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CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS CITY COUNCIL MEETING

March 29, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

- Meg Kelly, Mayor
- Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
- Lisa Ribis, Secretary to the City Council
- Robin Dalton, Commissioner
- Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
- Michele Madigan, Commissioner
- John P. Franck, Commissioner
- Vincent DeLeonardis, City Attorney
- Richard Ferguson, Chairman, Community
Development Citizen's Advisory
Committee



1 MAYOR KELLY: Good evening.
2 Welcome to a March 29th, 2021 special
3 City Council Meeting, Community
4 Development Block Grant Committee
5 Recommendations.

6 Roll call, please.

7 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
8 Madigan? Not -- not here yet; that's
9 right.

10 Commissioner Scirocco?

11 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.

12 SECRETARY RIBIS: Commissioner
13 Dalton?

14 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

15 SECRETARY RIBIS: Mayor Kelly?

16 MAYOR KELLY: Here.

17 Please rise for the Pledge of
18 Allegiance. I pledge allegiance to the
19 Flag of the United States of America and
20 to the Republic for which it stands, one
21 Nation under God, indivisible, with
22 liberty and justice for all.

23 On to the Mayor's Department, my
24 first item is a Presentation: Community
25 Development Citizen's Advisory Committee



1 2021 Community Development Block Grant
2 Annual Action Plan Recommendations.

3 At this time, I will turn it over to
4 Rich Ferguson, who is the chairman of the
5 Community Development Citizen's Advisory
6 Committee program to speak on these
7 recommendations.

8 MR. FERGUSON: Good afternoon and --
9 and thank you, Mayor, and City Council
10 members for -- for giving me a moment.

11 As I've said many times in the past,
12 our twelve-member group has a daunting
13 challenge that we face every year. In
14 specific this year, we had approximately
15 \$298,000 to grant and over \$600,000 in
16 requests. So it -- it takes a great deal
17 of effort and time and deliberation, and
18 I was very pleased with the actions of
19 our -- of our -- of our group.

20 Just quickly, we had two public
21 meetings followed by two robust meetings
22 of deliberation. And from that, and
23 keeping with our five-year plan, and the
24 highest priorities of the Community
25 Development Block Grant, I'd like to



1 present for you our slate of
2 recommendations. And what I will do is
3 quickly read our recommendations so that
4 they are within your minutes.

5 The recommended activities for the
6 2021 action plan, for the Saratoga
7 Affordable Housing Group, case manager
8 application, \$18,000. Funding to provide
9 for a full-time case manager that will
10 assist low income, disabled, and elderly
11 individuals to secure housing at Allen
12 Drive; to work with the tenants to
13 prevent eviction and provide education
14 and management services to assure the
15 safety of all residents.

16 For Wellspring and their shelter
17 manager, \$10,000. Funding for the
18 continuation of a full-time shelter
19 manager to provide adults and children
20 who are homeless due to domestic violence
21 and residing in the emergency shelter
22 with assistance and assessing rental
23 assistance, securing housing, financial
24 literacy, and referrals to community
25 support services.



1 To the Salvation Army and their
2 IDignity program, \$10,000. Funding to
3 provide assistance to individuals who are
4 facing obstacles to employment, housing,
5 or advancement out of poverty and to
6 break the cycle of intergenerational
7 poverty. This program provides items
8 such as birth certificates, Social
9 Security cards, non-driver
10 identification, driver's licenses, and
11 GED fees and supplies.

12 For Rebuilding Together Saratoga
13 County and their housing rehabilitation
14 program, \$98,386. Funding to support
15 this housing rehabilitation program
16 serving low to moderate income city
17 homeowners.

18 To the Saratoga Affordable Housing
19 Group, renovations to their Allen Drive
20 property and units, \$59,000. Funding to
21 rehabilitate existing affordable housing
22 units, to improve code compliance,
23 safety, and energy efficiency of
24 substandard housing units and to
25 accomplish more substantial and whole



1 site improvements.

2 To AIM Services, Incorporated, a
3 group home rehabilitation at Hawthorne,
4 \$23,023. Funding to support the
5 rehabilitation of a residential home
6 housing six people with developmental and
7 intellectual disabilities.

8 To the Legal Aid Society of
9 Northeastern New York, their Right Place
10 Project, \$20,625. This is funding to
11 support the replacement of a substandard
12 roof at a public facility which serves
13 low to moderate income city residents.

14 Again, to AIM Services,
15 Incorporated, group home rehabilitation
16 at Doten, \$6,400. Again, funding to
17 support the rehabilitation of a
18 residential home housing four people with
19 developmental and intellectual
20 disabilities.

