOR KIM: -- time's up.

12 MS. OMALLEY: Thank you.

13 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Thanks very
14 much. Anyone else wish to be heard on
15 Caroline Street? You can state your
16 name and you have two minutes.

17 MR. MATHIS: Good evening. Glen
18 Mathis, Eastside Saratoga. I actually -
19 - I'd like to present a map of the area
20 to help further provide some clarity
21 around this. I know many of you are
22 familiar with the safety concerns that
23 residents have for their children when
24 walking to and from Caroline Street
25 elementary but just a quick recap here.

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1 As you can see, we have several blocks
2 of residential streets that funnel onto
3 Caroline Street when traveling to and
4 from school, and this just shows some.
5 There's actually further east, Foxhall,
6 Sunrise are just a couple more.
7 Caroline Street during -- Caroline
8 Street during drop off and pickup is a
9 very busy narrow street with no sidewalk
10 which causes obvious safety issues for
11 our kids. There was a fantastic
12 proposal during the last City Council
13 meeting that was summarized nicely by
14 the Daily Gazette. Commissioner
15 Montagnino moved to close Caroline
16 Street between Schuyler and Benton
17 during pickup and drop off at the
18 school. There was an additional vote of
19 confidence behind this move that was
20 approved, four to zero. This plan has
21 also been put forward by the residents
22 of the Eastside community as the best
23 and safest plan while pending potential
24 sidewalk construction. This would in
25 effect cause traffic exiting the school

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2 onto Schuyler Drive and take them to
3 nearby east west alternatives to
4 Caroline. Schuyler Drive is a much
5 wider street than Caroline, it has
6 sidewalk on both sides of the road and
7 can easily accommodate this volume of
8 traffic. However, despite the move to
9 implement this plan in the unanimous
10 approval of the council, this plan did
11 not happen. Instead, a short section of
12 a no parking zone was placed between
13 Schuyler and Benton in the one-way
14 traffic zone had an east from the school
15 was continued another block to Benton.
16 Unfortunately, this is not a great plan
17 and many residents in the community
18 voiced their concern that continuing the
19 one-way would do little to mitigate the
20 safety concerns because the majority of
21 traffic is moving that way anyway. The
22 optics on this are not good. We were --
23 we were provided a commitment at the
24 last meeting that did not happen. I'm
25 here tonight to urge all of you to stick
 with your commitment to us and

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1 temporarily close Caroline Street
2 between Schuyler and Benton during
3 arrival and departure.

4 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

5 MR. MATHIS: Thank you.

6 MS. CARINO: Good evening. My name
7 is Libby Carino. I am the owner of 338
8 Caroline Street. My home is the one
9 most affected by the new signage. A
10 couple of things I wanted to bring up
11 tonight, is the first -- the first issue
12 I noted was brought up by one of my
13 neighbors already, that city code
14 section 225-14 requires that all one-way
15 streets be included in a schedule, and
16 only modified by City Council vote and
17 an amendment to the ordinance. I'm not
18 aware of that happening, nor am I aware
19 of a public notice or public hearing to
20 have that occur. For me, in particular,
21 I've brought some photographs this
22 evening to indicate what the front
23 entrance to my home looks like right
24 now. This is two feet off of my front
25 walk. This morning, and yesterday

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morning, there were six cars that pulled
2 around and turned around in my front
3 yard. There are tire marks now. This
4 was when the snow was still there. My
5 children are ages five and ten, both of
6 them attend Caroline Street. I have
7 lived on Caroline Street now for four
8 years. I deal with the traffic from the
9 track, sometimes at 50 miles an hour, 60
10 miles an hour in the middle of the
11 night, coming up from Caroline Street.
12 I've dealt with the people coming down
13 Caroline Street and driving through the
14 one-way in front of the school. I've
15 dealt with walking my kids, like Miss
16 O'Malley, back and forth every single
17 day, and now, I am having to have people
18 turn around in my driveway or in my
19 front yard to the detriment of my own
20 personal children. The concern that I
21 have is that the signs are not only an
22 unsightly, access to my driveway is
23 impeded, but in all my years working in
24 real estate development in this city and
25 in other municipalities, attending

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hundreds and hundreds of meetings,
2 reading multiple traffic studies, and
3 every single one of my clients having to
4 demonstrate to the satisfaction of the
5 SEQRA regulations, no impacts to a
6 community that none of that was done
7 here. There is nothing in the record
8 that demonstrates a causal connection
9 between these measures and the impact
10 complained of. There is no doubt in my
11 mind that every single one of us here --
12 every single one of us here cares about
13 the safety of the children, of that I
14 have no doubt. I am also convinced that
15 as neighbors and the city we can work
16 together to implement safety mitigation
17 efforts that actually will have an
18 impact. Some of them have been heard
19 tonight.

20 MAYOR KIM: You're done.

21 MS. CARINO: I ask for that traffic
22 study, and I asked for a revisit of this
23 issue in strongest possible terms.
24 Thank you.

25 MS. HOLLER: Good afternoon. My

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name is Jafline Holler. I live at 334
2 Caroline Street. I'm here to request
3 that the one-way signs be removed as
4 soon as possible. There were no parking
5 signs that were put up less than a week
6 ago, and without any forewarning or
7 anything else or without seeing how
8 those no parking signs implemented --
9 helped the children get to and from
10 school, all of a sudden, the one-way
11 signs were put up. I was out in front
12 of my house today, everyone who's coming
13 down Caroline Street, and if you had
14 seen the -- the -- the map that was up,
15 everyone comes down Caroline Street
16 stops, and then makes -- has to make a
17 right turn, is forced to make a right
18 turn, up that which leads the only way
19 out of that and then is to Lake. Now if
20 anybody's been driving up and down Lake
21 Avenue, you know, making a left turn on
22 Lake Avenue is a disaster. That Benton
23 and Lake Avenue intersection is right
24 where St. Clements Church and school
25 are, so what this one-way sign is now

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doing this piece of one-way, Libby said
2 seven days a week, 11 hours a day, is
3 requiring that all of the traffic that
4 is flowing eastward from Caroline -- on
5 Caroline Street, be diverted up to
6 Benton and make, if they're traveling in
7 that direction, they have to make a left
8 turn in front of the church, in front of
9 the school, and I believe that's going
10 to be a big safety and -- safety problem
11 for the children that are going to that
12 school, the people who are going to
13 church there and the people in the
14 neighborhood. So as soon as we can get
15 those signs down, I'd ask you to do
16 that. Thank you.

17 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

18 MS. MULQUIST: Hi, I'm Mary
19 Mulquist. I live on MacArthur Drive.
20 My two children are in first and third
21 grade. I continue to be very concerned
22 and frustrated by the traffic situation.
23 Since the last City Council meeting
24 dismissal has been nothing but chaotic
25 and confusing. We were told that cars

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2 would be directed under Schuyler Drive,
3 but that has not happened. The police
4 are not always present for drop off and
5 dismissal and even when they are
6 present, they have not been directing
7 traffic on to Schuyler. Some of the
8 time, they're just in their car, some of
9 the time they're standing in the middle
10 of Schuyler Drive preventing cars from
11 turning onto Schuyler. This week, the
12 one-way signs were installed. As a
13 group we have expressed our frustration
14 with this recommendation in multiple
15 meetings and countless e-mails,
16 extending the one-way from Schuyler to
17 Benton does nothing to make our kids
18 safer. It only disrupts the
19 neighborhood with no real benefit. It's
20 also funneling traffic onto another road
21 without sidewalks. I know that we need
22 a dedicated crossing guard and I'm glad
23 that position has been posted, but in
24 the interim, what can we do to make the
25 situation less chaotic and less
 stressful? Can the police be more

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1 consistent and direct cars onto the --
2 onto Schuyler? As the warm weather
3 approaches, can we increase visibility
4 for walkers by adding striping or a
5 walking lane? Please help us. It
6 shouldn't be this hard and scary to walk
7 our kids to and from school.

8 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

9 MR. GREY: Hi, I'm Ken Grey. I'm
10 Chair of Complete Streets. How you
11 folks doing? I guess I'm just speaking
12 from personal standpoint, because I've
13 driven by there several times, and my
14 business, I've been in risk management
15 insurance for over 40 years and from
16 perspective I worked with, personally
17 over 25 municipalities. And in the
18 past, I've worked with the City of
19 Saratoga Springs, and I'll bring up an
20 issue. Years ago, we had a problem with
21 dropping kids off at Gilbert Road when
22 we used to have the soccer programs
23 there. And it was chaotic, it was scary
24 and everything else, but we worked
25 together by bringing City Council people

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2 together with those that were affected
3 the soccer parents and we found a
4 solution. And what I'm encouraging is
5 that I know it's tough, everyone's got a
6 lot of -- a lot of things on the plate,
7 but that somehow, you know, Jim, or
8 whoever the right person is that can
9 come and meet with the parents to look
10 at the situation because it is chaotic.
11 We're getting a lot of feedback again
12 from the Carolina parents,
13 understandably, so we don't want to have
14 an injury or anything like that. So
15 again, I -- my suggestion is get on
16 site, meet with the people that are
17 concerned, and to the woman that said
18 everyone has good intentions, we all
19 agree that, but I think it's got to get
20 solved. And having safety meetings and
21 everything else to discuss it isn't
22 making it better. So I think you got to
23 get on site together. Thank you.

23 MAYOR KIM: Anyone else wish to be
24 heard regarding the Caroline Street
25 traffic control public hearing? No one

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1 else. Are we closing this public
2 hearing, Commissioner, or are we gonna -
3 -

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Well,
5 what -- what I would ask, Mr. Mayor, is
6 this. I know we have an item on the
7 public safety agenda regarding the
8 Carolina Street School situation, and we
9 have a lot of concerned parents here
10 right now. I would ask if it's possible
11 for us maybe to change the order of --
12 of things, so that we can have something
13 of a discussion of the matter now, so
14 that parents don't have to wait 'til the
15 end of this evening's meeting to address
16 that.

17 MAYOR KIM: That makes sense to me,
18 but I think one of the things we
19 probably should just do is try to get
20 through the public hearings, 'cause I
21 think we're going to have this and some
22 others, so why don't we take your issue
23 up right after we finish? We've got two
24 more public hearings here.

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank

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1 you, sir.

2 MAYOR KIM: Three. I'm sorry, but
3 they may not. But are we going to close
4 this or keep it open?

5 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: We'll be
6 keeping an open.

7 MAYOR KIM: Okay. So the Caroline
8 Street traffic control public hearing is
9 -- will remain open. Our next public
10 hearing is on the Civilian Review Board.
11 Anyone wish to be heard? In seeing no
12 one --

13 MR. BREWER: (Indiscernible).

14 MAYOR KIM: If -- yeah, just --
15 because we've got people watching.

16 MR. BREWER: My name is Sam Brewer.
17 I live on Lake Avenue. This is in
18 regards to the civilian review panel.

19 MAYOR KIM: Come up a little. I
20 can't --

21 MR. BREWER: That's fine. Can you
22 hear me okay?

23 MAYOR KIM: We can, but I'm not
24 sure the people --

25 MR. BREWER: Commissioner, can you

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1 hear me through Zoom?

2 MAYOR KIM: Go ahead.

3 MR. BREWER: Commissioner Sanghvi,
4 no? Yeah, so --

5 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Yes, I can
6 hear you.

7 MR. BREWER: Thank you very much.

8 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: But it
9 would be better if I could see you on
10 the mic.

11 MR. BREWER: All right. I think
12 the camera's only behind me. In any
13 case, several years ago, I approached
14 the City Council after public
15 indignation over the Darryl Mount case
16 had fomented and there had been a series
17 of news articles that have been
18 published about a civilian review panel.
19 And at the time, I thought that that was
20 a good idea, and I still think that a
21 civilian review panel for the Department
22 of Public Safety is a good idea. I
23 think that it's important for people,
24 when they have a problem with law
25 enforcement to not only be able to file

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a complaint with your department
2 Commissioner, and to go through that
3 process, but there needs to be a rapid
4 follow-up with an independent, impartial
5 secondary board outside of the political
6 -- the political (indiscernible) that
7 you sit in, and I think that's
8 important. That's -- that's impartial,
9 and that that's set up. And as to
10 whether that panel has access to police
11 records and things of that sort, there
12 are some significant privacy
13 repercussions that need to be thought
14 through, but I still think that that's a
15 good idea that you have an outside panel
16 that's dedicated to handling -- handling
17 complaints about our police officers and
18 the way that people are policed. I
19 spent ten years in the air force in
20 different components, and if there was a
21 death on a base, that's considered a
22 Class A mishap, and it's followed up by
23 an investigation immediately. So
24 anytime there's a death in the city,
25 there needs to be an investigation,

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2 especially if there are law enforcement
3 personnel involved and I -- I think that
4 was incompetently managed by the former
5 Chief -- Chief of Police, and I don't
6 think that our law enforcement
7 personnel, the -- the folks who
8 responded to the incident did anything
9 necessarily wrong, but the lack of a
10 good investigation is going to leave a
11 cloud over their careers. So I -- I
12 support the -- the -- the establishment
13 of an outside panel. Thank you.

14 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
15 wish to be heard about the Civilian
16 Review Board regarding this and then --
17 anyone else? And we're keeping this
18 public hearing open also?

19 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes, Mr.
20 Kim. The intention is to have proposed
21 legislation provided in advance of the
22 April 5th meeting.

23 MAYOR KIM: Great. So we're
24 keeping the Civilian Review Board public
25 hearing open, and we're going to move on
26 to Local Law Number 2 of 2022, otherwise

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2 known as a UDO. Does anyone wish to be
3 heard regarding the UDO? Step up,
4 identify yourself and you have two
5 minutes. Thank you.

6 MR. COGAN: Good evening, mayor,
7 Commissioners. For those that I haven't
8 worked with closely yet, I'm Patrick
9 Cogan. I'm the head building inspector
10 and the zoning officer. Just as a bit
11 of a introduction here for the public
12 hearing. Tonight, we're hoping to
13 provide the opportunity for comment on
14 what we would view as non-substantive
15 changes to the version of the UDO that
16 was adopted by council on December 21st
17 of last year. There are a few things
18 that we are trying to correct. One is
19 the effective date, which was set in the
20 text and a few other places as April 4th
21 of this year. There are other changes
22 to the city code that need to be made
23 and there's also some concern that maybe
24 that date wasn't established as well as
25 it could have been. We are also in
 response to a decision by the Appellate

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2 Court of New York State to particular
3 parcels had been included as changes
4 that were approved in December of 2019.
5 Those two parcels are basically at the
6 corner of Myrtle and Morgan Streets.
7 They were proposed to be changed from
8 UR1 to an OMB designation -- sorry, that
9 would be an OMB 2 designation. We
10 essentially are not considering a change
11 here. We are documenting what the
12 Appellate Court decision says that the
13 secret determination made for that
14 specific map change is invalid and needs
15 -- needs to be revisited if that changes
16 ever to be considered. So essentially,
17 we are reverting those parcels from OMB
18 back to UR1 and that is a reflection of
19 a change that's directed by the court.
20 The other text changes to the UDO are
21 very minor. We have removed the
22 references to the April 4th date, and we
23 have corrected a couple of grammar
24 mistakes that I let get by me the first
25 time, automatic, you know, altering
 vehicles, ATV's vehicles, you know, that

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1 -- that kind of thing, there's two
2 places we fix that. There're -- other
3 than that, though, this is essentially
4 the -- the version that was discussed.
5 It was referred to the city and County
6 Planning Boards, it was referred to DRC.
7 It received all the public feedback
8 comments, all those comments were
9 considered. So we're hoping tonight to
10 focus the discussion on the changes that
11 are under consideration here, and I
12 believe council will be discussing
13 later, you know, additional
14 opportunities and continuous opportunity
15 to always suggest future changes to this
16 document.

17 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

18 MR. JONES: Your Honor, and members
19 of the council. My name is Matt Jones.
20 I'm a lawyer. I practice here in
21 Saratoga Springs with Jones Steves, and
22 I represent the Saratoga Hospital, and
23 I'm addressing tonight in connection
24 with the Appellate Division decision
25 that Patrick just referenced of February

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the 17th, and the -- the letter that I
2 sent to the council this past Friday.
3 I'm here tonight with Kevin Ronayne, who
4 is the senior project manager with
5 Saratoga Hospital and has led the
6 development team on projects in a number
7 of counties where the Saratoga Hospital
8 has facilities and lead us in the -- the
9 project that Patrick just referenced on
10 -- on Morgan Street. Having began that
11 process on November 17th of 2014, when
12 Kevin appeared before the then
13 Comprehensive Plan Committee, and made a
14 plea for a change in the land use
15 designation for the Morgan Street
16 parcels in order to build a medical
17 office building that was sorely needed
18 by -- by the Saratoga Hospital. And
19 while that -- that comprehensive plan
20 commission was bitterly divided on a
21 number of issues, having sent to the
22 City Council at that time, the famous 53
23 amendments on which they were equally
24 six six divided and couldn't make a
25 decision, therefore, so handed it off at

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the City Council at the time. This
2 particular matter was of no controversy
3 at all. It was adopted by the
4 Comprehensive Planning Committee by a
5 vote of about 12 to zero and -- and lead
6 from there to a PUD application and a
7 series of matters over the past seven
8 years. As it pertains to tonight's
9 proceeding, I directed the council to
10 the Appellate Divisions' -- a portion of
11 the Appellate Divisions' decision which
12 vacated the -- the zoning change and the
13 procedural mistakes that it found with
14 the secret process from the previous
15 council. But then it -- it returned the
16 matter to you, the City Council, with
17 language directing that the matter be
18 remitted to the City Council in order
19 that you conduct a full environmental
20 review of the -- of that project.
21 That's an iterative process, a process
22 in which the -- the applicant and the
23 lead agent participate. We anticipate -
24 - participating with you. We hope
25 you'll begin that process sooner rather

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2 than later, and you have a number of
3 options as your council will explain to
4 you, I'm sure. So we're --we're ready,
5 willing and able to work with you and we
6 look forward to participating in that
7 process with you.

8 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
9 wish to be heard on Local Law Number 2?

10 MR. MATHIESEN: Hi, my name is
11 Chris Mathiesen. I live at 20 Friar
12 Tuck Way. We got the -- the UDO. One
13 of the great things on the -- the UDO is
14 regarding notification. According to
15 the new UDO, from this point on,
16 notification will include having to post
17 a sign on the properties that are under
18 consideration for -- for zoning changes
19 or land use for, etcetera, etcetera,
20 which is really important. But that
21 wasn't happening in 2014 and 2015, in
22 2013 actually, when the Comprehensive
23 Plan Review Committee started, and what
24 Mr. Jones was talking about is
25 absolutely correct. The issue regarding
Morgan Street did pass unanimously by

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the Comprehensive Plan Review Committee.

1
2 It was tucked in at the very, very end
3 of the -- of the deliberations. I
4 talked to the person that I had
5 appointed to the -- the committee and
6 she said they were all exhausted. They
7 had never ever really given any real
8 thought to the -- the -- the
9 significance of that change and when the
10 -- when -- again, this goes back to me
11 and my responsibility, I failed when the
12 plan came before the City Council, and
13 we voted unanimously in favor of the
14 plan not looking at Morgan Street. Have
15 there be a -- been a sign on that
16 property, I think the neighborhood's
17 would have made known their concerns
18 about that well before we had the
19 opportunity to vote on that, and I would
20 have looked at it much more carefully.
21 I did look at it much more carefully,
22 when the neighbors did come before the
23 City Council with their concerns, once
24 the hospital had brought forth their
25 plans. My suggestion to you is that in

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1 all fairness of that neighborhood, and
2 neighborhoods throughout our city. I
3 think it's important to -- we -- to
4 reevaluate what was done there, to look
5 at the significant impact that plan
6 would have on the neighborhood and have
7 the City Council consider amending the
8 comprehensive plan to revert Morgan
9 Street back to residential. Thank you.

