

**REGULAR MEETING OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
OF THE CITY OF PLATTSBURGH, NEW YORK
OCTOBER 1, 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

MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Read handed down the following Appointment:

THE MAYOR HANDS DOWN THE APPOINTMENT OF TIMOTHY BLATCHLEY TO THE OFFICE OF FULL TIME CITY COURT JUDGE EFFECTIVE JANUARY 4, 2021; SAID TERM TO BE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF SECTION 2104 (b) 3 OF THE UNIFIED CITY COURT ACT.

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING:

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Common Council held on September 24, 2020 are approved and placed on file among the public records of the City Clerk's Office

By Councilor Brodi; Seconded by Councilor Kelly
(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 September 30, 2020 in the amount of \$ 56,424.16 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 Barbell
(All in Favor/opposed)

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

3. REPORTS OF CITY OFFICES & COMMITTEE REPORTS:

- Report of Fire and Ambulance Responses for September 15 - 28, 2020
- Minutes from the Public Safety Committee meeting held on September 24, 2020

COUNCILOR/DEPARTMENT CHAIR COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Governance, Strategy, and City Operations- Chair Councilor Barbell indicated met tonight no further updates.

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 met with Chamberlain Marks and Library Director de la Chapelle on Library budget.

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 Barbell

(All in Favor/opposed)

Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, 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 October 2, 2020 in the amount of \$ 675,388.06 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 Kelly

(All in Favor/opposed)

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

6. PERSONS ADDRESSING COUNCIL ON AGENDA ITEMS ONLY: None

7. OTHER ITEMS:

COUNCILOR BARBELL WITHDREW ITEMS 7A AND 7B DURING THE GOVERNANCE,

STRATEGY & CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD OCTOBER 1, 2020. THEREFORE, ITEMS 7A AND 7B ARE REMOVED.

A. THE GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SELECTS ELISE TCHOUANDEM DJOMNANG TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2, 2020.

XXXXX ITEM "A" REMOVED XXXXXX

B. THE GOVERNANCE STRATEGY AND CITY OPERATIONS COMMITTEE SELECTS CAMDEN ELLIS TO SERVE ON THE PUBLIC SAFETY CITIZENS REVIEW PANEL EFFECTIVE OCTOBER 2, 2020.

XXXXX ITEM "B" REMOVED XXXXXX

C. WHEREAS, the City of Plattsburgh has a rich military history and would like to recognize and honor residents who have served or who are serving in the United States Armed Services; and

WHEREAS, the City will start an ongoing Hometown Hero Banner program to honor City of Plattsburgh residents; and

WHEREAS, all costs incurred will be paid by the applicant; and

Therefore be it RESOLVED, the Hometown Hero banners shall be displayed from May to November. Banners will be displayed and stored by the City for a 2 year period and returned to the applicant at time of decommission; and be it further

RESOLVED, that Common Council does support the creation of a Hometown Hero banner program to honor City of Plattsburgh residents

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: None

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

ACTION TAKEN: Adopted

Follow up Action: None

D. RESOLVED: That the Mayor be authorized to sign a contract for Website hosting with the County of Clinton. A copy of the proposed contract is made part of the minutes of this meeting. The dates of the contract are November 1, 2020 thru October 31, 2022. At a cost not to exceed \$12,000 for the term of the contract to be invoiced quarterly.

By Councilor Barbell; 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

E. RESOLVED: In accordance with the request therefore the Common Council approves 4-day military leave of absence (October 3-4, 2020 and January 9-10, 2021) for James Braid from his position as Firefighter to perform his duties as an active member of the Army Reserves.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Brodi
Discussion: None
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

F. RESOLVED: That the Mayor be authorized to sign a contract with Plattsburgh Housing Authority for the provision of Supplemental Police Services by a Plattsburgh Police Officer (October 1, 2020 – August 31, 2021). The total revenue for the City is billed on a monthly basis per the contract.

By Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell
Discussion: Yes
Roll call: Councilors Barbell, Kelly, Gibbs, Brodi, McFarlin, Moore
(All voted in the affirmative)
ACTION TAKEN: Adopted
Follow up Action: None

Item G was added during Committee meeting:

RESOLVED: That the Mayor be authorized to sign a grant contract with the NYS Department of State and all associated documents for use of the \$825,000 funding allocation previously awarded to the City by the NYS Financial Restructuring Board to assist with the cost of the City's multiple downtown parking expansion projects.

By Councilor Barbell; 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

8. TRAVEL REQUEST: None

9. RESOLUTIONS FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION: None

10. NEW BUSINESS AND COUNCILOR REPORTS:

Mayor Read introduced Local Law P-4 of 2020. A local law amending Chapter 300 “Subdivision of Land” and Chapter 360 “Zoning” of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh to provide exemptions for City Projects.

Public Hearing set: Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Councilor McFarlin received a number of calls asking him to vote no on cuts to Public Safety. His response was there is nothing on the agenda for cuts to Public safety. There is a perception that even if something isn’t on the agenda doesn’t mean it won’t get added. He feels items need to be put on the agenda well before so that the public is aware.

[further discussion ensued]

11. CLOSING PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ANY TOPIC:

Chris Rosenquest, Clinton County Legislator Area 9, asked if the Council proceeds with accepting the change to the Mayor’s budget then public hearings be held. As in the past, the council has held public hearings in partnership with Department Heads. Only after this and as needed should the council make the appropriate changes.

