CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING
February 16, 2021
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Meg Kelly, Mayor
Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
John P. Franck, Commissioner
Michele Madigan, Commissioner
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
Robin Dalton, Commissioner
Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
MAYOR KELLY: Good evening. Welcome to city council meeting Tuesday, February 16th. It is now 6:55. Tonight, we have two public hearings. The first public hearing is Local Law Number 1 of 2021, defer scheduled payment of taxes.

And I'll turn it over to Commissioner Madigan.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you, Mayor.

The governor signed a bill that allows cities to have installment payments with deferments of up to 120 days for tax payments, but the city must pass a local law to enact this action. We already have quarterly installment payments for city's tax payments, so we don't need to add installment payments. Some municipalities don't offer installment payments.

So at this time, we are proposing to enact Local Law 1 2021 that allows a sixty-day deferment for each of the first three installment payments. This allows tax payers a cushion of time, while
retaining city cash flow which has already been compromised by reduced revenue collections. The original due dates for collections are March 1st, June 1st, September 1st, and December 1st. With the sixty-day payment extension on the first three quarters, the latest due date will be May 1st, August 1st, and November 1st. There will be no extension on the last installment. On May 2nd, August 2nd, and November 2nd, the penalty as set by the city charter will be assessed at nine percent on any unpaid installments. And every month after it will be 1.5 percent that will be added until it caps at 15 percent. The discount of 2.25 percent for paying for all four installments by March 1st remains intact. This payment is due by March 1st to receive this discount.

The hearing is going to be closed this evening, and I would like to vote on it, but I notice that the final agenda was only updated with the word announcement. So I'm hoping that we can
amend that on the agenda and actually do
a discussion and vote for the local law
for deferring the tax payments since
March 1st is before our next city council
meeting.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

Anybody in the audience that would
like to speak on Local Law Number 1 of
2021, defer scheduled payment of taxes,
please raise your hand at this time.

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

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Then we will
close this public hearing, and we will be
voting on it this -- this evening.

The second item for public hearing
is to amend Chapter 58, alarm systems.

And I'll turn it over to
Commissioner Dalton.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
Mayor.

This is a discussion and vote, amend
Chapter 58 of the city code entitled
alarm systems. This amendment is to take
out the mention of fee amounts in Chapter
58 and instead allow fees to be
established by the council from time to
time by resolution of the city council.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. Anybody in the
audience that would like to speak on
amending Chapter 58, alarm systems,
please raise your hand at this time.

Lisa, do we have anybody for
amending Chapter 58?

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: No, we don't.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

And Commissioner, we are closing
this, this evening and voting on it,
correct?

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Correct. Yes.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you.

With that, we'll move into our
scheduled meeting.

Roll call, please?

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Franck?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Present.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
Commissioner Madigan?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Present.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Scirocco?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Here.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Dalton?

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Present.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Kelly?

MAYOR KELLY: Here.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Supervisor Veitch?

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Supervisor Gaston? I don't see her yet.

MAYOR KELLY: She's absent tonight.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance.

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.

Thank you.

Next on the agenda is our public comment period. I ask that you keep your comments brief, up to two minutes. There will be a bell to signify the end of your time. Public comment period will continue up to fifteen minutes.

As a reminder, public comment period is not a dialog or a discussion with the council members. However, at the end of each public comment period, any council member may respond.

So at this time if you wish to speak at public comment period, please raise your hand and wait to be entered into the meeting.

Okay. I believe Darlene McGraw (ph.) has her hand up, Lisa.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Yeah, Matthew Taylor (ph.) turned his camera on, so you may want to --

MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: -- do him first, and then Darlene.
MAYOR KELLY: Matthew, can you unmute yourself, please? Thank you.

MR. TAYLOR: Should I begin?

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, state your name and your address, please.

MR. TAYLOR: Sure. Matthew Taylor, 47 Van Dam Street, Saratoga Springs.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, go ahead.

MR. TAYLOR: Okay. Tonight I come to speak in support of the antiracism resolution that is before the council. This past month and year, we have witnessed multiple repulsive displays of white -- white supremacy throughout our nation. Systemic racism exists in our nation and our city, and I believe all council members have voiced their beliefs for equality and fairness.

Now in spite of all these recent events, I believe it is time to put these words into considerable action. I believe this pledge is an important component of all the work that must be done. I urge all council members to rise in support of this resolution.
Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: So I don't know where Darlene went.

MAYOR KELLY: Darlene, are you there? If you are, can you turn your camera on and unmute?

MS. MCGRAW: It says that I can't turn my camera on.

MAYOR KELLY: I don't know why.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Tell her to try again.

MAYOR KELLY: Try again, Darlene.

MS. MCGRAW: Okay. Yes.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. There you go.

MS. MCGRAW: Thank you. Sorry.

Having a little technical difficulties.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, that's okay. No worries. Go ahead.

MS. MCGRAW: I would like to discuss -- first of all with this ice storm, I wasn't out for very long today, but thank you to everybody for helping keep us safe during this storm.

On days previous to today, I would
like to see the City of Saratoga Springs
do what other -- what some other
municipalities do when there's snow and
ice like this, do odd/even parking so
that our local DPW snow plows can get
through easily and do each side of the
road, and we can make sure that our roads
are safe. I don't believe the City of
Saratoga Springs DPW and Department of
Public Safety work together enough, and I
would like to see a little bit more
working friendliness together so that we
can make these roads safer for us all,
including our first responders.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Now, we'll go to Shaun Wiggins.

MR. WIGGINS: Okay. Thank you,
Mayor.

I would also --

MAYOR KELLY: Can you --

MR. WIGGINS: Oh, my name is
Shaun -- Shaun Wiggins, 13 Lakewood
Drive, Saratoga Springs.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, thank you.
MR. WIGGINS: I would like to express my support as well for the resolution to the city council. I think it's important that the city makes a statement on the fact that they do contend race -- anti-race -- condemn racism bias as well, too. It's a very simple act. I don't think it takes a lot of effort, and I think that there's quite a bit of support within the community for this as well.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Go to Katie (ph.) Anderson.

MS. ANDERSON: Hi. Thank you, Mayor.

Katie Anderson, 11 Chipmunk Chase in Saratoga. I am also here in support of the antiracism pledge, and my hope tonight is that the city council adopts that.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Steve Hovey. Steve, can you unmute and turn your camera on, please?
MR. HOVEY: Ah, yeah. Yes. Thank you. Yeah, Steve Hovey, 1 Persimmon Drive (sic) in -- in Saratoga Springs. And I also very much support the resolution, and I -- I just think it would be really wonderful for the -- the City of Saratoga to show leadership in this very important issue.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Let's see. Linley (ph.), you're on.

