



January 16, 2024

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
474 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York

7:00 PM

P.H. – Amend Various Chapters of the City
Code to Remove Fees

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SALUTE TO FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / 15 MINUTES

PRESENTATION

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Approval of 1/1/2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of 1/2/2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
3. Approval of 1/2/2024 Pre-Agenda Meeting Minutes
4. Approval of 12/15/2023 Pre-Agenda Meeting Minutes
5. Approval of 12/19/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
6. Approval of 12/28/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
7. Approval of 12/5/2023 City Council Meeting Minutes
8. Approve Mid-Warrant 2023, 23MWDEC5 \$2,500.00
9. Approve Mid-Warrant 2023, 23MWDEC6 \$103,563.22
10. Approve Mid-Warrant 2024, 24MWJAN1 \$29,605.82
11. Approve Mid-Warrant 2024, 24MWJAN2 \$500.00
12. Approve Warrant 2023 – 23DEC4 \$446,542.75
13. Approve Warrant 2024 – 24JAN2 \$152,372.29
14. Approve Payroll – 01/05/2024 \$378,489.22
15. Approve Payroll - 01/12/2024 \$481,675.86
16. Approve Budget Transfers - Regular

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: State of the City Address – January 30, 2024
2. Discussion and Vote: Amend Public Speaking Rules
3. Discussion: Location of City Council Meetings
4. Appointment: Planning Board
5. Announcement: Planning Board
6. Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeal

7. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Art Co-Sponsor Agreement
8. Discussion and Vote: Recreation Department Agreement Templates
9. Set Public Hearing: Zoning Map Amendment
10. Announcement: CDBG Application Period is Open Until January 31

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: Downtown Advisory Committee Update
2. Announcement: January is Mental Wellness Month
3. Announcement: Special Events
4. Announcement: Business Milestones
5. Announcement: Update on Risk and Safety
6. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign Contract with FitzGerald, Morris, Baker, and Firth for Article 7 Cases
7. Discussion and Vote: Amend Various Chapters of the City Code to Remove Fees
8. Award of Bid: Transit Mix Concrete to Palette Stone
9. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract for Electric Rates

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: Update on City Finances
2. Announcement: Now Accepting Participatory Budgeting Committee Applications
3. Discussion and Vote: Updates to Finance Policy and Procedure Manual (FPPM)
4. Discussion and Vote: Use of Reserve Resolution – Payment of Bonded Indebtedness
5. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Addendum #1 with SHI for Barracuda Email Archiver
6. Discussion and Vote: Use of Reserve Resolution – Retirement Reserve

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. Set Public Hearing: Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse
2. Announcement: SiFi Update
3. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Joe Johnson Equipment for Elgin & Vactor Equipment Parts and Service
4. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Casella Waste Systems for Municipal Solid Waste
5. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Palette Stone Crop. For Transit Mix Concrete
6. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Morton Salt, Inc. for Rock Salt
7. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Sidewalk Agreement for 42 Phila Street
8. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Council Approval to Allow the Encumbrance of 2023 Capital Funds

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

1. Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay an Invoice to DLC Electric, LLC
2. Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay an Invoice to Joe's Cycle Repair
3. Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Reimburse Employee #2539
4. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Firematic Supply Company
5. Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay Annual Invoice to Axon
6. Discussion and Vote: Approval to Use 2023 Funds for Previously Approved Contract with Ward Apparatus

SUPERVISORS

Matt Veitch

1. Committee Assignments for 2024

Michele Madigan

1. Committee Assignments for 2024
2. Statement Regarding On-Call Pay for Deputies

ADJOURN



January 16, 2024

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
474 Broadway
Saratoga Springs, New York

7:00 PM

PRESENT: John Safford, Mayor
Minita Sanghvi, Commissioner of Finance
Dillon Moran, Commissioner of Accounts
Jason Golub, Commissioner of Department of Public Works
Tim Coll, Commissioner of Department 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
Dan Charleson, Deputy Commissioner, Department of Public Safety

Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
Michele Madigan, Supervisor

RECORDING OF PROCEEDING

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the secretary. Because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Safford called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

PUBLIC HEARING

Amend Various Chapters of the City Code to Remove Fees

Mayor Safford opened the public comment period at 7:03 p.m.

Commissioner Moran advised the Council will vote on this later tonight. Various chapters were reviewed and fees were removed from those chapters in the City Code.

No one spoke.

Mayor Safford closed the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Safford advised tonight they are operating on 2018 rules and everyone has three minutes to speak.

Mayor Safford opened the public comment period at 7:06 p.m.

