

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

November 23, 2010

5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

Present: Mayor Donald Kasprzak, Councilors Tim Carpenter (W1), Michael Kelly (W2), George Rabideau (W3), Jim Calnon (W4), Amy Valentine (W5), Chris Jackson (W6)

Absent: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the regular meeting of the Common Council held on November 18, 2010 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(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 November 24, 2010 in the amount of \$ 269,028.79 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 Carpenter; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of November 18– November 22, 2010
- Report from the Building Inspector's Office from June 8 – November 22, 2010
- Finance Department Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for the Month of October 2010

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

By Councilor Rabideau; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

4. CORRESPONDENCE & RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS: None

5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:

RESOLVED: That the bills approved by the Auditing Committee of the Common Council in the amount of \$ 1,407,705.77 are authorized and allowed and the Mayor and City Clerk (where required) are hereby authorized and directed to sign warrants drawn on the City Chamberlain for the payment thereof.

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Jackson
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL: None

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the City of Plattsburgh adopt a “Workplace Violence Prevention Policy & Incident Reporting policy.” The designated contact person is City Chamberlain Richard Marks.

By Councilor Valentine; Seconded by Councilor Calnon
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the purchase and implementation of a time and attendance data collection system for \$80,853 subject to approval of the vendor’s contract by Corporation Counsel

By Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Calnon

Discussion:

Councilor Kelly said the way this is written we are relying on our **Corporation Counsel** to review the contract and make sure that the City gets the best deal possible. I wanted to ask **Mr. Clute** if he would pursue the idea that this would be paid in small amounts as it is implemented across different departments.

Corporation Counsel John Clute said yes he will do that.

Councilor Kelly said for example it is going to be implemented in the **Police Department** first that's my understanding and then other departments later so maybe as each department goes on line we can pay for it and it is worth discussing with the vendor.

Corporation Counsel John Clute said I don't know much about it right now but I will.

Councilor Valentine said our intent really is to implement this for the entire City.

Mayor Kasprzak said yes that he thinks that is correct.

Councilor Calnon said the answer is yes, but, how it's implemented will vary greatly department to department. One of the nice things is it seems to me that this solves each departments major problem they are all different. **Superintendent of Public Works Mike Brodi** is particularly interested in one aspect of this; **City Chamberlain Richard Marks** is particularly interested in another, **Police Chief Desmond Racicot** in some others. So, it may be implemented differently in every department but ultimately it will all relate back to the payroll system which is the key piece to this. How it is implemented will vary and how much we will be implemented will vary. **Engineering** doesn't need a call out procedure; **Public Works** does. So you see there is going to be differences in the level of use of the thing department to department. But the root function of getting all the information in to the payroll system is one that will be shared by all.

Councilor Kelly asked if the price tag of \$80,000 is for the entire City, is that correct?

Councilor Calnon said yes.

City Chamberlain Richard Marks said it is based on 335 people that was this years high count.

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a Police Officer to attend the "Sig Sauer Armorer Certification Training" from December 10- 12, 2010 in Epping, NH. The cost will not exceed \$758 and will be paid out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund (Treasury funds).

By Councilor Calnon; Seconded by Councilor Rabideau

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

- 1. Request from City Engineer in accordance with Chapter 253 of the Code of the City of Plattsburgh and Section 1640 of the New York State Vehicle and Traffic Law that Traffic Zone Designation No. 931 is hereby established, “Exclude trucks, commercial vehicles, tractors, tractor-trailer combinations, tractor-semitrailer combinations, and tractor-trailer-semitrailer combinations from Steltzer Road in the City of Plattsburgh.”

Councilor Jackson asked if this should be moved tonight in his opinion the sooner they get the signs up the better.

Councilor Carpenter he said I like it although I really think a driver is only going to make the mistake and go down there one time.

Councilor Jackson said but if it is posted they aren’t going to make that mistake.

Councilor Carpenter said however on Underwood Avenue up by my house is posted and trucks still go down there even though there is a sign out front saying no u-turn and no commercial traffic they still go down there not as many as used to but they still do.

Councilor Kelly said I like your idea Chris but the reason we do this is so people have the chance to comment. Conceivably there could be somebody on Steltzer Road who says “Gee, I’d like it if I could drive a semi down.” We should give that person the opportunity to speak up about it.

10. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilor Valentine said so I have a question actually for **Councilor Rabideau** I just want him to explain or clarify for me how it is that he can state last week that he wasn’t going to vote on any new practices if that was really supposed to be for the new incoming **Council** and how it was that he was able to vote on approving the passage of the time scanning purchase. How that differs? New practice.

Councilor Rabideau said lets see what did I say last week.

