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SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

February 2, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

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



1           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Good  
2 evening. Welcome to city council meeting  
3 Tuesday, February 2nd. It is 7 p.m. We  
4 have no public hearings tonight.

5           Roll call, please?

6           Secretary to City Council:

7 Commissioner Franck?

8           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Present.

9           Secretary to City Council:

10 Commissioner Madigan?

11          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Present.

12          Secretary to City Council:

13 Commissioner Scirocco?

14          COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.

15          Secretary to City Council:

16 Commissioner Dalton?

17          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

18          Secretary to City Council: Mayor

19 Kelly?

20          MAYOR KELLY: Here.

21          Secretary to City Council:

22 Supervisor Veitch? He's here. I see

23 him.

24          And Supervisor --

25          SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.



1 Secretary to City Council: --

2 Gaston?

3 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you. Please  
5 rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

6 I pledge allegiance to the flag of  
7 the United States of America and to the  
8 republic for which it stands, one nation,  
9 under God, indivisible, with liberty and  
10 justice for all.

11 Thank you. Next on the agenda is  
12 the public comment period. I would ask  
13 you to keep your comments brief, up to  
14 two minutes. There will be a bell to  
15 signify the end of your time. Public  
16 comment period will begin -- will  
17 continue for fifteen minutes. Please be  
18 respectful to the speakers and address  
19 the council as a whole.

20 As a reminder, public comment is not  
21 a dialogue or a discussion with the  
22 council. However, at the end of the  
23 public comment period, any council member  
24 may respond to any comment. Anyone who  
25 wishes to address the council upon any



1 issue may now raise their hand on the  
2 bottom of their Zoom screen, and we will  
3 call you in.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Mayor, go  
5 ahead. And you see Claudia (ph.)?

6 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Claudia. Let's  
7 see. Am I unmuting them? Yeah, I have  
8 to unmute them, hold on.

9 MS. KRAMER: Thank you.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. You're on --

11 MS. KRAMER: Thank you.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- Claudia. Thank  
13 you.

14 MS. KRAMER: Thank you, Mayor. I  
15 was trying to raise my electronic hand,  
16 but I figured my regular hand will work,  
17 too. Thanks for recognizing me and for  
18 this opportunity to make comments  
19 tonight.

20 As you know, I'm representing  
21 residents who live on the east side and  
22 who are opposed to the fire EMS facility  
23 being located on the horse track grounds.  
24 This is something that came up last year  
25 right at the beginning of the pandemic,



1 and we asked you to table your  
2 consideration of the agreement, the lease  
3 agreement, but that went forward. And  
4 now tonight, you have the accepting a bid  
5 for additional design engineering  
6 services is my understanding.

7 And we are asking you to again, once  
8 again, to hold off on going forward with  
9 that. We still have many concerns about  
10 the siting of this particular facility.  
11 There has been no city-wide study to  
12 evaluate the best location for this  
13 facility and how it would be able to  
14 respond to people all over the city in  
15 the best, most efficient way. There has  
16 been no environmental impact statement to  
17 study the environmental and historic  
18 impacts of a facility like this on the  
19 racetrack grounds, and we are asking for  
20 that to be conducted before you go  
21 forward with this kind of proposal.

22 And, you know, to be frank, it -- it  
23 does seem very concerning that you're  
24 going forward with a five- to six-  
25 million-dollar project when everyone



1 knows this city's budget revenue went  
2 down last year by over -- I believe over  
3 six million dollars. And people were  
4 laid off, and we had to delay other  
5 projects and other funding. So it just  
6 seems like there's a lot up in the air,  
7 and the litigation is still pending. Ad  
8 so we are asking you to not make a  
9 decision to go forward with that  
10 particular bid award tonight.

11 Thank you for your consideration.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Holly (ph.)?

14 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Holly.

15 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Yeah.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

17 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Go ahead.

18 Yeah.

19 MS. HAMMETT: Hi.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Hi.

21 MS. HAMMETT: Good evening. I just  
22 need to -- I got to read my statement.

23 I'm here tonight to ask the city  
24 council to publicly support the Police  
25 Reform Task Force. We're fortunate to



1           have a representative and conscientious  
2           task force exploring and addressing the  
3           complex and controversial issues related  
4           to policing. Wanting and needing public  
5           input, the task force released a survey  
6           last week. I ask all of you to complete  
7           the survey yourselves and encourage your  
8           constituents to do the same.

9                         Given this council will be voting on  
10           task force recommendations by April  
11           4th -- April 1st, I implore all of you to  
12           take an active interest now in the issues  
13           being addressed and not wait until the  
14           recommendations are before you. You and  
15           your deputies could be attending these  
16           meetings to listen and learn. Your lack  
17           of visible interest gives the impression  
18           this task force and its mission are not  
19           important.

20                        As our elected city leaders, I ask  
21           you to lead. Acknowledge that racism and  
22           distrust of law enforcement is epidemic  
23           in our country. Help city employees and  
24           residents understand that Saratoga  
25           Springs is not and cannot be immune from



1 racism and systemic problems in its  
2 police department because we are a city  
3 and a state and a country founded on the  
4 premise of white supremacy, and it is in  
5 our blood. That does not make those of  
6 us who are white bad. None of us were  
7 the founders of this country or enslaved  
8 anyone.

9           However, as Isabel Wilkerson  
10 explains, when we buy or inherit a house  
11 with bad plumbing and structural  
12 problems, those problems are not our  
13 fault as we did not create them, but they  
14 are our responsibility. To not fix the  
15 problems is negligent. To cover them up  
16 and sell the house is immoral. She also  
17 points out that when one is diagnosed  
18 with a serious illness that is  
19 hereditary, one should not feel ashamed  
20 and hide the diagnosis. One should  
21 research to understand the illness and  
22 best treatment options and how to prevent  
23 this condition from being passed down to  
24 the next generation.

25           Please do your research. Listen to





1 learn --, and learn from those who have  
2 already done research. Listen to those  
3 who have lived experience and support  
4 police reform efforts to make everyone  
5 feel safer.

6 Thank you.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

8 MS. HAMMETT: Is that the time bell  
9 or --

10 MAYOR KELLY: That is the time bell.

11 MS. HAMMETT: -- is that an alarm?

12 Oh.

13 MAYOR KELLY: That's the time bell.

14 Thank you.

15 Lisa, anybody else?

16 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Yes. Darlene  
17 (ph.).

18 MAYOR KELLY: Darlene, you're on --

19 DARLENE: Hi.

20 MAYOR KELLY: -- yeah.

21 DARLENE: Yes. Hi.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Do you have video,  
23 Darlene? Or no?

24 DARLENE: Yeah. Hi. Sorry about  
25 that.



1           MAYOR KELLY: That's okay.

2           DARLENE: I wanted to speak up. I  
3 am a resident of the City of Saratoga  
4 Springs, and I've been trying to discuss  
5 with the city for a long time that we  
6 have a water problem. It's not only a  
7 Public Works, but it's a Public Safety  
8 problem, too. And last time the council  
9 said that they drank the water, but I  
10 have done specific tests, and I found  
11 that we do have chloroform -- coliform  
12 bacteria within the water system. And  
13 the bacteria is within where I live with  
14 the housing authority, and it's -- it's  
15 not within the rest of the city, which I  
16 hope not. But I still want something  
17 done, and our code enforcement officers  
18 have a responsibility, and the council  
19 has a responsibility of making sure that  
20 we have safe, drinkable water.

21           And I am going to end it at that.  
22 And I am also going to do second tests,  
23 and I'm going to put that on video for  
24 you all.

25           MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.



1           DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Thank you.

2           MAYOR KELLY: Anyone else? Please  
3 raise your hand if you want to speak.

4           DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: I don't see  
5 anyone else, Mayor.

6           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Perhaps your  
7 response is -- and to --

8           MAYOR KELLY: I do, too,  
9 Commissioner. I do, too. Just hold on  
10 one minute.

11           I see this 518. Who's 690 number?  
12 Do they want to speak?

13           DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: They're  
14 muted. I'm not sure. I don't --

15           MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Then --

16           DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: -- think so.  
17 Okay.

18           MAYOR KELLY: Then I will turn it  
19 over to the council for comments.

20           Commissioner Dalton, if you want to  
21 go, go ahead.

22           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah. I just  
23 had two comments, actually. One was to  
24 Ms. Kramer (ph.). I take exception to  
25 her saying she represents residents of



1 the Saratoga Springs east side  
2 neighborhood. I am one of those  
3 residents, and she does not represent me.  
4 So I wish she would be more specific in  
5 terms of the group that she's speaking  
6 of.

7 Secondly to Ms. Hammett (ph.) and  
8 her talk discussing about our  
9 participation in this task force. I have  
10 watched every single meeting. I can't  
11 always watch them live, but that does not  
12 mean that I haven't taken an interest or  
13 haven't been viewing them. But in many  
14 cases, involvement or interference from  
15 the city council goes contrary to what  
16 the Executive Order 203 states. And so I  
17 would not take -- however, she sees our  
18 lack of participation as a negative thing  
19 because that's just not how this process  
20 was meant to happen.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
22 Commissioner.

