



May 19, 2020

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
Recreation Center
15 Vanderbilt Avenue
7:00 PM

6:55 P.M. – P.H. – Amend Chapter 225 Section
225-77 Schedule XII-Stop
Intersections
P.H. – Amend City Code 218-15
Temporary Dwellings in Established
Agricultural Districts
P.H. – CDBG Citizen Participation
Plan Amendment

7:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SALUTE TO FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / 15 MINUTES

CONSENT AGENDA

1. Budget Amendments – Insurance
2. Budget Amendments – Capital (Refund)
3. Budget Transfers – Regular
4. Approval Payroll – 5/8/2020 \$480,577.72
5. Approve Payroll – 5/15/2020 \$476,078.38
6. Approve Warrant – 2020 20 MW MAY1 \$713,746.94
7. Approve Warrant – 2020 20 MAY2 \$677,321.34

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: 2020 Census Self-Reporting Reminder
2. Announcement: State of Emergency Extension
3. Announcement: 2020 CDBG Program Year Entitlement Fund Application Period RE-Opening and CDBG-CV Fund Application Opened
4. Appointment: Saratoga Springs Arts Commission
5. Discussion and Vote: Appointment to the Civil Service Commission
6. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Subordination Agreement with Keybank National Association
7. Discussion and Vote: Accept the Saratoga Springs Recreation Department Donations
8. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Health Insurance contracts with MVP Health Care
9. Discussion and Vote: Amend City Code 218-15 Regarding Temporary Dwellings in Established Agricultural Districts

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: Grievance Day Update

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. Update: Finance Department – COVID-19 and City Finances
2. Discussion and Vote: Resolution: Tax Anticipation Note (TAN)
3. Discussion and Vote: Resolution: COVID-19 Federal Funding Relief Stimulus Package for Local Governments
4. Discussion and Vote: 2020 City Fees Update – Building Department
5. Discussion and Vote: Budget Amendments – Use of Assignment Code Blue
6. Discussion and Vote: Budget Amendment – Use of Sick Leave Assignment
7. Discussion and Vote: Release Assignments
8. Discussion and Vote: Budget Transfers - Payroll

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor Sign Change Order #13 with DLC Electric, LLC for the City Hall Renovation – Electric
2. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Change Order #6 with Collett Mechanical, Inc. for City Hall Renovation – HVAC
3. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Change Order #11 with MLB Construction Services for City Hall Renovation – General Construction
4. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Change Order #2 with Restore Masonry for Canfield Casino Renovation
5. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Contract with Greenridge Cemetery

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

1. Announcement: Virus Update
2. Discussion and Vote: Authorization for Mayor to Sign Agreement with Language Line for Interpretation Services for Dispatch
3. Discussion and Vote Accept Donation from Bella Home Builders
4. Discussion and Vote: Amend Chapter 225 of the City Code Schedule XII – Stop Intersections
5. Discussion and Vote: Resolution in Support of Our City's Businesses

SUPERVISORS

Matt Veitch

1. Buildings & Grounds Committee Update
2. Home Energy Assistance Program Update
3. County Re-Opening Committee Update

Tara Gaston

1. COVID-19 Update & Re-opening
2. Board Update
3. Real Property Update
4. Mask Distribution
5. Public Forum

ADJOURN



May 19, 2020

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
Recreation Center
15 Vanderbilt Avenue
7:00 PM
(via zoom)

PRESENT: Meg Kelly, Mayor
Michele Madigan, Commissioner of Finance
John Franck, Commissioner of Accounts
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner of DPW
Robin Dalton, Commissioner of DPS

STAFF PRESENT: Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
Maire Masterson, Deputy Commissioner, Accounts
Joe O'Neill, Deputy Commissioner, DPW
Eileen Finneran, Deputy Commissioner, DPS

Vincent DeLeonardis

Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
Tara Gaston, Supervisor

Transcriber's note: this meeting is being conducted in accordance with Executive Order 202.1 and is a full transcript of the meeting.

Transcript begins at 7:00 p.m.

Mayor Kelly: Good evening. Welcome to City Council meeting May 19, 2020. This evening we have three public hearings. The first public hearing is to amend Chapter 225 Section 225-7 Schedule XII stop intersections. I'll turn it over to Commissioner Dalton.

Commissioner Dalton: Thank you mayor. The recent stop intersection amendment that was adopted by City Council on April 7, 2020 had an incorrect location listed on the motion. I'll be asking the Council tonight to vote to remove the followings stop sign location: the stop sign on Cleveland Avenue, direction of travel south, at the intersection of McKenzie's Way.

Mayor Kelly: Great. Do we have anybody checking in to comment on the public hearing? We do not have anyone here. Are we keeping this open commissioner or closing it?

Commissioner Dalton: I think we can close it. I have not gotten any comments.

Mayor Kelly: Great. We'll be closing that public hearing. The second public hearing is to amend City Code 218-15 temporary dwellings in established agricultural districts. I'll turn this over to Vince DeLeonardis.

Vince DeLeonardis: Thank you mayor. This is a public hearing to amend our City Code section 218-15. It is to align or to remove a conflict that section has with section 6.3.4 of our Zoning Ordinance. It is to

specifically allow temporary dwellings used by farm workers when those dwellings are placed on active farm and within a New York State established agricultural district. There is similar language already contained in section 6.3.4 of our Zoning Ordinance and this amendment aligns Chapter 218-15 with that section. Unless there are any questions from the Council, we can open that up to the public for the hearing.

Mayor Kelly: Do we have anybody to public comment? We do not have anyone to public comment. Any comments from the Council? We are closing this tonight. We'll be voting on this later on this evening on my agenda.

The third public hearing is Community Development Block Grant Citizen Participation Plan amendment. HUD has mandated that the City amend its current Citizen Participation Plan for the CDBG Entitlement Program to account for waivers connected to COVID related activities. Updates also include the elimination of costly newspaper advertisements, citizen participation procedures for future disaster events, and the inclusion of digital and virtual methods of public notification and participation. The Citizen Participation Plan is established to encourage broad public participation in development, implantation, and ongoing assessment of the City's Community Development Block Program. This public hearing will remain open until our next meeting on June 2nd. Do we have anybody to comment on this? At this time, we don't have any comments for that public hearing either.

At this time, we will move on to roll call.

Secretary to City Council:

Commissioner Franck – present
Commissioner Madigan – present
Commissioner Scirocco – here
Commissioner Dalton – present
Mayor Kelly – here
Supervisor Veitch – here
Supervisor Gaston - here

Mayor Kelly: Thank you. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

All: "I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one Nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

Mayor Kelly: There are no presentations tonight and there are no executive sessions this evening. On to the Consent Agenda. Are there any comments or edits as published?

I move that the City Council approve the Consent Agenda as included with this agenda. This is a motion.

Is there a second?

Commissioner Madigan: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

On to the Mayor's Department. My first item is an announcement: 2020 Census self-reporting reminder. The City of Saratoga Springs current response rate is about 60%. The New York State self-response rate is currently about 52%. We are ahead of the statewide average but we would like to see this rate increase even more. To complete the census, please visit 2020census.gov.

My second announcement is the state of emergency extension. On May 12, 2020, I extended the City's state of emergency for another 30 days. This will continue until we see the governor change his state of emergency and the County changes theirs. We'll stay in step with the state and county on that.

The third item is an announcement: 2020 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program year entitlement fund application period re-opened and CDBG-CV fund application opened. In light of the changing needs of our community, due to the current pandemic, the Community Development Department has re-opened the applications for the 2020 CDBG program year entitlement funding. Available funded for this program year is \$315,491. In addition, the City has been allotted additional CDBG funding by HUD through the CARES Act for COVID-19 related activities benefiting the low to moderate population in the amount of \$181,629. Guidelines and applications as well as funding schedule for both these funding resources are posted on the City website. Applications are being accepted until noon on Friday, May 22nd.

