

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

November 15, 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), Joshua Kretser (W6)

**Absent:** None

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**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** indicated RFP for Durkee Street were due yesterday and we received at least one qualified proposal. Community Development office will begin vetting procedure and bring recommendations to Council.

**Mayor Read issued the following Proclamation:**

**Whereas**, the government of Plattsburgh, New York, celebrates our local small businesses and the contributions they make to our local economy and community; according to the United States Small Business Administration, there are currently 30.2 million small businesses in the United States, they represent 99.7 percent of all businesses with employees in the United States, are responsible for 65.9 percent of net new jobs created from 2000 to 2017; and

**Whereas**, small businesses employ 47.5 percent of the employees in the private sector in the United States; and

**Whereas**, 90% of consumers in the United States say Small Business Saturday has had a positive impact on their community; and

**Whereas**, 89% of consumers who are aware of Small Business Saturday said the day encourages them to Shop Small all year long; and

**Whereas**, 73% of consumers who reportedly Shopped Small at independently-owned retailers and restaurants on Small Business Saturday did so with friends or family; and

**Whereas**, the most reported reason for consumers aware of the day to shop and dine at small, independently-owned businesses was to support their community (64%); and

**Whereas**, Plattsburgh, New York supports our local businesses that create jobs, boost our local economy and preserve our communities; and

**Whereas**, advocacy groups, as well as public and private organizations, across the country have endorsed the Saturday after Thanksgiving as Small Business Saturday.

**Now, Therefore**, I, Colin Read, Mayor of Plattsburgh, New York do hereby proclaim, November 24, 2018, as:

***SMALL BUSINESS SATURDAY***

And urge the residents of our community, and communities across the country, to support small businesses and merchants on Small Business Saturday and throughout the year.

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 fifteenth day of  
November 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 November 8, 2018 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office.

By Councilor Kretser; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin, 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 week ending November 14, 2018 in the amount of **\$ 101,266.79** 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 Ensel  
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin, 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 week of November 6 -12, 2018
- Minutes from the City Infrastructure Committee held on November 8, 2018

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

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

**City Infrastructure** – Chair Councilor Ensel indicated no updates. **Mayor Read** mentioned the Maine Road portion being done this year is coming to completion.

**Finance and Budget** – Chair Councilor Kelly indicated just had committee meeting.

**Public Safety** – Chair Councilor Dowdle indicated no updates. Next meeting is next week on November 20, 2018.

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

**MLD** - MLD Board President Councilor McFarlin indicated no updates. Next MLD Board meeting is on November 29, 2018.

**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 Ensel; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin, 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 week ending November 16, 2018 in the amount of \$ 987,603.88 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  
(All in Favor/opposed)

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

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None**

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**Motion to remove item 7A from the Table**

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Ensel

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

**A. RESOLVED,** that, except those persons currently employed as managers in the Fire Department or Police Department, all managers commencing employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh

after August 9, 1988, shall receive only the terms and conditions of employment set forth in the attached “Terms and Conditions of Employment of Managers Commencing Employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh After August 9, 1988;” and it is further

RESOLVED, that the terms and conditions of employment set forth in the attached “Terms and Conditions of Employment of Managers Commencing Employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh After August 9, 1988” shall supersede, without limitation, all prior policies, resolutions, documents and other commitments providing for the terms and conditions of employment of managers who commenced employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh on or after August 9, 1988, except those persons currently employed as managers in the Fire Department or Police Department; and it is further

RESOLVED, managers who commenced employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh after August 9, 1988, except those persons currently employed as managers in the Fire Department or Police Department, shall not receive the terms and conditions of employment contained in any collective bargaining agreement.

Attachment: Terms and Conditions of Employment of Managers Commencing Employment in any Title with the City of Plattsburgh after August 9, 1988. The entire text of which has been distributed to and read by the members of the Common Council.

Discussion: Yes

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

Follow up Action: None

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**Motion to remove item 7B from the Table**

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin, Kretser  
Councilors Armstrong, Dowdle, Ensel and Kretser voted in the negative. Councilor Kelly and McFarlin voted in the affirmative.