23 Anybody else?

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I've  
25 got it --



1 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah --

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Go ahead,  
3 Commissioner.

4 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay. I  
5 just want to say that I think the water  
6 in the city is safe. I don't find any  
7 issues with the water in the city.

8 And I think -- Darlene, I think  
9 you're on Jefferson Street, so I'm going  
10 to send somebody over there to check it  
11 out to make sure that there are no issues  
12 over there. And if there are issues over  
13 there, well, we'll just take appropriate  
14 action. So rest assured that I don't  
15 think we want to have any issues with any  
16 residents in the city again. I think the  
17 water's safe, so I don't have a problem  
18 with that.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
20 Commissioner.

21 Commissioner Madigan?

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I have two  
23 responses. The first is about the fire  
24 EMS because there seems to be some  
25 confusion about the city's financial



1 situation. First of all, we did not have  
2 any layoffs in the city. We did have a  
3 furlough program last summer, but we have  
4 not had any layoffs. Our bonding  
5 capacity remains very healthy, and this  
6 is what this project would be. A five-  
7 to six-million-dollar project would be  
8 issued in debt, and right now interest  
9 rates are extremely low, and that's why  
10 we continued to move this project  
11 forward. It's our cash flow and our  
12 general operating funds that are  
13 suffering quite a bit as a result of  
14 COVID-19. And those are real concerns  
15 that I have, and I address this with the  
16 council and the public regularly.

17 But at this point in time, I think  
18 one of the best things we can do for our  
19 economy is invest in projects,  
20 infrastructure projects, construction  
21 projects. So I just wanted to clear up  
22 the issue with the city's finances. It  
23 really is our basic day-to-day operating  
24 budget that has some stress, a lot of  
25 stress on it as a result of COVID, but



1           our bonding capacity still remains  
2           healthy. And the city has taken it upon  
3           themselves to refinance debt since I've  
4           been here several times, which has saved  
5           us an additional five million dollars in  
6           future bonding capacity.

7           My second comment is about the task  
8           force. I am very interested in what's  
9           going on, and I, like Commissioner  
10          Dalton, do watch the meetings and agree  
11          with her that sometimes it's not always  
12          appropriate to have council members show  
13          up, certainly in front of the planning  
14          board or the zoning board and perhaps  
15          with this task force.

16          However, I have reached out to both  
17          co-chairs, and I've yet to receive a  
18          response from them, asking them if they  
19          would like to meet with me one-on-one.  
20          Now, every now and then I do miss an  
21          email, so I don't want to say they have  
22          not reached out to me. But I have not  
23          really heard back from them with my offer  
24          to meet with them and discuss sort of my  
25          knowledge in terms of being with the city



1 for the last ten years and what I might  
2 be able to offer to the task force.

3 I do watch the meetings, and I've  
4 also made myself available to both of my  
5 appointees. And while I have -- it's  
6 been a little while since I've talked to  
7 them, I have made it clear that I'm  
8 available to them when they need me. And  
9 I do expect that I'll be meeting with  
10 them to get a more firm update going  
11 forward.

12 Thank you.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
14 Commissioner.

15 And I would also like --

16 Commissioner Franck, I'm sorry. Do  
17 you have anything to add? Okay.

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: No.

19 MAYOR KELLY: So I would just like  
20 to add something on the task force also,  
21 that the idea of this task force, it was  
22 created by the council as an independent  
23 group to work on this topic without the  
24 influence of the council. That's what it  
25 was for. So we can add to it, but we





1 want to see what they come up with. And  
2 they hand it over to us, and then we can  
3 look at it.

4 But so I do take offense to  
5 leadership in that conversation because  
6 we have the council that leads, and we  
7 are leading really well. And we are not  
8 interfering with the task force. If we  
9 were on the task force or sitting there  
10 every day, we'd be getting beat up, too.  
11 So we're staying away, and that's what we  
12 need to do. We could watch it online.  
13 We don't have to go to every meeting, and  
14 we don't have to see it. We could see it  
15 after.

16 So I just think that it's not a fair  
17 statement to say that we're not involved  
18 and we don't care. That is not the case  
19 of this council, and it would take -- I  
20 personally take offense to that.

21 So that's all I have. Thank you.

22 MS. HAMMETT: I -- I didn't say you  
23 didn't care, or you weren't paying  
24 attention. I was saying how it appears  
25 publicly --



1           MAYOR KELLY: You said lead, lead,  
2           lead. This isn't a dialogue. Thank you.

3           Okay. Anybody else?

4           Okay. Then at this time, I'm going  
5           to ask Commissioner Dalton. She has an  
6           item that she wants to move up to the top  
7           of the agenda. And you want to add an  
8           item.

9           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes, I did. I  
10          wanted to make a motion to add an  
11          announcement at this time.

12          MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Can you --

13          COMMISSIONER DALTON: So --

14          MAYOR KELLY: -- tell me what the  
15          announcement is?

16          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes. The  
17          announcement is about Black History  
18          Month.

19          MAYOR KELLY: Okay. And that's a  
20          motion?

21          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

22          MAYOR KELLY: And is there a second?

23          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

24          MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25          All those in favor say aye.



1           IN UNISON:   Aye.

2           MAYOR KELLY:   Any opposed?

3           The matter passes.   Go ahead,  
4   Commissioner.

5           COMMISSIONER DALTON:   Thank you very  
6   much, Mayor, and thank you for moving  
7   this up.   I know my agenda is dead last,  
8   so sometimes we lose some visibility by  
9   the end of the meeting.

10          But I just wanted to announce that  
11   as of yesterday we have started Black  
12   History Month, and I think that's  
13   something that the city needs to  
14   celebrate and be involved in.   And to  
15   that end, the community outreach  
16   committee that I know has presented to  
17   this council and has been active in the  
18   community has been working on a number of  
19   special events to help celebrate Black  
20   History Month.   And I wanted to encourage  
21   the city council to each consider  
22   appointing someone to this community  
23   outreach committee to be involved in  
24   events celebrating Black History Month.  
25   I know one of the panels that we're



1 working on, but I think it's very  
2 impactful for everyone in Saratoga. And  
3 I'm hoping something that a lot of people  
4 watch and listen to is what it's like to  
5 be black in Saratoga and have a panel of  
6 people speaking to that as one element of  
7 how we're celebrating Black History  
8 Month, which goes from February 1st  
9 through March 1st of this year.

10 So I just wanted to make that  
11 announcement and hope that you will all  
12 consider appointing someone to this  
13 committee, which as I said before our  
14 mission is to address race and bias in  
15 Saratoga Springs through culture,  
16 awareness, and education. And so we are  
17 looking forward to Black History Month  
18 and working on lots of different events  
19 to appeal to all of Saratoga Springs.

20 So that concludes my announcement,  
21 unless anyone has anything else to say.

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I do. I'm  
23 assuming you're going to -- I think this  
24 is great, and thank you for doing that  
25 and moving it up to the beginning of the



1 agenda so people have an idea of what  
2 we're doing. So thank you for taking the  
3 lead on this.

4 I'm assuming you're going to want an  
5 appointee fairly quickly since we're into  
6 the month?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So I'll try  
9 to get somebody to you like within the  
10 next twenty-four to forty-eight hours.

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.  
12 I'll follow up with an email with all of  
13 you, if that would be helpful.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah.

16 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

17 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I appreciate  
18 that.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And thank  
20 you. Thank you.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Great. Anything else,  
22 Commissioner?

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's it.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

25 On to the consent agenda. Are there



1           any changes or additions or edits to the  
2           consent agenda? I move that the city  
3           council approve the consent agenda as  
4           included with this agenda, this is a  
5           motion. Is there a second?

6                    COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

7                    COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

8                    MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

9                    All those in favor say aye.

10                   IN UNISON: Aye.

11                   MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

12                   The matter passes.

13                   On to the Mayor's department. My  
14           first item is discussion and vote, accept  
15           the Saratoga Springs Recreation Center  
16           donation from Mayor Scott Johnson.  
17           Former Mayor Scott Johnson and Julie  
18           Johnson would like to donate fitness  
19           equipment to the Recreation Department.  
20           The total value is estimate to be \$6,700.  
21           Scott and Julie are donating a Universal  
22           weigh station, a TRUE Fitness treadmill,  
23           and a P/Core rower.

24                   With the assistance of the  
25           Department of Public Works, the



1           Recreation Department will pick up the  
2           new equipment and install in the  
3           recreation center for public use. For  
4           the information for the public will be  
5           available after the Recreation Department  
6           establishes protocol for the new  
7           equipment.

8           I move that the city council accept  
9           the donation for the Saratoga Springs  
10          Recreation Center from Mayor Scott  
11          Johnson. This is a motion. Is there a  
12          second?

