

[Note: Director of Community Development Matthew Miller and Chazen Companies Project Lead Chris Round provided comments during work session about Item 7A “accepting Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement as complete for public review, scheduling public comment period and public hearing and authorizing public notices in accordance with requirements of State Environmental Quality Review Act.”]

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

November 21, 2019
5:30 P.M.

MINUTES

**Pledge of Allegiance
(RC)**

Present: Mayor Colin Read, Councilors Rachelle Armstrong (W1), Mike Kelly (W2), Elizabeth Gibbs (W3), Patrick McFarlin (W5), Jeff Moore (W6)

Absent: **Councilor Peter Ensel (W4)**

MAYOR’S COMMENTS: mentioned outstanding budget hearings just completed and going on for about 6 weeks in the committee structure, really appreciates the significant contributions that each committee has made in making this budget much stronger, appreciate Councilor Kelly’s graphs that show the progress we are making on this approach and the approach seems to be working. Each year we have been able to meet some very challenging goals we’ve set out in our 5 and 10 year plan. Finally, getting to that point approaching a fund balance that is acceptable. So careful in how we spend money and always looking for efficiencies. Really appreciate the council’s work. Acknowledged newly elected Councilor from Ward 1, Ira Barbell.

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on November 14, 2019 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office

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

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 November 20, 2019 in the amount of **\$ 519,186.07** 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 Gibbs
(All in Favor/opposed)

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

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for the week of November 12 - 18, 2019
- Report from the Building Inspector’s office for the week of November 13 - 19, 2019
- Reports from the Police Department dated November 18, 2019
- Minutes from the City Infrastructure Committee meeting held on November 14, 2019

- **COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:**
[meeting reports provided during work session]

Governance, Strategy, and City Operations- Chair Councilor Armstrong indicated no updates.

City Infrastructure – Chair Councilor Moore mentioned Protection Avenue got paved before winter took over and good year for paving and infrastructure repair work. Thanked the Mike’s and Public Works for all of the work they did this year.

Finance and Budget – Chair Councilor Kelly met tonight, wrapped up budget, voting next week, will update 5 and 10 year plan.

Public Safety – Chair Councilor Gibbs asked for update on Code Enforcement Officer, proposed salary and Local Law for Rental Registry. **Building Inspector McMahan** indicated they are working out details, should have Local Law to introduce next week.

Plattsburgh Public Library – Chair Councilor Ensel absent no report.

MLD - MLD Board President Councilor McFarlin indicated Protection Avenue almost done. Also, mentioned large Bitcoin operator relocated to Massena for winter. [further discussion ensued]

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

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 November 22, 2019 in the amount of **\$ 647,544.38** 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 Armstrong
(All in Favor/opposed)
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY:

Joe Lotemplio from Press Republican, they had a water main break which was there responsibility had great cooperation and help from Public Works, City Attorney and City Clerk.

7. OTHER ITEMS:

A. ACCEPTING DRAFT GENERIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT AS COMPLETE FOR PUBLIC REVIEW, SCHEDULING PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD AND PUBLIC HEARING AND AUTHORIZING PUBLIC NOTICES IN ACCORDANCE WITH REQUIREMENTS OF STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT

WHEREAS, the City of Plattsburgh revitalization efforts will result in several downtown area improvement projects (collectively the “Projects”); and

WHEREAS, the Plattsburgh Common Council ("Common Council") determined that the Projects collectively are a Type I Action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA), identified the potential Involved Agencies under SEQRA and was duly designated as SEQRA Lead Agency with consent of the Involved Agencies; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council determined to conduct comprehensive review of the Projects through preparation of a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) pursuant to SEQRA and Section 617.10 of the implementing Regulations set forth at Title 6 of the New York Compilation of Codes, Rules and Regulations (NYCRR); and

WHEREAS, The Chazen Companies prepared a Draft Scoping Document pursuant to 6 NYCRR Section 617.8 and the Common Council, as SEQRA Lead Agency, provided a copy of the Draft Scope to all Involved Agencies, made it available to any individual or SEQRA Interested Agency that expressed an interest in writing to the Lead Agency and provided both a period of time for the public to review and provide written comments on the Draft Scope and a public scoping session to provide for public input; and

WHEREAS, a Final Scoping Document was accepted by the Common Council and Chazen has prepared a Draft GEIS ("DGEIS") in accordance with the Final Scoping Document to assess the potential impacts of the Projects;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AS FOLLOWS:

1. The Common Council hereby accepts and approves the DGEIS as complete for public review.
2. A Public Hearing on the DGEIS will be held on the 9th day of December, 2019 at 5:00 p.m. in the

Common Council chambers of Plattsburgh City Hall, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.

