

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL  
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK  
NOVEMBER 5, 2020  
5:00 P.M.**

**MINUTES**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

(RC)

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

**Absent:** None

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**MAYOR'S COMMENTS:** None

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**1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:**

**RESOLVED:** That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on October 29, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Brodi; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

(All in Favor/opposed)

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

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**2. PAYROLLS OF VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the payrolls of the various Departments of the City of Plattsburgh for the week ending November 4, 2020 in the amount of \$ 463,979.09 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)

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**3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- Reports from the Police Department dated November 2, 2020
- Report from the City Clerk's Office of all monies received during the month of October 2020 in the total amount of \$6,643.25

**COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Governance, Strategy, and City Operations-** Chair Councilor Barbell indicated met tonight budget sessions with City Clerk and Community Development offices, will finish Community Development office after Council meeting.

**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 nothing to report.

**Plattsburgh Public Library** – Chair Councilor McFarlin indicated Plattsburgh Public Library Board is looking to fill one position on the board.

**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)

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**4. CORRESPONDENCE OR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM BOARDS:**

**Correspondence received from the Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel:**

At the Regular Meeting of the Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel, held November 2, 2020, the following was approved:

**RESOLVED:** The Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel requests that the Common Council extend the deadline of December 31, 2020, set forth in the Common Council resolution of June 25, 2020, which created the Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel, for ratification or adoption of the plan based on the recommendations of this Panel, which is required by Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 203, to be completed on April 1, 2021.

Motion by Bonnie Black; Seconded by Amanda Bulris-Allen

Roll call: Hilary Rogers, Maxine Perry, Bonnie Black, Levi Ritter, Amanda Bulris-Allen, Herb Carpenter

(All voted in the affirmative)

Absent: Michelle Cromwell, Wilbel Brewer, Jaime Douthat

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**Discussion:** Yes

**Mayor Read** mentioned that the Governor actually wanted cities to put in place actions by April 1, 2021.

**Councilor Gibbs** concerned no date given and wanted update from Panel.

[further discussion ensued]

**RESOLVED:** The Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel requests that the Common Council extend the deadline of December 31, 2020, set forth in the Common Council resolution of June 25, 2020, which created the Public Safety Citizen’s Review Panel, for ratification or adoption of the plan based on the recommendations of that Panel, which is required by Governor Cuomo’s Executive Order 203, to be completed on April 1, 2021.

**Corporation Counsel amended above wording after Councilor discussion:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves extending the deadline of December 31, 2020, set forth in the Common Council resolution of June 25, 2020, to transmit the recommendations of this Panel to the Council on or before February 11, 2021.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Discussion: None

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the week ending November 6, 2020 in the amount of \$ 3,916,261.86 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)

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**6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None**

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. ADOPTION OF LOCAL LAW P-5 OF 2020:** A local law amending and replacing in its entirety Chapter 116 “Alarm Systems” as set forth in City Code of the City of Plattsburgh.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon approval by the Mayor and filing with the New York Secretary of State. The entire text of which has been distributed to and read by the members of the Common Council, is hereby enacted without the reading thereof and a copy of said local law is made part of the minutes of this meeting.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Discussion: Yes

**Motion to Table:**

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**B. 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 Apartment Renovations” for renovation work related to the 33 Bridge Street project pursuant to the Downtown Grant Program Administrative Plan.

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Moore

Discussion: **Project Coordinator Ethan Vinson** asked Council to table for time to review bids received.

**Motion to Table:**

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Tabled

Follow up Action: None

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**C. 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 bids for the “Downtown Grant Program – 15 Clinton Street Renovations” for electrical, roofing, sprinkler system & water main service renovation work related to the 15 Clinton Street project pursuant to the Downtown Grant Program Administrative Plan.

**Motion to waive reading and move Resolution**

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs  
(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolution)

Discussion: Yes

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**D. RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF PROPERTY ASSESSMENT CASES FILED BY GEORGIA PACIFIC CONSUMER OPERATIONS, LLC**

WHEREAS, Georgia Pacific Consumer Operations, LLC (“Petitioner”), filed Article 7 Real Property Assessment Review cases against the City challenging the 2016 through 2020 assessments on real property located at Margaret Street, Weed Street and Cumberland Avenue, City of Plattsburgh, New York, and identified as the five following Tax Map Parcel Nos.: 207.8-1-17, 207.8-1-16, 207.11-1-27, 207.12-3-3, 207.11-1-24; and

WHEREAS, it is the best interests of the City to avoid the significant costs that would result if the litigation continues to Trial; and

WHEREAS, the following settlement terms which the Council believes to be fair, equitable and advantageous to the City, have been negotiated with Petitioners; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby approves the proposed settlement of the tax assessment cases filed by Petitioner for the 2016 through 2020 assessment rolls as follows:

- 1) The 2016 and 2017 Proceedings will be dismissed in their entirety without reduction of the assessments or refunds.
- 2) The 2018, 2019 and 2020 assessments on Tax Map Parcels #207.8-1-16 and #207.8-1-17 shall be reduced to a combined assessment of \$11,000,000, with refunds to be paid accordingly.
- 3) The combined assessed value on Tax Map Parcels #207.8-1-16 and #207.8-1-17 will be set at \$11,000,000 for the 2021, 2022 and 2023 assessment rolls, with the exceptions set forth at RPTL Section 727(2) to apply.
- 4) The assessments on Tax Map Parcels 207.11-1-24, 207.12-3-3 and 207.11-1-27 shall not be reduced and shall remain at their current assessments through the 2023 assessment roll, with the exceptions set forth at RPTL Section 727(2) to apply.

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that unless otherwise ordered by the Court, refunds based upon the assessment reductions shall be paid without interest provided they are paid within ninety (90) days after Petitioner serves a copy of the filed Stipulation and Order of Settlement on the City and other municipal taxing authorities; and

BE IT FURTHER, RESOLVED, that the Common Council further authorizes and directs the Mayor, City Assessor, Corporation Counsel and/or its Special Counsel to execute settlement documents and take any additional steps necessary to effectuate the settlement in accordance with the terms of this Resolution.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs  
Discussion:

**Mayor Read** mentioned GP was a good partner in working on this and worked with School District and County as it affects all three jurisdictions. Also, has not heard how the School District feels they have not responded the County has been an excellent partner in this.

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

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None**

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**9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None**

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**10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:**

**Councilor Gibbs** spoke of her concerns with October budget, Civil Service implications, department changes, Charter changes, financial implications, objects to November 19 deadline for voting on budget and wants access to City Chamberlain to ask questions. There is no way she can get behind this budget.

[further discussion ensued]

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:**

**Joan Janson** thanked Councilor Gibbs for speaking up for us, Council should use money wisely, public not demanding budget cuts, want same budget as last year.

**David Yokum** spoke of his concerns about closing finance window for in person payments some people can only pay on the due date.

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor Brodi

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 6:08 pm**

*[Note: Council continued 2021 Budget Sessions with Community Development Office after Council meeting adjourned]*