13          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

14          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

15          MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

16          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,  
17          Former --

18          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

19          COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- Mayor Scott  
20          Johnson.

21          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

22          MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor say  
23          aye.

24          IN UNISON: Aye.

25          MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?



1           The matter passes.

2           Second item is an announcement.

3           Mayor's Department food drive and benefit  
4           to Franklin Community Center and Mother  
5           Susan Anderson Women and Children's  
6           Emergency Shelter. The Mayor's office  
7           will host a drive through food drive at  
8           Vanderbilt Avenue Recreation Center on  
9           February 11th through the 13th. The food  
10          drive will benefit the Franklin  
11          Recreation Center and Mother Susan  
12          Anderson Shelter. Those who wish to  
13          contribute items to the food drive may  
14          arrive at the rec center at 15 Vanderbilt  
15          Avenue during one of the following drop-  
16          off times: 2 to 6 p.m. Thursday,  
17          February 11th; 2 to 6 Friday, February  
18          12th; 9 to 12 Saturday, February 13th.  
19          COVID protocols will be in place. Please  
20          wear a mask. Details including requested  
21          donation items are on our city website.

22          Third item is discussion and vote  
23          authorization for the Community  
24          Development Planner to execute HUD-  
25          mandated environmental reviews as a





1 certifying officer. For the past three  
2 years as a city development community  
3 planner, Lindsey Connors (ph.) has  
4 successfully completed dozens of  
5 environmental reviews for city CDBG  
6 funded project as required by federal  
7 regulations. Given the recent retirement  
8 of her immediate supervisor, we are  
9 requesting that the council authorize Ms.  
10 Connors to act as a certifying officers  
11 for these environmental reviews.

12 I move that the city council  
13 authorize the City Community Development  
14 Planner to execute the HUD-mandated  
15 environmental reviews as certifying  
16 officer. This is a motion. Is there a  
17 second?

18 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

21 All those in favor say aye.

22 IN UNISON: Aye.

23 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

24 The matter passes.

25 My fourth item is discussion and



1 vote, approval for Mayor to sign Saratoga  
2 County Office for the Aging  
3 Transportation Agreement 2021. This item  
4 and the following item are annual  
5 agreements with the County's Office of  
6 the Aging for Transportation and  
7 Nutrition Programs for seniors in  
8 Saratoga Springs.

9 I move that the city council approve  
10 the mayor to sign Saratoga County Office  
11 for the Aging Transportation Agreement  
12 2021. This is a motion. Is there a  
13 second?

14 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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 The next item is discussion and  
22 vote, approval for the mayor to sign  
23 Saratoga County Office for the Aging  
24 Nutrition Agreement 2021. I move that  
25 the city council approve the mayor to



1 sign the Saratoga County Office for the  
2 Aging Nutrition Agreement 2021. This is  
3 a motion. Is there a second?

4 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

6 All those in favor say aye.

7 IN UNISON: Aye.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

9 The matter passes. That concludes  
10 my agenda. I'm going to switch it over  
11 to Accounts.

12 Commissioner Franck?

13 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,  
14 Mayor. The first item is award of bid  
15 for to bond counsel to Walsh & Walsh upon  
16 the recommendation of the Finance  
17 Department. I move to award the bid for  
18 bond counsel to Walsh & Walsh, as  
19 included with this agenda, and that's a  
20 motion.

21 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

22 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25 All those in favor say aye.



1 IN UNISON: Aye.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

3 The matter passes.

4 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,  
5 Mayor. The second is award of bid fiscal  
6 advisory services to Fiscal Advisors &  
7 Marketing. Upon the recommendation of  
8 the Finance Department, I move to award  
9 the bid for fiscal advisory services to  
10 Fiscal Advisors & Marketing, as included  
11 with this agenda. And that's a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Can I just ask  
16 what that is? I'm just not sure what it  
17 is.

18 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So Fiscal  
19 Advisors & Marketing is -- they've served  
20 the city for a few years. They work with  
21 Walsh & Walsh. We primarily use them for  
22 services when it comes to bonding. And  
23 yeah, they give us advice on finances.  
24 They're like the big one --

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON:



1 (Indiscernible).

2 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- pretty  
3 much in the whole state. So yeah.

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Cool.

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: They provide  
6 us spot-on guidance.

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Awesome.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So --

9 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor --

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's the  
11 best I can say.

12 MAYOR KELLY: -- say aye. Oops, I'm  
13 sorry.

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: What?

15 MAYOR KELLY: All those in favor say  
16 aye.

17 IN UNISON: Aye.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

19 The matter passes.

20 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,  
21 Mayor. The third and last item for this  
22 evening on my agenda is award of bid for  
23 resilient wedge gate valve to Blair  
24 Supply Corp. Upon the recommendation of  
25 the Department of Public Works. I move



1 to award the bid for resilient wedge gate  
2 valve to Blair Supply Corp. in an amount  
3 not to exceed \$43,730. And that's a  
4 motion.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

6 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

7 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

8 All those in favor say aye.

9 IN UNISON: Aye.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

11 The matter passes.

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,  
13 Mayor. That concludes my agenda.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
15 Commissioner.

16 On to Finance, Commissioner Madigan.

17 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,  
18 Mayor. My first announcement and I'm  
19 wearing red to kick this off is the  
20 American Heart Association Go Red for  
21 Women National Wear Red Day which is on  
22 February 5th, 2021. The American Heart  
23 Association is holding its annual Go Red  
24 for Women campaign to help raise  
25 awareness of heart disease in particular



1           among women. Heart disease is often  
2           generally associated with men, but  
3           cardiovascular disease is the number one  
4           killer of women.

5                        So National Wear Red Day aims to  
6           raise funds for research and to this  
7           misunderstood disease with women. A key  
8           fundraiser of the movement this year is  
9           Friday, February 5th, when they are  
10          asking everyone to wear red. So I'm  
11          going to encourage everyone to  
12          participate. We'll see what we can do  
13          about getting those hearts. If you make  
14          a small donation to the American Heart  
15          Association, you usually get one of those  
16          heart pins.

17                       I also forwarded on an email to the  
18          Department of Public Works about lighting  
19          up our buildings starting Thursday or  
20          Friday all red. We've done that in the  
21          past. It's been a little busy. I lost  
22          track of that, but I did forward that to  
23          the commissioner and the deputy and the  
24          business manager. The American Heart  
25          Association has asked if we will



1 participate again this year, and what we  
2 usually do is put some red candles in the  
3 windows to show our support for the  
4 American Heart Association.

5 My second --

6 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: We're on  
7 it --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes? I'm  
9 sorry.

10 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: We're on it,  
11 Commissioner.

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, thank you  
13 very much because I know I sent the email  
14 a little bit late.

15 Item number two is an announcement,  
16 city hall department addresses and suite  
17 numbers. We're going to have a new city  
18 mail receptacle that we will be using  
19 beginning March 1st that will now include  
20 department suite numbers. Departments,  
21 please use these numbers for all mail  
22 going forward, and people who want to  
23 send mail to the city should use these  
24 suite numbers. All of these numbers will  
25 be posted on the city website. If anyone





1 has any questions, please contact Rachel  
2 Patrina (ph.) in communications at  
3 extension 2576 at city hall.

4 Item number three is an update on  
5 city finances. As I stated at the first  
6 meeting of 2021, this will be a recurring  
7 topic at most 2021 city council meetings.  
8 It's a critical message that I think  
9 needs to be heard. The most recent  
10 development is that New York State Office  
11 of the State Comptroller has informed us  
12 that they will be onsite for a 2021  
13 budget audit regarding the impact of  
14 COVID-19 on city finances. We are well-  
15 prepared for this audit. It is important  
16 that the council makes careful,  
17 disciplined budget decisions on essential  
18 services, departmental plans and  
19 priorities and expenditures that these  
20 might require, and is aware of the  
21 amounts of actual cash on hand at all  
22 times as we go forward.

23 We have borrowed 11.3 million and  
24 sufficiently burdened future  
25 administrations. Discipline now is going



1 to help us as we go into 2022. The New  
2 York State Governor's executive budget  
3 has removed an additional 1.5 million  
4 dollars in revenue from our current  
5 operating budget, based on what we  
6 budgeted for 2021. If this is sustained  
7 by the New York State legislature, the  
8 city will have to adjust to a substantial  
9 revision in revenue available to support  
10 current operating expenses through 2021.

11 We have responded with letters to  
12 the Governor from the Finance Department  
13 and the Mayor's Department and each of  
14 our state representatives making a strong  
15 case for reinstatement of VLT Aid. And I  
16 have submitted my testimony to testify on  
17 February 11th in front of the joint  
18 legislature to also make the case to  
19 reinstate the VLT Aid and also one-  
20 hundred percent of our AIM aid that we  
21 receive from New York State.

22 We can't borrow our way out of this.  
23 We have done a lot of borrowing, but I  
24 think we've done a sufficient amount of  
25 borrowing. Working on a 1.9 trillion



1           dollar release package that does include  
2           aid for state and local governments.  
3           Without relief, the city remains poised  
4           to experience a substantial dip in cash  
5           flow come June of 2021, which will result  
6           in insufficient funds to meet payroll and  
7           other expenditures. So let's hope things  
8           go well with the 1.9 trillion dollar aid,  
9           and feel free to reach out to me anytime  
10          if you have any comments or questions.