Brian Dunn of Saratoga Springs stated his wife was dismissed without caused from the Planning Department. The City had every legal right to do what they did, but what is legally right and what is morally right are different. No one she works with was approached to see what she does or how she was performing. He is sure they did not understand what she did. In the military, you would never fire someone you don't know from a position you don't understand. He is disappointed. Her biggest concern after she was escorted out of the building was the projects she was working on and her co-workers.

Amy Durland of Saratoga Springs and member of Sustainable Saratoga welcomed the new members of the Council and the new supervisor. Sustainable Saratoga is co-hosting Saratoga Sustainability Fair at Skidmore in April. They are also working with Discover Saratoga to introduce sustainable options to reduce plastic waste as Chowderfest.

John Kaufman of Saratoga Springs stated the City's internal data that is entered into the City's database must and should be accurate. A resolution entered into the database last February was edited and contained language not approved by the Council. The resolution in question authorizes payment for attending events as compared to emergencies. According to metadata attached to the file, the author of the resolution was Deputy Connors of the Accounts Department. Many citizens of this community believe this resolution was abused by the deputies who received additional monies and the commissioners and mayor who approved payments to their deputy. The City's records need to be amended to correct what is in there. The Council needs to acknowledge that based upon appearances, this fiasco deserves full review. He has faith this Council will effectively address this.

Hannah Hurley of Saratoga Springs and member of the Task Force on Homelessness stated the task force was formed when the previous plan to bring a shelter to the City fell through. The Task Force concluded that the level of homelessness in the City demands the increase in available beds and the need for a year round low barrier shelter. She is proud of the work put into this issue. When the temporary shelter opened, the homeless people left the parking garage and received shelter. The Times Union has stated the wait list for temporary shelter to be 58 people. The City Council did not hear the Task Force's presentation last year.

Samira Sangare of Saratoga Springs and co-founder of BLM stated if/when the rules are voted on and put through people need to think about whom it is going to affect. The people affected over the last few years are the most marginalized people. Rules are going to be broken; people are going to speak over their time, people are going to clap. Is it going to be fair or just when rules are broken? There are a lot of white people that break the rules. The mayor should look into who Martin Luther King, Jr. was. He would not like these rules. They stand for peace and human rights.

MaryBeth Delarm of Saratoga Springs stated she appreciates having new rules and keeping some of the old rules. She sent an e-mail last week and found she sent it to the wrong address. She suggest the e-mail address be placed on top of contact page, top of agenda, and in print. She suggested a change to the ordinance for public works to include a rule that if a large item is left out for one to two weeks, the resident be fined. A piece of furniture had been left out and could cause a problem for a plow.

Diogenes of stolen land stated she is concerned about the suggested new rules. The terms of the policy with the exception of the time limit are completely subjective. The business of white supremacy, when this is your business as usual, warrants disrupting every time. Returning to the small room would not accommodate all attendees.

Robin Dalton of Saratoga Springs stated the reading of on-call pay appears the intent is to compensate people like the public works deputy, a person who is regularly called in the middle of the night for a water main break and is an emergency. The reasons for on-call were all previously scheduled. These items can be worked into a regular workday without asking for on-call pay. She has never heard of scheduled events qualifying as an on-call pay situation. The on-call pay situation needs to be revisited. She doesn't believe it is necessary.

Sam Brewer of Saratoga Springs stated he voiced his support to reinstate the employee who was let go last week. The last cycle of the Council did a poor job of listening to the demographics of the City. The Democratic Party in particular has ignored a large slice of the Democratic Party that resulted in the two losses. He asked Commissioner Moran and Commissioner Sanghvi to listen better to the elements of the constituency that you might not agree with.

Patience Childbirth of one of the stables in Saratoga Springs owned by the king who imprisons his daughters and has invested \$60 million dollars into the City. Civility is more than just an ice cream. Did the big developer pay for all your campaigns?

Mayor Safford closed the public comment period at 7:30 p.m.

Mayor Safford stated many changes have been made to the rules to make everyone as comfortable as possible when speaking. He thanked everyone for their comments.

CONSENT AGENDA

Mayor Safford moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to approve the consent agenda as included:

1. Approval of 1/1/2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
2. Approval of 1/2/2024 City Council Meeting Minutes
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16. Approve Budget Transfers – Regular

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

Nays – 0

SUPERVISORS

Michele Madigan

Committee Assignments for 2024

Supervisor Madigan reported Phil Barrett was appointed as chair of the Board. She has been appointed to the Trails and Open Space Committee, Economic Development Committee, and the Public Works Committee.

