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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

April 20, 2020

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Meg Kelly, Mayor
- Michele Madigan, Commissioner
- John Franck, Commissioner
- Skip Scirocco, Commissioner
- Robin Dalton, Commissioner



1 MAYOR KELLY: Good morning. This is
2 a preliminary agenda, Monday, April 20th,
3 2020. Tomorrow evening there will be no
4 public hearings on our schedule.

5 We have one presentation, 2019
6 preliminary financial report. Do you
7 have anything to add there, Commissioner
8 Madigan?

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Just that
10 this is going to be the unedited report.
11 We are running a deficit, and that is
12 primarily due to reduced NIRA admissions
13 tax which I'll have more details about
14 tomorrow night. And I will link to the
15 actual annual report on my agenda. But
16 we'll get that uploaded on the agenda
17 before I prepare it and present it
18 tomorrow night. Thank you.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Great, thank you.

20 We don't have any executive sessions
21 at this time.

22 Are there any comments or edits to
23 the consent agenda?

24 Okay. Then we'll move right on to
25 the mayor's department. My first item is



1 an announcement, the 2020 census self-
2 reporting reminder.

3 My second item is an announcement,
4 NYCOM federal aid sign-on letter.

5 My third item is an announcement,
6 resuming land use board activities.

7 My next item is a discussion and
8 vote, resolution to extend effective
9 dates for permits and land use board
10 approvals. This is a discussion and vote
11 item for tomorrow night. I am bringing a
12 resolution to address the expiration
13 dates of building permits which are set
14 in the fee schedule that we approve
15 annually. The city attorney will advise
16 us on how the expiration date for land
17 use boards approvals which are regulated
18 by the state.

19 My next item is an
20 announcement/update on the building
21 department services. Tomorrow night I
22 will update the public on changes to the
23 current building department services.

24 My next item is an appointment,
25 Saratoga arts commission.



1 My eighth item is discussion and
2 vote to accept a donation of
3 fifty-dollar -- six fifty-dollar DBA
4 cards from the Saratoga Springs Friends
5 of Recreation for the bingo game.

6 My next item is discussion and vote,
7 consolidation of waterfront park grants
8 with New York State. This agreement will
9 combine grant awards -- award contracts
10 from 2010 and 2012 with the New York
11 State Office of Parks, Precreation, and
12 Historic Preservation. Consolidation of
13 these awards is a formality required by
14 the City towards its completion of the
15 wrap-up items needed to secure
16 reimbursement costs under these
17 contracts. Once final documentation is
18 provided, the City will receive
19 \$465,665.08 in reimbursement.

20 Next item is discussion and vote,
21 authorization for the mayor to execute a
22 grant of easement for Niagara Mohawk
23 Power Corporation. This is an easement
24 agreement to Niagara Mohawk Power
25 Corporation to allow for the installation



1 of a new pad mounted transformer on
2 property owned by the City under the
3 lease with the City Center Authority.

4 And that concludes my agenda.

5 I'll turn it over to Commissioner
6 Franck in accounts.

7 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
8 Mayor.

9 The first item is discussion and
10 vote, accept donation of cloth facemasks
11 from Michele Erceg and Dale Walton. And
12 that was a value of 500 dollars. And
13 we're very thankful for their donation
14 because it was sorely needed.

15 The second item is discussion and
16 vote, authorization for mayor to begin
17 public assistance reimbursement for DR-
18 4480NY.

19 The third and fourth items are
20 appointments. The third item is
21 appointment for Elaina Richardson to the
22 arts commission. The fourth appointment
23 is Sabrina Lauzon as Commissioner of
24 Deeds.

25 And I will be adding two items to my



1 agenda. Item number 5 will be just an
2 update relating to remote marriage
3 license, licenses. The governor this
4 weekend is going to allow the clerks to
5 start doing remote marriage license. So
6 I'll get an update on that. That's
7 something we've received a lot of calls
8 about.

9 And the sixth item is also an update
10 relating to our grievance class which is
11 usually in early May. We'll just go over
12 the steps that we're going to take since
13 we won't be able to hold that in person.

14 And that concludes my agenda.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 On to finance. Commissioner
18 Madigan?

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
20 Mayor.

21 The first item is going to be an
22 announcement about late fees for city,
23 county, and delinquent school taxes. I'm
24 getting numerous phone calls, emails
25 regarding waiver of fees and penalties as



1 they relate to their tax bills. In an
2 effort to search for ways to accommodate
3 taxpayers, we have looked into this as an
4 option. Unfortunately, the legal
5 research shows that the City has no
6 authority to waive these fees. So I'll
7 discuss that again in more detail last
8 night and try to get this message out to
9 the public.