11                 So when I'm talking about this,  
12           because I noticed the confusion we had at  
13           the beginning of the meeting, this is  
14           really about cash flow and general  
15           operating expenses. This is not about  
16           our debt, our debt servicing, or  
17           financing other infrastructure, water,  
18           sewer, building-type projects. That's a  
19           whole other way of looking at some of  
20           our -- it's a whole other budget that  
21           gets managed in a whole other way. Happy  
22           to explain that to any member of the  
23           public who wants more information about  
24           that, or any member of the council who  
25           would like more information about that.



1 Any comments?

2 MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner, just if  
3 you could touch on VLT. Maybe you did  
4 send a letter, right? And I sent the  
5 letter --

6 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I did touch  
7 on VLT.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

9 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I did say  
10 that I sent a letter --

11 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- and that  
13 you sent a letter. I don't know if you  
14 missed that.

15 MAYOR KELLY: I did. Sorry.

16 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And that we  
17 were both -- that we both sent letters,  
18 and then I had already registered to  
19 testify between the joint legislature.  
20 And anyone who would like --

21 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- to join  
23 me, the mayor, Commissioner Dalton, I can  
24 make sure that you have the links, and  
25 you're prepared to send in some testimony



1 for that. So --

2 MAYOR KELLY: So I did request a  
3 letter to come from the council, too. So  
4 I want to --

5 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

6 MAYOR KELLY: -- get that done. So  
7 I have our consultant working on that --

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

9 MAYOR KELLY: -- and we can get that  
10 done, too. And then I definitely will  
11 sign up to testify, and --

12 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

13 MAYOR KELLY: -- just we'll talk  
14 about that. Thank you.

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. I  
16 mean, I think the more letters and the  
17 more joint letters and individual letters  
18 that we send --

19 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- the  
21 better. We really do need that funding.  
22 We are --

23 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

24 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- dependent  
25 on it.



1           One positive is I did listen to a  
2           podcast. I believe it was Senator  
3           Aubato who is very much in support of  
4           reinstating this aid and understands that  
5           communities rely on it. Communities such  
6           as ourselves, we're used to having it,  
7           rely on it for our public safety and to  
8           help maintain property taxes.

9           MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum.

10          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So I  
11          thought --

12          MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
13          Commissioner.

14          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- that was a  
15          positive.

16          Okay. Any other comments about  
17          what's coming up? All right.

18          Item number four is a discussion and  
19          vote, the 2021 tax resolution. Each year  
20          we are required to vote on the tax  
21          resolution that confirms county and city  
22          tax rates, tax levy totals as well as the  
23          special assessment district information.  
24          2021 tax bills have been generated,  
25          processed, and went out in the mail



1           today, and our tax payers should be  
2           receiving them some time during the week  
3           this week.

4           I move that the city council approve  
5           the 2021 tax resolution as included with  
6           the agenda. This is a motion.

7           MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

8           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

9           MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

10          All those in favor say aye.

11          IN UNISON: Aye.

12          MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

13          The matter passes.

14          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

15          Item number five, discussion and vote,  
16          authorization for the mayor to sign an  
17          agreement with Walsh & Walsh, LLP for  
18          bond counsel services. Walsh & Walsh is  
19          a local law firm that has served the city  
20          for several years. They are very  
21          familiar with our form our government,  
22          the city's economy, as well as its needs.  
23          They've been readily available for on-  
24          the-spot guidance, as well as council  
25          presentations. Their fees are



1 competitive and reasonable. This is the  
2 best choice for the city. This is a  
3 three-year contract for \$16,000 a year,  
4 \$48,000 for three years. It was approved  
5 by the city attorney, Purchasing,  
6 Finance, Risk and Safety.

7 I move that the city council  
8 authorize the mayor to sign an agreement  
9 with Walsh & Walsh, LLP for bond counsel  
10 services as include with the agenda, this  
11 is a motion.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

13 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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 MADIGAN: Discussion  
20 and vote, authorization for the mayor to  
21 sign an agreement with the Fiscal  
22 Advisors & Marketing, Inc. for fiscal  
23 advisory services. Fiscal Advisors &  
24 Marketing also has a local law office.  
25 They have also served the city for





1           several years and work well with Walsh &  
2           Walsh. They, too, are very familiar with  
3           our form of government, the city's  
4           economy, as well as its needs. They've  
5           been readily available for on-the-spot  
6           guidance, as well as council  
7           presentations. Their fees are  
8           competitive and reasonable. Again, this  
9           is the best choice for the city.

10                 This is a three-year contract, based  
11           on the proposal included with the  
12           contract approximately 30,000 per year.  
13           It was approved by the city attorney,  
14           Purchasing, Finance, and Risk and Safety.

15                 I move that the city council  
16           authorize the mayor to sign agreements  
17           with Fiscal Advisors & Marking, Inc. for  
18           fiscal advisory services as included with  
19           the agenda, this is a motion.

20                 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

21                 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

22                 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

23                 All those in favor say aye.

24                 IN UNISON: Aye.

25                 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?



1           The matter passes.

2           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

3           Item number seven is a discussion and  
4           vote, authorization for the mayor to sign  
5           an agreement with CivicPlus for website  
6           and design maintenance. CivicPlus  
7           designed, implemented, and it has  
8           serviced the city website for several  
9           years. This is a complicated, multiyear  
10          plan, design, and conversion which  
11          improved the city web immensely over the  
12          last version when I first started with  
13          the city. It would cost the city  
14          hundreds of thousands of dollars and  
15          several more years to engage in a new  
16          endeavor. It would require countless IT  
17          hours that the city is not in a position  
18          to give up.

19          At this time, we are looking for an  
20          additional year of maintenance and  
21          service. If we engage these services  
22          now, we are eligible for a cut rate at a  
23          significant discount that allows us to  
24          use credits accumulated over the duration  
25          of our contract. This is a one-year



1 contract based on the proposal included  
2 with the contract, approximately \$8,150  
3 per year. It's approved by the city  
4 attorney, Purchasing, Finance, and Risk  
5 and Safety.

6 I move that the city council  
7 authorize the mayor to sign an agreement  
8 with CivicPlus for website design and  
9 maintenance as included with the agenda,  
10 this is a motion.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: So one quick  
15 question. I thought that I had heard  
16 that CivicPlus, because we've used them  
17 for so long, we were eligible for some  
18 kind of a free upgrade in terms of  
19 (indiscernible) --

20 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: We --

21 COMMISSIONER DALTON: And so I don't  
22 know if whether or not we could explore  
23 it. Obviously, free is free, and free  
24 upgrades are great. So that's --

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: We are



1 eligible for that --

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Sure.

3 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- and we  
4 have been trying to work on that project.  
5 And that project is also a pretty big  
6 project, but --

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Sure.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- the deputy  
9 commissioner of finance, Deidre Ladd, has  
10 been following up on that. And I'll ask  
11 her to provide the council or yourself,  
12 Commissioner Dalton, with a little bit of  
13 an update on where we're headed and sort  
14 of a time frame for that. It's another  
15 reason to stay with them. So we can make  
16 some changes to the way we navigate,  
17 colors, and photos, and it might be -- it  
18 just needs a little -- it does need some  
19 attention. You know? It does, but --

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I know how  
21 (indiscernible) y'all are, so --

22 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- I  
24 appreciate that Deidre has taken that on.  
25 Thank you.



1           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. Thank  
2           you very much.

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

5           IN UNISON: Aye.

6           MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

7           The matter passes.

8           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.  
9           Item number nine is budget transfers to  
10          contingency, lines 1 through 2, transfer  
11          funds from contingency to the Accounts  
12          Department to cover eScriber contract  
13          costs in the amount of \$2,364.17 for  
14          services prescribed by the state under  
15          COVID-19 requisites for verbatim  
16          transcripts of each city council meeting.  
17          There are in addition to -- I don't know  
18          what that says -- to 7,000 -- I don't  
19          know what that says. These are in  
20          addition to some other funds contributed  
21          by Risk and Safety from its programming  
22          budget.

23                 Thank you to Risk and Safety.

24                 The contingency budget appropriation  
25          currently has a balance of \$250,000.



1           Following approval of this transfer,  
2           there will be \$244,635.83 available. The  
3           city will not need to appropriate --  
4           okay. Great.

5           I move that the city council approve  
6           the budget transfers contingency as  
7           included with the agenda, this is a  
8           motion.

9           MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

10          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

11          MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

12          All those in favor say aye.

13          IN UNISON: Aye.

14          MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

15          The matter passes.

16          Commissioner, you missed number  
17          eight, payroll.

18          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, payroll  
19          transfers. Thank you very much.

20          MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum.

21          COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So back to  
22          number eight, discussion and vote, budget  
23          transfers payroll, budget transfer lines  
24          1 through 5. Move funds from the Camp  
25          Saradac director to clinics and summer



1 recreation programs in the amount of  
2 \$88,082.60. This is part of the  
3 reorganization of the department for 2021  
4 budget neutral operations.