10 MS. MAHANEY: Good evening. My
11 name is Wendy Mahaney. I'm the
12 executive director of Sustainable
13 Saratoga. Sustainable Saratoga is a not
14 for profit organization that promotes
15 sustainable practices and the protection
16 of our natural resources for the benefit
17 of current and future generations. The
18 Unified Development Ordinance or UDO is
19 a document of great consequence to the
20 future of our community. It provides
21 regulations that will shape our city,
22 our neighborhoods, and the Greenbelt for
23 years to come. The city's comprehensive
24 plan expresses the city's future land
25 use direction. It is the basis for

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 development and conservation within the
3 city. As you all know, State law
4 mandates that all zoning regulations
5 must be in accordance with the
6 comprehensive plan. The UDO provides
7 the means of enforcing the comprehensive
8 plan and must not deviate from it. In
9 Saratoga Springs our comprehensive plan
10 identifies the city and the country as
11 our guiding vision. The need for
12 balance between development and the
13 protection of our open spaces and
14 natural resources is repeated throughout
15 the comprehensive plan. By protecting
16 our vibrant downtown, as well as the
17 open spaces, and natural areas and the
18 outer areas of the cap of the city, all
19 of us, businesses, visitors and
20 residents can continue to benefit from
21 this pattern of sustainable land use.
22 We find examples all around us of
23 communities that lack the strong vision
24 of our comprehensive plan. Sprawl is a
25 common element and all of them.
Sustainable Saratoga actively

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 participated throughout the UDO process,
3 with the goals of improving
4 environmental protections and ensuring
5 the UDO is in compliance with the
6 comprehensive plan. While the document
7 makes some progress, it fell short in
8 addressing several of the comp plans
9 guiding principles. In particular, we
10 need stronger protections for the city's
11 Greenbelt. We must also enhance
12 protections for streams and wetlands,
13 which are vital resources that will
14 increasingly depend on to mitigate the
15 impacts of climate change and maintain
16 our water quality, the requirements for
17 green building and building
18 decarbonization fall for -- fall far
19 short of where we need to be in reducing
20 our contributions to the climate crisis.
21 And finally, affordable housing must be
22 addressed. The lack of affordable
23 housing is a major problem that has
24 consequences for the diversity and
25 vibrancy of our city and has development
and environmental impacts well beyond

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 our city's boundaries. Both through the
3 upcoming amendment process and beyond,
4 we look forward to making this case to
5 you all in more detail. Thank you for
6 the opportunity to be heard on these
7 important issues. Thank you.

8 MS. BOSSHART: Samantha Bosshart,
9 with the Saratoga Springs Preservation
10 Foundation. The foundation has been
11 reviewing all of the drafts of the UDO
12 since this first started, I believe in
13 2016. A lot of progress has been made
14 in the UDO is respect to preservation.
15 Of course, not everybody is going to be
16 happy and there were things that of
17 course preservation would have wanted to
18 be included, but ultimately, we would
19 like to see this move forward and then
20 be able to come back to the City Council
21 for amendments, because there are some
22 really important things that would help
23 the preservation of our community, so
24 thank you very much.

25 MS. SMITH: My name is Alice Smith.
I live on Woodland Court in Saratoga

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Saratoga Springs. Our neighborhood is very
2 pleased to see the UDO city map with a
3 parcel on Morgan Street zoned back to
4 residential. The decision from the
5 Appellate Court supports the removal of
6 the OMB zoning designation. It was
7 previously rezoned by the previous City
8 Council without following the legal
9 procedure, disregarding the concerns of
10 the neighbors or smart city planning.
11 It's refreshing to see a new City
12 Council who is more interested in the
13 community, and we are hoping you
14 continue to support our efforts to keep
15 it as residential. The residential
16 zoning is a benefit for the whole city,
17 not just for the neighborhood. Again,
18 thank you and we wish you the best in
19 your new positions.

20 MR. DICENZO: Good evening, council
21 members. William Dicenzo, 9 Warden
22 Drive, Saratoga Springs. There seems to
23 be -- there seems to be a lot going on
24 with this Unified Development Ordinance.
25 I tend to agree with some of the other

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1 members that I think you first have to
2 start with the comprehensive plan, but
3 what's confusing to me is whether this
4 was passed on December 21st, and now
5 you're seeking to amend or you're
6 seeking to do something called re-
7 adoption. Can you guys like -- is there
8 clarity on that?

9 MAYOR KIM: The -- the purpose of
10 this as we announced in the last City
11 Council meeting was, we thought there
12 were some significant concerns about how
13 the UDO was dealt with in the last -- in
14 the last administration in the last few
15 days and it wasn't clear that it was an
16 enforceable law. So we -- we felt like
17 to -- to -- to take this -- the
18 appropriate steps to do that, to make
19 sure that whatever was passed, if in
20 fact, it will be passed tonight, or at
21 any stage, it would be enforceable.

22 MR. DICENZO: All right. I -- I
23 mean, it's just hard to comment. Either
24 -- either it was passed, and it was
25 adopted, and it becomes local law,

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
whether it is local law, whether it's an
2 ordinance. What's that?

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I said
4 (indiscernible).

5 MR. DICENZO: That it is not.

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: It is not
7 (indiscernible).

8 MR. DICENZO: Okay. So is it -- is
9 it the intention tonight to vote on this
10 legislation?

11 MAYOR KIM: We'll -- we'll get
12 there. This is your time to speak so --

13 MR. DICENZO: Okay. I guess that
14 was part of my -- my public comment, and
15 I think my other comment is -- is, you
16 know, as with the Appellate litigation
17 with the re-zoning of the Saratoga
18 Hospital matter, that requires people to
19 go back or make revisions, make plans,
20 it just seems like -- I just hate to see
21 this council make the same mistake as
22 the last one and try to rush something.
23 I will say that, you know, to the
24 public, if they don't know that the UDO
25 was challenged in court, it is pending.

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1 There are alleged constitutional issues
2 in addition to what was referenced as
3 SEQRA, State Environmental Quality
4 Review Act issues, and I think that it
5 would be prudent to wait for some
6 decision or until that matter, at least
7 you get some idea of what survives the
8 UDO before you just go and pass
9 something that -- then later, you have
10 to revise again and again. So that's my
11 comment for tonight and hopefully, you
12 consider it. Thank you.

13 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
14 wish to be heard on Local Law Number 2,
15 otherwise known as UDO? If there is
16 nobody else on Local Law Number 2, we'll
17 close the public hearing on this. And I
18 was reminded, earlier we held a public
19 hearing on the 2022 water and sewer
20 rates, and I didn't explicitly state
21 that we were closing that public
22 hearing. There were no comments by the
23 way for -- regarding that. Our final
24 public hearing is on the Weibel Avenue,
25 PUD amendment. Anyone wish to be heard

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
on the Weibel Avenue PUD amendment?

2 MR. JONES: Your Honor, members of
3 the council, I remain Matthew Jones, I'm
4 pinching in for my partner, Justin
5 Grassi tonight, who has asked that the
6 council review a further submission
7 which is forthcoming later this week.
8 And -- and because that submission would
9 affect comment at the public -- public
10 hearing, that you take further comment
11 tonight but also adjourn the public
12 hearing at the conclusion of it this
13 evening until April the 19th at which
14 the council would have a position to --
15 to have what -- what he believes will be
16 the final draft of the of the
17 legislation.

18 MAYOR KIM: Fine.

19 MR. JONES: Thank you.

20 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Anyone else
21 wish to be heard on the Weibel Avenue
22 PUD amendment?

23 MR. BREWER: Mayor, my name is Sam
24 Brewer. I live on Lake Avenue. With
25 regard to the Weibel Avenue planned

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1 urban development, I would simply
2 recommend the council that you interface
3 with your Infrastructure Committee to
4 make sure that traffic pattern analysis
5 is done, and any additional
6 densification of that area doesn't
7 result in any more fatal accidents,
8 particularly at the corner of 29 Gilbert
9 and Union and Gilbert. I'd recommend
10 doing a, you know, unified re-
11 development of that area. If you're
12 going to have more traffic, it's the
13 perfect time to do traffic circles,
14 widen the streets and get those projects
15 in earlier rather than later, perhaps in
16 a phased approach, because people are
17 going to be going to congress for all
18 that infrastructure money and if we have
19 some projects ready to go before that
20 Infrastructure Committee takes its time
21 and develops in sequence all of its
22 projects, I'd recommend that you get the
23 big ones in first. And that would be,
24 you know, not only a very expensive
25 project, but it's one that will save

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lives. Thank you.

MAYOR KIM: Anyone else wish to be
heard on the Weibel Avenue PUD
amendment? Hearing none, we'll keep
that public hearing open. That
concludes our public hearing portion of
the meeting. And I'd just ask everyone
to stand. I'd like to call our meeting
to order and ask for a roll call.

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner -
- excuse me, Mayor Kim?

MAYOR KIM: Here.

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner
Montagnino?

MAYOR KIM: Commissioner Sanghvi?

COMMISSIONER MORAN: One, two,
check.

COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Hi.

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner
Moran's here. (Indiscernible).

MAYOR KIM: Great. So we can move
up your matter Commissioner Montagnino,
if you -- if you prefer at this point,
and then we'll loop back to the general
public comment period. Okay.

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
2 you, very much Mr. Kim. We had on the
3 agenda the potential for a discussion
4 and vote on Caroline Street school
5 traffic flow issue and it's clear from
6 the e-mails I've received from concerned
7 parents as well as during the
8 presentation at the public comment
9 period on the -- on the public hearing,
10 that there are some significant problems
11 with the implementation of the
12 recommendations of the Safety
13 Subcommittee that were then affirmed by
14 the Safety Committee. Just by way of
15 background, I agree with you that what
16 was discussed at the last City Council
17 meeting was not enacted and -- or not
18 put into effect, and the reason for that
19 is as follows. The morning after that
20 City Council meeting, I met with my
21 deputy who's here tonight, who has 25
22 years of experience in the police
23 department here in Saratoga Springs. I
24 also met with Mr. Izzo, who is the city
25 attorney, and we discussed the fact that

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 that was an emergency measure that was
3 authorized under the city charter --
4 under the city code rather, and we also
5 discussed the fact that the complete
6 closure of the street for however brief
7 a period of time would have
8 constitutional implications that
9 potentially as a taking. And I was not
10 aware at the time of the City Council
11 meeting that Deputy Tetu with the
12 assistance of the public works -- or no,
13 Public Safety Department personnel were
14 able to get the no parking and no
15 standing signs installed within less
16 than 24 hours. And so we took the less
17 intrusive alternative of having those
18 signs installed in the hope of
19 ameliorating the situation until a
20 permanent solution could be enacted.
21 I'm -- I'm not deaf. I hear what you're
22 saying. I've -- I've been there and
23 some -- I saw some of you the Thursday
24 morning following the last City Council
25 meeting and in the morning, which is a
 little different from the afternoon, it

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 looked like things were working, but I
3 understand the afternoon is the busier
4 more chaotic time and the solution that
5 was put into effect was no solution at
6 all. I think we're all in agreement
7 that we need sidewalks, and we can't get
8 them immediately. We're also in
9 agreement that we need a permanently
10 stationed crossing guard there. And
11 unfortunately, even though the last City
12 Council raised the hourly wage from \$9
13 to \$15, and we've advertised this
14 broadly, we still haven't got anyone to
15 do the traffic direction there. I need
16 to point out something that the
17 collective bargaining agreement we have
18 with the police department basically is
19 such that we're not able to direct a
20 police officer to perform the functions
21 of a crossing guard. It was done in the
22 past and resulted in a successful
23 grievance brought by the PBA. So I know
24 that some of the officers who are
25 assigned do direct traffic, some do not.
It's -- it's a contractual matter, I'm

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lacking the power to order a police
2 officer or ask the chief to direct a
3 police officer to -- to perform the
4 functions of a crossing guard. What I'd
5 like to do, having heard what you said
6 and listened, and realizing that
7 extending the do not enter by one block
8 doesn't solve the problem, and may
9 create additional problems. I think it
10 seems to me at this moment that the real
11 answer is to have a crossing guard who
12 can direct traffic either north or
13 south, for whatever period of time is
14 required. And in the event that one or
15 two cars happen to be heading to a
16 destination on one of those blocks, then
17 and only then would the crossing guard
18 allow that vehicle to proceed.
19 Similarly, if one of the school buses
20 needs to go in that direction, the
21 crossing guard could allow that. So I'm
22 going to have to really cast the net as
23 far and wide as I can to -- to find a
24 crossing guard who can serve at that
25 location, that's certainly important. I

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2 wanted -- and -- and I'm thankful to
3 Mayor Kim for changing the order of
4 things here because I didn't want the
5 parents to have to wait till the very
6 end of tonight's meeting, I think it's
7 going to be a long one. What I'd like
8 to do is meet tomorrow afternoon, so
9 that I can be there at the afternoon
10 dismissal so I can see for myself what's
11 going on? What's the best time?

12 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: (Indiscernible).

13 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: What time
14 are the walkers dismissed?

15 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: (Indiscernible).

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Okay.
17 I'll be on site at 3 o'clock tomorrow
18 and I'll stay for as long as we need and
19 I'll be there to talk to people to see
20 for myself and -- and confirm what the
21 situation is on the ground, so to speak.
22 And so, with that, I would ask that we
23 keep the hearing open and adjourn the
24 question of discussion and vote.

25 MAYOR KIM: Great. Thank you,
 Commissioner. I -- I went there Friday

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and -- for dismissal and two things that
2 I'd say is, I do think the crossing
3 guard person would alleviate this
4 problem to a great extent. The second
5 thing is, to everybody out there, the
6 city wants to build sidewalks, we -- we
7 want to do that, we want to make this
8 city more pedestrian friendly. We have
9 some opportunities with the -- the
10 Infrastructure Committee that we are now
11 working with, and I'd urge you to --
12 because to me looking at that the long-
13 term solution is, we got to build some
14 sidewalks in some neighborhoods that for
15 some reason, didn't get them. I don't -
16 - I don't have a sidewalk in front of my
17 house and my house was built in the
18 1900s. Why? I have no idea. But the
19 point being that when we go -- when the
20 City Council does that, please fill this
21 room to support those efforts, because
22 we need to have those sidewalks, we --
23 we need to do the right thing here. And
24 hopefully you'll support that effort as
25 we do that, we have some projects, in

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
fact, there's even one here where we're
2 awarding a contract for our downtown
3 connector. This is really an important
4 part of how our city becomes just a much
5 more pedestrian friendly walkable city
6 that also works towards a more greener
7 environment. So I hope you'll -- you'll
8 do that but in the temporary we clearly
9 have to do -- do something and I'm
10 looking forward to hearing your
11 solutions Commissioner from -- from the
12 parents. Thank you.

13 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Can you hear
14 me? How are we doing up there? Check
15 one two. Check one two. You got me?
16 Everything's okay? Basically, I just
17 wanted us just to share (indiscernible).

18 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I can't hear
19 anything.

20 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Yeah, I don't
21 think I'm --

22 MAYOR KIM: Yeah, I don't think
23 your mic is working --

24 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Check one two.

25 MAYOR KIM: Can you just go to the

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mic because we also have people out that
2 are watching this.

3 JAFLINE HOLLER: I'm sorry, I'm not
4 sure if I'm able to ask a question but -
5 - so I think I heard everybody here say
6 that this -- the one-way signs are not
7 working and are not -- are not practical
8 and could cause more problems and I
9 think I even heard members of the
10 council say that. So can we get them
11 removed? Are we in agreement that that
12 can happen, sooner than later?

13 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I'll be
14 on premises tomorrow afternoon and if
15 what I see confirms what people are
16 telling me, if I have to, I'll take them
17 down myself.

18 MS. HOLLER: Thank you very much.

19 MAYOR KIM: Sure. Go ahead.

20 MR. MATHIS: Commissioner
21 Montagnino, I appreciate you coming to
22 the school tomorrow. But frankly, I
23 have to say I'm disappointed in -- this
24 is just a continuation of some half
25 committal wishy washy answers we've had

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1 on this topic. It really comes down to
2 as simple as I had the map up there,
3 traffic does need to be stopped going
4 down Caroline Street until we have a
5 sidewalk in there. We had our principal
6 out there for a day directing traffic
7 north and south on Schuyler, it worked
8 great. Okay. There's prior precedent
9 for the road closures, Lake Avenue
10 closes a road. I know you guys are
11 throwing up some red tape here but there
12 is prior precedent for this, you know,
13 you could put up a cone do not enter,
14 this is really a lot less disruptive,
15 having the road closed for 20, 30
16 minutes during arrival and drop off
17 rather than extending the one-way for a
18 block that as we said really does
19 nothing. There's a really simple
20 solution to this and we hope that you
21 act on this sooner than later.

22 MAYOR KIM: So what I like to do
23 now is open the public hearing. Sir?

24 MR. BREWER: Just regarding the
25 crossing guards, is the public hearing

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open?

2 MAYOR KIM: I -- I'm -- I'm going
3 to open up to public comment.

4 SAM BREWER: Okay. Can I stay at
5 the mic and continue to speak?

6 MAYOR KIM: Okay. So this is the
7 public comment period. There's one rule
8 for the public comment period. You've
9 got two minutes. Those are yours, yours
10 alone. You don't pass them on to
11 anybody else. Three suggestions.
12 Remember, you're speaking to your
13 community, you're part of the community
14 but you're speaking to your community.
15 Be kind, no act of kindness is ever
16 wasted, be factual and accurate. Any
17 City Council member has the -- or
18 supervisor has the option of responding
19 if they choose but they don't have to.
20 So come to the microphone and identify
21 yourself and you have two minutes.

22 MR. BREWER: Council, my name is
23 Sam Brewer. I live on Lake Avenue. I'm
24 going to address the crossing guard
25 issue. I live on Lake Avenue not too

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1 far from Lake Avenue School and part of
2 my routine, I normally pass the school
3 in the morning when the children are
4 crossing the road to go to -- to go to
5 school and I have seen all kinds of
6 mistakes made by crossing guards. So
7 this is one of those things that's, you
8 know, on the surface doesn't seem like
9 it might be something that's extremely
10 dangerous, but in fact, it's very
11 dangerous. Improper selection of
12 somebody who's watching traffic and then
13 directing small children to cross the
14 road, is probably a significant cause
15 for children's fatalities across the
16 nation. I would encourage the council
17 to look at an alternate mechanism, as
18 opposed to, you know, hiring retirees
19 for \$12 or \$14 an hour, the people that
20 you need to select to do that job, have
21 to have extraordinary hand eye
22 coordination, good eyesight. And you
23 know, the people that could probably do
24 that the best are the teachers and the
25 phys-ed teachers. So I would encourage

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1 you to look outside the normal
2 boundaries of law enforcement
3 auxiliaries to go to the school district
4 to figure out a program to get the
5 people who have the best perceptive
6 abilities, crossing the children in the
7 mornings as opposed to hiring people who
8 are untested in that capacity.

