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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING

March 16, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

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



1 MAYOR KELLY: Good evening. Welcome
2 to city council meeting for Tuesday,
3 March 16th. It is 6:55.

4 We have one public hearing on the
5 schedule for tonight, and that is the
6 2021 water and sewer resolution. And
7 I'll turn it over to Commissioner
8 Scirocco.

9 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
10 Mayor.

11 As you stated, this is the 2021
12 water and sewer resolution public
13 hearing. The water resolution for 2021
14 includes no changes from 2020 resolution.
15 There are no rate or fee increases for
16 water customers in 2021.

17 However, the sewer resolution for
18 2021 includes an increase of four dollars
19 on the basic service charge for all
20 customers. This is the only
21 increase -- -- this is the only increase
22 included for sewer customers in 2021 and
23 is a result of sewer charge increases
24 from the Saratoga County Sewer District
25 over the last five years. These county



1 increases have been outlined for the
2 council and public previously and are
3 described each year when the resolutions
4 are passed.

5 To provide further information on
6 the county sewer charges, from 2016 to
7 2020 the county charges to the city
8 increased forty-three percent from 2.7
9 million to 3.9 million. During the same
10 period, the city portion of the sewer
11 budget grew by only four percent. While
12 we have maintained our costs, the county
13 charges are outside of the city's control
14 and are determined by the Saratoga County
15 Sewer Commission.

16 To account for this significant
17 increase from the county, sewer rates
18 have been incrementally increased and
19 fund balance was used to cover deficits.
20 Instead of passing a forty-three percent
21 increase onto water customers, a gradual
22 increase has been planned. There will be
23 some relief for the county sewer charges
24 in 2021 as they decrease their charges by
25 approximately 300,000. Saratoga County



1 has provided no information that this
2 reduction will extend beyond 2021.

3 Unfortunately, even with this
4 reduced charge, the basic service
5 increase is necessary. DPW and Utilities
6 Department are further reviewing methods
7 to fairly balance the sewer charges
8 across customers, and we are setting up a
9 meeting with the county to discuss their
10 charges and potential future increases.

11 I don't know if anybody wanted to
12 speak at the public hearing.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. So if anybody
14 would like to speak from the public, you
15 could just raise your hand and let us
16 know. And this is referring to the 2021
17 water and sewer resolutions.

18 So Commissioner, are we closing this
19 tonight?

20 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes. I
23 believe it's on my agenda -- --

24 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

25 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- -- to



1 vote on this tonight.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Great. All right.

3 I don't see anybody raising their
4 hands. Let me ask again if anybody wants
5 to comment on the 2021 water and sewer
6 resolution.

7 Okay. Then we are closing that
8 public hearing, and we will be voting on
9 that this evening. So with that, we have
10 one minute to wait before we can start
11 our meeting, so we'll just be one minute.
12 Thank you.

13 (Pause in proceedings)

14 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. At this time,
15 I'd like to ask the secretary for a roll
16 call please?

17 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
18 Commissioner Franck?

19 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Present.

20 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
21 Commissioner Madigan?

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Present.

23 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
24 Commissioner Scirocco?

25 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.



1 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

2 Commissioner Dalton?

3 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

4 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Mayor
5 Kelly?

6 MAYOR KELLY: Here.

7 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
8 Supervisor Veitch?

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.

10 SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
11 Supervisor Gaston?

12 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Please rise for the
14 pledge of allegiance.

15 I pledge allegiance to the flag of
16 the United States of America and to the
17 republic for which it stands, one nation,
18 under God, indivisible, with liberty and
19 justice for all.

20 Thank you.

21 Next on the agenda is our public
22 comment period. I ask that you try to
23 keep your comments brief, up to two
24 minutes. There will be a bell to signify
25 the end of your time. We will probably



1 be extending this. I think we've had
2 close to fifty registered here this
3 evening.

4 So at this time, if you are wishing
5 to speak at public comment period, could
6 you please raise your hand so I can get
7 an estimation?

8 Okay. I'm going to ask again. If
9 you're wishing to speak this evening,
10 could you please raise your hand?

11 Okay. So as a reminder, public
12 comment is not a dialogue or a discussion
13 with the council members. However, at
14 the end of public comment period, any
15 council may respond to a comment.

16 Anyone who wishes to address the
17 council may do so now by raising their
18 hand, and we will be calling on you.
19 Please state your name and address and
20 provide your comments.

21 I'm going to start with Katherine
22 Danette (ph.).

23 Can you unmute yourself? Thank you.

24 MS. DANETTE: My name is Katherine
25 Danette. I am twenty-two years old. I



1 am from Saratoga. And my home
2 address -- -- 11 Sydney Hill Road,
3 Saratoga Springs, New York.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Go ahead -- --

5 MS. DANETTE: I just -- --

6 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- with your
7 comment, please.

8 MS. DANETTE: Thank you. I just
9 have a short comment to read.

10 Hello, city council members. In the
11 wake of a tumultuous year of injustice
12 and awakening and thanks for the
13 relentless work of community advocates,
14 Saratoga along with the rest of our
15 country is at a moment of change. And it
16 is our responsibility as a community to
17 be an active part in directing that
18 change.

19 The Police Reform Task Force has
20 spent months thoroughly examining and
21 researching policing policies and
22 practices in Saratoga Springs while
23 taking a deep consideration of our
24 community's wants and needs. As your
25 constituent and emerging and engaged



1 member of the future -- -- of future
2 Saratoga, I'm writing to ask that you
3 take serious time and consideration in
4 reviewing the intensive and important
5 work that the task force has put in
6 before voting on the police reform
7 recommendations.

8 The community has spoken, and every
9 one of our voices matter. This attention
10 to reinvention, however, gives no
11 guarantee of real change. Therefore, it
12 is the actions of our local government
13 that are of the utmost importance at this
14 time. Several of the principles outlined
15 in their recommendations, appropriately
16 titled Reinvention Plan Towards a
17 Community-Centered Justice Initiative,
18 addresses grievances that have been felt
19 throughout the country. And in looking
20 at the stories shared in the police
21 reform survey, Saratoga is no exception.

22 These proposes -- -- these proposals
23 are not radical. What they offer us are
24 new ways of thinking about policing and
25 public safety beyond the parameters of a



1 recurrent, outdated, and flawed model.
2 This is not to say that many things do
3 not work. It's to say that they do not
4 work as well as they could. They do not
5 work for all. And they cause harm to
6 some.

7 Fostering a community of respect and
8 reconciliation, accountability and
9 acknowledgement, transparency and trust
10 begins and ends with a commitment to
11 openness and community involvement. A
12 serious review of the recommendations and
13 an attentive and caring ear during the
14 public hearings would both empower the
15 community to be a part of creating this
16 world that we exist in together and help
17 inform the council of what their people
18 from the people -- --

19 MAYOR KELLY: Can you wrap -- -- can
20 you wrap it up? You're over your two
21 minutes. Can you just wrap it up?

22 MS. DANETTE: Sorry. I just -- -- I
23 and my fellow Saratogians request and
24 urge that you deeply study the tireless
25 work of this task force and allow us to



1 join the conversation with our local
2 elected officials, so we can actively
3 foster justice in this community that we
4 share together.

5 Thank you.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Katherine.

7 MS. DANETTE: Thank you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: If you would like to
9 speak, please raise your hands.

10 Sarah Marlin (ph.), can you unmute
11 please and put your video on?

12 MS. MARLIN: Hi. My name is Sarah
13 Marlin. I'm twenty-three. I live in
14 Saratoga Springs, New York. I'd rather
15 not give my address if that's possible.

16 But I am -- -- just wanted to
17 reiterate -- -- agree with some of the
18 things Kate just said, and I'm just
19 urging you to work to review the task
20 force recommendations, the task force
21 where many of you selected the
22 representatives that are now on it.

23 I'm also just concerned about the
24 meeting that's placed on March 31st, the
25 night before recommendations are supposed



1 to be adopted or passed. I've been -- --
2 and I'm asking -- -- I'm curious to see
3 the plan and what those meetings are
4 going to look like, and I'm curious -- --
5 if there's a possibility that meeting
6 could get pushed up closer so you'd have
7 more time to take the public's input at
8 that hearing and incorporate it into your
9 understandings of your hopeful passings
10 (sic) and -- -- and adoptions of
11 recommendations by this task force. I
12 see a meeting that lasts for five hours
13 of review to be concerning with making
14 an -- -- an actual decision. So I'm
15 hoping an additional special meeting,
16 like has been done in the past with the
17 city council, could be added the week
18 before that or even this week. I'm sure
19 you'd have many public members who'd be
20 willing to sit in and give their
21 opinions.

22 So that's all I have to say. Thank
23 you.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

25 Anyone else for public comment,



1 please raise your hand.

2 Molly Dunn (ph.), please unmute and
3 put your video on, please.

4 MS. DUNN: Hi, there. I'm -- --

5 MAYOR KELLY: Hi.

6 MS. DUNN: -- -- Molly Dunn. I live
7 in downtown Saratoga Springs.

8 I just wanted to reiterate what
9 Katherine and Sarah both stated. I'd
10 also like to say I would love to see a
11 little bit more transparency on the
12 actual voting for the police reform. I
13 would love to see if it's -- -- there's a
14 unanimous yes or no, or if separate parts
15 of the police reform are going to be
16 voted on, how that process is going to
17 take place, what each of the meetings
18 coming up are going to be focused on. So
19 I would love that all to be available to
20 the public prior to the meetings.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

22 Okay. Anyone else? Please raise
23 your hand if you'd like to speak.

24 Okay. It doesn't look like I have
25 anybody else here that's wanting to



1 speak. I'm going to give you thirty
2 seconds to raise your hand, and then I'm
3 going to close the public comment.

4 Okay. So we will move on, then, to
5 our agenda. I'll close public comment.

6 Any comments from the council?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I think we
8 should make sure we point out that we do
9 have a meeting on March 23rd, and then
10 the other -- -- the next meeting on March
11 31st specifically for further public
12 feedback and comments from the public
13 (indiscernible) -- --

14 MAYOR KELLY: We'll get to that when
15 we get to the task force. Yeah.

16 Anything else?

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I guess I
18 would just want to say that all our
19 meetings are going to be available to the
20 public. So in terms of transparency,
21 when we vote on the resolution that will
22 be put forward, the public will be
23 invited to watch us vote. So it will be
24 a very transparent process.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Thank you,



1 Commissioner.

2 Anyone else?

3 Okay. We have no executive session
4 this evening.

5 So on to our consent agenda. Are
6 there any changes or additions to the
7 consent agenda?

8 Then I move that the city council
9 approve the consent agenda. As included
10 with this agenda, this is a motion. Is
11 there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

14 All those in favor say aye.

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

17 The matter passes.

18 At this time, I would like to bring
19 up my number ten item. I'm going to move
20 it up on my agenda to my number one item,
21 Police Reform Task Force, because I know
22 that that's what everybody's sitting on
23 here for. And I don't want to go through
24 my entire agenda and let them wait.

25 I'm going to bring in Vince



1 DeLeonardis, our city attorney, and to
2 start us into this discussion.

3 Thank you, Vince.

4 MR. DELEONARDIS: Thank you, Mayor.

5 So as you all recall, on June 12th,
6 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive
7 Order 203 entitled Police Reform and
8 Reinvention Collaborative. On August
9 4th, 2020, the Police Reform Task Force
10 was established by the mayor with input
11 from the council, and on August 19th, the
12 task force held their first meeting.
13 That was less than seven months ago.

14 The task force was given an enormous
15 assignment, while unfortunately not given
16 a lot of time in which to complete it.
17 But they did. On March 5th, the task
18 force completed and released to the city
19 council and the public a 108-page report
20 entitled Reinvention Plan Toward a
21 Community-Centered Justice Initiative,
22 which contains more than fifty
23 recommendations intended to improve the
24 policies and practices of the Saratoga
25 Springs Police Department. The members



1 of the task force included Jason Golub,
2 Camille Daniels, Winston Grady-Willis,
3 Terry Diggory, Chuck Caputo, Daesha
4 Harris, Ce Ce Hayes, Andrew Sephas,
5 Steven Boxley, Kristen Dart, Kim Galvin,
6 Chief Shane Crooks, and me as a nonvoting
7 member.

8 The work of the thirteen-member task
9 force was thorough and extensive. Their
10 effort and commitment to this important
11 assignment was truly impressive, and they
12 should all be commended. As I indicated
13 at the March 2nd city council meeting, it
14 is now up to the council to review and
15 deliberate on the proposed
16 recommendations and determine which of
17 those recommendations will be implemented
18 and how.

19 Since the release of the task force
20 recommendations, I have met with each of
21 you as members of city council, along
22 with Chief Crooks, and have put together
23 a draft resolution for your consideration
24 based upon the input and guidance I have
25 received. For the benefit of the public



1 and the council, I will read the
2 resolution, and in a moment Lisa will put
3 the document on the screen so that
4 everyone can follow along.

5 At the end, the matter will be
6 opened up for discussion among the
7 council so that I can give direction on
8 any possible edits, revisions, or
9 additions to the resolution. The
10 resolution will be placed on the city's
11 website, and by close of business
12 tomorrow I will post in redline form the
13 resolution document which comes out of
14 this evening's meeting. There will be a
15 special city council meeting as indicated
16 next Tuesday, March 23rd, at 7 p.m. where
17 we will allow for public comment and
18 further council deliberation. Any
19 changes to the document will again be
20 posted on the city's website in redline
21 form for public view. There will then be
22 an additional city council meeting
23 scheduled for Wednesday, March 31st, at 7
24 p.m. where public comment will again be
25 allowed and a resolution presented for



1 discussion and vote.

