

02/01/2021

CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
Monday, February 1, 2021
7:30 P.M.
via Zoom livestream

Minutes

MEMBERS PRESENT: Council President Dolce, Councilman Sheldon, Councilwoman James, Councilwoman Carrubba, Councilman Nelson, Councilwoman Ecklund, Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt, Councilman Russell, Councilman Olson

MEMBERS ABSENT:

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Sundquist, City Clerk/Treasurer, Jennifer Williams, City Comptroller Ryan Thompson, Director of Public Safety/Police Chief Timothy Jackson, Deputy Fire Chief Matt Coon, Director of Development Crystal Surdyk, Corporation Counsel Elliot Raimondo, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Zachary Altschuler, Fleet Manager Patrick Monaghan, Parks Manager John Williams, Election Commissioners Norm Green and Brian Abrams, Keith Venezia

Council President Dolce called the meeting to order and asked the City Clerk to call the roll.

Council President Dolce: Do we have any correspondence tonight from the public?

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: I have an email from the Office of the State Comptroller to be read.

Dear Mayor Sundquist and Members of the City Council:

The Division of Local Government and School Accountability of the Office of the State Comptroller has initiated a statewide project of the 2021 budgets of the City of Jamestown. We will be reviewing the impact of COVID on the 2021 budgets.

We will notify appropriate officials when our examiners need to come on-site, and, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we will follow all necessary precautions and social distancing practices that have been recommended. We will also communicate with officials to obtain the records and information necessary to conduct the audit.

At the conclusion of our review, we will report the results and provide recommendations to help improve operations. As a member of the governing board, you will have a role in monitoring any corrective actions that need to be taken as a result of this review. Therefore, please feel free to ask questions about the project during the engagement. The examiner-in-charge of the review, Kelsey Wilczynski, will contact you to discuss City operations and the role you play in providing fiscal oversight. Her email address is kwilczynski@osc.ny.gov.

If I can answer any questions you have at this time, please contact me at (607) 721-8306.

Sincerely,
Lisa Semenick
Auditor
Division of Local Government and School Accountability

Council President Dolce: Thank you. That's it?

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: That's it.

Council President Dolce: Did they give a, I missed you on that, did they give a date on that or did they say when they can come?

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: They didn't give a date in this email.

Mayor Sundquist: We haven't received any further correspondence besides that letter indicating they are doing a state wide look at COVID-19 and the impacts on budgets.

Council President Dolce: Ok, very good. At this time, we are going to switch some things around on the agenda. We do have the two Election Commissioners, Norm Green and Brian Abrams to discuss the Ward Three polling site location. I did talk to the Mayor earlier today and we did decide, I don't know if Elliot is here, is he with us?

Mr. Raimondo: Yes, I'm here.

Council President Dolce: There you are, ok. I was going to have Elliot briefly walk through the information and then we'll bring in the election commissioners to discuss the situation. I'll give you the floor.

Mr. Raimondo: Thank you, Chairman. Briefly, we are looking at what was brought up last week which was the status of the National Comedy Center and the Train Station that became the Comedy Center and briefly I think this stems from the location of the polling station has been at the Comedy Center. Prior to it being the Comedy Center, it was simply 211-217 West Second Street which is the former train station. Briefly that train station came to the Briefly Comedy Center by first going through a couple steps. In 2009 the City received Mass Transportation Capital Construction Grant to revitalize the train station so after a number of years the city had a fully functioning train station thanks to the grant and when ahead and transferred the property to the Jamestown Urban Renewal Association or JURA which then transferred the property to the Downtown Jamestown Revitalization, LLC. Once that transfer was put into place, the City leased through the Downtown Jamestown Revitalization LLC, the property to the National Comedy Center in 2014, in June of 2014. There was a clause in that agreement, paragraph 12, which allowed the Comedy Center to purchase the building on June 30, 2017 if it's so chose. And that's what it did. In June 30, of 2017. They purchase that building, along with portions of Rose Alley, as well as Washington and East Second Street from the City and that was done via Council Resolutions in 2014. Now there are no council easements on their property for public purposes. But for providing public services like those of the BPU or DPW. So that's how we got here today.

Council President Dolce: All right. At this point I don't know if Norm, if and Brian want to chime in on the situation with what's transpiring and what the next steps would be for the City to move forward and, you know, find another location or, you know, any other information you want to share with us about that.

Mr. Green: If I could start out really quick, Brian. The Election Modernization Act of 2005 gave complete control of designation on pole sites to the Board of Elections. However, before we're able to make that designation, we do that search, were required to seek out the advice and counsel of the, of the city. And that's what we've done, we've sent you a letter, the Comedy Center notified us that we're going to have us there. This is the first poll site change of any type. Since the at least the change in Ward lines. And so, we're just we're just doing our job and seeking out any recommendations that you might have before we make it a designation as we're required to by the Election Modernization Act of 2005.

Mr. Abrams: And to play up with Norm said, we have been at the Comedy Center since 2013, that's when we consolidated all of Ward three with the changes that will come after the census, we would have to re review our poll sites to move currently, and then to move again a year or two, based on you know, new lines and new districts. That obviously is something that is harder on the voter, and it isn't something that we look forward to. We are down to currently 49 poll sites across Chautauqua County. And we have you know obviously enjoyed and liked using the Comedy Center, and it has been a success, but obviously we need your input and your guidance as far as any recommendations like Norman said,

Council President Dolce: Okay.

Councilwoman James: Mr. President, I just like just chime in. I understand that you're doing your job and the both of you do it well. My concern is, this it just seems like Ward three. This seems like this, I know it hadn't said since 2013 they've been there, but it just seems like, I don't know, it's been flip flopped a lot. And, you know, I know when the schools. Of course, it was a very understandable. When the schools you know with all the shootings and things and you understand that, but with the Comedy Center, and I'm just talking about things that my constituents have called and emailed in and told me. It's like they're not wanted, in the Comedy Center or you know because then you know they moved the transportation from down there and now it's like they are not wanted down there. And so, people are feeling some kind of way about it and kind of angry about the move and not the feeling of not being wanted to be to be part of the Comedy Center. They can't afford to go there. So, they just feel like it's another push back for them not to be a part of the Comedy Center. And you know, is a true? I don't believe that it's true I don't want to believe that that's true. But that's how the people of Ward three are feeling, some of them.

