CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING

March 2, 2021

MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Meg Kelly, Mayor
Lisa Shields, Deputy Mayor
John P. Franck, Commissioner
Michele Madigan, Commissioner
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner
Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
Tara Gaston, Supervisor
Matthew J. Jones
Marilyn Rivers
Vince DeLeonardis
MAYOR KELLY: Welcome to city
council meeting for Tuesday, March 2nd.
It is 6:55.

We have one public hearing tonight,
and that's capital program capital budget
amendment, east and west side fields
capital contribution.

The Recreation Department is
requesting to amend the 2021 capital
budget and capital program to include
east and west side field annual agreement
annual capital contributions. The City
of Saratoga Springs School District
renewed the agreements for the east side
and west side rec use and maintenance.
The funds are for improvements to the
east side and the west side fields as
deemed appropriate by the city and the
school district up to the amount of
$40,000.

If there is anybody in the audience
that would like to speak on that topic,
please raise your hand for this public
hearing.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: And I don't
MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: Commissioner Madigan's joining us.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Yeah.

Okay. Then we will be closing this public hearing, and we will wait a few minutes till 7 o'clock to get started with our meeting.

Thank you.

(Discussion off the record)

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. We're ready to get started. So 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: Mayor Kelly?

MAYOR KELLY: Here.
SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Supervisor Veitch?

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Here.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Supervisor Gaston?

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Here.

MAYOR KELLY: 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.

Next on the agenda is our public comment period. I ask you try to keep your comments brief, up to two minutes. There will be a bell to signify the end of your time. Public comment period will be up to fifteen minutes. Please be respectful to the speakers while addressing the council and address the council as a whole.

As a reminder, the public comment is not a dialogue nor a discussion with the council members. However, at the end of
public comment, any council may -- member
may respond to a comment.

Anyone who wishes to address the
council upon any issue may now raise
their hand by -- on Zoom and state their
name and address.

Lisa, do we have anybody?

DEPUTY MAYOR SHIELDS: No, we don't.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Then we'll move
on to -- we'll close that. Then we'll
move on to our presentation.

We have one presentation tonight,
the 2021 West Avenue Special Assessment
District annual report. And I'll turn it
over to Commissioner Madigan.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
Mayor.

Matthew J. Jones is here from Jones
Steves. He comes and he sees us every --
he sees us every year. This year he will
be delivering the West Avenue Special
Assessment District WASAD's annual report
to the city council virtually. The West
Avenue Special Assessment District was
established in February 15th, 2000, to
assess an additional tax on participating businesses within the designated business district for improvements.

With that, I will turn it over to Matthew J. Jones to offer us his presentation. Thank you for being here.

MR. JONES: Thank you, Commissioner.

Mayor, members of the council, I am -- I'm Matt Jones of Jones Steves. I represented the West Avenue Special Assessment District now for just twenty years, and this is the nineteenth presentation I have made, which sounds like the previous eighteen. But I -- I try to make it interesting, but there's only so much that you can say. So if I can't interesting, we'll make it short, and I'll see if I can keep this under two minutes.

As -- as the commissioner noted in her agenda minutes, the city council by resolution on June 28, 2001, imposed upon the obligation -- an obligation on the commissioner of finance to prepare this report and provide us with the
opportunity to comment. As has been the case for the previous nineteen years, we agree. The numbers are -- are true and accurate.

Three points I wanted to make this evening. One is that ninety-seven percent of the West Avenue Special Assessment District budget goes to our payment to the city as our fifty percent share of the 1.4 million dollars of road improvements, a project that occurred in 1999, 2000, was then finished in 2001.

The -- it was actually a 5.2 million-dollar project that -- of which 1.4 million were for betterments that were not reimbursable by either state or federal funds. So we needed a mechanism to come up with that 1.4 million, and we reached an agreement with the City of Saratoga Springs to share that cross at $700,000 each, and we were to repay that $700,000 fronted by the city over a period of twenty-five years.

That's worked well, and the improvements got done. And it is, as you
know, a significant amount of development in and around West Avenue as a result of the sanitary (audio interference) water improvements. It's been a good investment for the city. The -- the obligation we are paying is at a rate of 5. -- five and an eighth percent, and the city was able to take advantage in a reduction of the markets when they went out to bond, and so the bonding was a bit less than that. Nevertheless, we made a deal with the city, and we stuck to it. And so we continue to pay that -- that 5. -- five and an eighth percent over the last nineteen years.

The little-known fact that stumped the panel two years ago was that there is a city employee who is the -- a charter member of our board and remains on the board through this day, and that is Tony Izzo who has been of assistance to me and a longtime friend and a valued employee of the city. So I thank him every year because, in part, he's my boss, as -- as a board member for -- for the West Avenue
Special Assessment District.

Last thing I want to mention is that periodically now I'm getting calls increasingly about the role of the district, how it might be active or involved with projects along West Avenue, and so those answers are -- are fairly succinct.

But part of the -- the questions I'm getting have to do with what happens in six years when we have paid back that money in full to the city. And my answer to that for anyone who will listen is that that tax will cease and come to an end. The tax was imposed for twenty-five years for a specific purpose, and that was to pay for those improvements and for no other purpose. And so -- in -- in six years, the property owners will see a reduction in their taxes by elimination of the Special Assessment District.

Commissioner, you've been very patient with me over these last ten years. I thank you very much. And so we agree with your report.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  Well, it's
been my pleasure.

And I had 2/15/2000, but I guess you
said you were established in 2001. Or
were you established prior to that, and
we bonded in 2001?

MR. JONES:  No, I think you're
correct that that --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  Okay.

MR. JONES:  -- that was established
(audio interference) resolution was in

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  Okay. Yeah,
because I have that the bond will be paid
on December 1st of 2026.

MR. JONES:  That's correct. That's
correct, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  Okay. Well,
I always appreciate you coming here every
year to provide this report. I guess
this is my tenth year hearing the West
Avenue Special Assessment District's
report on this bond.

MR. JONES:  Thanks very much,
Commissioner.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you very much.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And thank you, Mayor.

MAYOR KELLY: So moving on, we did have an executive session yesterday at pre-agenda regarding sale, lease, or acquisition of property where disclosure would affect value, and there was no action taken.

On to the consent --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Mayor?

MAYOR KELLY: Yes?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: If I may interrupt? I don't believe the executive session is actually listed on the agenda, and I think, for the record, we may want to have it on the agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Oh. Okay. So it's --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So maybe we'll just --

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- upload a
new one. Yeah.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah. Well, yeah.