5 I move that the city council approve  
6 the budget transfers payroll as included  
7 with the agenda, this is a motion.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

9 COMMISSIONER DALTON: 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 MADIGAN: Thank you.

16 I'll jump to my item number ten now. So  
17 this is to set a public hearing, Local  
18 Law Number 1 of 2021, a local law to  
19 defer scheduled payments of taxes during  
20 the COVID-19 emergency. The governor has  
21 signed a bill authorizing property tax  
22 deferments and installment payments while  
23 the COVID-19 state of emergency is in  
24 effect. The law permits municipalities  
25 to adopt a local law to defer payments of



1 property taxes and other levies for a  
2 period not to exceed 120 days past the  
3 original payment due date, or to permit  
4 as many installment payments as necessary  
5 to be determined by the local legislative  
6 body for a period not to exceed 120 days  
7 past the original payment due date during  
8 the state of emergency.

9 The city already permits four  
10 installment payments per year, which is a  
11 longer period of time than the bill  
12 allows. So its focus will most likely or  
13 will be on allowing our taxpayers  
14 additional time to make their property  
15 tax payments, the 120-day deferral. The  
16 legal department will craft the local law  
17 best suited for the city. It will be  
18 presented at the 2/16/21 city council  
19 meeting in time for the 2021 tax payment  
20 due dates, which are on or about March  
21 1st through June -- and then June 1st,  
22 September 1st, and December 1st.

23 A public hearing is required for a  
24 local law, and I think we only need five  
25 minutes for that.





1           Secretary to City Council: Excuse  
2 me. 6:55 on the 16th.

3           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you  
4 very much. And that will complete my  
5 agenda.

6           COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.  
7 Thank you, Commissioner.

8           On to Public Works, Commissioner  
9 Scirocco.

10           COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,  
11 Mayor. The first item on my agenda is  
12 discussion and vote. This is  
13 authorization for the mayor to sign a  
14 contract with Blair Supply Corporation  
15 for resilient wedge gate valves. The  
16 purchase of two 24 resilient wedge gate  
17 valves with accessories is needed in  
18 order to replace aging, gear-operated  
19 valves in the city's water distribution  
20 system. One of the existing valves is  
21 known to be inoperable, while the other  
22 valve is highly suspect given the age,  
23 approximately eighty-seven years old, of  
24 the gear mechanisms and internal  
25 components.



1           When installed, the new valves will  
2           provide critical control of flow to the  
3           large diameter water main located along  
4           North Broadway. This is part of a  
5           broader program to replace other large  
6           gear-operated valves in the distribution  
7           system that have reached their life  
8           expectation as far as functionality and  
9           reliability.

10           Therefore, I move for the mayor to  
11           sign a contract with Blair Supply  
12           Corporation for resilient wedge gate  
13           valves in the amount not to exceed unit  
14           bid price per proposal. And I put that  
15           in the form of a motion.

16           MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second.

17           COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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           COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second item  
25           on my agenda is discussion and vote.



1 This is authorization for the mayor to  
2 sign Tree City USA application. This is  
3 an annual renewal application for the  
4 City of Saratoga's Tree City USA  
5 recognition.

6 City of Saratoga Springs has been  
7 nationally recognized as a Tree City USA  
8 community by the Arbor Day Foundation to  
9 honor its commitment to community  
10 forestry since 2016. The renewal  
11 application must be submitted annually to  
12 ensure that the community is following  
13 the four standards to become a Tree City  
14 USA community. First, having a tree  
15 department, also a tree ordinance,  
16 spending at least two dollars per capita  
17 on the urban forestry, and finally an  
18 Arbor Day observation and proclamation.  
19 The city has met all of these  
20 requirements.

21 Therefore, I move for the mayor to  
22 sign the Tree City USA application. And  
23 I put that in the form of a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

2           All those in favor say aye.

3           IN UNISON: Aye.

4           MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

5           The matter passes.

6           COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Third item

7           on my agenda is discussion and vote.

8           This is authorization for the mayor to

9           sign a Tree City USA Growth Award

10          application. The Tree City USA Growth

11          Award is presented by the Arbor Day

12          Foundation to participating Tree City USA

13          communities that demonstrate a high level

14          of tree care and community engagement.

15                 The following are just two examples

16          of how the Department of Public Works,

17          along with the city arborist, have

18          significantly improved our community

19          forestry. DPW has established a

20          partnership with BOCES in which a student

21          intern from their forestry program can

22          assist the city's Urban Forestry Division

23          through tree planting and aftercare.

24          Also a special program was initiated by

25          the city arborist in conjunction with the



1 city engineer to obtain permission to  
2 extract a row of evergreen hedges from a  
3 development site and transplant them in a  
4 city park.

5 Therefore, I move for the mayor to  
6 sign a Tree City USA Growth Award  
7 application, and I put that in the form  
8 of a motion.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

12 All those in favor say aye.

13 IN UNISON: Aye.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

15 The matter passes.

16 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And Mayor,  
17 I'd like to add an item to my agenda.

18 This is an announcement for VLT aid.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Yeah. Is that  
20 a motion?

21 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes.

22 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

23 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

25 All those in favor say aye.



1           IN UNISON:   Aye.

2           MAYOR KELLY:   Any opposed?

3           The matter passes.

4           Go ahead, sir.

5           COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO:   Thank you,  
6           Mayor.

7           And again, this is an announcement,  
8           VLT aid.  As the city council is aware,  
9           Governor Cuomo's executive budget for the  
10          State's fiscal year 2022 eliminates VLT  
11          aid to all municipalities except for  
12          Yonkers.  City residents will recall that  
13          Governor Cuomo proposed the elimination  
14          of VLT aid last year as well.  
15          Eliminating VLT aid in good economic  
16          times is a concern.  But now with the  
17          impacts of the pandemic on state and  
18          local government budgets, we need to be  
19          more vigilant in fighting for our fair  
20          share of state aid.  Our residents know  
21          what a challenge this budget year was for  
22          all of us, and elimination of VLT aid  
23          only make the situation worse.

24          The council received correspondence  
25          from our state legislative delegation,



1 sent to the governor and legislative  
2 minority leaders, advocating for  
3 restoration of VLT aid. I believe we  
4 need to loudly join their call with a  
5 follow-up letter. I also believe we need  
6 to bring together our colleagues at the  
7 County Board of Supervisors and form a  
8 coalition with other municipalities that  
9 receive VLT aid. Our message will be  
10 louder together. I am willing to work  
11 with anyone on the council on this and  
12 will be putting together backup  
13 documentation to justify our claim to VLT  
14 aid.

15 Prior to VLT aid becoming Section  
16 54-L of the state finance law as it was  
17 passed in 2007 state budget as Chapter 57  
18 of the laws of 2007, there were bills  
19 introduced in the state legislature to  
20 authorize VLT aid to municipalities.  
21 Some of the justifications were related  
22 to providing the necessary services but  
23 also to minimize property tax increases.  
24 Saratoga Springs and Saratoga County have  
25 done both over the years while hosting a



1           successful VLT facility that has  
2           benefited the state education system.  
3           These are not just arbitrary host  
4           benefits. VLT aid is a partnership  
5           between the state and local government to  
6           host facilities that generate enormous  
7           revenue primarily for state education.

8                       This is an important issue for our  
9           tax payers, and we need to focus our  
10          efforts, work with other elected  
11          officials, and advocate to ensure we get  
12          our fair share for hosting a world-class  
13          VLT facility.

14                      And that concludes my agenda.

15                      MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
16          Commissioner.

17                      COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, I  
18          just -- I have a comment. I mean, we've  
19          been on this, and we welcome you to  
20          testify. I'll send you the website link.  
21          Send in the testimony that you've just  
22          read to the council here tonight and to  
23          the public, but we have definitely been  
24          on top of this. The mayor, myself, and  
25          Commissioner Dalton and I went down last





1 year, and we got the aid fully restored,  
2 and then it was cut by twenty percent as  
3 a result of COVID. And we've been doing  
4 the work this year, too. I've already  
5 got my letters out. The mayor's got a  
6 letter out and has asked a consultant to  
7 work on a joint letter. But individual  
8 letters are helpful, and making sure you  
9 sign up to testify on local government  
10 day will be also very useful.

11 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Again, I  
12 don't have a problem going down and  
13 testifying. But I guess what I -- I  
14 guess what I'm trying to say --

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, you  
16 would be able to do it virtually.

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: But I guess  
18 what --

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

20 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- I'm  
21 trying to say is there's strength in  
22 numbers, and I think it's important that  
23 we need to get together with other  
24 municipalities that have lost VLT aid  
25 because I'm sure they're hurting just as



1 bad. And I think if we work with them  
2 along with our own county and maybe some  
3 of the other municipalities, I think  
4 again it just makes more sense. The more  
5 people you've got behind you, I think the  
6 more people listen to your message. So  
7 that's all I'm saying.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, I think we all  
9 agree with that, and I appreciate the  
10 words. And I think that including the  
11 county is a great idea.