Council President Dolce: Elliot, just a brief question came to my attention from members of the board that, is their state law that would not allow us to continue there because of the fact that they have a liquor license?

Mr. Raimondo: There is and I don't want to take the place of the Board of Elections attorneys or the county's attorneys but section four-104-1 of the election law prohibits any location with a liquor license from being a polling site. And we are aware that the National Comedy Center does have a liquor license.

Councilwoman Ecklund: But, for clarification purposes, though they also had that the same liquor license last year.

Mr. Raimondo: Yes.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: So, have there been problems in the past since the voting has been there, that we are now no longer available to use it.

Mr. Green: If I can answer the question about liquor. Across the State of New York, we have lots and lots of legions, not in Chautauqua County, we, we did use the hotel and Dunkirk. But we're it's been liberally construed that if the polling site is separated from the area where liquid is served. And certainly, in this case, you know we're on the opposite, on the backside of an exit. We certainly don't consider that to be in the same building. If that was in the same exact building, and once again, this is if you're going to apply it. If you were going to apply this in Chautauqua County and the Comedy Center. You need to apply it across the State of New York, because most every county, that is in the State of New York does have adjacent buildings that are being used to serve liquor. But certainly not at the pole site that room, they don't serve liquor in. And I'm not, understand I'm not fighting here for the Comedy Center, but I am fighting for, you know, the interpretation of the law, and the hamstring Chautauqua County, when no other county is being hamstrung to that to that level. And that would that would certainly be unfair in our, in our future dealings in Chautauqua County and in our future attempts, or efforts to secure poll sites.

Councilwoman Carrubba: What you're explaining is that it could possibly have to be moved this year, and then it would have to be moved again after the census figures and the districts are redrawn, which, according to Councilwoman James, I find it really confusing and unfortunate for the people in ward three to have to keep trying to find their polling place. If nothing else, it should be left alone until the redistricting happens and determine if it's still within that ward. But I think to have to keep changing it and change it year after year. It just makes no sense, especially for the constituents voting in that polling place.

Mr. Green: Well, certainly the change of Ward lines as you know is something that that the new council that will be elected this November, will have to deal with, and the Board of Elections will, of course, put a poll site in whatever ward. Whatever, whatever of the wards that you've designated where you've designated them.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Have there been any complaints with regard any problems with polling since we've been there in 2013 that we are unaware of?

Mr. Abrams: Um, I don't think so. We've tried to do the best ability to keep everybody happy. During this past pandemic election cycle, we did everything humanly possible to match their laugh safe program. We basically have always tried to be a very good partner with them down there. And we've done, I think everything we can to keep that partnership going. As far as it being problems down there, I really can't speak to any at this point and maybe Norm has one or two that, but I don't think we've had a problem with the voters, or the problem with the workers. I think it's just a matter of a disagreement of allowing us to use that space in the time frames that we need to.

Councilwoman James: I have a question. Now they're, they're paid for the rental of that, so it's not like they would; One of the things was there because of COVID, you know, that this is one of the reasons why they're asking us so I was just wondering, are they paid for that space or, you know, are they compensated somehow for that space. You know, because just wondering.

Mr. Abrams: When it's a when it's a facility like that when we pay \$100 per time that we're there. And that's part of our expense of basically using a pole site you know to have, whichever partner we have so if we there once of course 100 and goes up from there, \$100 at a time. So, it's, it's minimal but it's still a goodwill gesture from, you know, obviously the taxpayers to show some sort of gratitude towards some of these facilities and what they were using. And like I said, we've been there and we've done our best, and hopefully, like I said, you know, we did what we could to stay there and we thought that the voters down there had a good experience from what we could gather. Obviously, you know, at this point they're looking to have us go somewhere else.

Mr. Green: In addition to that you know we followed the laugh safe guidelines. We hired extra people to take temperatures outside the building which we didn't do other pole sites. We hired extra people to do sanitization after every voter entered. The June primary this last year, Vickye, you may remember that, we were actually in the area where there was the bus station. And so, we weren't even in the gift shop, because we wanted to assist them in every way possible to make sure that we complied with their laugh safe procedures.

Councilwoman James: I was just going to say you know just wanted to kind of piggyback on what they were Norm and Brian was saying that the you know the voters really like that site. They appreciate the brightness of it they appreciate just, you know, being up, going into the Comedy Center seeing some of the, you know, I don't know if they purchase anything but I know you know people are you know talking about the gift shop, you know, but I know that is a place that they enjoyed for this beautiful spot.

Mr. Green: This is actually I, I've been doing this for 22 years, and this is the first time that I'm that we've been kicked out for so little reason. We voluntarily in Chautauqua County, we're probably the only county in the state that has pulled out of all the schools. We weren't asked to leave. We saw it as being a good thing to do, particularly in the City of Jamestown, to reduce the potential for risk in the school districts. And so, we really never have come across the situation, I haven't made 22 years, like this.

Mr. Nelson: I got a question is parking a concern for the Comedy Center is that was that raised as an issue?

Mr. Green: Parking is a concern for the Comedy Center was a concern for the Ice Arena and to be quite frank, it's concerning for any poll site you have in the city. I watch you guys you guys talk a lot about parking. Parking is an issue.

Councilman Nelson: Was the Comedy Center worried about the loss of parking due to people coming in and out the vote was that, did they mention that?

Mr. Abrams: They were closed on the last time last Tuesday, that we voted. They were closed but we really never had them bring that up as an issue as far as parking for their customers versus parking for our voters, that's never been brought up to our attention.

Mr. Green: In addition to that. Vickye would know. You know we bag a couple of parking meters, nobody that's going to the Comedy Center is going to parking meters. We commandeer parking meters so that we're not using any long-term parking spaces and our staff is much to their consternation made the park down by the railroad tracks. And so, parking, we don't take up, we don't take a parking and certainly the Comedy Center has a parking issue but it's not because of because of pole site, mainly on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Councilwoman James: And I've never had an issue, finding a spot to park whenever I went to vote. It's always been a space somewhere, legal.

