

**CITY INFRASTRUCTURE COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, MARCH 14, 2019  
CITY OF PLATTSBURGH COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MINUTES  
4:30PM**

**Roll Call:** Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read arrived after roll call at 4:35pm

**Others Present:** Councilor Armstrong, Councilor Kelly, Council Ensel

**Absent:** Councilor McFarlin

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**1. REPORTS FROM DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVES AND DISCUSSION WITH COUNCILORS:**

1. Department of Public Works discussed and submitted report/update.
2. Discuss potential upcoming 2019 Outdoor seating applications from restaurants.

Council will review, discuss and make a decision at next week's Council meeting.

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

1. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff that the Common Council agrees to accept the \$758,000 incentive proposal from Empire State Development for upgrading the WRRF dewatering system and chemical building relocation and that the Mayor is authorized to execute all necessary documents to accept the award and request reimbursement.
2. Request from Chief Plant Operator Kris Gushlaw that Contract # 2019-02 "Liquid Alum for the Water Resource Recovery Facility" be awarded to Chemtrade Chemicals U.S. LLC for the amount of \$458/dry ton or \$22,213 total average annual usage of 48.5 drytons.
3. Request from Chief Plant Operator Kris Gushlaw that Contract #2017-16 "Sodium Thiosulfate for Water Resource Recovery Facility" be extended for one year with Thatcher Company of NY for an estimated sum of \$71,392.
4. Request from Director of Community Development Matthew Miller for the Mayor to sign an access agreement with Prime Companies to allow for soil boring operations, assessments, and related work activities to be performed upon the City properties known as the Durkee Street parking lot and the old Highway Oil Site. The Common Council also approves the temporary closure of roughly 25 parking spaces on the Durkee Street parking lot from Monday, March 18, 2019 through

Friday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 to allow Prime to proceed with soil boring operations, assessments, and related work.

**Director of Community Development Matthew Miller** indicated “Prime Companies” was incorrect and needed to be changed to “Prime Plattsburgh, LLC” in this resolution.

5. Mayor Read shall create full time Community Engagement Coordinator in the Office of the Mayor, upon ratification by the Council
6. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff that the Common Council approves a proposal from Hydrosorce Associates Inc. to install up to four test wells at Mead Dam to gather information on high yield wells at a maximum estimated cost of \$240,000 and that the Mayor is authorized to execute all necessary documents. Funding will be from a capital project.
7. Request from Councilor Armstrong to consider:

RESOLUTION BY THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH COMMON COUNCIL OUTLINING ACCEPTABLE TERMS FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION AND CONVEYANCE OF TITLE FOR THE SARANAC RIVER (aka WEBB ISLAND) PEDESTRIAN FOOTBRIDGE BY THE PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

WHEREAS, the Plattsburgh City School District (“District”) is the title owner of a pedestrian footbridge (“Footbridge”) over the Saranac River running generally from Waterhouse Street on the east to George Angell Drive on the west, sometimes referred to as the “Webb Island Pedestrian Bridge”; and

WHEREAS, certain matters relating to the funding, development, construction, and maintenance of the Footbridge were the subject of an Agreement for Public Improvements between the City of Plattsburgh (“City”) and the District, made on and dated as of August 20, 1981; and

WHEREAS, in November of 2017, the City provided written notice to the District that the aforementioned 1981 Agreement is cancelled, null and void for the reasons set forth in that written notice; and

WHEREAS, the Footbridge has been and could remain a valuable public resource benefitting the residents of the City and students and staff who attend the District; and

WHEREAS, engineering reports completed in the fall of 2017 indicate that the Footbridge is in need of significant repairs in order to render it safe for pedestrian use and to extend its useful life; and

WHEREAS, based on the engineering reports, the District closed the Footbridge in approximately December of 2017 and the Footbridge has not been used or maintained since its closure by the District; and

WHEREAS, it is the wish and intent of the City and District to work cooperatively in order to preserve the continued availability of the Footbridge as a public and student resource; and

