

Presentation at 4:48pm during Work Session:

Jacob Wright representing Skyward presented their plans for development of Harborside.

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

August 20, 2020

5:00 P.M.

MINUTES

Pledge of Allegiance

(RC)

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

Absent: Councilor Elizabeth Gibbs (W3)

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Read presented the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, the United States of America was founded on a principle of natural law that asserts all humans are created equal and hence should have the same access to certain inalienable rights, and;

Whereas, these inalienable rights were not afforded to African American slaves in part until the implementation of the Emancipation Proclamation, in further part until the Civil Rights Acts of the 1960s, and indeed are not fully realized in effect even today, and;

Whereas, women struggled for the right to vote since a meeting in Seneca Falls, New York in 1848, and;

Whereas, their right to vote was not ratified by the U.S. Senate until August of 1920, almost four generations later, and;

Whereas, this 19th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States came into effect when it was officially recorded on August 26, 1920, one hundred years ago,

Whereas, removal of legal discrimination in a woman's exercise of her franchise was one significant step in an effort to remove all the various vestiges of a caste system designed to promote one favored group or another over all others,

Therefore, I proclaim next week to be Woman's Suffrage Week in recognition of the centenary in which one hurdle was removed from a caste system in this country that even today will hold people back because of their race, religion, gender or gender identity, age, ethnicity, or myriad other observable characteristics entirely unrelated to their merit and potential contribution to our society and economy.

Done in the City of Plattsburgh, New York this twentieth day of
August in the Year Two-Thousand Twenty
Colin L. Read, Mayor

[At 5:23pm Councilor McFarlin left the meeting]

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on August 13, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
(All in Favor/opposed)
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Brodi, 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 August 19, 2020 in the amount of \$ 55,867.96 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 Barbell
(All in Favor/opposed)
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Brodi, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

[At 5:24pm Councilor McFarlin returned to meeting]

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for August 11 – 17, 2020
- Reports from the Police Department dated August 17, 2020
- Minutes from the City Infrastructure Committee meeting held on August 13, 2020

COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance, Strategy, and City Operations- Chair Councilor Barbell has been having discussion with Director of Finance will be bringing some information to the Governance Committee at the next meeting regarding automating more the utility bill paying system.

City Infrastructure – Chair Councilor Moore indicated nothing to report.

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

Public Safety – Chair Councilor Gibbs absent. Councilor Barbell are continuing meetings with Police Department digesting data and will reach out to Fire Chief Lawliss to begin discussions hope to have recommendations to bring to Council in early September.

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

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

Mayor Read mentioned a local group is asking to paint artwork on various places in city, such as utility boxes working with MLD and DPW to explore possibility.

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

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, 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 August 21, 2020 in the amount of \$ 425,488.50 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 Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
(All in Favor/opposed)

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

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a budget transfer of \$800.00 from Corporation Counsel Fees for Services (11420000-4440) to Community Development Capital Outlay (16330000-3000) for the unbudgeted cost of acquisition of land adjacent to the Reeves Lane properties owned by the City of Plattsburgh. The budget transfer will not increase appropriations for the General Fund budget and will not require the use of the Unassigned Unappropriated Fund Balance in the General Fund.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
Discussion: Yes

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. THE GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SELECTS BONNIE BLACK TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2020.

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

C. THE GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SELECTS HERB CARPENTER TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL EFFECTIVE AUGUST 21, 2020.

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Brodi, 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 authorizes the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), in a form approved by the Corporation Counsel, with the Plattsburgh Housing Authority and the Samuel f. Vilas Home to pursue a competitive application for an economic development Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) and to authorize the Mayor to execute all necessary applications and grant related documentation.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Moore

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Brodi, 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 accepts and authorizes the property owner to enter into a contract with the lowest priced, qualified selected bid for “Downtown Grant Program – 33 Bridge Street Facade” for renovation work related to the 33 Bridge Street project pursuant to the Downtown Grant Program Administrative Plan.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Discussion: None

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

Item F added during Finance and Budget Committee:

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council authorizes the Mayor to sign a supplemental legal services agreement with Miller, Mannix, Schachner & Hafner, LLC dated August 20, 2020.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, 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 Brodi mentioned a constituent had a concern about water bill and had a 44% increase due to a resolution that was passed in March?

Mayor Read explained Local Law passed by this Council for high demand users.

[further discussion ensued]

Councilor Brodi mentioned he is looking in to special assessment fees and service districts had some questions about the code, etc. **Mayor Read** suggested he speak with **Corporation Counsel Dean Schneller**.

Councilor Brodi asked if the Fire Department had \$1600 in overtime to attend a funeral.

Councilor Barbell indicated there was damage to another car.

Mayor Read indicated he understood the damage was to be paid out of the Fire Fighters benevolent fund.

[further discussion ensued]

Mayor Read indicated it sounds like Councilor Brodi is seeking clarification so they will try and get that.

Councilor McFarlin received a call from constituent who just purchased home and when she moved in found cans of gasoline. How does she dispose of? He also mentioned he has cans of paint leftover from prior owners of his home. How do they get rid of these items? He feels this should be part of a future discussion on hazardous material.

Mayor Read suggested Councilor McFarlin do some research and come up with suggestions however do it in a thoughtful manner to consider the cost DPW would incur for removing these type of items.

[further discussion ensued]

Councilor Kelly mentioned during Tenant/Landlord committee meeting an attendee asked where water and sewer mains are for Underwood Avenue Mobile Home Park.

Mayor Read indicated these questions would be logged on to the city database and contact involved departments.

Councilor McFarlin mentioned possibility if restaurants wanted to extend parklets to end of October due to COVID restrictions on seating, etc.

Mayor Read indicated would need to consult Public Works Department in case there is a snow storm in October and plowing.

Councilor Brodi asked for clarification on an email Chamberlain Marks sent out stating we are 85% in less debt than projected or are we 85% more in dept?

Councilor Kelly said that Chamberlain Marks proposes that today we are approximately \$400,000 in the hole by end of year, however, I predict at the end of the year we will be closer to 1 million or 1.2 million in the hole. He would be happy to show Councilor Brodi the reasons why and one of the discrepancies is there is no set aside for settlement of Union Contracts.

Councilor Brodi asked what the property we are talking about acquiring is.

Councilor McFarlin it is small piece of property that is owned by the US Air Force and it is surrounded by City owned property up near Reeves Lane.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:04 pm