

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

January 30, 2020

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

(RC)

Present: Mayor Colin Read, Councilors Ira Barbell (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Paul DeDominicas (W4), Patrick McFarlin (W5), Jeff Moore (W6)

Absent: **Councilor Elizabeth Gibbs (W3)**

MAYOR'S COMMENTS: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on January 23, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Dedominicas; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:

RESOLVED: That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending January 29, 2020 in the amount of \$ 484,136.31 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 Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Moore
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of January 21-27, 2020
- Report from the Building Inspector's office for the week of January 22-28, 2020
- Reports from the Police Department for the date range of January 19 - 26, 2020
- Minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting held on January 23, 2020

COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance, Strategy, and City Operations- Chair Councilor Barbell met earlier with Mayor and departments, received updates on Comprehensive City Plan, and from recreation on utilization with new rate structure.

City Infrastructure – Chair Councilor Moore indicated Infrastructure Committee recommends option 5A for Cogan Avenue project. Also, some constituents were wondering why parking ban lights weren't on recently during snow storms. **Mayor Read** mentioned no one from Public Works Department is here to speak on that. Reminded Councilors if they have any questions for departments to send them in advance and they will know to be here to answer or resolve those questions for you.

Finance and Budget – Chair Councilor Kelly indicated no updates.

Public Safety – Chair Councilor Gibbs absent. Councilor Barbell indicated committee has been having ongoing discussions primarily with the Fire Department on staffing levels. The staffing levels are down from 36 to 32 and beginning discussions to possibly add a second ambulance and fill the vacant positions and the second ambulance would potentially off set the second ambulance and operation of Fire Department. **Mayor Read** indicated for public this no change in daily staffing levels it is a minimum of 6 on at the station on a given day at a given station and what Councilor Barbell is referring to is the amount of firefighters that are drawn upon to maintain the daily staffing levels.

Plattsburgh Public Library – Chair Councilor DeDominicas attended Board meeting, things are going well and looking forward to working with them.

MLD - MLD Board President Councilor McFarlin indicated me tonight.

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

By Councilor DeDominicas; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the week ending January 31, 2020 in the amount of \$ 523,521.42 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 Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Moore
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

John Gordon, 93 Saily/PTAA spoke about Item 7J – Landlord/Tenant Committee. In December had received an email from Mayor Read asking him to serve on the committee and thought he would be a member of the committee.

Mayor Read indicated he was soliciting nominations not making offers ultimately it is the council that makes that determination.

Tim Palkovic, 21 Champlain Street spoke about Item 7I - ACCEPTING FINAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT feels it should be voted on after public gives comments, and are able to read on the website and it appears you plan on voting on it before anyone who commented on the DGEIS has been able to read it and make their statement.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the Mayor be authorized to sign Change Order No. 1 to the “Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department (PMLD) Buildings” contract with Ormsby Trucking and Excavating in the amount of \$1,500.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Moore
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Mayor be authorized to sign Change Order No. 2 to the “Asbestos Abatement and Demolition of Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department (PMLD) Buildings” contract with Ormsby Trucking and Excavating in the amount of \$15,991.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
Discussion: Yes
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

C. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council adopts the bond resolution authorizing \$819,000 of debt to be issued by the City on behalf of the Water Fund to provide funding for the capital project H8320-80, 2020 Water System Improvements.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Moore

Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the execution of the agreement for the sale of Niagara Project wholesale power and energy and authorizes the Mayor to sign the resolution. This Resolution will take effect immediately.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor DeDominicas
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a 5 year contract with Otis Elevator for maintenance of the elevator at 217 Sharron Ave. as outlined in the contract for a monthly fee of \$288 a month and that the Mayor is authorized to sign the maintenance contract.

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to advertise for bids for PMLD Bid #2020-2-1 “Propane Operated Forklift”. Bid opening date is March 10, 2020 at 11 am in the Common Council Chambers.