Council President Dolce: The issue comes down to, if, if they're not willing or they can't have it there for whatever reason. I think you're looking for direction as to some alternatives in that area that's close by. I've had discussions with Lucille Ball Little Theater is willing to have you look at their lobby. They were actually very enthusiastic about looking at that, it's right down the street, there's a parking lot across the street so that's an option the lobby is handicap accessible it's very large. That's one option. I know we've kicked around the brewery and the library have their own parking lots. It's a very large space. They've had their own elections there several times for their taxing districts so I mean if you're looking for recommendations, I know there may be others but those two I guess it just comes down to that, you know, we probably don't have the authority to tell them they have to have it there. I know that most people on the council were concerned with the move for various reasons, but if we're looking to move forward, I think, you know, those are two locations to look at and I don't know if anybody else has anything else they want to add to that.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Tony, I also mentioned the Ice Arena, but that was prior to them throwing in this liquor clause, and I know the Ice Arena also has alcohol on premise so but, again, to Norm's point that we are in many places across the state. So, I don't think we should rule that one out either.

Councilwoman James: I just have a pause. When I hear Norm talking about in 22 years that they've never been thrown out and hearing, and hearing my constituents talk about the feeling of the eliteness of the Comedy Center. It saddens me because I was telling them, I don't believe it's that, it just saddens me to even have that said that in 22 years that they have never been kicked out anywhere and I know we have no control of where that's their business that's their place of, you know, that's their that's theirs, and it's sad that it's feels like it's theirs and it's not the City of Jamestown's. You know it's okay for people who are tourists tours in a, you know, but not people who live in ward three. It doesn't feel like it belongs to them. And it's a place that they're wanting. And that really saddens my heart.

Councilman Nelson: Vickye, I agree. It's too bad and I would appeal to their sense of public service, you know that they should have it open. I think it's the wrong thing for them to do but maybe we've got to look at some other options.

Councilwoman Carrubba: I go back to the federal funds that were provided in that middle area that they call the rotunda was supposed to be available to the public as a transportation hub and as it's been

pointed out before. It really is no longer a transportation hub, the regular routes, other than people going to the Comedy Center would consider transportation. So, in fairness and going back to the constituents of ward three. You know, if nothing else to keep it there until the lines are redrawn. You know, that's going to be another year. It just doesn't make sense to keep moving it because it could be moved again into at least leave it for one more year, I mean, but I agree I think it should be left there permanently. But if we can't we can't but to even do it for one year and a half to move in and then move it again. It just seems unfair for some of the individuals trying to find the location and having to deal with the fact that it keeps moving.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: I see it as a public service and being a good part of the community. Yes, it was turned over in 2000 whatever but public funds taxpayer funds facilitated a lot of that work. The fact that it's a private organization or it's owned by the Comedy Center is what it is but I think sometimes. Oftentimes you want to be seen as a good public partner. So, you know, that's certainly within their purview if they are adamant about moving it. However, I just would kind of support Vickye and Tom and that tie to have spoken with people who just don't feel like it's accessible for them, whether that's true or not I don't know how much communication and outreach has been done. So, it just seems like another place where some certain people feel like they don't feel welcome that could very well be not the case. I hope that's not the case but it is something that that has been brought up to me as well.

Councilman Russell: Mr. President, I had a question for Mr. Rimando. I want to know, is there any current legal language as a result of these, I guess I would call them shell corporations with the sale of the train station. Is there still any legal language on the books that allow the public to have access to the rotunda area was that put in there anywhere.

Mr. Raimondo: Well, the, the terms of the original and grant, do state that the rotunda will be used for purposes of mass transportation for the next 30 years from 2009 when the grant was funded. In as much as the lease and transfer of the property from the city to the Comedy Center where that duty was assumed by the Comedy Center to provide that.

Councilman Russell: So that's still on effect is that correct?

Mr. Raimondo: Yes.

Councilman Russell: Okay, so the public, the taxpayer does have an argument with the fact that they basically have been shunned or locked out of that area that's supposed to be made available to them. I also want to maybe enlighten the public or maybe some members here, and what it took to get that building to what it is today. That building, the train station was considered a restoration project. They were very stringent. Maybe Ms. Surdyk can verify this or maybe I'm wrong, but they were very particular on how that building was supposed to be reconstructed. There was a stone missing inside the building that Mr. Evan owned the building and he sold some that stone off. Some of the very stone in there had to be replicated from the original quarry, where the original stone was cut 100 years ago or so. The windows that were replaced were made by Hopes Windows back in the day. The current Hopes Windows remanufactured those windows and put them in there. The chandeliers that are currently in that building were sold off by Mr. Evan and they went as far as to try to find the original chandeliers. They thought that they possibly found them. These Art Deco design. They found them down in Florida. They paid \$75,000 for them. They were in extreme disrepair.

They fixed those. Another example of how historically correct this building had be; there was an air conditioning unit or an HVAC unit that was put up on the roof. It's stuck up too high on the roof. And it could be scenes from the roadway, and as a result they actually had to get rid of that, or make it lower. So, there was, it was a very stringent on how that building had to be restored. So, we move forward 10 years or whatever. And we took this building that we were so stringent upon. We blow a hole in the side wall, and we put a connector to the Comedy Center. Now there's language says that we're supposed to add or this agreement that that rotunda is supposed to be made available to the public. And now we have entities that are renegeing on that, and kicking a polling station out of there. I think this is as larger than Mr. Abrams or Mr. Green. I appreciate these two gentlemen, and coming on here talking about this, but the real issue is that the taxpayer's money went into these buildings or into this building to restore it back to its glory, because it's an absolute beautiful building. And now there's members of the public that are basically locked out of this building for one reason or another, and I'm very upset by this, and I think it's bigger than just the polling station. And I want answers.

Councilwoman Carrubba: Councilman Russell I appreciate that I knew some of this but not all the detail. And that's very enlightening you know as much as I knew that was the historical preservation, I didn't know how much went into that but I know people that were originally involved, had been extremely upset that events could no longer take place they're like the National Train Day which were very helpful and bringing people in from outside the community, and actually probably brought people into the Comedy Center that might have never given them look.