MS. HICKOX: Yes. Yes. Can you hear me?

MAYOR KELLY: Yes, I can. Thank you.

MS. HICKOX: I'm also here --

MAYOR KELLY: Could you please state your name and address, please?

MS. HICKOX: -- to -- to --

MAYOR KELLY: Linley, you're breaking up.

MS. HICKOX: Sorry. Can you hear me now?

MAYOR KELLY: It's a little bit in and out.
MS. HICKOX: Oh, shoot.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Well, I heard that.

MS. HICKOX: Okay. Lindley HICKOX, 27 --

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

MS. HICKOX: -- Wedgewood Drive.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

MS. HICKOX: Saratoga Springs. What was it? Wow, I forgot what I was going to say.

Yeah, I'm also here in support of the pledge. I think it does -- as Shaun said, it's a simple act, and it could make a huge difference to our community, especially making sure that our community is a welcoming community to all people.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you.

MS. HICKOX: Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Who else do we have here? Anybody else, raise your hand please.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: I don't see any others right at this minute, but a couple people just joined us, Mayor.
MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Saran Lawley (ph.), Karen (ph.), Holly (ph.). Anybody want to speak?

Okay. Then we will be closing public comment period. Does the council have any comments at this time?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes, Mayor, I've got --

MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I have a comment.


COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: In regards to Darlene McGraw's concerns, we do have snow emergencies that we declare when we have three inches of snow or more where cars have to be moved to a clearing, and we do advertise it. Of course, and we also have a lot of streets to the city are already alternate parking, so their cars get moved every twelve hours anyways. And we work really closely with the Department of Public Safety. I mean, if you don't move your car, then they'll
give you a ticket and potentially tow you. So I think we're covered with that one.

And the other one, if I may real quick. Darlene McGraw did report at the last city council meeting that she had coliform in her water. Apparently, she went and she had tested her water, and she found that she had coliform. I told her last week, or two weeks ago, that I would send somebody over. I sent the water treatment plant supervisor over there to discuss the issue with her. He did discuss the issue with her. We did take samples from her water, and we sent them to our lab CNA, and they came back negative. So I'm not quite sure what the issue was just because -- I just wanted to give her some peace of mind that our water is absolutely safe to drink, and there's really no issues with it. So I think --

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,

Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- that
resolves her problem.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Any other comments?

Okay. Then we will move back onto the agenda. There are no presentations this evening. We did have an executive session this morning to discuss two items: collective bargaining negotiations PBA unit and acquisition of property. No action was taken by the council.

MAYOR KELLY: At this time, I'm going to ask Commissioner Dalton to bring her one item that I think most of the people are waiting for to the top of the agenda so they don't have to wait till the last of the agenda.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you, Mayor.

So yes, tonight I am bringing this equity in action, the pledge, before the city council. This was something that the community outreach committee that has been working on (indiscernible) by Saratoga Springs, specifically through
education and culture and awareness, developed because they were engaging with different elements in the city, whether it was the business community, different organizations, and who felt the need to support the social justice movement that's been going on over the last several months. But we're looking for a umbrella organization or a big organization to kind of talk about this and commit to antiracism, what that means, to give them an opportunity to, then, speak up on behalf as well, and so they were -- even in conversations with the community, just getting this kind of feedback again and again. And so ultimately it led us to put together an antiracism pledge that we are hoping that the city adopts. But not only that, I think we've heard a lot about things like antiracism pledges over the last several months, but really the critical part is the action after that.

And so what I really was impressed about with the committee was that not
only were they thinking about this pledge itself and the words in here and what they meant, but they were also thinking about what the actionable next steps were and making sure this wasn't just words but that it was put into action. And I think that's a really good thing. And I also think that reaffirming who we are as a community, who we believe we are as a city, is always a good thing to do, and this really does that.

So I will go right into reading the resolution, unless the council has any questions beforehand.

MAYOR KELLY: No, go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay. Whereas in December of 2016 this council issued a resolution in support of mutual respect community. That resolution plainly acknowledged that our city's strength is found in the character of its people and that we've always solved problems by bringing together different people from different opinions and ideas. The
resolution ended with a clear commitment
to stand against, quote, any and all acts
by any person or persons that are
intended to demean, devalue, or
intimidate others because of their race,
ethnicity, nation of origin, religion,
gender, sexual identity, disability, or
political views. We will remain united
as a council and as a community that
safeguard the rights and the privileges
of everyone in our city.

And whereas in the years since that
resolution many of us have learned that
some of -- that what some of us knew all
along about the prevalence of racism in
our country, racism exists in every
community in the United States. It
exists in Saratoga Springs. It is only
by the unequivocal recognition of that
fact that we began to address the problem
together.

And whereas we already know that it
is wrong to say and do racist things, but
we have learned that even those of us who
are not deliberate racists can accept and
tolerate the racist practice of others because we do not want to get involved or for the sake of our own comfort. We have learned that we may sometimes benefit from injustice, even though we never intended to. We have learned that white privilege is not an insult but a challenge. We acknowledge systemic racism is embedded in our institutions and must be challenged and eliminated, and we have learned that we can and must do better.

Now therefore, be it resolved as follows. Number one, the council will exercise its authority as fully as possible to promote racial equity and fairness in our city and to eliminate discriminatory systems and practices.

Number two, we will act to develop and cultivate a diverse and inclusive culture that recognizes the strengths that come from giving everyone the opportunity to contribute, participate, grow, and succeed.

Number three, we will strive as a
government to do what is right and just
for all people and to make our schools,
our community, our country, and our world
a better place.

And that concludes the resolution.
So I would like to open up to any
discussion from the council and then a
vote.

MAYOR KELLY: So okay. Let's keep
with, make a motion.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Can you make a
motion to accept the equality in action
resolution?

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes. I would
like to make a motion to accept the
equity in action resolution.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you for
bringing this forward, Commissioner
Dalton.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

All thanks goes to the committee. It did
a great job.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And the --

MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- committee, yes.

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

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you all very much.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner, for pulling it forward.

And thank, Committee.

Okay. Back to our agenda, to the consent agenda. Are there any edits?

I move that the city council approve the consent agenda as included with this agenda, this is a motion.

Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?
The matter passes.

On to the mayor's department. My first item is to set a public hearing: capital program and budget amendment, east and west side fields annual capital contribution school cap recreation improvement. Per the east and west side recreation fields use and maintenance agreement between the enlarged city school district and the City of Saratoga Springs approved by the city council on 12/15/20, the annual capital contribution shall be in the amount of 40,000.