My fourth item is an appointment to the Saratoga Arts Commission. I am pleased to appoint Jason Olberg to the Saratoga Springs Arts Commission. Jason received his masters of fine arts degree from the University of Washington in 2015. Since 2016, he has taught classes on dance and the arts at Skidmore College. He will serve a two-year term from 5/19/20 – 5/19/2022.

My fifth item is a discussion and vote: appointment to the Civil Service Commission. I am bringing the re-appointment of Deirdre Ladd before the Council. Deirdre's appointment to the Civil Service Commission was approved by the Council on 4/7/20. She was completing a prior commissioner's six-year term. I would like to re-appoint Deirdre to a full six-year term. She will be a great contributor to the Civil Service Commission and I thank her for her service.

I move that the City Council appoint Deirdre Ladd to the Civil Service Commission for the term lasting from 5/19/20 – 5/19/26. This is a motion. (20-214)

Is there a second?

Commissioner Madigan: I'm pleased to offer that **second**.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.** Thank you.

My next item is discussion and vote: authorization for the mayor to sign subordination agreement with Keybank National Association. A previous recipient of the City's Residential Rehabilitation Grant Program is seeking to refinance their home. The refinancing requires the City subordinate the lien standardly placed on a grant recipient's property to the financing agency Keybank. The intent of this lien is to preclude grant recipients from selling their home for a period of at least five years following the funded rehabilitation. The subordination will not interfere with the purpose of this lien.

I move that the City Council authorize the mayor to sign subordination agreement with Keybank National Association as included with this agenda. This is a motion. (20-215)

Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: **Second**.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: **Aye**.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

My next item is discussion and vote: accept the Saratoga Springs Recreation Department donations. I would like to thank the following people and organizations for their generous donations: Stewart's Holiday Match \$5,500 for soccer and camp scholarships; George and Martha Parker \$2,000 for camp scholarships; Saratoga Springs Lion Club \$915 for camp scholarships; Saratoga Springs Rotary Club \$915 for camp scholarships; Soroptimist International of Saratoga County \$599 for camp scholarships; Saratoga Living LLC \$835 for the ice rink; and Saratoga Springs Friends of Recreation \$1,274 for soccer balls.

I move that the City Council accept the donations made to the City's Recreation Department. This is a motion. (20-216)

Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? The one thing that I do want to say; people might be thinking....we are looking if people want a refund or they want to push it out a year. In order to give any type of refund we have to accept the donations through the City. All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.** Thank you.

My next item is discussion and vote: authorization for the mayor to sign health insurance contracts with MVP Health Care. The rate renewals for the 2020 plan were signed in late 2019 and this secured the renewal for the upcoming year. This item formally approves the most current health insurance contracts.

I move that the City Council authorize the mayor to sign health insurance contracts with MVP Health Care as included with this agenda. This is a motion. (20-217)

Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

My next item is discussion and vote: amend City Code 218-15 regarding temporary dwellings.

I move that the City Council authorize the amendment to the City Code 218-15 regarding temporary dwellings. This is a motion. (20-218)

Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

This conclude my agenda. On to Accounts.

Commissioner Franck: Thank you mayor. We just have one announcement this evening – grievance day update, which we spoke about at the last few meetings. Next Tuesday, May 26th is grievance day. Governor Cuomo’s New York State on Pause and Stay at Home Executive Order has been extended through June 6, 2020. Therefore, the Assessment Office is only accepting grievance applications on or before Tuesday, May 26th via mail or e-mail. Those are the two ways. You are not going to be able to bring those in in person because we are going to be closed. If a resident does have a request to be heard and a couple have already set up appointments via telephone, they can contact our office, the Accounts Office. That number is 518-587-3550 ext. 2552. Also, if you go to the main page of our website and scroll down about ¾ of the page you’ll see Tony Popolizio, is the assistant assessor, and his e-mail address is there also if you wanted to e-mail over your grievance.

That’s all I have for this evening.

Mayor Kelly: Thank you commissioner. On to Finance.

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you mayor. The first item on my agenda is an update from the Finance Department on the COVID-19 and City finances. There’s little to report at the state and national level that is not already well known. National unemployment applications are up close to 40 million. U.S. retail sales fell 16.4% in April. Restaurants and bars lost half their business in the past two months. Clothing store sales have fallen by 89% since February and furniture store sales are off by two-thirds. Our March sales tax fell 25% in 2020 from 2019. The governor has initiated a phase-in re-opening plan. Different businesses may re-open within each phase and safety plans are required to do so. The state has been divided into ten regions; Saratoga Springs is in the Capital District Region, which includes Albany, Saratoga, Rensselaer, Schenectady, Warren, Washington, Columbia and Greene Counties. Five of the regions qualified to begin phase one re-opening last Friday including the Capital District. Phase one, from the e-mails I’ve seen today, is expected to begin tomorrow after the completion of sufficient hires for contact tracing. With that is some context I’ll outline revised revenue deficits, various options to remedy these revenue deficits, and those options that are slated to be put into effect. I will also review the City’s cash flow situation. Finance now projects a \$15 million to \$17 million revenue shortfall due to the economic impact of the pandemic. This is up from \$14 million to \$16 million but still in that range. Such a significant shortfall creates stresses to our budget and our cash flow. Individual meetings with Council members to discuss the details underlying are ongoing and have been scheduled with everyone except Commissioner Franck. We will be reaching out to Commissioner Franck tomorrow for a meeting. The annual budget, the money we have planned to collect and spend each year. Cash flow is the timing of money when it comes in and goes out. If the revenues arrive late or not at all, then we have not cash to meet our expenses. The expenditures made and the revenues collected affect cash flow every day, every month. Other than assignments and fund balance, the steady depends on revenue collections. This year we’re experiencing a depletion in fund balance and assignments as well as diminished revenue collection. June’s planned expenditures are \$11.9 million and we anticipate only \$800,000 in revenue. Actually, that needs to be revised because I revised our VLT. I think we’re going to get about \$1.8 million in VLT, which is actually changing my back end revenue projection. \$1.8 plus the \$800,000 we’ll probably get in June with expenses totaling \$11.9 million. So, I apologize for that oversight in my notes. Our cash balances are declining daily. If we do not take action, we will not be able to meet payroll in July. I am recommending this evening tax anticipation note, which is on my agenda next in the amount of \$6,300,000. That will increase the July cash available to \$6.6 million. With any other expenditure changes, the City will have a cash deficit, I’m anticipating, and these are the things we’re going through with you in these meetings, a cash deficit of \$12.1 million in December 2020. That’s a sobering number. It will be our obligation to remedy that number. Here is the plan as it’s pivoted over the last week...\$6.5 million will now come from the City’s unassigned/unrestricted fund balance. That is up \$2 million from the \$4.5 million that I had been recommending. We are going to take \$1 million more from actual unassigned fund balance and then later on tonight on my agenda coming up, we are going to break our assignments and that’s going to give us close to another \$1 million dollars. We are going to have about \$6.5 million now in fund balance that we’re using. The City does have a number of assignments that unlike reserves, reserves cannot be broken. Reserves are guided by New York State law. We have a retirement reserve, we have an insurance reserve, we have a capital reserve for buildings, and we have a bonded indebtedness reserve. While I cannot break those reserves right now, I will be using them to help with the 2021 budget. So rest assured,