Councilman Russell: I say this to the people that run the Comedy Center. If you want to be successful, then you need to be good stewards, to the citizens of Jamestown, and by kicking this polling station out of there, for whatever reason you're doing that, you are not being good stewards of this city. There's taxpayers to this city that have poured money into that building prior to you taking it over. And now you're telling those people that they're not good enough to come to that building and be able to utilize that rotunda which legal language says, they have the right to do so.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: And while I don't you know while it's been mentioned that the money given to the city, because it was so long ago. It's unlikely that the feds will ask for their money back. I never want to, and maybe I'm incorrect so please correct me if I'm wrong. That is on the city of Jamestown, and I don't want to be responsible for having to find those funds, if the city is expected to do so. Now that may not be true in which case, I apologize for any misinformation. But if is the case, then we're on the hook for something that we can't afford it. So, if I'm wrong, please somebody please correct me because I don't want the public to think that we're incorrect.

Mr. Raimondo: Councilwoman Reinhardt, in the transfer paperwork, where the city transferred to the property to the National Comedy Center, there is language simply stating that the National Comedy Center assumes all the liabilities of the prior grants, which would include keeping the building to be used for mass transportation purposes.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Thank you Mr. Raimondo, I appreciate that clarification.

Council President Dolce: I'd like to, you know, kind of move on with. I think tonight's goal was to listen to the Board of Elections, get a little input, give them a little input I think we've given them a couple

ideas. I think that the other issues that were brought up are valid, but I think those are for another discussion and for the Comedy Center to deal with. We don't really have control over that. And the purpose of tonight was to give the Board of Elections some options and I think that we have given them a couple there's certainly others if anybody has any, you know, we can contact the Board of Elections for any other any other options so unless there's anybody else that has any comments on that or like to move on. I heard from The Little Theater that they were very enthused about, and they would actually like to invite them to come down and look at the space and see if it's something that could work. And also, you know, we did mention the library I don't know if anyone's actually talked to anybody from the library but obviously that space has been used before. And there were a couple other places that were kicked around as well. So, you know, that's something that the Board of Elections can look at moving forward. As far as the rest of the discussion that is something that maybe the Mayor, myself and others can have with members of the Board of Directors of the Comedy Center. I don't know if Brian or Norm if you have anything else you want to add to that, I can let you go for tonight.

Mr. Green: I was just going to say thanks for inviting us.

Mr. Abrams: Yep. Me too I appreciate you guys taking some time out letting us sit in.

Council President Dolce: Thank you. We'll move forward with our regular agenda tonight. We'll start with our standing committees and Finance and the Chairman of Finance Councilwoman Ecklund if you'd like to go through that.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Sure.

Resolution authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with Eric Ryan Corporation for telecommunication audit services for the period of March 1, 2021 through February 28, 2022, subject to the approval of Corporation Counsel as to form.

Councilwoman Ecklund: And I see the Mayor has, or whoever has brought Keith in to probably discuss this or answer questions, whatever.

Mayor Sundquist: Yes, if that will be all right Councilwoman Ecklund.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Absolutely.

Mayor Sundquist: Great. So, I'll have Ryan introduce Keith. Ryan are you on?

Mr. Thompson: Yeah. So, we have Keith Venezia on from Eric Ryan, he can answer any questions that the council might have and has a brief presentation as well, to give to the entire Council. So with that I'll turn it over to you, Keith.

Mr. Venezia: Thank you. Thank you for having me, Mr. Mayor, Mr. President and members of council. I do appreciate the opportunity. I do have a brief presentation that I would like to share with you. And it'll just take a few minutes here to, if I can get this thing to work. Is that visible to everybody. All right. Well, again, I want to take this one you take 10 minutes because I know you're a busy group and I won't take up a lot of your time, I was just going to cover a little bit about our history. You know

how we came about to be today, just go over some of our clients, what services we offer and how the actual program works. So just to give a little history. We've been in business about 30 years now. We're based just north of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. I actually own a home in Ashville New York, and we've been doing work in all 50 states. We incorporated in 95, Eric and Ryan are my two sons that's how the name came about. We're actually one of the largest telecommunications auditing firms in the country now. We have over 100 and actually now its 120 employees. And we do work all over the country. These are just some sample clients and I'll get into how we do what we do in here in a minute but here's some of the bigger names you probably recognize, I'm sure. We've done a lot of work through the 30 years with some fortune 500 firms. I guess more importantly, on the government side these are some of the government entities that we've done work with and how we've come to be today was the County of Chautauqua issued an RFP, to have the telecommunications bills audited. And we were awarded the opportunity and the way it was set up it's a shared savings model which means there's no cost, no fees no magic smoke and mirrors. It's only when we find savings and you actually realize the savings that we share, and we were awarded the opportunity at 18%. So, what that means is, any refunds or credits, we were able to get the county, once they got that money, as an example \$1,000 refund from the phone company, we would invoice 18% or \$180. And likewise, there's things we find that we can't get money back, but by making some changes going forward they save money so we share for 12 months. So as example so we have a phone line, though you had an old tool shed that you tore down but maybe the phone line didn't get disconnected the phone company says it's your responsibility to make sure you disconnect that line, but by us finding it for you. You're now going to save \$30 a month. So, in that example we would invoice whatever the math is \$5.40 cents each month for 12 months and then it stops. But we had great success with the county. We saved them \$80,000. And again, its capital expenditure painless, I call it because we're not going to recommend you spend money to save it. It's really a scrub of the bills. We're working with Madison County right now. As far as others in New York, we did Brentwood school district I believe they're the second largest in the state of run Long Island, but you can see some of the bigger names like city Las Vegas we found \$600,000 there of course, there are a lot bigger than you all are but you never know what we'll find. So those are just some of the government entities we've done work with, and we'd be happy to provide references; Kitty Crow is one at the county, the school district of Jamestown, I am working with them now to move forward. I don't know if the name Brittany Spry sounds familiar but I'm working there as well. Any questions on the different government entities we've done work with? All right. Just really quick, we this is just some of the services we also do utility bill auditing as well but telecom is really the focus tonight. We'll do the review will look at rates and things of that sort. And I can, I can send the copy of this deck ff you would like to copy of it to read at your leisure. Now the important thing about the program is probably the most important slide is, number one, it's shared savings as I mentioned, no cost. We do all the work; we make the recommendations know capital expenditure. The nice thing too is there's no obligation so even if we find something and for whatever reason you don't want to implement it there's no fee. So, we always suggest everybody have the audit done, you can always just throw the report in the trash and there's no fee for it but whether you select Eric Ryan to do it or someone else, I really think it should be something you should do because with the dynamics of the pandemic and, and all the changes that seem to be going on we are finding a lot more billing errors because operational patterns are changing, people are starting to work from home more, and we're seeing a lot more errors. And finally, its client managed which means we just don't come in and start randomly changing things on you, everything has to get written approval from you all. These are some examples of things we find one of the things we will do is call every phone number that you're paying for you'd be surprised we actually find phone lines. We just finished up a small manufacturer that five phone lines and of them we called were answered by Wendy's restaurant. They're actually paying for Wendy's phone bill. Mileage charges on circuits, we see that happens when we did Colgate-Palmolive, we found one of their