Statement Regarding On-Call Pay for Deputies

Supervisor Madigan reported an article in Saratoga Springs Politics raised awareness to on-call pay for City deputies. As former commissioner of finance, she feels it is important to address this issue transparently and consider the broader impact on City employees and the City taxpayer. Reasons for 'on-call' were cited as being available to the mayor and commissioner; City Council meetings; state of the union address, constituent meetings, and budget workshop meetings. These are basic job functions of an appointed deputy in the City's form of government. The City's IT staff does not receive this amount of on-call pay. According to New York State Law, exempt staff are exempt from overtime provisions of the state and federal wage hour's law. Exempt staff; however, is entitled to time off with pay, which is called flextime. The deputies' salaries are close to \$93,000 as a large raise was granted to them in 2023. The City Council has decided to override any state guidelines to pay personal appointees up to \$6,500 per year to do their jobs. The City must also commit funds for retirement on these payments. On-call pay needs to go. A new resolution is not needed; just remove the misuse of taxpayer funds from being used by personal appointees going forward.

Matt Veitch

Committee Assignments for 2024

Supervisor Veitch reported he was voted as vice-chair of the County Board of Supervisors. He was appointed as chair of the Law and Finance Committee; appointed to the Buildings and Grounds Committee; appointed to the Trails and Open Space Committee; appointed to the Human Resources and Insurance Committee; appointed to the Saratoga Casino Hotel Foundation; appointed to the NYRA local advisory board, and appointed to the Public Health Advisory Task Force. Supervisor Veitch serves as chair of New York State Association of Counties Public Safety Committee and staying on as vice-chair of the National Association International Economic Task Force and the National Association Community and Workforce Development Committee.

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Mayor Safford stated the attorneys are looking into the question that has been raised tonight.

Announcement: State of the City Address – January 30, 2024

Mayor Safford announced the State of the City Address will be January 30, 2024 at 7 p.m. in the Music Hall. He is asking each commissioner to speak for 5 – 7 minutes.

Discussion and Vote: Amend Public Speaking Rules (24-020)

Mayor Safford stated everyone has been given a draft of the rules and feedback has been received. They are holding to the three-minute rule to make sure everyone has an opportunity to speak. The last time rules were set was 2018 by a Council vote.

Mayor Safford stated there is a correction to #5 as follows: "Members of the public may submit written public comments to public.comment@saratoga-springs.org. This e-mail is automatically received by all Council members, their deputies, and the clerk of the Council. Such comments shall be entered as part of the official record of such meeting."

Mayor Safford moved and Commissioner Coll seconded to adopt the amendments to the public speaking rules, which were previously revised in 2018 by Council vote as well as correction to #5 of the proposed public speaking rules.

Commissioner Sanghvi stated she is concerned that limiting the public comment period to 30 minutes could prevent some members of the community from being heard. Thirty minutes at three minutes per person only allows 10 people to speak. She feels signing up ahead of time becomes an issue when a person wants to engage with what they hear during the public comment period and may not have previously signed up. As finance commissioner, she is worried about the impact the rules have as well as the way they are applied.

Commissioner Moran stated he has concerns specifically to the assignment of one of the City's police officers as sergeant at arms. The mayor is endangering the police officer's career by asking them to step outside of their sworn duty. It is important to work in a way to reduce potential for conflict rather than create potential conflict.

Commissioner Coll stated the rules were approved by the Committee on Open Government. He circulated the rules in the Police Department and they have no concerns about their careers. They are well aware of how to uphold the law.

Commissioner Golub stated he struggles with the rules, as his fear is how they are applied and how to apply objectively. The flip side is the problem with the last public safety commissioner is there were no rules. He likes the rules more than having no rules and it holds the Council accountable.

Commissioner Sanghvi stated she would like to make a friendly amendment to remove the 30-minute time-period.

Mayor Safford reminded the Council that if this doesn't pass it goes back to the rules of 2018 of two minutes per speaker and 15 minutes for the public comment period.

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Moran seconded a friendly amendment to remove the 30-minute time-period for public comment.

Commissioner Golub stated this is the same problem they had with the last mayor. It goes back to the arbitrary time of when to cut it off public comments. If there is no time limit, public comment is still going to be cut. The time limit has to be something because the rest of the business needs to get done.

Commissioner Moran suggested a maximum of one hour.

Commissioner Golub stated he could support one hour.

Mayor Safford called for a vote of the friendly amendment.

Ayes – 2 (Commissioner Moran and Commissioner Sanghvi)

Nays – 3 (Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)

Mayor Safford asked for a vote of new rules as presented with correction to #5.