those reserves will be used as we go into the planning for the 2021 budget. The \$6.3 million tax anticipation loan, the TAN, cities do have a variety of loans that are available for them to use at different times. Right now, this is one that is available to us. For example, one that is not available to us is a revenue anticipation note. That would be because we don't have any revenues coming in to back up the revenue anticipation note. We are going to bond based on what we have not yet received in taxes through the rest of the year. That's how we come up with the \$6.3 million dollar number. Budget and deficiency notes are capped at amounts that will not sufficiently boost cash flow at this time. I have been talking about a budget note of \$2.4 million because you can only issue a budget note for up to 5% of your operating cost. However, I also plan to potentially plan to implement that budget note in December. December will be our next big cash outlay month. That's when we've got to make our retirement payment to New York State. I am very focused on getting us to November and figuring out how we get our cash flow working through to the end of December. It's hard to determine which of these have the most advantageous interest rates but at this time, the TAN is our best option. I have estimated of the 10% expense reductions that I had asked from each of the departments were coming in close to \$3.7 million dollars of the \$4.7 that I was hoping to get from proposed departmental reductions. I do not have those ready for the budget amendment at this time. I will have those ready at the next Council meeting to amend the budget and reduce those expenses. Some of the items in the expenses you gave me are union contractually obligated and so we can't just cut those expenses. To close, just to give you a high level closing; at the next City Council meeting, again I'll bring the budget amendment each of you have put forth as well as remove the \$277,000 that we received in furloughs. Everything is still under review. I would still encourage the negotiating team to obtain further concessions from the seven unions regarding wage related expenses. We still need them. With a \$15 - \$17 million dollar revenue projected loss, we're still coming up short but we are getting there; at least through the end of December and not just to the end of June. That summarizes my item number one agenda item.

Item number two on the agenda is discussion and vote: resolution tax anticipation note. As I had said, cities have a variety of loans they can access at different times for different purposes. The one that suits us best right now and gets us the most cash in the door is a tax anticipation note. These are short-term loans and will be due back to be paid back in twelve months. I have no idea what interest rate this is going to come in at. We will have to repay it in full one year from the lending date. TANs are backed by our anticipated taxes. Alternatively, RANs are backed by anticipated revenue. The City does not have sufficient revenue resources to readily obtain a revenue anticipation note. Budget and deficiency notes, which I have discussed with the Council at previous meetings, are capped at 5% of operating expenses will not sufficiently boost cash flow at this time. However, after June, as I keep repeating myself and hopefully we're all hearing it, December the next big cash outlay month, and we may need to issue more debt at that time to ensure retirement payments to New York State and meet payroll. We are borrowing for short-term, twelve months, and I do not know the interest rate, all this is done at taxpayer expense, as this is specifically a tax anticipation note.

I move that the City Council approve resolution tax anticipation note, a TAN, included with the agenda. This is a motion and I would require a roll call vote. (20-219)

Mayor Kelly: Second. Roll call please.

Secretary to the City Council:
Commissioner Franck – Aye
Commissioner Madigan – Aye
Commissioner Scirocco – Aye
Commissioner Dalton – Aye
Mayor Kelly - Aye

Mayor Kelly: The matter passes.

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you very much. Item number two is discussion and vote: resolution COVID-19 federal funding stimulus package for local governments.

Mayor Kelly: Excuse me, commissioner this is item number three.

Commissioner Madigan: My things are all misnumbered. I might run into that problem again. Congress has passed several relief bills that total nearly \$2.8 trillion with effectively no funds for state local governments. The House did put through their Hero's Act; it passed by only four votes and now has gone to the Senate. The reception has been divided along party lines, actually quite a few Democrats didn't vote for the Hero's Act. Local jurisdictions are waiting anxiously for any federal aid to stem the evaporation of the revenue and ultimately sustainable services. I'm just trying to get to the point where I'm going to read the resolution into the record. I'm asking the City to join the ranks with the New York State Conference of Mayors and many cities, villages, and towns that are sending messages directly to Washington asking and demanding and pleading for assistance as we strive to survive the first pandemic since the turn of the last century. We've had a couple smaller ones over the way but nothing like COVID-19. With that, "A resolution of the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs, New York, requesting COVID-19 federal stimulus funds. Be it resolved by the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs, New York as follows: whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented problems, issues, and challenges for local governments everywhere; and whereas, last March, the United States Senate and the United States House of Representatives passed the CARES Act, a \$2.2 trillion dollars stimulus package intended to provide much needed financial relief to a wide variety of individuals, businesses, agencies, and governments impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. While we, in Saratoga Springs, applaud that effort, we regret that the terms of the legislation did not include substantial financial relief to smaller municipalities like ours; and whereas, we are a city of less than 30,000 people but our problems are not small ones. Our City government is called upon to provide the same type of services to the public as those provided by municipalities many times our size. The COVID-19 crisis has cost us severe declines in sales tax revenue, state aid, fees, charges and taxes that would have been generated by business activities. Our annual City budget is approximately \$49 million dollars for 2020 and need to pay for and provide immediate and vital local services such as public safety, clean water, and safe roads is not restricted to large municipalities. Our citizens and businesses count on us every day to do our job and we cannot let them down. And now, therefore be it resolved, that this City Council calls upon all our federal representatives, including but not limited to, Speaker of the House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, House Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy, Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, and Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer; and our Local House of Representatives Paul Tonko and Elise Stefanik to advocate vigorously for the federal stimulus legislation that will address the needs of our City and help minimize the devastating effect of this pandemic on our residents, taxpayers, and visitors. And be it further resolved, a copy of this resolution shall be forwarded to all federal representatives named above."

I move that the City Council approve the resolution COVID-19 federal funding relief stimulus package for local governments included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-220)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? I want to thank you commissioner for doing this. It's a great thing. The more they can hear from us the better off we'll be.

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you. We will be sure to get that resolution out to all of them first thing tomorrow.

Commissioner Dalton: I noticed some places when they are asking for a specific number from it, like how much they want. Is that something we're thinking about doing? Is that a benefit?

Commissioner Madigan: I've considered that and I spoke with City Attorney Tony Izzo, who did a lot of research on various local, regional resolution like ours and they didn't actually include a number. Also, I have to say, and I wasn't completely prepared, or didn't think about reporting what is in the Heroes Act seems to line up with exactly what we need. I know I had some one on one conversations with some of you about that. I don't know when it's going to pass. I am still very hopeful something is going to come through,

just not as soon as we would like for many reasons. I meant to forward you an e-mail. I know I sent it to the mayor; some information I have I will share with the rest of the Council. It seems like if something is going to go through it won't be until late June into July. The recommendation is around \$14 million dollars for the City of Saratoga Springs in 2020 and another almost \$8 million dollars in 2021. That is based on a modified Community Development Block Grant formula that they're using to ascertain how much money communities need. It's like their just looking at the spreadsheets that we have. For a while, we were at that 14 – 16, we're up to 15 – 17 but it's changing all of the time. It's kind of spot on. I'd be thrilled with \$14 million dollars right now.

Commissioner Dalton: You had sent me that e-mail about the CARES ACT and how it broke down. It did seemed perfectly aligned with what we were expecting our shortfalls to be.

Commissioner Madigan: It would be perfect for 2020 and would help with 2021. Absolutely.

Mayor Kelly: All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you. Item number three..four is a discussion and vote 2020 fees update for the Building Department. The Mayor's Department has requested a revision to the 2020 fees for the cost of plumbing permits. Plumbing permits are included with Building Department fees. Previously there were two fees for residential work - \$50 and \$100 and two fees for commercial work - \$100 and \$200 depending on the certification of the plumber. These have been reduced to a single fee for residential work \$50 and a single fee for commercial work \$100 regardless of the plumber's certification.

