

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

October 18, 2018

**5:30 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

(RC)

**Present:** Mayor Colin Read, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Dale Dowdle (W3), Peter Ensel (W4), Patrick McFarlin (W5)

**Absent:** **Councilor Joshua Kretser (W6)**

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**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** reminded everyone there will be a Public Hearing on Monday, October 22, 2018 at 4:30pm to hear public comment regarding the Proposed 2019 Capital Budget for the City of Plattsburgh.

**Mayor Read, offers in a gesture of appreciation to the Plattsburgh Farmers Market after another successful season, issued the following Proclamation:**

**WHEREAS,** the Pavilion on Durkee Street is utilized as a Farmers Market each year from May to October; and

**WHEREAS,** the Plattsburgh Farmers Market and Crafters group for more than 18 years have successfully managed and operated their Farmers Market bringing fresh produce and local crafts to our community; and

**WHEREAS,** residents from the City and surrounding communities look forward to their market season; and

**WHEREAS,** the Plattsburgh Farmers Market and Crafters executive committee, and their long time leaders Dick Crawford and Bonnie Gonyo has completed another successful market season which included new events for the community this year; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:** That I, Colin Read, Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh along with others in our community express our gratitude to the Plattsburgh Farmers Market and Crafters executive committee, members and vendors for all of their creativeness and hard work in 2018 and we look forward to 2019.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF,** I have hereunto set my hand and caused the official seal of the City of Plattsburgh to be affixed.

Done in the City of Plattsburgh, New York this eighteenth day of  
October in the Year Two-Thousand Eighteen.  
Mayor Colin Read

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

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on October 11, 2018 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Ensel; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
(All in Favor/opposed)  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(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 week ending October 17, 2018 in the amount of \$ 99,292.25 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 Dowdle  
(All in Favor/opposed)  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of October 9 - 15, 2018
- Minutes from the City Infrastructure Committee held on October 11, 2018

• **COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Governance, Strategy, and City Operations-** Councilor Armstrong indicated no updates.

**City Infrastructure** – Chair Councilor Ensel indicated met last week spoke about various paving projects completed or may be starting weather permitting.

**Finance and Budget** – Chair Councilor Kelly indicated met tonight moved items to agenda.

**Public Safety** – Chair Councilor Dowdle indicated no updates committee meets next week.

**Plattsburgh Public Library** – Chair Councilor Armstrong indicated no updates.

**MLD - MLD Board President** Councilor McFarlin indicated no updates.

**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 Dowdle; Seconded by Councilor Ensel  
(All in Favor/opposed)  
Roll call: Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(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 week ending October 19, 2018 in the amount of \$ 701,537.36 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 Kelly  
(All in Favor/opposed)  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:**

**David Merkel** owns 3 properties downtown in Special Assessment District doesn't feel enough public input on parking plan for downtown and not in favor of the Carl Walker plan.

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request from Councilors Armstrong, Ensel and Dowdle that their Managers Compensation package be approved.

**Motion to Table**

By Councilor Ensel; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle

**Discussion: None**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the Director of Community Development be authorized to sign a purchase agreement with "Profitness & Nutrition LLC" for the purchase of fitness equipment as part of the 2017 Rec Complex Facilities (Capital Project H7220.42) project for 'Gym/Community Room Improvements'. Per the 'Procurement Policies and Procedures for the City of Plattsburgh', the requirement to obtain 3 written quotes for a non-competitive bidding purchase between \$6,001 and \$19,999 does not apply as this purchase is part of a liquidation sale of the assets of "Profitness & Nutrition LLC" and thus there is no viable competition.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Discussion: Yes  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(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 Vienna Ainsworth to hold a Zombie Walk from Farmers Market building on Durkee Street to Trinity Park. Route as follows; Durkee to Broad to North Catherine to Court Street to Oak Street to Broad Street to Margaret Street ending at Trinity Park. The group will remain on the sidewalks expect approximately 100 attendees and are requesting to use Power in Trinity Park. A certificate of insurance is required.