21 The Community Development Program
22 Administration, \$53,000. These funds
23 finance the Community Development
24 operating budget to cover the cost of
25 payroll, fringe benefits, and program



1 office expenses.

2 I am more than happy to try to
3 answer any of your questions. Again,
4 this deliberation was very difficult with
5 two times the amount available to grant
6 being applied for. Our driving force was
7 to provide the most assistance to the
8 most people keeping in line with the
9 program funding requirements and
10 priorities.

11 Thank you.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Rich
13 Ferguson, who is the chairman of the
14 board.

15 I also want to comment that this
16 public comment will be open on these
17 recommendations. So if anybody has any
18 public comment at this time going
19 forward, they can submit them through our
20 website.

21 Any comments from the council at
22 this time?

23 I do want to thank you and your
24 committee. I know how hard this is
25 and -- and I did receive a letter today



1 from the committee asking for possible
2 more funding. And you know, I will leave
3 that up to Commissioner Madigan to
4 discuss that with you. But at this time,
5 I'm going to tell you we're still trying
6 to save jobs in the city. But I think
7 it's a good start to get you into the
8 funding stream of the city. So you know
9 we'll -- we'll discuss that further.

10 But at this time, if the council has
11 any comments, feel free to jump in. If
12 not, we can move on, on my agenda.

13 COMMISSIONER DALTON: I just wanted
14 to say thank you, as well. I can't
15 imagine how challenging this process was
16 especially this year given the financial
17 constraints we're in. And so I
18 appreciate all of your hard work.

19 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you.

20 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
21 Commissioner.

22 MR. FERGUSON: Thanks, very much.

23 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Good job.
24 Good job -- I know it's tough.

25 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you.



1 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: You get
2 \$600,000 worth of, you know, requests,
3 and you know, you got -- you got a
4 limited budget to work with. But it's --
5 it's a tough job and you guys do a
6 good -- good job getting the -- the money
7 to where it really -- I guess to -- to
8 where it needs to go, so --

9 MR. FERGUSON: Thank you, so much.

10 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- yes.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
12 Commissioner.

13 Okay, with that I'm going to move on
14 to my second item. My second item is to
15 set up -- thank you, Rich. You can sign
16 off now.

17 My second item is to set a public
18 hearing, the 2021 Community Development
19 Block Grant Annual Action Plan
20 Recommendations. And I'd like to set
21 that for April 20th.

22 If Lisa Ribis can confirm that for
23 me?

24 SECRETARY RIBIS: The 20th is okay
25 at 6:55, or do you need more time?



1 MAYOR KELLY: No, 6:55 should be
2 perfect. Thank you, Lisa.

3 SECRETARY RIBIS: Okay.

4 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Are you going
5 to do it on the 6th, Mayor?

6 MAYOR KELLY: It could be open on
7 the 6th too, Lisa Ribis, yes.

8 SECRETARY RIBIS: The only problem
9 with the 6th is we don't have enough time
10 to notice a public hearing.

11 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. So well, we'll
12 just keep it at -- we'll keep it at the
13 20th, that's fine. Thank you.

14 SECRETARY RIBIS: Okay.

15 MAYOR KELLY: My second -- my third
16 item is to set a public hearing to amend
17 the capital budget for Geysers Road Trail.
18 On 7/7/2020, the council unanimously
19 voted to sign a memorandum of
20 understanding with the Capital District
21 Transportation Authority to install new
22 infrastructure for bus stations at the
23 intersection of Route 50 and Geysers Road
24 intended to serve the Saratoga Spa State
25 Parks back and associated facilities.



1 CDTA will be responsible for
2 construction costs associated with the
3 CDTA-related improvements and will
4 reimburse the city for those related
5 improvements not to exceed \$100,000
6 without further approval from CDTA.

7 The Mayor's office is setting a
8 public hearing to move these associated
9 revenue into the Geyser Road Trail budget
10 line H351714252000-1200.

11 And that will -- that can be at the
12 next meeting, Lisa Ribis, for five
13 minutes?

14 SECRETARY RIBIS: Again, we don't
15 have enough time to publish it in the
16 newspapers for the next meeting.

17 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

18 SECRETARY RIBIS: So the 20th?

19 MAYOR KELLY: How -- how much time
20 do you need for that, Lisa?

21 SECRETARY RIBIS: They have to be at
22 least five days -- the last notice has to
23 be visible to the public in the newspaper
24 at least five days prior to the next
25 meeting.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Yep, okay. Okay. So
2 let -- let's -- let's put that at the
3 second meeting then.