WHEREAS, the District must make a decision to demolish or repair the Footbridge; and

WHEREAS, the District must begin the necessary administrative actions so that work to repair or demolish can be accomplished as early as possible in the spring of 2019; and

WHEREAS, State Senator Little has secured up to \$400,000 in Dormitory Authority of the State of New York (DASNY) funding to support the District's repair and/or reconstruction of the Footbridge, for which the parties are most grateful; and

WHEREAS, both parties recognize the urgency of applying the secured DASNY funding and to avoid any unnecessary delays in accessing these funds, and

WHEREAS, State Assemblyman Jones has secured \$50,000 in member-item appropriations to support the repair and/or maintenance of the Footbridge, for which the parties are most grateful, and

WHEREAS, the City and the District are willing to schedule a special meeting for the purpose of formalizing an agreement in accordance with terms outlined herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, WE, THE COMMON COUNCIL, CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, HEREBY MAKE THE FOLLOWING GOOD FAITH OFFER TO THE PLATTSBURGH CITY SCHOOL DISTRICT BOARD OF EDUCATION:**

**I. DISTRICT REACQUISITION OF EASEMENT**

The District received an Easement dated as of April 29, 1983 from the State of New York for the construction and maintenance of a portion of the Footbridge across the Saranac River at the southerly end of Webb Island. The express terms of the Easement stated that it was granted for a term of 25 years and that in the event of non-use or a lack of maintenance for over a one year period, the Easement shall be automatically extinguished. Since more than 25 years have passed, and in light of the non-use and lack of maintenance since December of 2017, the Easement has been extinguished. As a condition precedent to Section III "Transfer of Ownership" the District shall, at no cost to the City of Plattsburgh, reacquire an Easement of similar description from the State of New York with the intention of assigning that reacquired Easement to the City.

**II. FOOTBRIDGE REPAIRS BY DISTRICT**

The Plattsburgh City School District shall, at **no cost to the City of Plattsburgh**, retain appropriate contractor(s) to perform and complete such repairs to the Footbridge as may be necessary to remediate the conditions identified in the inspections and reports prepared by MJ Engineering and Land Surveying, P.C., and BCA Architects and Engineers in September, 2017 and November, 2017, respectively. In the event that the Footbridge has further deteriorated since the fall of 2017, the District shall perform and complete such other necessary repairs. Upon the completion of such necessary repairs, the District shall provide a written certification to the City from its contractors and engineers. The City reserves the right to obtain additional engineering reports upon receipt of the written certification from the District in order to evaluate the useful life expectancy for the Footbridge. In the event the engineering reports fail to certify a probable useful life expectancy of at least \_\_\_ years, or other material defects are described therein, the City reserves the right to refuse to accept the "Transfer of Ownership" of the Footbridge as described in Section III.

The District's willingness to perform and complete the repairs specified in this section is subject to the District receiving funding through Dormitory Authority of the State of New York ("DASNY") in an amount of up to \$400,000 to be applied toward the cost of repairs. If either (a) DASNY funding is not available to be applied toward the cost of repairs, or (b) the cost of repairs exceeds the amount of any available DASNY funding, this Offer shall be null and void and the District and City shall have no further obligations hereunder.

## II. TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP

A. Within ninety (90) days of the District providing written certification of the necessary repairs specified in Section II above, and in the event the City does not exercise its right to refuse transfer of ownership based on an identified material defect or deficient useful life, the District shall convey to the City, and the City shall accept, all of the District's right, title, and interest in the Footbridge and underlying real property. **The City shall not make any payment** to the District as consideration for this conveyance.

B. Such conveyance from the Plattsburgh City School District to the City of Plattsburgh shall include the transfer and/or assignment from the District to the City of the following interests: (a) the District's interest in a lot located on Waterhouse Street, being the same property conveyed to the District via Deed executed by Dorothy (Delisle) Farber dated December 15, 1982; (b) the District's interest in a Permit for Access dated March 25, 1983 and executed by John W. Delisle, Jr.; and (c) the District's interest in an Easement dated as of April 29, 1983 and granted by the State of New York, or any re-acquired easement as described in Section I, above. The District shall provide an abstract of title for these parcels and easements demonstrating no encumbrances, liens or other clouds on title and that any such easements remain valid. The District shall prepare the conveyance documents (i.e. deeds, TP-584; RP-5217).