I move that the city council approve the capital programming budget, east and west side fields annual capital contribution school cap recreation improvement. This is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Mayor?

Mayor, this is just to set the public hearing.

MAYOR KELLY: Set the public
DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS  Yeah, you don't need a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. So that's right. I'm sorry.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: I'm sorry.

MAYOR KELLY: So that'll be five minutes at the next meeting. Thank you.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: That'll be March 2nd at 6:55.

MAYOR KELLY: March 2nd. Okay.

Thank you.

Second item is discussion and vote, COVID-19 small business grant program award recommendations. As part of the action plan for expenditure of the third tranche of Cares Act funding received by the city via HUD, the community development department's COVID-19 small business grant program SBG was approved by council on November 2nd, 2020. SBG was allotted $256,503 of CDBGCV funding to support the preservation of jobs held by persons of low income which would otherwise be lost due to economic impacts.
of the COVID-19 pandemic. After careful review and deliberation, the community development citizens advisory committee provided its recommendations to the council, and they were attached to this agenda.

I move that the city council approve the COVID-19 small business grant program award recommendations as attached with this agenda. This is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

My third item is discussion and vote, authorization for the mayor to sign agreement with LiveBarn, Inc. LiveBarn offers the ability to watch your favorite athletes from any electronic device with internet and never miss a lesson or a game-winning goal. The program allows anyone with a paid subscription to stream
what is going on on the ice rink and the
gym at any given time. Parents and
extended family can watch games and
events in real time without traveling or
having to miss an event because they are
not in town, and offering a safe
alternative for many.

I move that the city council approve
the signing of the agreement with
LiveBarn, Inc. This is a motion. Is
there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: -- discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

My fourth item is discussion and
vote, grant of license agreement for Jill
Fishon-Kovachick, 184 Phila Street. This
is a license that would allow the
homeowner at 184 Phila Street to continue
and maintain a fence that has existed on
part of the city-owned land along Nelson Avenue. The fence has existed for more than twenty-five years. The license would allow the homeowner to extend the fence a short distance further onto her own property. The license only allows the fence to remain in its current location. The real estate committee has considered the matter and has not raised any issues. This is a license, not an easement, and does not give licensee any permanent rights on this city property.

I move that the granting of the license agreement be approved by the city council for Jill Fishon-Kovachick at 184 Phila Street. This is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

My next item is discussion and vote, grant of license agreement for Ballston
Ave. Partners, LLC, 96 Ballston Avenue.

This is a license that would allow the property owner to occupy part of the city's owned paper Street that is next to their land. The property owner's use of the land will be in accordance to an approval by the city's planning board.

The real estate committee has considered the matter and has not raised any issues. This is a license, not an easement. It does not give any licensee any permanent rights in this city property.

I move that the granting of — I move that the granting of the license agreement be approved by the city council for Boston Ave. Partners, LLC for 96 Ballston Avenue. This is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

My next item is discussion and vote,
zoning amendment request for Marion Avenue/Maple Dell PUD.

I think we have -- I see Chuck Marshall (ph.) and Libby Carino (ph.) maybe on this call -- I don't know if they're here -- to give a brief update to the council about this application.

MR. MARSHALL:  Good evening, Mayor Kelly.  Thank you very much.

I submitted a zoning amendment application to the council that would effectively establish three zones on the Marion Ave./Maple Dell corridor. The three zones would be a professional office, a commercial intense, and a residential. And what we're attempting to do is we're attempting to relocate the store that's currently on Maple Dell onto Marion Ave. As was submitted in the zoning narrative, there's approximately 12,000 cars a day that travel on the Marion Ave. corridor, and we feel some of those cars use Maple Dell. And it may be slightly unfair to the -- the neighbors, but additionally we can't expand the
store because the adoption of an overlay
district prevents it. So what we're
attempting to do is just make some
historic, nonconforming properties
conforming under the plan unit
development legislation.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Any questions for Chuck while he's here?

I move that the city council
determine the zoning amendment request
for Marion Avenue/Maple Dell PUD has met
for review and refers the application to
the city and county planning board. This
is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

Thank you, Chuck --

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you very much.

MAYOR KELLY: -- for being here.

My next item is an update on the
mayor's department food drive held on February 11th through the 13th. The mayor's food drive took place over the three days last week and was a tremendous success. Mother Susan Anderson Women's and Children's Shelter has already received their share of donations and is fully stocked. Franklin Community Center estimates that the donations collected for their pantry will feed 925 families they serve for about two months.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude and (indiscernible) to the community members and extra efforts of my fantastic team of volunteers and staff. It was a terrific three days, and we were totally overwhelmed. It was amazing.

And that concludes my agenda.

And I'll turn it over to Commissioner Franck. Thank you, council.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor.

We just have one item for this evening. It's a discussion resolution for outdoor seating to begin March 15th,
2021. On June 16th, 2020, the city council added Article 4-A, temporary outdoor seating area permits, to Chapter 136 of the city code. This allowed the city to establish areas of public property for use by license eating and drinking establishments as temporary outdoor seating areas. The original expiration date for the outdoor seating permit under this article was September 7th, 2020. We ended up extending it four times until the end of December 31st, 2020. Outdoor seating normally starts April 1st of each year, but with the pandemic still in play I am suggesting that we put the outdoor seating back in place beginning on Monday, March 15th, 2021.

Attached to this agenda is a draft resolution, the same resolution we have passed before with the addition of the temporary seating on March 15th this year. I will also -- I will bring us back to the -- this is just a discussion. I'm going to bring this back at the next
meeting. Also in previous meetings, Commissioner Madigan said she might want to have somebody --.

There's a committee of four right now, so this gives us time, Commissioner Madigan, if you want to add somebody from your department to have five people on that committee. What I would call the subcommittee or the committee that makes the decisions will be meeting tomorrow morning, the four members. So if you want to get back to me, Commissioner Madigan, in the next day or two, we can move that person in from your department or --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I definitely will. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay. Then at Thursday's safety committee, they were also going to be discussing this. So obviously, this is -- I'd like the subcommittee to go through this and figure this out and get this to the city council. Obviously, it's weather permitting. Right now it's kind of a
tough day to look out there thinking in four weeks the snow's going to be gone, and it may not. But the whole reason for bringing it up a little bit earlier is because we've heard from everybody who did it last year and some other eating and drinking establishments, and they're already calling and asking us if we're going to be doing this year and if we can open it a little earlier.