circuits from point A to point B was being billed wrong, and it ended up being a \$300,000 refund. So, these are just some of the things we find there's a lot of different things that go on with the billings because there's so many different components that the telecom bill touch tone and all those different features that you might have. As far as our process, if we're fortunate enough to be a service will send out what we need to proceed sheet. Once we have the data, we keep everything in if we see something, we open a ticket. We'll talk to the phone company once they confirm key the opportunity that we have found is real will send a notification out here to Mr. Thompson or somebody there. And this is an example this is Daytona State College. It was \$102,000 refund \$32,000 savings going forward. And then we attach our ticket and I know you can't read this, it's kind of but you can see how busy it gets what this was for whatever it's worth is the B channels on ISDPRI I weren't being billed properly. So, we just don't look at the charge on the surface we really drill into the actual every piece of the charge that occurs on a circuit or a phone line. Once you prove it, we go implement it for you were the ones that will spend time on the phone, and we're going to push to get it done because it's our incentive to get 18% of the savings. So, we're going to push to get it done as soon as possible. And then if anything you'll have a real line, nice line list that comes out of it will call every phone number as I mentioned we document who answers, how much that line costs, and that you'll have a real good inventory once we're completed with the audit. As far as what is needed on your end just really quick. the contract obviously with Eric Ryan telecom bills we like to get two months of the bills. A client info form that tells us who do we send those emails to or who do we call if we need another bill copy, letter of authorization phone companies will not talk to us unless that's on file. Copies of contracts so we can make sure what you're signed for you're actually being billed; we see a lot of discrepancies there. And then the tax exemption form since you are a nonprofit. And just you know why us, you know, as I mentioned, whether you go with us or somebody I really would suggest having it done. We do have a proven track record with Chautauqua County, we are starting work with Madison County, they signed up with us, no obligation as I mentioned that's big so you totally control the entire project. We do implement everything for you. And there's a lot of different services we provide during the 12 months that are at no additional cost. So that was quick hopefully I didn't blow through it too fast. I don't know if anybody has any questions that I can answer for you.

Councilman Olson: I have a question do you just analyze the landlines or do you also do sell or for the cell phone plan as well?

Mr. Venezia: Yes, it's landline circuits, cell phones. Yeah, any telecommunications related services.

Councilman Olson: Thank you.

Mr. Venezia: Other than that, I do want to thank you for your time. I strongly encourage you too if you are considering this that you do move ahead with somebody, I think you'll be pleased with the results you'll see especially given that it's no cost, no obligation type of arrangement. So, on behalf of the Eric Ryan company and myself I do want to thank you for your time, and I will look forward to hopefully hearing back from you all, there's anything I can provide in the future or in the meantime please let Mr. Thompson though, I will follow back up with him.

Councilman Olson: Thank you, Keith.

Councilman Russell: Thank you, sir.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Thank you. Ryan Did you have anything else you needed to add or wanted to add?

Mr. Thompson: No, thanks.

Resolution suspending the hiring freeze and authorizing the filling of four (4) full time firefighters in the Jamestown Fire Department. (Funding included in the 2021 General Fund Budget).

Councilwoman Ecklund: Matt, I'm assuming that all these at once is to send them at school at the same time, and to fall into line with your manpower?

Deputy Chief Coon: That's correct. Yeah, our intent is to send all four them to school at the same time, so they'll fall into line as soon as they get completed with their recruit firefighter training at Montour Falls, or anywhere else where we may be able to get to them in.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Just how many weeks will they be gone.

Deputy Chief Coon: Right now, the firefighter program was running a half capacity, it's probably going to be a 13-to-14-week program which it has been. The issue with the Academy is they obviously have to follow the same restrictions, any other learning institution. So, they're all able to accommodate half the students. So, our goal will be to get them out to training, hopefully as soon as possible and I can certainly keep you guys posted on when we have actual dates that the academy will be able to accommodate them.

Councilwoman James: Matt, I was just wondering, so I assume that they're already hired and I was just wondering, what is the makeup there are there any color, any diversity in the firefighters

Deputy Chief Coon: Councilwoman James they have not been hired yet. Right now, they have done interviews and they've done their agility test. They have not had their background checks, come back yet so we can obviously check the backgrounds and then also have to have their pre-employment physicals before we can move forward with that.

Councilwoman James: Thank you.

Councilwoman Ecklund: And, again, Chief Coon, I just want to reiterate for the general public and this falls in line with Councilwoman James comment that you're working off of the test that was done, how many years ago, a year or more?

Deputy Chief Coon: Two. Its two years old.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Oh, so yeah so just keep that in mind, you know, as well.

Deputy Chief Coon: Councilwoman James and Ecklund, just for your own awareness, I have done some research with that and we're striving to have the fire department reflect the diversity of the community.