2 So Lisa, if you don't mind putting
3 up the resolution?

4 MAYOR KELLY: No.

5 Yes, it's there. Thank you, Lisa.

6 MR. DELEONARDIS: It's there. Thank
7 you.

8 A resolution of the city council of
9 the City of Saratoga Springs, New York
10 State Police Reform and Reinvention
11 Collaborative Plan. Whereas on June
12 12th, 2020, Governor Andrew M. Cuomo
13 issued Executive Order Number 203
14 requiring local governments, including
15 the City of Saratoga Springs, to perform
16 a comprehensive review of existing police
17 enforcement deployments, strategies,
18 policies, procedures, and practices, and
19 with input from community members and
20 stakeholders to develop a plan to improve
21 such deployment strategies, policies,
22 procedures, and practices. And whereas
23 Executive Order Number 203 was issued by
24 the governor in response to an outpouring
25 of protests and demonstrations occurring



1 throughout the country following the
2 police-involved deaths of unarmed Black
3 and African-American civilians and the
4 ongoing demand for change, action, and
5 accountability for the mistreatment and
6 discrimination of such civilians. And in
7 an effort to eliminate racial inequities
8 in policing, to modify and modernize
9 policing strategies, policies,
10 procedures, and practices to better
11 address the particular needs of
12 communities of color, to promote public
13 safety, improve community engagement, and
14 to foster trust.

15 And whereas on August 4th, 2020, the
16 mayor in consultation with city council
17 established the Saratoga Springs Police
18 Reform Task Force and appointed eleven
19 members of the community together with
20 the police chief and the city attorney to
21 serve on the task force and develop
22 recommendations for the city council to
23 improve police force deployment,
24 strategies, policies, procedures, and
25 practices in accordance with the



1 governor's executive order.

2 And whereas the task force held more
3 than a dozen public meetings since its
4 establishment both in-person and
5 virtually, conducted research, engaged
6 community members and stakeholders
7 through a public forum and a community
8 survey, and encouraged public comment by
9 providing opportunities at each and every
10 meeting and on the city's website. And
11 whereas the task force established twelve
12 subcommittees in an effort to further
13 enlarge community input and participation
14 through focused review of identified
15 areas of concern, including among others
16 police culture, training and education,
17 use of force in related policies,
18 transparency, and accountability.

19 And whereas following a thorough and
20 extensive review, the task force with
21 involvement and input from community
22 members developed a Reinvention Plan,
23 Toward a Community-Centered Justice
24 Initiative, which contains a multitude of
25 recommendations for the city council to



1 consider as part of the overall effort to
2 improve police force deployments,
3 strategies, policies, procedures, and
4 practices. And whereas the task force
5 recommendations have been made available
6 for public review and comment, provided
7 to community entities and stakeholders
8 identified in the executive order, and
9 reviewed, discussed, and deliberated by
10 the city council with due consideration
11 of comments from community members and
12 stakeholders.

13 Now therefore, be it resolved that
14 the city council in accordance with the
15 Saratoga Springs City Charter and
16 Governor Cuomo's Executive Order Number
17 203 makes the following findings and
18 determinations on the identified task
19 force recommendations as contained in the
20 enumerated sections of the Reinvention
21 Plan, Toward a Community-Centered Justice
22 Initiative, a true and complete copy of
23 which is in next hereto.

24 Section 1, Culture and Training.
25 The city council agrees with the task



1 force and acknowledges the prevalence of
2 racism which has existed throughout
3 history in the United States. The city
4 council previously adopted a resolution
5 on February 16th, 2021, declaring that
6 systemic racism must be challenged and
7 eliminated and pledged to exercise its
8 authority to promote racial equity and
9 fairness in the City of Saratoga Springs,
10 to develop and cultivate a diverse and
11 inclusive culture, and to eliminate
12 discriminatory systems and practices.

13 The city council acknowledges that
14 many of the task force recommendations
15 contained in Section 1 have already been
16 undertaken or implemented by the police
17 department, including initiatives
18 relating to community-based activities
19 and assertive outreach, efforts to
20 partner with local educational
21 institutions to develop programs,
22 recruiting activities that target broader
23 markets for racial and cultural
24 diversity, and training that focuses on
25 de-escalation, procedural justice, and



1 protests. The department is also
2 currently seeking accreditation and
3 already submitted the necessary
4 application to DCJS.

5 Notwithstanding, the council
6 acknowledges that additional education
7 and training is appropriate and hereby
8 directs the chief of police to implement
9 broader educational opportunities and
10 additional training programs consistent
11 with the task force recommendations,
12 including the utilization of an
13 independent external consultant once
14 funding becomes available and budgetary
15 appropriations have been provided.
16 Pending such appropriations, the chief of
17 police shall continue efforts to partner
18 with local academic institutions, groups,
19 and organizations for developing
20 educational opportunities and programs
21 that are not dependent on funding.

22 Sections 2, Policy. The city
23 council agrees with the task force
24 recommendations relating to a third-party
25 platform to ensure compliance with



1 federal and New York State standards and
2 active laws and judicial ruling and that
3 the selection of such provider should be
4 through an open and competitive process.
5 The council notes that, consistent with
6 the task force recommendations, the
7 police chief has already posted all
8 existing policies on the city's website
9 in an effort to increase transparency,
10 and such practice shall be maintained.

11 With regard to use of force and
12 conducted energy control-device policies,
13 the city council agrees with the general
14 purpose and intent of the task force
15 recommendations and specifically those
16 which prioritize de-escalation and
17 emphasize alternatives to use of force.
18 The police department currently trains
19 officers on such practices and has
20 policies addressing the same. However,
21 the council finds merit in further action
22 and hereby directs the chief of police to
23 review all use of force and conducted
24 energy control device policies and to
25 update such policies in a manner



1 consistent with applicable law and the
2 task force recommendations.

3 The council also agrees that
4 monitoring, reporting, and early
5 intervention are of critical importance
6 in maintaining adherence to use-of-force
7 policies and accountability for
8 individuals that do not. The police
9 department currently monitors all use-of-
10 force incidents and complies with
11 reporting requirements for state database
12 in accordance with New York executive law
13 and applicable regulations. The
14 department also has procedures in place
15 for retraining officers and where
16 appropriate disciplining such officers.

17 The council also recognizes that the
18 chief of police is currently implementing
19 an investigation procedure for use-of-
20 force incidents where such investigation
21 would be performed by an individual
22 outside the chain of command of the
23 officer under investigation. Data
24 analytics relative to use-of-force
25 incidents and conducted energy control



1 devices is imperative, and the council
2 agrees with the task force
3 recommendations to expand the scope of
4 same. Task force recommendations
5 relating to data analytics is more
6 broadly addressed in section 4 below.

7 The task force's recommendations
8 relative to interagency cooperation
9 during First Amendment assemblies is
10 acknowledged. The police department
11 currently has policies in place which
12 govern assemblies and law enforcement
13 responses based upon intelligence
14 gathered by the department. Gear and
15 equipment utilized by law enforcement is
16 intended to serve a protective purpose
17 and not a militaristic one. The
18 supervisory staff of the agency
19 requesting enforcement assistance under
20 existing policy retains incident command
21 over all officers assigned to the
22 incident. The city council is, however,
23 mindful of the July 30, 2020, incident
24 referenced by the task force and hereby
25 directs the chief of police to review all



1 policies relative to First Amendment
2 assemblies and interagency cooperation to
3 ensure clarity and consistency in
4 situations where assistance from outside
5 agencies is requested and to make
6 necessary revisions consistent with
7 applicable law and the task force
8 recommendations.

9 With regard to the task force
10 recommendation that the police department
11 be precluded from initiating no-knock
12 warrants under any circumstance, the city
13 council recognizes the debate existing on
14 this issue. No-knock warrants are and
15 should be rarely, if ever, utilized. A
16 no-knock warrant requires an application
17 and review by a presiding member of the
18 judiciary. One must be satisfied that
19 either evidence will be destroyed or
20 disposed of or that the officer's life
21 would be in danger through the issuance
22 of an announced warrant.

23 However, the council is also aware
24 that on March 3rd, 2021, the United
25 States House of Representatives passed a



1 bill entitled the George Floyd Justice
2 and Policing Act which, if subsequently
3 signed into law, would among other things
4 ban no-knock warrants in drug cases. The
5 council, therefore, finds it appropriate
6 to review this issue further and hereby
7 suspends any determination until such
8 time that the Senate has considered the
9 measure and the bill is signed into law.
10 If and when passage of the law occurs,
11 the council will require the chief of
12 police to ensure that all policies of the
13 department are in accordance and
14 consistent with same.

15 Regarding immigration status of
16 individuals, the council finds that
17 department policy already prohibits the
18 detention of any individual for civil
19 violations of federal immigration laws
20 and limits the release of protected
21 information to that which is legally
22 permissible by law. Sharing of
23 information relating to noncriminal
24 immigration violations is currently
25 prohibited. The council is aware of the



1 Second Department case of People v.
2 DeMarco cited by the task force and finds
3 that current department policy is in
4 compliance with same as it prohibits
5 arrest based upon a warrantless arrest
6 from federal authorities for a civil
7 immigration violation.

8 Section 3, Community-Centered
9 Reinvention. The city council
10 acknowledges the task force
11 recommendation that a collaborative
12 arrangement be established, quote, where
13 social workers work with, not for, law
14 enforcement agencies, end quote. Equally
15 acknowledged, however, is the fact that
16 such collaboration currently exists. As
17 well, collaborations specifically
18 addressing other issues identified by the
19 task force including mental illness,
20 substance abuse, and homelessness also
21 currently exist. Such collaborations
22 allow the department to assist in efforts
23 in reaching out to the homeless
24 population and offer basic human needs,
25 including food, clothing, shelter, and



1 other personal needs as well as medical,
2 mental health, behavioral health, and
3 addiction counseling services. The city
4 council, therefore, disputes and takes
5 exception to the statement by the task
6 force that, quote, unhoused people are
7 regularly subjected to harassment from
8 police, end quote, and notes that the
9 task force report is devoid of any
10 factual support for such statement.

11 The police department has long
12 developed partnerships with community
13 stakeholders, agencies, and nonprofit
14 service providers and was an original
15 participator in the Saratoga initiative
16 to end homelessness which subsequently
17 evolved into the Assertive Outreach Team
18 and includes collaboration with Shelters
19 of Saratoga, Salvation Army, Saratoga
20 Hospital, Addiction Care Center of
21 Albany, Rise Housing and Support
22 Services, Captain Community Human
23 Services, New Choices Recovery Center,
24 Adirondack Health Institute, Saratoga
25 County Career Center, New York State



1 Department of Family Assistance, and the
2 Saratoga County Economic Opportunity
3 Council.

4 The police department is also
5 actively involved with mental health
6 substance abuse disorder partnership
7 which includes Saratoga County Mental
8 Health, Healing Springs Recovery
9 Community and Outreach Center, St. Peters
10 Addiction and Recovery Center, Mental
11 Health Association of New York State,
12 Saratoga Hospital, Catholic Charities of
13 Saratoga, the Independent Living Center,
14 Northeast Family Resource Center, and New
15 Choices Recovery Center, among others.
16 The department also works closely with
17 Wellspring to provide advocacy and
18 support services for sexual assault and
19 domestic abuse victims and to ensure that
20 department training and policies reflect
21 the most current information and best
22 practices in addressing such issues.

23 In addition to the myriad efforts of
24 the police department, the council has
25 also long provided financial and other



1 support to numerous nonprofit and social
2 services providers including but not
3 limited to the Saratoga Senior, Franklin
4 Community Center, Shelters of Saratoga,
5 Saratoga Center for the Family, and EOC
6 Soup Kitchen. Such support has
7 consistently been included in adopted
8 city budgets even during the current
9 fiscal crisis.

10 With regard to the task force
11 recommendation that the police department
12 terminate certain training, prohibit the
13 receipt of certain retired military
14 weapons or vehicles, and ban any outside
15 department from entering the city with
16 such military equipment, the council
17 finds that current police department
18 training is consistent with state and
19 federal training guidelines, and the
20 department does not participate in the
21 Department of Defense 1033 Program
22 referenced by the task force. The
23 council further notes that it does not
24 have the authority to control the type of
25 equipment or weapons purchased or



1 utilized by county, state, or federal law
2 enforcement nor the authority to ban such
3 entities from entering the municipal
4 boundaries of the city.

5 Regarding the recommendation to
6 divert seized assets from criminal
7 charges to community-based restorative
8 groups or alternatively community service
9 organizations, the city council notes
10 that expenditure from funds realized
11 through asset forfeiture are strictly
12 governed. And while the city has
13 historically received only minimal funds
14 through asset forfeiture, any and all
15 expenditures must comply with applicable
16 requirements and be used for law
17 enforcement purposes. The city council
18 does agree with the task force
19 recommendation to evaluate and implement
20 an education pilot program that teaches
21 officers the history of policing in
22 America and the city with an emphasis on
23 the impact policing has had on diverse
24 communities and directs the chief of
25 police to progress towards implementation



1 towards such a program.

2 Section 4, Transparency and
3 Accountability. The city council accepts
4 and agrees with the task force
5 recommendations relating to data
6 analytics. Identifying trends and
7 patterns in police interactions through
8 the collection and analysis of data is
9 helpful in determining whether
10 disparities exist and allows the
11 department to make necessary changes in
12 response to same. The New York State
13 forms utilized by the department are
14 limited in their data fields. However,
15 the chief of police has since created new
16 procedures and data fields to more
17 thoroughly capture information in line
18 with the task force recommendations.

19 Consistent with those
20 recommendations in the actions already
21 implemented, the chief of police is
22 hereby directed to continue and expand
23 the collection and compilation of data
24 relating to all departmental
25 investigative activities and to



1 categorize those by types of calls and
2 stops and to indicate the race, national
3 origin, gender, and demographic
4 information of involved individuals
5 excluding any personally identifying
6 information and to make such data
7 publicly available. The chief shall
8 further ensure that department policy is
9 consistent with such directive and
10 applicable law.