I move that the City Council approve 2020 City fees Building Department as included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-221)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Mayor Kelly: **Second.**

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you. Item number five is a discussion and vote budget amendment use of sick leave assignment. Lines one through two bring in to the operating budget funds for the assignment for sick leave payout in the amount of \$93,587.47 to cover accumulated sick leave payouts owed to the public safety employees who are retiring.

I move that the City Council approve budget amendments for the use of sick leave assignment as included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-222)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: **Second.**

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.** Commissioner, you skipped number five, assignment for Code Blue.

Commissioner Madigan: Yeah, I don't have it right now on my notes. I'm going to get it. I was actually just texting to say I'm missing a few things.

Mayor Kelly: Would you like me to go on to public works and come back?

Commissioner Madigan: I've also have a little confusion with my notes on release of assignments. Why don't we come back to me and give me a second. Things just didn't print well for me tonight.

Mayor Kelly: Let's go to Public Works. Thank you commissioner.

Commissioner Scirocco: Thank you mayor. I've got five items on my agenda. The first item on my agenda is a discussion and vote. This is authorization for the mayor to sign change order #13 with DLC Electric, LLC for the City Hall renovation electric. This change order with DLC Electric is for the following changes: the installation and wiring of a new thermostat in a police interview room; rewire and replace lights in the Police Department vault; the addition of data jacks and power receptacles in the Code Enforcement Office; the installation of a new fire alarm on the first floor; and hand dryers on the first floor bathrooms; and finally fans and fixtures in the DPW Office.

Therefore, I move for the mayor to sign change order number 13 with DLC Electric, LLC for the City Hall renovation electric in the amount of \$8,599 and I put that in the form of a motion. (20-223)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Scirocco: Second item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is authorization for mayor to sign change order number six with Collett Mechanical Incorporated for the City Hall renovation HVAC. Changes to the HVAC ductwork was necessary following some office layout changes in the new Building and Planning Office. As a result, it was determined that additional white vinyl installation would perform better in this space and would be more aesthetically pleasing. They vinyl wrap will improve efficiency and prevent condensation with the ductwork. This is in the old law library.

Therefore, I move for the mayor to sign change order number six with Collett Mechanical Incorporated for City Hall renovation HVAC in the amount of \$9,324.49 and I put that in the form of a motion. (20-224)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Scirocco: Third item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is authorization for the mayor to sign change order number 11 with MLB Construction Services for City Hall renovation and for general construction. This change order closes out a number of on-going items for the general contractor. This includes plaster wall repairs throughout the first and second floor hallways and refinishing the wood doors. These repairs and refinishing was decided in the field to provide an improved final look for the public areas of City Hall. Leveling of the first floor hallway was necessary for the floor tile to have a stronger bond and last longer. An epoxy finish for the main staircase has preserved a historic look incorporated in with the new stair treads. Work related in supporting other contractors such as cutting floors for electrical work or patch walls or ceilings for new fire suppression apparatus are also included. Finishing work in DPW and engineering was necessary to accommodate plan changes that were not expected initially. This change order also includes a new City Council Room table and layout. The new Council Room will be set up for our Council without the bookends – two commissioners at the ends at a table, which will help us to communicate and interact with the public. Everybody will be facing the audience.

Therefore, I move for the mayor to sign change order number 11 with MLB Construction Services for City Hall renovation general construction in the total amount of \$186,785.42 and I put that in the form of a motion. (20-225)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Scirocco: Item number four is discussion and vote authorization for the mayor to sign change order number two with Restore Masonry for the Canfield Casino renovation. Casino parlor sconces were part of the original 1870s construction and matched the two massive chandeliers. Research shows these chandeliers were valued at \$60,000 when installed and would be worth over \$1 million dollars today. Decades later, the City converted these fixtures from gas to electric and as a result, the sconces loosened and were leaning outward. As part of the current project scope, Mesick, Cohen, Wilson, Baker Architects and Quantum Engineering designed and anchor support system to secure the sconces back into the wall. During the process of repairing the sconces, Restore Masonry found many of the original parts were missing or broken as a result of the gas to electric conversion. This could not have been anticipated during the design phase. The new parts will now allow the sconces to be taken down for future repairs without the need to spin them back in place. Under change order number two, Restore Masonry will custom fabricate these parts and install them in time for the May 29th project deadline.

Therefore, I move for the mayor to sign change order number two with Restore Masonry for the Canfield Casino renovation in the amount of \$ 3,457 and I put that in the form of a motion. (20-226)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Mayor Kelly: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Scirocco: My fifth item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is authorization for the mayor to sign contract with Greenridge Cemetery. This is a long-term relationship between the City of

Saratoga Springs and the Greenridge Cemetery Association that dates back to 1966. The City owns approximately eight acres from Lincoln Avenue through the second gate. The cemetery maintains approximately 3,000 monuments along with fencing, curbing, curbing trees and shrubs that need trimming many times throughout the year. There are three large hills that require continual mowing and over 200 feet of sidewalk frontage on Lincoln Avenue that need snow removal each winter. The trees located in the cemetery requires hours of raking and leaf removal. The Department of Public Works does not have the manpower nor can we be price competitive for this annual maintenance agreement of \$26,500. This is paid twice annually. It's \$13,250 paid on or about the 1st of July 2020 and the remainder \$13,250 payable on or about the 1st of October 2020. This is service contract line item number is A3638814-54720.

Therefore, I move for the mayor to sign a contract with Greenridge Cemetery in the amount of \$26,500 and I put that in the form of a motion. (20-227)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.** Anything else commissioner?

Commissioner Scirocco: That concludes my agenda.

Mayor Kelly: Thank you commissioner. On to Public Safety.

Commissioner Madigan: Did you want to go back to Finance or did you want to wait until the end?

Mayor Kelly: I'll go through Public Safety, then I'll come back.

Commissioner Dalton: Thank you mayor. The first item on my agenda an announcement of the virus update. Lots has been happening. I do have an update here Chief Joe Dolan and the City Emergency Management Committee. I would normally read through it but he wrote it this morning and then we heard from the governor and the state that we met the seven criteria for re-opening and things changed, I think for the better. We are going to be re-opening phase one tomorrow in Saratoga Springs and the region that is primarily for construction and manufacturing industries as well as curbside pick-up for retailers. All of the details of all the types of businesses and industries that this applies to are on our City website, on our social media channels, and will be out in papers tomorrow. We are trying to put it out as much as possible. One thing I want to make sure of all business owners are aware of is the fact that when they open, they will have to have business safety protocol plan. The state has provided a template for one that is very user friendly that you can download and fill in as your safety protocol plan or you do have the option of writing your own. Either way, however, you do have to make sure you have it on the premises so when you open if someone from the state or someone locally comes in for an inspection, you have that safety protocol plan available to show them. You do not, however, have to send it to anyone either locally or at the state level for approval. We will have the link to the state template on line and tomorrow, several of the police officers, myself, and Chief Crookes will be downtown. We have it printed out and will be passing it out to make sure that really all the businesses are aware they have to do this whether they are re-opening in phase one, two, three, and four. Everyone will have to do this before they re-open. That is pretty much it for the update. I did have, I've been getting two questions a lot that I want to bring up to the Council and just answer again. I have gotten repeatedly a question about shutting down Broadway to allow for restaurants to have more table seating. I just wanted to go over quickly the two primary reasons why we can't do that. The first is of course emergency vehicles need to be able to access any of these businesses if they need fire, ambulance, police car; we have to be able to use Broadway to drive down. Second of all, we are part of the New York State highway system and designated truck route. Broadway is a designated truck route and that's not something we could change to allow for it to be permanently closed for the table seating. There are several

