

## December 15, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held on Tuesday, December 15, 2020 at 7:00 PM with President Thomas DePietro presiding.

Upon roll call there were present: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Absent: None.

The Clerk announced there was a quorum present for the meeting as required by Section C12-13 of the City Charter.

Due to the Covid-19 Virus Global Pandemic, Governor Andrew Cuomo ordered to the extent necessary, to permit any public body to meet and take such actions authorized by the law without permitting in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be viewed or listed to such proceeding and such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. Meeting was live streamed on WGXC Radio Station.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the minutes of the November 10<sup>th</sup>, November 17<sup>th</sup> (2 meetings) and November 19<sup>th</sup> meetings were ordered received and placed on file. Carried.

### Committee Reports.

On motion of **Alderman Trombley**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following committee reports were ordered received and placed on file:

#### Legal Committee

August 26, 2020

In attendance: Alderman John Rosenthal, Chairman; Alderwoman Tiffany Garriga; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff; Jeffrey Baker, Counsel

Absent: Alderman Shershah Mizan

Mr. Rosenthal opened the meeting at 6:18 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and was live-streamed over local radio station WGXC.

### Short-Term Rental Law

Chairman Rosenthal said the committee had been working well over 1½ years on short-term rental (STR) legislation. The process has been very informative, he said, and was at the point where small revisions would be made. “This is a raft of legislation dealing with this phenomenon. It’s a national problem,” he said. “It also speaks to the zoning and development arc

of the community over a period of time. The raft of data that exists in other communities speaks to the problem.”

He emphasized that the law would not stop STRs, just regulate them. There are some who operate at multiple locations, and, of note, the Galvan Foundation registered 20 units as STRs before this law was put into effect, he said.

A PowerPoint presentation on the regulation of STRs was given. It opened with a snippet from the city’s Strategic Housing Action Plan: “Taking property or rooms out of the long-term rental market reduces the housing stock for local residents and puts upward pressure on the price of the remaining long-term housing units.”

The proposed legislation would restrict operation of STRs to Hudson residents, who must live on the property or adjoining property; allow a maximum of three STR units on a single parcel; allow second-home owners who spend 50 days a year in their house to use it as an STR for 60 days a year; and would have a five-year grace period.

There are about 200 registrations with about 500 units, which are bedrooms and not apartments with separate entries. One has 12 units, 10 have been five and eight units, 30 have four units, 44 have three units, 65 have two units and 41 have one unit.

To answer who owns them, Mr. Rosenthal noted that Galvan Initiatives Foundation has registered, but may not be operating, seven STRs with a total of 12 units. One individual owns STRs at six separate addresses and the rest are owned by individuals, many of whom are residents of Hudson or second-home owners. A total of 26 are LLCs or other corporate entities, but most of them have provided the names of their beneficial owners. The point, he said, was that ownership of STRs in Hudson was still largely local.

The precise number of STRs that would be prohibited after enactment of the law is difficult to determine with the limited data obtained from the city treasurer and Airbnb. Only a handful of people who own STRs are at more than one address and the city does not know how many STRs are owned by non-residents. In all likelihood, the vast majority of STRs in Hudson would be permitted under the proposed law.

Mr. Rosenthal said there were about 180 hotel rooms and about 40 rooms available in bed and breakfasts. The STR lobby believes that STRs are good for both the tourist and local economy through creation of jobs for people who service them between rentals. But, he said, the hotel proposed for 620 Union Street will have 55 rooms that will be available by the time the grace period ends.

So why regulate STRs? According to the Economic Policy Institute, there is no reason for local policymakers to let Airbnb bypass tax or regulator obligations. “It becomes a straight conflict between those interests you care more about: long-term residents of the city, or those that visit it,” according to the Institute’s Josh Bivens.

Mr. Rosenthal cited other reasons why STRs should be regulated: They reduce the amount of housing available for short-term rentals; with reduced supply, the rent of long-term rentals increases; the property taxes for all homeowners increase; and the character of the city and its neighborhoods is threatened by the large influx of a transient population.