So I didn't want to just put something up for vote. I wanted to bring it up. I wanted to bring Commissioner Madigan into this and see if there's any questions tonight so that the committee can bring that up in discussions tomorrow.

MAYOR KELLY: So Commissioner, who is on the committee?

I'm sorry, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Right now --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- there's Aaron Dyer (ph.) on the commission, Marilyn Rivers (ph.), Mike Veitch, and I
forgot who -- oh, Vince DeLeonardis are
the four people that were on the
committee as of last year. And then I
think we if add a fifth person, I think
that would level it off a little bit
more.

Last year, we were kind of just
running loosey goosey trying to figure
this out. We're trying to expedite and
maybe get earlier registration. So if
somebody already had it and we knew it
was working and it was safe, they're not
going to have to redraw plans and give us
the information again. We should be able
to get it pretty quickly. So --

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- pretty much
every department's covered I think.

MAYOR KELLY: Good.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I would like
to have someone on the committee, and at
this point I am thinking Deputy Deirdre
Ladd. And I've just asked her to maybe
send you an email. Do you mind if she
joins tomorrow, just so she's staying in
the loop even though it's not official at
this point in time?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. That's
fine. And you can obviously change if
you like. What I would -- I don't have
the exact time they're meeting, but I
think it's earlier in the morning
tomorrow. So if she could -- I know my
deputy will just be there for the first
meeting. She's not a vote person for --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- for that.

So if she --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: If she could
get ahold of Maire Masterson this evening
or tomorrow morning --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- we'll make
sure we -- I'm assuming it's probably
going to be a Zoom meeting anyways, and
we could get her into the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That'd be
great. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I just got a
text from Maire. It's 10 a.m. tomorrow will be the meeting.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: 10 a.m. All right. And I believe Deirdre's on the line.

So 10 a.m. tomorrow, Deirdre.

Zoom or at city hall or --

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: That I'm not --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- we'll figure that out?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, as we go.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: But I will --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Those two can speak.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Zoom. Maire just texted me that it would --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- be Zoom.

So she'll reach out after I'm done with the agenda here, and we'll go from there.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Great.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: I don't know that --

COMMISSIONER DALTON: --

(indiscernible) a little early and prepping for this because I do think it's, like, really super important that the restaurants be able to do a similar expansion and be open as soon as possible, weather permitting, so thank you.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. And I think we have to leave it flexible because if the track totally opens and everything totally opens and this thing hopefully dissipates, then there may be traffic issues and things like that. So we might have to pull back on it, but at this point I think we'll be able to do it at least through the summer. But we'll go from there.

And that concludes my agenda, Mayor.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

On to finance, Commissioner Madigan.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you, Mayor.

So the first item on my agenda is an announcement: Matt McCabe Day, February 20th, 2021. At the January 19th, 2021, city council meeting, a resolution was presented that established February 20th, 2021, as Matt McCabe Day. We lost Matt McCabe, former commissioner of finance, a community force, friend to all, small business owner -- he owned Saratoga Guitar -- on January 12th, 2021. February 20th will be marked by an event at Caffe Lena. His life and work will be the subject of a virtual presentation, and celebration. Information about this event may be found at caffelena.org.

I'd hoped to have more information to present to the council and to the Downtown Business Association regarding a Gibson guitar installation on Broadway or Caroline. But this is taking a bit more time getting through to Gibson and Gibson Gives which is the charitable arm of Gibson and just kind of working through
some of the details. A lot of people are really involved and invested in this Matt McCabe Day at Caffe Lena. But I will keep the council apprised of what we're trying to do.

Item number two is a discussion and vote, a local law to defer scheduled payments of taxes during the COVID-19 emergency. I understand that the agenda went out with the word announcement, but I would like to change this to a discussion and vote. I don't know if I need to go through any formal procedure for that. I don't know if Vince or Tony are on the line. Do I need to add something to the agenda to do that? The law was uploaded with this item, but it was uploaded as an announcement, not a discussion and vote.

MR. DELEONARDIS: Yeah, the legal notice that went out properly indicated that it was to adopt a local law, so you're covered there. With regard to the agenda, I think just for a formality and to be safe maybe make the motion to add
an item to the agenda for as a discussion
and vote since it was listed as a
discussion.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay. So
Council, I'd like to add a motion to
the -- an item to the agenda. This is a
motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

Maybe --

MAYOR KELLY: The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- I forgot
to say exactly what I wanted to add when
I made that motion.

Council, I'd like to add the item
discussion and vote, a local law to defer
scheduled payments of taxes during the
COVID-19 emergency. I'd like to change
that from announcement to discussion and
vote. This is a motion.
MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

Go ahead, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you. I think that covers it.

So this is the item. It's now a discussion and vote, a local law to defer scheduled payments of taxes during the COVID-19 emergency. The governor signed a bill that allows the city to allow installment payments as well as deferment payments for up to 120 days for tax payments. The city's got to pass a local law to enact such action. We already have installment payments.

So at this time we propose to enact Local Law 1, 2021, that allows a sixty-day deferment on each of the first three installment payments. This allows tax payers a cushion of time while retaining
cash flow, which has already been compromised by reduced revenue collections. The city, again, already has quarterly installment payments for city tax payments. The original due dates for collections are March 1, June 1, September 1, and December 1. With a sixty-day extension for the first three quarters, the due date will be May 1, August 1, and November 1. There will be no extension on the last installment at least at this time.

On May 2nd, August 2nd, and November 2nd, the penalty as set by the city charter will be assessed at nine percent on any unpaid installments. And every month after it will 1.5 percent will be added until it caps at 15 percent. The discount that the city offers of 2.25 percent for paying all four installments by March 1st remains intact. We are not extending that. If you pay your taxes in full by March 1, you receive a discount. And that payment due date is March 1st. The local law will be in place in time.
for the first 2021 quarterly payment of March 1.

I move that the city council approve a local law to defer scheduled payments of taxes during the COVID-19 emergency, as included with the agenda, this is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

Second.

Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

We'll have a press release out about that tomorrow, and we'll have more information up on the city website and social media to alert our tax payers.

Item number three is an announcement, tax payments to be made at city hall vis-a-vis a new drop-off box. For tax payers' convenience, the city has a new drop box located at the handicapped entrance to city hall for tax payments
and other mail to the finance department, as it has not been able to open to the public due to the pandemic.

And I'd like to thank the Department of Public Works for installing the drop box on the wall for tax payers. Thank you.

Item number four is an announcement, city hall department addresses and suite numbers. I announced at the prior city council meeting and I'm going to just repeat it here. This is mostly for internal purposes, but we want to make sure externally people know what we're doing with our mail.