C. Such conveyance from the District to the City shall also include an assignment to the City of the District's rights and obligations under a certain Bridge Crossing License Agreement entered into between the District and New York State Electric & Gas Corporation dated as of August 22, 1996, inclusive of any possible amendments.

D. The District and City shall mutually cooperate in the preparation and execution of all documents as may be necessary to effectuate the foregoing conveyances. The District shall be responsible for payment of any abstract/title costs and transfer taxes for the parcels described in Section III.B. The City shall be responsible for payment of any recording fees.

E. Upon completion of the conveyance of all of the District's right, title, and interest in the Footbridge, **the District shall pay to the City of Plattsburgh the sum of \$62,500**, in consideration of the City's assumption of responsibility to maintain the Footbridge and/or demolish the Footbridge in the future. Notwithstanding the foregoing, such funds may be used and applied by the City for any purpose within the City's sole discretion. This \$62,500 payment from the District to the City, which primarily is to be secured via a member item grant through Assemblyman Billy Jones, shall be made within sixty (60) days of the City's recording of the conveyance documents.

F. The City acknowledges that the District's performance of the repairs specified in Section II will be undertaken in express reliance on the City's agreement to accept title to the Footbridge upon completion of the repairs and satisfactory engineer's certification. As noted above, in the event the

engineering reports fail to certify a probable useful life expectancy of at least \_\_\_ years, or other material defects are described therein, the City reserves the right to refuse to accept the “Transfer of Ownership” of the Footbridge.

G. Following the conveyance of the Footbridge to the City as provided herein, and upon receipt of the \$62,500 payment, the City will be the fee owner of the Footbridge and will have no further obligation to the District. Following the conveyance, any and all decisions regarding the use, operation, maintenance or demolition of the Footbridge will remain within the sole discretion of the City.

H. Following the conveyance of the Footbridge, notwithstanding the absence of any continued obligation amongst the parties, the District and the City recognize that they are both members of the same community and will use their best efforts to maintain open lines of communication and act with goodwill with respect to the Footbridge.

8. Request from Environmental Manager Jon Ruff to attend “2019 American Water Works Association Conference” from April 16-18, 2019 in Saratoga, NY. The estimated cost is \$950.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Moore  
(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read  
(All voted in the affirmative)

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**3. OLD BUSINESS: None**

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**4. NEW BUSINESS: None**

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Moore  
(RC) Roll call: Chair Councilor Moore; Councilor Gibbs; Mayor Read  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 4:58 pm**

Infrastructure Meeting  
March 14, 2019

1. Upcoming Capital Spending Resolutions

- Street Resurfacing- South Catherine (Perry Bridge – Broad St Intersection)  
South Catherine/Broad St Intersection  
Upper Cornelia St (City Limit-Broad Street Intersection)  
Cornelia St /Broad St Intersection  
Clinton St (Margaret St – Marion Ave)  
Boynton Ave (Lozier Pl-North Margaret St)  
Miller St (RR Crossing-RR Crossing)  
Steltzer (Broad St-Rear of College Suites)

- Capital Equipment- Skidsteer Loader and attachments  
Medium Duty Plow Truck

\*Note: Both street work and equipment priorities were adjusted due to severe weather road damage.

2. PSAP Update.

- Sent out RFP

3. Wilcox Update

- Permit Status

4. Misc.

- Draftsperson Hire
- Laborer Hiring and internal movement of DPW staff
- Advertisement for seasonal temporary staff.
- Advertisement for bid Epoxy Pavement Markings and Crack Sealing
- Award of test window bid and investigation into other options.
- Empire State Trail

5. Working On.

- Protection Ave. Rehab
- Riley Ave Water Service and Road Surfacing
- Investigation into Walworth St. Rehab.