

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK**

September 8, 2016

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Present:** Mayor James Calnon, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Paul O’Connell (W4), Becky Kasper (W5), Joshua Kretser (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on August 25, 2016 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the weeks ending August 31, 2016 in the amount of **\$ 480,545.58** and September 7, 2016 in the amount of **\$ 106,901.48** are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and the City Clerk are hereby empowered and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the weeks of August 25-September 7, 2016
- Report from the Building Inspector’s office August 23 – September 2, 2016

**RESOLVED:** That the reports as listed are hereby ordered received and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

Discussion: Yes

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the weeks ending September 2, 2016 in the amount of \$ 470,581.65 and September 9, 2016 in the amount of \$ 1,434,448.86 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL:**

**Jesse Feiler** spoke about a grant the Friends of Saranac River Trail are working on and submitted information in to minutes.

**Colin Read** 28 City Hall Place, spoke about the resolution to get help with City Beach .

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Blake Frechette to hold the annual Race for Stace on US Oval on Saturday May 6, 2017.

By Councilor Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to transfer \$17,875 from the Water Fund Transmission & Distribution vehicle parts and buildings & grounds supplies accounts to the materials & supplies account for unbudgeted parts purchases for various water main breaks in the area known as the PARC New Base.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to transfer a combined \$45,000 to the street construction materials accounts within the General and Sewer Funds from various supplies and parts accounts within those funds to provide for curb and sidewalk repairs in the Lake Country Village area of the PARC New Base.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**D. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project H5110.56, 2016 Equipment Purchase, for the addition of a grounds mower and the deletion of a sweeper truck and a 20 ton trailer, netting a decrease of \$17,643 to the project cost, but increasing the General Fund borrowing requirement by \$5,691.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**E. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to revise capital project H5110.41 to include an additional \$10,000 of survey work to be funded by a grant from the Lake Champlain Lake George Regional Planning Board.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Discussion: None  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)  
**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted  
Follow up Action: None

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**F. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to consider approval of four bond resolutions authorizing the City to borrow for 2016's

capital project spending. The effect of these resolutions increases the City's debt service by nearly \$1.8 Million, where \$1.54 Million becomes the obligation of the General Fund.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**G. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves from the City Chamberlain to adjust the 2016 General Fund and Rec Complex Fund budgets for unbudgeted marina insurance costs of \$18,210.00. The net effect of the adjustment increases the appropriations and estimated revenue in the Rec Complex budget and increases the appropriations and appropriated fund balance of the General Fund budget, each by \$18,210.00.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**H. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the façade Rehabilitation Program Loan application submitted by Randy Carter for the total amount of \$10,000. The façade loan will be used to repair wall damages on 124 Margaret Street building in Plattsburgh.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**I. SEQR Finding and Negative Declaration; Marina Expansion, City of Plattsburgh**

The Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh finds:

1. The action is a Type 1 action under SEQR.
2. The involved agencies include:
  - the Common Council
  - New York State Office of General Services (NYSOGS),

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC)
  - the New York State Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation (NYSOPRHP)
  - U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
3. All involved agencies have consented to the City of Plattsburgh acting as Lead agency for review of the proposed Marina Expansion Project under the SEQR regulations and that all comments related to such review have been given proper consideration.
  4. The Common Council has received and reviewed:
    - a) A Long Environmental Assessment Form (EAF) dated July 28, 2016.
    - b) A proposed Findings Statement & Negative Declaration for the above actions.