The city mail receptacle will be in place. We'll be using it beginning March 1st, will now allow to include department suite numbers. Departments, please use these numbers for all mail going forward. These are posted on the city website, and they will improve accurate delivery. If anyone has any questions, please contact Rachel Petryna, communications, at extension 2576. And we'll have an all-
employee email going out on this process and making sure everybody understands and knows what their department suite numbers are. We also worked with the Department of Public Works on this to establish suite numbers for everyone at city hall.

Item number five is an update, federal fiscal stimulus funding. I'm going to just provide a brief update on some information that was released by Senator Tonko's office regarding amounts in the President's Federal Stimulus Act distribution for local jurisdictions. So you know it's about a 1.9-trillion-dollar package. Of that package, it looks like Saratoga County is scheduled to receive 49,867,173 dollars to be distributed. I don't know; there's probably something that comes along with that. And that's for public services in Saratoga County. Saratoga Springs is separate and aside. They're using a modified community development block grant formula based on population. And since we are a city that falls under a population
threshold of 50,000 dollars, our
disbursement as it stands right now will
be released to New York State. Once New
York State receives what our disbursement
will be, we will have up to thirty days
to receive that from New York State.

Based on the calculations that I've
reviewed and in conversations I've had
with Congressman Tonko's office, it looks
like the city is scheduled to receive
approximately seven million dollars. I
need to be very cautious about that
because it has not passed through the
Senate at this point in time. So I
wouldn't expect it to be any more than
seven million dollars, but it certainly
could be potentially less than seven
million dollars.

The rescue package overall delivers
about 440 million dollars in direct
federal COVID-19 relief funding to
counties, cities, towns, and villages in
New York's 20th Congressional District,
which is represented by Congressman
Tonko, to maintain essential services and
staff, including teachers, nurses, firefighters, water systems managers, and countless others in the capital region.

So that sort of summarizes where we would be for the City of Saratoga Springs. I really don't have any further details, only that we need to be cautious, that this number, this amount, is still really an unknown until it gets through the full House and the Senate.

Thank you. But --

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- kind of big news. I'd be happy with seven million dollars right now.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: That's good news.

MAYOR KELLY: Yes, we would be very happy.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Great news.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. Yes.

Yes --

COMMISSIONER DALTON:

(Indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- I'm very
happy with it. Yeah. So happy to report
that, right? It's like we've been
waiting for it for it feels like the
entire year.

All right. So item number six is an
update on VLT aid. As you know, the
governor's executive 2021-2022 executive
budget once again eliminated VLT aid to
the City of Saratoga Springs. Typically,
we receive 2.3 million dollars for the
past several years. While we only
budgeted half this amount for 2021, about
1.15 million, it's still a substantial
loss of revenue for the city that
maintains numerous expenses for the
infrastructure and security of the track.
Regardless of whether it's open to the
public, we rely on these funds, right?
We rely on these funds. We've hired for
these funds. We do important things with
these funds. And that's pretty much what
the mayor and I told the joint
legislature when we went down to meet
with them.

So along with the mayor, we did take
the opportunity to testify to the
legislature and their hearing on local
government. Specifically, we were there
to discuss VLT. My testimony
basically -- oh, I gave them an overview
of the budget that we first presented and
that I presented on October 6th, the
reductions that I was calling for at
fifteen percent in public safety and
twenty-five percent in public works and
ten percent reductions across the board.

We were in a really tough spot at
the beginning of October. And then as we
learned a little bit more about vaccines
coming out and what we could do with the
retirement payment which was still a big
five-million-dollar move into the next
year, we were able to restore a lot of
those services. But I didn't want them
to come away thinking that by any means
we were out of the woods on COVID. I
discussed with them the fact that our
sales tax collection in Saratoga Springs
for 2020 -- and I'm not sure if I've even
officially reported this to the full
council, but for 2020 it was down 17.1 percent compared to 2019. That's very significant. It was I think, outside of New York City, the largest significant drop in all of the state. So clearly we had been very much impacted by the pandemic in terms of tourist-related dollars. So yeah, it was I think the single largest outside of New York State. Maybe there was one other community. I was able to --

MAYOR KELLY: I think White Plains beat us.


Inform them of strategic planning and budgeting that we had been able to maintain service levels but that it was difficult. And to say that, it is an understatement. I thanked them for their support last year restoring this aid, and the only thing I can say is we'll see how it goes. The mayor and I are scheduled to meet with our consultants on Friday to continue our work on making sure that
this aid is restored. And wouldn't it be
terrific if it got restored at 2.3
million, and maybe the governor does what
he did last year and only holds back
twenty percent. We'll see.

Mayor, I don't know if you have
anything you'd like to add.

MAYOR KELLY: No, I think that was a
good overview, and I think that we'll
just keep pushing. That's what we do.

We're pushing for the city.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's right.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's right.

Thank you.

Item number seven is a discussion
and vote, update on city fees, recreation
department open gym. The recreation
department has submitted a change to its
open gym fees as it has revised the
services it may provide in 2021. In
2020, fees were set at zero dollars, as
the gym was not open. In 2021, they will
be four dollars for a city resident and
five dollars for a nonresident.
I move that the city council approve the update to city fees, recreation department open gym as included with the agenda, this is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Item number eight is a discussion and vote, authorization for the mayor to sign agreement with Carousel Industries for maintenance on the Avaya Telephone System. This contract in the amount of $24,455.51 covers the maintenance and technical support cost for the city telephone service. It has been approved by the legal, purchasing, risk and safety, and finance departments.

I move that the city council authorize the mayor to sign agreement with Carousel Industries for maintenance
of Avaya Telephone System as included with the agenda, this is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

Item number nine, budget transfers contingency, lines 1 through 2, transfer funds from contingency to the accounts department to cover eScriber contract cost for verbatim meeting transcriptions pursuant to state order in the amount of $7,650 for services prescribed by the state under COVID-19 requisites for verbatim transcripts of each city council meeting.

Lines 3 through 4, transfer funds from contingency to the finance department to cover February storage costs for building, accounts, and finance department documents that are awaiting
the renovation of city hall basement storage. The contingency budget appropriation currently has a balance of $244,635.83. Following approval of this transfer, there will be $236,485.83 available.

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

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Item number ten, budget transfers payroll, lines 1 through 2, move funds from the building department professional services appropriation for its overtime appropriation to maintain acceptable response times for the copious amount of permit and planning board requests
requiring its services.

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

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

Second.

Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Item number eleven is budget transfers benefits, lines 1 through 4, move funds from the hospitalization, insurance costs, the flexible spending, and Social Security costs.

