

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

May 21, 2020
5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

(RC)

Present: Mayor Colin Read, Councilors Ira Barbell (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Elizabeth Gibbs (W3), Steve Brodi (W4), Patrick McFarlin (W5), Jeff Moore (W6)

Absent: None

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Read presented the following proclamations:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, emergency medical services is a vital public service; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams are ready to provide lifesaving care to those in need 24 hours a day, seven days a week; and

WHEREAS, access to quality emergency care dramatically improves the survival and recovery rate of those who experience sudden illness or injury; and

WHEREAS, emergency medical services has grown to fill a gap by providing important, out of hospital care, including preventative medicine, follow-up care, and access to telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, the emergency medical services system consists of first responders, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency medical dispatchers, firefighters, police officers, educators, administrators, pre-hospital nurses, emergency nurses, emergency physicians, trained members of the public, and other out of hospital medical care providers; and

WHEREAS, the members of emergency medical services teams, whether career or volunteer, engage in thousands of hours of specialized training and continuing education to enhance their lifesaving skills; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize the value and the accomplishments of emergency medical services providers by designating Emergency Medical Services Week;

THEREFORE, do I, Colin Read, as Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh, in recognition of this event do hereby proclaim the week of May 17-23, 2020, as EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES WEEK With the theme, EMS Strong: Ready Today. Preparing for Tomorrow, I encourage the community to observe this week with appropriate programs, ceremonies and activities.

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 twenty-first day of May in the Year Two-Thousand Twenty
Colin L. Read, Mayor

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, Willard “Bill” Todd has devoted over half a century serving the City of Plattsburgh by operating and maintaining its water system and protecting its residents, and

WHEREAS, Bill began his career with the City of Plattsburgh water system in the 1960’s and has been a critical part of the operation ever since, and

WHEREAS, Bill has had many experiences in his life including fireman, Fire Department Officer, Town Board Member, Chief Water Plant Operator, and

WHEREAS, Bill has been the Chief Plant Operator for longer than anyone can remember, and

WHEREAS, Bill has navigated the operation through numerous trials, changes, and improvements, and

WHEREAS, Bill has trained and mentored many new operators to help sustain the future of water supply, and

WHEREAS, Bill has reliably led the system through emergencies like droughts and hurricanes,

WHEREAS, Bill personifies the meaning of service, dedication, and reliability,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED: that I, Colin Read, Mayor of the City of Plattsburgh, do hereby praise Willard “Bill” Todd for his life of service and all of his accomplishments and urge the residents of the City of Plattsburgh to join in wishing him a happy and joyous retirement.

And, be it further resolved, that we name the City’s Water Filtration Plant in his honor.

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 fourteenth day of May
in the Year Two-Thousand Twenty
Colin L. Read, Mayor

Environmental Manager Jon Ruff spoke about Bill, offered appreciation and congratulated him on his long career with the City of Plattsburgh.

Chief Plant Operator Bill Todd thanked everyone and wished the City the best.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on May 14, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

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

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 May 20, 2020 in the amount of \$ 482,842.69 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, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Reports from the Police Department dated May 18, 2020
- Minutes from the City Infrastructure Committee meeting held on May 14, 2020

COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance, Strategy, and City Operations- Chair Councilor Barbell indicated nothing to report.

City Infrastructure – Chair Councilor Moore indicated nothing to report.

Finance and Budget – Chair Councilor Kelly indicated nothing to report.

Public Safety – Chair Councilor Gibbs indicated they met today with Chief Lawliss, have meeting scheduled Tuesday with Chief Ritter and asked Chief Lawliss to do a presentation to council next week.

Plattsburgh Public Library – Chair Councilor McFarlin indicated nothing to report.

MLD - MLD Board President Councilor McFarlin indicated nothing to report.