Jamie Schwartz, President of Plattsburgh Professional Firefighters spoke in support of Public Safety departments and they should not be cut and feels they should be able to have dialogue with councilors other than just coming and speaking at meetings.

Melinda Seiden, Assistant Clinton County District Attorney spoke in support of Police Department.

Julie Ross former City Police Department Lieutenant spoke in support of Police Department, read her email sent to Mayor and Council, which is made part of the minutes of this meeting.

Jim Manchester, resident of Ward 4 spoke in support of Police Department.

Seth Silver spoke in support of Police Department, School Resource officers in City School District.

David Boise, owner of Fred Villaris of Plattsburgh, spoke in support of Police Department.

Unidentified Speaker thanked Police Department for catching person for hate crime; thought Councilor Gibbs was rude to the Chief of Police last Thursday.

Shannon Peryea owner of Run with Scissors hair salon spoke in support of Police Department.

Motion to Adjourn by Councilor Gibbs; Seconded by Councilor Barbell

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

(All voted in the affirmative)

MEETING ADJOURNED: 5:52 pm

Introduced by Mayor Read on October 1, 2020 at a Regular Meeting of the Common Council.

Public Hearing held on Thursday, October 15, 2020 at 5:00pm in the Council Chambers, 41 City Hall Place, Plattsburgh, NY 12901.

Local Law No. P-4 of the year 2020

A local law amending Chapter 300 "Subdivision of Land" and Chapter 360 "Zoning" of the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh to provide exemptions for City Projects.

This Local Law is enacted pursuant to the provisions of Sections 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law of the State of New York.

Be it enacted by the Common Council of the City of Plattsburgh as follows:

1. The City Code of the City of Plattsburgh is amended by adding Section 300-36 "City Exemption" to the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh to read as follows:

Chapter 300 "Subdivision of Land"... Section 36 "City Exemption"

A. Purpose and Intent; Authority

It is the intent of this Local Law to specifically provide for the exemption of City projects and activities from the City's Subdivision of Land Regulations. It is adopted pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

B. City Exemption

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any action or subdivision proposed or undertaken by the City of Plattsburgh, or on behalf of the City with the City's written authorization, shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Notwithstanding this exemption, the Common Council may seek non-binding advisory review from the City Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals for any such proposed City action. This exemption specifically does not apply to the provisions of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) or other State or Federal requirements, but is limited only to requirements of the City of Plattsburgh.

2. The City Code of the City of Plattsburgh is amended by adding Section 360-62 "City Exemption" to the City Code of the City of Plattsburgh to read as follows:

Chapter 360 "Zoning"... Section 62 "City Exemption"

A. Purpose and Intent; Authority

It is the intent of this Local Law to specifically provide for the exemption of City projects and activities from the City's Zoning Code. It is adopted pursuant to New York Municipal Home Rule Law.

B. City Exemption

Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, any action, including but not limited to site plan review, subdivision approval, planned unit development review, special use permit application, use variance or area variance application, which is proposed or undertaken by the City of Plattsburgh, or on behalf of the City with the City's written authorization, shall be exempt from the provisions of this chapter. Notwithstanding this exemption, the Common Council may seek non-binding advisory review from the City Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals for any such proposed City action. This exemption specifically does not apply to the provisions of the State Environmental Review Act (SEQRA) or other State or Federal requirements, but is limited only to requirements of the City of Plattsburgh.

3. Severability

The invalidity of any clause, sentence, paragraph or provision of this Local Law shall not invalidate any other clause, sentence, paragraph or part thereof.

4. Repealer

Any Local Laws or Ordinances or parts of Local Laws or Ordinances in conflict with any part of this Local Law are hereby repealed.

5. Effective Date

This Local Law shall take effect upon approval by the Mayor and filing with the New York Secretary of State. However, this City Exemption does not apply to any previous application pending review before the City Planning Board and/or Zoning Board of Appeals as of the effective date of this Local Law.

10/01/2020: Julie Ross Read her email to Mayor and Council in to minutes of meeting.

From: JULIE ROSS
Sent: Thursday, October 1, 2020 7:53 AM
To: Carlin, Beth <CarlinB@cityofplattsburgh-ny.gov>
Subject: Potential budget cuts

Mayor Read;

I strongly object to any proposed budget cuts in the area of public safety... according to the last meeting that I watched, these cuts were not necessary as we already had a surplus in the budget. Therefore I can only assume that these cuts are being proposed to satisfy personal agendas for some of the councilors. The City of Plattsburgh has seen an increasing crime rate over the years along with a decreasing police force. I believe eliminating more positions from the police department would be a detriment to the citizens of the city of Plattsburgh and the surrounding communities. This is not a time to lighten up and back down on public safety and let criminals get the upper hand.

I think each of you should make the effort to look at (a) the number of violent crimes investigated in the city of Plattsburgh in the last five years, (b) the number of drug cases investigated in the city of Plattsburgh in the last five years, and (c) the quantity of drugs that have been taken out of circulation because of the committed efforts of the Plattsburgh Police Department and other local law-enforcement agencies. I think you all would be extremely surprised to find out how significant Plattsburgh is in the drug trade..... if that's what you want for your constituents who put you in office, your friends and your family, then shame on all of you.

Julie Ross

(Purposely not sent anonymously because I believe that if you can't say who you are and speak your name publicly, your information should be suspect..... a policy this council should adopt)