

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 8, 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: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on October 1, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
(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 October 7, 2020 in the amount of **\$ 458,167.76** 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 Moore; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs
(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:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for September 15 - 28, 2020
- Report from the Building Inspector's office for the week of September 23 - October 6, 2020
- Minutes from the Governance, Strategy & City Operations Committee meeting held on October 1, 2020
- Report from the City Clerk's Office of all monies received during the month of September 2020 in the total amount of \$7,681.00

COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

[some reports given during work session]

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

City Infrastructure – Chair Councilor Moore met tonight nothing more to report.

Finance and Budget – Chair Councilor Kelly mentioned the Council has received the Mayor’s budget earlier this week, proposes the following budget session schedule during committee meetings:

- October 15: Finance department
- October 22: Public Safety departments
- October 29: Library/MLD
- November 5: Governance, Strategy & City Operations departments
- November 12: City Infrastructure departments
- November 19: Budget vote

Asked Council if they are going to make changes to the Mayor’s budget they do so in the form of budget resolutions and anything that increases expenses would like to find savings elsewhere so that we maintain the structural balance of the budget and also deliver the savings that we want to deliver to our taxpayers.

[further discussion ensued]

Public Safety – Chair Councilor Gibbs indicated nothing to report.

Plattsburgh Public Library – Chair Councilor McFarlin indicated Library is not open to public still evaluation situation, curbside pickup continues.

MLD - MLD Board President Councilor McFarlin indicated nothing to report. MLD Board meeting will be held on the last Thursday of the month.

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 Kelly; 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 October 9, 2020 in the amount of \$ 390,607.69 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 Barbell

(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:

Justin Ihne, CEO Plattsburgh/Malone YMCA spoke about Agenda item E and their proposal.

Councilor Kelly appreciated their willingness to work with the city to craft a really good program.

Mayor Read concerned that the YMCA’s response to the RFP did not give a price.

[further discussion ensued]

John Seiden suggested council provide a bigger space to hold meetings.

Unidentified Speaker began to speak about his feelings on the recent budget proposal.

Mayor Read indicated this public comment period is for agenda items only and the speaker would need to wait until the second public comment period on any item, which comes later in the agenda.

Sylvie Beaudreau spoke about Item 7B and the costs they have calculated since 2019 spent on the Prime project and council would not have to be cutting from budget if they had not spent a similar amount on the Prime project.

Terry Broderick feels meetings should be held upstairs, also holding a public hearing on the budget at 2pm does not allow public to attend because they would be working.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves that all outdoor seating and parking space barriers will be removed on or by October 19, 2020. This shall only apply to the 2020 year.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: Yes

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

(Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin and Moore voted in the affirmative. Councilor Brodi voted in the negative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

B. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Mayor is authorized to sign a Legal Services Agreement Addendum dated October 5, 2020 with Miller, Mannix, Schachner and Hafner, LLC.

By Councilor Moore; 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

C. RESOLVED: That in accordance with the request the Common Council hereby agrees to and authorizes CDM Smith Amendment 4 – WRRF Façade Architectural in a not to exceed amount of \$85,000 dated October 6, 2020. Funding is from the WRRF Mitigation capital project with WIIA grant and financing.

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

D. RESOLVED: That in accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the construction contract for “Sanitary Sewer Replacement” to be completed as part of the DRI’s improvements to the Betty Little Arts Park be awarded to the low bidder, Luck Brothers, Inc., in the amount of \$160,838.00 and authorizes the Mayor to execute all necessary documents.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

Discussion: None

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

(Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi and Moore voted in the affirmative. Councilor McFarlin voted in the negative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

E. WHEREAS, the City issued an Request for Proposals for a “Recreation Center Operation & Building License”; and

WHEREAS, the YMCA of Plattsburgh submitted a proposal in response which has been selected by a review committee to be the most promising of all submitted proposals.

RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council authorizes the Director of Community Development to enter into discussions with the YMCA of Plattsburgh to draft an agreement for that organization’s operation and management of the City Recreation Center. That agreement shall be subject to final approval by the Common Council.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

Discussion: Yes

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

(Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi and Moore voted in the affirmative. Councilor McFarlin recused himself)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Mayor is authorized to sign an agreement with Elevate518, LLC for management of the Crete Memorial Civic Center.

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

8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:

Councilor Gibbs spoke further about the budget and the Public Hearing being held at 2pm. She is not able to attend; Councilor Brodi and McFarlin indicated they are not able to attend next week.

[further discussion ensued]

Mayor Read spoke about experiencing a heightened level of COVID activity, will continue to speak about his concern for taxpayers and creating as much affordability for our struggling taxpayers as possibly can, spoke about DRI. [further comments followed]

Councilor McFarlin spoke about DRI, comments that budget woes are related to DRI feels that is misleading, or that the reason the Mayor’s proposed budget is looking to cut public safety has nothing to do with the DRI. and we haven’t voted on any budget for next year.

Mayor Read indicated he does not think we have budget woes we are trying to put the budget in a better position to be sustainable in the future. And we aren’t cutting departmental personnel we are looking for people to retirement and for every person that retires put someone in the academy at a lower cost.

[further discussion ensued]

Councilor Kelly spoke about Moodys rating and they lay out the factors that could lead to an upgrade in their rating vs factors that can lead to a downgrade and there are so many things that we have done that they appreciate and things we should avoid.

[further discussion ensued]

Unidentified Speaker interrupted discussion and asked that the council stop self-congratulating and get on with the meeting there are people outside who would like to speak with you.

[further discussion ensued]

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:

Doug (speaker last name not audible) Business owner in City spoke in support of Public Safety.

Mayor Read discussed to clarify statements regarding succession plan for retirements.

Seth Silver asked about where \$900,000 cuts are coming from, spoke about emails with councilor Kelly on data on that.

Councilor Kelly indicated he and Councilor Barbell are available to meet with him next week.

Chris Rosenquest, County Legislator, downtown business owner and Mayoral candidate in City of Plattsburgh spoke about Budget process and it should be public, discussions with Department Heads should be held publicly.

Denise Duprey Business owner in City spoke about defunding Police Department and in support of Police Department.

Emily Stacey Chair of Public Safety Citizens Review Panel and Landlord/Tenant Committee, gave notice of her resignation from Public Safety Citizens Review Panel.

Unidentified Speaker offered comments that this administration has systematically sidelined and mislead the public.

(speaker first name not audible) Eldridge spoke about concerns with the budget Mayor recently released.

Officer Miller from Plattsburgh City Police Department Community Service Center spoke about staffing at Police Department, gave examples of situations that police respond to and his concerns.

Joan Janson spoke about Council’s decision on School Resource Officers and not speaking with School district or constituents. And feels physical set up for meetings is not fair and allowing for public participation.

John Seiden spoke about the Prime project and feels not it would hurt his business.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:46 pm