9 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

10 MS. O'MALLEY: Hi, Olivia O'Malley,
11 McArthur Drive. I'd just like to repeat
12 a comment that I made at the last City
13 Council meeting that the Lake Avenue
14 Elementary School has three crossing
15 guards. And again, I'd like to request
16 that one of those crossing guards be
17 temporarily re-assigned to Caroline
18 Street School until we are able to find
19 a crossing guard for our school.
20 Because I do believe that a crossing
21 guard is incredibly important in solving
22 this problem. Thank you.

23 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Any other
24 public comment?

25 MR. MATHIESEN: Chris Mathiesen, 20

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 Friar Tuck Way. On a few different
3 topics. Just listening tonight to the
4 issue about the area around Caroline
5 Street. I -- I grew up there and it
6 wasn't the issue years ago that it is
7 now, obviously it's a bigger problem in
8 terms of -- especially at dismissal
9 time. Definitely need more sidewalks in
10 Saratoga Springs, and certainly, within
11 blocks of Caroline Street, all those
12 streets should have better pedestrian
13 access. That's a quality-of-life issue
14 as well as a safety issue for -- for --
15 for families. So that's really
16 something that I think we need to
17 prioritize around the schools in the
18 city. Most of the city's schools do
19 have pretty good pedestrian access
20 around them. But it's true for a number
21 of reasons, there really aren't any --
22 any sidewalks, east of Schuyler Drive,
23 which is unfortunate. So that should be
24 something that should be addressed, as
25 well as other parts of the city,
 including up towards where I live.

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1 Another topic, the Commissioner of
2 Public Safety was talking about some
3 issues they were having on -- in the
4 nightclub district and the idea of
5 possibly having checkpoints where they
6 check to -- to try to make sure that
7 people who are coming into the area
8 around lower Caroline Street, who make
9 sure they don't have drugs or weapons, I
10 think. So that's -- it's a really good
11 idea. Certainly, a good approach, I
12 think that would make -- make a lot of
13 sense and make things a little bit more
14 manageable down there, bringing more
15 police he was talking about also. We
16 tried to do that, and we met with some
17 success in -- in terms of trying to make
18 sure that the police were -- had an
19 increased presence on Caroline Street at
20 various hours and that was a big help.
21 Other things, making sure that the --
22 the -- the bartenders are well trained
23 in terms of not over serving, making
24 sure that all the -- the establishments
25 have certified security people, the --

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the required number that they should
2 have, work closely with the SLA on all
3 that. All those things could be a big
4 help. Thank you.

5 MS. BOSSHART: Hi, again. Samantha
6 Bosshart with the Saratoga Springs
7 Preservation Foundation. One thing that
8 I didn't have a -- I felt like I really
9 didn't have a chance to say earlier when
10 I spoke about the dining -- outdoor
11 dining is, you know, I -- this, this is
12 the second public hearing. The -- the
13 most recent revised amendment was not
14 posted that far in advance, and I think
15 it doesn't really allow for everybody to
16 fully understand what's being proposed
17 and I would only ask that we give this
18 one more additional public hearing and -
19 - and the opportunity perhaps for Tamie
20 Ehinger, our Chair of the Design Review
21 Commission, who is out of town to be
22 able to do more than an -- an informal
23 e-mail and perhaps weigh in. I know that
24 she felt that a -- a review process
25 early on versus after the fact was --

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was important and I have to reiterate
2 that as well, that it -- I -- I don't
3 understand how you can have much -- have
4 these spaces done and then -- and then
5 after the fact sort of pullback. It --
6 it -- let's be thoughtful and
7 comprehensive and proactive versus
8 reactive and piecemeal and I think we've
9 learned that that typically works out
10 better in the long run. It may take a
11 short -- a bit more time, but it -- it's
12 really worth consideration so, thank
13 you.

14 MS. CARINO: Good evening again.
15 Libby Carino, 338 Caroline Street. I
16 just wanted to come back to the
17 microphone to make a brief comment about
18 the meeting tomorrow for Caroline
19 Street, and I appreciate very much the
20 opportunity to meet. I'd invite you to
21 -- to my house specifically to see the
22 impacts to -- to -- to my driveway into
23 my yard. But aside from just me
24 personally, what I really hear and what
25 I'd really like to speak to is that we

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2 not use our own personal view about
3 safety, that we actually endeavor to get
4 empirical data about the movement of
5 traffic both onto Benton exacerbating
6 the St. Clement's impacts, and then down
7 to Lake Avenue again, which has been
8 mentioned again, so that we are not
9 creating situations that have not been
10 studied properly. And I appreciate
11 everyone's efforts on this matter, the
12 concern which I know is shared, but that
13 data is actually what drives safety.
14 And I would highly, highly suggest that
15 we find that data so that we don't
16 inadvertently make a safety mistake
17 based upon opinion, or how we feel it's
18 working. Thank you

18 MS. SONAGAN: My name is Kathleen
19 Sonagan, I'm a resident of Saratoga
20 Springs. I'm one of many citizens who
21 are concerned about the 269 Broadway
22 project, and I've watched with alarm the
23 planning process. The public has
24 repeatedly offered credible evidence on
25 very real issues that have been ignored

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or inadequately or inadequately --
2 inaccurately addressed by the applicant.
3 Such as a traffic study that ignores
4 Broadway, which is the address of the
5 building and the construction of two
6 building levels below the water table.
7 It's been difficult to navigate the
8 archives and is not clear that these
9 issues have been resolved with city
10 staff and their consultants or that
11 Planning Board members are even aware of
12 the pertinent details. In fact, at a
13 recent -- at recent Planning Board
14 meetings where 269 was discussed,
15 neither the Planning Board chairman nor
16 the city planner knew that the Planning
17 Board had approved SEQRA based on a
18 Geotech report that did not envision
19 under water construction -- under water
20 construction, nor did they acknowledge
21 the serious problems and -- excuse me --
22 the serious concerns of Clough Harbor
23 consultants and the city engineer that
24 remained unresolved. We really need the
25 City Council to make sure that planning

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 staff hears the concerns of relative --
3 relevant city employees and consultants
4 and that planning staff effectively
5 communicates those concerns to the land
6 use boards. Instead, we seem to have
7 planning staff and land use boards that
8 are working to yes for developers,
9 instead of looking out for the best
10 interests of the citizens and the future
11 viability of our city. 269 has been
12 scheduled for the Planning Board
13 workshop in two days and for site plan
14 review on March 24th. We don't want to
15 see another project approved with
16 unresolved issues that could only be
17 sufficiently resolved with a scaled back
18 project or maybe even a no vote. So I
19 know that you don't control the Planning
20 Board, but I do know that it's really
21 important that the city that does have
22 issues, so your -- your employees that
23 are looking into this are heard by those
24 Planning Board members. It's really
25 important. Thank you

MS. O'BLOY: My name is Carol

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1 O'Bloy. I live here in the city. In 19
2 -- I'm -- I would like to also address
3 planning, as it's -- as I'm also a
4 resident of 268 Broadway. In 1973, '74
5 plan of action was put into place to
6 bring back downtown. In 1993 James
7 Kunstler wrote the book, The Geography
8 of Nowhere and that jumpstarted
9 development in our urban core. Today we
10 find instead of organized planning,
11 scattered approval of projects. How do
12 we slow down what matters the most and
13 speed up what benefits and chain --
14 benefits change in progress. If I were
15 to say we need a moratorium on
16 development, I might as well put a
17 target on my back. What I am saying is
18 that we need more than scattered
19 approvals here, there, and everywhere
20 and we need consideration of a big
21 picture of what is happening. Right
22 now, 269 is on the docket for approval
23 with two more projects on South
24 Broadway. That will continue to dump
25 traffic and people into a two-lane road

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 that is Route 9 from Congress Park to
3 the Washington Inn. If I might quote
4 some of you in your campaign literature.
5 "New projects should be encouraged to
6 enhance not detract from existing
7 historic structures while responsible
8 development should welcome there needs
9 to be a balance kept to ensure that we
10 preserve and protect our history. If we
11 do not remember our past, we will be
12 lost in the future".

13 MAYOR KIM: Your time is up.

14 MS. O'BLOY: A story of --

15 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

16 MS. O'BLOY: Pardon?

17 MAYOR KIM: Can you wrap up?

18 MS. O'BLOY: Okay. The story of
19 the Universal Preservation Hall Is a
20 model for how we can come together to
21 both preserve history and look toward
22 development. Yet when development
23 projects don't reflect the scale and
24 proportions of nearby buildings, or
25 incorporate a mishmash of unrelated
 historical styles, they detract from the

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1 historic character of our neighborhood.

2 Thank you.

3 MR. HARMON: Mayor, Commissioner.

4 My name is Robert Harmon. I live at 43

5 Benedict Street. I'm actually here for

6 a different traffic situation. But

7 after hearing the issue with the

8 Caroline Street School, I'm a nurse at

9 Saratoga Hospital, I work weekends and

10 I'd be interested in obtaining

11 information about the crossing guard. I

12 don't know how I would go about getting

13 that but if someone could provide that,

14 to me, I'd be interested. The issue I'm

15 here for is, I live one block from

16 Saratoga Springs High School, Benedict

17 Street and Ash Street, I spoke to the

18 Commissioner on the phone, sent him some

19 e-mails. Recently, traffic enforcement

20 has been handing out citations prior to

21 8 o'clock, which is posted on the signs

22 to park on one side of the road or the

23 other and this is an ongoing thing from

24 what I've been told, you've known about

25 it for years and not really much has

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 been done. But recently with the step
3 up of the traffic citations and the
4 tickets, the parking tickets, the
5 residents that live on those streets
6 have been diligent about waiting till 8
7 o'clock to move their cars to the other
8 side of the road and the dilemma comes
9 when the students come in to park their
10 cars, they park on the other side of the
11 road prior to 8 o'clock to get ready for
12 8 o'clock. The Ash Street, which is the
13 road that I'm talking about is very
14 congested because of this, of the
15 residents waiting to move their cars and
16 the students parking on the opposite
17 side of the road for the day. I have a
18 picture here; I don't know how well you
19 can see it. This is Ash Street, and
20 this is a car squeezing in between
21 resident's cars and student's cars and
22 this is a two-way street. I don't know
23 if you guys can see that congestion.
24 There's a car literally squeezing in the
25 middle.

25 MAYOR KIM: Sir, can you wrap up.

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1 MR. HARMON: I don't know how we
2 can solve this problem. I just wanted
3 to bring it to your attention. My
4 solution would be to -- to -- to give
5 leeway half an hour before 8 o'clock and
6 half an hour after before issuing
7 tickets and citations, would benefit the
8 residents and the students in my
9 opinion. Thank you.

10 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Sir --
11 sir, if you -- if you could call my
12 office tomorrow morning or send an e-
13 mail, I'd get in touch with you about
14 the crossing guard position.

15 MR. HARMON: Yes, sir.

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
17 you.

18 MAYOR KIM: Any other public
19 comment? We're going to close the
20 public comment period and thank you all
21 for that input. We're going to go right
22 into our presentations. Our first
23 presentation is with the Capital
24 District Transit Authority, they're here
25 to update us on their programs, and

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
exciting plans for the coming months. I
2 believe we've got something up there.

3 MR. SCHERZER: They should have it.

4 MAYOR KIM: Good to see you again.
5 Why don't you introduce yourselves and -
6 -

7 MR. SCHERZER: Good evening Mayor,
8 Jonathan Scherzer, director of business
9 development and hello to everyone on the
10 council and supervisors, Commissioners
11 as well.

12 MS. GARNEY: I'm Lindsay Garney,
13 I'm the Emerging Mobility manager at
14 CDTA.

15 MR. SCHERZER: We just wanted to
16 take a few moments, go over some of the
17 programming that we provide here in the
18 city, some of the things that we've been
19 doing for quite some time, some of the
20 things a little bit more recent and some
21 of the things that are coming on the
22 horizon. Okay, thank you. Feel free to
23 -- to get started unless you want to
24 provide us a clicker. So we just wanted
25 to start off by outlining some of our

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 key partnerships here. Obviously, aside
3 from our municipal partnership with the
4 city, we have a long-standing
5 relationship with Skidmore College. And
6 you can see some of our other
7 partnerships there on the PowerPoint
8 slide. In particular, you'll see there
9 on your right a picture of the recently
10 upgraded infrastructure on Route 50,
11 right outside of SPAC giving us better
12 opportunity and more residents and
13 visitors to access the facility more
14 safely. As time has come, over the last
15 couple of years, we've been building it
16 up in partnership and then you can see
17 there, a lot of what we're going to talk
18 about today supports tourism here during
19 the warmer months. Just kind of wanted
20 to give a reset here on some of the --
21 the key transit routes that provide
22 service to the city. We basically just
23 provided here a high-level overview of
24 the core routes that serve the city, and
25 then make its way through the county and
 in some cases down state and you can see

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 some of the specific routes on top there
3 that really provide the backbone of our
4 network here in the City of Saratoga
5 Springs. Then we have the Northway
6 Express commuter service, which, as
7 indicated connects to a lot of the city
8 folks and the rest of the north way down
9 into downtown Albany for some of the
10 worker employment and recreational
11 opportunities as needed. And then we
12 also have our STAR paratransit service
13 for disabled and elderly residents. So
14 those services all operate here, for the
15 most part 24, you know, seven days a
16 week, varying hours, depending upon
17 availability in the time of year. One
18 of our key programs throughout our
19 partnership here with the city of is
20 going to be the visitors trolley, we
21 spent a lot of time over the past ten,
22 15 years really building up the routing
23 and the experience of this in concert
24 with our friends here at the city.
25 Also, the local businesses, the Saratoga
 Chamber, Discovery Saratoga, and a wide

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2 variety of partners you can see listed
3 there on the wall. Generally speaking,
4 the expectation is that the service will
5 return back in July as the Saratoga
6 Racecourse gets reopened. And you can
7 see here, it's been a very successful
8 program, the annual ridership for just
9 that time period between July and Labor
10 Day annually, brings us about 15 to
11 20,000 trips. So we've really done some
12 good work tweaking this program and
13 making sure that it provides movability,
14 reduces the car congestion on the
15 streets during this busier time of year
16 and really just kind of adds to the
17 historic charm of the city. And on the
18 agenda here tonight, one of the key
19 programs here over the last couple of
20 years is our CDPHP cycle program. For
21 that I'm going to have Lindsay Brad kind
22 of talk through some of the key
23 components here and what we're seeing on
24 the road.

24 MS. Garney: Thanks, John. So
25 we're entering our sixth season for

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 CDPHP cycle. Saratoga Springs has been
3 in the program since its inception.
4 Last year alone, we had almost 5,400
5 rides throughout the city. We try to
6 keep 50 to 75 bikes in good working
7 order throughout the season in the city
8 at any given time. We run what's known
9 as a hub less system, which means that
10 folks when they're done riding their
11 bicycles, they don't have to lock them
12 to cycle specific racks that you see
13 throughout the city. They are able to
14 be locked to any fixed public object, we
15 implemented that in our third season.
16 It gives our members more accessibility,
17 more flexibility with their rides on the
18 bikes. Saratoga State Park is always
19 very busy throughout the entire season,
20 especially when tourists are in town, so
21 we see majority of the trips riding
22 through the park in some capacity. We
23 also have bikes not only in the park but
24 specifically on the property of the
25 Gideon Putnam Hotel. That was something
 that we started last year as a

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
partnership with the hotel, very -- very
2 popular, people in and out of the hotel,
3 riding bikes all the time. The hotel
4 offers that as an amenity to their
5 guests, so it's a very popular program
6 that we started with the hotel this past
7 year, that we're pretty proud of and
8 we're going to continue again this
9 season. Our partnership with the city
10 for CDPHP Cycle allows city employees to
11 gain free memberships to the bikes
12 throughout the season. So that's
13 something that we're more than happy to
14 provide more information on if folks
15 didn't know that. Certainly something
16 that we'd like to get, more city
17 employees on bikes and give them the
18 opportunity as an additional mode of
19 transportation. One final thing, our
20 operations team takes great pride in
21 keeping the bikes not only in good
22 working order but also very clean. They
23 sanitize the bikes with a bleach
24 solution every single day. Every bike
25 in the system gets cleaned every day by

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 our operations team, and there's also
3 bottles of hand sanitizer, as you can
4 see in that picture, zip-tied to the
5 bikes for your own safety to use, at
6 your own -- own convenience when riding
7 the bikes. So -- so here's the -- the
8 hubs that we have throughout the city.
9 We rank them in order from the busiest
10 hubs at the top. Obviously, like we
11 stated in the previous slides, the --
12 the park is -- is very busy, and then
13 you can kind of see how tourism really
14 affects ridership. Where there's more
15 people, there's more rides. Two new
16 hubs that we added last year were at the
17 casino and hotel. That gained
18 popularity as soon as we installed it.
19 That will be there again this year. We
20 actually spoke with the facilities
21 director today, so the team will be
22 building that rack again in the next
23 couple of weeks, getting ready for the
24 season, which we will be launching in
25 the first two weeks of April, weather
 pending. We also added a rack last year

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at Geyser Road Park, for people to start
2 taking opportunity of the -- the trail
3 that's over there. So we're constantly
4 working with Tina Carton at the city.
5 She's kind of our -- our go-to, our
6 partner here to, you know, help increase
7 ridership, move racks around where she
8 feels we might get some more ridership.
9 So we're, again, open to any suggestions
10 that people might have for where bikes
11 and racks would be more beneficial to
12 the residents here in Saratoga.

13 MR. SCHERZER: So here's one of our
14 newer products. We did a pilot program
15 in -- in some of our capital region
16 partner cities last year. It's called
17 Scoot. It is an electric scooter
18 program. You can see there we have
19 purchased racks. We have purchased ties
20 to connect the scooter to the racks. We
21 all know what you've heard, I'm sure,
22 from throughout the country, different
23 types of programs and other cities, you
24 know, our goal is to provide management,
25 to provide consistency and safety. So

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you can see we have the mobility cable
2 lock to ensure that the racks are all
3 put together. It's a pretty heavy
4 vehicle as well. It's not something you
5 just easily flick away like you might
6 have seen in some other cities. These
7 are heavyweight, 50-pound units.
8 They're fully electric. Just to give a
9 quick overview on -- on the
10 demonstrations, we had last year and --
11 and where we're thinking this program
12 makes sense, you can see some of the
13 pricing points there. Generally
14 speaking, \$2 to unlock a scooter, 25
15 cents per minute thereafter. Well,
16 scooter rides are ten minutes at
17 maximum, so you can kind of start to
18 work out the dollars and cents from
19 there, and what we do to keep control of
20 the program and keep control of the
21 scooters is set up there over the next
22 couple of bullets. If a scooter is not
23 put in the right place, be subject to
24 that fine, and then if a scooter is
25 locked up but in the wrong way, there's

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 a -- a lesser fine that's listed there
2 as well. What we wanted to do is talk
3 and -- and give examples here. Last
4 year, we did closed course public
5 demonstrations throughout the capital
6 region. We want to continue that up
7 here over the course of the warmer
8 months, as we move into them, and then
9 if we are able to put together a program
10 that the community is supportive of, our
11 expectation is to run it from 6:00 in
12 the morning until 11:00 p.m. at night.
13 The key component there is, I'm sure
14 we've all dealt with, you want to be
15 able to cut off at a certain time frame
16 where people who may not be as focused
17 on their travels and where they're
18 going, and when they're going. We want
19 to try to avoid those times as best of
20 our ability, and then just give a quick
21 overview of how it works. We -- we've
22 got a very good plan in place with our
23 CDPHP Cycle program. We have a third-
24 party operator who does the rebalancing
25 and does the movement to the vehicles

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every day. We have the same plan in
2 place for the scooter program.
3 Customers would create a membership via
4 mobile app or go to the CDTA appropriate
5 website, and we've also created No Go
6 Zones. In our conversations with our
7 municipal partners, we know there are
8 places that are just not intelligent,
9 and so you can see the main one there,
10 Congress Park was critical in our early
11 conversations with the city previously.
12 So when you get into one of those No Go
13 Zones, what will happen is the motor
14 itself will begin to shut down, so you
15 don't have the ability to continue
16 riding if you're in an inappropriate
17 riding area, so the motor itself will
18 shut down until you get the vehicle back
19 into the actual geo-fenced area, and
20 scooters are treated as motor vehicles.
21 They need to remain on roadways, and
22 they need to follow all traffic laws,
23 we're not talking sidewalks. Certainly,
24 we suggest helmets and other elements
25 that go along with that.