11 The council will consider, if and
12 when budgetary appropriations become
13 available, the creation of a new position
14 of database manager as recommended by the
15 task force. Or alternatively the
16 expansion of duties under an existing
17 title subject to compliance with the city
18 charter and New York civil service law.
19 The city council further accepts the
20 revised complaint form and instructions
21 recommended by the task force and located
22 in Appendix I and J and hereby directs
23 the chief of police to implement same and
24 to make available on the city's website.

25 With regard to the task force's



1 recommendations to implement a civilian
2 review board, the city council recognizes
3 the history and debate which has
4 surrounded this issue and finds that
5 while merit may exist for such a program,
6 further review is necessary. Title VI of
7 the city charter vests the Commissioner
8 of Public Safety with the, quote,
9 jurisdiction, supervision, and control of
10 the governance, administration,
11 disposition, operation, and discipline of
12 the police department and its officers,
13 end quote. Such authority would
14 seemingly include that which the task
15 force recommends be provided to the
16 proposed civilian review board and as
17 such the city council may be limited in
18 its ability to act upon such
19 recommendation.

20 There also remain questions
21 regarding the impact such a board would
22 have on existing collective bargaining
23 agreements, including those between the
24 city and the Saratoga Springs Police PBA,
25 lieutenants, and administrative officers



1 unit, and specifically whether any
2 conflicts exist between the procedures
3 proposed to be under the authority of a
4 civilian review board and those contained
5 in the afore mentioned agreements
6 sufficient to require negotiations with
7 the respective units. Likewise, review
8 of the recommended civilian review
9 board's authority, process, and
10 procedures will be necessary to confirm
11 that same do not conflict with or run
12 afoul of the applicable requirements of
13 New York State civil service law,
14 including in particular Section 75 and to
15 additionally ensure that the rights to
16 due process of any individual who may be
17 subject to civilian review are not unduly
18 or unlawfully restricted.

19 The city council further finds that
20 certain provisions of the proposed
21 civilian review board as set forth in
22 Appendix G also require additional
23 analysis prior to any action or
24 determination. For example, the task
25 force recommendations appear to limit



1 civilian review board's authority to
2 addressing only those complaints which
3 are received, quote, from a resident of
4 the city, end quote. Such provision
5 fails to address complaints which may be
6 received from individuals who do not
7 reside in the city nor does it allow for
8 the ability of the board to initiate its
9 own review and investigation.

10 Other areas warranting analysis and
11 comparison against alternatives include
12 the scope or type of complaints which a
13 civilian review board should investigate;
14 whether subpoena power is necessary
15 and/or appropriate; whether authority
16 should be limited to an advisory
17 recommendation or expanded to include
18 ability to discipline; the composition
19 and qualification of members and whether
20 such members should be appointed or
21 elected; training requirements; the
22 ability to retain experienced
23 investigators and/or independent counsel;
24 and importantly, a determination of cost
25 associated with implementing a civilian



1 review board. The council is aware of
2 recent New York State Bar Association
3 publication indicating that the funding
4 required by certain municipalities that
5 have implemented a civilian review board
6 range from as little as 75 dollars per
7 officer to as much as 5,000 dollars per
8 officer. Given the number employed by
9 the City of Saratoga Springs, such amount
10 would translate to a potential budgetary
11 impact of between 5,775 dollars and
12 385,000 dollars annually. For obvious
13 reasons, such range in possible funding
14 would need to be sufficiently narrow
15 prior to the city council taking any
16 action. Ultimately, any implementation
17 of a civilian review board would
18 potentially involve renegotiating union
19 contracts, amendments to the city
20 charter, and even litigation. Prior to
21 engaging in same, the council finds it
22 appropriate to more thoroughly review and
23 define the purpose, scope, and function
24 of a civilian review board and,
25 therefore, defers any determination until



1 such review has been completed.

2 Section 5, Next Steps. As indicated
3 the city charter provides the
4 Commissioner of Public Safety with
5 authority and control over the police
6 department, including policies, rules,
7 regulations, and orders and to ensure
8 that members of the department receive
9 necessary and proper training. In
10 accordance with the charter, the council
11 finds that any committees or advisory
12 panels recommended by the task force to
13 assist in implementation of the
14 directives contained in this resolution
15 shall be as established by the
16 commissioner. The council strongly
17 encourages the chief of police and
18 commissioner of public safety to utilize
19 any and all available community resources
20 and advisory input deemed necessary to
21 assist in such implementation.

22 With regard to the action items
23 identified in Section 1 through Section 4
24 of this resolution, the chief of police
25 shall report to the city council and the



1 public on the status and progress of same
2 at the first regular city council meeting
3 in December 2021 and shall thereafter
4 include such relevant information in the
5 department's annual report which shall be
6 available for public view.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Vince.

8 Any comments from the council?

9 MR. DELEONARDIS: So with regard to
10 just a summary of the next steps and the
11 items for discussion, we have to discuss
12 and determine how we are going to
13 incorporate an action plan for the issue
14 relating to a civilian review board. And
15 just as a reminder for further action,
16 the special city council meeting of next
17 week on the 23rd and the following week
18 on the 31st, and the implementation
19 requirements imposed upon the chief and
20 the commissioner.

21 And so we'll open it up to, as the
22 mayor said, discussion on the resolution
23 and the thoughts and input from council.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

25 Any comments from the council at



1 this time?

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I have a lot
3 of thoughts, but I've been following this
4 process very closely since August. I've
5 seen all the task force meetings. I know
6 what they've been working on. I've read
7 their recommendations from cover to
8 cover, but I'd like to see what the city
9 council thinks.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Anything else from the
11 council?

12 You're muted. You have to unmute,
13 Commissioner.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I guess I do
15 have a few things I could chime in with,
16 and then we'll see how the discussion
17 evolves with the council because I'm sure
18 the public is expecting some kind of
19 feedback tonight from us.

20 First, I would like to thank the
21 task force and thank you, Vince, for your
22 time over the last couple of weeks to
23 walk us through some of the thinking and
24 this what I would call first draft of a
25 resolution at this point and time. I



1 believe the task force released their
2 final document, the plan, on March 5th.
3 I was made aware that it was released a
4 few days later, and I've spent a fair
5 amount of time with that document. That
6 wasn't that long ago.

7 And then, meanwhile, Vince and our
8 chief were busy kind of helping the
9 council shape a resolution, and that also
10 took some time. It would be
11 inappropriate to release a resolution
12 such as the one that Vince just read
13 through tonight -- -- our city
14 attorney -- -- without having first
15 reviewed it with everybody on the city
16 council. That's just a mere courtesy.
17 You don't want a document out there that
18 I haven't read or Commissioner Franck
19 hasn't read or anybody on the city
20 council.

21 So this is where we're at right now.
22 This is why it wasn't released prior to
23 the meeting. I want people to know that.
24 Like, there is a process that we go
25 through, and we are also on an expedited



1 process to move this document forward and
2 bring it to a successful conclusion or a
3 vote. That's the first thing I want to
4 let people know.

5 The big one that I wanted to also
6 talk about was the civilian review board.

7 I have some edits, redlines, that
8 I'm going to want to contribute back to
9 you, Vince, to the rest of the whole
10 council because this is now our document
11 to move forward. I gave you some
12 feedback when we met the other day, and
13 that's if we could come up with maybe a
14 project plan -- -- and I know we don't
15 know what that's going to look at
16 yet -- -- to look at a civilian review
17 board by X date. Let's say June 15th,
18 June 1 -- -- I'm not sure exactly what
19 the date is -- -- to come back and let
20 the public know how we might handle
21 moving forward evaluating and
22 implementing a civilian review board
23 because this is something that will
24 likely -- -- potentially could require
25 referendum based on the way our charter



1 is written, a referendum, addendum to our
2 current charter.

3 So that was another thought I wanted
4 to put out there or maybe discuss with
5 the council. I don't know what it looks
6 like right now. I wish I did. I'm not
7 all knowing. But I think we're going to
8 have to put together a group or a
9 committee to evaluate that piece alone,
10 and it may be something that's written
11 and constructed with advise from maybe a
12 judiciary, some legal minds, on how we
13 might craft a good working civilian
14 review board subject to appropriation for
15 the City of Saratoga Springs. So that
16 was one of my initial thoughts.

17 There are several sections as you
18 were reading through and I was following
19 with you on my computer that I would want
20 to contribute regularly that they're
21 subject to appropriation. There are some
22 where we include that, and there are some
23 areas -- -- like we asked the chief to
24 potentially set up classes to understand
25 the history of policing, but we don't say



1 subject to appropriation. We want to
2 make sure that we're including language
3 like that and that we're supporting our
4 police department. If we're asking them
5 to take on these extra duties, it's going
6 to have to be done with money.

7 I have more notes, but I guess at
8 this point that summarizes my initial
9 thoughts about where we are today with
10 this resolution. And we're going to
11 continue to work on it, and we do have
12 two upcoming city council meetings to
13 further address this before April 1st.

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 I would like to also suggest on the
18 civilian review board that maybe the
19 council can come together. We each pick
20 one person from the community, and we put
21 them -- -- a task together for them to
22 come back to us within sixty days with
23 recommendations on how to move this
24 forward. But it's going to take some
25 research on how we're going to do this,



1 and we need more information at this
2 point.

3 So I would like to see that happen
4 and see if we can move forward and how to
5 move forward. I guess that's the
6 question.

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: So I have a
8 lot of thoughts on how this can be
9 implemented, but most importantly, I
10 think that it needs to be done in a way
11 that there's accountability. And people
12 can take a look at what this task force
13 recommended, and they can see how we're
14 following through on each one of their
15 recommendations, the time attached to it,
16 and a lot of looking around New York
17 State and how other areas have done this
18 and what's been successful and what
19 hasn't.

20 And I have been in touch with the
21 task force since we put the
22 recommendations out to get their feedback
23 on how they'd like to see these
24 implemented and what they think would be
25 the best vehicle to do that with. But it



1 needs to be done in a way that it's clear
2 and simple to see bullet by bullet where
3 we're moving forward, when they can
4 expect feedback, (indiscernible),
5 whatnot. I just think that's going to be
6 key here.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Any other comments
8 from the council?

9 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, Mayor.
10 I have a comment.

11 Again, reading through the
12 resolution, I think it's a pretty good
13 resolution. I want to commend the task
14 force for putting together a document.
15 Again, keep in mind that this is a draft
16 document, and I think the council really
17 needs to look it over real good and have
18 a little bit of time. I think that
19 between now and the 31st digest at least
20 some of the recommendations that are in
21 there.

22 Again, I think it's a work in
23 progress. Like any draft document, it's
24 something that -- -- obviously, we're not
25 voting on it tonight. There were a lot



1 of good comments by some of the -- -- by
2 some of the speakers, and I kind of look
3 forward to a little more public comment
4 in regards some of these recommendations.

5 So again, I'm kind of keeping an
6 open mind on this whole thing, and
7 hopefully we can come to some good -- --
8 a good resolution with this document.
9 But again, I want to commend the task
10 force for doing what they did, and that's
11 it.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Great.

13 Commissioner Franck, did you have
14 any thoughts?

15 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. Similar
16 to what I had said yesterday morning, I
17 think it's important -- -- because now
18 everybody's seeing the resolution for the
19 first time, the task force is seeing
20 this -- -- that the co-chairs of the task
21 force have time to look at this and
22 potentially at the next meeting come back
23 to us and -- -- because they came up with
24 the recommendations obviously. The city
25 attorney has reviewed those and come up



1 with some potentially changes in it, and
2 I would really like to hear from the co-
3 chairs of the task force, too, so we can
4 put this together and come with a
5 document that's workable with everybody
6 together.

7 So that was my suggestion yesterday.
8 It'd be my suggestion today because I'm
9 assuming many of the people who spoke
10 already now they're seeing this
11 resolution out. So I'm sure they have
12 many different questions on top of that,
13 so now it's out there. But I
14 definitely -- -- I know they did their
15 job, and they gave us the
16 recommendations, and many of us have
17 watched the meetings and followed it.
18 But now that this is actually out they
19 get to read the resolution and say, yes,
20 this is what you guys are saying, but
21 here's why we said what we said. And I
22 think that makes sense. I'm only one of
23 five people, but -- --

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No, I mean, I
25 agree. I think that's one of the things



1 I was saying yesterday. I knew we needed
2 another meeting. I didn't know if it
3 should just be a public hearing or maybe
4 a workshop or reinvite, as you said, the
5 chairs from the task force to be a part
6 of a workshop where we can do some back-
7 and-forth Q and A. We're going to have
8 to spend I think a little bit of time to
9 figure out exactly what the shape is of
10 this next meeting because these are
11 important meetings. The public is tuning
12 in. The civilian review board issue is
13 certainly of interest.

14 It should be pointed out that there
15 was a recommendation in their plan on a
16 civilian review board, and we are not
17 discarding that. But the task force had
18 a lot of work to do. I mean, like, they
19 looked at a lot of things, one of which
20 was a civilian review board. What I'm
21 saying is I think this one needs a little
22 bit more time and, quite possibly, does
23 need to go to referendum, and that's
24 something I would also maybe want to
25 discuss with the task force so they



1 understand where we're coming from. A
2 civilian review board is something that
3 needs to be done right, needs to have
4 adequate appropriations for it. But
5 another meeting however we want to frame
6 it, I'm totally on board with that,
7 whether it's a workshop with public
8 hearing with members of the task force.
9 I mean, I think that sounds great.

10 MAYOR KELLY: It will be a city
11 council meeting with public comment. And
12 we could have the task chairs there if
13 you would like, and the committee can
14 actually be on the call. I mean, anybody
15 can be on. It's an open meeting. But
16 I'm not going to run it any differently
17 than I'm running this meeting, so -- --

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, I
19 just -- -- historically if you look at
20 whether it be a comprehensive plan,
21 zoning changes, parking garages, issues
22 that I think in many instances may pale
23 in comparison to this, the difference
24 between -- -- it's been a city council
25 meeting. But by having a workshop -- --



1 and I'm not saying opening it up to a
2 hundred people, but there's five of us.
3 And if we had two of the co-chairs or
4 whatever, that's only seven people, just
5 so questions can be asked back and forth.
6 And there may be things that we're not
7 interpreting right from the task force,
8 and there may be things that the task
9 force doesn't understand from maybe the
10 review of law and the charter and stuff.
11 Because if we're going to do a public
12 comment, it's two minutes. It's a one-
13 way conversation. That's my only -- --

14 MAYOR KELLY: Well,
15 Commissioner -- --

16 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: That's my only
17 concern.