He cited several studies that showed Airbnbs’ negative impact on affordable housing through depletion and increases in rent. He referred to studies from New York City and Los Angeles to make his case. “Our results are consistent with the story that, because of Airbnb, absentee landlords are moving their properties out of the long-term rental and for-sale markets and into the short-term rental market,” according to the *Harvard Business Review*.

To make his point, Mr. Rosenthal said many of the houses recently registered with the city for lodging taxes were recently long-term rentals—514 State Street, 502-504 Warren Street, 514 Washington Street and 87 Green Street in particular.

He said STR supporters have urged the Common Council to do research. It has already been done, he said, and no studies that undercut that research have been brought to the Council's attention by those supporters.

Mr. Rosenthal also addressed the effect of STRs on hotels and regular payroll jobs. Airbnbs displace regular payroll jobs because hosts are doing the cleaning and other service work that hotels hire for, or are hiring third-party cleaning services that aren't mandated to offer the same employment benefits as hotel staff. According to Mr. Bivens of the Economic Policy Institute, "It's a form of this kind of fissuring of the economy, spinning off jobs that used to be part of a big corporation...into a more insecure part of the economy."

STR supporters argue that the city's tourism industry will be negatively impacted by the proposed law. Mr. Rosenthal noted that a 55-room would open before the grace period expired and two surveys found only two to four percent of respondents wouldn't have gone on trips if Airbnbs weren't available.

Airbnbs also have an effect on tax revenues; they don't pay sales tax to Hudson, only the lodging tax. The rooms are largely empty during the week. In contrast, residents live in long-term rentals or houses they own all week and spend in the local economy.

Airbnb "landlords" who own multiple properties (one for occupying and at least one for renting) likely have an advantage because "any economic occurrence that provides benefits proportional to owning property is one that will grant these benefits disproportionately to the wealthy," Mr. Bivens said.

Since 60 percent of the property wealth in homeowners' primary household is concentrated in the top 20 percent of households—and more than 80 percent of the wealth is held by white households—it stands to reason that the ones who stand to make the most from Airbnb are already the wealthiest and the whitest, he said.

Mr. Rosenthal said Airbnb regulation was common and pointed to Jersey City, NJ, and Beacon and Chatham as example. And such regulation has been found constitutional by the state Supreme Court Appellate Division, Fourth Judicial Department in a case brought against the Town of Grand Island.

Mr. Rosenthal then suggested a language change or striking the entire section that made reference to STRs not paying sales tax. Mr. Baker said the section was not necessarily needed, but provided an added foundation. He said the language could be changed to say STRs often didn't pay sales tax.

Mr. Rosenthal also suggested a language change regarding where STRs were permitted to operate and that the section should reflect that it had to be registered and operating before March of 2020.

The amortization period for existing STRs to continue to operate after they were deemed illegal under the proposed law as it applied to those that were not owner occupied was discussed at length. Ms. Wolff said the original two-year period should be reinstated in the draft in place of five years. She felt two years was a reasonable amount of time since the intent of the law was to add a destructive effect to this activity. Two years, she said, was reasonable for an owner to adjust their economic model and still be able to benefit from a reasonable return. Mr. Rosenthal said the draft had already been revised from a five-year amortization period to three years. Ms. Wolff said that was too generous when considering the problem the city was trying to address.

Mr. Rosenthal argued that lodging tax revenues would still come in during that time. “So you’re saying revenue coming in is a good justification for it,” Ms. Wolff countered. Mr. Rosenthal said the city was not trying to squash the activity, to which Ms. Wolff replied that a “serious and urgent” housing problem existed in Hudson, which had created the issue of cultural displacement.

Ms. Garriga suggested a six-month limit. “I am a no vote on anything over,” she said. Mr. Baker said six months might be too short for a constitutional review. He was comfortable with two years in terms of allowing a transition. “My gut reaction is to avoid a legal challenge,” he said, and to give owners time to put their property on the market. Ms. Wolff said there was nothing to stop a person from listing a long-term rental. She added that there was no good argument for a five-year amortization period that’s based on anything other than wanting to “show support.”