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1 MS. GARNEY: So in our early
2 planning for scooters to come up to
3 Saratoga Springs, we identified three
4 locations where we would build racks.
5 We wanted to kind of keep them close to
6 where our CDPHP cycle racks, to maintain
7 efficiency for our operations team.
8 Anytime they're out cleaning bikes, they
9 can be moving scooters, locking
10 scooters, moving scooters, so keeping
11 scooter racks where cycle racks are --
12 is -- helps us do our job faster and
13 better for the community. So these are
14 the three locations that we thought we
15 would start scooters with, to build
16 racks. You can see up at High Rock
17 Park, down near West Circular Street,
18 and then up in the north -- northeast --
19 northwest portion of the -- of the map
20 up there. So kind of build a triangle
21 because scooters have to be locked to
22 racks at the end of their rides. It
23 gives people different options
24 throughout the city, where they can ride
25 in and lock up the scooters too. As

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1 Jonathan mentioned, our operations team
2 has built a pretty diligent program in
3 how we want to run these scooters. We
4 don't want to have the sprawl and the
5 clutter that are seen in some of the
6 bigger scooties -- cities where scooters
7 are used, mostly for recreational. We
8 want these scooters to be taken care of
9 and our operations team is going to do a
10 very good job of working with the
11 community at these public demonstrations
12 to teach people how to ride the
13 scooters. The rules and regulations of
14 the program, we feel like if we put a --
15 a strict program out first, and people
16 are able to follow the rules and obey
17 the rules and ride the scooters
18 responsibly, then we can kind of take
19 the reins off a little bit and build
20 some more racks and give some more
21 availability for the scooters, but in
22 the meantime, we want to start very
23 small, keep our arms tightly around the
24 program, give people a fair chance to
25 ride them and then build out from there.

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1 MR. SCHERZER: And then last but
2 not least, some of the newer options
3 that CDTA is developing is, you know, in
4 today's day and age, we don't have the
5 ability to just provide bus service. I
6 don't think any agency who works like we
7 work, who is trying to find ways to move
8 people is going to be married to just
9 one opportunity. So up there on the top
10 right, the vehicles are flex on-demand
11 vehicles. It is basically a facsimile
12 of some degree of Uber pool. You're
13 able to order this vehicle via mobile
14 application, from a curb-to-curb trip in
15 a specified zone across the service
16 area. We have a couple of zones already
17 in the capital region. We have one in
18 (indiscernible) Guilderland and Latham,
19 and we just started a pilot program
20 earlier this year, really in late '21,
21 connecting Mechanicville, Clifton Park,
22 and Half Moon. So we could certainly
23 see the benefits of a flex tight program
24 here in downtown, and then hot off the
25 press, on March 3rd, we unveiled our

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1 most recent project that's coming up.

2 It's called CDTA drive. So we
3 effectively are putting together an
4 electric car-sharing program that will
5 allow you, much like the bikes or the
6 scooters or any of these other shareable
7 program opportunities, to be able to
8 utilize an electric vehicle. We're in a
9 very early stage of that. We have about
10 a half a dozen vehicles within the
11 authority's purview right now. We're
12 finalizing determinations on where they
13 may go, but happy to answer any
14 questions about this program or -- or
15 anything else throughout the
16 presentation. We appreciate your time
17 and having us in here tonight.

18 MAYOR KIM: That's great. Does
19 anyone -- any other City Council members
20 have a question for John or Lindsay? I
21 think what's being presented here, we'll
22 probably have a public hearing to -- to
23 sort of discuss the -- the -- the -- the
24 issues, particularly with if we add
25 scooters to the city, and then have a --

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a discussion and vote with the City
2 Council at some point, but anyone --
3 well, I appreciate it. Thank you.

4 MR. SCHERZER: Thank you for having
5 us (indiscernible).

6 MAYOR KIM: (Indiscernible) it's
7 good to see you John, good to see you
8 Lindsay. Thank you. Our next
9 presentation is by Brian Straughter and
10 Pamela Polacsek from the Community
11 Development Citizen Advisory Committee,
12 and they're going to present the 2022
13 CDBG Entitlement Block Grant
14 Recommendations. Thanks for coming.

15 MR. STRAUGHTER: Now, good evening,
16 definitely interesting to see what's
17 going on with CD, you, TA --

18 MAYOR KIM: Right.

19 MR. STRAUGHTER: -- new things
20 happening. So my name is Brian
21 Straughter, and this is Pam, and we are
22 part of the Community Development Block
23 Grant Advisory Committee. Our committee
24 is made up of ten individuals and our
25 chair, Rich Ferguson, was not able to

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2 make it tonight, so asked if we could
3 pinch it today, you know, we -- we're
4 going to read because we always like to
5 read into the record, you know what we
6 do as -- as a group, and this year, our
7 group was particularly challenged as we
8 had \$945,000 in requests for just under
9 \$300,000 of available funds. So the
10 Community Development Block Grant was
11 created by the passage of the Housing
12 and Community Development Act of 1974.
13 It combined into a single grant, a
14 number of previous grant programs
15 administered by the US Department of
16 Housing and Urban Development, HUD,
17 including urban renewal models, model --
18 model cities, open space, and water and
19 sewer. The block grant allows a more
20 flexible approach to community
21 development. The goal of the CDBG
22 program is to develop viable urban
23 communities through housing, economic
24 development, elimination of slums and
25 blight, expansion of community services,
 and neighborhood revitalization. The

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primary objective of the CDBG program is
2 to benefit persons of low and moderate-
3 income, and our -- our committee has
4 four primary tasks that we look at.
5 Priority is permanent housing needs.
6 The creation of an affordable housing
7 represents an overarching priority for
8 the city. However, highest priority
9 will get -- be given to activities that
10 fulfill this need through rehabilitation
11 of existing buildings, and the
12 acquisition of existing units for
13 preservation as affordable. High
14 Priority is also given to low-income
15 homeowner housing rehabilitation. The
16 second priority was homelessness housing
17 facility needs. Rehabilitation,
18 improvements in the creation of
19 emergency shelters, in -- in
20 transitional housing for homeless
21 individuals, families with children, and
22 unaccompanied youth of -- are of high
23 priority. Our third priority, non-
24 housing needs. Non-housing community
25 development activities are integral in

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promoting a sound living environment in
2 encouraging expanded economic
3 opportunities for persons of low and
4 moderate-income. Though no
5 infrastructure, economic development,
6 and planning activities can be kept
7 categorized as high or moderate priority
8 under this strategic plan, and then our
9 last priority was public service needs.
10 Although limited in the annual statutory
11 funding cap, public service activities
12 complement housing in non-housing
13 community development activities in
14 developing and promoting a sound living
15 environment. Activities that prevent
16 homelessness and promote successful
17 transition from temporary housing to
18 stable, productive living environments
19 are identified as the highest priority.
20 Our moderate priority of moderate
21 priority are health services that
22 specifically address elder care and
23 mental health, and we like to that's --
24 that comes from our -- the city's plan,
25 and we'd like to read that just, you

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2 know, as -- as we were reviewing our
3 applications this year, and there was 20
4 of them, you know, we really struggled
5 and tried to figure out how do we
6 address, you know, what the plan really
7 wants to have our committee target, and
8 while we had many great -- great --
9 great applications when funding is
10 limited, it gets hard. So we tried to
11 take those priorities and say -- or --
12 and -- and look at the applications, you
13 know, through trying to figure out how
14 to help people with their housing needs.

14 MAYOR KIM: Pam.

15 MS. POLACSEK: Sure. Vertically
16 challenged. Good evening. As Brian had
17 mentioned, we had limited amount of
18 money to spend to suggest how to
19 approach, and certainly, we're an
20 advisory committee and, obviously, the
21 City Council makes the ultimate
22 decisions, and just shy of \$300,000, we
23 are able to support 15 percent of that
24 for public service needs. So the two
25 organizations that we are suggesting get

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funded this year are the Saratoga
2 Affordable Housing Group, for a case
3 manage of \$18,000, and this funding will
4 provide for a full-time case manager
5 that will assist low income, disabled,
6 elderly individuals, to secure housing
7 at the Allen Drive project, and work
8 with the tenants to prevent evictions,
9 and provide education and management
10 services to assure the safety of all the
11 residents that live there, and the
12 second organization that we are
13 suggesting it receives funding this year
14 is the Salvation Army for a case manager
15 as well, and that would be for \$20,000,
16 and this is to provide funding for a
17 full-time case manager who will provide
18 services for those experiencing
19 homelessness or at risk of being
20 homeless. This position consists of
21 outreach, homeless prevention, and
22 supportive case management and casework,
23 and I will add that both of these
24 positions have been wildly successful in
25 the past year, at least in our

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2 suggestions, so that would be \$38,000
3 out of our just shy of 300,000. That's
4 approximately 15 percent of what we can
5 support in the overall recommendations.
6 As far as capital projects for public
7 infrastructure projects, the first one
8 we would suggest would be to rebuilding
9 together Saratoga, and that's for
10 housing rehabilitation, and we would
11 suggest \$75,000 be given to that
12 organization to fund, to support the
13 housing rehabilitation program that they
14 so adequately do every year to serve low
15 moderate-income people in the city,
16 specifically within the city
17 jurisdiction. The second would be to
18 the Saratoga Affordable Housing Group,
19 and that would be to suggest \$57,000 to
20 support their Allen Drive rehabilitation
21 project, and this is we found to be
22 replacing their drain lines that are
23 disintegrating in the housing units.
24 The replacement of these will provide
25 safe water for the residents who live
there. The third organization is the

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Franklin Community Center, and they own
2 the Franklin Community Manor, and we're
3 suggesting to provide roof replacement
4 for \$40,000, and that is to replace the
5 roof in that -- in that building. The
6 fourth organization would be the Mother
7 Anderson Women's Shelter and Children's
8 Shelter, and that would be to pay for
9 their cooling system at \$15,000, and
10 that's to prepare the new facility with
11 a proper cooling system for their
12 mothers and the children who reside in
13 that facility. The next item would be
14 for -- to rise, and that is to upgrade
15 the flooring that in their Van Damme
16 building that they own, and that's to
17 replace the funding -- the floor, excuse
18 me, and the steps that are going into
19 that affordable housing unit. It's a
20 progressive steps program, which
21 provides improved quality of life for
22 the low-income residents who have severe
23 and persistent psychiatric conditions,
24 and the last, we would be remiss without
25 having our administrator, so the funding

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 would be 50 -- \$53,000 to support the
3 community development position, which
4 operates in to cover the budget of the
5 payroll, fringe benefits, programs and
6 office expenses that are new higher
7 rate. Amber is (indiscernible) adeptly
8 doing, and she's fit -- she's fit into
9 that role quite well, and she's really
10 learning and she's very receptive to all
11 of the information that we provided to
12 her. So I'm not sure if the City
13 Council members have any questions about
14 the applicants that we're suggesting
15 funding for, but that is our slate of
16 prospective applicants.

17 MAYOR KIM: Any questions from the
18 City Council? Thank you. I appreciate
19 your hard work and thank you for coming
20 tonight to tell us all about your good
21 work.

22 MS. POLACSEK: Thank you for
23 (indiscernible).

24 MAYOR KIM: Thank you all.

25 MR. STRAUGHTER: Perfect.

 MAYOR KIM: Thank you.

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1 MR. STRAUGHTER:

2 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Our third
3 presentation is the Saratoga Art Center.
4 I welcome Louise Kerr to the microphone.
5 If anyone's spent less than a half-hour
6 with Louise, you'll know how -- what
7 great plan she has for the -- the
8 Saratoga Art Center, and her -- her
9 vision is -- is really breathtaking, and
10 I ask her to come to share, and -- and
11 take it away, Louise.

12 MS. KERR: Hello. Thank you very
13 much for your time. My name is Louise
14 Kerr and I'm the executive director of
15 Saratoga Arts. I'd like for you to turn
16 your attention to a very brief video
17 that will just give you an overview of
18 who we are and what we do.

19 *(Video Played)*

20 MALE SPEAKER 1: In the heart of
21 Downtown Saratoga Springs, on the corner
22 of the iconic Congress Park sits a
23 beautiful brick building. In the 1930s
24 ground was broken on this site to
25 construct a new library accessible to

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
all. By the 1950s, that little library
2 had become a hub of discovery,
3 community, and imagination. After
4 nearly a decade of operating out of
5 found spaces, including a portable file
6 box in her car, Saratoga Arts Council's
7 first executive director, Dee Sarno, was
8 in search of a place the arts could call
9 home. In 1996, Saratoga Art's took up
10 residence on the corner of Broadway and
11 Spring Street, embracing the community
12 built by learning and making something
13 entirely new.

14 FEMALE SPEAKER 2: This was a
15 community effort. People had the
16 passion and the belief that this could
17 happen, and that -- that's what it was
18 all about. It was about community and
19 passion, and people believing we should
20 be here.

21 MALE SPEAKER 1: Saratoga Art's
22 mission, to enrich the region by
23 cultivating a vibrant arts community and
24 by ensuring that the arts are accessible
25 to all, embraces the idea that we will

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2 facilitate and nurture all forms of
3 creativity. Saratoga Arts shares the
4 art of our community members through
5 exhibitions in our galleries at 320
6 Broadway, which features 16 artists
7 selected by a jury each year, in
8 addition to our community shows, the 10
9 by ten member show at high school all-
10 stars. Saratoga arts also hosts art in
11 public places, art in the park, pop-up
12 art markets, and has a permanent gift
13 shop, allowing artists other
14 opportunities to feature and sell their
15 work. At Saratoga Arts, you can learn
16 something new all year long. 500
17 students of all ages engage in all
18 levels of arts education through our
19 youth camps, classes, and workshops,
20 whether you're dropping into learning a
21 new technique or dedicated to taking
22 your skills to that next level. Season
23 after season, Saratoga Arts has
24 something new to offer in the Dee Sarno
25 Theater, Saratoga Arts invites the
 community to create something new,

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hosting theater, dance, and musical
2 performances, not to mention hours of
3 rehearsal. The performing arts are
4 central to the work of Saratoga arts.
5 As a Statewide community (indiscernible)
6 site, Saratoga Arts is able to fund
7 artists and organizations who are
8 creating art and building relationships
9 in and with our community. Over the
10 years, Saratoga Arts has been able to
11 distribute more than \$1.5 million to
12 arts programs with direct impact on
13 Fulton, Montgomery, and Saratoga
14 counties. In order to facilitate our
15 ever-expanding programmatic work and
16 outreach, a major revitalization of this
17 centrally located umbrella for all the
18 arts is already underway in celebration
19 of our 25th anniversary. As we make
20 something new at Saratoga arts, there
21 are so many ways you can participate in
22 this important work and help us build
23 and re-emerge stronger than ever before.

24 *(Video stopped)*

25 MS. KERR: So as you saw in the

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2 video, Saratoga Arts provides a
3 centrally located umbrella of
4 information distribution for all of the
5 arts. It's a physical space for
6 education, exhibitions, performances,
7 and events, and for over 30 years, we
8 have provided \$125,000 annually in
9 direct grant support to the arts in
10 Fulton, Montgomery, and Saratoga
11 counties. This year includes additional
12 relief grants, so we're totaling over
13 \$185,000 in support to artists,
14 educational organizations, and community
15 nonprofits. The building itself at 320
16 Broadway provides over 10,000 square
17 feet of multi-use community space that
18 facilitates all kinds of creative work.
19 25 years ago, Dee Sarno raised and
20 invested 550,000 to renovate what is now
21 the community art center, and last year,
22 as we emerge from the pandemic, folks
23 rally behind us in recognition of just
24 how important arts and culture are to
25 the City of Saratoga Springs. In 2021,
 we invested \$98,000 into some long-

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2 overdue internal upgrades around health
3 and safety and then launched our capital
4 campaign with a goal to raise another
5 600,000, which will now allow us to
6 bring the rest of the interior spaces at
7 320 Broadway up to today's standards.
8 After working closely with DPW over the
9 last year and a half to identify the
10 needs this aging building has, the city
11 has generously agreed to partner with us
12 as we move into this next phase and
13 there is an allocation in the budget of
14 700,000 to be spread over the next three
15 years for essential, internal and
16 external structural and operational
17 revitalizations. This would be a
18 combined effort of the city and Saratoga
19 Arts to invest in excess of \$1.4 million
20 into 320 Broadway. We are committed to
21 serving both our local populations and
22 the visitors for years to come, and as
23 we commit to this new fundraising
24 capital campaign to invest in the space
25 that we call home, and to invest into
 what is -- we made for our community, we

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request that the city please take the
2 following consideration. We are
3 requesting that the city creates a
4 permanent home on Broadway for the art
5 center, with a 33-year lease and the
6 ability to renew up to two more times.
7 We also greatly appreciate your support
8 for any possible rent adjustments. We
9 request also, were possible, that the
10 allocation of the 700 1000 building
11 improvements funds be front-loaded this
12 year and next. We believe that there
13 are infrastructure health and safety
14 deficiencies that will require immediate
15 fixes and are now reaching critical
16 stages. Some of these essential health
17 and safety concerns were originally
18 identified by the city engineer in 2007,
19 2009, and then again in 2015, and they
20 are still in need to be completed. We
21 are the community art center, a hub of
22 creativity and collaboration located in
23 the heart of downtown. The core of who
24 we are and what we do is deeply rooted
25 in helping to facilitate what creates a

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1 great place to live and a wonderful
2 place to call home. So thank you.

3 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. Is there
4 any questions for Louise? I just want
5 to mention that Louise has a great
6 vision that I've had the privilege to
7 talk to her about, and also to a number
8 of the leaders of the arts community
9 from the Tang Museum to SPAC, to the
10 Beekman Arts -- Arts District, and --
11 and one of the things that really
12 impressed me by Louise and all the
13 members who are working on arts in -- in
14 Saratoga Springs, is really the idea
15 that we have so many assets that we
16 haven't really sung enough about.
17 Everyone knows us as a racing town.
18 They know us as having, you know, great
19 tourist assets, but one of them is the
20 arts, and we really need to make sure
21 that the world knows that, and -- and
22 I'm committed to that, and I hope the
23 rest of the City Council will -- will --
24 will help us do that, and -- and -- and
25 it starts with us looking very closely

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2 at the physical plan that Saratoga Arts
3 has, and -- and making sure that that's
4 the -- the best center we can provide to
5 the city, and it goes beyond that to
6 then making sure that we -- we make --
7 we -- we let the world know that we
8 really are a destination for the arts.
9 So we're -- we're going to be coming
10 back to the City Council with -- with
11 some ambitious plans and we hope that
12 you'll support us. Thanks.