18 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- if you want to
19 open up a meeting with just two people,
20 we have forty-five on this call. I think
21 it would be taken as not a good thing to
22 do.

23 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Well, no, I'm
24 not -- --

25 MAYOR KELLY: I can increase the



1 time -- -- excuse me, I can increase the
2 time that people speak, and we're going
3 to discuss that. But I just -- --

4 MR. DELEONARDIS: A few different
5 things.

6 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- if we're going
7 to invite two people and not the rest of
8 the public, then you might as well take
9 me down and roll me over now.

10 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Well, that's
11 not what I -- -- no, that's not what I
12 said. The rest of the public can have
13 public comment. I'm not saying that.
14 But we haven't had hearings and public
15 hearings before -- -- or I mean workshops
16 before where we've had hundreds of people
17 there, but there was different groups
18 that were represented. I think, and
19 maybe I'm reading this wrong or
20 misinterpreting it and I apologize if I
21 am, but I believe that the committee as a
22 whole has agreed to -- -- some votes
23 weren't a hundred percent,
24 obviously -- -- but they had their chair
25 people there. I don't think other people



1 who want to comment on it one way or
2 another would be upset with the co-chairs
3 there.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Well, it might be, if
5 you had some no-votes and they're
6 not -- -- and the co-chairs weren't the
7 no-votes. I mean, I don't feel
8 comfortable -- --

9 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay.

10 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- with that. I
11 think it should be open to everyone.

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No, I'm -- --

13 MAYOR KELLY: You know?

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: It's open.
15 Well, we can have -- -- no, we can have a
16 workshop open to everyone -- --

17 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I think what
18 Commissioner Franck is saying is that, if
19 we want some context or we have questions
20 about the process and how the task force
21 came to these recommendations, it would
22 be helpful when we're on this item in the
23 agenda to have the co-chairs there that
24 we could ask those questions to and have
25 those questions answered while we discuss



1 them.

2 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Well, we do
3 presentations all the time for an hour
4 where we'll have these professionals go
5 through back and forth asking questions,
6 asking questions, going back and forth.
7 I don't see where this would be any
8 different. We would just have the people
9 who led this group, who put their
10 recommendations to us or their plan -- --
11 actually wasn't even recommendations. I
12 guess their plan -- -- and hear from
13 them.

14 But again that was just -- -- the
15 resolution I think, it's the first draft
16 as Commissioner Scirocco said and the
17 other commissioners. But I just think
18 it's hard to have a one-way conversation
19 where, like, most of the people I think
20 that have probably commented tonight they
21 would probably have changed their
22 comments based on what we just showed
23 them. So I just that -- --

24 MAYOR KELLY: Well, that's why we
25 added the meeting. We -- --



1 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I also -- --

2 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- have the extra
3 meeting for that.

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I think it's
5 important for the public to understand as
6 well that, although I know I was watching
7 all of these task force meetings happen
8 and I was following the work that they
9 were doing, that was not a process that
10 the city council was meant to be involved
11 in. That was meant to happen
12 independently from city council.

13 So it's not that we're just looking
14 at these -- -- or for me -- -- I guess I
15 can only speak for myself. -- --I'm not
16 looking at these recommendations and
17 seeing them for the first time. I
18 followed the task force's work. They
19 have been going through the
20 recommendations subcommittee by
21 subcommittee for quite some time now. So
22 these are not a surprise at all. I
23 anticipated what the recommendations were
24 going to be by following the process, but
25 this is when the city council is meant to



1 weigh in. We were not meant to weigh in
2 when the process was under way.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Any other comments
4 from the council at this time?

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay. So I
6 think, based on feedback already, we have
7 a chat opened on Zoom. We should
8 probably consider a workshop, and that is
9 a council meeting. And I know Zoom is
10 tough. I mean, it's tough. Like, this
11 just adds to, like, the stress of trying
12 to get city business accomplished, trying
13 to do it from our eight different places,
14 our homes, our offices, our home offices.
15 But if there is some way we can get
16 members of the task force -- -- whether
17 some people voted no and some people
18 voted yes, I think was it a majority
19 vote? I mean, so the document passed.
20 It's been sent on to the city council.
21 If the task force could maybe regroup
22 or -- -- I don't know -- -- do a quick
23 vote and see if the two co-chairs coming
24 before the city council to maybe walk us
25 through their thinking on the document



1 and maybe we having the ability to ask
2 them some questions, that might be a
3 great way to handle our next meeting
4 included with public comment. But open
5 to the public, but -- --

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I do just want
7 to -- --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- I mean,
9 I guess -- -- I think that's what we're
10 saying, right? I think -- -- I don't
11 know.

12 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I do just want
13 to point out, though, that all the
14 recommendations that are in the document
15 that they produced it notes on there when
16 they had any dissension. They had
17 consensus on almost everything that they
18 put in the recommendations. And when
19 there wasn't, they put a little asterisk.
20 And so you know if it was a majority
21 vote, if everyone voted for the
22 recommendation or if there were a few
23 instances where that happened. That's
24 all noted in the document, so -- --

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: You know



1 what? I got to tell this John Schroeder
2 (ph.) guy who's making these comments to
3 just stop. It's rude, and it's
4 disrespectful, and this should be turned
5 off.

6 MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible).

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: You don't
8 know me. I read the document twice. I
9 am trying to move this forward and help
10 the public understand how we are going to
11 get to a final document that we're going
12 to vote on. Thank you very much.

13 And now I will ignore him. But I
14 wish this was a feature we could turn
15 off. We don't accept this kind of
16 comment at public meetings, and we should
17 not be accepting it here now on the
18 public record. We're trying to get on
19 with city business.

20 However you want to do the second
21 meeting at this point.

22 Mayor, I was trying to help the
23 public maybe have a workshop. It is not
24 up to us to ask the task force to
25 present. The task force could have



1 easily said to us, here are the
2 recommendations and we'd like to present
3 them to you. We are doing the best that
4 we can under time constraint.

5 So let's make the best of it. Let's
6 engage with the public, I would hope, in
7 a positive, constructive way and see what
8 we can do between now and April 1st with
9 coming up with a final resolution that
10 the council and the public feels as
11 comfortable as we can feel moving this
12 forward. Thank you.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any other comment?

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: There does
15 seem to be some disconnect between the
16 end -- -- like, how the task force ended
17 and now recommendations are being made
18 and then how it was given to city
19 council. That transition seemed to be
20 very unclear, or at least it was unclear
21 to me. And I certainly wish that we had
22 had more than a week to sit and read
23 really in some 200 pages of
24 recommendations and results. I think it
25 would have been nice to have a little bit



1 more time, but I know that we would have
2 liked more time for all of this. But
3 this wasn't the time line that we set up.
4 This was the time line in the EO, and
5 we're doing the best we can, but we are
6 trying to make this a success. And I
7 know how much time and commitment and
8 energy and emotion went into the task
9 force and the work they did over the last
10 seven months, and certainly I know that
11 the council wants to give it the same
12 time, energy, and attention.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Sure we do.
14 But we don't need to be subjected to
15 constant, snarky criticism. I absolutely
16 agree with you, Commissioner Dalton. And
17 this is very important work, and I'm
18 taking it very seriously, as I know the
19 rest of the council is. So -- --

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Thank you,
21 all.

22 I just want to say that this
23 is -- -- police reform is going to go on
24 after April 1.

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's right.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Everybody has to
2 understand that, right? So this is a big
3 first step that we're taking here, but it
4 has to go on. We can't possibly reform
5 everything in seven months. It just
6 doesn't work that way. So we have to
7 have a plan going forward, and I think
8 that that's what we're doing with this
9 resolution, that we're going to be
10 working with the commissioner of public
11 safety, working with the chief, to
12 continue on these reforms. It doesn't
13 end April 1, and that's the thing that I
14 have to let the public know that this is
15 going to continue on.

16 And this is a process. It's a
17 dynamic document that will just -- -- we
18 have to submit something April 1. Okay.
19 That's what we're going for. And then we
20 can continue to work through all of these
21 changes, so that's the gist of where we
22 have to go. So we do have to come up
23 with something. We'll discuss how we
24 want to run the meeting on next Tuesday.
25 If the council wants a workshop, let's do



1 a workshop. If the council wants the two
2 chairs, I'll talk to the two chairs. So
3 we can work this out.

4 But I agree with Commissioner
5 Madigan. We all live in the same
6 community. We work really hard here at
7 city hall, and we shouldn't have to take
8 the abuse of anything. We're doing the
9 best that we can do here. So let's all
10 work together as this council has since
11 day one, and we'll bring this home the
12 best we can but to know that police
13 reform has to continue after April 1. It
14 doesn't end.

15 So with that, are there any other
16 comments from the council?

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. Well,
18 I have other comments, but I'm not going
19 to make -- --

20 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, so -- --

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- them
22 tonight.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you,
24 Commissioner. Let's end on that note.

25 Okay. So thank you. We are going



1 to move on to my next item on my agenda.
2 So I'm going up to discussion and vote,
3 annual salary approval for the Saratoga
4 Springs Housing Authority. The Saratoga
5 Springs Housing Authority will be closing
6 out its fiscal year on March 31, 2021.
7 Saratoga Springs Housing Authority must
8 submit an operating budget for the board
9 approval on March 25th for the upcoming
10 fiscal year. Staff salary approval is
11 needed by the city council for the
12 upcoming fiscal year beginning on April
13 1, 2021.

14 I move that the city council approve
15 the Saratoga Springs Housing Authority
16 staff salaries for 2021 fiscal year.
17 This is a motion. Is there a second?

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

23 The matter passes.

24 My next item is discussion and vote,
25 appointment to the Saratoga Springs



1 Housing Authority. I am reappointing
2 Steve Sullivan for a term effective
3 4/1/21 expiring on 4/1/26.

4 I move that the city council approve
5 the appointment of Steve Sullivan to the
6 Housing Authority for the term effective
7 4/1 expiring on 4/1/26. This is a
8 motion. Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

11 All those in favor say aye.

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

14 The matter passes.

15 My next item is an appointment, the
16 Civil Service Commission. I'm appointing
17 Angela Rella to complete a term for
18 (indiscernible) for the term effective
19 3/16/21 and expires 5/31/24. Angela is
20 an attorney with experience in a wide
21 variety of commercial litigation
22 currently working pro bono to assist
23 clients with family and immigration law
24 issues. She also has degrees in
25 electrical engineering, English



1 literature, and law. Prior to becoming
2 an attorney, she worked as a civil
3 service employee for New York State
4 Department Taxation and Finance and the
5 New York State Insurance Fund.

6 I move that the city council approve
7 the appointment of Angela Rella for the
8 Civil Service Commission for the term
9 effective 3/16/21 expiring 5/31/24. This
10 is a motion. Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

13 All those in favor say aye.

14 IN UNISON: Aye.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

16 The matter passes.

17 My next item is an appointment to
18 the Design Review Commission. I will be
19 reappointing Leslie DeCarlo (ph.) for a
20 term effective 3/16/21 expiring on
21 6/30/25.

22 My next item is an appointment to
23 the Design Review Commission as an
24 alternate. I'll be appointing Chuck
25 Caputo to fill a vacant alternate



1 position, and his term is effective
2 3/16/21 expiring on 6/30/22. Chuck
3 Caputo spent his career close to thirty
4 years in the human service field. He
5 retired in 2019. He was born and raised
6 in the area and has an educational
7 background in public administration,
8 health care and business administration.
9 He has volunteered for several community
10 groups and has lent a hand to help plan
11 fundraisers, implement new programs,
12 establish systems and write policies and
13 complete strategic plans. He has served
14 on the board of several organizations
15 including Saratoga Pride for the past two
16 years. Most recently he has served on
17 the Police Reform and Reinvention Task
18 Force to help the city comply with the
19 governor's Executive Order 203.

20 My next appointment is an
21 appointment to the Planning Board, an
22 alternate. I'm appointing Chris Pappia
23 (ph.) to complete the term that was
24 previously Jason Dodi's (ph.). Chris'
25 term is effective 3/16/21 and expires



1 12/31/21. Chris recently retired after a
2 twenty-one-year career teaching in the
3 public high school. As an educator, he
4 taught various science courses, ran
5 clubs, and other activities with
6 students. In addition to this career, he
7 was an adjunct professor at the Long
8 Island University. Most recently, he has
9 served on the board of Saratoga Pride.
10 Chris has Bachelor of Science in business
11 administration and master's in biology
12 and secondary education.

13 Number seven is an appointment to
14 the Zoning Board. Tonight I am
15 appointing Emily Aaronson Bergman (ph.)
16 to the term effective 3/16/21 expiring on
17 12/31/27. Emily was born and raised in
18 Saratoga Springs and is a dedicated
19 community activist, mom, and wife. Emily
20 is a product of Saratoga Springs public
21 schools, and she earned a degree in
22 government from the University of
23 Maryland. Emily served in many senior
24 positions and advised several elected
25 officials and political candidates,



1 including working as an analyst for a
2 prominent public opinion research firm
3 and managing several federal election
4 compliance for senators and members of
5 Congress a major international law firm
6 in New York and Washington, D.C.