Ms. Garriga then said she would only agree to one year.

“Some of the people who will be affected by this law live in this community,” Mr. Rosenthal said.

“My people get knocked around. Now we want to make concessions for the very people who did that to them,” Ms. Garriga countered.

“I want to do something reasonable and not invite rancor,” Mr. Rosenthal replied.

Ms. Wolff felt that the chairman was too willing to compromise. “If we allow existing STRs to continue for five years, this town won’t be recognizable. I want properties to be returned to long-term rentals quicker.”

Discussion followed on the definition of a dwelling versus a dwelling unit, or a room versus a unit. Mr. Baker said the law should make a distinction between what was being regulated—a house with multiple units or multiple bedrooms. He said the city didn’t want to limit the number of bedrooms, rather it wanted to limit the number of units someone could have.

A resident who identified herself as Anya said that the amortization period would affect whether she would be displaced if her landlord decided to sell.

“Unfortunately this is being framed as such a binary us versus them issue,” said Monica Byrne. A sensible conversation with constituents was needed. “Good legislation leaves no one happy because it involves compromise.”

Janet Kealy was delighted with the PowerPoint presentation and the requirement for owner-occupied units, which she said should be included in the city’s law. She said there was total confusion about what defined an STR—a room or an apartment—and how to regulate them since they were totally different. “The distinctions are important.”

Ms. Kealy also said the legal decision cited as from the Fourth Judicial Department, but Hudson was in the Third, so in her opinion, the decision had no bearing here. Mr. Baker said it was common to rely on decisions made in other departments.

Elizabeth Dickey didn’t understand why the proposed law was moving forward, but was grateful for the shorter amortization period. “I find it extremely frustrating when Common Council members cut each other off. John (Rosenthal) has to move toward a manner of respectfulness,” she added.

“We have to get to a point of compromise rather than going back to rehash something already settled,” Mr. Rosenthal replied. “We’re trying to weigh the effects if we get challenged (in court).”

Peter Meyer said that many had asked for documentation of the housing crisis referred to. He alleged that the committee was “chasing after an elusive and wrong problem,” and was going after those trying to earn a living and pay taxes with no proof that the law would lower rents.

Ms. Wolff said the amortization period was based on good faith. Mr. Rosenthal said that was a good point. “Good faith is an amorphous term.” Mr. Baker added that the law would extinguish a non-conforming use.

Mark Siegmund, the owner of a vacation home in Hudson, said affordability problems were caused by economic growth and the amount of housing stock here. The solution doesn’t seem to be restricting business and tourism, but building more housing and rent stability did, he said.

Mr. Basquali owns a Warren Street building that has a primary residence and store with a rental unit. He planned to open a restaurant, but that was foiled by the Covid-19 pandemic. He said he relied on income from the apartment, but he still bought a camper to live in. He wondered why owners were restricted to 60 days a year of Bnb use. Mr. Rosenthal said if the property was his primary residence, there was no restriction.

A resident who identified herself as Caitlin asked how the 60-day limit was arrived at. Mr. Rosenthal said the committee looked at other laws.

Steve Dunn said the amortization period should be at least as long as a solid case protected the city from a lawsuit, which is usually a year. A shorter period would leave the city more vulnerable, so the committee should consider a longer amount of time, he said.

Mr. Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 8:36 p.m.

## **Housing and Transportation Committee**

September 4, 2020

In attendance: Common Council President Tom DePietro; Alderman Shershah Mizan; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff

Absent: Alderwoman Tiffany Garriga, Chairwoman

Ms. Wolff, as acting chairwoman, called the meeting to order at 5:16 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

### **New Business**

#### **Protocol for PILOTs**

Ms. Wolff proposed creation of protocol or structure for developers who approach the city for a Payment in Lieu of Taxes (PILOT). The city just went through an unclear PILOT process for a Galvan proposal, so protocol would be beneficial, she said, as it would create clear requirements and conditions when the city is approached.