13 MS. KERR: Thank you.

14 MAYOR KIM: Our final presentation.
15 Last but not least, we have the West
16 Avenue Special Assessment District that
17 is going to give their annual report.
18 This is a report that the West Avenue
19 Special Assessment was established in
20 February 2000 and was to assess an
21 additional tax on participating
22 businesses within the designated
23 business district for improvements.
24 Each year, WASAD is required to present
25 an annual report to the city. Matt
 Jones is here to give us that report and

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1 looking forward to hearing from you.

2 MR. JONES: Your Honor, members of
3 the council, I'm Matt Jones, on the
4 council to West Avenue Special
5 Assessment District, and I know you'll
6 be very disappointed that I've chosen to
7 submit my report in writing, given the
8 length of your agenda. The important
9 part of the report simply indicates we
10 agree with the Commissioner's figures
11 that you supplied to us about two weeks
12 ago. We're all set, and you can enjoy
13 the rest of the report, which, Your
14 Honor, you've heard that four times
15 before the -- when you were Commissioner
16 of Public Safety, and it doesn't change
17 every year, so it -- it's -- I don't
18 want to raise expectations
19 (indiscernible).

20 MAYOR KIM: I appreciate that.
21 Thank you.

22 MR. JONES: Thank you, Your Honor.

23 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Matt, just one
24 question. All right. We got some
25 volume now. How long is this in effect

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for still?

2 MR. JONES: Five more years.

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Five more
4 years?

5 MR. JONES: Yeah.

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Okay
7 (indiscernible).

8 MR. JONES: It a \$700,000
9 obligation at the outset on our initial
10 project of \$3.8 million. The city came
11 up with 700,000, the district came up
12 with 700,000, and we pay the city back
13 over a period of 25 years. We've got
14 five left to go and then the tax in the
15 Special Assessment District will come
16 off.

17 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Excellent.
18 Thank you.

19 MAYOR KIM: That ends our
20 presentation section. We do not have an
21 executive session now. So I'm going to
22 ask the supervisors to give their
23 reports, and then we'll move on to the
24 consent agenda.

25 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you,

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
Mayor. Good -- good evening. I just
2 have two items for my agenda. The first
3 item on the agenda is just a quick
4 update on the Saratoga County Prosperity
5 Partnership. There has been some media
6 reports regarding the partnership, and I
7 just wanted to kind of go through a
8 little bit of the history and what we
9 plan to do going forward. So one of the
10 things I wanted to mention was that
11 probably around 2012, 2013 timeframe,
12 Saratoga County had decided that they
13 were going to form their own Local
14 Development Corporation to work, and --
15 and I guess, do economic development
16 within the county. Long story short,
17 there were some issues and conflicts
18 with the current company that we work
19 with, Saratoga Economic Development
20 Corporation, and the county voted,
21 probably, I think it was 2014, to form a
22 local development course corporation,
23 which we call the Saratoga County
24 Prosperity Partnership. It consisted of
25 a board of directors and staff. Pretty

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2 much from the original start of it,
3 there was a lot of issues with staff
4 turnover, lack of productivity, and
5 taxpayer expense. The board actually,
6 earlier this month, voted not to move
7 forward with hiring any new staff. We
8 currently have a contract with a private
9 entity to run the partnership at this
10 point, and their contract runs out at
11 the end of the month. Basically, the
12 next step in this process is that there
13 are two local laws that we have
14 regarding the partnership. The first is
15 the creation of the Local Development
16 Corporation, we have to dissolve that,
17 and that requests -- requires some home
18 rule to remove. So we have to send a --
19 a -- a message to the State to dissolve
20 the Local Development Corporation, and
21 we also have a local law where they are
22 entitled to half of the occupancy tax
23 that we collect in Saratoga County,
24 which was established sometime around
25 2015, or 2016. That also requires a
 home rule to remove that provision for

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2 them. Currently, the way that it works
3 is that they get half of the bed tax,
4 but if they don't spend any of it, they
5 return it back to the county based on
6 their contract. So with no effective
7 staff, and essentially, a board of
8 directors that may or may not meet
9 regularly, they will receive the money,
10 but then they will have to immediately
11 return it back to the county because
12 it's not going to be spent. So in -- in
13 a sense, it's really a -- a wash when it
14 comes to how that money is -- is spent
15 going forward. It goes back to the
16 county. So right now, we are in the
17 process of converting the day-to-day
18 operations of the partnership to our
19 Saratoga County Planning Department, and
20 we are planning to rename that
21 department to sit at Saratoga County
22 Planning and Economic Development
23 Department. We hope that to become a
24 permanent department within the county.
25 Again, this is hopefully the end of this
chapter of Saratoga County advocating

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for the process to move forward as fast
2 as possible. I've also -- I brought
3 that up twice in two meetings already.
4 We should be moving this process forward
5 as fast as possible. Just as a side
6 note, I was one of the founding board
7 members of the prosperity partnership,
8 and I think we had a lot of great goals
9 when we started. Unfortunately, it did
10 not work as we had hoped, you know,
11 really, at the end of the day, I think
12 the lesson learned, at least for me, is
13 that you need to have a broad community
14 to support to do these kinds of things,
15 in which we did not have, and we needed
16 to have the most immediate stakeholders
17 on board as well, which we also did not
18 have. So at the end of the day, it
19 didn't work. So again, I'm ready to
20 work again with the Saratoga Economic
21 Development Corporation, as the single
22 economic development entity with the
23 county. I've actually had a couple of
24 great conversations with them and I'm
25 looking forward to seeing what they can

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do going forward. They have a great
2 track record and -- and I'm glad to work
3 with them. Second on my agenda is just
4 a review of the New York State
5 associative -- Association of Counties
6 (indiscernible) --

7 COMMISSIONER MORAN:

8 (Indiscernible) before you go forward --

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER MORAN: -- could I
11 just interrupt? So I -- I really
12 appreciate your self-effacing comments
13 and recognizing the issues in why the
14 prosperity partnership did not work out.
15 Obviously, there was a clash between the
16 powers that be, and the -- the SEDC,
17 which, to your point, has an incredibly
18 strong track record. Was there -- were
19 -- were monies taken away from SEDC at
20 that time to create the prosperity
21 partnership?

22 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: The -- the
23 county has (indiscernible) I guess I
24 won't say taken away. I don't think --
25 I think we never completely didn't fund

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1 SEDC, but we had reduced their funding
2 quite a bit.

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Is there any
4 reason why we wouldn't return that
5 funding back to where it was, given
6 their track record?

7 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah, those --
8 those plans are in the works.

9 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Oh.
10 Excellent.

11 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah -- yeah.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: That's great
13 news.

14 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah -- yeah, I
15 think they got a bump this year, and
16 they'll probably get a bump next year --

17 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Right.

18 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- around when
19 it comes to their funding. So yeah, I
20 mean, we have to -- we have to invest in
21 economic development in this county --

22 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Absolutely.

23 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- regardless
24 of -- of what your opinions are on it,
25 but at the end of the day, yeah, with

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them being the sole corporation, I
2 guess, working with the county for job
3 attraction, we would then -- I don't
4 know if they'll go back to their top
5 funding they ever got, but they'll --
6 they'll certainly be getting more
7 funding from the county going forward,
8 and I would support that as -- as
9 supervisor. So we'll see how it works
10 as we get to the budget for next year.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I appreciate
12 the detail. Thank you.

13 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: No problem.
14 Thank you. All right. So second on my
15 agenda is just a quick review of the New
16 York State Association of Counties
17 Conference, which is occurring actually
18 right now. It's where I came from right
19 before this meeting. So every spring,
20 the New York State Association of
21 Counties meets for its legislative
22 conference in Albany. I serve as the
23 vice-chairman of the Public Safety
24 Committee for the New York State
25 Association of Counties, and I just want

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2 to kind of review quickly our
3 resolutions that we passed, as well as
4 other things that I attended over the
5 last couple of days. We had six
6 resolutions on public safety for this
7 year. The first of their resolutions
8 was a resolution to support four
9 different bills in the state legislature
10 that relate to emergency services
11 departments. Saratoga Springs has a
12 full-time, full-paid department in the
13 city, but a lot of towns have ambulance
14 cores and things like that, that are --
15 cover different towns. They have
16 special taxing districts. It's all-
17 volunteer. It's a little bit different
18 than what we do in the city. These
19 bills would essentially do two things,
20 one would allow communities such as ours
21 to establish a special district for our
22 ambulance and potentially use that to
23 raise funds for its operation. In our
24 case, it would just be the City of
25 Saratoga Springs, because we have our
ambulance only operating within the city

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limits, but for other communities, it
2 would be cross-jurisdictional for
3 several towns and maybe even a full
4 County. So that's one thing that it
5 would do. The other is an idea where
6 they would be giving money toward
7 municipal EMS districts on like, a CHIPS
8 based kind of way when -- and CHIPS is a
9 Highway program, but they would use the
10 population of that municipality to kind
11 of give a stipend to that community to
12 help with emergency services. So in our
13 case, you know, we have a paid service,
14 so we are not, in any threat of it, not
15 operating. We -- we -- we charge for
16 service and, you know, when you get
17 taken in the ambulance, there's a bill
18 that comes after that, but some of these
19 departments have free services. They --
20 they operate through -- not for profits.
21 It's a whole different ballgame when you
22 get out of a -- out of a paid service,
23 so maybe more applicable to them but it
24 may apply to us at the end of the day if
25 we can create a special district, so I

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2 thought I would mention that. Other
3 resolutions that we had were asking for
4 amendments to the bail reform laws and
5 discovery reform. See, the next one was
6 improving efforts of -- of our
7 alternatives, probation and
8 incarceration, and protecting the
9 public's and reducing reliance on
10 prisons, jails, and detention. We had
11 one on investing our 911 funds for the
12 proper maintenance of the system.
13 Currently, the State diverts some of our
14 911 money and holds on to it for
15 themselves, and really, that money
16 should come back to the communities.
17 It's -- you pay the 911 surcharge on
18 your phone bill and that's supposed to
19 go to 911 services, but the State has
20 diverted some of those funds to its
21 general fund, which is really kind of
22 unfair toward counties and departments
23 that run the 911 Center, and really,
24 that money should go toward that, and
25 the last one is a resolution calling for
 additional civil service reforms. We

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all kind of agree, at least from the
2 public safety point of view in the State
3 level, that the civil service rules for
4 recruiting and retaining in -- in
5 onboarding officers and corrections
6 officers for jails is outdated, and that
7 we need to have a more streamlined and
8 modern process for that, overall, and I
9 would also say that I think, as a whole,
10 the civil service law and civil service
11 process needs to be redone. It just
12 doesn't meet the modern workforce, and
13 so having those tests and, you know, I
14 don't want to get into the weeds, it's
15 been a long meeting already, and we
16 haven't even started, but it's, you
17 know, having all those rules and
18 regulations and processes creates kind
19 of an onerous system, and it's confusing
20 to people who want to work in -- in
21 civil service. So at the end of the
22 day, we hope from the (indiscernible)
23 level, the State Association Level 2
24 have an overarching resolution on civil
25 service reform that we can take to the

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2 State and -- and work for so -- which
3 would include reform here in -- at the
4 city level as well. The other things I
5 attended during the last few days were
6 basically some seminars on federal
7 spending initiatives, open meetings law,
8 the State budget impact on counties, a
9 nice, actually kind of interesting
10 seminar on the great resignation and
11 trends and workforce and impact on
12 counties, and also advancing equity and
13 growth by expanding access to childcare,
14 so kind of a wide variety of things that
15 you attend when you're at a
16 (indiscernible) conference, and I've
17 been doing this for a lot of years, and
18 it's always great to refresh your
19 skills, doing that kind of thing. So
20 thank you for your time and I appreciate
21 it. Thank you.

21 MAYOR KIM: Thank you
22 (indiscernible).

23 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Hi. Supervisor
24 Gaston. First item on my agenda is a
25 COVID-19 update. As of the State data

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today, our seven-day rolling average
2 positivity rate for Saratoga County is
3 2.6. That is fantastic. We have not
4 been below three percent for a very long
5 time, and that's really when you start
6 getting super concerned about potential
7 outbreaks. So we're not done yet, but
8 2.6 is certainly a fantastic change from
9 where we were. We are also under 10
10 cases per 100,000 people for the first
11 time in a very long time, and this is
12 one of the criteria that the CDC uses to
13 determine whether or not you are high
14 transmission or not. We've been low
15 under their new guidelines anyhow, but
16 this means that we would be meeting
17 their new -- their new and old
18 requirements. So this is excellent
19 work. However, it's important to note
20 that contingent -- continued vigilance
21 is necessary. Today, we received news
22 that the second gentleman, Doug Emhoff
23 (ph.) tested positive for COVID-19.
24 This is despite all the precautions put
25 around him, people having to test before

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2 they're near him, or his wife, the vice
3 president, all of these precautions are
4 in place, and he still contracted the
5 virus. So it is still important to be
6 vigilant. Make sure that you are
7 getting tested. If you are ill, stay
8 home, and please don't expose other
9 people. We are also seeing some rises
10 in other countries, and we are paying
11 close attention because the United
12 States is generally about two to three
13 weeks behind those. So we don't have to
14 be them but it's important for us to pay
15 attention to those changes. However, I
16 -- I really appreciate the work that the
17 city and the county have done, and our
18 people, and we need to just keep doing
19 it so we can move past it and not have
20 to worry about it as much. The second
21 item on my agenda is I also came
22 straight from the New York State
23 Association of Counties meeting here.
24 There were two standing committees that
25 I'm on where I did most of my work. The
 first is the Climate Action Committee,

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which this was the first time that it
2 has been made into a standing committee
3 that can pass resolutions. A large part
4 of our discussion was regarding the
5 scoping plan that was done by the
6 governor's Climate Action Council. The
7 scoping plan has been released and the
8 public hearings have been released, all
9 of that information. I urge everyone to
10 go look at that -- look at the schedule
11 of public hearings and comment on it
12 because this is going to be the
13 important part, the implementation. It
14 doesn't matter what's written in the
15 scoping plan for protecting our
16 environment, for roadways, for business,
17 for zoning if the implementation isn't
18 there. Another part of our discussion
19 was making sure that counties are
20 included because, historically, counties
21 have not been involved in the Climate
22 Action Council process. We had to fight
23 for years. You have one round table
24 with them and given the fact that we
25 have so many roads in the county that we

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2 deal with a lot of planning and a lot of
3 the buildings and structure that's
4 obviously not great. We also passed
5 solar panel recycling legislation and
6 support the governor's budget proposal
7 for extended producer responsibility. A
8 lot of the new renewable technology
9 including solar panels that has come
10 out, they do -- the manufacturers and
11 distributors do not have responsibility
12 for taking that back or recycling or
13 reusing. What that means is
14 municipalities and the county end up
15 dealing with acres and acres of really -
16 - really old materials, sometimes with
17 fun and unique chemical compositions.
18 So this would require manufacturers to
19 put some responsibility on them, and the
20 owners would not be just on our
21 municipalities, which is important. The
22 other standing committee I'm on is
23 public health and mental health. Most
24 of that was spent hoping that the
25 governor's and the one-house budget goes
 through. That significantly increases

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 funding for both public health and
3 mental health, and behavioral health.
4 Those departments -- that funding has
5 been underwhelming for many -- many
6 years, and this will actually increase
7 it to where it should be. It will
8 provide additional base block grants.
9 Almost 800,000 would be what Saratoga
10 County would end up getting and would
11 also increase reimbursement. In
12 addition to that, I am taking the lead
13 for that committee on a resolution
14 regarding school resource officers and
15 required training, and New York State
16 school resource officers are not
17 required to have any training, and our
18 committee moved forward in the
19 discussion, and we would like to
20 recommend that all SRO's are required to
21 have specific training, specifically
22 youth mental health as well. Again, we
23 are lucky in Saratoga, that I know that
24 our police officers and our sheriff's
25 deputies before they are assigned as
 SROs in our county, do receive that

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
training but it is not a requirement in
2 New York state, and so because I come
3 from an area where we're ahead of the
4 curve on that, we're going to take the
5 lead and try and make sure that all
6 SRO's have that because we have a -- a
7 distinct in increase in mental health
8 concerns in our school and we want to
9 make sure that everyone who's there has
10 that training. As Supervisor Veitch
11 said, I attended a workshop on childcare
12 working with staff from Erie and
13 Tompkins County, talking about childcare
14 availability and how that's really an
15 economic development driver. And I'm
16 hoping that we will be moving more on
17 that in the county as well. Also went
18 to a discussion about housing the
19 homeless, with State leadership and
20 strategies for different counties around
21 the state. And in the State budget
22 discussion, we talked about how the
23 governor's budget has an expansion of
24 the Dwyer program, which is the peer to
25 peer veteran's support program.

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1 Saratoga County was one of the first,
2 and this would expand it to all counties
3 in the state. It would also
4 significantly increase the Environmental
5 Bond Act, and would increase funding for
6 broadband accessibility, including some
7 of the work that the city wants to do,
8 and it is fiber focused. As the
9 gentleman in the meeting said, it is not
10 a technology agnostic. They really want
11 to support fiber development, because
12 that is expandable for many -- many
13 years. Was a busy day, so I look
14 forward to taking a nap at some point,
15 but if the council doesn't have any
16 questions, that completes my agenda.

17 MAYOR KIM: Thank you -- thank you.
18 Our next item is the consent agenda. I
19 move that we accept the consent agenda
20 as listed and described. Do I have a
21 second?

22 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

23 MAYOR KIM: We have a second. Is
24 there any discussion on any items in the
25 consent agenda? No discussion. Hearing

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1 none. All in favor say aye?

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

4 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Any

5 abstentions? The matter passes. I

6 believe there is one item for on the

7 Accounts Department that we'd like to

8 move up now to. Commissioner Moran, do

9 you want to do that now?

10 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you, Mr.

11 Mayor. Agenda item number 1 on the

12 accounts, award of bid for the Saratoga

13 Greenbelt Downtown Connector Trail

14 Construction to Rifenburg Contracting

15 Corporation. Upon the recommendation of

16 the mayor's office, I move to award the

17 bid for the Saratoga Greenbelt Downtown

18 Connector Trail Construction contract to

19 Rifenburg Contracting Corporation in the

20 amount not to exceed \$2,888,467.35. Is

21 there a second?

22 MAYOR KIM: A second? Any

23 discussion on the motion?

24 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I'm excited to

25 do this, sir.

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1 MAYOR KIM: Same here. Any other
2 discussion? Hearing none. All in favor?
3 Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

6 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
7 Motion carries. Thank you,
8 Commissioner. I'll move to the mayor's
9 agenda. Our first item is a discussion
10 and vote to adopt Local Law Number 2.
11 I'm -- I move that we adopt Local Law
12 Number 2. And let me just get to the
13 right place for the motion.

14 (Indiscernible) about this. I move that
15 the City Council approve the resolution
16 adopting Local Law Number 2 of 2022
17 which repeals in its entirety chapters
18 240 -- 241 and 242 of the code of the
19 City of Saratoga Springs and enacts a
20 new chapter 240 of the code of the City
21 of Saratoga Springs in (undiscerning)
22 Unified Development Ordinance. And
23 that's in a form of a motion. The
24 attached resolution, I think all the
25 City Council members have had a chance

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
to read. I'll dispense with the reading
2 of the full resolution. Is there a
3 second?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

5 MAYOR KIM: Is there any discussion
6 on the motion? Discussion? I -- I'm
7 presuming also Moneda (ph.) you're --

8 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Got a slight
9 delay Mr. Mayor.

10 MAYOR KIM: Oh, because I'm hearing
11 sort of an echo. Okay. I'll -- I'll
12 wait a second. (Indiscernible) there's
13 any discussion?