Now therefore, it is Resolved:

- A. The Common Council makes the findings set forth in Part 2 of the EAF.
- B. The Common Council makes, and authorizes the Mayor to sign, the Findings Statement and Negative Declaration for the proposed actions.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor O'Connell  
Discussion:

**Mayor Calnon and Council** have all reviewed the SEQR.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**J. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Plattsburgh Half Marathon Inc. to hold the Plattsburgh Half Marathon on Sunday, May 7, 2017.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**K. Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration** "Request from Councilor Kasper that the Council consider the following resolution to support a trap, neuter, and return method as an effective way to deal with stray and feral cats"

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh finds that free roaming feral cats threaten the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Plattsburgh, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that free roaming feral cats increase the number of strays and contribute to animal overpopulation, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council seeks to reduce the feral and stray cat population by authorizing volunteers and other interested parties the ability to implement a Trap, Neuter and Return Program (“Program”) as a humane and effective way to deal with adverse impacts associated with feral cats and their overpopulation, and

WHEREAS, through this Program a feral or stray cat would be humanely trapped and then taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped before being returned to the area where it was trapped, and

WHEREAS, the Program will be administered by Animal Rescue and Welfare Services, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit group dedicated to resolving the feral cat issue, which will collaborate with volunteers and other interested parties to develop rules and strategies and shall report to the Common Council one (1) year after the Program’s inception on its functionality and success, and

WHEREAS, any group or individual implementing the Program shall familiarize themselves with, and comply with Article V of Chapter 161 of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh; Section 161-15 of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh; and NYS DEC’s trapping regulations so that any traps are humane and actively monitored; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council authorizes the implementation of a Trap, Neuter and Return Program in the City of Plattsburgh.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a Police Department employee to attend “September 2016 Fatality Review” for the Office of the Prevention of Domestic Violence from September 28 – 30, 2016 in Queens, NY. The total cost will not exceed

\$269.50 and will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture fund and will be reimbursed by the Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

By Councilor O’Connell; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Bill Treacy, Manager MLD to attend “NYMPA’s Board meeting” from September 28-29, 2016 in East Syracuse, NY at a cost not to exceed \$60.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:**

- 1. Request from Councilor Kasper that the Council consider the following resolution to support a trap, neuter, and return method as an effective way to deal with stray and feral cats

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh finds that free roaming feral cats threaten the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of the City of Plattsburgh, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council finds that free roaming feral cats increase the number of strays and contribute to animal overpopulation, and

WHEREAS, the Common Council seeks to reduce the feral and stray cat population by authorizing volunteers and other interested parties the ability to implement a Trap, Neuter and Return Program (“Program”) as a humane and effective way to deal with adverse impacts associated with feral cats and their overpopulation, and

WHEREAS, through this Program a feral or stray cat would be humanely trapped and then taken to a veterinarian to be spayed or neutered, vaccinated, and ear tipped before being returned to the area where it was trapped, and

WHEREAS, the Program will be administered by Animal Rescue and Welfare Services, a local 501(c)(3) non-profit group dedicated to resolving the feral cat issue, which will collaborate with volunteers and other interested parties to develop rules and strategies and shall report to the Common Council one (1) year after the Program's inception on its functionality and success, and

WHEREAS, any group or individual implementing the Program shall familiarize themselves with, and comply with Article V of Chapter 161 of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh; Section 161-15 of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh; and NYS DEC's trapping regulations so that any traps are humane and actively monitored; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council authorizes the implementation of a Trap, Neuter and Return Program in the City of Plattsburgh.

**(Move to agenda under "Other Items" Letter K)**

2. Request from Councilor Armstrong and Councilor Kelly that the Council consider the following:

Whereas, the city beach has experienced unhealthy levels of E Coli and Enterococci leading to closures; and

Whereas, the City of Plattsburgh's Environmental Services and Recreation Departments have vigilantly and regularly overseen tests on numerous sites, and, though many variables are considered as contributors to the problem, the City has been unable to draw definitive conclusions about how to prevent these concentrations of pathogens; and

Whereas, Lake Champlain is a precious resource we share with our regional neighbors who have a mutual interest in its health and preservation;

Be it Therefore Resolved, that the City of Plattsburgh requests that Senators Schumer and Gillibrand of New York, Senators Leahy and Sanders of Vermont, the US Coast Guard, and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation assist the city in its efforts to find long-term solutions for city beach pollution.