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Moore
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

G. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to advertise for bids for PMLD Bid #2020-2-2 “Natural Gas Operated Power Generator”. Bid opening date is March 17, 2020 at 11 am in the Common Council Chambers.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

H. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves MLD to write-off the following unpaid final bills from:

1. August 2018 in the total amount of \$3,378.55. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .26%. The recovered amount for this period is \$2,536.29.
2. September 2018 in the total amount of \$2,650.41. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .22%. The recovered amount for this period is \$431.16.
3. October 2018 in the total amount of \$1,735.51. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .13%. The recovered amount for this period is \$300.86.
4. November 2018 in the total amount of \$1,252.70. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .08%. The recovered amount for this period is \$1,190.95.
5. December 2018 in the total amount of \$1,562.56. The percentage of write-offs for this period is .07%. The recovered amount for this period is \$1,044.43.

Motion to waive reading and move Resolution

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolution)

Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

I. ACCEPTING FINAL GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR DOWNTOWN AREA IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC NOTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW

WHEREAS, the City of Plattsburgh revitalization efforts will involve several downtown area improvement projects (collectively the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, the Plattsburgh Common Council ("Common Council") determined that the Projects collectively are a Type I Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), identified the potential Involved Agencies under SEQRA and was duly designated as SEQRA Lead Agency with consent of the Involved Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council determined to conduct comprehensive review of the Projects through preparation of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) pursuant to SEQRA and Section 617.10 of the implementing Regulations set forth at Title 6 of the New York Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR); and

WHEREAS, The Chazen Companies (Chazen) prepared a Draft Scoping Document pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.8 and the Common Council, as SEQRA Lead Agency, provided a copy of the Draft Scope to all Involved Agencies, made it available to any individual or SEQRA Interested Agency that expressed an interest in writing to the Lead Agency and provided both a period of time for the public to review and provide written comments on the Draft Scope and a public scoping session to provide for public input; and

WHEREAS, a Final Scoping Document was accepted by the Common Council and Chazen prepared a Draft GEIS ("DGEIS") in accordance with the Final Scoping Document to assess the potential impacts of the Projects, and the DGEIS was accepted as complete for public review by the Common Council on November 21, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the DGEIS and Notice of Completion were duly circulated to all SEQRA Involved and Interested Agencies; the DGEIS was posted on the City's website and a Notice of Acceptance of Draft GEIS and Public Hearing was published in the Environmental Notice Bulletin (ENB) on December 4, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a public hearing on the DGEIS was held on December 9, 2019 and written comments on the DGEIS were accepted by the Common Council, as Lead Agency, until December 23, 2019; and

WHEREAS, a Final GEIS ("FGEIS") has been prepared which includes, among other things, responses to comments on the DGEIS; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Common Council hereby accepts and approves the FGEIS.
2. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to file and publish a Notice of Completion of FGEIS, and file and provide copies of the FGEIS as required by SEQRA.
3. Copies of the FGEIS will be available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office, Plattsburgh City Hall, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, New York and on the City's website at <https://www.cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov/604/DRI-Environmental-Impact-GEIS>.

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Moore
Discussion: Yes

Chris Round, Chazen Companies explained next steps in the process.

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

J. Whereas citizen advisory committees are a valuable means of enhancing the exchange of ideas between City residents and the City of Plattsburgh Common Council; and

Whereas advisory committees are able to focus on a single issue, and are able to provide, through research, recommendations to the Common Council in a timely fashion; and

Whereas, a majority of City residents, including college students, either rent or lease their living space; and

Whereas, the Livable Community Advisory Committee has recommended a careful study of landlord and tenant relations, as well as a review of the City's enforcement of building code compliance within commercial rental properties.