4 SECRETARY RIBIS: Okay. The 20th.
5 And we'll leave it at 6:55?

6 MAYOR KELLY: Yes, please.

7 SECRETARY RIBIS: Okay. Thank you.

8 MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

9 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Mayor, what
10 about -- what about the -- the
11 maintenance of the -- the shelter itself?
12 Is that something they would take on too?
13 I would assume --

14 MAYOR KELLY: I believe -- I believe
15 that it is in -- in their jurisdiction,
16 Commissioner, yes.

17 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes? Okay.

18 MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Yeah. But I
19 will -- I will doublecheck that --

20 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah.

21 MAYOR KELLY: -- and get it in
22 writing for you. Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay, thank
24 you. Appreciate that.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Um-hum. Um-hum.



1 Lisa Shields, are you questioning
2 that 20th?

3 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: We were
4 expecting the -- the public hearing to be
5 open on the 6th, so we could bring -- do
6 the budget transfer and bring an invoice
7 for payment, so -- we'll just have to --
8 I -- I guess if there's -- if there's no
9 time to get it out in seven days then
10 we'll have to deal with it on the
11 second --

12 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

13 DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: -- meeting.

14 MAYOR KELLY: All right. We'll --
15 we'll -- we'll work through that. Thank
16 you.

17 My fourth item is discussion and
18 vote authorizing the Mayor to sign a
19 contract extension to the NYSERDA Grant-
20 Partially Funding the United -- Unified
21 Development Ordinance Project. The grant
22 expires on March 31, 2021. And the
23 request is an extension with a new end
24 date of December 31, 2021.

25 I move that the city council



1 authorize the Mayor to sign the contract
2 extension to the NYSERDA Grant-Partially
3 Funding the Unified Development Ordinance
4 Project.

5 This is a 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 My next item is discussion and vote
14 request for a 60-Day Extension-Stewart's
15 Marion Ave/Maple Dell PUD.

16 This is a request for a sixty-day
17 extension for the planning board in DRC
18 to provide advisory opinions for the
19 Stewart's Marion Ave/Maple Dell PUD.
20 This request is for an additional sixty
21 days, this to allow pre-applicant to
22 provide additional information as
23 requested by the board and the further
24 review in the advisory opinion to the
25 city council.



1 I move that the city council approve
2 the signing of a sixty-day extension for
3 the planning board in DRC to provide
4 advisory opinions for the Stewart's
5 Marion Ave/Maple Dell PUD.

6 This is a motion; is there a second?

7 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

9 MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

10 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, Mayor,
11 based on the comments that we are
12 receiving tonight, I think it's important
13 that we get more information on this. So
14 I think the idea of a sixty-day
15 extension, it's -- it's a good idea.

16 MAYOR KELLY: Yes. And this is not
17 uncommon, you know, that they ask for
18 more time.

19 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Right.

20 MAYOR KELLY: So thank you,
21 Commissioner.

22 Any other comments?

23 All those in favor, say aye.

24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?



1 The matter passes.

2 On to the Finance Department.

3 Commissioner Madigan?

4 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
5 Mayor.

6 I have an item on my agenda,
7 discussion and vote authorization for the
8 Mayor to sign Addendum Four to Bolton St.
9 Johns Agreement for Governmental
10 Relations.

11 The Governor's executive budget was
12 released with the complete elimination of
13 the VLT for Saratoga Springs. The
14 assembly has responded with it -- with it
15 included and it's one house bill,
16 completely restoring it.

17 The senate has responded with it's
18 one house bill supporting the complete --
19 the complete elimination for Saratoga
20 Springs only. All other localities are
21 included for VLT.

22 The final New York State 2021/2022
23 budget has not been released yet. We've
24 received about \$2.3 million for the past
25 several years in VLT.



1 Due to fiscal concerns, the
2 pandemic, the impact that it's had on the
3 New York State budget, the, I would say
4 fairly low amount we're receiving right
5 now on federal fiscal aid, I would like
6 to renew our contract for three more
7 months with Bolton St. Johns. So that
8 would be at the reduced monthly rate of
9 \$1,000 per month totaling \$3,000.

10 They really have been instrumental
11 in assisting the city through the last
12 few state budget processes and even
13 keeping us informed on things that are
14 happening on the federal level.

15 At this critical juncture, I
16 recommend we continue these services.

17 I move that the city council
18 authorize the Mayor to sign Addendum Four
19 to Bolton St. Johns Agreement for
20 Governmental Relations as included with
21 the agenda. This is going to be for
22 three more months at \$1,000 per month.