14 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: So we are
15 going to discuss the amendments in the
16 coming week.

17 MAYOR KIM: That's the next agenda
18 item Commissioner Sanghvi. It's --

19 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Okay.

20 MAYOR KIM: -- the set a public
21 hearing on amendments.

22 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Okay.

23 MAYOR KIM: Any other discussion or
24 questions? All in favor say aye? Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any opposed? Any
3 abstentions? Motion carries. Our next
4 item is to set a public hearing, and
5 that public hearing is to accept
6 suggestion from the public on possible
7 amendments to the unified development
8 ordinance. That would be -- I believe
9 our next City Council meeting is April
10 4th.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: April 5th.

12 MAYOR KIM: April 5th. And I think
13 we'll need about 20 minutes for this on
14 April 5th. My next item is to announce
15 the appointment of an alternate to the
16 Zoning Board of Appeals. I'm pleased to
17 announce that Alice Smith will be
18 serving as an alternate for the Zoning
19 Board of Appeals. Alice is a life -- is
20 a 33-year resident of Saratoga Springs.
21 She raised three children here, and
22 she's been very active in Saratoga
23 Springs civic and political life. And
24 when I spoke to her about this, she said
25 she's very excited to work with the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
Zoning Board and -- and our Planning
2 staff, and I'm looking forward to having
3 her work on this important committee.
4 Thank you for stepping up, Alice.

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN:

6 Congratulations Alice.

7 MAYOR KIM: My second -- my fourth
8 item -- second announcement is, I'm
9 pleased to name Kristen Dart to the CD -
10 - CA committee. You just saw the CD --
11 CA's committee work here. Kristen is a
12 native Saratogan. She's currently vice
13 president of political affairs for
14 Planned Parenthood Empire State in
15 Albany. She's been active in many civic
16 and political organizations in Saratoga
17 Springs. Kristen was previously the
18 director of Intergovernmental Affairs
19 for the City of Providence, and that's
20 where she actually worked on CDDB (ph.)
21 issues, so she brings a wealth of
22 experience to this committee and I'm
23 very happy and pleased that she's
24 accepted this appointment. I know she
25 has a genuine issue and interest in this

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
issue, and I want to thank her for
2 stepping up and serving the city in such
3 a wonderful way. My fifth item is an
4 announcement. The State of the City
5 address is on March 19th. It'll be here
6 at 11 o'clock in the -- here in -- in
7 this room in the Music Hall. Our host
8 will be Congressman Paul Tunko, and so
9 we're thrilled to have him here and
10 we're looking forward to having that the
11 -- the -- the state of the city with
12 with our very own congressman here to
13 help us along. Sixth is an announcement
14 for the League of Women Voters event for
15 Women's History Month. March is
16 National Women's History Month, and the
17 League of Women Voters of Saratoga
18 Springs is holding a Zoom presentation
19 tomorrow evening at 7:00 p.m. on the
20 history of the ERA ,and where we are
21 today. Info is available on the
22 League's website, and I recommend it to
23 you. I'm -- I'm -- I'm looking forward
24 to the presentation. My seventh item is
25 a proclamation. November's a crowded

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
month. March is Gambling Awareness
2 Month, and we are a gambling town, but
3 we also are a town that respects
4 responsible gambling -- gambling, so
5 I've signed a -- a proclamation urging
6 people to make sure that their gambling
7 is responsible and -- and be aware of --
8 of the potential problem gambling signs.
9 My eighth item is a discussion in
10 response to the conflict in Ukraine. We
11 circulated a resolution to the City
12 Council of -- that we would like to have
13 -- have them considered tonight. I'll
14 read the resolution in full. Whereas
15 over the past weeks the people of
16 Ukraine have been subjected to the
17 terror of military attack, and whereas
18 the emotional and psychological effects
19 of that attack have produced a severe
20 impact on Ukraine's economy and society.
21 Its supply of goods and resources and
22 the physical and emotional wellbeing of
23 its people. International Sanctions
24 exist against such behavior, but many
25 nations have been reluctant to act. It

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has long been said that the only thing
2 necessary for bad people to succeed is
3 for good people to stand back and do
4 nothing. As long as we as Americans
5 continue to accept this aggression, the
6 problem will continue to increase, and
7 now therefore, this City Council
8 condemns the Russian invasion of
9 Ukraine, declare support for the
10 Ukrainian people, and urges the freedom
11 loving people of the world to denounce
12 the devastating violence and that
13 threatens the lives and country of the
14 Ukrainian people. And that's in a form
15 of emotion. Do I have a second?

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

17 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
18 favor? Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

21 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Any
22 abstentions? Motion carries. Thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Mr. Mayor

25 --

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1 MAYOR KIM: Yes.

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: -- if I
3 may just add. Words of course are
4 important, and our -- and our wishes and
5 our hopes and our prayers are important
6 as well, but I would also like to note
7 that the Ukrainian Church in Watervliet
8 will be setting up a website where
9 people can register so that when
10 Ukrainian refugees are given visas to
11 enter the United States, people can
12 offer housing in their homes for
13 Ukrainian refugees. I've discussed this
14 matter with my wife, Nancy. Our
15 children are both grown and self-
16 supporting and have their own homes.
17 Nancy and I live in a five bedroom
18 house. It's just the two of us. We
19 will be registering our home and would
20 welcome the family of Ukrainian soldier
21 for whatever time it takes to keep them
22 safe, housed, and supported. And I
23 would ask that others consider doing
24 likewise because we need to act.

25 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. It's a

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1 wonderful gesture. Any other comments?

2 (Indiscernible).

3 SUPERVISOR GASTON: I would also
4 suggest that the council reach out to
5 former Mayor Ken Klotz who is very
6 active in the Sister City program.
7 Saratoga Springs, New York, Cassa (ph.),
8 Sister City of Chekhov in Russia, and
9 perhaps some communication in support of
10 speaking out against the war would be
11 useful for that as well. I know that
12 there are many Russian individuals who
13 are not in support of the war and being
14 able to reach out through that group
15 might also be a way that the city can
16 assist.

17 MAYOR KIM: That's a great idea.
18 Thank you, supervisor. Any other
19 comments? My next -- next item is to
20 set a public hearing on the Community
21 Development Block Grant Annual Action
22 Plan Recommendations. I think we can do
23 this on April 5th. And I think we need
24 about ten minutes for -- for that if I
25 can do that. My tenth item is a

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
discussion and vote for a construction
2 inspection support and construction
3 phase of the Downtown Connector Trail.
4 This is the motion that Commissioner
5 Moran was referring to earlier. I move
6 the City Council approved the resolution
7 as included with the agenda and proceed
8 with a construction support inspection
9 phase of the project. Pin 1760.86-DO359
10 100. The Saratoga Greenbelt Downtown
11 Connector, City of Saratoga Springs,
12 Saratoga County. Is there a second on
13 that motion?

14 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

15 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
16 favor? Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

19 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

20 Motion -- I'm just waiting -- making
21 sure that the delay -- motion carries.
22 My 11th item is a similar motion. It's
23 discussion and vote to authorize the
24 mayor to sign a contract with Rifenburg
25 Contracting Corp. I move that the City

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 Council authorize the mayor to sign the
3 attached contract with Rifenburg
4 Construction Corporation in the amount
5 of \$2,000,880,467.35. The budget line
6 associated with this cost is H3517142-
7 52000-1252. Is there a second on the
8 motion?

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

9 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
10 favor? Aye.

11 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

13 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
14 Motion carries. The 12th item related
15 to this project, the Downtown Connector,
16 is a discussion and vote to authorize
17 the mayor to sign a contract addendum
18 with Greenman Pedersen Incorporated. I
19 move that the City Council authorized a
20 mayor to sign the attached contract with
21 Greenman Pedersen Incorporated in -- in
22 the amount of \$460,000. The budget line
23 associated with this cost is H3517142-
24 520000-1252. And that's in a form of
25 the motion. And -- and I should add

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
that this is in the budget. Obviously,
2 I'm quoting the budget line, but for
3 those who are (indiscernible). Is there
4 a second?

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

6 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion?

7 COMMISSIONER MORAN: What services
8 do they provide Mr. Mayor?

9 MAYOR KIM: This is the -- this is
10 the engineering.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Oh. Okay.
12 Great.

13 MAYOR KIM: And yeah, it's
14 preliminary and final engineering on the
15 right of way acquisition and easements
16 for the -- the Greenbelt Trail.

17 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Gotcha. Thank
18 you.

19 MAYOR KIM: Any other questions?
20 All in favor? Aye.

21 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

23 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
24 Motion carries. My 13th item is a
25 discussion and vote authorizing the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 mayor to sign Saratoga County Office for
3 the aging nutrition agreement, 2022. I
4 move that the City Council authorize the
5 mayor to sign the annual contract with
6 the county to provide meal services to
7 senior -- senior citizen residents, and
8 this is in the form of a motion. Is
9 there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

11 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

12 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? And
13 this is in the budget also? All in
14 favor?

15 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

16 MAYOR KIM: Aye.

17 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

18 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

19 Motion carries. 14th item is a
20 discussion and vote for the mayor to
21 sign the Saratoga County office of the
22 aging transportation agreement, 2022. I
23 move that the City Council authorized
24 the mayor to sign the annual contract to
25 provide transportation services to
 senior citizen residents of Saratoga

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1 Springs. And that's in a form of a

2 motion. Do I have a second?

3 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

4 MAYOR KIM: Is there any
5 discussion? All in favor? Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

7 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

8 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

9 Motion carries. I'd also before I
10 finish my agenda like to move to add an
11 additional item to my agenda, which was
12 -- just recently became known to the
13 Planning Department, so that's why we're
14 doing it sort of at the table. I have
15 to move and second it, and then have a
16 vote as to whether to add this. Just to
17 give you an idea of what this is of
18 course. This is for the mayor to sign a
19 certified local government grant. In
20 essence, the City of Saratoga is
21 pursuing a certified local government
22 grant that would allow them to do
23 training for historic preservation,
24 boards, and commissions, and of course,
25 we have a historic -- historic

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
preservation board. And essentially,
2 this is a grant that they have not
3 applied for in the past, but they are
4 doing this this year, and so that -- so
5 first I have to --

6 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: We have
7 (indiscernible).

8 MAYOR KIM: Deputy Mayor Rella says
9 we haven't applied since 2018, and that
10 may have -- I -- I think that was
11 because of COVID, right? We were --
12 yeah. So we have applied in the past,
13 but now we're trying to get back to --
14 to get this grant. So that's -- so I'm
15 in -- moving to add this to my agenda,
16 and that's in the form of a motion. Is
17 there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

19 MAYOR KIM: Is there any discussion
20 on the motion to add it to my agenda?
21 Hearing none. All in favor? Aye.

22 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

23 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

24 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
25 Motion carries. So this is a -- this is

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 the 15th item on my agenda. It's to --
3 for -- to authorize the mayor to sign a
4 certified local government grant. I'll
5 give you some of the project
6 description. The City of Saratoga
7 Springs is pursuing a certified local
8 government grant. It's a reimbursement
9 program through the grants gateway. In
10 a variety projects are eligible,
11 including training, which is really what
12 I think we'll be seeking, and we'll be
13 able to train our -- his --the Design
14 Review Boards, and potentially also the
15 Planning Department because they also
16 look at design review issues. And
17 basically, we'll help them with
18 technical assistance on historic
19 preservation in the city. And so I'm --
20 I'm moving that the City Council
21 authorize the mayor to sign the
22 certified local grant application, which
23 is -- it's due in April. And that's one
24 of the reasons we had to bring it to the
25 board -- to the City Council today. And
 that's in a form of motion.

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Is -- any discussion?

3 All in favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

5 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

6 Motion carries. So that concludes my

7 agenda. And I'll ask Commissioner Moran

8 to move forward with the accounts

9 commission.

10 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Wait. I think

11 we're going to hang on one second. Is

12 it a technical issue or -- not sure --

13 Commissioner Sanghvi was disconnected,

14 yeah.

15 MAYOR KIM: Okay.

16 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Yeah, the

17 internet's unstable. The Commissioner

18 is joining us via Zoom from Puerto Rico.

19 All right. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. I'm

20 going to be moving on with the agenda

21 item number two for the accounts

22 department. Award of bid hazardous

23 materials testing to Ambient

24 Environmental Incorporated. Upon the

25 recommendation of the Department of

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 Public Works, I move to award the bid
2 for hazardous material testing to
3 Ambient Environmental Incorporated in
4 the amount not to exceed unit bid
5 pricing subject to appropriations. Is
6 there a second?

7 MAYOR KIM: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

9 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Any
10 discussion?

11 MAYOR KIM: Motion -- excuse me.
12 Any discussion on the motion? All in
13 favor? Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

16 MAYOR KIM: Opposed?

17 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Can you hear
18 me now?

19 MAYOR KIM: Yes.

20 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Yes, we can.

21 MAYOR KIM: Abstentions? Motion
22 carries.

23 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Great. And
24 yes, we can hear you Minita. Third item
25 on my agenda, discussion and vote

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
authorization for the mayor to sign
2 records management grant application,
3 the supporting documents, and submit the
4 application to the State -- to New York
5 State Archives. Essentially, we're
6 applying for a nonmatching grant from
7 the State of New York Archives Local
8 Government Records Management
9 Improvement Fund. This grant is to
10 digitize the property records -- excuse
11 me, the property record files in the
12 assessment office, create silver
13 microfilm of the scans for preservation,
14 and have the images organized in our
15 Laserfiche system. The amount being
16 requested is approximately 74,000. The
17 deadline for this grant is close of
18 business Monday, March 21st. I move to
19 authorize the mayor to sign all related
20 documents and for us to be able to
21 submit the application for the grant
22 from the New York State Archives Local
23 Government Records Management
24 Improvement fund.

25 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion?

3 COMMISSONER MORAN: I just want to
4 offer that I personally feel that the
5 assessment records being in a hardcopy
6 is one of the single biggest exposures
7 we have within our government, and --
8 and it's really only by the grace of God
9 that they survived everything that went
10 on with the -- with the lightning
11 strike, and so this is money well spent
12 should we get this grant. And I
13 appreciate Nancy Wagner's work on this.

14 MAYOR KIM: Thank you,
15 Commissioner. All in favor?

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

17 MAYOR KIM: Aye.

18 COMMISSONER MORAN: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

20 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

21 Motion carries.

22 COMMISSONER MORAN: Thank you so
23 much. The fourth item on my agenda is
24 discussion and vote amending Chapter 136
25 of the city code. And just to address

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
some of the comments that came up
2 earlier. I think it's important that
3 everyone is on the same page with this
4 and understanding our course of action.
5 First and -- and -- and most
6 importantly, this is currently a
7 temporary measure. It does have a
8 sunset clause. It is intended that this
9 is something that will start to codify
10 and bring us to a sense of permanence.
11 There is still a moral and health
12 justification for doing this, but what
13 is very clear at this point in time,
14 that it absolutely works. We went from
15 a year where we lost \$7 million and had
16 a very ineffective role out of this
17 program to a record turnout the
18 following year. Coming into office, we
19 had a very limited amount of time to
20 take action on this, and really standing
21 up a law in such a way that the law
22 itself will have permanence, was the
23 first focus. The second focus is how do
24 we actually do this, because people were
25 very giving in terms of the work of the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 A. Collins (ph.) and the support that we
3 had with -- with bringing in the -- the
4 jersey barriers in what have you, so
5 there's a lot of elements that are still
6 in motion in terms of coordination, to
7 have the core functions of this program
8 work. I share your concerns ma'am, and
9 the concerns that are -- that are put
10 forward by the -- the Preservation
11 Foundation. And I'm happy to report
12 that I had a very long discussion today
13 with Tammy at the DRC. So long, in fact
14 that we talked her phone dead. The --
15 the -- the look and feel of -- of these
16 outdoor dining locations, should they
17 become a permanent fixture in Saratoga,
18 are important. Saratoga is a brand.
19 Each one of these restaurants also is a
20 brand, and it has to fit within that
21 envelope. Miss Bosshart is -- is very
22 on point to call the adjacency between
23 our current sidewalk cafe legislation to
24 what we're looking to do with outdoor
25 dining. My only comment is we're not
 quite to that level of permanence, but

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
2 that being said, what we will be doing
3 is furnishing a list of DRC guidelines
4 with every permit that's issued. I and
5 -- and Commissioner Scirocco as the
6 authorizing agents do have the ability
7 within this legislation to pull people's
8 permits should they not be, let's, say
9 friendly to the process we're all trying
10 to work through. What we will do is we
11 will take pictures of those -- of those
12 areas during the summer, and then we're
13 going to have a review with the DRC in
14 the fall, and then we'll start to move
15 that aspect forward when we can do so
16 with a timely -- timeliness not as such
17 an urgent issue. And as I said, right
18 now, we're still dealing with the
19 impacts of -- of the pandemic. We do
20 feel as if this is an assist to our
21 local businesses and is essential to the
22 economy of Saratoga Springs. As we have
23 started to do this, it's very clear that
24 a large group of our -- of our citizenry
25 likes this amenity. The visitors to our
 city have stated that they like this

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
amenity, and so it does appear clear
2 that this may be something that
3 continues into the distant future, but
4 if we do so, it should and will comport
5 with the permanence of that sidewalk
6 cafe regulation, so I just would like to
7 set your mind at ease about that. We
8 will have an open and continued
9 discussion with the DRC, and we'll make
10 sure that when we reach that permanent
11 state, that condition will also exist.
12 So that being said, I move -- excuse me,
13 I move to amend chapter 136 of the city
14 code as included with the agenda.
15 (Indiscernible).

16 MAYOR KIM: (Indiscernible) --

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I second
18 it.

19 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? I'd
20 like to just say, Commissioner I --
21 you've worked really hard on this. It's
22 quite an effort. And I do agree with
23 you. We are not -- we're -- we're still
24 in the middle of this crazy three-year
25 (indiscernible) pandemic, and it's

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2 unclear what will happen. I mean, I saw
3 where the new variant is going nuts in -
4 - in China right now, so we really do
5 have to have this ready to roll. I -- I
6 hear what's being said about the
7 concerns about some of the outdoor
8 dining designs, and I would certainly
9 support us making sure that if this
10 becomes more than just another summer
11 iteration, that we really do start to
12 look at how the -- the - the -- the
13 design of these facilities are because
14 that -- that's why people come to
15 Saratoga Springs. They -- they like the
16 feel of our historic district, so I -- I
17 certainly want to keep that uppermost.
18 I'll support the motion as it's done,
19 but I also want to make sure that we
20 keep an eye out on this because -- and
21 I'm -- I'm supporting it because I do
22 think that we may run into a problem
23 where outdoor dining, once again, is
24 really -- is -- is going to be really
25 important to these businesses, but I
 also don't want to lose sight of the

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1 fact that this is also something that we
2 have to address in terms of design of
3 these facilities, and -- and I -- I want
4 to make sure we do that, so -- but I
5 will support it. Any other comments?
6 All in favor?