other small reasons but those are the two primary. I did also want to say that I heard this request/idea from a lot of residents. I actually have not had a single business on Broadway ask to do it, which is significant to me. We can't do that, however, we are open to creative outside of the box thinking when it comes to re-opening and helping businesses increase capacities while keeping social distancing in place. I just encourage anyone who has an idea to call us and we will work with you to make it happen as much as we can. The other question I've been getting is we've been putting out a nightly update in line about the confirmed number of cases of COVID in the region nightly in the beginning of this outbreak in March and April. We've stopped doing that as cases have slowed and the news has been shifting primarily to a recovery phase. I wanted to let people know that also was in conjunction with the County putting up a dashboard that's up permanently and almost in live time that has every bit of data you want to know in terms from cases to the number of people who are quarantined right now to just really everything you would want to know in terms of how this has affected the County and it breaks it down by locations within the County as well so you can see what the numbers are for Saratoga Springs or Clifton Park or what have you. That's up. We have the link to that up. That's why you are not seeing nightly updates with numbers. That is pretty much it for the virus update unless anyone has any other questions.

Commissioner Madigan: There might be some creative things that the businesses want to do but I guess maybe they should come to the Council. I know Hattie's and at the time 7 Horse Pub took, and I can never remember the public right-of-way, what that street is called. Commissioner Scirocco do you remember it? So they now have their outdoor seating. That was kind of a City/public right-of-way by the public library, the cut through between Hattie's and 7 Horse Pub.

Supervisor Veitch: Lena Lane.

Commissioner Madigan: How could I miss that? So if there are other restaurants or businesses out there that might have access to something like that, I'm sure the City would try to do what we can do to allow for some kind of expansion outdoors, especially with the nicer weather, but I do understand Broadway is part of a state highway. That makes it very difficult for those merchants on Broadway.

Mayor Kelly: I do agree and I do think that I was on Facebook Live with Chief Aaron Dyer and Joe Dolan and they both are requesting that people send them a note if they have an idea. They're willing to work with anyone. Some ideas are – safety is always first. Then they'll see if they can work it out. I thank you. The other question I do get a lot Commissioner Dalton is when do we get to phase two?

Commissioner Dalton: Right. Right. There's 14 days in between phases, minimum. There have been some indications that perhaps those time periods could be a bit shorter if our numbers remain the same and there is no outbreak of upticks in any of the numbers. I'm not totally sure about that. They haven't given a ton of clarification but 14 days is basically what we're looking at as the time period between phases.

Mayor Kelly: Right. With our number staying stable.

Commissioner Dalton: Correct. If our numbers go up and suddenly we have a resurgence in the virus and we have to pause and try and figure out where it's coming from and address it. So, hopefully we will avoid that by following all these assigned safety protocols and we'll be able to move phases two weeks at a time.

Mayor Kelly: Great. Thank you.

Commissioner Dalton: Just to address what you were talking about before. Code enforcement is ready and willing to come up with temporary language to help increase capacities whether it's on sidewalks; we had a restaurant owner contact us who has a parking lot and wants to do some expansion into his parking lot with dining and entertainment. We are willing to work with everybody. Give us a ring, we are here.

The second item on my agenda is discussion and vote authorization for the mayor to sign an agreement with Language Line for interpretation services for dispatch. This is an agreement for language

interpretation for dispatch in the rare instance that services are needed. All set-up fees are waived under New York State contract and there is a \$.75 per minute fee for the language service.

I make a motion for the mayor to sign the agreement with Language Line Solutions. This is a motion. (20-228)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Madigan: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Dalton: Thank you. The third item on my agenda is discussion and vote accept donation from Bella Home Builders. I'd like to thank Dave DePaulo of Bella Home Builders and also the Saratoga Builders Association. They spearheaded the building of a new canine kennel for our canine officer and it's beautiful. I don't know if you all saw it on line but they did a really spectacular job.

I make a motion to accept the donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Bella Home Builders. This is a motion. (20-229)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? Commissioner, is this a dog home on the policeman's property?

Commissioner Dalton: We don't disclose the location of where the dog is. It's just for safety reasons we don't.

Mayor Kelly: Okay. The questions I've been getting is where are they putting the dog; they leaving the dog alone? I just want to let people know the dog is not alone.

Commissioner Dalton: Rest assured the dog is not alone. The dog is living nicer than I am; it's a beautiful dog house and very close to a caretaker.

Mayor Kelly: Perfect. Thank you.

Commissioner Dalton: No need for concern there.

Mayor Kelly: All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Dalton: My fourth item is discussion and vote amend Chapter 225 of the City Code, Schedule XII stop intersection. The recent stop intersection amendment that was adopted by the City Council on April 7, 2020 had an incorrect location on the motion. Therefore, the Traffic Maintenance Division requests that the City Council amend Chapter 225 of the City Code.

I make a motion to amend Chapter 225, Article 9, Subsection 225-77, Schedule XII stop intersections to remove the following location: stop sign on Cleveland Avenue, direction of travel south, at the intersection of McKenzie's Way. This is a motion. (20-230)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Mayor Kelly: **Second.**

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: **Aye.**

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Dalton: Thank you. The last item on my agenda is a resolution in support of our City's businesses. This is something that came up because I've noticed a lot of conversation in the last two or three weeks that sort of pits this idea of public health being in competition with the economy. The need for public health is slowing down the re-opening of the economy and we can't have one without the other. It was really concerning for me and our department because we just love our downtown businesses and all of our small businesses and want them to know they are supported by us and the only way we see this moving forward is for both public health and the economy to thrive and win together. Not one or the other competing. That is the reason we wrote this resolution that I will read now for the Council. "Whereas Saratoga Springs' local businesses are the foundation of our economy and our identity. They symbolize our uniqueness, our innovation, our perseverance, and our desire to make our community thrive and prosper, and whereas, today, the COVID-19 pandemic is presenting our City's business community with challenges and burdens that could not even be imagined just a few months ago. Once the doors closed to the public, the ordinary responsibilities of meeting payrolls, paying bills, and maintaining a customer base seemed almost insurmountable. For many restaurants and shops, every day their doors remain closed moves them closer to a day when they might never be able to open again; and whereas, it is impossible to overstate the need for every public-section and private sector entity in our City to work together and provide city businesses with the latest and best information, guidance, and support. As we move toward a safe phased reopening, we must provide business owners, their employees and their customers with the security and confidence they need, and the encouragement to move forward, now, therefore, bet resolved, that this Council hereby states its continued support of our City's business community, and pledges to offer its assistance to the fullest extent possible."

Mayor Kelly: Is that a motion?

Commissioner Dalton: This is my only question. It feels like it should be a motion.

Mayor Kelly: Just make it a motion.

Commissioner Madigan: Adopt the resolution.

Commissioner Dalton: **I make a motion to adopt the resolution in support of our small businesses. (20-231)**

Mayor Kelly: Perfect. Thank you. Is there a second?

Commissioner Madigan: **Second.**

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion?

Commissioner Madigan: Nice job. I think it's important. The City is only, the City, us, the City, big c City, we're only as successful as our small businesses are so when they're not thriving we're clearly not thriving.

You can see what happened with sales tax in March. We are as invested in our City, our small businesses for the success of the City. It's all hand in hand, it's cyclical.

Commissioner Dalton: I agree and I think it's really important for us as a City to stand hand in hand with our business community and we are re-open for business and people can come downtown and shop, eat, and drink and feel confident about their safety while they're doing it.