Okay. That's fine. Thank you. And --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: You're welcome.

Moving on to the consent agenda, I move that the city council approve the consent agenda. As included with this agenda, this 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.

On to the Mayor's Department. My first item is a police reform task force update, and I'll turn it over to Vince DeLeonardis for an update.

MR. DELEONARDIS: Thank you, Mayor.

Council will recall that back on June 12th, 2020, Governor Cuomo issued Executive Order Number 203, wherein he required local governments, including the
City of Saratoga Springs, to undertake a review of existing police policies, practices, and procedures and with community input to develop a plan to improve those. The executive order was a result of at the time ongoing protests and demonstrations following police-involved deaths of unarmed black and African American civilians and a demand for change, action, and accountability.

On August 4th of 2020, Mayor Kelly, in conjunction with all of you, appointed eleven members of the community, along with myself and Police Chief Crooks, to serve on the Saratoga Springs police reform task force. Since August, the task force has met regularly and has engaged the community and stakeholders in a review of our current police policies, practices, and procedures. They have broken down into twelve subcommittees to undertake a more narrow and focused review of specific areas of identified concern and again imparting members of the larger community into that
conversation.

Last week, the task force voted on a majority of the recommendations that are contained in a draft recommendation plan, and that plan is available on the city website. Tomorrow, the task force will be holding a meeting where the remainder of the recommendations will be voted on and a public forum will be held to allow, again, an opportunity for the public to provide input and comments on the proposed recommendations.

So I would encourage members of the public and the council to review that plan, and members of the public to join -- everyone is welcome -- the forum that will be held tomorrow evening at 5:30 remotely. And you can go to the city's website to register for that meeting.

But after tomorrow when the final vote is made on the draft plan, it will then be provided to council, and it will be up to you to undertake a review of that plan and ultimately make a
determination as to which recommendations will ultimately be implemented and to determine how the recommendations will be implemented.

So the next city council meeting is March 16th, and under the governor's executive order we are required to formally act on or before April 1st. So I would anticipate that after March 16th and prior to or on April 1st, there will likely be a special city council meeting in order for the council to formally act as required.

When the plan is formally voted on tomorrow and complete, I will be scheduling meetings with all of you to discuss it so that we can move forward in determining what of those recommendations are deemed appropriate and would be implemented and how they would be implemented. Some of them are subject to budget appropriations and other things that will need to be discussed with all of you.

So that's where we stand currently.
I don't know if there are any questions.

If there are I'm happy to -- happy to answer them.

MAYOR KELLY: I'm good. Thank you, Vince.

Anybody else?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Actually, I have one question. Is the forum, the public forum, actually start at 5:30 because I think I would like to attend the public forum part, but I don't want to sit through the whole meeting. As a council member, I've been watching many of them back, but I would like to listen in to the forum. Do you know if that's going to start at exactly 5:30 or --

MR. DELEONARDIS: The --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I would assume that's coming before they vote of the rest of the document, right?

MR. DELEONARDIS: The meeting starts at exactly 5:30. There's an agenda that's been published for tomorrow's meeting, and there -- I think our --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Right.
MR. DELEONARDIS: -- items apply to

the public forum, but the meeting starts
at 5:30. I can't indicate at what time
the -- the forum will --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay. Thank

you.

MAYOR KELLY: Any other questions?

Thank you, Vince.

My second item on the agenda is

approval for 2020 purchase order to

encumber Complete Streets Greenbelt

funds. We ask that the council approve a

2020 purchase order in order to roll over

$231,276.69 in budget line

H3517142-52000-1240 for Complete Streets

and Greenbelt Trail projects.

I move that the city council approve

the 2020 purchase order to encumber

Complete Streets Greenbelt funds. 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, we're going to go over to Commissioner of Accounts John Franck to do the award bid first.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor.

This is item number four on my agenda. It's award of bid labor and employment legal services to Goldberger and Kremer. Upon the recommendation of the Mayor's Office, I move to award the bid of labor and employment legal services to Goldberger and Kremer for an amount not to exceed $30,000. That is a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
MAYOR KELLY: My third item is discussion and vote, approval for mayor to sign contract with Goldberger and Kremer for award of bid for labor and employment legal services. Per the city's purchasing policy, HR and legal released an RFP for labor and employment legal services. Goldberger and Kremer was selected. The contract amount is not to exceed $30,000. The budget line is A3011434-54720.

I move that the city council approve the signing of the contract with Goldberger and Kremer for the award of bid for labor and employment legal services. 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,
approval for the mayor to sign amendment
to the City of Saratoga Springs PBA
flexible benefit plan. We are
currently -- we currently have one
participant enrolled in the PBA flexible
spending account. This participant
elected to enroll in the dependent care
flexible spending for both the 2020 and
2021 plan years. Due to COVID-19
pandemic, the IRS has passed a temporary
relief act that will allow flexible
spending account member to roll
over/carry over unused funds from 2020
plan year into the 2021 plan year.
I move that the city council approve
the signing of an amendment to the City
of Saratoga Springs PBA flexible benefit
plan. This is a motion. Is there a
second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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, amend 2021 capital budget and capital program to include east and west side fields annual capital contributions. The city and the Saratoga Springs School District renewed the agreement for east side and west side rec use and maintenance. The funds are for improvements to the east side and west side fields as deemed appropriate by the city and the school district up to the amount of 40,000. The budget line is H3567142-42397-1008.

I move that the city council amend the 2021 capital budget and capital program to include east and west side fields annual capital contributions. 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, revokable license for use of City of Saratoga Springs Field, field user agreements, templates with updates.

I move that the city council approve the revokable license for use of City of Saratoga Springs Field, the field user agreements, template with updates. 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, co-sponsored program templates. The department is looking to have a fifty/fifty revenue split with the following organizations: Saratoga Strike Zone, Saratoga American Legion Stampede, and Saratoga Miss Softball. The templates are revised from the previous agreements to include pandemic operations plan.
I move that the city council approve the co-sponsored program templates. This is a motion. Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: 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 eighth item is an announcement.

Community Development Block 2021 --

Let me start over. Announcement:

Community Development Block Grant 2021 program year subgrantee application period closes this Friday, 3/5/21. The 2021 CDBG program subgrantee application period ends this Friday, March 5th, at 4:30 p.m. The 2021 entitlement grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development is expected to be approximately $308,705. Guidance and application materials are available on the city's website.