Councilwoman James: Thank you.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: I think Jeff told me some interesting information to that Kim probably knows and Jeff and the chief but what I didn't know, and chief, correct me if I'm wrong is that in order to apply for to even be eligible to be hired you have to be an EMT first? Is that not correct or something like that so there are there are steps to becoming a firefighter that most people probably don't know. And so, it's important that you know people interested in either law enforcement or firefighting really know what is required to go into those fields, so we can begin to expand that pool. So just another layer of something and, at least in the fire department that is required. So please be aware of that as well.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Tamu, I will also say that the Professional Firefighters did do a public education campaign, trying to do just that and tell people what is required to be a firefighter, or to even be considered to be hired by the City of Jamestown so thanks to you, Chief Coon and the guys on the job to for getting that out there.

Deputy Chief Coon: Of course.

Councilwoman James: When was that done? I was just wondering what when was done recently.

Deputy Chief Coon: Yeah. And just for clarification, everyone. You're not required to be an EMT to sit for the exam, they just have to be an EMT to be appointed. So, there's certainly anybody is welcome to sit for the civil service exam, they do not have to be an EMT.

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Is that just a city requirement or is that a state requirement?

Deputy Chief Coon: For the EMT?

Councilwoman Graham-Reinhardt: Yes, in order to be appointed as a firefighter.

Deputy Chief Coon: That's the city of Jamestown requirement for civil service that's right on the announcement.

Councilwoman Ecklund: I will advise and I, and I know you know this that although that's not a requirement to take the test. I do know for a fact, chiefs, whether you've been in this situation. Probably not since the test is two years old, but the individuals have taken the test thinking they have some time to get their EMT certification, and they lose out because they did not have it in the department actually hired in a short time period so although it's not a requirement, it's something I would do in a timely fashion if that's what you're thinking of doing.

Deputy Chief Coon: Agreed. Highly recommended that they get that done as soon as possible.

Councilwoman James: I was just wondering that public announcement the public awareness thing that you did. Could that be done again? I don't know, um, you know, so that we can help get some people who maybe I mean I didn't know maybe I missed that. And so, I would like to just get it out there to the community and, you know, so that they can be aware of it so at least we can say we put it out there.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Vickye, I believe it was recently done on social media through the Professional Firefighters Union.

Councilwoman James: Oh, I missed that somehow So, yeah, I'm just wondering. I mean, you know I slept on that one, because I don't remember that.

Councilwoman Ecklund: I'm going to be honest. The only reason I know is someone screenshot it and sent me and asked me a question.

Councilwoman James: We'll see. So, if we can maybe do you know because we as we found out through the stakeholder sessions that we were holding communication seem to be key in this communication sometimes was something that we know things, and we know how things one but the community doesn't know. And so, we could just do a better job and communicating these things and letting them know, I think you know, we found out you know I mean just the comments and, you know, please share Public Safety Committee, you know, that it just seemed like that was something that was that echoed through the, you know, all the shareholder meetings was better communication, or what how things are run and done from both sides.

Deputy Chief Coon: Absolutely I couldn't agree more. And if anybody has any questions, they are certainly welcome to call the chief's office and get information. Just as recently as last week I did just my own study on the department demographics versus the demographics of the community and we are in line and we continue to strive to make sure that we stay in line with the demographics of the community. it's very important to us.

Councilwoman James: So, it was done on social media? Was that something that was recorded, is that something that we could just even just know

Councilwoman Ecklund: I think I think they did a day by day like five steps. I think I saw step two of x. Don't quote me on the number of steps. I think though Matt, Chief Coon can probably add more to that but I think they went through on like day one, here's some beginning information and then they did like a series of them.

Mayor Sundquist: Councilmember James we can, I'll work with Deputy Chief Coon and the union, to see if we can't do like a recap, or a one pager that you guys are able to share out. Okay?

Councilwoman James: Thank you so much, Mr. Mayor.

Councilman Russell: What I would recommend maybe after COVID clears is, I know what some of the schools particularly change some high school they have military recruiters that come in and speak with, they set up in the cafeteria, and they have literature there and they talk to the kids there on what it takes

to, you know, join the Marine Corps join the Air Force or for the Navy. I would recommend that maybe we have the someone liaison from the police department and the fire department come in, set up the same way, and explain to our youth there exactly what are the steps if you want to be a firefighter, or if you want to be a police officer so we're getting that out there and there's some interaction going on there. And it's being explained to them, the entire process.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Anybody have anything else further on that? And then the informational report stuff I'm going to let Ryan and the Mayor handle that.

Mr. Thompson: I'm just going to share my screen, probably easier for me to go through some of these with my screen shared. Can everyone see my screen alright? So, the mayor had asked me to put together a summary of our parking ramps, over the last three years. We have three ramps that we own and are operated by all pro parking on Spring Street, North Main, and Cherry Street, as well as a couple, lots that they also manage, Prendergast, and Lafayette, and you can see that over the last three years, you know, the profit, obviously this year has gone down significantly. This year we only turn about \$6,115 in profit, as compared to 2019 at \$54,150. Not surprisingly, what is driving that is the drop in revenues. Revenues this year we're only at \$332,810, and last year there at \$382 951. You can really see that the expenditures have, have not changed a whole lot over the last couple of years. So overall, we're looking at our profits for these parking ramps and lots down \$48,000 this year as compared to 2019. I do also want to note that this does not include the debt service payments related to any projects or construction that was done at any of these parking ramps. So, anyone have any specific questions for me? There's a second sheet in there as well that kind of goes into a little more detail on what the different components of revenue and different components of the different expenditures, as well. If there's no questions I will move on to the other informational report.

As you're all aware, the police were awarded 2% raises in 2016 and 2017. We did pay this retro on January, 22. The 2% compounds to about 4.04% over the five years. In total, the payout was \$932,460 in salaries. When your account for retirement, and social security and Medicare that gets you up to \$1.2. million; \$1,000,229.335. We did get a little back on the health contribution side as the health contribution percentages went from 17 to 19%. That's what we were able to get \$139,000 back there. So, the grand total cost of the retroactive pay was \$1.1 million. I also want to note that the previous administration did have an accrued liability booked for the 2% in 2016 and 17. So this means that the retro raises for 16 through 19 will not negatively impact our fund balance. We will have a large hit to this year's budget, the 2020 budget as well as the 2021 budget of about \$220,000 per year.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Ryan I just want to clarify something that was said a couple times to me and probably to you as well being in the financial field. The reason the previous administration, you know accrued a potential impact for this wasn't because they knew they were going to lose, regardless what your opinion was that you have a financial obligation to report, and accrue for any lot potential liability or open pending case on anything. And this was this was one of them that we had to accrue for. So, I want to just make that clear, so people understand.