7 My next item is an announcement, the
8 2002 Open Space Plan update. The City of
9 Saratoga Springs is proud to announce the
10 long-awaited update to the 2002 Open
11 Space Plan. It has been almost twenty
12 years since the city's last updated Open
13 Space Plan. The revision will build on
14 the previous plan by revising those
15 sections that no longer accurately
16 reflect the character needs and goals of
17 the community. The 2021 Open Space Plan
18 update will establish criteria for the
19 expenditure of bond funds, inventory
20 remaining open spaces, as well as to
21 identify special areas for protection,
22 preservation, conservation, parks in both
23 active and passive recreation.

24 The Open Space Update Plan is being
25 developed by the city's Administrator of



1 Parks, Open Space Historic Preservation
2 and Sustainability, and guided by the
3 Open Space Plan Steering Committee. The
4 city staff will facilitate the planning
5 process with the technical assistance
6 from MJ Engineering and Land Surveying,
7 P.C. A dedicated project website has
8 been created to keep the community
9 informed of the ongoing process, ongoing
10 public engagement opportunities, and
11 provide ongoing information about the
12 effort. Today the community survey was
13 launched looking for public input.
14 Community members and residents and
15 businesses can participate in the survey
16 through the link provided on the project
17 website at
18 www.saratogaspringsopenspaces.com. The
19 survey will close on April 16th, 2021.

20 My next item is an announcement,
21 Woodlawn/Shelters of Saratoga Building
22 Update. Shelters of Saratoga has
23 informed me that the Navigation Center
24 and Code Blue at Woodlawn are no longer
25 in effect. Code Blue will be at Adelphi



1 site only as needed. On March 22nd and
2 23d, the Woodlawn building will be used
3 as a popup clothing supply to help the
4 homeless with their needs. This will
5 only -- -- this will be the only use
6 until the end of March.

7 And that concludes my agenda. And
8 I'll turn it over to Commissioner Franck
9 of Accounts.

10 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
11 Mayor.

12 The first item is award of bid,
13 extension of bid for laboratory services
14 to CNA Environmental, LLC. Upon
15 recommendations of the Department of
16 Public Works, I move to extend the bid
17 for laboratory services for CNA
18 Environmental Services, LLC, for an
19 additional year under the same terms,
20 conditions, and prices as originally
21 listed in bid 2020-06. And that's a
22 motion.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

24 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?



1 All those in favor say aye.

2 IN UNISON: Aye.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

4 The matter passes.

5 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: And thank you,
6 Mayor.

7 Just basically a re-announcement
8 relating to the temporary outdoor
9 seating. At our last meeting on March
10 2nd, the city council passed a resolution
11 for the temporary outdoor seating to
12 start yesterday March 15th. I would like
13 to again remind all of our local
14 restaurants that, if they have not
15 submitted your paperwork to obtain your
16 permit, please do so as soon as possible.
17 We would like to, especially in the areas
18 of, like, Phila, Henry, et cetera, get
19 all the people who were there last year
20 to get their paperwork. We have sent
21 them emails and phone calls today, and
22 we're reaching out to them. It's easier
23 for D.A. Collins to just do the barriers
24 all at once versus piecemeal, especially
25 on Phila, Caroline, and Henry Street. So



1 we do again ask all of those restaurants
2 and pubs and whatever in the area that
3 had them last year to please get ahold of
4 us, so we can get the paperwork done and
5 get that done as soon as possible.

6 And again, I'd really like to thank
7 D.A. Collins for helping the city with
8 the placement of the Jersey barriers.

9 And that's all I have for this
10 evening.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
12 Commissioner.

13 On to Finance, Commissioner Madigan.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
15 Mayor.

16 So the first item on my agenda is an
17 update, city finances including the
18 American Rescue Plan and New York State
19 VLT aid. This is a reoccurring topic,
20 and tonight I do have some news, and it's
21 reasonably good news. As you all know by
22 now, the federal government has delivered
23 the American Rescue Plan in the amount of
24 about 1.9 trillion dollars which includes
25 350 billion for state and local



1 governments. Based on a report issued by
2 Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer
3 which is attached to the agenda but I
4 don't have enough room to bring it up on
5 my screen, along with notes and Zoom.
6 But if you guys do, you can look at that
7 report, and the public can look at the
8 report. This results in a 7.7 million-
9 dollar allocation for the City of
10 Saratoga Springs. The allocation is
11 based on a modified CDBG-type formula as
12 well as the city's classification as a
13 metro city.

14 I have been in contact with the
15 offices of Senator Schumer and
16 Congressman Tonko to obtain further
17 clarification of the state-wide
18 allocations listed in the attachment.
19 The proportions of some of the
20 allocations are a bit difficult to
21 understand without maybe a better, clear
22 explanation of the formula, and I'm
23 hoping that some answers will be
24 forthcoming soon.

25 If you look at Leader Schumer's



1 plan, the one that I attached, you'll see
2 that Saratoga Springs is receiving
3 probably the least amount as a metro city
4 in the entire state. And I'm very
5 grateful, 7.7 million, and I know they do
6 this based on sort of average, medium
7 income and poverty rates. But even last
8 year when they were looking at the
9 Community Development Block Grant
10 modified formula, we were coming out with
11 significantly more funds. And I would
12 say the communities around us weren't
13 quite coming out as high as they're
14 coming right now. I'm sure we've all
15 seen the articles where Albany is setting
16 up committees to figure out how to use
17 all the money that they're receiving.
18 They're receiving eighty-five million. I
19 want to say Troy, forty-five million,
20 Schenectady, fifty-nine million. In some
21 cases some of these cities are receiving
22 more than their counties are receiving.
23 Glens Falls is receiving maybe -- --

24 MAYOR KELLY: Well -- --

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- forty



1 million.

2 What?

3 MAYOR KELLY: We're receiving
4 twelve. I mean, it doesn't -- --

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:
6 Something -- -- yes. So we could -- --

7 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, it has to do
8 with the CDBG, and that's -- -- they just
9 have more people at that poverty line
10 than -- --

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- -- Saratoga
13 Springs, so that's why they received
14 more.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. I know
16 that. I'm just trying to understand the
17 formula better because you know last
18 year, when the Heroes Act passed, we
19 were -- -- and again that was a three-
20 trillion-dollar package. This is a 1.9
21 trillion. We were at a higher number,
22 fourteen-million, which seems almost spot
23 on, and the communities around us were at
24 not eighty-five, fifty-nine million.
25 Anyway, so I am looking to understand the



1 formula better.

2 The city is no less grateful for
3 this support, and we are sure that there
4 is a reason for the distribution. But I
5 kind of want to know a little more
6 detail, an explanation. Albany -- --
7 okay, so I do have more details -- --
8 receives eleven times the amount of
9 Saratoga Springs at 85.28 million to our
10 7.7 million, while the population is only
11 three and a half times that. But there
12 are other things that come into it other
13 than CDBG modified population. It's
14 poverty and average salary.

15 So our 2021 budget, just so you
16 know, does -- -- and I've said this
17 before -- -- include five million dollars
18 in federal aid. So we've received about
19 2.7 more than what we budgeted to make
20 the 2021 budget work.

21 As we move on to New York State VLT
22 aid, the assembly did sort of vote in
23 support full restoration of the aid, but
24 unfortunately the Senate has not yet. So
25 this is a bit -- -- I've been feeling



1 very optimistic about it. We are working
2 on that, and we are working on reaching
3 out to the Senate and the Senate Finance
4 Chair and talking to Carrie Woerner and
5 even having her to reach out. She's
6 always invaluable to us when it comes to
7 restoring this aid and also reaching out
8 to Senator Jordan so that we can give
9 this our last push to make sure that VLT
10 aid is fully restored. It's still very
11 positive that the assembly has included
12 in their One-House Bill, but we want to
13 make sure that the Senate includes it,
14 too.

15 And I think that's about all -- --
16 oh, city's sales tax. The city did
17 receive its first sales tax distribution
18 for 2021. We're currently running at
19 about negative 9.4 percent over last
20 year, 2020 collection, so we're down
21 about 75,000 dollars in sales tax for
22 January. We'll know more as we -- --
23 we'll trend better or be able to project
24 better as we know more about what might
25 happen with the race course and Saratoga



1 Performing Arts Center.

2 I don't know if anybody has any
3 questions, or if there's anything they're
4 curious about, or anything they want me
5 to look into between now and the next
6 meeting?

7 MAYOR KELLY: I think going forward
8 I do believe (Indiscernible) and I are
9 both looking to have some kind of
10 spectator. So that's going to bring
11 people to our city so that hopefully we
12 can start opening those two venues up.
13 The -- --

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's true.
15 I kind of maybe misspoke a bit. We're
16 already at a certain percentage -- --

17 MAYOR KELLY: Um hum.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- that
19 they can open. Is it ten percent?

20 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah.

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And more and
22 more people are getting vaccinated,
23 so -- --

24 MAYOR KELLY: Right.

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- that's



1 extremely helpful. So hopefully we'll
2 see those numbers increase which will be,
3 of course, better for our city revenues.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Right. Thank you,
5 Commissioner.

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

7 Item number two is an announcement,
8 department meetings regarding 2021 budget
9 amendments. So as I had stated numerous
10 times during the 2021 budget season, the
11 budget was designed to prepare us for
12 challenges while being amendable as new
13 revenue and expense information is
14 available and maybe some opportunities
15 unfold. So we definitely have some new
16 revenue information coming in. Not a
17 whole lot new on the expense side. We're
18 all trying to manage our expenses at this
19 point and time.

20 So as previously stated, the city is
21 going to receive the 7.7 million from the
22 federal government, and we're hopeful
23 still that we'll have full restoration of
24 VLT aid, although that is by no means a
25 done deal. So to this extent, I plan to



1 meet with each of the departments along
2 with the budget director and the director
3 of finance as needed and my deputy to
4 discuss budget difficulties that
5 departments are having right now and look
6 at a few priorities so that we can
7 evaluate what we might be able to do with
8 the 7.7 million dollars.

9 We do need to prepare for those
10 raises that are going to come for all our
11 city employees at the end of December.
12 That was one of the things that we did
13 commit to them in the resolution, so
14 we'll cost that out. And then, of
15 course, we go into 2022 raises the next
16 day. So we're going to have raises on
17 December 31st and on January 1, so we'll
18 cost that out. We included five million
19 dollars, but it seems like it's time. I
20 know we really drastically cut expenses.
21 There may be a few things that we're able
22 to do for each of the departments, so
23 we'll be reaching out to have those
24 meetings.

25 And I look forward with them, to be



1 honest with you. It's time to do -- --
2 it's been kind of a really stressful 2020
3 and even 2021. Maybe we can start to do
4 some better relationship building here as
5 news improves and vaccines are being
6 rolled out to the public. That's all
7 very positive.

8 Item number three is to set a public
9 hearing for the New York State Power
10 Authority Energy Services Program for the
11 Master Recover Agreement for Streets
12 Lights, project number 1277.

13 And I think maybe five minutes, if
14 that's appropriate with the clerk?

15 MS. RIBIS: We can do 6:55 on April
16 6th.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you
18 very much.

19 MS. RIBIS: Sure.

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: This is
21 another program that will bring Saratoga
22 Springs accolades on the smart city,
23 especially if we can have this merge in
24 with our fiber project. We'll have great
25 infrastructure out there, and also it's a



1 good one for the environment, converting
2 our lights over to LED. So more
3 information on that at our next city
4 council meeting.

5 Thank you, Mayor. That completes my
6 agenda.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
8 Commissioner.

9 On to Public Works, Commissioner
10 Scirocco.

11 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
12 Mayor.

13 First item on my agenda is a
14 discussion and vote. This is
15 authorization for the mayor to sign a
16 contract with Morbark, LLC, for the
17 Morbark Hog Tub Grinder. The Department
18 of Public Works is happy to announce the
19 purchase of a new Morbark 3400X
20 Horizontal Grinder to be delivered the
21 summer of 2021. As you know, the
22 Department of Public Works offers
23 curbside leaf and lawn debris pickup for
24 the residents of Saratoga Springs. This
25 service begins in early spring and does



1 not stop until the first snowfall. This
2 is not only beneficial for the residents
3 but also the environment. The leaf and
4 lawn debris is picked up throughout the
5 city and transported to our DPW Weibel
6 Avenue facility where it is then created
7 into compost and obviously sold back to
8 the residents or whoever wants to
9 purchase it.

10 With the purchase of the Morbark
11 3400X Horizontal Grinder, the Department
12 of Public Works will still provide leaf
13 and lawn pickup for many years to come.
14 And I can tell you the old tub grinder I
15 believe is over twenty years old, and
16 it's pretty much on its last leg out
17 there.

18 And I want to thank the city council
19 and Finance in particular for sitting
20 down with us and working with us to
21 actually make this happen. It was
22 a -- -- it was a pretty good-sized
23 purchase, and I just want to thank the
24 council and everybody who got on board
25 with this. So I'll make -- --



1 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, yeah. Go
2 ahead. Sorry. Go ahead.

3 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Therefore, I
4 move for the mayor to sign a contract
5 with Morbark, LLC, for a Morbark Wood Hog
6 Tub Grinder and at a cost \$564,182.50,
7 and funding is in the 2021 capital
8 program. And I put that in the form of a
9 motion.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. This
14 was needed and, I'm sorry, a long time
15 coming. Talk about a time for such a
16 piece of expensive equipment to just sort
17 of go on you. But we do make some
18 revenue off our compost, and this is a
19 service our residents expect, and I'm
20 glad that we're able to move forward on
21 it now. So -- --

22 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- thanks
24 for being patient, Commissioner Scirocco.

25 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah.



1 You're welcome. Thanks. Thank you.

2 Thank everybody.

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

5 IN UNISON: Aye.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

7 The matter passes.

8 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second item
9 on my agenda is discussion and vote,
10 authorization for the mayor to sign an
11 intermunicipal agreement between the
12 County of Saratoga and the City of
13 Saratoga for the management of single-
14 stream recyclables collection. This is
15 an intermunicipal agreement between the
16 city and Saratoga County. The city
17 agrees to assume responsibility for the
18 management of the collection of single-
19 stream recyclables at the county's
20 recycling center on Weibel Avenue. For
21 the city's onsite management and
22 oversight of collection and removal of
23 recycle materials and scrap metal,
24 Saratoga County will pay 35,000 dollars
25 yearly to the city.