Due to time constraints resulting
from the coronavirus pandemic, a special city council meeting will be held on March 30th for the Community Development Citizens Advisory Committee presentation of its 2021 Block Grant entitlement action plan recommendations.

And that concludes my agenda.

And I'll turn it over to Commissioner Franck of Accounts.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor.

The first item on my agenda is discussion and vote, approval of New York State mandated pandemic operations. Governor Cuomo signed legislation S8617B(a)10832 on September 11th, 2020, requiring all public employers to create plans to adequately protect workers in the event of another state emergency disaster involving a communicable disease.

Before I read the rest on the record, I have Marilyn Rivers on this Zoom call to just give a brief overview, and then I'll put the rest of the stuff
in the records.

If you could, Marilyn?

MS. RIVERS: Thank you, Commissioner. I appreciate the city council having an opportunity to review this.

The city's pandemic operations plan includes protocols for the following. It provides a description of positions that are considered essential to our city governance. It also includes protocols to enable nonessential employees to work remotely, to stagger work shifts. It provides protocols for all departments to provide personal protective equipment to city employees, and it also provides a guideline as to what the city will need to do if an employee is exposed to COVID or a communicable disease. We have put a section in here for essential housing for emergency purposes, and we have also included a section to track and to trace with regard to pandemics.

This plan was mandated to include all of the collective bargaining units
within the city. They have all
participated through the city safety
committee. They have offered friendly
amendments. Those friendly amendments
are included within this document.

In addition, Assistant Chief Catone,
John Catone, has reviewed this plan and
has compared it to the city's emergency
management plan. It dovetails it.

Christy Spadaro, the Human Resource
Administrator, has done some extensive
work on remote work and essential
employees, in addition to working with
risk and safety on dovetailing it into
what the city council approved early in
2020 for pandemic operations.

Brian Kremer, the city's legal
employment practice lawyer, has reviewed
this, in addition to City Attorney Vince
DeLeonardis.

So all the collective bargaining
units have agreed to this plan as was
mandated by Section 27-C of the New York
State Labor Law, which required public
employers to adopt a plan and include all
of the collective bargaining units.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: So before I go any further just to read the motion, is there any questions for Marilyn on item one?

MAYOR KELLY: I'm good. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Great.

Yeah, I would like to thank the safety committee, city safety committee, and Marilyn Rivers for their hard work on this, along with everybody she just mentioned.

So therefore, I move to approve the pandemic operations plan as included with this agenda. And that's a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

Second.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor.
My second item, which I'll also leave Marilyn online for this, is a discussion and vote to approve resolution for outdoor temporary seating. This updated resolution for temporary seating allows local restaurants to begin temporary outdoor seating Monday, March 15th, which is two weeks earlier than the April 1st date -- or a little bit over two weeks earlier. This, at this point, will expire on June 30th, 2021. As we had discussed yesterday, we are prepared to bring this resolution back to extend the expiration date as we get more information.

But I just, again, would like Marilyn, for the public and also for the city council, just to kind of go through what their thought process was with the subcommittee putting this together.

Marilyn?

MS. RIVERS: Thank you, Commissioner.

The city council made vast inroads last year in promoting city eating and
drinking establishments under Chapter 136
to allow our licensed eating and drinking
establishments to use city right-of-ways
and extend their sidewalk cafes because
they were not able to service the public
indoors.

We had several extensions last year
ending on December 31st, 2020, at
midnight. This resolution significantly
impacted the eating and drinking
establishments within the city. They
were very appreciative of all of the work
that city council has done with regard to
this.

We had been approached as a group.
There is a group that included Michael
Veitch from Public Works, Vince
DeLeonardis, the city attorney. We
also -- including myself and Chief Aaron
Dyer from the fire department to
represent emergency management. We added
Deputy -- we added Deputy Commissioner
Deidre Ladd, and Deputy Commissioner
Maire Masterson was also part of the
group last year with regard to the
licensing perspective.

Having met, we presented this at safety committee in February. We all agree that the occupancy -- we're not sure how the governor is going to change and the New York State DOH is going to change the occupancy for indoor for Chapter 136. So what we're suggesting is -- we're looking forward to a very robust tourist season. We're suggesting that we, in the interim, extend it to June 30th of this year at midnight, with the caveat that we would come back several times if we needed to to discuss with city council the extension of it, if need be, to later periods in 2021.

The concern that the -- the safety committee had with traffic and with the fire department with occupancy is that, if the Governor allows a hundred percent occupancy, then the DOH license -- the -- for eating and the SLA license for -- for the drinking and the alcohol is significant to their footprint. So we want to make sure that the footprint that
is with their original license at the state level matches what we're doing as a city.

So it was decided that we would use June 30th as a -- as a -- sunset. Or it might be sooner if we open up to a hundred percent occupancy as, you know, Texas opened up a hundred percent occupancy today, along with Florida, I think. So hopefully New York won't be far behind.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: So any questions from the council before we go forward with a motion?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Do you want to do the motion, or can I -- I don't have any questions, but I had some comments.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Sure. Well, I move for the city council to approve the resolution for temporary seating as included with this agenda. That's a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.
MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. So first I want to thank Marilyn Rivers and the Accounts Department and everybody else that's worked on these agenda items, agenda item number one and agenda item number two, the one that we're talking about right now and the resolution for outdoor temporary seating.

We did have a lengthy discussion about this yesterday at our council pre-agenda meeting, and many issues were brought up as to why June 30th, 2021, was chosen at this time. Mainly the ones I heard were the State Liquor Authority maximum occupancy issues for indoor seating and that, as it stands right now, the maximum would also include your outdoor seating. So whatever your occupancy was for indoor seating extends to the street and to outdoor seating.

Additionally, there was discussion about some of the streets being able to handle traffic if we were to have the race course open to a hundred percent,
potentially I guess fifty percent. I mean, I don't know. We were talking at one-hundred percent levels. I am a proponent of language that extends the outdoor seating resolution beyond the June 30th deadline, but I also understand you're probably going to bring this back, as we discussed yesterday. It could be fairly soon, so that's positive.

I'm not really best sure how to handle this issue. Some areas have wider sidewalks than others, wider streets than others. Additionally, it may behoove some of those businesses to reach out to the State Liquor Authority themselves, I guess -- I don't really know the process for this -- if outdoor seating is something that they can handle and would like to, I guess, look at increasing potentially their maximum, and this might be something that they could do at least and to the sidewalk because, as I understand it, the real concern is in the streets. So businesses may want to be able to plan, and that's the big concern:
plan and invest and make up for lost revenue.