12 So yes. Tara, if you want to say  
13 something, you can.

14 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you. I  
15 don't want to --

16 MAYOR KELLY: That's okay.

17 SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- interject.  
18 The county is working on a letter. It's  
19 going to be a little bit broader than VLT  
20 because there are some other items in the  
21 budget that also impact the county and  
22 not the city specific. But we are also  
23 absolutely advocating for this as well  
24 and are happy to sign on --

25 MAYOR KELLY: So --



1           SUPERVISOR GASTON:  -- and work  
2 together as best we can.

3           MAYOR KELLY:  So could you and maybe  
4 Supervisor Veitch do your own letter for  
5 VLT for us?

6           SUPERVISOR GASTON:  Absolutely.

7           MAYOR KELLY:  Okay.  So that would  
8 be terrific.  That's what we're trying to  
9 do to get -- we'll send it as a council.  
10 You'll send it as the supervisors.  And  
11 then we're going to be trying to hit them  
12 from all angles.  That's all we're  
13 saying.  So I appreciate that.  Thank  
14 you.

15          SUPERVISOR VEITCH:  Yeah.  We also  
16 have a racing and gaming committee  
17 meeting on Thursday, and I believe this  
18 is going to be taken up at that meeting,  
19 so --

20          MAYOR KELLY:  Great.

21          SUPERVISOR VEITCH:  -- we'll keep  
22 you posted.  But signing on a letter, not  
23 a problem.  Happy to do it.

24          MAYOR KELLY:  Okay.  Okay.

25          SUPERVISOR VEITCH:  And we should be



1 doing it.

2 MAYOR KELLY: Great. So I could  
3 send you a copy of the letter that I sent  
4 out, and then you could draft your own  
5 from that if you want.

6 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Great. Thank  
7 you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: I could do that.

9 But thank you, Tara. And thank you,  
10 Matt. And thank you, Commissioner  
11 Scirocco.

12 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay.

13 MAYOR KELLY: Anything else?

14 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: That's it.

15 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

16 Let's move on to Public Safety,  
17 Commissioner Dalton.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,  
19 Mayor. The first item on my agenda is a  
20 COVID-19 update. I have been swamped  
21 over the last few days with other issues  
22 pertaining to public safety, and I like  
23 to hear the most up to the minute update.  
24 So I've asked Supervisor Gaston to take  
25 the full COVID-19 update for tonight, and



1 she will do that when she gets to her  
2 agenda.

3 So the second item on my agenda is  
4 to set a public hearing to amend Chapter  
5 58 of the City Code entitled alarm  
6 systems. Over the years, we have removed  
7 the mention of fee amounts in public  
8 safety codes. This amendment to take up  
9 any mention of fee amounts in Chapter 58  
10 and instead allows these to be  
11 established by the council from time to  
12 time by resolutions of the city council.  
13 I'd like to set a public hearing for the  
14 next city council meeting to discuss this  
15 and set these (indiscernible) fees.

16 Secretary to City Council: We can  
17 do it at the same time at 6:55.

18 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Perfect.  
19 Thank you very much.

20 The third item on my agenda is  
21 discussion and vote, authorization for  
22 the mayor to sign an agreement with  
23 Hixny, which is Healthcare Information  
24 Exchange of New York. And this is pretty  
25 exciting. This agreement allows us,



1 specifically EMTs and paramedics and fire  
2 department, to access patient records  
3 with the patient's permission should an  
4 emergency arise. Meaning, if you have a  
5 pre-existing medical condition and we  
6 were to respond to a 911 call or an  
7 emergency call to your home and you were  
8 not in a state of consciousness to be  
9 able to articulate what your previous  
10 health issues might be, this would allow  
11 us to know in advance and respond more  
12 appropriately. It would also be able  
13 to -- it would also allow for us to  
14 analyze medical trends in our community,  
15 allowing providers the opportunity to be  
16 better educated and trained on specific  
17 issues that face Saratoga Springs.

18 So this is at no cost to us, and I  
19 think it's a really exciting program for  
20 us to be able to sign on to. And so I'd  
21 like to make a motion to authorize the  
22 mayor to sign the agreement with Hixny.  
23 This is a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.



1           MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

2           All those in favor say aye.

3           IN UNISON: Aye.

4           MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

5           The matter passes.

6           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

7           The fourth item on my agenda is a  
8           discussion and vote, authorization for  
9           the mayor to sign a contract with CHA  
10          Consulting for architectural design  
11          services. This is for the schematic  
12          design of the third fire station plus EMS  
13          station.

14          I make a motion to authorize the  
15          mayor to sign the contract with CHA  
16          Consulting for architectural design  
17          services. This is a motion.

18          MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

19          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

20          MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

21          All those in favor say aye.

22          IN UNISON: Aye.

23          MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

24          The matter passes.

25          COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.



1           The fifth item on my agenda is discussion  
2           and vote, authorization for the mayor to  
3           sign a contract with CHA Consulting for  
4           civil engineering design services. This  
5           is for the civil engineering design for  
6           the third EMS station.

7           I make a motion to authorize the  
8           mayor to sign the contract with CHA  
9           Consulting for civil engineer design  
10          services. This is a motion.

11          MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12          COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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 sixth item on my agenda is a  
21          discussion and vote, authorization for  
22          the mayor to sign a contract with Hueber  
23          Breuer Construction Company for  
24          consultant support services. This is for  
25          consultation services to help guide us





1 through the schematic and civil  
2 engineering designs for the third  
3 station. Hueber Breuer has been  
4 instrumental in getting us to where we  
5 are, and I look forward to working with  
6 them in the future.

7 I make a motion to authorize the  
8 mayor to sign a contract with Hueber  
9 Breuer for consultant support services.  
10 This is a motion.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

12 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

13 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

14 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

15 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I just want  
16 to say I think that they have been  
17 excellent. Like, we did some good due  
18 diligence to select them and couldn't be  
19 more pleased.

20 COMMISSIONER DALTON: They are  
21 operating in a way that really minimizes  
22 any financial risk and capital outlay on  
23 our end and are helping us put together  
24 schematics so that we can apply for state  
25 aid and grants when they come up --



1 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I know.

2 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- and are  
3 just helping us get the most responsible  
4 financial steps forward and continuing  
5 this project without putting the city in  
6 any kind of, like, financially liable  
7 situation. So I don't think they could  
8 have done a better job. And I'm really  
9 anxious --

10 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

11 COMMISSIONER DALTON: -- to have  
12 them back on board.

13 Have we voted? I don't --

14 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Good.

15 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I don't think  
16 so.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. All those in  
18 favor say aye.

19 IN UNISON: Aye.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

21 The matter passes.

22 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you very  
23 much to the council for all of those.

24 The seventh item on my agenda and  
25 announcement about retirements, we have



1 four retirements. I'm going to do two  
2 now, and two at the next city council  
3 meeting if that is all right with you  
4 all.

5 The first retirement is the  
6 retirement of Lt. Mark Bellantoni from  
7 the Saratoga Springs Fire Department.  
8 And I'm just going to read this quick  
9 memo from Chief Dolan.

10 Effective January 29th, 2021, Lt.  
11 Mark Bellantoni is retiring from SSFD.  
12 Mark began his career at the department  
13 on December 18th, 2010. He had  
14 experience as a firefighter and paramedic  
15 prior to Saratoga Springs and was  
16 assigned to group 2 where he honed his  
17 skills. He took his craft seriously and  
18 passed on his knowledge to everyone who  
19 was willing to listen. Firefighter  
20 Bellantoni was exceptional when it came  
21 to public education. He was always  
22 willing to teach kids the importance of  
23 fire safety, and it was evident early on  
24 in his career that he was an incredibly  
25 strong community force.



1           On January 5th, 2019, Mark was  
2 promoted to lieutenant. As a new  
3 lieutenant, he was assigned to fire at  
4 Fire Prevention Bureau where he would  
5 perform fire inspection and provide  
6 education to the public. Lt.  
7 Bellantoni's ability to speak with the  
8 public allowed him to excel in this role.  
9 Lt. Bellantoni's retirement comes sooner  
10 than expected as a result of an injury  
11 sustained while in the performance of  
12 duty. The Saratoga Springs Fire  
13 Department would like to wish Lt. Mark  
14 Bellantoni a happy and healthy  
15 retirement. His work ethic and attitude  
16 will not soon be forgotten.

17           Sorry. I get a touch emotional.  
18 It's hard seeing anyone retire from this  
19 department. They're just such a loss.

20           Anyhow, we wish Lt. Bellantoni the  
21 absolute best in his retirement, and I  
22 thank him for his years of service in the  
23 fire department.

24           Secondly, I'd like to announce the  
25 retirement of a longtime employee in our



1 traffic department, Tom Armstrong (ph.).  
2 He served our city for over thirty-nine  
3 years in our traffic maintenance  
4 department as the traffic control  
5 maintainer. Tom's family has a history  
6 of long, dedicated service to the city.  
7 His father worked for the Department of  
8 Public Safety for forty years, and his  
9 mother worked for the city court for  
10 forty-two years.

11 Tom was one of those employees who  
12 quietly worked behind the scenes, but his  
13 hard work contributed to making the city  
14 street network safer and better managed.  
15 In the 1980s until 1989, Tom was working  
16 with one part-time employee to maintain  
17 the entirety of city traffic signs and  
18 pavement markings. For nearly four  
19 decades, Tom was also responsible for  
20 setting up and removing all of the  
21 special traffic control needs for the  
22 annual thoroughbred horse racing season.  
23 Tom worked closely with the police  
24 department to provide all of the traffic  
25 controls -- all of the traffic control



1 needs for all of the special events which  
2 required special street closings. Tom  
3 assisted in many other areas of the  
4 department's mission, such as traffic  
5 signal installation and maintenance and  
6 assisted with the construction of the  
7 current Public Safety garage.