Councilor Valentine said you said you weren’t going to vote in favor of any new practice that really it should be for the incoming **Council** to do that.

Councilor Rabideau said let me go a little further then. I would say if it’s going to involve: candy, fluoride, tree committee that is going to decide trees in the City of Plattsburgh, let me think of some more.

Councilor Valentine said all quality of life issues.

Councilor Rabideau said it depends on what it is.

Councilor Valentine said ok just wants it on the table.

Councilor Rabideau said some of the issues in the past that came up that seem to either are resurrected or some issues that are so far away from the standard of what normal practice would be within the City of Plattsburgh. Such as this is a time clock situation which the running of the departments on a regular basis would affect. Something that would be far fetching I guess I was referring to. So I guess if it's not far fetching way out there. [**Councilor Valentine** said or just thinking outside the box possibly.] If its way out there I guess similar to candy with children I guess I would be voting no or fluoride, which we already covered before, I would be voting no or something that involves trees in which we would like to have discussion of the new councilors whatever the case maybe I'd probably be voting no. I guess it would depend on what far fetching resolution was.

[12-03-10: revised **Councilor Valentine** interjected one statement, **Councilor Rabideau** continued speaking]

Mayor Kasprzak said what is important to some may be far fetching to others and what's far fetching to some may be normal or acceptable to others.

Councilor Valentine said this is just a point of clarity for me and just to be in the minutes, just important.

Councilor Rabideau said to me it will improve operation of the city and that is why he voted yes.

Councilor Jackson said last year when we got the Falcon Seaboard money that we didn't expect we put \$80,000 aside for just this purpose and because **Police Chief Desmond Racicot** went down to the conference this year and didn't go last year and find the software that we are approving this isn't anything really new this is something we agreed to do last year when we set this money aside to do it. That is just my feeling about it.

Councilor Valentine said I was just curious about the statement that **Councilor Rabideau** made last week, just trying to get some clarity.

Councilor Rabideau said I guess I left out chickens.

Councilor Kelly said for **Councilor Rabideau's** information that numerous cities around the nation have adopted chicken legislation so that it is permissible to keep a chicken in your back yard or a dozen chickens in your back yard if you choose to do so. That's not far fetched that makes good sense.

Councilor Rabideau said I think the Mayor answered that he said for some it's not far fetching and for some other people it is.

Mayor Kasprzak said I wasn't answering I just was...

Councilor Kelly said and every year another municipality or group of municipalities decide that fluoride is not a good solution for their water supplies anymore that's not too far fetched.

Councilor Rabideau said I think we have been through that conversation with the Center for Disease Control and the New York health department.

Councilor Kelly said we may go through it again.

Councilor Valentine said I think it's just a matter of respect and not passing judgment on like the Mayor said is what some people feel is an important issue and what others don't. I think that you passed judgment last week and that was really out of line.

Councilor Rabideau said you have a right to your opinion.

Councilor Kelly said well yes as a matter of fact since we are picking on **Councilor Rabideau** here. I have been thinking that from what I understand the President has decided that it may not be necessary to leave Afghanistan until 2014 and he originally promised he would start withdrawing troops in July of 2011. So I have been thinking that we as a **Council** should propose that Mr. Obama stick to his guns and that Bill Owens as our Congressman support this decision to get our troops out of Afghanistan as quickly as possible and at least stick to that July 2011 withdrawal date. And you may say well what does that have to do with the City of Plattsburgh and what that has to do with the City of Plattsburgh is we're sending barrels of money to Afghanistan and we could be using for street repairs and trees and finding out alternatives to fluoride and buying healthy Halloween snacks and paving Park Avenue and everything else you can think of.

Mayor Kasprzak said if you want to bring something for initial consideration I suggest you do that.

Councilor Kelly said I am thinking about it, I am not saying I am going to do it, but I am thinking about it.

Mayor Kasprzak said that's anybody's option around the table.

Councilor Kelly said and I hope that everybody including **Councilor Rabideau** would at least have an open mind about it and consider that yes this does impact the City of Plattsburgh and if we don't speak out about it then the status quo is going to remain the way it is and we're forced to live with it. You might see that before the end of the year, **Councilor Rabideau**.

Mayor Kasprzak announced there will be a Public Hearing, Thursday, December 2, 2010 at 5:15 pm in the Common Council Chambers, to hear public comment on the proposed lease of real property to the Lake City Local Development Corporation.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Jackson; Seconded by Councilor Carpenter
Roll call: Councilors Carpenter, Kelly, Rabideau, Calnon, Valentine, Jackson
(All voted in the affirmative)
MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:46 pm