**ACTION TAKEN:** Defeated

**Item remains on the Table.**

**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the adoption of a resolution amending and restating **PROCUREMENT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH** as set forth in a draft dated 11/01/2018. The entire text of which has been distributed to and read by the members of the Common Council.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**Motion to remove item 7C from the Table**

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves adopting a City of Plattsburgh Employee Handbook.

By Councilor \_\_\_\_\_; Seconded by Councilor \_\_\_\_\_

Discussion:

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted \_\_\_\_\_ Defeated \_\_\_\_\_ Withdrawn \_\_\_\_\_ Tabled \_\_\_\_\_

Follow up Action:

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**D. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a public forum be made available commencing November 24 for a period of 40 days at Trinity Park providing free, equal and unrestricted access for holiday displays. The maximum size is 10 x 10, and requests must be filed with the City Clerk’s office in advance. A \$20 fee for electricity and Certificate of Insurance are required.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Kretser

Discussion: Yes

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

(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:**

- 1. Request for Initial consideration from Councilors Armstrong, Ensel and Dowdle for their Managers Compensation package.

2. Request for Initial consideration from Mayor Read:

Be it Resolved that all managers will accrue .75 days of sick leave per month, which can be accumulated up to 1040 hours, unless this provision is more restrictive than any bona fide written agreement.

Be it Further Resolved that the City will provide health insurance coverage to the verified domestic partner of a manager under the same conditions that the City provides such coverage to other City employees. The City may require a manager and or his/her domestic partner to sign such affidavits and provide such proof that they are in a relationship of mutual support and commitment and that they have assumed the responsibility for each other welfare and well-being as determined by the Mayor.

Be it Further Resolved that an officer or employee hired after January 1, during any given calendar year, will initially receive a prorated amount of sick and vacation days based upon the number of days remaining in the calendar year in which he or she is hired. The following January 1, and every January 1 thereafter, a full year's worth of vacation credits shall be allotted based upon length of service.

Be it Further Resolved that managers shall be entitled to four days of personal leave per year, for any purpose, including bereavement, unless this provision is more restrictive than any bona fide written agreement.

And, finally, Be it Further Resolved that beginning with the first payroll period after an employee reaches the applicable anniversary date, the employee will receive the appropriate longevity payment in equal bi-weekly installments over 26 payroll periods. Such biweekly longevity payments shall not be considered as part of the employee's salary. Employees separating from employment prior to reaching his/her five-year anniversary will not receive any prorated payment of longevity.

There shall be no further changes to any managerial benefits plan or agreement, and this resolution comes into effect on January 1, 2019.

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

**Councilor Ensel** received an email from a constituent concerned that the nonprofit holding a coin drive in front of City Hall in October didn't follow rules, etc.

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

**John Seiden** spoke about City purchase of the Glens Falls building and demolishing it for a parking lot and asked how Council arrived at this decision.

**Mayor Read** spoke about how the decisions were made through the DRI committee and further explained process and that this was part of discussions.

[further discussion ensued]

**Councilor Kelly** feels it will be great benefit to develop the river front property that the city currently makes no

money on.

**Unidentified Speaker** indicated he was sent a survey from the recreation department about improvements downtown and it didn't included anything about this building that the council has been talking about for a year. What was the point of this survey that doesn't include this Glens Falls building?

**Councilor Armstrong** indicated in the parking study and recommendations from Carl Forester's agency there were a number of options for the Durkee Street lot one of which included this particular lot.

[further discussion ensued and a map was shown from the December 2017 community forum]

**Dave Merkel** spoke about City purchase of the Glens Falls building and demolishing it for a parking lot, asked other questions about Special Assessment District and formally asked City to dissolve the Special Assessment District. Asked where money is coming from for Glens Falls Bank building purchase, etc.

**Mayor Read** indicated not from General fund it will come from whoever has to pay for parking downtown and a new parking system.

[further discussion ensued]

**Councilor Ensel** asked Chamberlain Marks for clarification on some Purchase Orders he was reviewing.

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Ensel; Seconded by Councilor Dowdle  
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Dowdle, Ensel, McFarlin, Kretser  
(All voted in the Affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:10 pm**