So I am a proponent of extending the June 30th deadline. I was also hoping that maybe we could have some language. But at this point, because I know we're going to revisit this a little bit sooner, I think the June 30th deadline is fine. But if there is a way that we could craft something as we bring this back -- I don't know if it's by area, by region; I don't know -- to give some businesses that want to do a little more planning or investment so they're not kind of going -- we brought this back four or five times last year. And while I feel confident that the council will extend it based on extenuating circumstances like if the race course is open or not, it would be nice to let them know that if they're planning and spending money and investing that it runs through a longer date, a longer term for them.

So that was it. Thank you.
MS. RIVERS: Commissioner, the great news is that we've started planning with the police department. Sgt. Mullan is beginning to work with the Accounts Department and will be working with each of your departments on special events that are happening starting in late May, early June. So we plan a very robust tourist season, if we can, and a very robust special event year to try and make up for --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

MS. RIVERS: -- for last year. So that will be dovetailing into this resolution as we move forward, and Commissioner Franck will be moving that forward as we work towards, you know, that success.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah, and --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's great, too. Also being conscious of the fact that there still may be people without vaccine. There's still going to be variants out there. People are still going to want to be sitting outside, not
necessarily in a restaurant with a hundred percent occupancy in the restaurant.

Sorry. Commissioner Franck, you were going to say something.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Well, I'll let Commissioner Scirocco go. Looks like he was saying something.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I just wanted to just --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, okay.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- bring up one quick point. I think the reason why we formed that committee was, when the businesses want to apply, they apply, and then their application goes to that committee. They take a look at it to make sure that everything is going to work for that area. So I guess all business -- any business can put an application in, and then --

MS. RIVERS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- that committee will take a look at it and make sure there's no issues with it. And then
it gets the thumbs-up, and I think that's
the way it's supposed to work.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Right. To
Commissioner Scirocco and Commissioner
Madigan's point, one of the reasons we
are moving it to March 15th is we
understand there still may be snow on the
ground, but that will give the people the
ability to get their applications in
earlier, so we can start the process
earlier.

You have to remember also it was
back and forth last year. It was
something different. It was new. We
didn't know how it was going to work. We
didn't even know if the track was going
to be open. So there was a lot of things
going on last year. So this didn't
really get started till mid to late June
into July.

This time around, we kind of have a
game plan to understand it, and I think,
also, some businesses that were a little
wary of doing it last year because they
just didn't know how it'd work, saw the
success of the businesses that did do it, so --

MS. RIVERS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: And the other reason was, we're just trying to -- I don't want to use the word fast-track, but if somebody's already done that, we already have their blueprint. We already have their plan. We already know how they did it, and it was safe. It'll be much easier for them to apply. It's not like they're going to give us new drawings --

MS. RIVERS: Yes.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- or anything. So I think at the end of the day, we could be talking about this in two meetings, as we get more information.

And we could also do a hybrid of what we have, Commissioner Madigan, like you discussed, where it may just not --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Um-hum.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- we may take it off the streets, but we may keep it on the sidewalks. But there's just -- with
executive orders and all these things
that happened last year, they were all
temporary-type orders. So we're also
kind of also at the mercy of the State of
New York. But I think we're --

And if any of the commissioners or
the mayor has questions as we go and say,
I don't even want to wait till the next
meeting, we'll be more than happy to get
this back on the agenda as early as the
second meeting in March, as we go
through. But it's definitely -- it's in
progress and there will be changes as we
go.

MAYOR KELLY: Any other comments,
council?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?
The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you,
Mayor.

My third and last item, because we
did item four already, is discussion and
vote, authorization for mayor to sign
Addendum Number 5 with GAR Associates.

This addendum is a continuation of the original 2012 contract for commercial property appraisals. This addendum adds to the contract some.

Therefore, I move to authorize the mayor to sign Addendum Number 5 with GAR Associates as included with this agenda.

And that's a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?

All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: Any opposed?

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor. That concludes my agenda for this evening.

MAYOR KELLY: On to Finance,

Commissioner Madigan?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,

Mayor.

So the first item on my agenda is an
announcement, May 21 bond rating. The city received its annual bond rating from Standard & Poor's, and I am very pleased to inform to the council and the public that it held firm on last year's rating, which was double A plus, but with a negative outlook which is what we had last year and I believe is as a result of COVID-19.

It noted that the city has historically maintained balance to operations and very strong budgetary flexibility and liquidity and that we maintain strong reserves to counterbalance its dependence on economically sensitive revenue. It also acknowledged the revenue losses suffered from the pandemic economy. The negative outlook reflects the city's exposure to continued volatility from economically sensitive revenue sources, including sales and hotel/motel taxes.

The rating reflects S&P's view of the city's very strong economy with access to a broad and diverse
metropolitan statistical area, strong
management with good financial policies
and practices under our financial
management assessment methodology. Very
strong liquidity, strong institutional
framework score.

The negative outlook reflects the
city's exposure to continued volatility
from economically sensitive revenue
sources, including sales and hotel/motel
taxes. "Our outlook incorporates the" --
this is a quote from them. "Our outlook
incorporates the likelihood that a
national economic recession and resulting
revenue challenges will have a negative
effect on performance and reserves. But
we could lower the rating if continued
negative operating results cause the
city's available general fund balance to
substantially decline."

Similar to my message last March, it
advises that, if the city can limit fund
balance drawdowns and maintain
structurally aligned budgets, we could
revise the outlook to stable. This is a
great accomplishment, given the pressures on delivering city services with the substantially reduced budget and will bode well for our 2021 bonding, although it seems generally speaking that interest rates lately, regardless of how much the government borrows -- I mean, it looks like we're going to borrow five trillion -- continue to stay low. And we noticed that in 2008/2009 when President Obama borrowed a lot of money to -- or initiated a lot of money for the bailout with the financial crisis recession that we had back in '09, '08/'09.

So thank you to the Director of Finance for working with Standard & Poor's to bring us this exceptional bond rating, and thank you to each department for working with us to economize your expenditures while maintaining essential city services.

Second item on my agenda is a discussion and vote for the 2021 bond resolution. The city is not required to bond all projects listed. We usually
release our public sale in late spring, early summer. I will be evaluating our finances and interest rates closely to determine the best course possible.