10 They don't understand why the City
11 is moving forward to collect taxes with
12 penalties when, you know, so many people
13 are losing their jobs. And
14 unfortunately, there's only one person in
15 the state that has the authority to waive
16 tax penalties, and that's the governor
17 when we're under a state of emergency.
18 So trying to get this information out to
19 the public. And I did talk about this at
20 the 4/7/2020 council meeting.

21 The second item is an update from
22 the finance department, COVID-19 and city
23 finances. So I will provide the council
24 and the public an update on our city
25 finances as the COVID-19 experience



1 continues. This will include information
2 about the economy, revenues,
3 expenditures, both nonwage and wage,
4 federal and state programs that we are
5 evaluating, city options going forward.
6 And a lot of those options do lead to
7 expense reductions.

8 And I will continue to provide an
9 update on federal legislation. There's a
10 lot going on right there. But so far
11 no -- no relief for operating expenses.

12 The remaining items on my agenda are
13 budget transfers and amendments. And
14 that will be it for me. Thank you.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
16 Commissioner.

17 On to public works, Commissioner
18 Scirocco.

19 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
20 Mayor. I have three items on my agenda.

21 The first item is discussion and
22 vote, approval to pay invoice number
23 7153118708 in the amount of \$2,601.01 to
24 Schindler Elevator for the Woodlawn
25 Avenue parking garage. And again, I know



1 that's -- that was on I believe 2/27, but
2 we just got the invoice I believe it was
3 last week. So --

4 The second item on my agenda is just
5 an announcement for the 2020 first
6 quarter utility bills. Under the
7 resolution, the commissioner of public
8 works can extend the payment time. We
9 did it -- I believe we did it -- I don't
10 know if it was last year or year before
11 last. So we're going to extend it from
12 April 15th to May 15th for the -- for
13 people to pay their utility bills.

14 And the third item on my agenda is
15 just to set a public hearing probably
16 five minutes to amend the capital program
17 and the capital budget to include the
18 City Hall renovation. And that is for
19 monies that we're using in the -- okay,
20 what is it, the --

21 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Reserve.

22 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: The building
23 reserve. Yeah, thanks. Thank you.

24 And I'll have more information on
25 that tomorrow night. So -- and with



1 that, if there's no questions, that
2 concludes my agenda.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
4 Commissioner.

5 On to public safety. Commissioner
6 Dalton?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Hello. One
8 second. Sorry. I'm literally running up
9 the stairs to my office. I think you
10 guys are having the fast pre-agenda
11 meeting in history.

12 So the first item on my agenda is
13 going to be an update on the COVID-19
14 response. So I have an announcement
15 about that.

16 The second item on my agenda is the
17 announcement of an appointment to the
18 Saratoga Springs Art Commission which is
19 under the recommendation of the mayor and
20 Sue Kessler, the arts commission that I'm
21 going to be reappointing is Matt Hirsch.
22 I've heard great things about him. I'm
23 really looking forward to him coming
24 back.

25 The third item on my agenda is



1 discussion and vote, authorization to pay
2 the American Red Cross invoice. It's an
3 invoice for CPR AED and rescuer first aid
4 training for the police department. But
5 it went over the 1,499 threshold. I
6 believe the amount is 1,860 altogether.

7 The fourth item on my agenda is
8 discussion and vote, authorization for
9 the mayor to sign the memorandum of
10 understanding with Longfellows. These
11 are for rooms that would be used for
12 anyone in the fire and police department
13 who had to self-quarantine and doesn't
14 have any place at home where they could
15 do it safely. And so it's an option for
16 them if they need it and something that
17 we think will be reimbursed by FEMA for.

18 And then the last item on my agenda
19 is discussion and vote, accept donation
20 from Quick Response and KPM Restoration
21 for cleaning and decontaminating the
22 police station vehicles and fire station
23 trucks and PPE.

24 And that concludes my agenda.

25 MAYOR KELLY: All right. Thank you,



1 Commissioner.

2 I have not received any information
3 from Supervisor Veitch or Gaston. So is
4 there any other business from the
5 counsel? At this time are adjourned.

6 Thank you for coming.

7 (Meeting adjourned)

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

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



Michael Drake (CER-513, CET-513)

AAERT Certified Transcriber

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

New York, NY 10001

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Vote: 5 - 0