By Councilor Ensel; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Discussion: Yes

**Motion to amend the resolution to add date of event October 28, 2018 with Rain date of November 4, 2018 and \$20 utility fee is required.**

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative to amend the resolution)

**RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Vienna Ainsworth to hold a Zombie Walk from Farmers Market building on Durkee Street to Trinity Park. Route as follows; Durkee to Broad to North Catherine to Court Street to Oak Street to Broad Street to Margaret Street ending at Trinity Park. The group will remain on the sidewalks expect approximately 100 attendees and are requesting to use Power in Trinity Park. A certificate of insurance is required. Date of event October 28, 2018 with Rain date of November 4, 2018 and \$20 utility fee is required.

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(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 Director of Community Development to advertise for bids in response to the “Request for Proposals for Mixed-Use Development Opportunity for the Durkee Street Site in Downtown Plattsburgh, NY.”

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin  
Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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

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**E. WHEREAS,** the City of Plattsburgh Common Council retained Carl Walker, Inc. to complete a study and make recommendations with respect to the public parking system in the City; and

WHEREAS, in crafting the February 2018 Parking Study, Carl Walker, Inc. sought and obtained input from the public, business owners, and residents; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council received and accepted the February 2018 Parking Study at their Regular Meeting held on March 1, 2018; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to explore, pursue and implement various sections of the February 2018 Parking Study. Specifically, the Common Council seeks to efficiently manage short term and long term parking in the City's Downtown District; provide high quality service to residents and visitors; incentivize residents and downtown employees to park at off street locations to increase traffic turnover downtown; and to create a self-funded parking system.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Common Council supports the transition to a paid parking system within the City's Downtown District, which shall rely on technological solutions; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council will explore the creation of a Parking Advisory Committee through a subsequent Resolution that will consist of city staff, residents, and other downtown stakeholders who, guided by collected data, will research and evaluate potential options for enhancements and improvements to the parking system. This Advisory Committee will be required to produce a semi-annual report to inform the Council and the public on the data behind the parking system, including parking behavior as well as a financial summary of the system. Further, this Advisory Committee will recommend parking system changes, including adjustments to rates and enforcement policies; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council will explore the purchase of or improvements to real property to enhance the parking system; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council will explore personnel and policy enhancements to improve the enforcement of parking regulations; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council will explore mechanisms to allow for the new parking system to be self-funded. This may include paid parking spots, with different rates for on-street and off-street parking, including incentives at established off street locations for discounted all day parking; and a mechanism to allow for any surplus revenue collected by the parking system to improve the maintenance, expansion, enforcement of the system, with the tangential goal of reducing the costs of Downtown Parking Assessment District; and it is further

RESOLVED, that the Common Council will continue to seek public input before implementing changes to the parking system.

**Motion to waive reading and move Resolution**

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
(All voted in the affirmative of "waiving reading and moving resolution")  
Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None**

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None**

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**Councilor Armstrong** asked to move Public Comments before “NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS” since the Council was holding Budget discussions after so public could leave if they wanted to.

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**10. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:**

**Rosemary Redmond** indicated she lives in City, attended public discussion about parking study and asked if anything has been decided.

**Director of Community Development Matthew Miller** indicated hopefully soon have a resolution in front of the council to create a committee and outline their duties and responsibilities going forward.

**Rosemary Redmond** asked about the Moratorium on Cryptocurrency and that their may be protection in place to protect the rate payers from being over taxed and what is in place

**Mayor Read** indicated there will be a Public Hearing on Thursday, October 25 at 5:01pm to receive public comments on a proposed local law P-7, a local law Providing Zoning Regulations for Commercial Cryptocurrency Mining Operations in the City of Plattsburgh. The City doesn’t have the authority to set the rates that has to be approved by the Public Service Commission in Albany. They had imposed a new rate structure that required any overages that exceed our quota not be paid by everybody but the group that’s causing the overages the cryptocurrency operators. So we expect that we are not going to see a repeat of last year.

[further discussion ensued]

**David Merkel** spoke about Natural Gas and the city should explore.

**Mayor Read** we are, as you know, in the process of annexing some property for a new location for MLD and for the first time an opportunity for the city to expand and bring on new industries. [further discussion ensued]

**John Seiden** spoke about Parking downtown and it is a challenge, will change of parking prevent development downtown and feels too many police vehicles patrolling downtown.

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**11. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:**

**Councilor Budget discussions continued with Director of Community Development Matthew Miller**

**Councilor Armstrong reminded** next week scheduled discussion on IT and Capital Plan.

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Ensel; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin

(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:35 pm**