I move that the city council approve the budget transfers benefits as included with the agenda. This is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.
MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?
The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

Item number twelve is an announcement. It's an appointment to climate-smart committee. I am appointing Anita Morzilla (ph.) to the climate-smart committee. Her term will run for three years from February 27th, 2021, through February 26th of 2024. Anita was born in and grew up in Saratoga and is a graduate of Saratoga Springs High School. After living in many locations in the United States, she was excited to return to Saratoga Springs a few years ago and become involved with service within the city.

She has almost thirty years of professional experience in natural resources and environmental management, has worked in the educational, research, private, corporate, and government sectors. She is a researcher with a focus on public preferences for environmental management and how people
make decisions about environmental and
natural resource issues, including those
for which the climate-smart task force is
charged to pursue. She's also taught
courses in multiple aspects of natural
resources and environmental management
with a consistent focus on diverse public
opinions about such issues.

So I want to welcome Anita, and I
want to thank her for stepping up to the
public service for the City of Saratoga
Springs.

And with that, that completes my
agenda. Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
Commissioner.

On to public works, Commissioner
Scirocco.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you,
Mayor.

The first item on my agenda is a
discussion and vote. This is
authorization for the mayor to sign an
agreement number 5 with the Saratoga
County Arts Council. As a result of the
current COVID-19 pandemic and
unprecedented impact on businesses and
public entities, City and Saratoga County
Arts Council agree to extend the
suspension of payments of rent an
additional six months for the period of
January 1st, 2021, through June 30th,
2021.

So therefore, I move for the mayor
to sign a lease agreement, addendum 4,
with Saratoga County Arts Council to
suspend the rent payments for the period
of January 1st, 2021, through June 30th,
2021.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Excuse
me, Commissioner. Did you say addendum
4? That should be --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I meant
addendum 5 I believe.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Okay.

Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I just
catched that one myself.

MAYOR KELLY: Is that a --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And that
would -- I want to put that for a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Is there a second?

Second.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

Thank you, Commissioner, for doing that.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: You're welcome, Mayor.

My second item on the agenda I'm going to take off the agenda. There's concern with the resolution.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: So I'll move on to my third item, which is the resolution for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project. The State of New York has issued a certificate of environmental compatibility in a public meeting for the Champlain Hudson Power Express Project,
which will provide clean, renewable
hydroelectricity through a buried high-
voltage direct current transmission line
that will roam from an existing
hydrosystem in Canada to New York City.
A small portion of the transmission line
will run through the City of Saratoga
Springs and will be buried along with the
city right-of-way. This resolution
grants the city's consent to construct
the project through the city-owned
streets and right-of-way, subject to the
terms and conditions of a road use and
crossing agreement we negotiated, but we
will substantially -- in the form of the
document annex to the resolution.
The city attorney and the director
of risk and safety have reviewed these
documents and find them to be in
acceptable form. Accordingly, I move
that the city council adopt this
resolution in support of the Champlain
Hudson Power Express Project. And this
is a motion. Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second --
oh.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And I think I'd have to read the resolution or at least that portion of it. I wanted to ask Vince about that. Everybody did get a copy of the resolution.

MR. DELEONARDIS: Yeah, the resolution was uploaded with the agenda, Commissioner. You don't need to read the resolution.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay. Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you.

The fourth item on my agenda is discussion and vote. It's the approval to pay invoice number 01012021 with Mahoney Notify Plus, Incorporated in the
amount of 1,400 dollars. Mahoney Notify Plus contract was approved at the December 15th, 2020 city council meeting but could not submit for 2021 requisitions until January 1st, 2021.

In prepping the purchase requisitions, it was discovered that there was an oversight in budgeting preparation, and there was insufficient funds in the budget line. That has since been corrected for the remainder of the contract period.

So therefore, I move for approval to pay invoice number 01012021 with Mahoney Notify Plus, Incorporated in the amount of 1,400 dollars and put that in the form a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Commissioner, is the amount 1,450 dollars
or 1,400 dollars?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: 1,400 dollars.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Okay. The agenda item said 1,450 dollars. Can I suggest that we --

MAYOR KELLY: Well, let's --

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: -- motion to pay up to that amount, up to 1,450 so we can make sure you're covered?

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah, that's a good idea.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: We can go with that.

MAYOR KELLY: So we'll change it to that. Thank you.

Thank you, Lisa.

All those in favor say aye. Let's do that --

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Item number
five is discussion and vote. This is
approval to pay -- approval to issue 2020
funded purchase order in 2021 to Systems
Management, Incorporated. In June of
2020, PO00200439-00 was issued to Systems
Management Planning, Incorporated for
fabric extenders for city hall. Due to
the billing error with Systems
Management, a double payment was made in
the amount of $1,291.70 on this PO. In
order to submit a budget amendment for
refund to revenue line H10342702-1141,
the council must approve to issue 2020
funded purchase order in 2021.
Therefore, I move for the approval
to issue 2020 funded PO in 2021 to
Systems Management. And I put that in
the form of a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.
MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?
All those in favor say aye.
IN UNISON: Aye.
MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?
The matter passes.
COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you.

Item number six, discussion and vote to establish title and grade for the Department of Public Works welder/fabricator. This position was approved by Civil Service in January of 2020. And I had intended to bring it to the council, but at the time VLT aid was in question, and then the pandemic disrupted all of our work.

The welder/fabricator position represents duties that are currently not included in any of the titles in the DPW unit. However, two employees have been performing these duties beyond the scope of their current job titles. Without establishing a title for this work, there will be union grievances and/or DPW would need to hire an outside contractor to do work at a greater cost. DPW would be able to pay these employees for this out-of-grade work while they are conducting the work.

Therefore, I move for the council to approve establishing the title of DPW
welder/fabricator at a starting pay of $28.65 an hour. And I put that in the form of a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?
Second.
Any discussion?
All those in favor say aye.
IN UNISON: Aye.
MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?
The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And item number seven, I'm going to pull that one off my agenda, too. I got a call from our HR person today, had some questions about that --

MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- request.
So that concludes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you, Commissioner.

On to public safety, Commissioner Dalton.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you, Mayor.

The first item on my agenda is a
COVID-19 update. So I'm just going to do
a quick review of the numbers because
they are positive for once. They are
awesome -- or getting better at least,
close to awesome. So in the last seven
days in Saratoga County, we've had 306
new COVID-19 cases. Our seven-day
rolling average testing positivity rate
is 2.2 percent. Yay, that's huge.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Great.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Beginning of
January to mid-January, we were over
eleven percent, so that is a huge and
dramatic drop, and it's something we
should all be proud of.