Mr. Mizan said more housing was needed and a PILOT could be helpful for the city and citizens. Affordable housing was needed in particular, he said. Ms. Wolff agreed that when a developer approached the city, she wanted them to fill a need.

Alderwoman Jane Trombley asked if any thought was given on the size of a project. Ms. Wolff said if the footprint of the project was over a certain size it would have to be reviewed and approved by the Planning Board first.

There could be lead time requirements, for instance, in the protocol. What kind of information do we want before we consider a PILOT?” she asked. “How should the city best go about creating the process? Are there agencies in the city better suited to develop a process than the Common Council...with more institutional memory or longevity?”

Ms. Trombley said the need for housing has been discussed often. She wondered if the city should start with developers and determine the need they were trying to fill. “It’s tricky. We’re trying to understand the scope of the need at any given point. Developers would say as of this day, there’s a need and we’d like to fill it.”

Ms. Wolff said the strategic housing action plan was a starting point, but Ms. Trombley countered that it was rapidly aging and that the city “can’t point to it forever. When do we require the developer to update that information or we update that information so we’re working in real time?” Ms. Wolff said the city could ascertain what its future housing needs were via a housing assessment, but, she said, “we don’t have a lot of time.” The county Department of Social Services (DSS) deals with housing affordability and could do a survey of the number of families seeking apartments, she said. Agencies like Columbia Opportunities and Catholic Charities also might be able to help. An assessment or survey would be a good way to produce a snapshot of what the city is looking for. “We need to establish a baseline for developers,” Ms. Trombley said.

Mr. DePietro said that while low average median income (AMI) projects were definitely needed in Hudson and might need a PILOT, mid-level AMI projects could be done without the break. Ms. Wolff said the Crosswinds development was denied a PILOT and built anyway.

Mr. DePietro has been making a list of 80 or so city-owned properties and only a handful of them are developable. “This might be the year of the great sell-off.”

Ms. Wolff asked if Mr. DePietro would like to present some ideas for development during the next meeting. He recommended working with the Hudson Housing Authority (HHA) because they would provide a transparent process and would probably do something other developers wouldn’t. Their finances will be completely open. PILOTs, as we’ve discovered, are so controversial. Ms. Wolff said she would like the committee to talk to the HHA board, but the point was how to develop protocol.

Mr. DePietro said the committee could look at models provided by Columbia Economic Development Corp. Executive Director Mike Tucker. Ms. Trombley said perhaps developers should say how critical a PILOT was to their project and whether it was possible to build without one. “Maybe the first order is to demonstrate conclusively why a PILOT is necessary.” Mr. DePietro said the city should be able to see what profits might be derived if a developer asked for a PILOT, but a private developer doesn’t want to share that information. “A housing project in Hudson would fill up in a week. No one can find rentals, even at the higher end.”

Ms. Trombley referred to the PILOT given to the Wick hotel on Cross Street, which was short and began when the first shovel went in the ground. That model should be explored for housing, she said.

Resident John Kane asked if anyone had dialogue with other municipalities regarding protocols used for affordable housing projects. Ms. Wolff said that was an obvious thing to look at.

Also, as the Galvan project was being reviewed, research was being done on accessory dwelling units as a mean of developing affordable housing. “Those built along alleyways could provide an opportunity for affordable housing in the city rather quickly,” she said. If homeowners were given a tax abatement, they could build up the equity of their property at a low

interest rate, she said. Doing so could result in an increase in property values, more people could live in Hudson, alleys would be beautified and owners would get help paying their taxes. Ms. Wolff said a firm in California has a type of house it builds in one's yard that matches up with affordability. Mr. DePietro said there were zoning issues, such as changes to the bulk rules, involved, and fire concerns were a perennial obstacle. Mr. Kane said fire hydrants could be placed at the ends of alleys. Mr. DePietro said it was more about fire trucks being able to get through the alleys.