But again, we've been through about a year of COVID, and interest rates are low. So that's very, very positive. And still are low with having borrowed three trillion dollars last year at the federal government level and looking at another 1.9 million (sic) dollars this year, for a total of five trillion dollars. I mean, that's thousands and thousands of billions of dollars. I mean, it's hard for me to even fathom that number.

So anyway, the 2021 bond resolution authorizes the issuance of $7,381,823 in bonds to finance various capital projects as follows: the replacement of the city's current inventory of street lights with state-of-the-art LED lighting, $2,887,163; the upgrade of the Loughberry Lake Dam and Spillway, $1,750,000. And I do hope that we are looking into grants. There's a lot of grants out there for
water, water infrastructure projects right now.

The purchase of the Morbark Wood Hog Tub Grinder, $669,660, and that's to ensure that we can grind up all the leaves and trees and tree limbs and debris that we put out on the sidewalks. That DPW can grind that all up and use it to also make compost. It's an expensive piece of machinery, but this is a service that our community seems to relish and enjoy.

The replacement of sanitary sewer mains in problem locations throughout the city, $250,000.

The upgrade of the city's waste water pump stations, $250,000.

And the replacement of water mains on State Street and Clement Avenue, $1,575,000.

I move that the city council approve the 2021 bond resolution, as included with the agenda. This does require a roll call vote, so if the clerk, Lisa, will call for that, that would be great.
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: We need a
second --

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: I just
need a second --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: But you need
a second. Yeah.

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible)

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Okay.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Second.

Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Roll call, please?

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Franck?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Madigan?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Scirocco?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: And

Mayor Kelly?

MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

The matter passes. Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you,
council.

Item number three is an update on city finances, a recurring topic at most 2021 council meetings. The 1.9 million -- trillion, I'm sorry -- trillion-dollar Federal Stimulus Act was passed by the House at 2 a.m. on Saturday morning. The Senate has yet to vote. The anticipated deadline for completing the vote by the Senate is March 14th to coincide with the date employee benefits will otherwise run out from the federal government. The minimum wage of fifteen dollars an hour has been removed in order to encourage swift and successful passage.

This delivers an estimated 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 Senator Paul Tonko and is part of our district, the City of Saratoga Springs, to maintain essential services and staff, including police
officers, teachers, nurses, fire
fighters, water system managers, and
countless others in the capital region.
Under this bill, the City of Saratoga
Springs is slated to receive seven
million dollars.

At this time we have some details
about how the money will be distributed
if, indeed, it's successfully passed in
the Senate. The formula for how much we
will receive is based on a modified
Community Development Block Grant
formula. We are a community under a
certain population threshold, under
50,000. Our money will flow through the
state government. Once the state
government receives it, they will have up
to thirty days to disperse it to the City
of Saratoga Springs.

The positive note is that it will
readily cover our 2021 retirement costs
of five million dollars. As you may
recall, we budgeted five million dollars
in revenue. We called it federal fiscal
aid to offset the five-million-dollar
expense in the retirement amount that we -- the retirement amount that we owe to the Office of the State Comptroller. The remaining two million dollars will assist in covering revenue that will not meet estimates at this time. We have no information yet regarding the status of VLT aid and the New York State budget. It's included at zero dollars in the governor's executive budget, which is currently on the table. There was a very positive editorial in the Albany Times Union yesterday -- I hope everyone had a chance to read it -- about VLT and reinstating VLT.

A little bit about sales tax, final figures for 2020 sales tax collection have been received as follows. For 2020, the city received $11,074,174.35. This was down 17.62 percentage from 2019, or about $2,370,000 less than in 2019. The 2020 revised budget was 10,281,000, so we did exceed the revised budget by about 800,000, if you want to look at it that way. That's sort of a positive.
I'm going to jump down a little bit.

So the final thing I guess I'll say about this is that the City of Saratoga Springs is one of twenty jurisdictions across the state that the New York State Comptroller's Office has chosen to participate in a review of our 2020 and 2021 budgets in the context of the pandemic economy. We've spent a lot of time responding to questions about the city budget process, budget comparisons, 2020 actual collections and expenses, as well as individual estimated 2021 expense and revenue items.

The process is not yet completed, and we do appreciate the assistance we have received from all departments, as needed. And I hope to have more firm information about that Federal Stimulus Act by the next council meeting and information regarding VLT at least by the first meeting in April.

Thank you. I don't know if anybody has any comments.

MAYOR KELLY: No. Thank you,
Commissioner. That was great. And you and I --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: -- have some meetings this week about the VLT, so --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: We do. We do.

The mayor and I -- that's a good point -- continue to meet with committee chairs in the New York State Legislature to advocate strongly for full disbursement of VLT funds to the City of Saratoga Springs.

Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Item number four is a discussion and vote, budget amendments capital fund for recreation school district contract for capital improvements. Lines one through two, amend the 2021 capital budget to account for revenue received by the school district for capital improvements, including the east and west side
recreation areas. This year's annual amount is $40,000. Projects are determined by the school district and implemented with the city recreation department.

I move that the city council approve the budget amendments capital fund for recreation school district contract for capital improvements, as included with the agenda. This is a motion and also requires a roll-call vote. So if Lisa will call for the roll call, that would be great after we have the second.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?
COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I'll second.
MAYOR KELLY: Roll call, please?
SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Franck?
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Aye.
SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Madigan?
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Aye.
SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Scirocco?
COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Aye.
SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: And Mayor Kelly?

MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

Item number six is a discussion and vote, budget amendment capital for 2020 reimbursement. Lines one through two, amend the 2020 capital budget to account for revenue received due to a refund -- and it may be an accounting error -- in June of 2020 in the amount of $1,291.70.

I move that the city council approve the budget amendment's capital for 2020 reimbursements. Included with the agenda, this is a motion. After the second, this also requires a roll-call vote.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Roll call, please?

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Franck?

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:
Commissioner Madigan?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL:

Commissioner Scirocco?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Aye.

SECRETARY TO CITY COUNCIL: Mayor Kelly?

MAYOR KELLY: Aye.

The matter passes.

Commissioner --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Commissioner Madigan, you did skip over number five.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah.

MAYOR KELLY: It's a budget transfers payroll. Just to let you know.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, it's not in my agenda notes, so it might take me a minute, and I might have to come back to it.

MAYOR KELLY: That's fine. I just wanted to --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: And I do know that I am adding an item to my agenda, which I think, looking -- here, give me
one second. Which I'm told I'm adding an
d Item, budget transfers payroll. Or maybe
I'm just missing the notes.