NOW THEREFORE, Be It Resolved that the Common Council establishes a Landlord/Tenant Committee (“Committee”). The purpose of the Committee is to research and review the issues and problems related to the ownership, regulation, and residence within commercial rental properties. Upon identifying issues and problems, the Committee will seek to compile a list of potential solutions that could enhance the safety, aesthetics, economics, and livability in the ownership, regulation and residence within commercial rental properties within the City; and it is further

RESOLVED, that members of the Committee, per the nominations and selections below, will be approved by the Common Council. Each Committee member will be appointed for a three-month term and will serve without compensation. The Committee shall include the following representatives:

- a. Two City Councilors nominated by the Common Council and the Mayor, as ex officio.
- b. Two property owners or managers who provide commercial rental spaces.
- c. Two tenants who rent residential spaces.
- d. Two members-at-large who will provide valuable insight with respect to quality of life, business operations, or livability concerns.

RESOLVED, that the Committee shall vote to elect their Chair and Vice Chair and shall establish their agenda and schedule for meetings at their first meeting; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Committee shall comply with the New York Open Meetings Law and the New York Freedom of Information Act; and it is further

RESOLVED, that at the conclusion of the three month period, or sooner if appropriate, the Committee will present their research, findings, advice and proposed solutions to the Common Council at which point the Committee will be disbanded.

THE GOVERNANCE, STRATEGY & CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SELECTS 9 MEMBERS (LISTED BELOW) TO SERVE A 3 MONTH TERM ON THE LANDLORD/TENANT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO BEGIN ON FEBRUARY 6, 2020 AND EXPIRING MAY 6, 2020:

Councilor Mike Kelly, Council member
Councilor Jeff Moore, Council member
Kye Ford, Landlord
Carol Klepper, Landlord
Shelise Marbut, Tenant
Emily Stacey, Tenant

Bob Smith, member at large
 Art de Grandpré, member at large
 Mayor Colin Read, ex-officio

Motion to waive reading and move Resolution

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor DeDominicas
 (All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolution)

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
 (All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the MLD Board approves MLD Travel Requests for 2020:

1. Line Helper A and Line Helper B to attend the required 1st year of Lineman Training to be held in Fairport, NY at an estimated cost of \$3,025 each for the following travel dates; April 13-17, 2020, May 11-15, 2020, August 30-September 4, 2020 and September 28- October 2, 2020.
 Total \$6, 050.00.
2. Garrett Mastic to attend Battery Maintenance and Testing to be held at Valley Forge, PA from September 13-17, 2020, at \$1,505.00 for the class and travel expense of \$1,120.00. Total \$2,625.00.
3. Finance Officer Kelly Clookey to attend the Accounting & Finance Workshop in East Syracuse, NY from November 17-19, 2020. Total \$490.
4. Bill Treacy to attend the following meetings:

Semi-Annual MEUA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	April 21-23, 2020	total \$ 490
Annual MEAU Meeting	Celoron, NY	August 25-28, 2020	total \$1000.00
Engineering Workshop	East Syracuse, NY	December 15-17, 2020	total \$ 490
Annual NYMPA Mtg	East Syracuse, NY	May 26-27, 2020	total \$ 60
Semi-Annual NYMPA Mtg	East Syracuse, NY	October 27-28, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	February, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	March, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	April, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	May, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	June, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	July, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	August, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	September, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	November, 2020	total \$ 60
Monthly NYMPA Meeting	East Syracuse, NY	December, 2020	total \$ 60

Total \$ 2,700.00

Motion to waive reading and move Resolution

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolution)

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:

Councilor McFarlin mentioned he may be bringing a resolution soon regarding changing some street with traffic lights to stop signs.

Mayor Read suggested these suggestions be sent to **City Planner Malana Tamer** for review.

Councilor Kelly spoke about Cogan Avenue project and earlier Councilor Moore had indicated he and Councilor Gibbs were recommending Option 5A for Cogan Avenue.

[further discussion ensued]

Councilor Moore reiterated that the Infrastructure Committee recommends option 5A for the Cogan Avenue project.

[further discussion ensued, no decisions made, various council members wanted more time to consider]

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:

Thomas O’Keefe, 48 Cogan Avenue spoke about Cogan Avenue project and his concerns.

Sarah Martin, LaFayette Street spoke about her concerns with the Landlord/Tenant advisory committee and gave suggestions.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor DeDominicas

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, DeDominicas, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:10 pm