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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING

January 4, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Meg Kelly, Mayor
- Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
- Michele Madigan, Commissioner
- John P. Franck, Commissioner
- Maire Masterson, Deputy Commissioner
- Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
- Robin Dalton, Commissioner
- Tony Popolizio



1 MAYOR KELLY: So good morning.
2 Welcome to pre-agenda for Monday, January
3 4th, 2021. Happy new year, everyone.

4 Tomorrow evening, we'll have no
5 public hearings. We have no
6 presentations, no executive sessions at
7 this time. Are there any changes or
8 edits to the agenda?

9 Then I'll turn it over to
10 Commissioner Franck.

11 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
12 Mayor. We just have one item on the
13 agenda. It was a special legislative
14 vote back in late December relating to
15 senior and disabled owner exemptions,
16 allowing them to -- can you guys hear me?

17 MAYOR KELLY: I can hear you.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes, I'm
19 sorry.

20 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay. And I
21 have -- along with Maire, who's here, I
22 have Tony Popolizio. He's just going to
23 give you a brief overview because of
24 COVID and senior citizens having a tough
25 time getting into city hall and city hall



1 being closed, et cetera. This is
2 happening throughout the state, so we may
3 need a little legislative work on this
4 also to put something in front of the
5 council. But I'll let Tony just jump in
6 briefly with Maire to give a background
7 if you could. Thanks, Tony.

8 MR. POPOLIZIO: Good morning.
9 Basically, the legislature passed the
10 COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and
11 Foreclosure Prevention Act and tucked
12 into this bill, part D, was provisions
13 for -- to cover senior citizens with --
14 and persons with disabilities for the
15 2021 assessment roll.

16 Basically, to just carry over the
17 exemptions they had in 2020 on to 2021
18 with a few minor changes to -- not
19 changes, but allowances. For example,
20 that the senior believes -- or a
21 disability person believes they are
22 qualified for a bigger exemption, they
23 can still renew the application and we
24 can calculate the information and process
25 the bigger exemption. Or if they feel



1 that nothing has changed, we just carry
2 over the exemption.

3 Again, it's required by local
4 government as the statute reads. So it
5 doesn't -- it's not an option.
6 Originally, the thought process was to
7 put an option to allow localities to
8 adopt a local law. But the way we
9 interpret this legislation, we're
10 required to do it regardless of what we
11 are thinking or how we are thinking about
12 it before.

13 So basically, my recommendation to
14 the commissioner will be to send out an
15 informational letter to our seniors
16 informing that the renewal applications
17 that we sent out in November is optional
18 if they think they are entitled to a
19 bigger one. But if they think things
20 have stayed the same, then they'll be
21 given the same exemption that they had
22 last year, unless something has changed
23 that we determine that maybe they're not
24 eligible for that.

25 But there's language in the



1 legislation that allows us some
2 flexibility, but it will help seniors and
3 persons with disability to not have to go
4 through the renewal process or try to get
5 into city hall or attend in person to
6 receive their exemption. And that's the
7 basics of it.

8 MAYOR KELLY: That's great. Thank
9 you, Tony for that.

10 MR. POPOLIZIO: Alrighty.

11 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Right. And it
12 is mandatory. When I did read it, I
13 haven't got a chance to sit down too much
14 with Tony. But we'll probably have to
15 set up a brief meeting with Vince in the
16 near future. There may be certain
17 language or something we might have to do
18 just to cover that we do it properly
19 before we send this letter out. So I
20 just wanted to reach out to your office
21 early on on this, Mayor, because we'll
22 probably need to borrow Vince for the
23 next week or two on this.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, that's great. I
25 think that's very helpful, too.



1 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you.

2 And that's all we have for tomorrow
3 evening.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
5 Commissioner.

6 Okay, then moving right on to the
7 Mayor's Department. My first item is an
8 announcement. 2021 Community Development
9 Block Grant sub-grant committee
10 application period opens 1/15/2021.

11 My second item is discussion and
12 vote, approval to hire a senior planner
13 in the Planning Department. And I know
14 that we had a couple emails going back
15 and forth yesterday. I just want to give
16 you couple of my notes and then have a
17 discussion if there is any.

18 As my email to the council
19 explained, I'm requesting a senior
20 planner on the planning staff to replace
21 the assistant duties of the Administrator
22 of Community and Economic Development who
23 has retired. We have completed the
24 following required steps, worked with HR
25 to evaluate department needs and



1 identified job duties, recommended to
2 hire senior planner. Deputy mayor will
3 cover additional duties in 2021, assess
4 all staffing needs for building and
5 planning and recommending department head
6 replacement in 2022 budget.

7 Position to Civil Service Commission
8 approval on 12/29/20, Senior Planner
9 title exists in CSEA salary scheduled on
10 grade 14.

11 Our approved 2021 budget has more
12 than enough funding available to cover
13 the salary of 61,912 dollars.

14 So if anybody has any comments on
15 that, we could discuss it. If not, I'll
16 move right on.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I don't have
18 any comments today. I might have some
19 for tomorrow evening. I've asked the
20 budget director to reach out to you with
21 a few additional questions.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, great, thank
23 you.

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

25 MAYOR KELLY: My third item is



1 discussion and vote, Saratoga Springs
2 Recreation Department part-time/seasonal
3 personnel referee proposal.

4 And that concludes my agenda for
5 tomorrow night. On to Finance,
6 Commissioner Madigan.

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.
8 The first item on my agenda is a
9 discussion and vote, refunding bond
10 resolution. So we have initiated another
11 cash savings bond refunding --
12 refinancing. And tomorrow, I'll ask for
13 approval of the resolution required to do
14 so. And it will likely be a roll call
15 vote meeting for council members present
16 and voting in favor in order to pass.

17 My second item is a Budget
18 Transfers - Payroll. These are some
19 transfers. As I said, we need to review
20 the budget throughout the month of
21 January. We passed the budget fairly
22 quickly at the last minute to let people
23 know that everybody's jobs would be safe.
24 But we still need to go back and do a
25 thorough review of the 2021 budget.



1 These transfers are to make adjustments
2 in the 2021 budget. And that's it. That
3 completes my agenda.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
5 Commissioner. On to Public Works,
6 Commissioner Scirocco.

7 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
8 Mayor. I am working on a couple items
9 for tomorrow night, but I don't have
10 anything at this time.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, great. On to
12 Public Safety, Commissioner Dalton.

13 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
14 Mayor. I only have two additions. The
15 first is a COVID-19 update, and the
16 second is an announcement about a
17 promotion in the fire department, and
18 that's it.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Great. And I know
20 that the supervisors have emailed over
21 the weekend. Being the holiday, we will
22 get those uploaded on the agenda today
23 for tomorrow evening.

24 Is there any other business from the
25 council?



1 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: That's all I
2 have.

3 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. That's it.
4 Thank you. We are adjourned.

5 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Thank you.

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

I, Paul T. Abramson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Paul T. Abramson

eScribers

352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604

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Date: January 9, 2021

Approved: 1/19/2021

Vote: 5 - 0