Okay. So there is an item on my
agenda called -- you see, I've got a very
small screen I'm working on, so I've got
notes with the agenda, but I don't have
the official agenda.

So item number five is -- I don't
have it. I don't have it in front of me.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Between the
Zoom and the notes. So is that an item
for budget transfers for payroll?

MAYOR KELLY: Yes. Number five,
yeah.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Then I'm
going to go back to that.

So item number five is a discussion
and vote, budget transfers payroll.

Lines one through eleven, adjust various
Department of Public Safety payroll lines
for sick leave, injured employees, and
education benefits.

I move that we approve the budget transfers payroll. As uploaded 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: Great. I guess that means now I'm on item number seven, right?

MAYOR KELLY: Yes, correct.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay. Thank you. Need a bigger computer to keep more things open.

Item number seven is budget transfers contingency. Lines one through two, transfer funds from contingency to the Finance Department to cover March storage costs for building, accounts, and Finance Department documents that are being stored by a storage company while
we're awaiting renovation of the city
hall basement storage. The contingency
budget appropriation currently has a
balance of $236,485.83. Following
approval of this transfer, there will be
$235,985.83 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: Thank you,
Mayor, council, for bearing with me
there. And that completes my agenda.
MAYOR KELLY: Okay. I had a number
eight. You're not doing that, or you're
taking that off?
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, I do have
a number eight. Sorry.
MAYOR KELLY: That's okay.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That I do have on my notes. Sorry.

Okay. Item number eight is a discussion. Commemoration in honor of Matt McCabe, former Commissioner of Finance, community leader, and good Samaritan to all. So I wanted to discuss with the council the idea of placing a plaque in honor of Matt McCabe outside the handicap entrance to city hall and naming this area Matt McCabe Walkway, along the ramp, especially since the ramp is slated to be renovated.

As I understand it, Commissioner Scirocco.

And I would like to take one of the benches outside on Broadway. I'm thinking the one maybe closer to city hall. Matt had a few different Saratoga guitar shops in this section of Broadway, and one of them was very close to city hall. And we always saw him out there sitting on a bench, so I just think it would be a great way to memorialize and
honor Matt McCabe by dedicating one of
these benches in honor of Matt. And we
could make the plaque say something
really nice about him and being
Commissioner of Finance and a good
Samaritan to all, community leader, and
have a walkway.

I did have a conversation with
Commissioner Franck's office about this
with Commissioner Franck. I believe he
also thinks this is a good idea. I meant
to get an email out to all of you. I'm
having a hard time coming together and
putting something together with the
Downtown Business Association. If that
comes together, great. I'd love the idea
of a guitar statue for Matt to honor and
memorialize him, but I also like the city
doing something on his behalf in front of
city hall and with one of our benches if
the rest of the council agrees.

I'll open that up for discussion.

MAYOR KELLY: I'm in total
agreement. He was a great guy, so I
think it's a nice gesture. Thank you,
Commissioner.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Great.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, I think the walkway is a good idea.

Just an FYI, I know those benches out there already have somebody's name on them. I know they're already dedicated, but I think we could find a spot. I got some plans for that area. We'd talked about issues with a flagpole. The two flags that were on city hall were destroying the front of the building, so I don't believe we can put those back on. If you look up on the second floor, you can see where the bricks were starting to deteriorate from those flags just from the wind working those poles on the --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Um-hum.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- the bricks. So we were talking about putting a flagpole up in front with a little planter. So we may be able to put the plaque in that planter, too. So I don't -- let's discuss a plan. I mean, I don't want to -- I don't want to be --
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- premature here with -- but yeah, I'm good with it.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, we can --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: (Indiscernible).

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- continue discussions.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: He was great guy.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah. I do like the idea of a bench, if there's some way we --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I mean, typically the benches are dedicated to people. I don't know if there's another one we can fit on Broadway in this area --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- because honestly that's how I got to know him so well just walking back and forth and sitting on the bench and talking to him.
He was always outside, and it was -- I'm really going to miss seeing him outside on the nice days to have a little chitchat about city hall and city politics and tell a story and anything else that was going on at the time.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: I think we can work out the bench thing.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Great.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: All right.

Well, that's it. That completes my agenda. Thank you again for bearing with me and my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: All right.

MAYOR KELLY: -- Commissioner.

On to Public Works, Commissioner Scirocco.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you, Mayor.

The first item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is SEQR resolution for Loughberry Lake Dam
rehabilitation project. In August of
2019, the DEC reclassified the Loughberry
Lake Dam as a high-hazard, class C dam.
The dam had not received major upgrades
since the construction of Route 50 in the
1960s. The increase in classification
was appropriate due to the potential
consequences of a dam failure. This
higher classification does, however,
allow the city to be eligible for FEMA
funding to complete the approximate 6.7
million-dollar rehabilitation.

The city hired Schnabel Engineering
of Clifton Park, New York, to bring the
dam up into compliance by designing
repairs to address the current safety
deficiencies. This includes a new
principle spillway, water supply
connection, rock-fill stabilization of
the upstream embankment slope, in
addition to other necessary improvements.

As project sponsor, the city must
comply with the State Environmental
Quality Review Act. That's a SEQR. This
requires Schnabel to process a joint
application to the New York State DEC and
the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers for
permits effecting streams, waterways,
water bodies, and wetlands. Schnabel has
determined that the proposed project is
classified as a type 2 action and is
exempt from further SEQR review. In
order to seek much-needed funding
assistance, the city council must submit
the required documentation and pass a
resolution stating that SEQR is
satisfied. And again, the resolution was
distributed with the agenda.

So therefore, I request the council
to pass the resolution supporting this
type 2 classification of Loughberry Lake
Dam rehabilitation project. And that's
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: The matter passes.
COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: The second
item on my agenda is just to set a public
hearing for the 2021 water and sewer rate
resolution. And that will be, I believe,
at the next city council meeting.

About five minutes I think, Lisa.

MAYOR KELLY: Lisa Ribis, did you
hear that?

MS. RIBIS: We -- we can do 6:55 on
the 16th.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: 6:55 --

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- okay.

Thank you.

Third item on my agenda is
discussion and vote. This is to amend
the 2021 capital budget to include
reimbursement to city hall building
project number 1141. In June of 2020, PO
00200439-00 was issued to Systems
Management Planning for fabric extenders
for city hall. Due to a billing error
with Systems Management, a double payment
was made in the amount of $1,291.70 on
this PO.