Ayes – 4 (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)

Nays – 1 (Commissioner Sanghvi)

Discussion: Location of City Council Meetings

Mayor Safford stated on a go-forward basis, all City Council meetings, including pre-agenda, will be held in the City Council Room unless stated otherwise.

Commissioner Moran stated that at this time of year it is too close quarters with viruses going around. Also, the perception could be that the Council is trying to limit the number of people that can attend.

Appointment: Planning Board

Mayor Safford appointed Anthony Stellato to the Planning Board.

Announcement: Planning Board

Mayor Safford announced Chuck Marshall will be taking over as chair of the Planning Board and Mark Pingel will be vice-chair of the Planning Board.

Appointment: Zoning Board of Appeal

Mayor Safford appointed Christopher LaPointe to the Zoning Board of Appeals effective.

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Art Co-Sponsor Agreement (24-021)

Mayor Safford advised this is an agreement with C.R.E.A.T.E. Studios. City will receive registration revenue and split 80/20 with the vendor.

Mayor Safford moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to authorize the mayor to sign the art co-sponsor agreement.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Recreation Department Agreement Templates (24-022)

Mayor Safford advised the revocable license for the Recreation Center, ice rinks, field user agreements, and pavilion field house rental agreement.

Mayor Safford moved and Commissioner Coll seconded to approve the Recreation Department agreement templates.

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

Nays – 0

Set Public Hearing: Zoning Map Amendment

Mayor Safford set a public hearing for Tuesday, February 6, 2024 for a zoning map amendment.

Announcement: CDBG Application Period is Open Until January 31

Mayor Safford announced CDBG applications are being accepted through January 31, 2024.

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

Announcement: Downtown Advisory Committee Update

Commissioner Moran announced Commissioner Coll is joining the Downtown Advisory Committee. The downtown businesses have never felt more align with the Police Department. The addition of Commissioner Coll can only strengthen the alignment.

Announcement: January is Mental Wellness Month

Commissioner Moran announced January is mental wellness month. The idea that people may help is human and people should ask for it.

Announcement: Special Events

Commissioner Moran announced Chowderfest will be held on February 10th from 11 a.m. – 4 p.m. This is the 25th year with approximately 80 restaurants and vendors participating. There will be live music, kid's activities and collectable hats & shirts for sale.

Announcement: Business Milestones

Commissioner Moran stated Broadway Title Agency is celebrating 20 years. In December, Saratoga Hospital celebrated 100 years of maternity services.

Announcement: Update on Risk and Safety

Commissioner Moran announced the interview process is underway to fill the position. He expects to be able to announce the end of this week the position has been filled.

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign Contract with FitzGerald, Morris, Baker, and Firth for Article 7 Cases (24-023)

Commissioner Moran moved and Commissioner Sanghvi seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with FitzGerald, Morris, Baker, and Firth for article 7 cases as included with the agenda.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Amend Various Chapters of the City Code to Remove Fees (24-024)

Commissioner Moran advised fees will be removed from chapters 65, 72, 101A, 140, 151, 163, 165, 199A, 200, 218, and 228.

Commissioner Moran moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to amend the various chapters of the City Code as included with the agenda to remove fees from those chapters. Fees will be included in the fee schedule issued and reviewed annually by the Finance Department.

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

Nays – 0

Award of Bid: Transit Mix Concrete to Palette Stone (24-025)

Commissioner Moran moved and Commissioner Sanghvi seconded to award the bid for Transit Mix Concrete to Palette Stone according to unit bid pricing not to exceed appropriations.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract for Electric Rates (24-026)

Commissioner Moran stated the City currently has an agreement in place. This is an opportunity to lock in a rate of \$.10825/kWh for a period of 31 months. This is an annual savings of \$100,000 for the next two and a half years.

Commissioner Moran moved and Commissioner Sanghvi seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Constellation at \$0.10825 / kWh for 31 months.

**Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0**

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

Announcement: Update on City Finances

Commissioner Sanghvi announced sales tax year to date is \$17,063,309.86 and the 2023 budgeted amount was \$17.5 million. They are still waiting on December sales tax figures.

Announcement: Now Accepting Participatory Budgeting Committee Applications

Commissioner Sanghvi announced there are openings for new Committee members. Applications are being accepted for the next phase of participatory budgeting and can be found on the City website.

Discussion and Vote: Updates to Finance Policy and Procedure Manual (FPPM) (24-027)

Commissioner Sanghvi advised this for the Finance Policy Manual, not the policy and procedure manual. Two main policy updates are the inclusion of GASB 87 (leases) and GASB 96 (subscription based information technology arrangements). The City's auditors have reviewed the updates for accuracy.

