



January 2, 2024

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Pre-Agenda Meeting
474 Broadway
9:00 AM

PRESENT: John Safford, Mayor
Minita Sanghvi, Commissioner of Finance
Dillon Moran, Commissioner of Accounts (arrived at 9:09 a.m.)
Jason Golub, Commissioner of Public Works
Tim Coll, Commissioner of Public Safety

STAFF PRESENT: JoAnne Kiernan, Deputy Mayor
Heather Crocker, Deputy Commissioner, Finance
Stacy Connors, Deputy Commissioner, Accounts
Joe O'Neill, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Works
Daniel Charleson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

EXCUSED: Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
Michele Madigan, Supervisor

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Safford called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

Mayor Safford reminded everyone how important the last words of the pledge are – 'liberty and justice for all'.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Amend Various Chapters of the City Code to Remove Fees – Deputy Commissioner Connors advised there are fees in chapters of the City Code that will be removed and included in the fee schedule through the Finance Department.
2. Amend Chapter 136 of the City Code Articles IV, IVA, V, VI, and VII – Deputy Commissioner Connors advised this chapter relates to eating and drinking establishments. The amendment to make outdoor dining seasonal.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approve Mid-Warrant 2023, 23MWDEC3 \$30,801.58
2. Approve Mid-Warrant 2023, 23MWDEC4 \$3,500.00
3. Approve Warrant 2023 – 23DEC3 \$402,012.66
4. Approve Warrant 2024 – 24JAN1 \$156,583.30
5. Approve Payroll 12/22/2023 \$502,929.53
6. Approve Payroll 12/29/2023 \$744,835.09

No comments.

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Discussion and Vote: Updated Scholarship Application Approval

Mayor Safford advised the Recreation Department is requesting an update to the scholarship application. These scholarships allow children to participate in various programs.

Mayor Safford suggested talking through issues at the pre-agenda meetings so there is no problem tonight.

Mayor Safford advised he will be adding two items, which are both announcements. Announcement: New Public Comment Rules. The draft rules have been passed by the public meetings people at the state level. It requires decorum at the table and the audience.

Commissioner Sanghvi confirmed the rules state people cannot clap. People have clapped to show expression for awards.

Mayor Safford stated there will be control so as not to disrupt the meeting.

Commissioner Coll stated the language was adopted from Saratoga County rules and were run by the Committee on Open Government.

Mayor Safford stated the bottom line is he does not want the meetings disrupted. In the past, the Consent Agenda was moved to the beginning of the meeting out of fear of disruption.

Commissioner Moran stated he likes the way the meetings have been run recently.

Mayor Safford stated he understands the concern has been about people being arrested. No one at the table has the right to have someone arrested unless it is a citizen's arrest. The Police Department will act as sergeant at arms. Mayor Safford stated he will warn a person a number of times if there is disruption, then he will call the person out of order, and if the disruption continues, then it becomes a police matter.

Commissioner Moran stated the rules state removal from the room, which means they are going to be arrested.

Mayor Safford stated the person will be asked by the police officer politely to leave.

Commissioner Coll advised the language in the rules is almost identical to disorderly conduct, which is in the penal law.

Mayor Safford stated the main issue is if a person goes over their time allotted.

Commissioner Moran stated most of the people who go over the time limit is not Black Lives Matter.

Mayor Safford asked Commissioner Moran what this has to do with Black Lives Matter.

Commissioner Golub stated his concern is how this can be done in an objective way.

Mayor Safford stated people yelling at others in the audience is a bigger concern.

Commissioner Coll stated the rules are an attempt to de-escalate the situation.

Commissioner Moran stated the best way to de-escalate is to enact the 50-point plan.

Mayor Safford stated he is adding another announcement: Committee for Belmont Stakes.

Commissioner Sanghvi stated she would like finance to be a part of that committee.

Commissioner Moran stated there will be visibility of the structure of events within the next week and can include as part of special events.

Commissioner Golub stated the stakeholders will have their own agenda of what they would like to see and will make more work for the Department of Public Works.

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Award of Bid: Post Closure Monitoring to CT Male

No comments.

Award of Bid: Commercial Appraisal Services and Residential Property Data Verification with Online Assessment Database

Commissioner Moran advised GAR is a third party who uses aerial/street level photos to verify data. The project also included identifying improvements that have been done without a building permit and assessing the property accordingly with those improvements.

Discussion and Vote: Amend Chapter 135 of the City Code Article IV, IVA, V, VI, and VII

Commissioner Moran stated this amendment will drive consistence for outdoor dining throughout the City and remove fees from the ordinance.

Announcement: Special Events

No comments.

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Work Agreement with Sanders Fire

No comments.

Announcement: Business Milestones

No comments.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Announcement: Update on City Finances

No comments.

Discussion and Vote: 2023 Participatory Budgeting Project for Funding

Commissioner Sanghvi stated this is a 'feel-good' program. Five projects have been ranked by the Committee for Council vote.

Discussion and Vote: Resolution to Amend 2024 Adopted Budget

Commissioner Sanghvi advised this is a procedural issue regarding the tax cap. There were five PILOTS that were incorrectly calculated and the budget will not be balanced until this is fixed.

Discussion and Vote: 2024 Revised Tax Rates

Commissioner Sanghvi stated this item goes with the one before it. The public will be saving money; tax rate decreasing approximately \$.02 per \$1,000 of assessed value.

Discussion and Vote: Budget Transfer – Tax Cap

No comments.

Discussion and Vote: Budget Transfers – Contingency

Commissioner Sanghvi advised this relates to the RISE shelter. The previous Mayor's Office asked for \$300,000 for RISE, which is short money. They need an additional \$87,000.

Discussion and Vote: Budget Amendment – Fund Balance

Commissioner Sanghvi pulled this item from her agenda.

Commissioner Sanghvi added an item to her agenda – Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay Invoice in the Amount of \$2,500 of Judgment. This payment is due in a week.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Golub added the following items:

1. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Core and Main for Sensus Meter Products
2. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with CT Male for Post Closure Monitoring Services
3. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Adirondack Cabling for Security Services
4. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Chemrite for Orthophosphate
5. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Schnabel Engineering
6. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign a Contract with the Law Office of Robert King for Legal Services. Mike Veitch, business manager for Department of Public Works, advised this is a multi-district litigation settlement where 3M and Dupont have reached a settlement for PFOAs. PFOAs are chemicals found in water sources. Testing by the City has proven the City is well below the threshold required by the Department of Health. The City has been testing for these for years and can receive money for mitigation of the PFOAs.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Commissioner Coll added one item to his agenda: Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract for Ward Apparatus.

ADJOURN

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Golub seconded adjourned the meeting at 10:09 a.m.

Ayes – (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)

Nays - 0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ribis
Secretary to the City Council

Approved:
Vote:

DRAFT