CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS COUNCIL MEETING
PRELIMINARY AGENDA

March 15, 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
Vince DeLeonardis
Tina Carton
MAYOR KELLY: Good morning. Welcome to pre-agenda. Today is March 15th. It is 10 a.m.

Tomorrow evening we have one public hearing, and that is 2021 water and sewer resolution. I'll just ask Commissioner Scirocco to say a few words.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Thank you, Mayor.

Yes, tomorrow night we'll be adopting the 2021 water and sewer rates as we do every year. I can tell you that the water rates -- there will be no changes in the water rates themselves. But the sewer rates which is separate from the water rates, there'll be a four-dollar basic service charge in regards to the increases that get passed on to the city from the county. I can tell you that, from 2016 to 2020, the county raised their rates forty-three percent. We did use some fund balance to try to offset some of that, but they started catching up on us a little bit now.

And just to kind of put it in a
little bit of perspective again, it went
from 2.7 million to 3.9 million. That's
the county portion of the sewer budget.
So again, like I said, there'll be a
dollar basic service charge, and I
can elaborate a little more on that
tomorrow night.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you,
Commissioner.

We don't have any presentations
tomorrow night. Are there any edits or
changes to the consent agenda?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. Thank you.

On to the Mayor's Department. My
first item is a discussion and vote,
annual salary approval for the Saratoga
Springs Housing Authority.

My second item is discussion and
vote, appointment to the Saratoga Springs
Housing Authority.

My third item is discussion and
vote, appointment to the Civil Service
Commission.

My fourth item is an appointment to
the Design Review Commission for an alternate position.

My fifth item is an appointment to the Planning Board for an alternate position.

My sixth item is an appointment to the Zoning Board.

And my seventh item is an announcement, the 2002 Open Space Plan update. And I'd like to bring Tina Carton in to just give us a brief update.

MS. CARTON: Good morning. The City of Saratoga Springs is proud to announce a long-awaited update to the 2002 Open Space Plan. It's been almost twenty years since the city last updated the Open Space Plan. The revision will build on the previous plan by revising those sections that are no longer accurately reflecting the character needs and goals of the community.

The 2021 Open Space Plan update will establish criteria for the expenditure of bond funds; inventory remaining open spaces; as well as identify special areas
for protection, preservation,
conservation, potential parks and both
active and recreational needs. The Open
Space Plan is being developed by the City
of Saratoga Springs, Administrator of
Parks, Open Space, Historic Preservation
and Sustainability, and guided by an Open
Space Steering Committee. City staff
will facilitate the planning process with
technical assistance from MJ Engineering
and Land Surveying.

In the next week, a project website
is going to be launched as well as a
community survey that's going to be
distributed. And we look forward to
hearing from the community to assess
their needs and their priorities for the
acquisition, funding, and maintenance of
open space within the City of Saratoga
Springs.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you, Tina.
Any comments from the council?
Thank you, Tina.
Yeah, my next item is an
announcement: Woodlawn/Shelters of
Saratoga Building update.

And then my ninth item is discussion, Police Reform Task Force. And I think Vince is on here.

So Vince, can you just give us an overview of how this will go tomorrow?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thanks.

MR. DELEONARDIS: Sure. So as I indicated at the last council meeting, the task force has completed their work and provided a recommendation that's available to the public. It's located on the city's website. And we are now going to be reviewing that plan and determining which of the recommendations the council has the ability to implement.

So I have met with all of the commissioners with the one exception of Commissioner Franck who I'm planning on meeting with either today or very early tomorrow. And we will be discussing that further tomorrow and hopefully have a resolution draft available for public review so that the public can have an opportunity to review that and provide
comment and input in advance of what is anticipated to be a special city council meeting on or before April 1st.

MAYOR KELLY:  Great. Thank you, Vince.

Any comments from the council?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN:  I had one comment. I did get a chance to meet with Vince, and I'm making my way through the resolution. Thanks for sending it to me, although you did pull out sections and read them to me as we sat through our meeting.

I'm wondering if we shouldn't have two meetings. I know it's a bigger commitment, but the public never likes it when we have a public hearing the same night that we vote on something. And this is such an important document to the eleven-member task force, plus members of the public. I'm just wondering if we should have a separate meeting to have a public hearing with public comment, of course, some discussion by the council, and then a follow-up meeting a few days
later. Keep the public hearing open if necessary, or just have public comment, and then be prepared to vote on the document.

MR. DELEONARDIS: So I will defer, of course, to council and any determination regarding meetings. The only point that I would like to clarify is, we are moving forward by way of a resolution. So there will not be a formal public hearing that would be open. There will be, of course, the opportunity for public comment and input but not a formal public hearing.