Therefore, I move to amend the 2021
capital budget for city hall buildings to include $1,291.70 with a reimbursement from Systems Management and put that in front of a motion.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Commissioner?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yes?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I think we're amending the 2020 capital budget.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: The --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: At least, that's what I am told. And your motion is for the 2021, so I'm being asked to have you revise the motion.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Okay. So --


COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: -- it'll be 2020. Okay.

Therefore, I move to amend the 2020 capital budget for city hall buildings to include $1,291.70 with a reimbursement from Systems Management and put that in the form of a motion.

MAYOR KELLY: Is there a second?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Second.

MAYOR KELLY: Any discussion?
All those in favor say aye.

IN UNISON: Aye.

MAYOR KELLY: The matter passes.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: And that concludes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Commissioner.

On to the supervisors. Supervisor Veitch?

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Thank you, Mayor.

Just one item from me today on the Veteran's Committee as an update from that committee. They met yesterday at Saratoga County. Just a couple of items from them. One is that they are doing a budget amendment for the continuation of the Peer to Peer Program. We run that here at Saratoga County, and it's an assistance program for veterans.

And basically, what's happened is it's usually funded through the State of New York. And from the 2020 year, the state has funded it in their budget, but they have not yet released the funding in
Saratoga County for running that program.

So as of right now, we are kind of running it with county funds, and we did pass a resolution through that committee, which will go to the full board later this month, to continue funding that program in full for the rest of the 2020 year as well for funding it for the 2021 year as well.

In addition to that, I just wanted to mention that a constituent had approached me earlier this year, earlier last month regarding Memorial Day funding that I believe the city has in its budget. I did confirm with the deputy mayor that there is a line in there for, I believe, Memorial Day flags that we put out at our grave sites for our veterans. Again, this constituent came to me with that item. I didn't even know that we did that. But I did confirm that that was something that was done, and I believe there was a reduction in that funding this year. So I've asked the county to see if they can come in and try
to help with that and cover part of the
cost for that program for this year. I
proposed it actually as a county-wide
fund for our city as well as other towns
to try to help cover some of those costs.

It's not just us with budget
reductions and issues with other
communities, some of that stuff being
reduced this year. So I felt it was
something that maybe we could do to help
out, so I will -- as of right now, they
just appointed a subcommittee to kind of
study the issue, not do anything yet. So
I don't know if it's actually going to
pass or not, but I just wanted to let the
council know that it's something that
we're kind of working on here and
hopefully we can somehow assist in some
way with that little bit of funding from
our veterans program.

So just wanted to let you know, and
I will keep you posted as we go forward.
I've got a couple of proposals on how we
can possibly share this amount throughout
all the county. So that's just it from
me for today, and just that's it. Thank you. That's my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I just want

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I just want
to say thanks. That's great. I wanted
to thank you, Supervisor Veitch. Thank you --

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Oh.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- very much

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- very much

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: -- very much

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Oh, great.

MAYOR KELLY: But going forward, it

would be great to share that cost. But

that --
SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: -- did take care of that, so as far as going forward, it'd be helpful to do that. But for the immediate right now, I did take care of that. So I just wanted to let you know.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: Okay. Thank you. Well, if it does pass, there may even be some more funding available to the city for that for other veterans --

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

SUPERVISOR VEITCH: -- honorary things that we might do. So not just the immediate thing but something else, as well. So thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

Supervisor Gaston?

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

The first item on my agenda is just a COVID-19 update.

Sorry if this is echoey.

MAYOR KELLY: You're a little --

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Our numbers are --

MAYOR KELLY: You are a little
echoey. Why are you in the hall?

SUPERVISOR GASTON: To avoid sitting
in the same room with Supervisor
Veitch --

MAYOR KELLY: Oh, okay.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- during --

MAYOR KELLY: I thought you were at
home. I'm sorry. That's okay.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: No, thank you.

I was trying to avoid my puppy from
interfering in council business. So --

MAYOR KELLY: That's good. Thank
you.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- is it
interfering in your ability to hear me?

MAYOR KELLY: No, I think it's okay.

It's just a little --

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Okay.

MAYOR KELLY: -- but we can live
with it.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Thank you.

So COVID-19 update, our numbers are
improving. They continue to improve.

Our positivity rate on a rolling basis is
down 2.4, which is better than it's been.
This is a result of the city and the county, everyone, working together to maintain follow the guidance, stay home when you're ill, et cetera. So this is good, and we need to continue in this fashion.

Because we are continuing to do so well, the governor has expanded some of the guidelines. And today I met with a number of facilities around the city and the county. The County Chamber of Commerce and Discover Saratoga held kind of a brief forum with a lot of the questions about the opening guidance for events from people from 50 to 150 in attendance.

Some of the details of that still need to be worked out, but the health department is getting some clarification from the state. And fortunately, it looks like -- there are a lot of issues that are going to prevent our events from working the way that we want to, but Public Health is working very hard to make sure that we can open them, and at
least, from the county's perspective, will put as few barriers as possible. And we're hoping to connect them testing and the like to be able to have events as soon as we can get it.

And obviously, I think there are going to be some adjustments that are going to be needed in order to make the details practicable. Obviously, we have city facilities that are rented out for events, and we also have a number of locations around. We rely on a lot of events in the community, and so the County Public Health Department wants to be able to support and work with these businesses to get them open safely and as quickly as possible for our health, mental, physical, and otherwise.

To that end, the best route to getting us opened quickly and safely and removing a lot of these barriers is vaccination. Currently, our supplies are unfortunately still limited in Saratoga County. This is something we work on on a daily basis. However, they are
starting to increase. I do know that President Biden indicated today that Merck will also be producing the Johnson & Johnson one-dose vaccine, and he believes that, based on this work together, that there's going to be enough vaccine to inoculate all adults in the United States by the end of May.

We're fully on board. I will say that each week when we put in our order we put in an order for as many as we can get. We're not getting as many as we're ordering, but we're going to keep going. And I am hopeful, based on the numbers that we're seeing and the way that New York State is starting to distribute that, fingers crossed, we may be able to open a mass-vax site within the next couple of weeks and get people through as quickly as possible.

There are a lot of appointments opening at state sites. So for those that are eligible but are also able to drive to Albany, I do strongly recommend that. They are also offering the Johnson
& Johnson shot there, as well, starting,
I believe, next week at their state-run
sites.