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Coll seconded to approve the updates to the Finance Policy Manual.

**Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0**

Discussion and Vote: Use of Reserve Resolution – Payment of Bonded Indebtedness (24-028)

Commissioner Sanghvi advised the City established a reserve fund in 2013 for payment of indebtedness to accumulate monies to finance the payment of debt in accordance with General Municipal Law. The debt service fund budget includes \$750,000 from the reserve fund for payment for bonded indebtedness. This resolution approves the use of those funds.

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to approve the resolution for the expenditure of the reserve fund for the payment of bonded indebtedness.

**Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0**

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Addendum #1 with SHI for Barracuda Email Archiver (24-029)

Commissioner Sanghvi advised the amount of the addendum is \$8,712.

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize the mayor to sign addendum #1 with SHI for Barracuda email archiver.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Use of Reserve Resolution – Retirement Reserve (24-030)

Commissioner Sanghvi advised the 2024 adopted budget calls for the use of \$500,000 from the retirement system reserve. This will be used to pay a portion of the City's annual contribution to the New York State Retirement System.

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to approve the resolution for expenditure of the retirement system reserve.

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

Nays – 0

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

Set Public Hearing: Garbage, Rubbish, and Refuse

Commissioner Golub set a public hearing for Tuesday, February 6, 2024. They are looking to amend Chapter 126 of the City Code.

Announcement: SiFi Update

Commissioner Golub announced the City entered into an agreement with SiFi Networks in 2018 to install a citywide fiber optic network. A trial period of micro trenching commenced in the fall of 2021. It was determined micro-trenching method would not work and a new method was created. In 2023, SiFi changed contractors, which adjusted the project cost, and they realized a project pause from their investors due to adjusted project cost, inflation, and financial markets. SiFi has assured Commissioner Golub they will resume construction in 2024 third quarter.

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Joe Johnson Equipment for Elgin & Vactor Equipment Parts and Service (24-031)

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Joe Johnson Equipment for Elgin & Vactor equipment parts and service valid until 12/31/24 for unit bid prices not to exceed \$50,000.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Casella Waste Systems for Municipal Solid Waste (24-032)

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Coll seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Casella Waste Systems for municipal solid waste valid until 12/31/24 in the amount of \$123,400.

Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Palette Stone Crop. For Transit Mix Concrete (24-033)

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Palette Stone Corp. for transit mix concrete valid until 12/31/24 in the amount of unit bid prices.

Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Morton Salt, Inc. for Rock Salt (24-034)

Commissioner Golub stated the Department of Public Works is 'piggybacking' off the County's contract.

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Sanghvi seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Morton Salt, Inc. for rock salt valid until 7/31/24.

Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Sidewalk Agreement for 42 Phila Street (24-035)

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a sidewalk agreement for 42 Phila Street for 275 square feet of sidewalk for the total of \$4,125.

Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Council Approval to Allow the Encumbrance of 2023 Capital Funds (24-036)

Commissioner Golub advised the Department of Public Works did not meet the encumbrance deadline for budget line H3638332 / 52000 / 1167 from 2023. This is for a water main replacement improvement project to upsize water mains from four to eight inches.

Commissioner Golub moved and Commissioner Moran seconded Council approval to encumber 2023 funds for line H3638332 / 52000 / 1167 in 2024.

Ayes – All (Commissioner Moran, Commissioner Sanghvi, Commissioner Golub, Commissioner Coll, and Mayor Safford)
Nays – 0

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay an Invoice to DLC Electric, LLC (24-037)

Commissioner Coll advised this is for completed electric work at station 3 in the amount of \$44,013.50.

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to authorize payment of invoice to DLC Electric, LLC.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay an Invoice to Joe's Cycle Repair (24-038)

Commissioner Coll advised this invoice is for a 12'x21' metal building in the amount of \$8,199. Part of the funds will come from 2023.

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to authorize payment of invoice to Joe's Cycle Repair using 2023 funds.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Reimburse Employee #2539 (24-039)

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize reimbursement to employee #2539 using 2023 funds.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization for the Mayor to Sign a Contract with Firematic Supply Company (24-040)

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to authorize the mayor to sign a contract with Firematic Supply Company.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Authorization to Pay Annual Invoice to Axon (24-041)

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to authorize payment of an invoice to Axon.

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

Nays – 0

Discussion and Vote: Approval to Use 2023 Funds for Previously Approved Contract with Ward Apparatus (24-042)

Commissioner Coll moved and Commissioner Golub seconded to approve the use of 2023 funds for previously approved contract with Ward Apparatus.