Councilman Olson: Ryan when you said it You said from 2016 to 2019. So, is that for two more years as well?

Councilwoman Ecklund: No.

Councilman Olson: I think there's no more, because I thought he said from 2016 to 2019.

Councilwoman Ecklund: They're their first ruling was just for this, 2% was just those two years, we still have compounding from to 2018 on because we have to pay those significant raises backwards. Right?

Councilman Olson: I understand, but when I thought he just said that we have the accrued amount from 2016 to 2019. What was that just 2016 and there's not nothing else other than the amount that we have potentially saved for the fire department saved. Correct?

Mr. Thompson: No That's incorrect. There was also an additional liability booked at the end of 2019.

Councilman Olson: Okay. All right. Yeah. And what's that amount for?

Mr. Thompson: I don't have it off the top my head. But I can certainly send a follow up.

Councilman Olson: Yeah, just be curious to see what that is. Thank you.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Keep in mind that those values that are any company or business or sitting your government entity that has to occur that liability, potential liability ruling could be very understated or overstated.

Councilman Olson: Yeah, but at least there's something there.

Councilwoman Ecklund: No, but I'm just clearing the, the facts that are circulating out there.

Councilman Olson: Yeah, I'm not. I mean, at this point I think it's probably a good thing that's there.

Councilwoman Ecklund: So, by law has to be should be anyway.

Mayor Sundquist: Great, thank you, Ryan.

Councilwoman Ecklund: Thank you. That's it for Finance.

Council President Dolce: Thank you. We'll move on to Public Safety and the Chairman, Councilman Sheldon.

Councilman Sheldon: Thank you, Mr. President, we have the same resolution suspending hiring freeze and authorizing the filling of four full time firefighters in the Jamestown Fire Department due to retirement or pending retirements. And then for informational purposes we have a taxi rate request taxi rate card request from the Rainbow Cab Company of Chautauqua County. Everything is in order and they paid their fee. We do need to get a motion from the Public Safety Committee to approve this. All in favor? Thank you. And finally, we have changes to the city of Jamestown Management Guidelines. Included in the email I think

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we had this actually mailed to us a while back, but there are a lot of changes in job titles such as legal secretary to legal assistant, adding paralegal, certain areas were crossed out hopefully everybody has chance to look at this. Appreciate that everything was put in red. It was a change. Adding Juneteenth as a holiday is new to the Management Guidelines. Adding paternity leave in addition to maternity leave for two weeks. Mayor Eddie is there anything else you want to point out at this point?

Mayor Sundquist: Councilmember Sheldon just to add, we did make some adjustments to the salary range for police chief, as well as the police captain's, given the adjustment and base salaries for the other uniformed officers, a lieutenant is actually now making more than the starting rate of a captain. So, we needed to make adjustments there on the salary schedule to account for that.

Councilman Sheldon: Thank you. Any questions on this?

Mayor Sundquist: We're open to any additional feedback that folks have. We just put this in this informational to hear and receive any other feedback that you will have on the Management Guidelines.

Councilwoman Ecklund: I do; the ones that have a cost, financial impact and also negotiating impact, have we done any research on those?

Mayor Sundquist: Are there specific ones you referring to Councilwoman Ecklund?

Councilwoman Ecklund: The addition of a holiday for one in particular, there is a financial impact with doing that, whether it's the right thing to do or not, that needs to be fully disclosed. And does that have to mean that negotiated on each contract, again, because none of the contracts have that in there currently.

Mayor Sundquist: That's correct. If we were to put Juneteenth as a holiday for any of the bargaining units that would have to be negotiated into it, this would just be obviously for Management Guidelines that was added at the request of Councilmember James.

Councilwoman Ecklund: But there still is a...

Mr. Thompson: I have it Kim.

Councilwoman Ecklund: That's what I would like to see the financial impact of all of it. Thank you.

Mayor Sundquist: We will get that over to you Councilmember Ecklund; thank you for raising that point.

Councilman Sheldon: Any other questions?

Councilman Russell: Mr. Sheldon, I just wanted to bring up really quick; I guess what this is more new business. It should be on the next agenda work session, I had someone requests a street light on Potter's alley about mid-block, on Potter's Alley. A couple businesses requested it. It didn't make it in time to get on this agenda but it should be in the next one. I spoke to Jenn about it so everyone's aware that they'll see it next time.

Councilman Sheldon: Yes, it has to go to the BPU for review I actually requested a couple of street lights on, Marvin Parkway a couple of weeks ago and has not come back from the BPU at this point. It will be coming at some point. Anything else at this point? That's it for Public Safety then.

Councilwoman James: I'm sorry I was on mute. I requested one on Livingston last month, also a light so haven't heard back from that one either.

Clerk/Treasurer Williams: I'm just, just some information that we've gotten from the BPU, they actually moved some of the street lights on Livingston to help with the lighting down there, they did let us know that and at that time we checked we followed up with Councilman Sheldon's request as well so when, once we submit Councilman Russell's request tomorrow, we'll follow up with Brent with your initial request.

Councilman Sheldon: Thank you.

Council President Dolce: Is that it for Public Safety?

Councilman Sheldon: Yes.

Councilwoman James: Mr. President, I just wanted to for Housing, we did have a meeting and we would like to report that on the second work session of the month that we will be on the agenda the things that we're going to be looking at and talking about is the beginning process for the Citizen Advisory Committee will have updates on demolition, and we'll be talking about open and close cases and also some success cases successful cases and we'll also be having an update on our tenant rental and utility grants, and that will be on the second work session of the month. We'll start having reports.

Council President Dolce: Very good. Is that next week then?

Councilwoman James: Correct.

Council President Dolce: Thank you.