MAYOR KELLY: Right, and that public --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Well --

MAYOR KELLY: -- comment can start right after the Tuesday meeting, and it'll keep coming in until we --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: So can't we have a public hearing if we would want to have a public hearing, or --

MAYOR KELLY: (Indiscernible) --

MR. DELEONARDIS: You can't --
MAYOR KELLY: -- have a meeting with public comment. I mean, I don't know why we have to do a public hearing. I just don't --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I think we should have a public hearing, allow people to have more time than two minutes to -- you don't want them to go on fifteen, twenty, thirty minutes. There's been a lot of public comment already. But this is the first time this is before us as a city council, and we ultimately are the people that are going to vote on this and send this to the state. And I think this rises to the occasion of a public hearing and before the city council, but that's just my opinion.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

(Indiscernible) --

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Isn't the criteria for a public hearing (indiscernible)? Do we need a public hearing for this, or can we just do public comment?

MAYOR KELLY: No, you don't --
MR. DELEONARDIS: You can just do public comment. The governor's executive order actually indicated that a municipality is required to act by local law or resolution on or before April 1st. And we could have proceeded under the local law realm. However, because of the time constraint, we really -- we were provided with the document on March 5th, and we have to have action and provide that to the state on or before April 1st. So because of the limitation on time, if we move or are moving forward with a resolution instead of a local law. The resolution does not require a public hearing.

But to Commissioner Madigan's point, the council can at any time request one. Or you can have public comment; you can enlarge the normal two-minute time but still keep it a public comment. You have options.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: The only thing I witnessed at the March 3rd task force meeting when they were offering
discussion and seeking public input was
that the difference between having
someone come in and state their comment
versus being able to state your comment
and ask a question and have your question
be answered I guess is, like, to me a
very important difference. I think that
there's going to be people who are making
comments, who have questions, and not
being able to answer them in that moment
could cause some frustration.

MR. DELEONARDIS: Well, that
situation aims equally for a public
comment and a public hearing. Neither
are directly affording the public the
opportunity to engage in a dialogue, but
both provide the public with an
opportunity to give the council their
input and comments and suggestions.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Got you.
Sorry, I'm not --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Maybe --

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Go ahead.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Maybe we
should do a workshop then, if there's --
the framework of a workshop seems less restrictive. I don't know. If we were going to pass a local law, we would certainly have to have a public hearing.

I'm looking for a way to allow the public additional input to the city council specifically prior to just putting it on the agenda for a vote. I guess that's -- I mean, I guess they can chime in on Tuesday night and then again when we have the special meeting. I don't know. I think a workshop, public hearing. I think we need to allow time for the public to weigh in a bit more to the city council.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Vince, I haven't read the document in full, but I've read some of the comments over the weekend that came through to the city website. Are the chair -- I think it was two chair members of the task force. Are they going to weigh in on this and then go through this with us?

MR. DELEONARDIS: The chairs and the entire task force has weighed in by way
of their recommendations, and you have
the document that's been approved by the
task force there. The recommendations
are what they are. They're pretty clear.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: And no, I
understand that part. But if there was
questions from the council members on
certain sections, they could explain
their reasoning for it.

And then the second question is, is
it a yes/no vote, or is a situation where
this goes in front of the council and
then they amend it?

MR. DELEONARDIS: So the resolution
that's been prepared is just a draft --

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay.

MR. DELEONARDIS: -- and that's for
council discussion (indiscernible).
Anticipation is that tomorrow evening at
the meeting we will discuss that draft.
I'll probably read it and, based on input
from council, make any edits or revisions
to it and then make that document
publicly available so that the public has
the opportunity to review it, digest it,
and provide comments on it between now

and the end of the month when the special
council meeting was scheduled.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Okay. Thank

you.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Commissioner

Franck, to one of your questions, I have

been watching all these meetings happen

over the last seven months and following

it very closely. And once the

recommendations were made by the task

force, I contacted the co-chairs to see

if they would be willing to make

themselves available if I had any

questions as we finalized this process.

And they were very amenable to that

suggestion. So I can't speak for the

task force, but I would encourage you to

contact them and if you have questions,

see if they're -- see if they can answer

them for you in advance of whatever

meeting we're having.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yeah. I just

thought if the questions were asked on

the Zoom meeting, then the people who
were watching the meeting would also --
that may answer some of their questions.
That's all -- I mean, I know we can reach
out to them directly.

But again, I still have to meet with
Vince, so I don't want to -- because he
might be able to explain most of it to
me, the questions I do have.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yes.

MAYOR KELLY: So going forward, I'm
looking at March 23rd for another special
city council meeting for police reform.
Is everybody okay with that? At 7 p.m.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes, I'm
fine --

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yeah.
COMMISSIONER FRANCK: -- with that.
COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I'm
okay with the meetings that came out.
Just don't be surprised if the public
doesn't think that's enough time before
the city council.

MAYOR KELLY: I'm adding a meeting.
Is everybody okay with that? I just --
COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Oh, you are adding a meeting?

MAYOR KELLY: Yes, I'm adding a meeting. The meeting is all set for the 31st to vote on this. I'm adding another meeting next week at 7 p.m., March 23rd. Is everybody okay with that?

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCO: Yeah, I'm good with it.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I am --

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Yes.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: I have to check my calendar, but I do appreciate the add of a meeting. But I believe I am. What day did you say that was?

March 23rd?

MAYOR KELLY: Yeah.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: It's a Tuesday.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Next Tuesday.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay --

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Yeah, I should be fine.