Commissioner Scirocco: The small businesses, they are the economic engine that keeps things moving in the City and we try, Public Works tries for them what we can do on a daily basis. I know in the winter we try to get the snow off of Broadway so they can make it easier for patrons to go in and patronize them. Good resolution and I'm going to support it.

Commissioner Madigan: I wanted to add one more thing because I think it's so important; we're all getting e-mails about what's going on at the Walmart, and all the big box stores are still open. We are not a city that has big box stores; deliberately so, we've chosen to be the city in the country and our zoning and building, our planning, is based on that. We really do thrive on unique specialty downtown stores. They are suffering so I'm pleased about the re-opening. It sounds like the re-opening is measured, following CDC guidelines, and I look forward to them getting a little breathing room. When they make money, we make money. Of course, that's like what I'm focused on right now. The public health and the economy are so entwined. Thank you very much for bringing that resolution.

Commissioner Dalton: My pleasure. Thank you all for your support.

Mayor Kelly: All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.** Thank you commissioner.

Commissioner Dalton: Thank you. I believe that concludes my agenda.

Mayor Kelly: Okay. Let's head back to finance. You have three more items I believe, commissioner.

Commissioner Madigan: Yes and my numbers are just a little screwed up. We've had a lot of back and forth going on and I've had a printer not working well. I believe I am on my item number five – discussion and vote budget amendment use of the Code Blue assignment. We're using a couple assignments tonight and then next up I'm going to break a couple assignments. This one is lines one and two are to bring into the general fund budget funds from the assignment for Code Blue in the amount of \$25,000 to cover rental agreements for current sheltering accommodations. This is for the rent. You will recall that we came together with an assignment for \$50,000 for Code Blue so that they could pay rent on a temporary shelter. Then COVID hit and they were disbursed over to the Senior Center and then to the Holiday Inn. They're still going to have that second year of rent on the temporary shelter. The Council had committed that to them for that rent.

I move that the City Council approve budget amendment for the use of Code Blue assignment as included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-232)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Dalton: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you. Then I think I jump down to item number seven, which is a discussion and vote for the release of assignments. During my tenure as finance commissioner, the Governmental Accounting Standards Board (GASB) established a new vehicle for setting aside funds for particular objectives called an assignment. These are less restrictive than reserves' I already stated how reserves are very restricted, but serve the purpose of self-imposed savings for special needs. We have set up many of them over the years. Reserves, however, are largely governed by New York State General Municipal Law (GMU) Article II Section 6. They can only be established for the purposed stated including capital equipment, tax stabilization, retirement, and insurance to name a few. We have one called the reserve for bonded indebtedness that I use to help ease the payments for our debt service budget. Once established, reserves cannot be released unless they are released to do something very similar with them. Sort of like when we go out to bond for capital projects, you can only use that money on those capital projects. Assignments may be established for any purpose that represents an intended use established by the government's highest level decision making authority, which is us, the City Council or by the Council's designated body or official as long as that purpose is narrower than the purpose of the general fund. The City's assignments along with the current balance of each are provided in a memo that was included in the agenda. I can read the list now. We have, and there's only a few, we do have the reserve the refund for prior year's taxes – it has \$171,586.88 in it. There was some money left over in an IT initiative - \$1,258.80, the City knowledge training reserve - \$74,503. This is when we wanted to hire somebody and have them be trained right along with someone else that was working in that specific position. The City grant program - \$100,000; we did have two outstanding \$50,000 grants to the South Broadway Project and even the Promenade Project but they've never come forward for them. They've been sitting there in this assignment for years now. South Broadway didn't get their tax incentives. DPS for right sizing and \$370,000; DPS sick leave - \$290, well we're going to end up with \$200,000 in that one now, \$913.85 because we used \$93,000 of it tonight. Code Blue is going to come down to zero because we just used \$25,000 of it. Trail maintenance, we set that up as an assignment, for \$45,492.25. Given our cash flow situation, this will release to us a total of \$963,754.78. Essentially that will go right into fund balance. So, all of these different assignments now, when we have a need for one, we've got to make sure we're keeping something in fund balance if we need to access fund balance for something like a refund of prior year's taxes. Which is probably the main one here that we would probably need to access depending on when prior year taxes grievances or what not are settled. I am concerned about sick leave and right-sizing. That's all just going to have to be coming out of the general fund now, I mean the fund balance, at this point in time. So, tonight I request your approval to release all of these assignments allowing them to be moved to unassigned fund balance, will result in additional, well the \$963,000 available to cover operating expenses and has been laid out in my plan, which I discussed in my item number one. It's almost \$1 million dollars. So, we're going to be using \$6.5 million in fund balance. We were going to be using \$4.5 million but now we are up to \$6.5 in fund balance to cover cash flow issues. When the City recovers from the pandemic and the economy starts humming along, I will be more than happy, I will likely not be around, but more than happy to set up these assignments. I think they've been very helpful for me as commissioner over the years and to the various department who have needed them.

I move that the City Council approve the release of all City assignments as described in the memo included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-233)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Commissioner Franck: **Second.**

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: **Aye.**

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you. Item number eight is a discussion and vote budget transfers payroll. Lines one through two transfer funds to overtime in the Accounts Office from wages for part time senior clerk position to cover a deficit amount of \$213.78. Lines three through four transfer funds to sick leave

payout in the Mayor's Department from the wage of the part time City historian to cover a deficit in the amount of \$178.24. Lines five through six transfer funds to the police 207c fund used for injured police officers from wages for active duty police in the amount of \$32,106.32.

I move that the City Council approve budget transfers payroll as included with the agenda. This is a motion. (20-234)

Mayor Kelly: Is there a second?

Mayor Kelly: Second.

Mayor Kelly: Any discussion? All those in favor say aye.

Council: Aye.

Mayor Kelly: Any opposed? **The matter passes.**

Commissioner Madigan: Thank you and that finally wraps up my agenda.

Mayor Kelly: Thank you commissioner. On to the supervisors. Supervisor Veitch.

Supervisor Veitch: Thank you mayor. First on my agenda is just an update on the Buildings and Grounds Committee from the County. We had our regularly scheduled meeting for May last Tuesday. We had a couple of items that we dealt with. First was an item for the airport where the County had to put some money into an escrow account for the land that currently houses the Gateway House of Peace. It was formerly a Red Cross building in the Town of Milton. Since that building does not perform any airport function, the FAA requires us to keep some money in escrow for that property for any time that we may sell that land and/or incorporate that into the airport. It's kind of a rule that they had that we had to put some money into an escrow account for that particular property that we have at the airport right now. That was actually the one item we voted on today at the Board meeting. They reported on the public safety building, which is being built in the Town of Milton as well. The substantial completion of that building is scheduled for next month, the month of June. They're doing some IT work, which is kind of the final stage of that building. They are doing that next week. Right now, it looks like the earliest we are going to be able to move departments into that building is going to be on July 1. It appears as though the Public Health Department and Probation are going to be the first to move in with the sheriff and the 911-call center to be the last to move in. Probably we'll have everything moved in by the fourth quarter of this year at that building. The other thing we did at the meeting was, because of the COVID-19 and all of the lack of revenue the County is going to be receiving, we looked at all of our capital programs for this year for the County and we cut almost all the projects. There's only one project that we kept on, which is the water tower at the jail. The water tower was built in 1985 probably has had very little maintenance done on it ever since. It certainly has, was beyond the point, where we needed to do some repairs on it. It was starting to leak and we had some issues with it. That needs to be done immediately. That project is going to continue but all the rest of the projects from the County's capital program were cut. We even cut a program from the Sheriff's Department, which was to redo the yard at the jail. With all the projects that we cut, it cuts approximately \$1.6 million dollars from the County's budget. Since we don't bond our capital program at Saratoga County, it actually goes into the budget; it is actual budget savings that we receive by not doing our capital program from Buildings and Grounds. I appreciate my Committee for doing that. It was important to do. There were a couple of things on there that I really wanted to get done this year but unfortunately, we are not going to be able to do them this year. We'll wait until 2021, hopefully things will be better and we can get our capital program from this year going. I do have all the details of that. I don't think I need to report that to the Council but if you have any questions about what those projects were, I can certainly let you know.