8 I want to thank Tom for his many  
9 years of dedicated service to our city  
10 and wish him the very best with all his  
11 future endeavors. I often think that the  
12 people that work in our traffic  
13 department get overlooked for their  
14 contributions to the city. And so I just  
15 want to especially thank Tom for his  
16 incredible service in our department and  
17 for all he's done for the City of  
18 Saratoga Springs and wish him well in his  
19 retirement.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,  
21 Commissioner Dalton. I wish them both  
22 well.

23 Mark and Tom, enjoy retirement. I'm  
24 jealous. So --

25 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you for



1 (indiscernible).

2 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Okay. Anything  
3 else, Commissioner?

4 COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's it.  
5 Thank you very much.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.  
7 On to supervisors. Supervisor  
8 Veitch?

9 SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you,  
10 Mayor. First on my agenda and the only  
11 thing on my agenda is just a quick review  
12 of the buildings and grounds committee at  
13 the county. We had a meeting yesterday  
14 at the county, and we're going to have  
15 another meeting next Monday at the county  
16 as well.

17 So first is just a report that we  
18 are planning on renewing our lease with  
19 the Gateway House of Peace in Milton.  
20 They provide end of life services for  
21 folks who need a quiet, peaceful place.  
22 And we rent a house from them for a  
23 nominal fee for that purpose, and it's a  
24 five-year lease and with a five-year  
25 renewal. It's actually replacing the



1 current lease that we have with them,  
2 which was five years with a five-year  
3 renewal as well. So we're glad to have  
4 them as our tenant, and we appreciate all  
5 the great work that they do. So  
6 hopefully, we will pass that at our next  
7 board meeting.

8 And actually it's just a quick  
9 report that we did just send out some  
10 bids for our building at Woodlawn Avenue  
11 for an online auctioneer to sell the  
12 building, and our bids were returned. We  
13 are reviewing those bids, and we're  
14 hoping to be able to hire somebody by our  
15 next board meeting in a couple of weeks.  
16 That is the reason for our special board  
17 meeting -- our special buildings and  
18 grounds meeting on Monday to propose our  
19 auctioneer.

20 The other things that we talked  
21 about at our first meeting for this year  
22 really is reviewing our onsite signage at  
23 the county. The committee is looking at  
24 changing our lighting to LED lighting  
25 around the county, looking at solar both





1 onsite and at the county farm, and lots  
2 of other things on the agenda for 2020  
3 (sic) for buildings and grounds, so it  
4 should be a busy year for us.

5 But I just wanted to do a quick  
6 report, and that's it for my agenda.  
7 Thank you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor.  
9 Supervisor Gaston?

10 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you. The  
11 first item on my agenda is a COVID-19  
12 update. Our dashboard is up. We are  
13 going to be replacing it with a new, more  
14 compact version soon that's going to  
15 provide all of the same information. But  
16 for right now it shows that our seven-day  
17 rolling positivity rate for the county is  
18 at 4.1 percent, which is incredible.  
19 We've, I think, forty percent dropped now  
20 in the past week and a half, two weeks,  
21 which goes to show that once we get over  
22 that holiday hump as people are engaging  
23 in the appropriate behaviors, masking,  
24 distancing, staying home when they're  
25 ill, we're really making a difference.



1           And that's fantastic, and I appreciate  
2           all the people who are working to make  
3           that happen.

4                       Unfortunately, we are now at 121  
5           deaths of Saratoga County residents as a  
6           result of COVID-19-related illness. I  
7           don't have information on all of them  
8           yet. A number of them are coming from  
9           facilities that are first reported to the  
10          state, and then it comes down to the  
11          county. So we don't have all of that  
12          information, although the latest one was  
13          an individual from the town of  
14          Providence.

15                      We're also at fifty-eight  
16          hospitalizations with COVID-related  
17          illness, which if everyone remembers  
18          about a week ago we were about twice  
19          that. So slowly but surely, we're  
20          getting there. Our vaccination rate in  
21          the county, we're at 22,000 county  
22          residents that have received at least one  
23          vaccine and five and a half thousand that  
24          have completed the series. These are  
25          county residents who have been vaccinated



1 not necessarily by Saratoga County public  
2 health services. As we've said a number  
3 of times our vaccines from the State are  
4 extremely limited. So this does count  
5 individuals who reside in the county but  
6 who travel to other locations within the  
7 state, including the state-run facilities  
8 to get vaccinated. However, we're  
9 getting pretty far along there, and  
10 that's good. We're hoping to keep it up  
11 and get more vaccines from the county.

12 I do want to make it clear. I  
13 continue to get a lot of questions about  
14 the city center. The county's agreement  
15 with the city center is for the purpose  
16 of holding it so that we can use it when  
17 sufficient vaccines have been obtained.  
18 At this time, we do not have a date when  
19 it will be activated for use as a mass  
20 vaccination center. However, we are  
21 exploring all options, including  
22 partnering with the State of New York to  
23 use it as a facility, which would both  
24 increase the number of vaccines in our  
25 community but also expand the



1 eligibility. That's very important to  
2 our public health personnel. We  
3 obviously want to make sure that those  
4 who are at highest risk are vaccinated as  
5 soon as possible.

6 To that end, we did hold -- we did  
7 get an allocation of 400 vaccines very  
8 unexpectedly. We were informed of this  
9 last Sunday, and they all went to a  
10 population age sixty-five and older,  
11 although I would say the vast majority  
12 were seventy-five and older. Those  
13 individuals were pulled from special  
14 needs registries and lists across the  
15 county, and we enlisted the assistance of  
16 supervisors in the city. We enlisted the  
17 assistance of the police department and  
18 fire department to provide the names of  
19 individuals, in addition to the county  
20 list, of who would be -- who would have  
21 the most barriers to accessing the  
22 vaccine.

23 Given this was a one-time  
24 allocation, that's why the decision was  
25 made to first aim towards those who would



1           have the most barriers to accessing the  
2           vaccine on their own. That was completed  
3           on Saturday. Approximately 200 seniors  
4           were vaccinated at Public Health Services  
5           in (indiscernible) and approximately 200  
6           received vaccines in their home because  
7           they were indicated as home-bound and  
8           unable to leave their home. And so EMS,  
9           our own public safety personnel,  
10          supported that as well as EMS across the  
11          county.

12                 There were a couple of news articles  
13          on it, and it was actually the first  
14          unplanned, quick-developed, mass  
15          vaccination in homes in the state. There  
16          was a similar delivery in Albany County,  
17          but that was actually planned over a  
18          significant period of time. This is the  
19          first one as a result of an unexpected  
20          allotment, and I think our public health  
21          staff and EMS across the county performed  
22          admirably, and I appreciate them getting  
23          that out.

24                 There were a lot of tears and a lot  
25          of happy faces on Saturday. And it is my



1 sincere hope that New York State sees  
2 what we've been able to do and expands  
3 our availability because that's the work  
4 that public health is really good at, and  
5 that's what they were doing, and they  
6 want to keep doing that.

7 So today the governor did make some  
8 additional announcements regarding  
9 vaccines, expanding eligibility to  
10 include restaurant workers and taxi  
11 drivers. Unfortunately, this was another  
12 announcement that was made prior to the  
13 distribution of written guidance. At  
14 this time, Public Health does not have  
15 any guidance indicating whether we or  
16 another facility is to be vaccinating  
17 this population, in addition to what  
18 qualifies under these particular  
19 populations.

20 In general, essential workers have  
21 had to prove their employment, sometimes  
22 by a pay stub. Obviously with  
23 hospitality, restaurant workers and taxi  
24 drivers, whether that include Uber or  
25 Lyft drivers or other groups, is unclear



1 at this time. Because of the memorandum  
2 of understanding we had to sign with New  
3 York State to get any vaccines, we do  
4 require that written guidance before we  
5 can expand our own availability. So the  
6 commissioner has already reached out to  
7 the Department of Health and requested  
8 clarification on that in writing so that  
9 we know who we are allowed to vaccinate.  
10 His goal is to vaccinate whoever we're  
11 allowed to. So, we want to make sure  
12 that we have that as quickly as possible.

13 The last real announcement with  
14 regards to vaccination and COVID is I've  
15 also received a number of questions about  
16 a clinic held at Prestwood Chase. At  
17 this time, Saratoga County Public Health  
18 Services has not engaged in any clinics  
19 onsite. The distribution clinic that was  
20 held at Prestwood Chase was not handled  
21 through the county, nor did the vaccines  
22 come through the county. In fact, our  
23 commissioner found out about it the same  
24 time as many of us, which was through  
25 Facebook posts and through the news. I



1 believe that they arranged their own  
2 developing of the distribution and  
3 obtaining the vaccines, but it did not  
4 take part through us.