Councilman Nelson: Mr. President, there was nothing on the agenda for Public Works but I did want to mention that I followed up with the resident that mentioned the flags and the Third Street Bridge. And I spoke with Jeff Lehman he got me a quote. It was higher than we both expected and, but then I ran it by the people who were interested in purchasing the flags and they were, were okay with the, with the price so, it's something I think we should pursue I think we, a nice thing to do, on Third Street, with, you know, everything else the trees that have come down. And I guess I would just like to see the council support a resolution to accept this gift from the residents who really don't. They aren't doing it for their own recognition they don't want to be named. So, I guess there's more to come on that I can foresee maybe, you know, the you know the flags will. After a few years will probably need to be replaced and maybe other people might want to step up and purchase a flag. Maybe in memory of a loved one or, you know, friend or relative. It might, might be something that might be a nice thing to start. I can see the flags possibly going up sometime and you know in made before Memorial Day and coming down and fall, maybe just after Veterans Day. So, I guess there's maybe more to come with that but just wanted to report back to you on that. And I was very pleased to hear from the people they were and I want to thank them for, very generous of them to do that.

Council President Dolce: Since we've already moved on into business; we do have one item under contract negotiations. Again, I just, you know, want to thank the on the polling place. Their individual feelings about that and certainly there's a lot of issues, other issues surrounding that that are probably going to be addressed later on down the road in the future. But again, I try to give the two election commissioners an idea of some alternatives, at least in the time being, to look for differently. If there as a couple work this year so I just want everybody for their input on that with that. With that, do I have a motion? Before I do that though I just wanted to say, I apologize if I froze earlier you might notice I have a different background. It's a COVID night I guess you know being on zoom. That's the first time that I've been frozen in my basement, and I moved upstairs and, and on the COVID sense I don't know if you notice behind me. During COVID, my family, liked to play pin the tail on the donkey. So, if you saw the donkey back there, my apology will be fun back in April or May when we were really stuck inside to resurrect the donkey again. He's still on the wall so we still may play it again. So, if you're wondering what that was back there it is. And I did have fun playing with your 22 and 19, by the way, but that was one. Anyways, I thought, if you bought that and wondered why that was back there, I don't have five-year-olds, but I do have kids that still enjoy some fun. Do I have a motion to go into an executive session?

Mayor Sundquist: Councilman Dolce, I do have some Messages from the Mayor.
Council President Dolce: I'm sorry, I forgot you. I am sorry.

Mayor Sundquist; No, no apologies. As president those mentioned there is one item for Executive Session which is the collective bargaining agreement, and they'll be a second one for personnel matter, so they'll be two total. I'm actually going to yield the floor actually to continue our discussion at different work sessions on achievements of the departments for 2020, and believe the DPW is going to be talking a bit about some of the things they've accomplished for 2020. Is that right Zach and Jeff?

Mr. Lehman: DPW and Parks.

Mayor Sundquist: All right, Zach if you want to share your screen and I'll turn it over to Jeff and the team.

Mr. Lehman: Probably the biggest thing that went on last year, besides COVID was the City Hall renovations. Almost a \$2 million project where we tackled lighting, heating, cooling of all the buildings. You can see that the pictures are the new cooling towers outside of City Hall. The new heating system in the basement of City Hall, and of course our beloved lighting and city Hall. probably the other biggest project we had was the new Storm Water Management Facility up above the park. As you know we've identified the problem of flooding through Roseland Park. It was flooding down into Washington Street. We put a new 47,000 gallon holding pond, retention pond on the property. It took us to maneuvering to get some property. Even with COVID they were able to get that built and in place, and knock-on wood so far as it's a good thing, but it is the first phase of two phases for that system. The second phase will talk about for 2020 but that goes down in the park. And then probably our other biggest items was the finalization of the phase three DRI improvements that were done, particularly the ones downtown we finished up Third Street, the alley and Black Bear Court, which we interestingly enough, all we had was a night shot of them finishing it in the dark at the end of the season. We also got the kayak launch installed down in McRae point which was met with a lot of compliments. A lot of people using it. This one is the one we're planning for next year is the, like I said,

reimbursed for all of our parts and labor. One also advantage of just quicker turnaround times the fact that in some instances are reimbursement rate for our labor is higher than what our internal fully burden Labor Rate is so that will also become an advantage moving forward.

Councilman Olson: Pat, real quick what percentage of our trucks are all under that brand?

Mr. Monaghan: Let's see we have between DPW, BPU, there's, there's probably about, I want to say there's about 10 plus at the moment. And as we replace them, we're going to continue to purchase them. They just seem to perform better for us.

Councilman Olson: That was my next question so. All right, thank you.

Mr. Monaghan: Okay, move on. And then finally for 2020. We made the transition into electronic procurement and join the bid net direct program provides all the necessary resources to solicit and award bids electronically, and allows us to connect more with a wider array of vendors to just have better cost savings potentially. The best part about it is it's completely free. Moving into 2021 we want to continue working with bid net to fully transition into electronic purchasing at this time we are all still providing paper copies, in conjunction with the electronic bidding just because it's quite a process to them, change right over at a flip of a switch, especially when you consider whose RFP's It takes more time than simply, you know, putting out a bid for a vehicle for example. And then also want to continue on with the fleet centralization efforts as recommended in the mercury associate study, we've made some great progress and made some great strides in that direction and for this upcoming year I'd like to continue working on giving fleet services more of a formal recognition within city government, and like to establish some more policies and procedures for city fleet operations. Next. And then finally, perhaps the biggest goal I have for 2021 is to hopefully secure a new location for a larger fleet facility. I believe that we are definitely providing a tremendous service for all our customer departments, but unfortunately, we're just outgrowing our location, considerably. A larger better laid out location will not only allow us to become more efficient and save money but laws also allow us to grow and continue providing top notch service to our current and future customers. That was all I had any questions?

Mr. Lehman: Any thoughts or questions? Thank you.

Mayor Sundquist: Thank you, Jeff and team.

Councilman Nelson: You guys do a great job you do a lot with a little.

Council President Dolce: Alright, anything else?

Mayor Sundquist: Council President Dolce, just two executive session items, one for collective bargaining agreement, and another one is a personal matter.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.

Jennifer R. Williams
City Clerk/ Treasurer

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