### **Local Project Administrator**

Ms. Wolff also suggested establishing a local project administrator relationship. Many municipalities and counties have relationships with non-profit housing organizations that provide support for first time or low income home ownership, and other housing-related things. "It's pretty available and a low-hanging fruit situation to ameliorate our housing crisis." Doing so would like spread, so the county should do so too. "Hudson as the leader would be useful."

She spoke with representatives of Rupco, which is one of the state-approved local project administrators. Rupco would require a contract for services instead of a salary. Mr. DePietro said the Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency (HCDPA) had money and property "so they could do it." The agency has many small lots that could be developed for housing if zoning was changed.

### **Housing Affordability Emergency**

Ms. Wolff said officials could consider declaring a city-wide housing affordability emergency. The Covid-19 pandemic had created "an unprecedented rush of people leaving New York and other cities, and real estate values were escalating." She did not know the metric of how to tell if the situation was an emergency. Average cost versus average income level was a possibility.

"What you're proposing would allow us to work against that exigency," Mr. DePietro said.

Ms. Trombley said there was not enough information to say that an emergency existed without talking about a plan to remedy. Developing more affordable housing would be the response, Ms. Wolff said. Short term measures would be needed, she added.

Ms. Trombley said if Rupco was to put something together, it would take no less than 24 to 36 months from a dead start. "I love the idea, but if there's an emergency, what are the thoughts to respond to it immediately?" she asked.

Ms. Wolff said her colleague was on point and that the city would have to come up with an emergency plan. She said a strategy was being developed to provide gap funding for those who can't get into available housing. That would unlock available units. Mr. DePietro said 25 units at Bliss Towers were on the imminent horizon and could be a direct response to the crisis "You can't build anything to solve an emergency," he said. "We're talking about expediting," Ms. Wolff said.

Ms. Trombley said a constituent reminded her that the city had a vacancy law that addressed unoccupied properties. If there is no building permit or the property is not for sale, the owner had to pay a fee. She felt that the law was not being enforced. "If we're really looking...to expand housing, we must get these properties in the marketplace."

Mr. DePietro said an obvious example was property on the northeast side of Warren and Fourth streets that has sat vacant and could provide plenty of housing. “It’s disgraceful that it’s sitting there doing nothing all these years,” he said.

“We have a law. It’s a matter of enforcement,” Ms. Trombley said.

Mr. DePietro said the situation should be discussed with Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh.

Alderman Dewan Sarowar asked if an unpaid fine could be levied on the owner’s property tax. Mr. DePietro said it could. He also said that Assistant Corporation Counsel Zoe Paolantonio had found other ways to handle vacant properties. Ms. Wolff said she didn’t know that fees weren’t being collected and Ms. Trombley said she didn’t seem them on the fee schedule.

Mr. Kane said he spoke with Mr. Haigh about vacant buildings when he began working on the U.S. Census. Forty vacant buildings were on the list, but Mr. Kane did not know the number of units involved. Ms. Wolff asked if there was any distinguishing between habitable and non-inhabitable properties. Mr. Kane said that was not considered in the Census. Mr. DePietro said the committee could check to see how many were on a foreclosure list. Mr. Kane said there were two.

Mr. Kane also said that Mr. Haigh told him that the vacancy law, as written, required someone to inform him of the vacancy and the owner would get a warning before any fees were levied.

## **Old Business**

### **Housing Trust Fund**

Ms. Wolff asked for a resolution supporting a housing trust fund. The resolution would not establish the fund, just lend support for one. She said the city’s AMI was \$36,641 as of 2017. There were 651 households that met the criteria of very low and extremely low income earning no more than 50 percent of AMI, she said. Getting behind a housing trust fund would show support for those at risk of displacement. She also said anti-displacement grant funds could be sought. Mr. DePietro made a motion to put forth a resolution in support of the fund to the full Common Council. It was seconded by Ms. Wolff and approved.