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

Nays – 0

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Sanghvi moved and Commissioner Moran seconded to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m.

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

Nays – 0

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ribis
Secretary to the City Council

Approved: 2/6/2024
Vote: 5 - 0

Council public comment on new City meeting rules

From : SaveRspace <saverspace@gmail.com>

Fri, Jan 12, 2024 11:14 AM

Subject : Council public comment on new City meeting rules

✉Council

To : Lisa Ribis <lisa.ribis@saratoga-springs.org>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the City network. Please contact IT Support if you need assistance determining if it's a threat before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Dear Mayor Safford:

Re: Rules at Saratoga Springs City public meetings, suggestions

Here are a few specifics I would appreciate you consider added to your drafted rules.

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If meetings were held in the regular council room, especially near holiday time, it would open up the music room for event rental. This obviously would allow the city to gain money!

B. Repeating from past comments, the *camera* should encompass the whole room. They could place one in the front as well as the back or just have one wide angle from the side. This would not be expensive and technology provides such efficiency.

If ever a need to review something legally, such documentation is added city protection. To be **transparent**, the public zoom meetings should see what's going on in the whole room. Such could've prevented many patterned unsafe incidences from escalating last year.

For your City Council consideration I would appreciate you reviewing the following when revising meeting rules.

(1) No more than 2.25 minutes only for public comment . It has long been apparent when giving your name and address, and gratefulness for council time, takes up approximately 10-15 seconds. So that leaves a full two minutes to speak. It was always two minutes years ago and this allows time for more public input.

Could you please consider someone else and not a council, member or mayor holding the plot. Maybe someone by your side who raises their hand and says 'Time' 5 seconds before the public commenter's 2 minutes and 15 seconds, or whatever time is decided on, so commenter can finish their sentence.

Is there a limit on public **hearing** comments?

(2) In regards to your draft section 2A and 2 B under public meeting expectations and rules, please add: NO offensive apparel graphic or words such as with someone's name, title or demeaning or inciteful labeling such as we have seen patterned in the past (2023), or profanity, or design, such as, but not, including the middle finger, being worn on clothing or hats.

If someone violates this rule, any member of the sergeant at arms may request the individual put their sweater or jacket over it. Or remove if a hat. If more than one person wears such offensive or malicious garb, they will not be allowed to speak, and asked to leave since others in the room and City Council can 'see' them and their 'offensive message still harming others and a risk to our safe environment'.

Offensive designed apparel is specific and would fall under under your directive as a placard, poster, sign or other material you are requesting be prohibited.

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— — — — —

3. A last reminder as I requested at the last City Council meeting that all the rules you direct towards the audience and public, also needs application to other city council members, including bullying, and interruption of each other, staff, and of course public. This is needed in order to maintain decorum and move business forward quickly. There should never be pressure for a member vote.

Mr. Mayor IF other council members follow your directive on this matter will prevent intimidating remarks made from other council members to yourself, council to other members, to staff, and to the public. As we have seen in the recent past sarcastic or demeaning remarks, pressure by Council at each other, you, staff or public should be prohibited. Especially if a council member tries **indirectly** to harm or belittle someone else, perhaps even a public member after public comment, is equally unacceptable. If it does occur perhaps you will consider warning the Council member at the time the violation occurs; just like with the public. *Knowing consequences do not just apply to the public should improve efficiency and time, at least during City Council meetings. Knowing there are repercussions for everyone makes citizens feel we are in a trusting, safe, transparent environment. Offensiveness should never be permitted from city representatives to each other, the public or beyond closed doors.*

No council member should be allowed to speak between, or after speakers during public comment (including snide remarks, on comments made from public as was noted this January) . Only the mayor should as the presiding officer. If the mayor gives a City Council member permission or if Mayor Safford so chooses, AFTER ALL public comments have been heard as you demonstrated at the end of the last City Council meeting. *This should move things along quickly and efficiently as we give city business priority.*

4. For more transparency...Many citizens believe the **Clerk of the Board**, or whoever is sitting on the side in the seats off camera, use a microphone, because no one can hear what communication is being relayed to city Council from them. No one can see her or him. If this is the same person who writes and records everything from the public and City Council, we need to know who this important person is. Perhaps Mr. Mayor, you could request they stand once and you introduce them so we hand our name and address to the right person & not a

stranger. Once should be sufficient so anyone could look back in a video. As of now, I don't think this has been done.

We noticed there was a sub for the last City Council meeting, and no public members I spoke with knew who they were either. After the meeting I introduced myself, and also met the assistant Clerk. Again please introduce whether they are subs or not.