1 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
2 sign the intermunicipal recycling
3 agreement between the County of Saratoga
4 and City of Saratoga Springs for the
5 management of single-stream recyclables
6 collection. And I put that in the form
7 of a motion.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

11 All those in favor say aye.

12 IN UNISON: Aye.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

14 The matter passes.

15 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Third item
16 on my agenda is discussion and vote.
17 This is approval to pay invoice number
18 014338 to SRI Fire Sprinkler, LLC, in the
19 amount of \$5,093.12 for sprinkler
20 inspection. DPW had a contract with SRI
21 to perform quarterly sprinkler
22 inspections in city buildings in 2020.
23 As a new vendor, SRI made a mistake of
24 believing that they could perform a total
25 number of quarterly inspections



1 regardless of the year they were
2 performed in and provided some
3 inspections in 2021 without a new
4 contract or a PO in place. One of these
5 inspections was at the request of Risk
6 and Safety for the inspection of city
7 hall for the insurance renewal. DPW is
8 working with SRI to provide new quotes
9 and have a PO in place for 2021.

10 Therefore, I move for approval to
11 pay invoice number 014338 to SRI Fire
12 Sprinkler, LLC, in the amount of
13 \$5,093.12 for sprinkler inspection. And
14 I put that in the form of a motion.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

16 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

18 All those in favor say aye.

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

21 The matter passes.

22 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Fourth item
23 on my agenda is discussion and vote.
24 This is the authorization for the mayor
25 to sign a contract with DEC for phase one



1 street tree inventory and Urban Forest
2 Management Plant Grant award. This is a
3 contract between the City of Saratoga
4 Springs and the New York State DEC for
5 the Urban Forestry Grant. The New York
6 State Master Contract for Grants includes
7 the grant contract requirements which
8 must be achieved by the city in order to
9 fulfill and receive funding from the DEC.
10 The work plan section of the contract
11 defines the contract requirements, which
12 includes objectives and tasks and
13 performs measures. The objectives
14 include performing and developing the
15 street tree inventory and management
16 plan, duties of the partner on the
17 project, which is sustained by Saratoga
18 to be performed, outreach and educational
19 efforts, and long-term support
20 initiatives. The MCG also outlines the
21 terms and conditions, payments and
22 reporting process, and additional
23 contractor obligations, representatives
24 and warrantees. The MCG receives
25 approval from the New York State



1 Comptroller's contract submission system.

2 And that was on 3/3/21.

3 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
4 sign a contract with the DEC for phase
5 one, street tree inventory and Urban
6 Forest Management Plan Grant award. And
7 I put that in the form of a motion.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

11 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Again this
12 was for that 50,000-dollar grant that we
13 got to actually do an inventory of trees
14 in the city, so -- --

15 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a match to
16 that, Commissioner?

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: No match,
18 no.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

20 All those in favor say aye.

21 IN UNISON: Aye.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

23 The matter passes.

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Awesome.
25 Terrific.



1 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: The fifth
2 item on my agenda is discussion and vote,
3 authorization for the mayor to sign a
4 contract with Palette Stone for
5 asphalt/concrete. This contract with
6 Palette Stone is a piggyback contract
7 off the Saratoga County for
8 asphalt/concrete in the amount not to
9 exceed bid proposal unit price. The
10 Saratoga County bid package has been
11 previously distributed with the agenda.

12 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
13 sign a contract with Palette Stone for
14 asphalt/concrete. And I put that in form
15 of a motion.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

19 All those in favor say aye.

20 IN UNISON: Aye.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

22 The matter passes.

23 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Sixth item
24 on my agenda is authorization for the
25 mayor to sign a contract with Palette



1 Stone Corp. for crushed stone. This
2 contract with Palette Stone is a
3 piggyback off the Saratoga County for
4 crushed stone in the amount not to exceed
5 the bid proposal unit price. Saratoga
6 County bid package has been previously
7 distributed with the agenda.

8 Therefore, I move for the mayor to
9 sign a contract with Palette Stone Corp.
10 for crushed stone. And I put that in the
11 form of a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 All those in favor say aye.

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

18 The matter passes.

19 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Seventh item
20 on my agenda is discussion and vote.
21 This is approval to adopt the 2021 water
22 and sewer rate resolution. The water
23 resolution for 2021 includes no charges
24 from the 2020 resolution. There are no
25 rate or fee increases for water customers



1 in 2021.

2 Sewer resolution -- -- as a reminder
3 of what was discussed earlier at the
4 public hearing, the water rates will be
5 unchanged from 2020 to 2021. For the
6 sewer resolution, there will be a four-
7 dollar increase in the basic service
8 charge due to the significant increases
9 from the County Sewer District.

10 Therefore, I move for the approval
11 to adopt the 2021 water and sewer rate
12 resolution. And I put that in the form
13 of a motion.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

17 All those in favor say aye.

18 IN UNISON: Aye.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

20 The matter passes.

21 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: The eight
22 item on agenda is appointment to the
23 Climate Smart Task force. Tonight I'm
24 going to appoint Ben Foster. Ben is the
25 president of Fosterra, LLC, delivers



1 green energy and clean transportation
2 leadership to commercial government,
3 education, and utility sectors. He's a
4 champion for programs that have a
5 positive impact on the environment and
6 create robust outcomes for buyers,
7 investors, and the clean energy market at
8 large. Mr. Foster has worked on projects
9 in over 500 jurisdictions across the
10 United States and in China at various
11 stages of development from planning to
12 operations.

13 As an industry leader, Ben has
14 managed over a dozen regional
15 collaborative efforts to improve best
16 practices and deploy them domestically
17 and internationally through to federally
18 funded projects, industry, white papers,
19 technical reports, best practice guides,
20 and hands-on technical assistance and
21 training. I think Ben will be a good
22 addition to the Climate Smart Task Force.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you,
24 Commissioner.

25 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And I'd like



1 to add -- -- I'd like to add one item to
2 my agenda.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Sure.

4 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And this is
5 an announcement: flushing water
6 distribution system.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum. Is that a
8 motion?

9 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, I make
10 that as a motion, yes.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

14 All those in favor say aye.

15 IN UNISON: Aye.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

17 The matter passes.

18 Go ahead, Commissioner.

19 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you.

20 This is an announcement for the
21 city's flushing of the water distribution
22 system. And I would just like to let the
23 residents know that beginning on Monday,
24 March 22nd, the Department of Public
25 Works will begin flushing the water



1 distribution system.

2 To deliver the highest quality of
3 water for residents of Saratoga Springs,
4 the water distribution system is flushed
5 during springtime and once again in the
6 fall. When flushing the distribution
7 system, our DPW employees also take the
8 opportunity for routine maintenance and
9 service of the fire hydrants that are
10 throughout the city. Again if you notice
11 some discoloration of your tap water,
12 simply run the cold tap until the water
13 clears. For any residents that may have
14 a question, don't hesitate to call the
15 Department of Public Works dispatch at
16 (518) 584-3356. That's (518) 584-3356.

17 And I believe when I talked to my
18 deputy today I believe we're going to be
19 doing -- -- we're going to be starting on
20 the east side and working to the
21 outskirts of the city. We did put the
22 message board over here on Lake Avenue,
23 so I think residents will see that. Also
24 there's going to be some signage
25 throughout the city as we progress into



1 the other elsewhere to the city. Again,
2 it's part of the maintenance of the water
3 distribution system to clean those pipes.
4 It flushes it out, and it cleans them
5 out. It makes them -- --

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Makes them
7 clean.

8 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Good quality
9 water. Let's put it that way.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Great. Thank
11 you, Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: But I did
13 want to -- -- I did want to say we do
14 have, like -- -- we have lots of -- -- we
15 have lots of message boards now, too,
16 so -- --

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Well, we do
18 have them.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. And so
20 we've already spread those out throughout
21 the city. So -- --

22 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Right. I
23 think we're going to -- -- I think we're
24 going to use a couple of those.

25 MAYOR KELLY: I did see the one out



1 there today, Commissioner. It
2 looks -- --

3 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, they
4 stuck it out there today. Yeah. Yeah.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Anything else,
6 Commissioner?

7 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: No, that's
8 it. Nope.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.
10 Over to Public Safety, Commissioner
11 Dalton.

12 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
13 Mayor.

14 The first item on my agenda is a
15 COVID-19 update, relatively brief update.
16 Our numbers are running low, which is
17 good. They are continuing to go down.
18 We have 2.2 percent positivity rate.
19 There are 229 active cases in Saratoga
20 County. In the City of Saratoga Springs,
21 we have thirty-eight active COVID cases.
22 In the county I believe there are
23 fourteen people total hospitalized.

24 But I just want to remind everybody
25 that -- -- just to give it some



1 context -- -- these were the numbers
2 approximately that we had around this
3 time last time in April and May when we
4 were being so, so careful. And so I just
5 wanted to remind all of us, even though
6 we don't want to hear it, we've got to
7 keep being safe. You have to keep
8 following all the safety protocols while
9 we allow for these vaccinations to
10 continue. We know how quickly this can
11 go from kind of decent to bad. It
12 happens in a -- -- it happens in a hot
13 minute. So everyone just needs to keep
14 making the right choices and getting
15 vaccines as soon as they're eligible and
16 available to them.

17 In terms of vaccination
18 distribution, Supervisor Gaston is going
19 to give us kind of an overview of what's
20 going on there, so I'm going to leave
21 that for her. And then I'm going to go
22 on to the second item on my agenda,
23 unless anyone has any questions. No?
24 Good.

25 Okay. Second item is a discussion



1 and vote to accept a donation. This is a
2 donation for the fire department in the
3 amount of twenty-five dollars from
4 Marjorie and Jerry Ryan (ph.) in memory
5 of Deloris Walker (ph.)

6 I make a motion for council approval
7 to accept the donation to the fire
8 department in the amount of twenty-five
9 dollars with great thanks and
10 appreciation to Mr. and Mrs. Ryan. Thank
11 you. This is a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 All those in favor say aye.

16 IN UNISON: Aye.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

18 The matter passes.

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

20 The third item on my agenda is an
21 announcement, the Public Safety annual
22 2020 -- -- the Public Safety annual 2020
23 report. I just wanted the public to know
24 that the 2020 Public Safety Department
25 annual report has been sent to the mayor



1 and to the city council and provided to
2 the city clerk's office as required by
3 the charter. I've also asked the IT
4 Department to put it up on the city's
5 website. So that will be up for everyone
6 to peruse. It gives a really
7 comprehensive overview of the entire
8 department, police, fire, code,
9 everything. So I encourage the public to
10 look at it.

11 And I want to thank both the chiefs,
12 Chief Dolan and Chief Crooks, for all the
13 time and hard work they put into doing
14 that. It's a really helpful public tool
15 for people to have and kind of see where
16 the department's at this year.

17 Then the last item on my agenda is a
18 discussion and vote, increase school
19 crossing guard hourly rates. I'd like to
20 increase the school crossing guards'
21 hourly rate to fifteen dollars per hour.
22 Currently they're at nine dollars per
23 hour, and the last hourly wage increase
24 was on December 15th, 2015. This is not
25 an easy job or a fun job, people standing



1 in the street in the snow, in the wind,
2 in the rain, directing traffic, directing
3 a lot of people who want to get to where
4 they're going and also, though, provides
5 a critical layer of safety for our kids
6 who are trying to get to school in the
7 morning and leave in the afternoon. So I
8 think it is really about time that we
9 please pay them a little more than nine
10 dollars an hour if we want to retain the
11 crossing guards.

12 So I make a motion for council
13 approval to increase the school crossing
14 guard hourly rate to fifteen dollars an
15 hour. This is a motion.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

17 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I think thank
20 you for bringing it forward. It's a
21 reasonable rate for the work that they
22 do, and we should be paying minimum wage.
23 And I know we've done work in other
24 departments to bring some of the salaries
25 up, part-time salaries to minimum wage,



1 too, so it's about time we have
2 everything on an equal paring. So
3 thanks, Commissioner.

4 MAYOR KELLY: So may I ask,
5 Commissioner? I can't hear -- -- I tried
6 twice. What is the new rate?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Fifteen
8 dollars an hour.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Michele, can you say
10 that -- -- Commissioner Madigan, can you
11 say that? I can't hear it when she says
12 it.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. So in
14 the resolution, I believe he did state
15 it. It will be fifteen dollars an hour.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Fifteen.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Fifteen.
18 Yeah.

19 MAYOR KELLY: 1-5. Okay. Thank
20 you.

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: 1-5.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. For some
23 reason, I can't get that. So that's
24 fine.

25 All those in favor say aye.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

3 The matter passes.

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you all
5 so much, and that concludes my agenda.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

7 On to the supervisors, Supervisor
8 Veitch.

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you,
10 Mayor. Good evening.

11 My first item on my agenda is to go
12 over the Government Review and Efficiency
13 Committee for an update. That committee
14 has now met for the third time this year,
15 and its goal is to review the county's
16 policies, procedures, local laws, and
17 code to try to see if we can bring some
18 things up to date and make our government
19 work a little bit better and more
20 efficient.

21 At the last meeting in March, we did
22 three main things, and the first one was
23 to set up a subcommittee to review the
24 ethics code and the ethics review for the
25 county. We found out that the last time



1 it appears that the ethics code or review
2 was looked at at Saratoga County was
3 probably around 1990 or so, so we really
4 need to update that. A lot of things
5 have changed since then. And so I am
6 going to lead a subcommittee with myself
7 and two other supervisors to review that
8 policy, procedures, and the state law
9 that we need to abide by for our ethics
10 code. So that's the first item.