5 It is the intention of Public Health  
6 that there are no -- you can't get a  
7 priority or increased access depending on  
8 who you are or who you know or money, and  
9 all of our senior living facilities, all  
10 of our persons in general in the county  
11 should be treated with regards to their  
12 public health risk and not who they know  
13 or what access. So I just want to make  
14 that clear. I obviously have no problem  
15 with seniors being vaccinated but do want  
16 to make it clear that that is not the  
17 county itself engaging in that  
18 distribution, although again as soon as  
19 we get those vaccines we are happy to do  
20 that throughout the county.

21 Are there any COVID-specific  
22 questions before I move on to my next  
23 agenda items?

24 MAYOR KELLY: No, I'm good. Thank  
25 you.





1 SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

2 The second item on my agenda is a  
3 report from the health committee. Again,  
4 I chair the health and social services  
5 committee this year. A lot of our work  
6 is going to be focused on COVID-19, but  
7 there are also some concerns sort of  
8 tangential to COVID-19. Over the year  
9 2020, from 2019 to 2020, our suicide rate  
10 in the county dropped twenty-five  
11 percent. That includes the time period  
12 covered by COVID. That is excellent  
13 news. Unfortunately, our rate of  
14 overdose deaths nearly doubled. This is  
15 a problem that the Director of Mental  
16 Health is looking into and that we are  
17 hoping to engage in some programs and  
18 additional supports for our county. This  
19 has been a very difficult time for  
20 individuals, whether they have substance  
21 use disorders or not. And we are hoping  
22 to expand our programs in that regard to  
23 assist people as we recover from COVID-  
24 19. Obviously even right now with the  
25 shortage of vaccines, it's taken a toll



1 on a lot of individuals, and we want to  
2 make sure to help support people through  
3 this as best we can.

4 The other major item that we're  
5 going to be handling in the near future  
6 is the Emergency Rental Assistance  
7 Program. Due to the leadership of  
8 Commissioner of Social Services Tina  
9 Potter, the county was awarded 6.8  
10 million dollars from the U.S. Treasury to  
11 provide support for renters who have  
12 suffered financial hardships as a result  
13 of COVID-19. New York State has  
14 indicated that they are developing an  
15 application portal right now. We are  
16 awaiting the completion of that to make  
17 sure that it adequately serves the  
18 residents of Saratoga County. And as  
19 soon as we know that, we will be  
20 utilizing that, hopefully, or our own  
21 program to make sure that we can provide  
22 quick access to applications. There are  
23 some concerns. You can't duplicate  
24 federal funds that have been received  
25 from other places, other forms of rental



1 insurance -- sorry, rental assistance,  
2 and we want to be able to check for  
3 things. Unemployment benefits are an  
4 automatic qualifier for this program, so  
5 we want to be able to tie into that and  
6 move things along as quickly as possible,  
7 and that's going to require connecting  
8 with the New York State program so that  
9 we can get that done and not put  
10 additional barriers in the way of  
11 persons.

12 The primary focus is going to be on  
13 renters who are under a fifty-percent of  
14 the average income in Saratoga County.  
15 And it can go up to eighty percent, but  
16 at least the first pass-through is going  
17 to be a fifty percent and below. As soon  
18 as we have more information on that  
19 program, I will release that. We do have  
20 to spend at least sixty-five percent of  
21 the money by the end of September, and  
22 all hundred percent of it needs to be  
23 sent by the end of 2021. So I can assure  
24 you that we are looking -- also our  
25 county treasurer wants to get it out as



1           quickly as possible well, so we will be  
2           looking to get this out as soon as  
3           possible. And I appreciate Commissioner  
4           Potter for all of her work in very  
5           quickly finding out about this, applying,  
6           even if it shocked the county treasurer  
7           that federal monies were put into our  
8           account that quickly, which does not  
9           normally happen.

10                   COMMISSIONER DALTON: That's  
11           awesome.

12                   SUPERVISOR GASTON: Yes. I think it  
13           will be a great help. One of the big  
14           things is landlords and renters both can  
15           apply, and so it can also assist some of  
16           our landlords, particularly the smaller  
17           ones that have had a couple of units  
18           they're renting and they want to assist  
19           their renters. They've been taking some  
20           of the hit as well. This will be able to  
21           benefit both renters and our landlords in  
22           that.

23                   COMMISSIONER DALTON: Do you know  
24           offhand if that applies to commercial and  
25           residential? Or would it just be -- it



1 doesn't apply to businesses who are  
2 (indiscernible). It would just apply to  
3 residential renters.

4 SUPERVISOR GASTON: At this time, my  
5 understanding is it's just residential.

6 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay. Just  
7 clarifying. Thank you.

8 SUPERVISOR GASTON: It is also  
9 available to cover utility costs during  
10 those times as well for persons who  
11 otherwise meet the eligibility  
12 requirements. Utility is pretty narrowly  
13 defined. Like, we would think of gas,  
14 oil, power. It's not internet and phone  
15 and those sorts of things that are often  
16 considered utilities by people. That is  
17 not how they're defined, unfortunately,  
18 in the guidance that we have.

19 And on a related note, this Thursday  
20 at 5 p.m. there will be a special board  
21 meeting to contemplate the  
22 recommendations of the Commissioner of  
23 Public Health with regards to high-risk  
24 sports. It's a full special board  
25 meeting, not just of the health



1 committee. We will be looking at the  
2 recommendations the commissioner has put  
3 forward for engaging in those sports,  
4 which allow them under certain criteria.  
5 The Board of Supervisors also serves as  
6 the Board of Health as the health  
7 authority for the county, so we can also  
8 place additional guidelines or request  
9 additional items be included as well.  
10 And that's what the purpose of the  
11 meeting will be, to discuss that, and  
12 whether we want to make any amendments to  
13 the recommendations as put forward by the  
14 commissioner.

15 Are there any other questions  
16 regarding that? Okay.

17 The third item on my agenda is an  
18 update from the technology and resiliency  
19 committee. Much like Commissioner  
20 Madigan discussed updating the city's  
21 website, the county has needed some  
22 technology refreshers for a little bit.  
23 As a fun first item coming out of this  
24 brand new committee that I chair, we are  
25 looking at a significant upgrade of our



1           technology, servers, storage, security,  
2           and supporting a remote work system.  
3           This will be an approximately \$600,000  
4           outlay. However, there have been  
5           significant demands placed on our IT  
6           department throughout COVID supporting  
7           remote work, additional technology needed  
8           by departments to run requirements  
9           through COVID, including the Public  
10          Health Department. And these upgrades,  
11          we're originally hoping to take place in  
12          the next two or so years. They're sorely  
13          needed now, and so it actually moved  
14          forward with unanimous support of the  
15          technology committee, and we'll see what  
16          the full board views. It is a  
17          significant outlay. This is a very  
18          difficult time to put forward that sort  
19          of money, but I think it's really  
20          important for us to both improve the  
21          support of the technology the county  
22          needs to run, but it's also going to  
23          allow us to make some additional changes.  
24          The website was a discussion that we had,  
25          in addition to some other items, and --



1           COMMISSIONER DALTON: Well, I was  
2           just going to say I did notice one thing  
3           that I was really, really grateful for.  
4           I watch all the sheriff's department  
5           police policy review meetings, and the  
6           last two were on Zoom. And it just -- I  
7           was so excited. I was, like, jumping up  
8           and down. So just even little changes  
9           like that are very appreciated on my end  
10          as a resident and as a member of the city  
11          government here. So yay, thank you for  
12          that.

13          SUPERVISOR GASTON: Well, I'm very  
14          fortunate that despite the fact that this  
15          is a new committee, Supervisor Veitch has  
16          been working on some of those upgrades  
17          through the buildings and grounds  
18          committee. And so those two departments  
19          will be working closely together to do  
20          things like livestreaming our own  
21          meetings, especially a number of ours  
22          take place during the work day. It can  
23          be difficult to attend, and I think  
24          that's a necessary upgrade that hasn't  
25          been around for a while.





1           The other part of the committee is a  
2           resiliency part, and we're going to be  
3           looking at how the county can better  
4           react to the stressors that can be placed  
5           on us. We've obviously learned some  
6           lessons through COVID-19, but there's  
7           also a lot that we can learn and a lot of  
8           recommendations we can put forward for  
9           all of our county departments with  
10          regards to climate chaos, man-made  
11          disasters, and just general growth. So  
12          those are all things that we are looking  
13          at at the county. Through that  
14          committee, we're hoping to come up with a  
15          resiliency plan, and we're going to meet  
16          with each department ideally in  
17          coordination with the Government Review  
18          and Efficiency Committee that Supervisor  
19          Veitch chairs to talk about how we can  
20          work better as a board of supervisors and  
21          each of our departments together to  
22          respond to stressors and better engage  
23          with the public.

24                 So two heavy lifting committees, but  
25                 we've got a lot of work going and really



1 excited to move both of those forward  
2 and, obviously, especially with  
3 technology and resiliency, there will be  
4 a lot of public outreach and engagement  
5 with that in particular.

6 Are there any questions about that?

7 Okay. Then that concludes my agenda.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor.

9 Any other business from the council?

10 Then we are adjourned. Thank you. Have  
11 a nice night.

12 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

13 (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.



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Amanda G. Stockton

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Vote: 4 - 0