5. Regarding p suggestion of addresses, it was said to me that if someone does not provide if they are a resident of Saratoga Springs or whatever city they live, in they will not be taken seriously by many. No exceptions should be made, but at least the real city in which they live. There should be no problem with protecting their identity with just a city. Not requesting an address here, but if they want to give it, fine. But a false address is of no use because how would you know if they are resident of the city. Or of the state or country for that matter. And how could you possibly respond to them or their issue at a later date?

Fake names are not authentic. So how could we take someone serious or trust one who is not sincere. Even if they speak a first name, they could write down their last name and provide to clerk recording if they didn't want to speak it. There should not be an exception for a legitimate first name. It's difficult to believe someone who gives false information from the beginning. They do not appear credible.

Responses to public comment...

Finally, there are many people in the public who are waiting for answers or responses on suggestions made either by mail or in person from last two years. Could you please Mr. Mayor add a new rule that major public issues, such as, but not including traffic, or say safety issues, will be responded to within 30 days. One public comment on the same issue deserves one specific response, eliminating tons of repetition, multiple comments month after month, and time for future meetings.

This way the public won't feel as if they're being ignored and will know you actually received and read the comment. Again, this would save a tremendous amount of time for people not to have to keep repeating, nor bog your incoming mail and prolong public comment time. **Addressing issues promptly keeps business flowing, public involved, and civility within our City.**

I wasn't sure on the deadline to get comments to City Council before the next meeting to give all City Council an opportunity to review. Can you please let the public know what that deadline is? Is it before the Agenda meeting? I'm referring to ensuring that all of the city council members have read any emails that may have been submitted.

Thank you for written rules at public meetings toward **all** to adhere to the limited format under the First Amendment of the US Constitution and NYS statutes, which has long been needed to regain order and civility in our city.

Thank you for your time.

Mary Beth Delarm

Geysers Crest, Saratoga Springs, New York

City Council meeting room location

From : rose tait <rose.tait@icloud.com>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 08:01 AM

Subject : City Council meeting room location**To :** public comment <public.comment@saratoga-springs.org>**Cc :** Tait <tait7@aol.com>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the City network. Please contact IT Support if you need assistance determining if it's a threat before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Rose Tait
Saratoga Springs
518-587-0618.
518-424-0660 mobile

Re: City Council Meeting Room

1. Handicapped meeting room on 3rd floor is more user friendly.
 - handicapped entrance ramp is near the elevator, which is steps to 3rd floor meeting room. Ample seating and lavatories nearby
 - 1st floor adverse impact: long walk from handicap ramp entrance to end of 1st floor meeting room. Lavatories are a long walk back, available seating questionable.People handicapped with breathing, walking , sitting/standing issues are adversely impacted

2. Flu season: people are sitting/standing shoulder to shoulder at meetings on the 1st floor
-

Fwd: Council public comment on new City meeting rules (I don't think you received last Friday when emailed)

From : SaveRspace <saverspace@gmail.com>

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 10:23 AM

Subject : Fwd: Council public comment on new City meeting rules
(I don't think you received last Friday when emailed)

To : public comment <public.comment@saratoga-springs.org>

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Dear Mayor & Council,

I am forwarding to you comments I submitted via email last Friday 1/12/24 at 11:15 a.m. with the intentions to give Council a few days to read before the next City Council meeting. Today another citizen asked me what the public comment email address was. When I didn't hear back I realized I didn't have the correct public comment email but instead I sent to the recording secretary. So my apologies and you're getting this late.

That said, in addition to the contents below I would like you to make it clear to the public WHERE exactly on the city website the public comment email address is and, the deadline for submitting information prior to the actual meeting. And could the city please send an automated reply that they've received a public comment, so citizens do not automatically assume it was received.

Many thanks for your time and attention to all city matters.

Sincerely, Mary Beth Delarm

Begin forwarded message:

From: SaveRspace <saverspace@gmail.com>

Date: January 12, 2024 at 11:15:00 AM EST

To: Lisa Ribis <lisa.ribis@saratoga-springs.org>

Subject: Council public comment on new City meeting rules

Dear Mayor Safford:

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Mary Beth Delarm

Geysers Crest, Saratoga Springs, New York

Public Comment

From : stbilly@nycap.rr.com

Tue, Jan 16, 2024 08:32 PM

Subject : Public Comment

To : public comment <public.comment@saratoga-springs.org>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the City network. Please contact IT Support if you need assistance determining if it's a threat before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Good Evening, My name is Bill, Saratogian born and bred. I just watched the discussion on Public Comment that you had in your Council Meeting tonight in addition to the actual Public Comment section at the beginning of the meeting. I am particularly interested in this issue because I myself have spoken many times during the public comment portion of the council meetings. My concerns for speaking have primarily been geared towards the city council conducting city business and doing your job concerning the safety and business of the citizens of our great city. Since I began coming to the meetings and speaking, I have seen a broad sense of discourse, unruly and vicious behavior culminating a couple times in closing down the meeting and having a continuance the next day. From my position in the gallery, I had a front row seat to an insurrection, that was fun. Compound that with members of the last administration fighting each other in the media, and that just enhanced the embarrassment we had to endure by such behavior.