Second item on my agenda is to report on the home energy assistance program, which comes out of the Department of Social Services. Usually, in the wintertime, we report that that program is in effect. It's for home energy heating assistance for folks who have the inability or don't have the means to pay for repairs

on their furnaces, insulation, things for their houses to keep them warm in the wintertime. It usually runs through the spring. This year, because of the COVID-19, they've extended the home energy heating assistance program until June 30, 2020 for both regular and emergency benefits. You do have to qualify for the programs so if you're not getting that now and you think you could get it, you should talk to the Department of Social Services to see if you are eligible for that. In addition, they added a third benefit, emergency benefit, so if a homeowner had exhausted their regular benefit, as well as an emergency benefit this winter, they now get a third option for a third benefit if they need it up to June 30th. They can apply for the benefit. They can go to online at mybenefits.ny.gov or they can contact the Department of Social Services at Saratoga County, which is 518-884-4140, and talk to somebody there for the home energy heating assistance program. Just wanted to report we're extending that program this year.

Third on my agenda is just to report on the Re-opening Committee that was established by Saratoga County. We had our first meeting on Friday. Our meeting basically surrounded what the role of the Committee is going to be. There are several different folks that are appointed to the Committee. We talked about what's our value, what are we going to do? It seems like what we are coming to be is a Committee that's going to look at the state guidelines for re-opening, promote those guidelines, look to be a one-stop place for residents to get info on the re-opening. They are working on putting a website together and doing media releases and also our job is to recommend to Spencer Hellwig, who is our appointed person on the State's Capital Region Control Room on anything we feel should be important to bring to the State's Control Room. Right now, we're looking from that perspective at a proposal Albany County put together on re-opening. They are looking for other counties to sign on to that proposal. We are reviewing that right now and will be making a decision sometime this week on that. As Commissioner Dalton had said, things are changing so fast that our meeting on Friday was already out of date by today. Some of the things we talked about were almost behind the curve because things have already come out since then in terms of rules, regulations, things for re-opening. As we try to keep up with it, the State makes changes every day and we have to try to stay abreast of that. It's been kind of difficult for us to, having only one meeting so far, to have anything ready at this point. We are scheduling our second meeting this Thursday this week. We are going to meet again on Thursday and at that point, there will be a little more to report to people.

Commissioner Dalton: Can I ask a quick question?

Supervisor Veitch: Sure.

Commissioner Dalton: Would it be possible to establish someone who could communicate with myself or someone with the City so we can be apprised of what you guys are doing and make sure we are not doubling up efforts?

Supervisor Veitch: Yeah. I had a conversation with Kathy Duncan who is on our Committee. I believe she has a group that she is working with I believe your police chiefs and Marilyn Rivers and there is three or four folks she is working with from the City on something. I was a little unclear what that group was.

Commissioner Dalton: I know that Chief Dolan and Marilyn are on a committee but I heard about this committee and I'm confused as to who is doing what. I just want to be sure we're not doing the same work here.

Supervisor Veitch: I share the same kind of confusion at first. Basically, when her and I talked, it was that they're going to work somewhat together. If they have anything they want to bring to us, we will listen and we'll go back to them. I think that's where the communication is going to be with the City when it comes to anything. Kathy is on the Re-opening Committee at the County and also with that committee with the people from the City. She's kind of the liaison.

Commissioner Dalton: You guys have got a lot of committees.

Supervisor Veitch: The County is committees.

Mayor Kelly: There are a lot of committees and task forces and whatever and it's quite interesting that the mayor of Saratoga Springs has not been invited to be on one. It's kind of unusual.

Commissioner Dalton: It is very unusual but I see those. A lot of people doing the same work.

Mayor Kelly: We're doing very well in the City and I think commissioner to you and your staff were doing a great job despite sometimes you and I talk late at night that we're trying to get on the same page. But that's what we do. I do think it's unfortunate that I have the best communication with all the community leaders from NYRA to Skidmore to SPAC and nobody's talking to me at any task force for the state or county. Just putting it out there.

Supervisor Veitch: I appreciate the comment. Thank you. With that, that concludes my agenda, unless there are any other questions.

Mayor Kelly: Thank you supervisor. On to Supervisor Gaston.

Supervisor Gaston: The first item on my agenda is regarding COVID, kind of an update from the County. I would say that I'm sure Supervisor Veitch and myself are happy to also serve as a conduit and provide any information. Supervisor Veitch is actually on the County Re-opening Committee. I'm not but I just like to attend because I like to know what's going on. So either of us are happy to provide any information or bring forward any concerns from the City. Feel free to reach out to us.

As of today there are 432 confirmed cases of COVID-19 within the County. Only six hospitalizations. Our numbers are actually doing pretty well. The important thing to keep in mind, though, is that as we enter phase one, which thank you Commissioner Dalton for talking about, I've seen some information about oh great we're opening up without the clarification of the phase in. I really appreciate you bringing that forward. One of the big concerns from our director of public health is we are likely to see these numbers rise as we open up. That's expected; the question is how high they rise and we are anticipating it will not be very high because we are taking these precautions but we do want to make sure it is very important to continue social distancing, wearing the mask, and otherwise following the guidelines that have been provided by the City, the County, the State, and the federal government to make sure that any increase is very small. That's really more of a matter of people getting back together, it's not because we are engaging in anything. Tomorrow at 10 a.m., the County will be holding another Facebook Live with officials from County Public Health, Saratoga Hospital, the County Clerk, and Saratoga Springs City School District. You can find that at the Saratoga County Office of Emergency Services Facebook. They've been, I think, very informative and it's an opportunity for the public to ask questions directly of these individuals at that time. You can watch those and engage whether you have a Facebook account or not. They're still available. Another option that I know we've talked a lot about, unemployment and individuals who are having difficulty working right now. The state is still hiring contract tracers. If anyone is interested, you can go to the Forward New York website and there's information about that. They are paying \$27 an hour and they are training individuals. For those who may be looking for an additional job because their hours have been reduced or they've lost their job, that's a great option. I talked to Director McClosky from the County Employment and Training Office today and they are still open and working 100%. They are from home and not at the County but they have an incredible set of virtual training and the ability to connect people to jobs. For any resident who needs one, that's a really great resource.

The contract tracers bring me to item number two, which is just an update from the Board. Today we passed a resolution hiring – authorizing the hiring of up to 50 contract tracers through the County in addition to the state. That was necessary in order for us to open up phase one tomorrow. The state is hiring contract tracers but these allow us to have trained individuals on hand so we can go ahead and open up because we don't want to push that any further than necessary.

Mayor Kelly: Can I ask a question on that? How come they're hiring 50?

Supervisor Gaston: We're not hiring, it's up to 50. It's the estimate based on the numbers from the director of public health if there is an increase. Right now most of our contract tracers are County

employees that work in other departments. As the County opens back up, we are going to have to take those employees that are assigned to social services normally or DPW and put them back in their original place. We're going to need to replace them. It's not actually hiring them; it's just sort of a volunteer core so that in the event we need them they are already trained and available. It authorizes us to pay them \$25 an hour if they are needed.

