CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING
January 4, 2021
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Meg Kelly, Mayor
Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
Michele Madigan, Commissioner
John P. Franck, Commissioner
Maire Masterson, Deputy Commissioner
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
Robin Dalton, Commissioner
Tony Popolizio
MAYOR KELLY: So good morning.


Tomorrow evening, we'll have no public hearings. We have no presentations, no executive sessions at this time. Are there any changes or edits to the agenda?

Then I'll turn it over to Commissioner Franck.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor. We just have one item on the agenda. It was a special legislative vote back in late December relating to senior and disabled owner exemptions, allowing them to -- can you guys hear me?

MAYOR KELLY: I can hear you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes, I'm sorry.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay. And I have -- along with Maire, who's here, I have Tony Popolizio. He's just going to give you a brief overview because of COVID and senior citizens having a tough time getting into city hall and city hall
being closed, et cetera. This is happening throughout the state, so we may need a little legislative work on this also to put something in front of the council. But I'll let Tony just jump in briefly with Maire to give a background if you could. Thanks, Tony.

MR. POPOLIZIO: Good morning.

Basically, the legislature passed the COVID-19 Emergency Eviction and Foreclosure Prevention Act and tucked into this bill, part D, was provisions for -- to cover senior citizens with -- and persons with disabilities for the 2021 assessment roll.

Basically, to just carry over the exemptions they had in 2020 on to 2021 with a few minor changes to -- not changes, but allowances. For example, that the senior believes -- or a disability person believes they are qualified for a bigger exemption, they can still renew the application and we can calculate the information and process the bigger exemption. Or if they feel
that nothing has changed, we just carry
over the exemption.

Again, it's required by local
government as the statute reads. So it
doesn't -- it's not an option.

Originally, the thought process was to
put an option to allow localities to
adopt a local law. But the way we
interpret this legislation, we're
required to do it regardless of what we
are thinking or how we are thinking about
it before.

So basically, my recommendation to
the commissioner will be to send out an
informational letter to our seniors
informing that the renewal applications
that we sent out in November is optional
if they think they are entitled to a
bigger one. But if they think things
have stayed the same, then they'll be
given the same exemption that they had
last year, unless something has changed
that we determine that maybe they're not
eligible for that.

But there's language in the
legislation that allows us some
flexibility, but it will help seniors and
persons with disability to not have to go
through the renewal process or try to get
into city hall or attend in person to
receive their exemption. And that's the
basics of it.

MAYOR KELLY: That's great. Thank
you, Tony for that.

MR. POPOLIZIO: Alrighty.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Right. And it
is mandatory. When I did read it, I
haven't got a chance to sit down too much
with Tony. But we'll probably have to
set up a brief meeting with Vince in the
near future. There may be certain
language or something we might have to do
just to cover that we do it properly
before we send this letter out. So I
just wanted to reach out to your office
early on on this, Mayor, because we'll
probably need to borrow Vince for the
next week or two on this.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, that's great. I
think that's very helpful, too.
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you.

And that's all we have for tomorrow evening.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

Okay, then moving right on to the Mayor's Department. My first item is an announcement. 2021 Community Development Block Grant sub-grant committee application period opens 1/15/2021.

My second item is discussion and vote, approval to hire a senior planner in the Planning Department. And I know that we had a couple emails going back and forth yesterday. I just want to give you couple of my notes and then have a discussion if there is any.

As my email to the council explained, I'm requesting a senior planner on the planning staff to replace the assistant duties of the Administrator of Community and Economic Development who has retired. We have completed the following required steps, worked with HR to evaluate department needs and
identified job duties, recommended to hire senior planner. Deputy mayor will cover additional duties in 2021, assess all staffing needs for building and planning and recommending department head replacement in 2022 budget.

Position to Civil Service Commission approval on 12/29/20, Senior Planner title exists in CSEA salary scheduled on grade 14.

Our approved 2021 budget has more than enough funding available to cover the salary of $61,912 dollars.

So if anybody has any comments on that, we could discuss it. If not, I'll move right on.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I don't have any comments today. I might have some for tomorrow evening. I've asked the budget director to reach out to you with a few additional questions.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay, great, thank you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: My third item is
discussion and vote, Saratoga Springs Recreation Department part-time/seasonal personnel referee proposal.

And that concludes my agenda for tomorrow night. On to Finance, Commissioner Madigan.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you. The first item on my agenda is a discussion and vote, refunding bond resolution. So we have initiated another cash savings bond refunding -- refinancing. And tomorrow, I'll ask for approval of the resolution required to do so. And it will likely be a roll call vote meeting for council members present and voting in favor in order to pass.

My second item is a Budget Transfers - Payroll. These are some transfers. As I said, we need to review the budget throughout the month of January. We passed the budget fairly quickly at the last minute to let people know that everybody's jobs would be safe. But we still need to go back and do a thorough review of the 2021 budget.
These transfers are to make adjustments
in the 2021 budget. And that's it. That
completes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
Commissioner. On to Public Works,
Commissioner Scirocco.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
Mayor. I am working on a couple items
for tomorrow night, but I don't have
anything at this time.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay, great. On to
Public Safety, Commissioner Dalton.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
Mayor. I only have two additions. The
first is a COVID-19 update, and the
second is an announcement about a
promotion in the fire department, and
that's it.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. And I know
that the supervisors have emailed over
the weekend. Being the holiday, we will
get those uploaded on the agenda today
for tomorrow evening.

Is there any other business from the
council?
DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: That's all I have.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. That's it.

Thank you. We are adjourned.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Thank you.
CERTIFICATION

I, Paul T. Abramson, certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.

Paul T. Abramson

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

Date: January 9, 2021

Approved: 1/19/2021

Vote: 5 - 0