11 The second thing that we're going to
12 look at is records management. We have
13 had lots of discussions at our meetings
14 about records management. There is a
15 fair amount of state law and regulation
16 on how we are to manage our records, and
17 we adopt the state laws as they come over
18 that we would be abiding by those. We
19 seem to do a little bit with records
20 management, but we don't really have a
21 really good, comprehensive records
22 management plan or policy. And so
23 departments do their own thing, and
24 there's things that are kind of stashed
25 in certain places. And I've heard a lot



1 of different stories, and they're not all
2 great about what we do with records
3 management. So there's a lot of issues
4 on that. I appointed a subcommittee on
5 this as well out of my committee which is
6 going to be led by Gene Raymond (ph.)
7 from the town of Edinburg. I believe
8 Supervisor Gaston is also on that
9 subcommittee as well.

10 One of the things I'd like to do
11 potentially is talk to you, Commissioner
12 Franck, and your department as to how the
13 city is dealing with records management
14 because we certainly need your help -- --

15 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, we -- --

16 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- -- and we'd
17 appreciate learning a little bit about
18 how the city does what they do. I know
19 you've gotten a lot of grants and things
20 in your department -- --

21 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. Nancy
22 Wagner has been working with both of us
23 in Finance, and she would be the key lead
24 to this. We'd be more than happy to set
25 you up with her.



1 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Okay. I will
2 reach out. I appreciate your assistance.
3 Thank you.

4 The third subcommittee we're going
5 to do is on our budget -- --

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Sorry. I'm
7 sorry. I was muted, Supervisor.

8 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Oh.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I wanted to
10 just say while I had the opportunity that
11 Nancy truly is very good, an expert in
12 records management. So even if just a
13 conversation with her is going to -- --

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- educate
16 you on all things records management. So
17 it's good that we have a resource like
18 that here in the city.

19 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah. No, I
20 appreciate that. And any time I've ever
21 asked her for any records from the city,
22 I mean -- --

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

24 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- -- she's
25 always responded very quickly, got me



1 what I needed. So I appreciate what she
2 does, and I'm glad hopefully -- --

3 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I
4 wouldn't -- --

5 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- -- we can sit
6 down and talk.

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- -- mind
8 meeting with you when you meet with Nancy
9 if you don't mind.

10 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Sure. Sure.

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I would like
12 to be -- -- it's just, as a librarian in
13 my background and records management,
14 like, I actually enjoy these projects
15 that I get to work on with Nancy.

16 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Sure. Not a
17 problem at all. So it will be good to
18 learn a little bit about what the city
19 does and -- --

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

21 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- -- I know you
22 guys do a good job, so thank you for that
23 help.

24 And again, third on our government
25 review is going to look at the budget



1 process. We're going to review all of
2 our policy, our local laws, and
3 procedures relating to the budget.
4 Jonathan Shaw (ph.) from the Town of
5 Clifton Park was appointed the chair of
6 that committee as he is the chair of the
7 law and finance committee. Just makes
8 sense as his committee handles the
9 budget. And we're going to continue
10 reviewing our local laws. I'm taking
11 that on and looking at our county code
12 and trying to keep that up to date and
13 maintain and see where we need to make
14 changes. So a lot of work to continue,
15 and I'll keep people posted as we go
16 forward.

17 Second on my agenda is just a quick
18 review of the 2021 Legislative Program.
19 The county adopted its 2021 Legislative
20 Program today at our board meeting and
21 just a couple of highlights out of that.
22 We do a state and a federal legislative
23 program. So from the state level, a
24 couple things is ending mandatory sales
25 tax diversion for state purposes. It



1 appears as though they aim funding -- --
2 aid to municipalities is withheld from
3 county sales tax disbursements to make
4 those payments, and we would like the
5 state not to do that any longer. Second
6 is, of course, restoring our VLT aid. So
7 we have that on there as well.

8 And thank you, Commissioner Madigan,
9 for reporting on that.

10 Enacting a no-new-unfunded mandates
11 legislation, which is kind of on our
12 agenda every year. We want the state to
13 help fund us with their unfunded
14 mandates.

15 Supporting enhancements for the New
16 York State Historic Tax Credit.

17 Restoring funding for Veterans Peer
18 to Peer Program. That's one of the
19 things that our county does for our
20 veterans, and it appears as though that
21 funding has been at risk since last year.
22 So we'd like the state to continue to
23 fund the Peer to Peer Program.

24 And last on the federal side, really
25 the main one is supporting the Federal



1 Broadband Infrastructure Expansion
2 Funding, which is on both the national
3 county platform as well as the state
4 level. So hopefully we can get some more
5 progress on that as well.

6 So we voted on that today, and
7 normally we would meet with our state
8 legislators after we vote on this, but
9 this year I don't believe that's going to
10 happen due to the pandemic. So just we
11 have that resolution out there, and we'll
12 communicate it accordingly.

13 Third on the agenda is just a quick
14 update from Buildings and Grounds. Just
15 wanted to note that we passed a
16 resolution again today extending our
17 lease with the Gateway House of Peace in
18 the Town of Milton for another five years
19 with an option for another five-year
20 renewal. That's just a continuing
21 resolution from the last ten years. They
22 provide great services for end of life,
23 and we're glad that we're able to
24 continue that arrangement with the
25 Gateway House.



1 Fourth on my agenda is quick update
2 on the NACo Virtual Legislative
3 Conference. Normally this time of year,
4 we're actually in Washington, D.C., and
5 sometimes we don't make our first meeting
6 in the month of March due to us being
7 there for our NACo Conference and meeting
8 with our legislators. But this year
9 we're doing it all virtually, of course.
10 Just of note on March 8th, the Community
11 Economic and Work Force Development
12 Committee met which I serve on, and again
13 our main goals there are continuing to
14 advocate for improved and enhanced CDBG
15 funding through HUD, work force and
16 affordable housing funding, expanding the
17 eviction moratorium due to COVID. And we
18 had speakers from the U.S. Department of
19 Labor, Community Development Block
20 Grants, and several congressional staff,
21 like, gave our committee an update.

22 I also serve on the IT Standing
23 Committee. I was not able to make that
24 meeting due to other commitments, but our
25 conference lasts for a couple of weeks



1 now, so we'll have a few online things
2 that are going on. It's not over yet, so
3 maybe there'll be another report at the
4 next meeting. But again, glad to be
5 serving on NACo and working toward these
6 goals on the Community Economic and Work
7 Force Development.

8 And I do want to just make one
9 addition tonight. At the last meeting, I
10 had mentioned that the county was
11 considering a veterans funding program.
12 It actually wasn't on the agenda when we
13 started, so I didn't have it on my agenda
14 for tonight, but we added it later on in
15 our meeting. We did approve 52,500
16 dollars in total funding at the county
17 for veterans support to the communities.
18 The maximum amount each community can
19 receive is 2,500 dollars, and it can be
20 on any item that honors veterans
21 throughout the year. It is a matching
22 program, so you do have to spend the
23 money to get the money. But we
24 will -- -- you have to work through our
25 Veterans Services Offices, and since we



1 just passed it kind of at last minute
2 today, I don't have a lot of details
3 about how you get the money.

4 But at the end of the day I'll work
5 with your office, Mayor, and see if we
6 can get something for you.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you
8 (indiscernible) -- --

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: And that's it.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Thank you.
11 Thank you.

12 Supervisor Gaston.

13 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

14 The first item on my agenda is a
15 COVID-19 update, which Commissioner
16 Dalton covered most of the numbers. I
17 would just reiterate while our numbers
18 are looking good, unfortunately we're
19 seeing a significantly higher rate of
20 transmission through social and small
21 gathering events than we were for a
22 little bit. So it's important to keep in
23 mind that when we're engaging with
24 individuals in our community or in our
25 household, we need to continue to follow



1 the guidance as appropriate to make sure
2 that we're reducing that transmission
3 rate as much as possible. We're doing
4 much better, but we've got to keep it up
5 for a little bit longer.

6 Today at the board meeting, we did
7 approve a major contract with the DiRAD
8 Call Center. It's located in Clifton
9 Park. They've been doing some of our
10 incoming calls and registrations to the
11 vaccine interest line, and Commissioner
12 Kuhles and his staff have been doing
13 random spot checks, are very pleased with
14 the work that they're doing. We're
15 pleased to be supporting a Saratoga
16 County Business at this time. And we
17 have expanded that so that they will also
18 be doing some of our outbound appointment
19 registration calls. This will free up
20 our public health staff to be more in the
21 community and do some of the other work
22 in the building as opposed to making
23 calls. So we appreciate -- -- that came
24 up in very short order, and they've done
25 a lot of work to adjust with our needs as



1 well.

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:

3 (Indiscernible) -- --

4 SUPERVISOR GASTON: At this -- --

5 Yes?

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Before you go
7 on -- -- I don't know when you're going
8 to go on to your item two -- -- I did
9 want to interact with you on the COVID-19
10 update.

11 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Okay. I have
12 just a little bit more, and then will
13 that be okay?

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes. I
15 apologize. I didn't know if you were
16 going on or not going on. It was a
17 little awkward. Sorry.

18 SUPERVISOR GASTON: No problem.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: All right.

20 SUPERVISOR GASTON: So at this time,
21 about 63,000 Saratoga County residents
22 have received at least one dose of the
23 COVID-19 vaccine. 33,000 have completed
24 the series. We use the phrase "completed
25 the series" now because we have two two-



1 shot series and one that just requires
2 one. We are not getting a lot of Johnson
3 & Johnson in Saratoga County at least
4 through the county itself. And when we
5 are getting it, we are primarily focusing
6 those doses on individuals who are
7 homebound or who are at significant risk
8 of not returning for a second dose. A
9 lot of that would be individuals in
10 shelters either because they are
11 currently unhoused or domestic violence,
12 et cetera.

13 Our vaccine allocation continues to
14 be extremely limited from New York State.
15 Your description of the funding disparity
16 from Albany to Saratoga Springs, those
17 numbers remind me a lot of the difference
18 in vaccine disparity between Albany and
19 Saratoga Springs. Our population is not
20 significantly lower than Albany County.
21 Our essential worker, senior, and other
22 populations are also not lower and, in
23 fact, are higher as a percentage of our
24 community. But we are not receiving the
25 same number of vaccines, and that



1 continues to be a problem.

2 As a result of this, all of the
3 vaccines that we are distributing go
4 through the interest list. This is true
5 whether they are in a popup, whether
6 they're delivered by EMS, or whether
7 they're at the Public Safety Building.
8 The only exceptions to that are when
9 we're provided on occasion doses through
10 the state that are required to use for
11 certain populations. For instance, we've
12 been given a set of doses that we are
13 required to keep on standby for nursing
14 homes. We get doses that are required to
15 be passed through to OPWED facilities and
16 the like.

17 We continue to advocate on a
18 relatively frequent basis -- -- both
19 myself, the Commissioner with the OH, and
20 our county administrator and chairperson
21 with the state -- -- to request more
22 vaccines. Although it's less request and
23 more demand I think at this point.
24 Supervisor Veitch can affirm that today I
25 actually had to run out in the middle of



1 the board meeting because I got a phone
2 call from the Executive Chamber, and I am
3 terrified of missing out on the
4 opportunity to get any additional
5 vaccines in our community. So I ran from
6 our board meeting in order to get that.
7 Unfortunately, it wasn't a significant
8 increase, but that's what we have.

9 We do continue to meet. I have also
10 formally requested through Foil and
11 through formal government processes both
12 the formula that is being used by the
13 Governor's Office and Larry Schwartz who
14 is the volunteer in charge of this to
15 determine how distribution is being made.
16 We are being told it is being made per
17 population and per a particular group.
18 That does not seem to be the case to me.
19 And I want to know also where the
20 vaccines are coming into our county from
21 other areas. We're hearing information
22 about them coming in through pharmacies
23 and other locations. And we don't want
24 to duplicate efforts. If there are
25 populations already being reached by



1 certain populations, that frees up Public
2 Health to go into other areas with the
3 few vaccines that we do have.

4 Again, all individuals regardless as
5 to their eligibility category are
6 requested to sign up at
7 SaratogaCountyNY.gov/vax, V-A-X. You can
8 also sign up by calling (518) 693-1075.
9 That is our official registration call
10 center with DiRAD. All of those go
11 directly into the same interest list.
12 And what we do is we sort by eligibility
13 category. So if we receive doses, like
14 200 doses for a certain population, we
15 can pull the names that are eligible
16 under that category.

17 What that means is it's really
18 important -- -- if you've already
19 registered and you're now eligible under
20 a new category, we would ask that you go
21 back in and re-register. We will remove
22 duplicates, as necessary. But if you've
23 already registered let's say because you
24 have a comorbidity and now you are
25 registered -- -- or now you are eligible



1 because you're a public-facing employee,
2 go ahead and submit it. Include all the
3 registrations, not just the new one, and
4 we will remove the older entry. And that
5 way if we get a certain allocation, a
6 specific set of doses, we can pull from
7 any of those categories and you will be
8 eligible for as many as possible.

9 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Can I ask a
10 quick question about that? Sorry. And I
11 should know this, but just to clarify
12 because some people have asked me. Can
13 you put yourself on that list only when
14 you're eligible, or can anyone sign up on
15 that list even if they're not in an
16 eligible category yet?

17 SUPERVISOR GASTON: At this time,
18 they need to be in an eligible category.

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay, cool.
20 Thank you.

21 SUPERVISOR GASTON: All of the
22 eligibilities have been listed on the
23 webpage. When you go to the registration
24 form, any current eligibility is there.
25 If you believe that you are eligible and



1 that status is not listed there, please
2 reach out to me or any of the
3 commissioners. The mayor can reach out
4 to me and let me know. We have tried to
5 adjust it as needed to make sure that
6 everyone could register.