So these are all ways to get people
vaccinated quickly. Hotel and restaurant
workers, which are also a big part of our
economy here in Saratoga Springs, are
currently eligible. Again, we do not
have the doses at the county to vaccinate
all of the populations, but they are
eligible to go to state sites, as well.
I also strongly recommend that
individuals who are eligible sign up at
the county's vaccine interest list at
Saratogacountyny.gov/vax, V-A-X. This is
where, as vaccine doses are available,
sometimes the state requires us to use a
certain number for a certain population.
And we're pulling from that list, and
it's been a very efficient and effective
way to get people in.

We're also using it -- there are
some pharmacies that have reached out to
try and work with us to support vaccines
in certain communities that would allow
us to focus on other areas, and we are also providing information on that from that list.

So if you are eligible and you are interested in obtaining a vaccine, please make sure to sign up. We have amended the interest list as the guidances change. For instance, the governor just announced that food pantries and those that do home-delivered meals are also eligible, and so we've added that. That way, as soon as we can, we can make sure to get each of these groups vaccinated.

We do have the president, in announcing the engagement with Merck and Johnson & Johnson, did also indicate that they are going to be directing states to prioritize teachers. I will say, in Saratoga County, we've already at the forefront of some of that. We were the first county in the state to partner with BOCES to train school staff to also be able to administer vaccines to their own staff so that our schools could be as safe as possible as quickly as possible.
So I'm also frustrated by the number of doses that we have in Saratoga County, and I certainly handle that and deal with that question on a daily basis. But I will tell you that our public health department is ready to go as soon as possible. And actually within the next few days, we'll be running a rehearsal at the City Center because we believe that we're close enough to potentially getting that many doses that we want to start doing dry runs and rehearsals so that we can get that up and running in a matter of hours.

Are there any questions about COVID-19?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well, you know I've sent out an email on city hall. City hall employees deal with the public regularly, so we have people coming in and out of city hall. The courts are still open. We have people walking through the hallways. And I don't know; what's the best way to advocate or just wait? These are people who deal with the
public regularly, for this group to be on
board to be vaccinated. I mean, like May
does not seem that far off to me, so
that's a really positive thing to hear
that we think we're going to have all
adults vaccinated by the end of May.
We're already into March. It's just a
few more months of sort of waiting.

But I really -- I think it's
important. There's a lot of people that
still are required to interact with the
public, even if we are, quote, "closed to
the public". So I'm just curious. I'm
going to advocate for city hall
employees.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Absolutely. I
think that's important. And for anyone
who's watching who isn't aware, elected
officials as a class are not eligible at
this time, and that can be a risk and
concern as we're trying to make sure that
our governments are open to the public.
Same is for supervisors as a class and
most of our county staff are also not
eligible. Those that are, obviously,
it's as a result of health conditions,
though not necessarily information that I
have.

I do think it's important to
advocate. All of the eligibility
categories are determined by New York
State, and I think it's important and a
part of our regular advocacy for VLT aid,
et cetera, to advocate for that --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Um-hum.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- so that we
can make sure that our governments are
open but also the people who are working
in our offices: the council,
 supersisors, and all of our staff who are
working very hard to keep government
going in a very difficult time. They
need to be safe, as well. And the people
that come into city hall need to know
that they're coming into a place that is
as safe as possible.

So I absolutely agree. That is
something that I have passed along in my
conversations with the governor's office,
as well. And I think that's probably the
best way to get it done is to continue to
advocate for it. I will say directly
with chamber is probably the best.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Who?
SUPERVISOR GASTON: Directly with
the chamber, with the executive chamber.
Most of those decisions --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Okay. Thank
you. I --
SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- are being
made at that level.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I
couldn't hear actually what you were
saying, but yes.
SUPERVISOR GASTON: Sorry.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: All right.
Because that was going to be my next
question. I mean, I've got another --
I've got two people quarantined right
now. It's constant, and small staffs and
people getting quarantined because COVID.
They're coming up positive or somebody in
their family or somebody that they came
into contact with. So I do want to be
able to advocate for these people.
SUPERVISOR GASTON: Absolutely. I think it only gets harder, the closer we get to that May and hearing that everybody's going to be vaccinated it's harder.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Um-hum.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: But I agree, and I support that advocacy. I think that people need to feel safe coming in and dealing with our government and our government staff and --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: -- workers need to be safe, as well.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: That's what I think, too. Thank you, Tara. Thank you for all your work on this, too.

SUPERVISOR GASTON: Okay. The second item on my agenda, much like was discussed earlier, the county was also required to engage in the executive order (indiscernible) process. Our recommendations were published on the county's website along with the background material, including survey
responses and the recommendations from
the committee.

We're accepting public comment
through this Friday, March 5th, at 4:25
p.m. Those comments can all be directed
to publiccomment@saratogacountyny.gov.
That is, at this time, the only method
for accepting public comment on these
recommendations.

Most of the recommendations I would
say are actually pretty positive,
although I would say that Saratoga
Springs is ahead of most of them. For
instance, items such as body camera and
car cameras were recommended to be
considered. I know the city obviously
has that, and I know Supervisor Veitch
earlier reviewed that as a part of his
work on the county before I arrived. I
would say that doesn't need to be a
suggestion. That needs to be something
that's implemented.

In addition, there are items such as
collecting demographic data. I know the
city has some of that already, as well as
engaging in de-escalation training. Those are things that are not currently part of the county processes and policies. And I think those are good recommendations, but I think we should make them stronger.

In order to get some feedback on it, especially since the public comment period is so short, I'm having a public forum primarily devoted to this subject on March the 10th at 6:30 p.m. It will be virtual, so through Facebook Live. And all of the information is also published on my Facebook as well as a brief survey. So for those who either can't or are not interested in coming to the forum, you can answer some questions about what you think about the recommendations. And if there are any other actions that you think should be taken, this will help me and the other supervisors as I present the information that I receive when we are looking to vote on our recommendations on March the 16th, as well.
So again, the public forum is on March the 10th. And if you want to submit public comment to the board directly as a whole, it will be March 5th is the end date of that.

And that's all tonight. That concludes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Supervisor. Any other business from the council? Thank --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No.

MAYOR KELLY: -- you. Have a good night, and I will see you --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

MAYOR KELLY: -- around city hall.

(Meeting adjourned)
CERTIFICATION

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

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Amanda G. Stockton

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Vote: 5 - 0