

**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE
AUGUST 27, 2020
CITY OF PLATTSBURGH COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS
MINUTES
4:15 PM**

Roll Call: Chair Councilor Gibbs, Councilor Barbell and Mayor Read

Others Present: Councilor Kelly, Councilor Brodi, Councilor McFarlin, Councilor Moore [*arrived after Roll Call*]

Absent: None

1. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILORS:

Councilor Gibbs invited SUNY Police Chief Patrick Rascoe to speak.

Councilor McFarlin recused himself and would not participate in discussion as he represents a college student in a disciplinary matter from a recent party.

SUNY Police Chief Patrick Rascoe spoke about measures SUNY Police Department is taking in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department and City Police and plans to mitigate risks. Presented a safety notice they provided to all SUNY students which is made part of the minutes of this meeting.

Police Chief Ritter gave updates and answered Councilor questions from Police Department.

Fire Chief Lawliss gave updates and answered Councilor questions from Fire Department.

Building Inspector McMahan gave updates and answered Councilor questions from Building Inspectors office.

2. AGENDA ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD FROM DEPARTMENTS TO BE APPROVED BY COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL:

1. Request from Police Chief Ritter to renew the contract with Plattsburgh Housing Authority for the provision of Supplemental Police Services by a Plattsburgh Police Officer (September 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021). The total revenue for the City is billed on a monthly basis to cover the cost of our officer. There is no change in the contract provisions or reimbursement cost from 2020.
2. Request from the City Chamberlain to transfer \$1,425.00 within the General Fund Zoning

appropriations from Materials and Supplies and Training and Education to Contract Services for increased advertising costs for public meeting notices caused by the extra restrictions stemming from the Corona Virus Epidemic.

3. Request from the City Chamberlain to increase General Fund Estimated Revenues for the refund of the Police Department cost for the City wide camera system and to increase the Police Department Motor Vehicle appropriations to provide for the purchase, instead of leasing, of two vehicles in 2020. The budget transfers and estimated revenue recognition will provide for the total increase necessary to purchase the motor vehicles requiring no increase to the 2020 General Fund budget.
4. Request that the meeting time of the Governance, Strategy and City Operations committee scheduled for Thursday, September 3, 2020 will be changed to begin at 4:00pm pm. The Regular Common Council meeting time will be changed to begin at 5:30pm.
5. Request from the City Chamberlain to amend the City's Cafeteria Plan at a total cost of \$300 to include the IRS change to Section 125 cafeteria plans issued under Notice 2020-29, allowing for employee mid-year election changes to their health flexible spending and dependent care flexible spending accounts due to the impacts to these employee flexible spending accounts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. Request from Police Chief Ritter that the Mayor and Police Chief Ritter be authorized to sign a contract with Plattsburgh City School District for "School Resource Officer" for the 2020-2021 school year. There is no change from the contract of last year.
7. Request from Councilor Moore to authorize the City Chamberlain to revise capital project H5110.74, 2020 Equipment Purchase, by increasing the appropriation by \$175,000 for an additional equipment item to be purchased in the form of a large municipal tractor with a plow to be funded by the NYS CHIPS program.
8. Request that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Memo of Understanding with the YMCA, in a form approved by the Corporation Counsel, to allow for their use of the Melissa Penfield Park and Peter S. Blumette Park, for their Youth Soccer program for the fall of 2020.
9. Request that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Memo of Understanding with the Plattsburgh Baseball Club, in a form approved by the Corporation Counsel, to allow for their use of the Melissa Penfield Park for their Youth / Adult Soccer program for the fall of 2020.
10. Request that the Mayor be authorized to sign a Memo of Understanding with the Plattsburgh Football Club, in a form approved by the Corporation Counsel, to allow for their use of the US Oval, Melissa Penfield Park, and Peter S. Blumette Park for their Youth Soccer program for the fall of 2020.
11. Request from Police Chief Ritter for one Police Department employee to attend the "Axon Training Instructor Course" from September 16-18, 2020, in Edison, NJ. The total cost will not exceed \$1,015.50 and it will be expensed out of the Asset Forfeiture Fund.

By Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Gibbs, Councilor Barbell and Mayor Read

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. OLD BUSINESS: None

4. NEW BUSINESS: None

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Barbell; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Gibbs, Councilor Barbell and Mayor Read

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:47 pm



SAFETY NOTICE

Across the Nation, students are returning to their college campuses, emerging from their house arrest, and jumping headfirst into the college life they previously experienced or believe they deserve. And they are transmitting COVID at alarming rates. COVID is dangerous. It is dangerous to people, dangerous to economies, and dangerous to people's livelihoods.

COVIDIS TRANSMITTED AT PARTIES !!!!!

Gatherings, of any size, are perfect situations for one person to infect many. Many will infect many more. It has happened all summer long with the same results. Parties result in the spread of COVID. Transmission rates go up, hospital space shrinks, we revert from Phase 4 to Phase 3, everybody goes home campus is closed. It's that simple.

DO NOT ATTEND OR HOST PARTIES !!!!!

Parties or other gatherings that are of an occupancy that will not permit social distancing are illegal and can result in being ticketed by police and referred to student conduct for adjudication. Any situation on your property, inside or out, which endangers others or the community will result in charges. This could include gatherings with people who don't reside with you, where occupancy prevents social distancing from being maintained and/or no face coverings are worn. The sanctions can be severe. In addition to fines of up to \$2000 for an arrest, campus sanctions can include loss of housing privileges, suspension, and even dismissal. Clubs, Organizations, and Athletic Teams can receive reprimands through withdrawal of recognition or forfeiture of the entire athletic season. There is no way you will be able to have a safe party so please don't try.

HOW TO HAVE FUN

It is going to be different. I admit that it may not be as fun. You WON'T be able to invite people over for parties. You CAN enjoy the company of the people you live with. You SHOULD develop a small friend group and stick with them. No outsiders. You CAN do outdoor activities like hiking, bicycling, and going out to eat or get coffee. There is NO WAY (at this time) to do it the way you are used to. That way is unsafe, illegal, and could result in somebody's death. Please help us.

IF YOU REFUSE TO DO ANY OF THESE THINGS, YOU ARE WARNED, BUT AT LEAST DO THIS:

- **Wear your mask around others.**
- **Do your best to stay at least 6 feet from others.**
- **Wash your hands!**
- **Stay home when you are sick.**