7 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

8 MAYOR KIM: Aye.

9 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

10 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

11 Motion carries.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you, Mr.
13 Mayor. Onto another important issue.
14 So the authorizing authority was
15 actually legislation that was passed,
16 that extended the outdoor dining. As
17 we currently sit today, that -- that
18 legislation is set to expire on July
19 7th. We're going to be taking steps
20 that will enable us to continue the
21 outdoor dining into the future, but the
22 reality of the SLA permitting process,
23 and the work that we need to do with
24 adjusting local codes, is such that
25 it's not going to be a solution until

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2023. If we do not get an extension of
2 the outdoor dining permissive from the
3 state of New York, we're going to be
4 put in a position where our restaurants
5 won't be able to provide the full
6 complement of their services to the --
7 to the visitors that they have. I've
8 been working with Assemblywoman Woerner
9 on this, and I think it's imperative
10 that -- that we write a letter to the
11 mayor, as well as our legislative
12 leaders regarding the need to extend
13 this specifically for Saratoga Springs,
14 but obviously for -- for the entire
15 state should that be their -- their
16 desire. And as such, I'd like to -- to
17 move to authorize the mayor to sign and
18 send a letter to Governor Hochul and
19 our legislative leaders regarding
20 extension of outdoor dining.

21 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

23 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
24 favor? Aye.

25 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

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1 MAYOR KIM: Opposed?

2 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I'm sorry

3 (indiscernible) was an aye.

4 MAYOR KIM: Aye. Thank you,

5 Commissioner Sanghvi. Abstentions?

6 Motion carries.

7 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Great. Sixth

8 item on my agenda this evening is

9 discussion and vote approval of a

10 resolution to appoint a Marriage

11 Officer. Former Mayor Micheal Lenz has

12 requested from the city government the

13 ability to officiate an upcoming

14 marriage and that is one of the

15 assignments that we can do as a City

16 Council, and so what I would like to do

17 is bring forward a resolution, and I'll

18 read that for you. The resolution of

19 the City Council, the City of Saratoga

20 Springs, New York, (indiscernible)

21 resolved by the City Council of the

22 City of Saratoga Springs, New York as

23 follows. Whereas section 11-C of the

24 New York Domestic Relations Law gives

25 the governing body of any village,

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town, or city the authority to appoint
2 one of -- one or more marriage officers
3 who shall have the authority to
4 solemnize -- solemnize marriage within
5 the territory of the municipality for
6 which makes the appointment. Now
7 therefore be it resolved as follows.
8 One, pursuant to domestic relation law
9 11-C. This City Council hereby
10 appoints Michael Lenz, a resident of
11 Saratoga Springs and former Saratoga
12 Springs mayor, to be marriage officer.
13 Number two, the term of Mr. Lenz's
14 appointment shall be from May 1st
15 through May 31, 2022. And number
16 three, Mr. Lenz shall receive no
17 compensation from the City of Saratoga
18 Springs. I move to adopt the marriage
19 resolution as included with the agenda.

20 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

21 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

22 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All in
23 favor? Aye.

24 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

25 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

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Motion carries.

1
2 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Great. Thank
3 you, Mr. Mayor. Seventh item on my
4 agenda is an announcement. Many of you
5 may know I'm Irish, and I'm very proud
6 of my heritage, but I'm also very --
7 very proud of our city, and our small
8 businesses. It just so happens that
9 coinciding with this week, which is
10 obviously a celebratory moment for
11 myself and my family, but St. Patrick's
12 Day is coming up on Thursday. I'm very
13 proud to recognize the two following
14 businesses. Celtic Treasures, has been
15 a member of our business community, and
16 it's just recently celebrated their
17 30th anniversary in business. Given
18 everything that faces a small
19 businessman these days, 30 years is
20 just absolutely incredible, and I would
21 just like to personally congratulate
22 them, and we're going to be preparing a
23 proposition or rather formal
24 recognition that I'm going to be
25 delivering with Mayor Kim on -- on St.

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Patrick's Day, and we're going to
2 arrange that time with the folks at
3 Celtic Treasures. In addition, we have
4 a 41-year-old business that is also
5 celebrating its -- its anniversary, and
6 that would be parting glass, one of the
7 oldest Irish pubs around widely
8 recognized as -- as one of the
9 institutions of this city. And again,
10 the restaurant and bar industry is a
11 very -- very difficult animal, and to
12 exist for 41 years, within this city,
13 you must be doing something correct.
14 And so again, I -- I celebrate and I
15 congratulate the Desadore (ph.) family
16 on -- on everything that they have done
17 with the facility and for the town and
18 congratulate them on 40 years -- of 41
19 years of business. And again, we will
20 be formally recognizing that with them
21 on St. Patrick's Day, and I look
22 forward to doing so. Last item on my
23 agenda is just a COVID update.
24 Obviously, Commissioner -- rather,
25 Supervisor Gaston has shared with us

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the -- the current trends. And -- and
2 obviously, things are looking very
3 positive, and that's very encouraging.
4 We still are actively engaged in
5 providing testing supplies to the
6 community. We continue to pass out
7 those supplies through our fire
8 department, and again, I appreciate
9 their support in this effort. We over
10 the past two weeks have distributed
11 about 1,500 tests. We're down to about
12 3,500 on hand. 3,400 and again, we're
13 happy to support any large gatherings,
14 group organized activities where you're
15 just looking to, again, start to use
16 these tests as a tool for ourselves to
17 make sure that we're safe and we keep
18 those around us safe as well. And that
19 is the end of my agenda. Thank you so
20 much, sir.

21 MAYOR KIM: Thank you,
22 Commissioner Moran. Next, we're going
23 to move on to the finance department.
24 And Commissioner Sanghvi is on Zoom,
25 but she's asked me to just present her

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agenda, which I'm happy to do. The
2 first item discussion and vote
3 authorization for the mayor to sign
4 agreement with Mindcentric for Zimbra
5 Networking Project has been removed
6 from the finance agenda, so we'll move
7 on to Commissioner Sanghvi's second
8 item. Is a discussion and vote, a
9 budget transfer to -- in the payroll
10 department. Lines one and three,
11 transfer funds to the DPS sick leave
12 appropriation from data processing
13 serving contracts in the amount of
14 \$422.69 to cover -- to cover a sick
15 leave payout. Second transfer is lines
16 four through five, transfer funds to
17 (indiscernible) labor appropriations
18 from electrician in the amount of
19 \$70,000 to cover laborers who can
20 assist with electrical work. This is -
21 - so I'm moved that the City Council
22 approved the budget transfers-payroll
23 as included with the agenda, and this
24 is a motion. Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second

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1 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All

2 in favor. Aye.

3 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

5 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

6 Motion carries. And that completes

7 Commissioner Sanghvi's finance

8 department agenda. We'll now move on

9 to the Public Works Department.

10 Commissioner Scirocco is not available

11 tonight, so I'm going to be doing his

12 agenda. The first item is a discussion

13 and vote to approve and adopt the 2022

14 water and sewer rate resolutions.

15 There was a public hearing earlier.

16 There were no comments. The -- but

17 just to explain what Commissioner

18 Scirocco is proposing. The water and

19 sewer rates resolutions establish the

20 rates and fees charged to water and

21 sewer customers to support each

22 respective budget, so we have both a

23 water and a sewer budget. Both of

24 these budgets are completely user

25 supported and have staff assigned to

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perform work to deliver water and sewer
2 services. For 2022, the adopted water
3 budget is \$4,446,000, and the adopted
4 sewer budget is \$5,188,000. The
5 proposed resolutions are designed to
6 raise the revenue necessary to meet
7 expenditures. So let's first go to the
8 water budget. Starting with that, the
9 budget is in a healthy financial
10 position as water sales continue to
11 meet or exceed projections. As a
12 result, the only increases proposed to
13 the 2022 water rates resolution are to
14 the capital improvement fee. This fee
15 pays for all the capital projects
16 undertaken by the Department of Public
17 Works to improve the water distribution
18 system. Two examples of these capital
19 improvements are the nearly completed
20 2.5 million raw water intake
21 improvement projects at the treatment
22 plant, and the water pipe improvement
23 project that will commence this spring,
24 and that will cost approximately \$2.1
25 million. The debt service related to

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capital projects has increased and to
2 match these costs, the capital
3 improvement fee must be increased. The
4 proposed quarterly increase is \$5 for
5 residential customers, \$15 for
6 commercial customers, and \$50 for
7 industrial customers. No other
8 increases or changes are proposed for
9 the water rates resolution for 2022.
10 Now, let's move to sewer -- the sewer
11 budget is in a less healthy position
12 due to the Saratoga County Sewer
13 District charges that are imposed to
14 the city. These charges are the costs
15 associated with sending our wastewater
16 to the county sewer, and they equate to
17 72 percent of the overall sewer budget.
18 For 2022, the county sewer budgets --
19 county sewer charges are budgeted at
20 \$3.7 million, which is a significant
21 increase over the last six years. From
22 2016 to 2020, the sewer charges
23 increased by \$1.8 million, resulting in
24 a plan use of unassigned sewer fund
25 balance to meet the gradual increase in

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rates and charges to prevent passing a
2 huge burden on to the water and sewer
3 customers. COVID has provided some
4 relief on the overall charges in 2021
5 and 22 with no additional county sewer
6 increases. As a result of the prior
7 increases, the 2022 sewer rates and the
8 basic service charge must be increased
9 to accomplish two goals. One, ensure
10 that revenues will meet planned
11 expenses, and to build -- and two to
12 build back the sewer fund balance. In
13 addition, preliminary information from
14 the County Sewer District indicates
15 potential increases in 2023, so we're
16 planning for this likelihood for the
17 next budget as well. The rates will be
18 increased by three, five and seven
19 percent based on usage. The sewer
20 basic service charges will also be
21 increased by \$5 for all customers. In
22 addition to make up for a small
23 shortfall in the capital debt -- debt
24 service, there'll be a \$5 and \$10
25 quarterly increase in the capital

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improvement fee for commercial and
2 industrial customers, so to summarize,
3 the impacts of both the sewer and --
4 water and sewer increases will be the
5 following. A customer that uses the
6 base amount of water or 2,000 cubic
7 feet per quarter will see their total
8 water and sewer bill increase by \$11.40
9 per quarter. While an average user of
10 3,500 cubic feet per quarter will see
11 their total bill increased by \$13.05
12 per quarter. These increases represent
13 both the investment by the city into
14 our water distribution infrastructure
15 and expenses associated with sending
16 our wastewater to the County Sewer and
17 their charges, which are outside of
18 DPW's control. DPW and the utilities
19 pharma (ph.) will continue working to
20 identify cost saving measures for both
21 budgets to maintain expenses, while
22 also looking at ways to -- to build for
23 sewer customers, to capture the
24 (indiscernible) cost coming from the
25 County Sewer District, so to summarize

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this resolution, the only increase for
2 the 2022 water -- water rate is an
3 increase for the capital improvement
4 fee. This will result in a per quarter
5 increase of \$5 for residential
6 customers, \$15 for commercial
7 customers, and \$50 for industrial
8 customers. The sewer rates resolution
9 as previously noted has more changes to
10 account for the county Sewer -- sewer
11 charges, and sewer fund balance
12 considerations. Rates will be
13 increased by three, five, and seven
14 percent based on usage. The basic
15 service charge will increase by \$5 for
16 all accounts and the capital
17 improvement fee will increase by \$5 for
18 commercial customers and \$10 for
19 industrial customers. These charges
20 amount to \$11.40 per quarter increase
21 on the base bill, and for an average
22 water user a total of \$13.05 per
23 quarter. Majority of residential
24 customers will fall in this range. So
25 I move for approval -- so I move the

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City Council to approve the 2022 water
2 and sewer rate resolutions as proposed,
3 and I'm putting that in a form of a
4 motion. Is there a second?

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

6 MAYOR KIM: Is there any
7 discussion on the Department of Public
8 Works proposed water and sewer rates
9 for 2022? No discussion, I will -- all
10 in favor?

11 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: aye.

13 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

14 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
15 Motion carries. Thank you. The next
16 item is a discussion in both
17 authorization for the mayor to sign a
18 contract with Navistar Incorporated for
19 heavy duty Class 4 and Class 8 trucks.
20 The Approved 2022 capital budget
21 includes funds for the purchase of
22 heavy duty equipment for use by the
23 Department of Public Works. This
24 contract with Navistar AKA HL Gage
25 Sales out of Loudonville New York is a

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piggyback off of Onondaga County for
2 heavy duty Class 4, 7 and Class 8
3 equipment. The contracts are
4 respectively ONDOV-60 0619 and contract
5 8996. The Onondaga County contract
6 satisfies the bidding requirements of
7 the city's purchasing policy. This
8 contract with Navistar will allow for
9 the purchase of international heavy
10 duty trucks with dump bodies from body
11 vendors as identified in the Onondaga
12 contracts. This includes for 2024
13 International dump trucks with Viking-
14 Cives, snowplows as identified on the
15 certification of bids. I move for the
16 mayor to sign a contract with Navistar
17 Incorporated for heavy duty Class 4-7
18 and Class 8 heavy duty trucks with dump
19 bodies and Viking-Cive equipment valid
20 until December 31, 2023, in the amount
21 not to exceed unit bid price. Is there
22 a second?

23 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

24 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion on the
25 motion? All in favor.

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1 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

3 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

4 Motion carries. The third item on the
5 Public Works Department is
6 authorization for the mayor to sign a
7 contract with ambient environmental for
8 hazardous materials testing and
9 monitoring services. This is agreement
10 with ambient environmental of Albany,
11 New York, and it's for environmental
12 testing and monitoring. This is a
13 professional service contract to retain
14 ambient on an add needed basis. They
15 were selected based on the best value
16 complying with the conditions of eRFP.
17 These professional services include
18 hazardous materials testing and
19 monitoring, development of plans,
20 project monitoring, sampling,
21 laboratory services, clearance and
22 reporting. During a project, DPW will
23 often come across an unidentified
24 material that must be tested for lead,
25 asbestos or mold. Having the Services

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approved in advance saves time and

keeps the project on schedule.

Immediate environmental is a licensed
and certified as required by the New
York State Department of Labor and EPA.

I move for the mayor to sign a contract
with the ambient environmental for
hazardous material testing and
monitoring services valid until March
30 -- March 3, 2023, in the amount not
to exceed unit bid prices. Is there a
second?

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All
in favor?

COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.
Motion carries. Excuse me. The fourth
item on the Department of Public Works
agenda is a discussion and vote
authorization for the mayor to sign a
contract with DeNooyer Chevrolet for
Chevrolet vehicles. This is a contract

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with DeNooyer Chevrolet for the
2 purchase of a Chevy Silverado 3500 HD
3 regular cab pickup truck. This pickup
4 truck will be utilized in support of
5 the streets and highways departments as
6 -- as it was budgeted in the 2022
7 budget. The last pickup truck that was
8 purchased with funds included in the
9 operating budget was two years ago in
10 2020. I move for the mayor to sign a
11 contract with DeNooyer Chevrolet for --
12 for Chevrolet vehicles valid until
13 April 29, 2022, and the amount not to
14 exceed unit bid prices. Is there a
15 second on the motion?

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

17 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All
18 in favor?

19 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

20 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

21 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?
22 Motion carries. The fifth item is a
23 discussion and vote-approval to adopt
24 Department of Public Works contractual
25 template updates. The DPW contract

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templates for the Canfield Casino,
2 Congress Park Carousel, High Rock Park
3 and the Music Hall have been updated
4 and are being brought to the Council
5 for approval. All five rental
6 agreements were in need of revision.
7 They now have cohesiveness and detailed
8 information on the products and
9 services offered with each rental.
10 They also include general revisions. A
11 specific update was made for the casino
12 agreement adding the new Chiavari
13 chairs that are now available to be
14 rented for \$7 each. So I move for
15 approval to adopt Department of Public
16 Works contractual template updates.
17 That's -- is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

19 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? I
20 will just say as a -- as a father of a
21 soon to be married daughter, I know
22 what chivari chairs are, and I got to
23 tell you, I'm not sure that we're seven
24 bucks but God bless us if we're -- were
25 going to get that. Any event. Any

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1 other discussion? All in favor?

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye --

3 aye.

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

6 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.

7 Motion carries. The next item is
8 discussion and vote-approval to
9 reimburse Victoria Garlanda for Spirit
10 of Life plaque. This is a very
11 interesting story. This is a
12 reimbursement for a Spirit of Life
13 Plaque in the amount of \$450. This
14 plaque is one of two antique
15 directional plaques for the Spirit of
16 Life in Congress Park. It went missing
17 some time ago and Mrs. Garland --
18 Garlanda found it at an auction being
19 sold by Blue Moon Antiques and she
20 bought it. She contacted the DPW
21 office and was approved and -- and -- I
22 explained she had purchased it and
23 wanted to -- had purchased on behalf of
24 the city. And now if -- when we
25 reimburse her, we'll be able to restore

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1 this plaque to his proper place in
2 Congress Park, so we'll return it to
3 its home. So I move for approval to
4 reimburse Victoria Garlanda for a
5 Spirit of Plaque -- Spirit of Life
6 Plaque in the amount of 450. Is there
7 a second?

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

9 THE COURT: Any discussion?

10 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: I think
11 it's an incredible story.

12 MAYOR KIM: Yeah, it's -- it's --
13 it's neat. All in favor?

14 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

15 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

16 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

17 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.
18 Motion carries. The final item on a
19 public works agenda is the announcement
20 that they have published their 2021
21 Department of Public Works annual
22 report as required by charter. This is
23 submitted to the council and will be on
24 file with the Commissioner accounts in
25 his department. It'll also be on the

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website. Some highlights of the report
2 include the paving in the last year of
3 24 Street or street sections totaling
4 an investment into our roads of 800 --
5 more than \$800,000. The Seward Street
6 Drainage Project was -- which was
7 completed in house for \$74,000 and
8 saved the taxpayers over a half a
9 million dollars from engineer's
10 estimates and the investment of \$2.5
11 million into the raw water intake at
12 the water treatment plant. These
13 projects along with a routine
14 responsibilities of DPW are outlined in
15 the report. I recommend everyone
16 taking a look at this, and just make a
17 comment. These are -- are 24/7, 365
18 day employees, and, you know, if anyone
19 noticed in the last couple snowstorms,
20 they've done a heck of a job getting
21 out there and making sure that we're
22 all safe. So I know that we all
23 appreciate that effort. That includes
24 the Public Works agenda, unless Joan
25 and Neal (indiscernible), I don't know

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if there's anything that I've missed or
2 butchered or did anything. All set?

3 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
4 you -- thank you.

5 MAYOR KIM: Thank you. We'll move
6 on to the Public Safety Department and
7 Commissioner Montagnino.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Thank
9 you, Mr. Kim. First item on the agenda
10 is a discussion and vote for an
11 authorization for the mayor to sign a
12 contract with Dr. Jason Bernad as
13 medical director. Dr. Bernad has a
14 number of responsibilities, most of
15 which focus on the fire department. He
16 provides medical oversight of the
17 Quality Management Program, medical
18 oversight and participation in
19 education and training of emergency
20 medical technicians and paramedics.
21 Overall supervision of out of hospital
22 patient care activities, direct
23 supervision of these activities from
24 time to time. He assisted department
25 in establishing standard operating

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2 procedures. He assists the management
3 of the city's public access
4 defibrillation program, and he assists
5 in the development of patient care and
6 treatment protocols and transportation
7 protocols all for the sum of \$10,000
8 per year. I put this in the form of a
9 motion to authorize the mayor to sign a
10 contract with Dr. Bernad as medical
11 director.

11 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second.

14 MAYOR KIM: Is there any
15 discussion on the motion? All in
16 favor?

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

18 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

19 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Aye.