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 Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Brodi
(All in Favor/opposed)
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 May 22, 2020 in the amount of **\$ 1,293,130.25** 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 Moore; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs
(All in Favor/opposed)
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

No one addressed the Council in person, in writing or via email to cityinfo@plattsburghcitygov.com

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a COVID 19 discount for the outdoor seating fee schedule for the 2020 year only to:

| | |
|------------------------|----------------|
| Table(s) fee: | \$ 5.00/table |
| Parking Space Use fee: | \$ 75.00/space |

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Moore

Discussion: Yes

Councilor Moore asked if the parking spaces are in front of a neighboring business that the other business be consulted before space is utilized in front of their business.

Councilor Moore asked for a “friendly” amendment to be added:

Any diagram that exceeds the boundaries immediately in front of property can be approved by Building Inspector only if adjacent properties agree.

(All voted in the affirmative on the amendment)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 Aleka’s Restaurant LLC located at 103 Margaret Street to use **three** parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining, seating subject to appropriate licensing by NYS Liquor authority, and subject to City permits issued by Building Inspector, which may include additional COVID-19 restrictions. All permits must be received prior to barrier placement.

The City is asked to permit the licensee to use concrete barricades with the City installing and removing at the beginning and end of the season. The City will be reimbursed for these services and the cost shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. The requested dates are subject to NYS Business reopening permission – September 30, 2020.

Motion to waive reading and move Resolutions 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E & 7F

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolutions 7B, 7C, 7D, 7E & 7F)

Discussion: Yes

Mayor Read mentioned Carol McLean’s suggestion about closing various streets on alternating days to allow restaurants to have more outdoor seating.

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 approves Hobie’s Sports Den located at 68 Margaret Street to use **three** parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining seating, subject to appropriate licensing by NYS Liquor authority, and subject to City permits issued by Building Inspector, which may include additional COVID-19 restrictions. All permits must be received prior to barrier placement.

The owners will contact Concrete Supply or similar and are prepared to purchase concrete barriers. The City is asked to permit the licensee to use concrete barricades with the City installing and removing at the beginning and end of the season. The City will be reimbursed for these services and the cost shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. The requested dates are subject to NYS Business reopening permission – September 30, 2020.

[See details under Item 7B]

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Olive Ridley’s located at 37 Court Street to use **two** parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining, seating subject to appropriate licensing by NYS Liquor authority, and subject to City permits issued by Building Inspector, which may include additional COVID-19 restrictions. All permits must be received prior to barrier placement.

The City is asked to permit the licensee to use concrete barricades with the City installing and removing at the beginning and end of the season. The City will be reimbursed for these services and the cost shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. The requested dates are subject to NYS Business reopening permission – September 30, 2020.

[See details under Item 7B]

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Irises Café & Wine Bar located at 18-24 City Hall Place to use **four** parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining seating, subject to appropriate licensing by NYS Liquor authority, and subject to City permits issued by Building Inspector, which may include additional COVID-19 restrictions. All permits must be received prior to barrier placement.

The City is asked to permit the licensee to use concrete barricades with the City installing and removing at the beginning and end of the season. The City will be reimbursed for these services and the cost shall be determined by the Department of Public Works. The requested dates are subject to NYS Business reopening permission – September 30, 2020.

[See details under Item 7B]

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves The Pepper located at 13 City Hall Place to use **two** parking spaces in front of their establishment for outdoor dining seating, subject to appropriate licensing by NYS Liquor authority, and subject to City permits issued by

Building Inspector which may include additional COVID-19 restrictions. All permits must be received prior to barrier placement.

The City is asked to permit the licensee to use concrete barricades. The requested dates are subject to NYS Business reopening permission – September 30, 2020.