Mayor Kelly: I guess I don't understand because the region is opening with an abundance of tracers.

Supervisor Gaston: And that is because of contracts like this. We did not meet the metric. As a county, we did not have the sufficient number and it was decided in the regional public health meetings that we needed more and so this allows us that number. Right now, we have 34 and the vast majority of them are County employees that some of them are public health but some of them belong to other departments. They are not going to be continuously available. Allowing us to have this contract where these people are available to be used as contract tracers if necessary. They are not going to work and they are not guaranteed employment. That's clear. They are trained and available, that means it meets the state's metric for having those contract tracers available because our infection rate is still so low within the county that we don't actually need the higher number right now.

Mayor Kelly: Okay, thank you.

Supervisor Gaston: Is that a little clearer?

Mayor Kelly: No.

Commissioner Madigan: That's specifically for the County; the state's different, right?

Supervisor Gaston: Right. The hope is we do not need them. Unfortunately, the state is not giving up their training and hiring individuals fast enough for us to be able to open to phase one. So these are individuals, some of them are retired public health nurses. I believe Director Duncan said two former public health directors has also been under this so they have the training and ready to go immediately if we need them.

Mayor Kelly: Okay, thank you.

Commissioner Scirocco: Does the County get reimbursed for that?

Supervisor Gaston: It will probably be accessible for reimbursement. No monies are being spent right now. They would only be spent if they are needed to work. The hope is that they're not but we wanted to be sure we had them available before the state got ready because that's what was really holding us up to open to phase one.

Commissioner Dalton: So we have 20 certified tracers here in the City. Do you want us to look for more people who are available to be ready and help?

Supervisor Gaston: This meets all of our guidelines and all of the people are known to public health and are already trained. The county contract is not going to require finding any new individuals. It just authorizes us to pay them this amount in the event that they do need to be working. The hope is that the state tracers and between what's already available between the City and the County, if you needed anything that that would be done in time.

Commissioner Dalton: For some reason I thought they all had to go through the Bloomberg Training Program/Plan.

Supervisor Gaston: You have to go through that training but the guidance actually changed over the weekend allowing counties to create their own contracts in order to move along faster, which we want to do if that's holding us back. As mentioned by several individuals on the meeting, things are moving very

quickly and this is one of the things the director was able to do very quickly to make sure that we could meet the metrics and open up without that having caused a problem. Right now, the 34 we have are doing an incredible job; we don't really need any more of these 50. It's just there in case we do need them.

Supervisor Veitch: Is it okay if I jump in on your agenda?

Supervisor Gaston: Sure.

Supervisor Veitch: Okay. It's 30 contract tracers per 100,000, correct; the metric we have to meet?

Mayor Kelly: Yes.

Supervisor Veitch: So with 240,000 or so residents of Saratoga County so our number's probably got to be about 70 to meet that number. That's where some of that comes in. I didn't want to jump in and say that but....

Commissioner Dalton: When she says we've met the metric as a region, I don't where that's coming from. I don't know where in the region they're giving us tracers. It's that we magically met it. It's helpful to have this clarification.

Supervisor Veitch: Well, I think part of that is Director Duncan said the counties got together and some of the counties that did have the availability, such as Saratoga, to put more of these people in reserve are doing it. It's boosting the numbers for smaller counties that are also in our region that may not have that access.

Commissioner Dalton: These are the kind of communications that are so great to trickle down this way because I had no idea any of these conversations were going on or these contracts were happening. It's great to know now so thank you.

Supervisor Gaston: To be honest, neither did I until today.

Mayor Kelly: Okay, can we move on please?

Supervisor Gaston: The other big item as the mayor indicated is the census is still going on. I set a personal goal to beat Clifton Park, which currently has 75% reporting. I'd love us to do that. I know the mayor has set an even higher goal. That money is really what's responsible for our education funding, social services funding, community development block grant.

Mayor Kelly: Excuse me, I'm a little lost. Are you adding the census update? Where does that fit in here?

Supervisor Gaston: It's an item of the Board. It's one of the things we received information about the census today that I'm reporting on.

Mayor Kelly: Okay, thank you.

Supervisor Gaston: The Board has been working on that and we've been sharing the word. Any individual can respond on line. We are also going to be having some more outreach as a board to encourage the County, all County residents to respond. It's especially difficult at this time but we are hoping to get that up. The last big issue that I'm contacted about is the time and a half issue. It remains outstanding. To be honest that will be. I will not be updating on that any further until the completion of the internal and external investigations. I just think that's appropriate given the questions that are being raised.

My third item is real property. Saratoga Springs has a little bit of a separate process. In the event that any residents have property outside of the City in the County, the County has decided to foreclose on 2018 delinquencies. We're going to wait a year on that. As a result, it's not possible for us to do the auction or engage in the title searches or property searches now. This means that individuals have an additional year

prior to foreclosure but our processes may change including the ability to have a pool automatically. If that is a problem for you, you should contact real property and take care of that. The additional year will not mean that you don't have to. That also means that the next auction will be in May of 2021 for anyone seeking to attend that.

The fourth item is mask distribution. Most businesses are requiring masks when you wear them inside your business. That's going to increase as our businesses open. Supervisor Veitch and myself, with masks donated by from the New York State stockpile to the Office of Emergency Services, we distributed nearly 5,000 masks last Friday. It was great attendance and it was awesome to see the number of people that were coming both to get for themselves and also family members and friends who were unable to make it. It was accessible to individuals who did not have vehicles as well, which was important because many of the distribution points required a car to access elsewhere in the County.

Commissioner Dalton: Can I ask a quick question about that? Sorry to interrupt. I know that we have needs here for more masks and I had asked the County if there were more where that stockpile came from. I was told no. I'm trying to figure out how to get more masks for the City. Is it still possible to request masks from that stockpile?

Supervisor Gaston: It is possible to request but the stockpile is dwindling. Commissioner Zielman is not sure when they'll be available. There are some masks, a very small amount that were provided, left after the distribution that I'm happy to provide to residents. I've provided some, dropped them off at their door. We also, at the time of the mask distribution, had some available and provided two boxes to the Saratoga Springs Police Department and two to the Saratoga Springs City School District. As they are dealing with individuals in the public, they both indicated that would be useful.

Commissioner Dalton: That was great. I did get some from the box you dropped at the Police Department. I was just trying to figure out if we had if there were more in the stockpile or not.

Supervisor Gaston: There are not a lot more, there's probably a half a box total left. If individuals need a mask, they're welcome to contact me. I will say that these masks are not for business purposes so we're not providing masks at this point to businesses for when they open for individuals to come in. The county is in discussions on how they can facilitate the acquisition of PPE for businesses as we start opening up. Right now, these are more focused on individuals in our community who need them or need them while they're engaging in their normal activities. I would also like to thank the Saratoga Preservation Foundation and Skidmore Professor Dominique Vuvan. They all volunteered in help passing out. It was very fun and I'm glad that many people were able to get access to masks. You can contact Supervisor Veitch or myself if you need access to a mask.

The last item is my next public forum will be June 7th at 2 p.m. on Facebook Live. The focus is going to be on resiliency and climate and what we can in the ongoing, during the on-going pandemic; how we can save the County money while continuing to move forward in response to that. In addition, I'll answer any other questions individuals have at that time. That concludes my agenda.

Mayor Kelly: Thank you supervisor. Is there any other business from the Council? We are adjourned. Thank you and be safe.

*The transcript ended at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ribis
Clerk

City Council Meeting
5/19/2020

Approved: 10/6/2020
Vote: 4 - 0