Currently, there are 2,098 active
cases for the county and 29 people who
are hospitalized. In terms of other
COVID-19 updates, the only significant
changes we've seen to code and
restrictions and openings is that
restaurants are now available to stay
open until 11, so it's an extra hour.
Not super exciting, but getting slowly
back to where we hope to be, kind of.
There has also been an announcement about the sports venues and arenas. And depending on the size of the sporting arena or venue, they can have ten percent of their capacity -- and open back with ten percent of the capacity of that arena. (Indiscernible) do both fall in that category, and so it's exciting that we're starting to think about reopening those venues come the summer, hopefully at a much higher percentage, if we're all healthy.

And then lastly, vaccinations seem to be really what's on everybody's mind the most. We had an eligibility group open up on Sunday for people with comorbidities. That increased the eligibility tremendously of people in the state that put a lot of pressure on a system that already had a lot of pressure on it. And so every time we have a new (indiscernible) of eligibility open, we tend to see this kind of bottleneck of appointments where there's just nothing available. It's very frustrating. It's
very challenging. I'm watching it myself
every second of the day. I've never seen
a scare -- like, biggest scarcity of
appointments as we're seeing right now.
It's really, really challenging. So for
people who are out there looking for
appointments that are frustrated, take a
breath, wait a few days. Things will
open up a little bit more. Just right
now because of that eligibility round
opening on Sunday, things are really
tight.

I also encourage people to pick up a
phone -- it's this crazy concept -- and
do the old-fashioned method of calling
the vaccination hotline, the New York
State vaccination hotline. I was with
someone today who was looking for an
appointment. Called them, had someone on
the phone in five minutes, had her
appointment set up in Albany within
fifteen minutes. It was easy breezy
compared to what's went on online.

So then lastly, we have created a
page on Facebook, was posting a lot of
information about these vaccines on Facebook. And I noticed in the comments people were kind of like swapping stories about how they'd gotten their appointment, what their experience had been, and kind of helping everybody else find an available spot. And we just decided it would be a really good thing to have a group, a Facebook group, that was specifically a community page for people to offer help, what works, what didn't work for them, if they just spotted a group of appointments that had opened up at a Walgreens or CVS. It's a place for everyone to share that information. And so it is called the COVID-19 Vaccine Community Help Group.

So COVID-19 Vaccine Community Help Group, it's on Facebook. Anyone can join, and there's been a lot of really, really great information that's been shared on that. So if you're having a hard time finding an appointment or you had a really easy time and you want to share your experience, go ahead and do it
right there. There's been all these appointments that have been set up based on other people's experiences in the fight for this. And the system is so challenging that it does a lot of people (indiscernible) and so this has been really a good thing and a nice way to help everybody else who is also in the same struggle. So I encourage everyone to go on there and check it out if they are looking for a vaccination appointment.

Does anyone have any questions before we move on?

MAYOR KELLY: No.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: No? Great.

Okay. Second item on my agenda is discussion and vote, amend Chapter 58 of the city code entitled alarm systems. This amendment is to take out the mention of fee amounts in Chapter 58 and instead allows fees to be established by the council from time to time by resolution of the city council.

I make a motion for council approval
to amend Chapter 58 of the city code.
This is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you, Mayor.

The third item on my agenda is discussion and vote, authorization for the mayor to sign contracts with New York State Master Contract for Grants. The fire department provided over thirty hours of service for New York State providing COVID screening in the state park. To recoup the money, we need to sign on to what's called the Grants Gateway. Once this contract is signed, we provide the cost of our services and get reimbursed.

I make a motion to authorize the mayor to sign contract with New York
State Master Contract for Grants. This is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

The fourth item on my agenda is a discussion and vote, accept donation from Martin, Harding, and Mazzotti to purchase a new police K-9. I have a letter about this that I'd like to read into the record.

The police department is asking the city council to accept the donation of 8,500 dollars for the purchase of a new police K-9. The police K-9 program, September 2014 when the police department purchased two K-9s and paired them with two patrol officers, would pass a very extensive physical fitness testing program as well as other department
requirements. K-9 Officer Riki was partnered with Patrolman Tom Sartin, and K-9 Officer Nero was partnered with Patrolman William Arpei. The respective K-9s and their handlers completed the very difficult public training program that included things such as narcotic detection, missing person searches, building searches, (indiscernible) techniques, and much more.

In 2016, the police department added Police K-9 Officer Mo, and he was partnered with Patrolman Kyle VanWagner. K-9 Officer Mo is trained in explosive detection. All three police K-9 officers have done an outstanding job and have been a tremendous asset to the City of Saratoga Springs.

Unfortunately, in 2021 K-9 Officers Riki and Nero will be retiring. K-9 Officer Riki will be retiring when his handler, Patrolman Sartin, retires in 2021. K-9 Officer Riki will be spending his retirement days living with Patrolman Sartin. K-9 Nero will be retiring
sometime in the summer of 2021 for medical reasons. K-9 Officer Nero will be spending his retirement days living with Patrolman Arpei.

The loss of these two K-9 officers leaves a big hole in the police K-9 program. But the very generous donation from Martin, Harding, and Mazzotti will allow one of the K-9s to be replaced. The new K-9 officer will be teamed with Patrolman Arpei and they'll begin the twelve-week training program in April 2021.

So a big thank you to Martin, Harding, and Mazzotti, and this is a motion to accept their donation.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you.

And we've already gone through
number five, so that concludes my agenda.

    MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,

Commissioner.

Now on to supervisors. Supervisor Gaston is not here tonight, so Supervisor Veitch, you're on for both of you.

    SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Right. Thank you, Mayor. I do have a statement from Supervisor Gaston that I'll read after my agenda.

So first on my agenda is just a couple of quick updates from the county. First is on the government review and efficiency committee, which had its first meeting this month a couple of weeks ago. Basically, this is a new committee at the county that has been formed because I believe over the past couple of years or so we've been finding that there's a lot of out-of-date code, policy, local laws, things that just haven't been really kept up to date in the county when it comes to basically our policy and governmental operation. Things needed to be updated, so a new committee was formed, and I
was -- I don't know -- lucky to chair the committee. But there's a lot of things that we're going to tackle this year, such as records management process, how we accept bids, things like looking at our departments and seeing if we need to shift any functions between departments or consolidate, look at basically every part of county operation just to see how it's working. And working with all the other departments and the other standing committees at the county for varied issues, basically anything.

And it's a very large project, and it covers a lot. And I think at the end of the day the goal will be to make our county government work better for both itself and also more importantly for the public at large. So I will keep you posted as we move forward with changes and updates and things that we do at the county regarding this committee.