[See details under Item 7B]

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

G. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council adopts a \$40,000 additional funding bond resolution, thereby increasing the \$930,000 bond resolution adopted by the Common Council on December 19th, 2019, for the financing of the construction of the Arnie Pavone Memorial Parking Lot as a consequence of cost increases supported by change orders approved by the Common Council on May 7th, 2020, for additional appropriations to the total spending now provided for under capital project H5110.65.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Brodi

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 adjustment to the 2020 General Fund budget by \$125,366.00 equally in estimated revenues and appropriations for the unbudgeted cost of drafting the Local Waterfront Revitalization Plan and for updating the City’s Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Ordinance under work to be performed by Saratoga Associates as authorized by Common Counsel resolution 7A adopted on February 20th, 2020, and as further authorized by the signed agreement between the City of Plattsburgh and Saratoga Associates dated March 25th, 2020

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

I. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that the City Chamberlain is authorized to sign a Free Wireless agreement with PrimeLink for Wireless Internet Access for public to use in the downtown area (map made part of the minutes of the meeting). This is a community donation and will be at no cost to the City of Plattsburgh.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Discussion: Yes

Mayor Read recused himself due to conflict of interest.

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

J. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves extending Contract # 2017-8 “Sludge Hauling for WPCP” until May 31, 2021 with Drummac Septic Service for the estimated lump sum price of \$186,224.48.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

Discussion: Yes

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

K. Whereas, the City of Plattsburgh Common Council recognizes Willard “Bill” Todd for his life of service to the City of Plattsburgh, **be it resolved,** that the Water Filtration Plant, is hereby re-named **Willard "Bill" Todd** Water Filtration Plant.

By ALL; Seconded by ALL

Discussion: None

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

Items L and M were added during the Finance and Budget Committee:

L. Whereas, it has been the policy of the City of Plattsburgh to minimize, and where able, eliminate overtime compensation; and

Whereas, in his role as chief executive officer of the City—which includes the direction and supervision of the administration of all departments—the Mayor has directed department heads to constrict, to the maximum amount possible, the use and approval of overtime; and

Whereas, as a result of declining revenue projections for the City of Plattsburgh 2020 and 2021 Budgets due to the Covid-19 pandemic, even, further constriction of overtime compensation is required.

Now therefore, it is hereby resolved, that every department’s unspent overtime budget line item(s), as of May 28, 2020, shall be reduced by 85%; and

It is further resolved that the Mayor is directed to report to the Common Council, for every instance where overtime used and approved, a weekly report on overtime approvals, containing a description of

the unique circumstances that required the use of overtime to allow the Common Council to audit and authorize payment thereon.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

M. Whereas, it is the responsibility of the Common Council to deliver services to City residents in the most cost-effective manner possible; and

Whereas, as a result of declining revenue projections for the City of Plattsburgh 2020 and 2021 Budgets due to the Covid-19 pandemic, all cost saving efforts must be expanded, which includes exploring shared service agreements with municipal partners.

Now therefore it is hereby resolved that the Mayor is directed to initiate discussions with the County with regard to a shared service agreement between the City of Plattsburgh and the Clinton County Government for tax collection services.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:

Councilor Barbell offered the following resolution and made motion to waive Rule 4:

(All in voted in the affirmative to waive Rule 4 and consider this item)

- 1. Whereas, the Covid-19 pandemic has caused economic strain on property owners and renters within the City of Plattsburgh; and

Whereas, the Clinton County Assessor’s Office, as directed by New York State policy, has recently reassessed and adjusted property values in the City of Plattsburgh; and

Whereas, re-assessment increases may exacerbate the economic strain on property owners within the City of Plattsburgh, particularly on commercial property owners.

Now therefore, it is hereby resolved that the Common Council hereby requests that our County and State representatives and Governor pursue a moratorium on real property re-assessments, not just in the City of Plattsburgh and Clinton County but for the State as a whole;

And it is further resolved, that a certified copy of this resolution be transmitted to our County Legislators and State Representatives and Governor by the Mayor's office.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

Councilor Brodi spoke about Budget shortfall suggested Mayor, Council and all employees take a 3% pay cut then no one would lose a job.

[further discussion ensued]

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:

No comments received in writing or via email to cityinfo@plattsburghcitygov.com

Clinton County Legislator Chris Rosenquest mentioned he would 100% support Council's previous resolution to lesson or halt assessments and further spoke about assessments.

[further discussion ensued]

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Brodi; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:10pm