MAYOR KELLY: Okay. We'll move on
from this discussion.

Thank you, Vince.

And I'll turn it over to
Commissioner Franck.

COMMISSIONER FRANCK: Thank you, Mayor.

We just have two items for tomorrow evening. One is just -- there's an extension of bid for the laboratory services to CNA Environmental, LLC.

And then the second is, again, just an update on the -- there's been no changes, but just another update on the temporary outdoor seating. We've received a number of calls, so we just wanted to clarify a couple of items.

And that's it.

MAYOR KELLY: Great. Thank you.

On to Finance.

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: Thank you.

I'll do an update, my first item, city finances.

In addition, I'm going to add a separate item to my agenda to announce meetings of each department regarding
some 2021 budget amendments. It does look like as I will give the update on city finances that the number 7.7 million that we're going to receive in federal fiscal aid, I've seen two numbers floating around: 7.7 or 8 million dollars. But I believe it is 7.7 million dollars. If that changes, I will update the council. I'm also feeling fairly optimistic about restoration of VLT aid, but we don't have a definitive confirmation or anything on that number at this point and time.

But I do want to sort of canvas the council on some priorities that you might have, or somewhere where maybe we cut your budgets back, like, just too much. And maybe you're just finding some difficulties going forward working within your budget. I know in the Mayor's Office, for example, we really cut into things like flags and, I mean, just these little things that we really cut back on. So I'm going to ask you all to review your budgets, and we'll set up those
meetings and see what we can do about
reinstating some funds as we move through
the rest of the year.

Of course, we're going to need to
plan for union-negotiated salary
increases at the end of December, and we
did budget five million dollars in
federal fiscal aid in the 2021 budget.
But I think this is a good opportunity to
just start looking at the budget process
again. We're already into March, and
this will also potentially help us with
the 2022 budget.

I'll also be setting a public
hearing for the New York State Power
Authority Energy Services Program as to
cost recovery agreement for street
lights. This will allow us to vote on
the night the master cost recovery
contract and proceed with this program.
It's slated to save the city some money
during the fifteen years of the
financing, and after the financing it
will save a significant amount of money,
up to $300,000 per year. And this is in
addition to the environmental benefits that come with this program. It's just moving our lights over to LED. And it's another program that earns Saratoga Springs accolades on being able to at least have infrastructure set to do more smart city initiatives in our streets. Especially if we can have the fiber moving along at the same as the connected street lights, we'll have a good infrastructure platform going forward for future councils.

And that completes my agenda.

Thanks.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you.

On to Public Works, please.

COMMISSIONER SCIROCCH: Thank you, Mayor.

First item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is for the mayor to sign a contract with Morbark, LLC, for the Morbark Wood Hog Horizontal Grinder. That's the grinder that we use to grind up the leaves and debris out to the compost site (indiscernible).
The second item on my agenda is discussion, authorization for the mayor to sign intermunicipal agreement between the County of Saratoga and the City of Saratoga for the management of single-stream recyclables collection. Again, that's a contract with the county. We took over that a few years ago. It's recycling a portion of our (indiscernible) Avenue site. And I believe they pay the city roughly around $35,000 for this (indiscernible) take care of it.

Third item on my agenda is discussion and vote. This is approval to pay invoice number 014338 to SRI Fire Sprinkler, LLC, in the amount of $5,093.12 for sprinkler inspection.

Fourth item on my agenda is discussion and vote, authorization for the mayor to sign a contract with Pallette Stone Corporation for asphalt concrete.

And the fifth item on my agenda is discussion and vote, authorization for
the mayor to sign a contract with
Pallette Stone for crushed stone.

The sixth item on my agenda is an
appointment to the Climate Smart Task
Force.

Seventh item on my agenda is
approval to adopt the 2021 water and
sewer rates resolution.

And I'd like to add one item to my
agenda, which is discussion and vote.
This is authorization for the mayor to
sign a contract with the DEC for street
tree inventory and Urban Forest
Management Plan grant award. And I'll
have more on that tomorrow night.

And that concludes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: Thank you,
Commissioner.

On to Public Safety.

COMMISSIONER DALTON: Thank you,
Mayor.

The first item on my agenda will be
a COVID-19 update.

The second item on my agenda will be
a discussion and vote to accept a
donation.

The third item on my agenda will be an announcement --

Ooh, sorry. Alarm went off.

-- will be an announcement for Public Safety 2020 annual report.

And that concludes my agenda.

MAYOR KELLY: And the supervisors have a few items.

Supervisor Veitch has four items. The first item is government review on efficiency update: Second item is 2021 legislative program; third item is building and grounds update; fourth item is NACo Virtual Legislative Conference.

Supervisor Gaston has four items also: COVID-19 update, Executive Order 203 report, local law regarding a third-party food delivery service fees, and her last item is a NACo Conference and county government month.

Is there any other business from the council at this time?

COMMISSIONER MADIGAN: No. Thank you.
MAYOR KELLY: Then we are adjourned.

Thank you.

(Meeting adjourned)
CERTIFICATION

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

________________________________________
Amanda G. Stockton

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