Now we have a new administration and they want to implement new rules and standards for the Public Comment. Good! I have always felt, and not alone, that there should be some guidelines to conduct business. I welcome the changes, the time constraints and the need to refrain from the ridiculous that has been seen in the past. Establishing certain guidelines, and adhering to and enforcing said rules will only help to conduct a better meeting without the media getting involved other than giving them something pertinent to report on. I think that bringing civility to the Public Comment is only going to make it better but are you willing to work towards that by backing up what you say? And are you willing to extend enough grace to let everybody speak that is in line? I understand that meeting nights are long but do you really think you can cut off somebody and tell them they can't speak because you ran out of time? I agree with the Commissioner that was looking to extend the time limit to accommodate everybody who wants to speak. I think history shows that 30 minutes just seems a little short for this and it should be an hour time limit with the Mayor's discretion to move forward or stop the comments, that's His call.

Lastly, you already heard that there will be some people that willingly try to disrupt the meeting, say what they want without respect to the council and people in the room and maybe cause a disturbance. How willing are you going to be to enforce that? Officer Barret already sits in the room and is willing to act in a professional capacity if needed, that's his job, enforcement. Your job is to call out the disruption and have it handled, are you willing to move in that area with confidence and not bend over against your own rules.

Lastly, I am not a resident of Saratoga Proper, I live a half mile over the city line but I grew up here, my kids grew up here and I do love this city. I feel I have a vested interest and a right to voice my opinion as to the business of this city but if I am going to be put back to the end of the line and maybe not be able to speak, that would be most unfortunate but I would understand because that's the rules and I know that I may not be able to speak but my voice will not be silenced. Thank You for hearing me and thank you for your time and consideration.

Remember, God loves us all and we all matter to Him.

Public Comment regarding On Call Pay

From : GINNY SCAVUZZO <saratogagrammy@gmail.com>

Wed, Jan 17, 2024 01:02 PM

Subject : Public Comment regarding On Call Pay

To : public comment <public.comment@saratoga-springs.org>

CAUTION: This email originated outside of the City network. Please contact IT Support if you need assistance determining if it's a threat before opening attachments or clicking any links.

Dear Mayor Safford and Council Member,

I am submitting my public comment in writing regarding the “On Call Pay” issue.

I have questions:

1. Have City Deputies been improperly paid for allegedly being “on call”?
2. Have they actually been “on call” or have they been paid for actual responsibilities that under their job description?
3. Did three of the city Deputies, facilitated by their respective bosses, use a poorly defined provision adopted by the Saratoga Springs City Council to pay:
 - Angella Rella, Deputy Mayor: \$5,640.75
 - Stacy Connors, Deputy Commissioner of Accounts: \$4,136.75
 - Heather Crocker, Deputy Commissioner of Finance: \$1,128.15
1. Was the language of the February 2023 resolution for “on call” pay for public works employees so poorly crafted, it was vulnerable to abuse?
2. Did Commissioner Sanghvi properly monitor and manage this perk?

I believe others have already asked these questions, so my ask is

1. Where has transparency been, no less accountability? Apparently others have been asking, but they claim that they have been ignored. Ignoring a problem or a perceived one, doesn't make it go away.

I think we deserve to know what actual “on call” means and be reassured that it doesn't mean “already documented responsibilities”.

I appreciate, Mr Mayor, that you said last evening that the issue is being reviewed by the city's legal department. But...

1. What if, because of the way the resolution was written, these payment are not considered illegal? What then? Are they then just a) immoral b) amoral or c) just plain greedy?

I appreciate your reading and considering my comments.

Furthermore, I would like knowing that public comments don't fall on deaf ears as I've witnessed over the past years.

There's a reason, Mayor Kim was not re-elected. There also is a reason the re-elected council members (although running unopposed) may not have gotten full support on Election Day.

We are your constituents; we elected you and we are in hopes that you listen and that you hear us. Thank you.

In closing, I thank you all for your service to the city.

Ginny Scavuzzo
125 West Ave #250
Saratoga Springs, NY 12866