7 The one last note, and then
8 Commissioner Madigan or any other
9 questions. We are also, Commissioner
10 Kuhles and I, have been meeting with our
11 local facilities, our businesses, and our
12 sites including NYRA, SPAC, a lot of our
13 wedding venues, et cetera, to both answer
14 their questions with regards to some of
15 the guidance that's coming out from the
16 state before reopening. We want to make
17 sure that we provide them with the best
18 guidance that we can and supporting and
19 also advocating where there are questions
20 or going to be barriers for their being
21 able to support these events because
22 obviously they are integral to our
23 economy.

24 Okay. Commissioner Madigan.

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So I don't



1 know if you're the right person to send
2 these emails. I know I've been sending
3 you emails, and I know our Risk and
4 Safety Director Marilyn Rivers have been
5 sending you emails. How does a pod get
6 formed? I just texted you an article.
7 You probably haven't had a chance to see
8 it but from Reuters that says that U.S.
9 employers with large workforce and
10 locations that have enough space to
11 maintain social distancing can consider
12 setting up temporary vaccination clinics
13 at the work place, says the Center for
14 Disease Control and Prevention as of
15 Tuesday.

16 It seems like now that government
17 workers have become a population base
18 that is now eligible for the vaccine. It
19 would be really helpful, whether it's set
20 up at the county or at city hall, in the
21 music hall, or at the city center -- -- I
22 don't know where -- -- like, a pod for
23 them. It would really reduce all our
24 employees. I mean, maybe it's throughout
25 the entire county, right? There's plenty



1 of government employees, the time off,
2 the travel maybe to a Plattsburgh or a
3 Utica or Potsdam or spending time trying
4 to find one at a pharmacy. The problem
5 with the pharmacies is, even if these
6 other uses are -- -- you have to be sixty
7 years old I believe -- --

8 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Um-hum.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Is it still
10 sixty years old or -- --

11 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Correct. Any
12 vaccinator in the state accepting
13 pharmacies are open to all eligibilities.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

15 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Pharmacies are
16 still limited to sixty and above, yes.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Sixty and
18 above. So there's just so much confusion
19 as to where you can go and where you can
20 get your vaccine. Seems like we've got a
21 population base big enough in some manner
22 that it would be great to get a pod. But
23 I don't know if you're the right person
24 to talk to about this, or if I can help
25 you advocate for us getting a pod, if



1 that's what we want to call them, or a
2 popup to do government employee
3 vaccinations.

4 SUPERVISOR GASTON: So there are
5 approximately 5,000 individuals that are
6 classified as public-facing workers
7 in -- --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Our county.

9 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- in
10 Saratoga County as a whole. We are not
11 getting 5,000 doses a month -- --

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

13 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- much less
14 a week. I will say that I did email the
15 council both the information from
16 Commissioner Kuhles regarding
17 eligibility, how to sign up. Every
18 public-facing government worker that has
19 registered in the vaccine interest list
20 at least as of this afternoon when I left
21 the county has been scheduled for a
22 vaccine this week.

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Great.

24 SUPERVISOR GASTON: So we're not
25 getting a lot of dose, and I say that and



1 now 3,000 more are going to register. So
2 I recognize it might take a minute,
3 but -- --

4 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

5 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- we are
6 working very quickly. And obviously
7 there are categories that are highest
8 priority -- --

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

10 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- our
11 seniors, particularly those with
12 comorbidities are our highest priority
13 for vaccination because their highest
14 risk of comorbidities -- -- sorry,
15 mortalities or comorbidities. That said,
16 about seventy percent of our senior
17 population has already received at least
18 one dose. So we're getting that done.
19 So we're working on the list. The
20 commissioner is working very hard to pull
21 those as we have doses available. But
22 again, one it requires us to have the
23 doses, but we are doing a pod at the end
24 of this week that includes public-facing
25 workers that have already registered on



1 the interest list.

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

3 SUPERVISOR GASTON: If you haven't
4 already, I strongly recommend it. I sent
5 the email in a template letter.
6 Depending on the location, they may
7 require different proof of eligibility.
8 However, the commissioner has indicated
9 that -- -- the guidance he's received is
10 in a letter from an elected official,
11 department official, indicating that a
12 person works for them -- --

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

14 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- should be
15 sufficient in almost every circumstance.
16 And if you find out that it's not, please
17 reach out because we want to make sure to
18 get that assistance.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Sure. Can I
20 maybe offline take this up with you
21 about -- -- you said there's a pod or a
22 popup coming up Friday, this week, for
23 government, but they need to register.
24 Right? I want to be able to maybe
25 communicate that to some of my public-



1 facing employees -- --

2 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Every pod, every
3 distribution we do through the county is
4 done off of the vaccine interest list.

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Got you.

6 SUPERVISOR GASTON: There are
7 no -- -- there are no popups or pods that
8 people can walk up to.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Got you.

10 SUPERVISOR GASTON: If there
11 are -- -- I don't like the term but I'll
12 say extra doses is what a lot of people
13 hear at the end of distribution. Those
14 go to the next people on the list in that
15 category. No one should be wandering
16 around offering doses. And if they are,
17 I would like to know about that because
18 they've been strictly directed not to.

19 But the goal is to keep it there.
20 It provides equity across -- -- anyone
21 who signs up has equal access to it, but
22 it also allows us to keep that
23 information, and it allows us to present
24 it in a way to the state. Because when
25 we say this is the number of our



1 population that's not getting reached,
2 that's a much stronger argument for us to
3 make if we have that number that we can
4 present to DOH and the Executive Chamber
5 that we need to protect. So -- --

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay. I just
7 think one quick clarification because I
8 think it's one of the places of
9 confusion. Just it happens again and
10 again. When you are eligible, the
11 eligibility group just because you're
12 eligible doesn't mean they have the
13 vaccine waiting for them. And so that is
14 really, like, to me sums up the whole
15 problem. And getting that out there and
16 managing the expectations every time
17 there's a new round of eligibility has
18 been such a challenge. Because you think
19 when you're eligible, there's a vaccine
20 waiting for you, and there just isn't.

21 So that, and then I had one question
22 for you, which is, the Johnson & Johnson
23 vaccine, I know a lot of people request
24 that and want me to help them find it.
25 Primarily from what I understand, it's



1 really just for convenience. Are there
2 any preexisting conditions or anything
3 medically that would force you to only be
4 able to get the Johnson & Johnson
5 vaccine? Because my understanding is
6 there are not. Any of the vaccines, you
7 could get any.

8 SUPERVISOR GASTON: I will say I am
9 not going to give you a solid answer to
10 that because I do not have the
11 qualifications to do so and I would not
12 want to -- -- I would not want to make
13 such a statement. The information I have
14 is the protection and the impact of the
15 vaccine is very similar/identical.
16 Obviously, Johnson & Johnson is a
17 different type of vaccine, but that's a
18 different nerd discussion. The -- --

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Tell me the
20 guidelines -- --

21 SUPERVISOR GASTON: There are
22 some -- -- there are some individuals,
23 especially if they recovered from COVID,
24 they may be advised to only receive one
25 dose of vaccine. To my knowledge,



1 whether it's Johnson & Johnson or
2 something else, doesn't matter. In the
3 end, the protection's going to be the
4 same. From a lay standard, the antibody
5 response, the immune response, is going
6 to be the same.

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah.
8 (Indiscernible) on the guidelines of how
9 we're administering these vaccines.
10 There's nothing in the guidelines from
11 the state that says we should only be
12 giving the Johnson & Johnson vaccine to
13 this certain group.

14 SUPERVISOR GASTON: The guidance
15 from the state indicates that Johnson &
16 Johnson should be prioritized for
17 communities that are less likely to be
18 able to receive the second shot or -- --

19 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Right.

20 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- -- where
21 there are significant barriers or
22 logistical issues, such as if they are
23 homebound, homeless, live in shelters. A
24 lot of our EMS is using them when they're
25 going out to individual's homes because,



1 obviously, the logistics of doing that
2 again prevent them from being used in
3 other capacities. So that is where the
4 priority has been thus far. We are still
5 getting very limited amounts of Johnson &
6 Johnson in Saratoga County, like very
7 small. So that'll become I think more of
8 an issue later. I do understand that
9 some pharmacies on occasion have Johnson
10 & Johnson. So if someone is specifically
11 looking for it, those are probably the
12 best places to get them.

13 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Now in terms
14 of a state site, the only site that I
15 know of is the (indiscernible). So
16 people who want to go on the state
17 website and look for an appointment there
18 to get the Johnson & Johnson vaccine.
19 But thank you for that clarification. I
20 appreciate it.

21 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Any other
22 questions on that end?

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No. Thank
24 you.

25 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Okay. Great.



1 The second item on my agenda is
2 regarding the Executive Order 203 report.
3 The board of supervisors did pass today
4 at our board meeting a resolution
5 accepting unmodified the recommendations
6 of the Executive Order 203 Compliance
7 Group as they were submitted in January.
8 I'd previously suggested amendments to it
9 to be part of the consider -- -- excuse
10 me.

11 That is soda, not COVID. Oof.

12 Previously requested amendments. A
13 lot of the language is unlike even the
14 city's 203 report, which provides
15 direction and makes plans.
16 Unfortunately, the 203 report uses a lot
17 of phrases such as, suggest that you
18 consider or encourage someone looking
19 into something. I think that that does
20 not meet the intent. Obviously, the
21 state has to determine whether we
22 meet -- -- what the order was, but I just
23 don't think that that meets the intent of
24 it.

25 And so I did vote no based on that,



1 although I do think many of the
2 recommendations that were included even
3 when wrapped in much softer
4 language -- -- there was noting a
5 collection of demographic data which was
6 mentioned tonight, training in bias and
7 de-escalation which there is currently
8 none in the county nor the collection of
9 demographic data as well as body and
10 vehicle cameras which is something that I
11 know was looked at at the county
12 previously. Obviously in our fiscal
13 situation, I don't expect us to go out
14 tomorrow and equip all of our vehicles
15 and deputies with cameras. However, I
16 did expect us to develop a time line or
17 plan for looking at this and determining
18 how it could be implemented, and that is
19 not a part of our -- -- not a part of the
20 report that was passed today.

21 I will say I did appreciate the
22 inclusion in the report, a recommendation
23 of increased mental health service
24 response in lieu of deputies where it's
25 appropriate, as well as mental health



1 support for the sheriff's department
2 which I think is beneficial both for the
3 community. They can work through things
4 as they see them or are experiencing
5 them. But as someone who grew up in a
6 law enforcement family, I know that that
7 can be helpful in a lot of respects. But
8 unfortunately, the way that the language
9 was so vague and nondirective, I could
10 not in good conscience vote for it.
11 However, it did pass generally.

12 The third item on my agenda is a
13 local law regarding third-party food
14 delivery service fees. Supervisor Veitch
15 and myself sat on the committee where
16 this was brought up, and we received many
17 comments from businesses and associations
18 supporting businesses in Saratoga Springs
19 and throughout the county. This would,
20 only during declared emergencies and for
21 the ninety days after, cap third-party
22 food service delivery fees charged to
23 food establishments. It would cap at
24 fifteen percent for delivery fees and no
25 more than five percent for any other fees



1 often referred to as marketing fees. The
2 local law also indicates that they may
3 not reduce wages or garnish tips in order
4 to comply with the law.

5 I think this is really helpful,
6 especially I know a lot of our
7 restaurants they've seen the charges go
8 up as they are working to stay alive and
9 stay in business during COVID. And I was
10 happy to support this at both the
11 committee and the board level today.

12 The fourth item on my agenda, as
13 Supervisor Veitch said, it's NACo
14 Conference month now I guess. Normally,
15 it's just a week. I have been to the GO
16 information specialist -- -- GIS, I think
17 I just messed up that acronym.
18 Apologies. The GIS Committee and the
19 Energy Environment and Land Use
20 Committees. I sit on both of those
21 committees, as well as the Resilient
22 Counties Committee.

23 Recently, the things that I am most
24 proud of and I think most beneficial to
25 Saratoga County and Saratoga Springs



1 itself that have worked through that
2 process is support for a national
3 historical sites program. It's run by
4 the National Park Service, but this will
5 standardize the application and support
6 process. Given Saratoga Springs and
7 Saratoga County is the location of so
8 much of our American history, I think
9 this is a good way to perhaps support our
10 community, be listed in the National Park
11 Service, and bring some individuals back
12 to our community to check that out.

13 Additionally, I was a very proud
14 supporter of a resolution through the
15 Energy Environment and Land Use Committee
16 which supports legislation at the federal
17 level right now for the development of an
18 equity map. One of the things that we
19 have learned in COVID and that we've
20 talked about right here with vaccines and
21 with the Rescue Plan money is that
22 disparities are not often as visible as
23 one might think. And a lot of that data
24 resides at the federal level. So this
25 legislation that requires an equity map



1 and a screening tool would be available
2 in short order, and it would provide all
3 of that data and documentation to local
4 governments and county governments to
5 help support what we're doing in moving
6 forward. But it would also support
7 things like, if there are emergency fund
8 distributions, vaccine and testing
9 distributions, education funding, public
10 works dollars.

11 I saw, Commissioner Scirocco.

12 It would support the distribution of
13 that to make sure that it's really being
14 allocated where it most needs to be. And
15 I think that would support a lot of our
16 arguments as we're advocating on both the
17 state and the federal level. This would
18 not cost local governments any money.
19 It's all at the federal level. It really
20 just requires them to collect and pass
21 down that data.

22 So the last thing is in Resilient
23 Counties we discussed a program sharing
24 resources and experiences, both
25 responding to COVID but also other



1 emergencies because a lot of the times
2 counties and cities and other forms of
3 government are out on their own in
4 responding to this. And having a best
5 practices resource would be helpful.
6 There are a lot of things the city has
7 done the county could take to heart, and
8 other locations -- -- having those all-
9 in-one locations so that every time we're
10 not reinventing the wheel would be
11 extremely helpful.

12 And that concludes my agenda.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor.

14 Any other business from the council?

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
16 Mayor.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Then we are adjourned.

18 Thank you and good night.

19 (Meeting adjourned)

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

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



Amanda G. Stockton

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

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Vote: 5 - 0