23 That -- this is a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Second. Any
2 discussion?

3 All those in favor, say aye.

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

6 The matter passes.

7 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

8 Item number two is a discussion and
9 vote Budget Transfers - Contingency.
10 Lines 1 through 4, transfer funds from
11 contingency to the public works
12 department to cover costs for maintenance
13 and operation of EV stations located on
14 Woodlawn Avenue and behind the Putnam
15 Street Market.

16 The contingency budget appropriation
17 currently has a balance of \$235,985.83.
18 Following this approval of this transfer
19 there will be \$227,581.83 available.

20 I move that the city council approve
21 budget transfers contingency as included
22 with the -- this agenda.

23 This is a motion.

24 MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

25 COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.



1 MAYOR KELLY: Second.

2 Any discussion?

3 All those in favor, say aye.

4 IN UNISON: Aye.

5 MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

6 The matter passes.

7 I do -- is that it, Commissioner?

8 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I think

9 so.

10 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

11 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

12 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

13 Thank you.

14 I do want to go back to my setting a
15 public hearing to amend the capital
16 budget for Geyser Trail.

17 We are looking to do that and -- and
18 Lisa Ribis, please chime in here. I -- I
19 feel like we have time to do this.
20 And -- and you're telling me no; is that
21 correct?

22 SECRETARY RIBIS: The requirements
23 from the newspapers for them to have time
24 to get it set for print will not allow
25 them to print with the time period that



1 that has to be between when they print
2 and when the public hearing actually
3 happens.

4 MAYOR KELLY: Well the meeting --
5 the meeting is seven days from tomorrow.

6 SECRETARY RIBIS: Right.

7 MAYOR KELLY: So we don't have time
8 to get that in the paper?

9 SECRETARY RIBIS: They won't be able
10 to print until -- tomorrow's Tuesday.
11 They won't be able to print until
12 Thursday at the earliest -- one, two,
13 three, four -- and it's got to print
14 twice prior to the public hearing.

15 And it's got to be -- the second
16 print of it has to be at least five
17 days -- no -- no less than five days
18 prior to. That's the catch.

19 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

20 SECRETARY RIBIS: Vince, I -- maybe
21 you can tell me if there's something that
22 allows us to do it with extenuating
23 circumstances or can we get away with
24 just --

25 MAYOR KELLY: Vince -- Vince, do you



1 want to say something here? I -- I --

2 MR. DELEONARDIS: No, I think Lisa's
3 right on with her --

4 MAYOR KELLY: Okay, I -- I -- I
5 understand. I just didn't know if
6 there's any way that we can maybe -- can
7 we call the paper? I mean, we just need
8 to get this done. That's all.

9 SECRETARY RIBIS: I mean, they
10 can -- like I said, they can get it in.
11 If I have the legal ad first thing
12 tomorrow morning, still, their -- their
13 time for printing is not until Thursday.

14 MAYOR KELLY: I --

15 MR. DELEONARDIS: Mayor?

16 MAYOR KELLY: -- I understand.

17 So -- so thank you, Lisa. I appreciate
18 that -- that clarification. I appreciate
19 everything that you do. The --

20 COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Mayor,
21 couldn't you hold a special meeting,
22 like, the day after?

23 MR. DELEONARDIS: That's -- that's
24 what I was just going to say --

25 MAYOR KELLY: Okay.



1 MR. DELEONARDIS: I would suggest if
2 you -- if you can't wait until the 20th,
3 but you -- but the 6th is too soon, you
4 have a special city council meeting that
5 allows you enough time.

6 MAYOR KELLY: Okay. All right.
7 Well, we'll work it out. Yep. Thank
8 you.

9 Thank you, both. Thank you,
10 Commissioner Franck. And thank you,
11 Vince. Thank you, Lisa.

12 Any other business from the council?

13 Thank you all for joining us
14 tonight.

15 Thank you to the Community
16 Development Task Force for giving those
17 recommendations.

18 And everybody have a great night.

19 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: You too.

20 MAYOR KELLY: And we'll see you on
21 Wednesday.

22 Thank you.

23 COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

24 COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

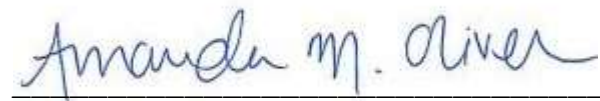
25 (Meeting adjourned)



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

I, Amanda M. Oliver, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.



Amanda M. Oliver

eScribers
352 Seventh Avenue, Suite #604
New York, NY 10001

Date: March 31, 2021

Approved: 5/18/2021

Vote: 5 - 0

