

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

August 13, 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

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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 August 6, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk’s Office

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell  
(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 August 12, 2020 in the amount of \$ 443,331.66 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 Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Kelly  
(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:**

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for August 4 – August 10, 2020
- Reports from the Police Department dated August 10, 2020
- Minutes from the Governance, Strategy & City Operations Committee meeting held on August 6, 2020

**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 indicated nothing to report.

**Finance and Budget** – Chair Councilor Kelly asked **Chamberlain Marks** about discussed \$62,000 Purchase Order returning money to NYS OCR he has tonight. **Mayor Read** indicated he has a Purchase Order for a floor scrubber at gym that was purchased in March he is not signing a Purchase order for an already purchased item. [further discussion about purchasing policy ensued].

*[these reports given during Regular meeting]*

**Public Safety** – Chair Councilor Gibbs met again this week, focused on Detective division will meet again next week to continue that.

**Plattsburgh Public Library** – Chair Councilor McFarlin mentioned over last six weeks approximately 2500 items have been picked up by members at curbside. Waiting to see how school reopening goes to decide when and how to open for public.

**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 Kelly

(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: None**

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**5. AUDIT OF CLAIMS:**

**RESOLVED:** That the bills Audited by the Common Council for the week ending August 14, 2020 in the amount of \$ 605,694.54 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)

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

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**7. OTHER ITEMS:**

**A. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council agrees to and authorizes the execution of Change Order G1 for “several changes to concrete repairs and the scope of the structural work at the East and West Clarifier and East Aeration tanks” with Branon Construction in the amount of \$19,257.22 increasing the total contract price to \$4,518,757.22

**Motion to waive reading and move Resolutions 7A and 7B**

By Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Barbell  
(All voted in favor of waiving reading and move Resolutions 7A and 7B)

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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**B. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves Contract “Instrumentation Services - Water Resource Recovery Facility/Water Filtration Plant” be awarded to Temp-Press, Inc. for the estimated lump sum price of \$37,350 and authorize execution of all necessary documents.

[See details under Item 7A]

**ACTION TAKEN:** Adopted

Follow up Action: None

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**C. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves the City Chamberlain to proceed with issuing \$6,374,237 of City of Plattsburgh serial bonds, including issuance costs, to be repaid over a period of ten years.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Kelly

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. RESOLVED:** In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves a 3 week military leave of absence for James Braid from his position as Firefighter to perform his duties as an active member of the Army Reserves.

By Councilor McFarlin; 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

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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** gave updates on Public Safety Citizens Panel, still have a vacancy on the panel looking for candidates and deadline for applications is August 14<sup>th</sup> at midnight and next meeting August 17<sup>th</sup> at 4pm. Indicated they have a great group of dynamic individuals and kudos to Mayor for the members he assembled..

**Councilor Kelly** further discussed \$62,000 Purchase Order returning money to NYS OCR asked Chamberlain Marks for a report from last 10 years the amount of money that has been returned for grants. **Chamberlain Marks** indicated he doesn't think any as this is a new law that requires money to be sent back if it wasn't committed by April 1, 2019 then it has to be returned. [further discussion ensued]

**Councilor Kelly** read Press Republican article dated August 10, 2020 entitled "Clinton County expects, requests austere 2021 Budget submissions."

**Mayor Read** further spoke on financial concerns for city and feels there is a structural problem here. This notion that we are somehow going to get some kind of bail out that is going to fix all this is wishful thinking.

[further discussion ensued]

**Councilor Brodi** mentioned if they are looking for cutting department expenses then the council should take 20% cut in pay, reward program for employees incentives to offer cost saving ideas, creating an employee appreciation or employee of the month program put up a plaque or give certificate. It's important to recognize them and give them a thank you.

**Councilor Barbell** is opposed to talking about 20% cuts it is responsibility of the people on this council to determine what essential services are and make decisions with the budget we're going to have what are the essential services that we are going to fund. And that will require then that certain services in the city that are being provided now will probably not be provided.

**Councilor Brodi** indicated he agrees he meant that more as a figure for the Council. That goes back to the idea of the special service fee rather than raising taxes. Have a special service fee so everyone in the city pays their fair share.

Mayor Read further spoke on the matter and said it is the taxpayer and the rate payer of the city that we are trying to save.

[further discussion ensued]

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**11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC: None**

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Motion to Adjourn by Councilor McFarlin; Seconded by Councilor Brodi  
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore  
(All voted in the affirmative)

**MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:57 pm**