Second item --

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Supervisor Veitch?
SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yes, sir?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: If you need any assistance from our office, please feel free to reach out. Relating to bids or things like that, I don't know if we're behind you or ahead of you guys on that, but --

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Probably ahead of us.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, we did a lot of updates over the years. So if your committee needs and if you're reaching out to other communities, we'd be more than happy to assist.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Great. Thank you very much, Commissioner. Appreciate the offer. So yes, I think we probably will reach out to you. Thank you.

All right. So moving on, next is the buildings and grounds committee. We had our meeting a couple of weeks ago on that as well and just a couple of things there. The main thing that we did -- we actually did two things. First was to put forward a renewal for the lease for
the Gateway House of Peace, which is on
our airport property. They've been under
a lease from us for the past ten years
running their operation there, and we are
going to move to have them also get
another five-year extension with the
ability to extend that for another five
years, so a ten-year potential lease for
them again going forward. They do a
great job, and their services are really
amazing there. I was on the board for a
little while there, and they just do a
great job. So glad to bring that
forward.

We are also in the process of hiring
an online auctioneer for the Woodlawn
Avenue building. We have put forward
Auctions International as a proposal to
do that. They've run a couple of online
county auctions already, so we are ready
to vote for that at our board meeting.

And just to mention that in February
our board meeting is the last week of
February, so we haven't had our meeting
yet this month. Usually, this council
meeting follows a county board meeting, but we haven't had that yet this month.

We're also having some preliminary discussions with our DPW commissioner on possibly looking at a community solar project this year, whether that's on the county farm which is located in the town of Milton over at the county airport. We did notice that Warren County is looking at doing that, so we're thinking potentially we may be able to do the same thing in Saratoga County. I'm working with the DPW chairman of that committee, which is Supervisor Barrett from Clifton Park, as well as our technology and resiliency chairman, which is Supervisor Gaston.

And I would like to ask, if possible, to maybe meet up with you, Commissioner Madigan, to see how the experience was with the city for community solar. I know that was a very successful project here, and we would potentially like to get some information from you about that.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, we --

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: If possible.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- really
didn't do community solar so much as we
did solar for the city, but we started to
look at community solar. There's so many
solar farms popping up.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I would like
to have a conversation with you about it
where --

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Great.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- I can at
least let you know where I ended up
there. Okay?

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Perfect. Yeah,
yeah. I know that in --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- Clifton Park
they've done a couple of projects, too,
and Supervisor Barrett as well as myself
are talking about it. So maybe it'd be
good to have that conversation with the
city to see what they did as well, so I
appreciate that.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: So thank you.


SUPERVISOR VEITCH: No problem.

Third on the agenda is just a notice that we're having a public hearing on a proposed local law for food delivery services. It is scheduled for March 10th at 3:45 p.m., but actually we're not having public coming into our meetings as the city is not as well. So the way that we're doing our public hearings is we're setting up an email address for public hearings, and that is -- basically, the email address is publiccomment@saratogacountyny.gov.

And just very quickly, this is a local law that we're trying to set up which will cap the fees on delivery services, for food delivery services. It's kind of been -- a couple of counties have been doing this around the state. As you know, the food delivery services like Door Dash and Uber Eats and Grub Hub
and whatever they charge the customers
and the restaurant operators a fee for
these services, which can sometimes be
excessive and cut into the profits for
the restaurants that serve our customers.

So the essentials of the law are for
delivery services can only charge a
consumer, a customer, a maximum of
fifteen percent over the cost of their
order. And delivery services can charge
a restaurant a maximum of five percent
over the cost of the online order. And
if there's any credit card or processing
fees, they can charge that as well, but
it limits the amount that they can charge
the establishment which should hopefully
help some of our local businesses because
we're doing a lot of takeout and a lot of
online orders these days. And in our
community, we have so many restaurants,
so I'm sure it's an impact for here. So
we're looking for support for this. I
support this local law, and I'm hoping
that we can get some of our downtown
businesses and other restaurants to help
out and participate in the public comment
so that we can get some support for this.

So just want to mention again, it's
schedule for March 10th at 3:45 p.m.,
which is really kind of the cutoff time
for your public comment. And it's
publiccomment@saratogacountyny.gov is
where you can send those comments.

I do have one other item just
quickly as a follow-up from last meeting.
Saratoga County does have on their
proposal for next week a resolution
supporting the restoration of VLT funds
at the county level. So when we have our
meeting on next Tuesday, that resolution
will be on the agenda to do that. The
mayor had mentioned Supervisor Gaston and
myself sending out letters to the
governor and the speaker and the senate.
They are ready to go, and we're going to
send those out tomorrow. So it took us a
little while, but we got it together and
we'll make sure we get those out.

So thank you for your letter, Mayor,
that you sent us as a draft. It was very
helpful, so thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Did either of you go
down to testify or no?

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: No, we did not
testify. No. We didn't sign up for
that, so no. But thank you for doing
that.

So last on the agenda here is
actually Supervisor Gaston's agenda, and
she just has a quick statement for me to
read. She had an issue today, and she
could not make the meeting.

So I just want to say the following
from Supervisor Gaston. "I am unable to
make to tonight's city council meeting
due to a family emergency. Thank you to
Supervisor Veitch for his willingness to
read a brief update on my behalf.

"At this time, Saratoga County
continues to see decreasing rates of new
COVID-19 cases, a rolling positivity rate
of 2.2 percent which is excellent news.
During this week's school break and
beyond, public health asks residents to
continue to follow guidance such as
wearing face coverings, maintaining
physical distancing, and limiting groups
and travel in order to maintain the
downward trend. Additionally, if you do
not feel well, please stay home and reach
out to your medical provider and consider
being tested for COVID-19. Vaccination
to protect against COVID-19 is the item
at the top of everyone's mind, and I want
you to know that the county is working
diligently to obtain and distribute
vaccines as quickly as possible. We are
holding a press conference tomorrow,
February 17th, at 2 p.m. to provide
information on the vaccination plan
locally and share information about the
Saratoga County public health services
vaccine interest list.
"I will share the information on the
other items of my agenda as soon as I am
able to."
And thanking the council, myself,
and Saratoga Springs for understanding
her missing the meeting today. So that
is from Supervisor Gaston, and that's it
for me, so thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you, Supervisor.

Any other business from the council?

Thank you all. Be safe. It's icy out there. And have a good night.

(Meeting adjourned)
CERTIFICATION

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

________________________________________
Amanda G. Stockton

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

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Vote: 5 - 0