3. Written comments will be accepted on the DGEIS during the public comment period until 2:00 p.m. on December 23, 2019 and must be submitted in writing to the Plattsburgh Common Council, c/o Beth Carlin, Mayor’s Office, Plattsburgh City Hall, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, New York 12901.
4. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to file a Notice of Completion of DGEIS and Notice of Public Hearing and provide copies of the DGEIS as required by SEQRA.
5. The City Clerk is authorized and directed to publish a Notice of Public Hearing not less than 14 calendar days in advance of the public hearing in *The Press Republican*, a newspaper of general circulation in the City.
6. Copies of the DGEIS will be available for inspection at City Clerk's Office, Plattsburgh City Hall, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, New York 12901 and on the City’s website at <https://www.cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov/604/DRI-Environmental-Impact-GEIS>.
7. The City Clerk is further authorized and directed to provide a copy of the DGEIS to all SEQRA Involved Agencies and any individual or SEQRA Interested Agency that has expressed an interest in writing.

Motion to waive reading and move Resolution

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolution)

Discussion: Yes
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 the City Clerk to increase Taxi Vehicle License fees from \$80.00 per year to \$100.00 per year, Taxi Operator License fees from \$50.00 per year to \$75.00 per year and amendments for both from \$20.00 to \$30.00. Fee increases to start January 1, 2020. According to Section 314-11 of the City Code.

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs
Discussion: Yes
Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 the request from Clinton County, that the Mayor be authorized to enter into an agreement with the Town of Dannemora to modify term of the 9/24/19 “Wastewater Operating Agreement” to be from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020, subject to the approval of the City Attorney.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor Armstrong

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 approves that the Mayor is authorized to sign an amendment to the professional services agreement between the City of Plattsburgh and KAS, Inc. in the amount of \$26,673 to include project management and oversight, fill sampling and analysis, and third party air/project monitoring in accordance with NYS Industrial Code Rule 56 for the asbestos abatement and/or demolition of five (5) former Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department buildings located at 26 Green St. Payment shall be made from capital project '2019 Green Street Demolition (H5110.72).

By Councilor Armstrong; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

Discussion: Yes

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, 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 approves a public forum be made available commencing November 29, 2019 for a period of 40 days at Trinity Park providing free, equal and unrestricted access for holiday displays. The maximum size is 10 x 10, and requests must be filed with the City Clerk's office in advance. A \$20 fee for electricity and Certificate of Insurance are required.

By Councilor Kelly; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

Discussion: None

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a grant from the Downtown Grant Program (DGP), a constituent project of the larger Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), be awarded to the City of Plattsburgh in the amount of \$250,000 to complete improvements related to the renovation and expansion of former Plattsburgh Municipal Lighting Department Building 4 located at 26 Green Street and for improvements to the surrounding grounds. These improvements will create a new downtown destination in the City's Harborside area and the renovated building will improve food access for City residents and visitors by serving as the new home for the Plattsburgh Farmers' and Crafters' Market during their annual operating season; and it is further

RESOLVED, this award is made pursuant and subject to the terms and conditions of the DGP, including any associated grant documents.

By Councilor Moore; Seconded by Councilor McFarlin

Discussion:

Councilor McFarlin asked Plattsburgh Farmers Market Manager Julie Baughn what the members think.

Plattsburgh Farmers Market Manager Julie Baughn said they support it 100%.

[further discussion ensued]

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION:

- 1. Request from Councilor Armstrong for Initial Consideration of a Draft Resolution in support of the energy innovation and carbon dividend act of 2019 (h.r. 763). The entire text of which has been distributed to the members of the Common Council and will be made part of the minutes of this meeting.

10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:

Councilor McFarlin mentioned county did a great job on the parking lot, suggested a crosswalk be installed from Marion Street to Government Center.

Councilor Moore hopes everyone reviews, conceptual diagrams in here (referring to Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement document), all the great improvements that are going to happen in our center city area, really super project and a lot of good things happening in the city. Also, with the Farmers Market we are committed to making this all a great project for our city. Thanked everyone that has worked so diligently to make this happen.

Mayor Read mentioned it's not just a way to make our downtown nicer and create more community downtown although obviously it will do all that as well. Councilor Kelly mentioned in his presentation, economic development. Our budget becomes much more sustainable if we can expand that tax base and make the City of Plattsburgh a magnet for new population growth and this is the exact type of thing that is going to allow us to do it. Optimistic, in 4 or 5 years from now getting through some difficult years of change we will look back on this and say that was the point and time when the City of Plattsburgh really got a foot hold on its own future. Setting a course that will last us for generations.

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:

Councilor Elect Ira Barbell, mentioned at a recent Homeowners Association held on the Oval, residents thanked city for no parking signs on Oval grass it was a safety concern. Residents would also like to see 20 mph zone around Oval.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Gibbs

Roll call: Councilors Armstrong, Kelly, Gibbs, McFarlin, Moore

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:57 pm