20 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

21 Motion carries.

22 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Second
23 item on the agenda is discussion and
24 vote to authorize the mayor to sign a
25 contract with Metro Ford for the

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purchase of three police cars at a
2 price of \$33,000 approximately, each
3 for a total of \$100,000. Please note
4 that this is not equipped these are the
5 base models. They have to be
6 subsequently equipped with the lights
7 and sirens and cages etcetera. This
8 was tabled from a previous city council
9 meeting. I wanted to investigate to
10 confirm in fact that the -- these
11 purchases were adequately bid out, and
12 I can state for the record that there
13 is a Statewide program that pre-
14 certifies bidders on law enforcement
15 vehicles. And there is a mini bid
16 process through which there were five
17 separate bids elicited and the bid with
18 Metro Ford was the -- the lowest
19 responsive and responsible bid.
20 Therefore, I make a -- put this in the
21 form of a motion to authorize the mayor
22 to sign a contract with Metro Ford for
23 the purchase of three police cars at a
24 total price of approximately \$100,000.

25 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

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1 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All

3 in favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye --

6 aye.

7 MAYOR KIM: Any -- any opposition?

8 Abstentions. Motion carries.

9 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Third

10 item on the agenda is discussion and

11 vote for approval to pay an invoice to

12 Axon Industries in the amount of

13 \$259,451.92. This item was also tabled

14 from a previous city council meeting so

15 that I could investigate the matter

16 further. And I want to report to the

17 public that in December of 2021 the

18 outgoing City Council approved a 10

19 year \$2.5 million contract with Axon

20 Industries. Axon Industries provides

21 electronic services for the police

22 department that range from cloud

23 storage of data from surveillance tapes

24 to tasers, to surveillance cameras, to

25 officers body cameras and -- and --

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excuse me, other digital services. The
2 contract itself while it is a 10 year
3 contract does have what I would refer
4 to as an escape clause that would allow
5 the City Council on 90 days' notice to
6 terminate the contract should they
7 decide not to fund it any further at
8 the end of any fiscal year. In as much
9 as the contract was already signed last
10 year, and in as much as I cannot report
11 any dissatisfaction, you know, in --
12 with any specifics as to the terms of
13 the contract and the services provided,
14 at this time, I would make a motion to
15 approve to pay the invoice to Axon for
16 calendar year 2022 in the amount of
17 \$259,451.92.

18 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

19 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

20 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion on the
21 motion?

22 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Commissioner,
23 when -- how does that 90 day -- will we
24 have to notify them prior to the end of
25 let's say 2022 if we elected to make a

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
change for 2023?

2 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes,
3 they have to be given 90 days' notice
4 and the contract would terminate at the
5 end of the fiscal year.

6 COMMISSIONER MORAN: But we have
7 to give 90 days prior to that date?

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Yes --
9 yes, sir.

10 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you.

11 MAYOR KIM: Any other discussion?

12 All in favor?

13 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

14 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

15 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.

16 Motion carries.

17 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Fourth
18 item on the agenda is a discussion and
19 vote for a Patrol Division increase
20 initiative phase one. By way of
21 background, I -- I would like to point
22 out at some facts relating to an
23 incident that many of us are already --
24 already aware of. In the early morning
25 hours of March 5th, there was a

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situation in which an individual was
2 arrested and found to be in possession
3 of a loaded nine millimeter handgun
4 that contained an illegal clip that
5 held 13 live rounds of ammunition. The
6 circumstances under which the seizure
7 of that weapon occurred, involved some
8 of the most remarkable police work that
9 the city has seen. The sergeant in
10 charge that night had information from
11 a witness that a particular individual
12 had been involved in a fight in one of
13 the bars in town and had stated to
14 someone that he was going to return to
15 shoot the place up. Sergeant was given
16 a brief description of the vehicle in
17 which that individual was driving and
18 happened to note that it had
19 Mississippi license plates. The
20 sergeant knew at that point that a car
21 with Mississippi plates had been pulled
22 over on the corner of spring and
23 circular because the driver was driving
24 erratically and without headlights.
25 And the sergeant, in -- in the words of

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
the bar owner, peeled out and raced
2 over there. He was able to signal to
3 the officers at the scene that there
4 was a possible weapon in -- in the
5 possession of the driver or in -- in
6 the driver's car. The weapon was
7 recovered without incident. The driver
8 was arrested without incident. The
9 driver has a previous violent felony
10 conviction from the State of
11 Mississippi and is being currently held
12 in lieu of \$30,000 cash bail. I point
13 this out because the -- on the -- on
14 the ground police work that resulted in
15 this arrest prevented what I believe
16 would likely have been a mass shooting.
17 Not only the witness who related the
18 information to the sergeant on the
19 scene, gave that information about the
20 individual's intentions as he stated,
21 but there was another witness who was
22 arrested at the time with the defendant
23 who told the police that the defendant
24 had given that same information to her,
25 that it was this individual's intention

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
to return to the scene where he had had
2 a fight with another patron and -- and
3 settle the score. We have a remarkably
4 safe city, and the safety of this city
5 depends in large part on the skill, the
6 training and the number of uniformed
7 police officers who are doing their
8 jobs day in and day out on the street.
9 Today also on the agenda is the -- is
10 the publication of the 2021 report of
11 the Department of Public Safety which
12 demonstrates categorically that our
13 city is as safe as it has ever been.
14 There is no statistically significant
15 increase in crime over the last few
16 years, and that while there has been a
17 lot of coverage of certain incidents,
18 the total number of crimes and the
19 total types of crimes have not changed
20 to any significant degree from one year
21 to the next. We anticipate and hope
22 that this will be the busiest summer
23 season that the city has ever seen, and
24 we need as many police officers as
25 possible to be available to keep the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
city safe, to make people feel safe in
2 our city, to attract people to come to
3 the city and enjoy themselves as much
4 as they can. This is the -- the
5 underlying basis of the patrol division
6 increase initiative. Second basis is
7 the fact that, I'm now in my third
8 month as a Public Safety Commissioner.
9 My deputy, Jason Tetu retired a few
10 months ago from the Saratoga Springs
11 Police Department. He brings 25 plus
12 years of service and knowledge of the
13 force to bear in the Department of
14 Public Safety. We have discovered
15 that, based in part upon certain
16 memoranda of agreement that were signed
17 by a previous administration in
18 December of the past year, that 40
19 percent, approximately, of the sworn
20 officers in the Saratoga Springs Police
21 Department do not work weekends. That
22 40 percent of the sworn officers in the
23 Saratoga Springs Police Department
24 basically do not leave City Hall. That
25 is to say that they're -- they are not

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working on the street, and in addition,
2 despite the fact that we are a weekend
3 town, that most of the activity in the
4 city occurs on weekends, that most of
5 the -- or much of the crime that --
6 that occurs that involves visitors to
7 the city occurs on the weekend despite
8 all of that, not one sworn officer
9 above the rank of sergeant is on duty
10 in the city on Saturday or Sunday
11 without being called in specially for
12 the purpose. In addition -- or strike
13 that, please The Patrol Division
14 increase initiative is a multi-phase
15 program that's intended to get as many
16 police officers on the street in the
17 places and at the times where they're
18 most needed, and to decrease the amount
19 of duplicative effort and the amount of
20 unnecessary bureaucracy that may
21 currently exist. So phase one involves
22 the redirection of the funds that are
23 currently used for the Assistant Chief
24 of Police, to remove those funds from
25 that position and redirect them to fund

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
a sergeants position. There are
2 currently three open sergeants position
3 on the force, and remaining funds can
4 be also directed for an additional
5 patrol officer. I'm proud to say that
6 in January, two new patrol officers
7 graduated the police academy, and in
8 July, we hope to have seven additional
9 graduates of the academy ready and
10 willing to join the force as trainee
11 officers prior to the beginning of
12 track season. The reason that phase
13 one is focused on the position of
14 assistant chief is that we have seen
15 historically and to the present, that
16 the Chief of Police and Assistant Chief
17 of Police are among those people who
18 work Monday to Friday, their collective
19 bargaining agreements do not involve
20 weekend work. Their jobs are basically
21 duplicative of one another. The job
22 descriptions go on for pages and
23 basically mirror one another. This is
24 not only an unnecessary duplication of
25 responsibilities, but it leads

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frequently to situations in which there
2 are miscommunications and misdirection.
3 I only briefly will mention the
4 situation that occurred on June 28th of
5 2021, where the then Assistant Chief at
6 a press conference made statements that
7 were contrary to the spirit of the
8 Saratoga Springs police department and
9 which statements we all know, had a
10 significant deleterious impact on the
11 department and on the city as a whole.
12 My administration has hoped to be
13 founded on accountability and
14 transparency, and I do not believe that
15 the Saratoga Springs Police Department
16 can be adequately accountable and
17 transparent, where layers of leadership
18 are duplicated. We have an excellent
19 police chief with many years of
20 experience in policing and years of
21 experience as Chief. I am -- I firmly
22 believe that he is capable of guiding
23 the department for the future and
24 believe that the funds that are
25 currently used to fund the Assistant

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1 Chief are much better redirected toward
2 the patrol division. So for that
3 reason, I placed this in the form of a
4 motion that the funds that are
5 currently dedicated to the position of
6 assistant chief be terminated as of
7 April 8th, the close of business, which
8 is to pay periods out and redirected to
9 the patrol division. It's anticipated
10 that the Assistant Chief under the
11 civil service law will exercise his
12 right to return as a lieutenant that
13 will then displace the least senior
14 lieutenant and bring him down to the
15 level of Sergeant, which will fill one
16 of the three open sergeants positions,
17 and there would be additional funds
18 available to fund an additional patrol
19 officer. So I make this in the form of
20 a motion.

21 MAYOR KIM: I'll second the
22 motion. And ask -- any discussion.

23 COMMISSIONER MORAN: My comment,
24 Commissioner, is when I was
25 Commissioner of Public Safety, this was

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sort of imposed upon me. The -- then
2 Commissioner of Finance, created this
3 fiscal crisis and said we had to get
4 rid of, I think it was six or so, I
5 think the original proposal was like
6 nine police officers. This is back in
7 2009 is the last budget I participated
8 in. And I always felt that the most
9 important thing for the safety of this
10 community was to make sure their patrol
11 officers and sergeants and the like are
12 on the streets and I -- I never felt
13 like the chief -- the then chief
14 (indiscernible) got as much credit as
15 he should have. He actually retired
16 early to prevent more layoffs than --
17 that -- eventually happened, so I -- I
18 think in the end, by this time I had
19 left office because I -- I didn't run
20 for reelection. I was -- and he -- and
21 -- and so he retired early and -- and
22 ultimately, I think only four patrol
23 officers was down from the original
24 number where -- were laid off might
25 have even been less, because he

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
recognized that, you know, for every
2 higher paid position in the department,
3 you had -- you -- you could -- you
4 could afford a lot more patrol
5 officers. And -- and I -- and as I
6 said, I never thought he got the credit
7 for it. I thought it was -- he sort of
8 fell on a sword, so to speak, was
9 really a selfless act, and -- and
10 really -- I -- save the day in terms of
11 what was eventually cut. This is many
12 years ago, we're in a different
13 environment, but we -- we -- we do need
14 officers on the streets. We need those
15 soldiers on the streets, so I commend
16 you for doing this. I think it's
17 always a tough decision. Personnel
18 issues are difficult, but, you know,
19 it's -- it's part of the part of the --
20 part -- part of, you know, why -- why
21 you're in this position is to lead, so
22 I commend you for it.

23 MAYOR KIM: Any other comments?

24 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: Can we
25 please make sure that there's a budget

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
to transport that has (indiscernible)?

2 MAYOR KIM: Commissioner Sanghvi,
3 could you repeat what you said? I
4 don't know if anybody got it.

5 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI: I just want
6 to make sure there's a budget transfer
7 that's also submitted to go with this
8 (indiscernible). We want to make sure
9 of that.

10 MAYOR KIM: If -- if -- if it's on
11 April 8th, effective, don't you have to
12 do the -- can you do the budget
13 transfer later for the next city
14 council meeting? I guess that's a
15 question. Oh, next City -- City
16 Council meetings' on April 5th, so can
17 -- so can Commissioner Sanghvi, can we
18 do the budget transfer then?

19 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI:
20 (Indiscernible) check with my budget.
21 I'll have to check with the budget
22 director on that.

23 MAYOR KIM: Okay.

24 COMMISSIONER SANGHVI:
25 (Indiscernible) budget transfer at the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
next meeting for -- for a vote.

2 MAYOR KIM: Any other discussion?

3 Comments? All in favor?

4 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

5 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

6 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.

7 Motion carries.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
9 number five on the agenda discussion
10 and vote authorization for the mayor to
11 sign a memorandum of agreement with the
12 Saratoga Springs Firefighters Union
13 Local 343. This particular memorandum
14 of agreement, in draft form, has been
15 circulating for some time. It deals
16 specifically with the question of the
17 compensation of firefighters who come
18 to the City of Saratoga Springs as
19 lateral transfers from other full time
20 paid fire departments. At present,
21 about a week ago, we were pleased to
22 provisionally appoint Michael Welch
23 (ph.), who has seven years of
24 experience in the Amsterdam Fire
25 Department as a lateral transfer.

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1 Under the current rules, he would
2 ordinarily have to begin his service
3 for the Saratoga Springs Fire
4 Department at the entry level salary,
5 which is hideously unfair to
6 firefighter Welch, and unfair to
7 everyone because the city would be
8 getting a seven year veteran who's
9 already been trained who already has
10 seven years of experience without just
11 compensation. And the memorandum of
12 understanding that's on the table for
13 discussion and vote right now would
14 recognize one for one, the years of
15 service of a lateral transferee for his
16 or her service in a full time capacity
17 as a paid firefighter in another
18 jurisdiction in New York, with two
19 notable exceptions. First, seniority
20 for the purpose of bidding for
21 vacations and for advancement would not
22 be affected. A lateral transferee
23 would begin at stage one. And
24 secondly, the policy by which after 15
25 years of full time uninterrupted

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service a firefighter is eligible for
2 lifetime health insurance would also
3 not be affected so that every lateral
4 transferee would have to serve 15 full
5 consecutive years with the Saratoga
6 Springs Fire Department in order to be
7 eligible for the health insurance
8 benefit, the -- the continued health
9 insurance benefit. Therefore, this
10 memorandum of understanding is limited
11 exclusively to the question of salary,
12 and it provides a pay parity one year
13 for one year for the prior service of
14 the lateral transferee. It's an
15 important matter not only for
16 firefighter Welsh, but also because we
17 are in the process of seeking to staff
18 the third fire station, because all of
19 our firefighters are also paramedics
20 the total length of training required
21 for someone coming in at the ground
22 floor is 14 months. And the
23 firefighter's exam is this Saturday.
24 It takes two to three months for that
25 exam to be graded and for the list to

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1 be certified, and so it would take
2 approximately a year and a half for a
3 rookie, to go from the exam to the
4 status of firefighter slash paramedic.
5 So the ability of the city of Saratoga
6 Springs to attract qualified lateral
7 transferees is extremely important at
8 this stage. And for that reason, I put
9 it for -- in the form of a motion for a
10 vote.

11 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I'll second
13 that.

14 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER MORAN: I just want
16 to congratulate you on recognizing this
17 inequity and -- and bringing this
18 motion forward, Commissioner. I think
19 we all understand the challenge in
20 front of us as it relates to staffing
21 the third fire station. It's essential
22 and it's -- and it's really, obviously,
23 not acceptable to look at an 18 month
24 gap as it relates to staffing that
25 station, so being able to have a mix of

Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
1 new and seasoned firefighters I think

2 is to everyone's benefit, so thank you.

3 MAYOR KIM: Any other discussion?

4 All in favor?

5 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Aye.

6 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

7 MAYOR KIM: Aye.

8 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

9 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions?

10 Motion carries.

11 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
12 number six, discussion and vote
13 authorization for the mayor to sign a
14 contract extension with the New York
15 State Office of General Services for
16 Fire Station Number 3 construction
17 inspection requirements. This is a
18 relatively straightforward ministerial
19 matter. The existing contract was
20 signed some time ago. Since Station
21 Number 3 will be located on land, that
22 is owned by New York State, there are
23 certain ongoing requirements with
24 regard to inspections and compliance
25 with certain state regulations, the

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
existing contract is satisfactory but
2 for the fact that it will expire very
3 soon and needs to be extended in order
4 for its protections and its rights and
5 privileges to continue. So I put this
6 in the form of a motion to authorize
7 the mayor to sign the contract
8 extension.

9 MAYOR KIM: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Second.

11 MAYOR KIM: Any discussion? All
12 in favor? Aye.

13 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Aye.

14 MAYOR KIM: Opposed? Abstentions.
15 Motion carries.

16 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Item
17 number seven discussion and vote on the
18 Caroline Street traffic control. This
19 matter was adjourned earlier to the
20 April 5th meeting. Item number eight
21 is an announcement that the 2021
22 Department of Public Safety annual
23 report is published on the City's
24 website and will be submitted to the
25 Commissioner of accounts for filing in

1 Saratoga Springs City Council Meeting
his role as city clerk. I don't want
2 to take much time this evening since we
3 are running late. I will say that the
4 annual report underscores the high
5 level of quality that we have both in
6 our fire department and in our police
7 department. It gives a breakdown on
8 the number of calls for service in both
9 departments as well and shows how our
10 resources are carefully being shepherd
11 -- shepherded and allocated. I do want
12 to make one note, and that is that as
13 far back as 2004 -- excuse me, the city
14 charter mandated that the Commissioner
15 of Public Safety in conjunction with
16 the chief of police provide the city
17 council with a plan for the
18 accreditation of the Saratoga Springs
19 police department. To my knowledge,
20 the only Commissioner of Public Safety
21 in the last 18 years to have complied
22 with that mandate of the charter is Ron
23 Kim, who had a detailed plan for a
24 crediting and improving the police
25 department back some --

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1 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Well, I
2 didn't it, though. I -- I -- I -- that
3 was Chief Moore, so --

4 COMMISSIONER MONTAGNINO: Okay.
5 But it -- it certainly was done under -
6 - under your administration. I
7 appreciate that you're -- you're giving
8 credit where credit is due. At -- at
9 present, however, despite the passage
10 of 18 years, the Saratoga Springs
11 Police Department is not yet
12 accredited, and there -- there is no
13 plan yet in place. It's our firm
14 intention to change that and to bring
15 us into a parody in terms of the level
16 of quality of a police department as
17 it's shared by most of the larger
18 police departments in this area. Just
19 by way of example, Schenectady, Albany
20 and Troy Police Departments are all
21 state accredited. The Saratoga County
22 Sheriff's Department is state
23 accredited, as are the sheriff's
24 departments of Warren and Washington
25 counties as well. And so it's

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mentioned in passing in the 2021 annual
2 report, and for 2022, we hope to have
3 in place a detailed plan for getting
4 accreditation. That completes the
5 agenda for the Department of Public
6 Safety.

7 MAYOR KIM: Thank you,
8 Commissioner Montagnino. Is there any
9 other matters for the City Council?
10 Hearing none. I'll adjourn and we're
11 back April 5th. Thank you.

12 COMMISSIONER MORAN: Thank you.

13 (End of audio)

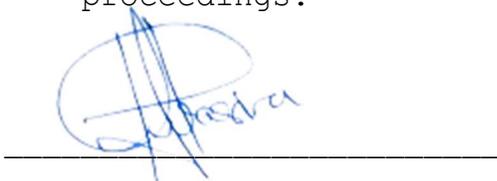
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CERTIFICATION

I, Hector Solomon, certify that
the foregoing transcript is a
true and accurate record of the
proceedings.



Hector Solomon

ANP Transcriptions
405 WEST 7TH STREET #507
CHARLOTTE, NC 28202

Date: February 10, 2022

Approved: 5/3/2022

Vote: 4 - 0

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