**Move to agenda under "Other Items" Letter L:**

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser

(Councilors Armstrong and Kelly voted in the affirmative. Councilors Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper and Kretser voted in the negative.)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

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**10. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilor Armstrong** inquired about the schedule of repairs for Oklahoma.

**City Engineer Kevin Farrington** responded they should have it out to bid [not audible]

**Councilor Dowdle** asked Kevin about the scope of the work.

**Councilor O’Connell** spoke about an update on Wilcox Dock. And he wants a report of what is going on with personnel in city had asked previously, frustrated wants requests taken more seriously.

**Mayor Calnon asked if the Council would like to entertain a resolution on Jesse Feiler’s request to endorse their grant.**

**Motion to waive rule 4 for initial consideration** “support for a grant application for development of an application to educate the public on the history of our power usage and to help them monitor their own behaviors.”

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor O’Connell  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves support for a grant application for development of an application to educate the public on the history of our power usage and to help them monitor their own behaviors.

By Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong  
Discussion: Yes  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None**

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**At 6:15pm: Motion to enter in to Executive Session to discuss litigation with Plattsburgh City Retirees, no votes or actions will be taken the Council will return to Chambers to adjourn meeting.**

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kasper  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O’Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**At 6:48pm Returned from Executive Session and adjourned meeting.**

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Kasper; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong  
Roll call Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, O'Connell, Kasper, Kretser  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:48pm**

# Power Up, Plattsburgh!

Curt Gervich and Jesse Feiler have been working on an app to raise appreciation for the City's utilities including PMLD, the wastewater treatment facility and waste management operations. Our locally-owned utilities are unique, offer numerous benefits over outsourced utilities, and are central to the high quality of life we enjoy in the City.

Our locally owned electric utility, PMLD, is an especially rare and historic institution. PMLD is responsible for the low electric rates residents enjoy (among the top ten least expensive rates in the country, according to the International Energy Administration) and maintaining our secure supply of electricity, even in severe storms when other communities suffer outages. Our local utilities are also key mediators in our relationship to the natural world, connecting us to the planet's finite resources.

The app we are developing will help residents of the City understand and visualize their consumption of natural resources, including water and energy in the City of Plattsburgh. Among other things the app will feature an interactive image of a PMLD bill that will decipher and provide definitions of the acronyms and technical terms on the bill (it is not specific to individual user bills) as well as provide updates to City-wide energy usage—in real time—as the data becomes available.

We believe this effort will increase energy literacy in the community, and help residents become smarter and more conservative consumers of energy resources. Accomplishing these objectives will help the City use less of our preference power allotment, which means we will have more inexpensive power to market to potential industrial projects and other developments as well as reduce our power consumption at peak times so that we save money on surplus power purchases. Additionally, using our energy resources more efficiently will demonstrate responsible stewardship, placing us in a better negotiating position with the state when new power contracts are awarded.



*Friends of Saranac River Trail, Inc.*

[saranacrivertail.org](http://saranacrivertail.org)

[info@saranacrivertail.org](mailto:info@saranacrivertail.org)

Curt is an Associate Professor in The Center of Earth and Environmental Science at SUNY Plattsburgh. Over the past several years he has researched energy systems, policies and planning in NYS, including the NY Preference Power Program, which provides Plattsburgh with its low electric rates. He also co-coordinated the SUNY Plattsburgh microgrid study last year with collaborators at CVPH, Vilas Home, Plattsburgh High School, Plattsburgh Housing Authority and Meadowbrook Residential Home.

Gervich, C., Pitt, D. (2014). *The Sustainability of Preference Power Allocations: an Exploration of the Niagara Preference Power Program through the Lens of the Three E's*. Journal of Environmental Studies and Science. 4:1.

Jesse is an independent developer and author specializing in iOS location-based apps as well as HomeKit and HealthKit projects for iPhone, iPad, and tvOS. He is the author of a number of books for developers and end-users. Recent projects include a risk visualization tool for non-profit organizations (Community Resource Exchange of NYC), as well as an app for visualization and analysis of grant proposals for 1Digit LLC

## Prototype App User Interface