Mr. DePietro made a motion to adjourn at 6:25 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Wolff and approved unanimously.

## **Housing and Transportation Committee**

December 2, 2020

In attendance: Alderwoman Tiffany Garriga, Chairman; Common Council President Tom DePietro; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff

Absent: Alderman Shershah Mizan

Ms. Garriga called the meeting to order at 6:45 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.



## **Old Business**

### **Fair Housing Officer**

Ms. Garriga said appointment of a fair housing officer had been on the table numerous times for many years. Columbia County Fair Housing Officer William Fisher previously told the committee that the city needed its own officer. She had worked with Mr. Fisher about how to create the post and Ms. Wolff had been in contact with City Attorney Cheryl Roberts. Once discussions are finished, the committee would hear if anything should be added to or taken out of the fair housing officer's duties, Ms. Garriga reported.

Mr. DePietro said he listened to part of a housing discussion with the Hudson-Catskill Housing Coalition. Three lawyers were involved and much helpful information was shared. COVID-19 and evictions were reasons to have a fair housing officer, Ms. Garriga said.

Ms. Wolff said a fair housing commission was created in Hudson, but there was no evidence that it was operating. The role of the fair housing officer was outlined at that point. Officials were now looking to rewrite part of the City Code so a fair hearing officer could be appointed. Ms. Garriga wanted to establish whether there needed to be a name change. Ms. Wolff said Common Council Attorney Jeff Baker suggested the re-write, which would remove reference to the Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency and create the position.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to put forth a resolution for the amendment, which was seconded by Mr. DePietro and approved unanimously.

### **Truck Route Study Meeting**

Ms. Wolff encouraged members to attend a public information meeting for the truck route destination and origin study was scheduled for December 10 at 6 p.m. Mr. DePietro said that M.J. Engineering and Land Surveying, PC, would present origin and destination data collected on truck traffic in Hudson. They would not have any recommendations until after the meeting, he said.

### **No Free Parking**

Ms. Garriga said that despite tradition, parking meters would not be free during December due to financial issues created by the pandemic.

### **Hudson Housing Authority**

Ms. Garriga asked if anything was new with the Hudson Housing Authority (HHA) that the committee should know about. Ms. Wolff said the Authority had a new chairman and a new member. The HHA was developing a "pretty serious agenda" for the new year.

The HHA also was working on a loan to complete work on apartments that had been offline for some time, as well as a new elevator.

Ms. Garriga said she spoke with a tenant of Bliss Towers whose ceiling caved in. "This is a serious issue," she said. "It will probably happen in another apartment very soon."

She also said that the fumigation process was flawed because it simply rotated the cockroaches. "They need to do the entire building at the same time." The same applied to bedbugs, she said. Ms. Wolff said there had been discussed about how to get all tenants out of the building for an entire day.

Ms. Garriga also said a welcome sign with the name of the complex was needed. Ms. Wolff said that was brought up and she was told that the sign was ordered.

The playground at Bliss also needs to be updated, Ms. Garriga said. “Probably two decades of children have been brought up on the same equipment.”

Mr. DePietro made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Wolff and approved unanimously.

### **Informal Meeting**

September 8, 2020

In attendance:

Common Council President Tom DePietro

First Ward Alderman Rebecca Wolff

Second Ward Aldermen Tiffany Garriga and Dewan Sarowar

Third Ward Aldermen Calvin Lewis Jr. and Shershah Mizan

Fourth Ward Aldermen John Rosenthal and Malachi Walker

Fifth Ward Aldermen Eileen Halloran and Dominic Merante

Jeffrey Baker, Counsel

Absent: First Ward Alderman Jane Trombley

Mr. DePietro called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and streamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

### **Reports and Communications**

The Council received City Treasurer Heather Campbell’s revenue/expense reports for May and June, minutes from the August 18 Informal Council meeting and minutes of the August meetings of the Council’s Finance, Department of Public Works, and Youth and Aging committees.

The Council also received communications from John Hunka asking the Council to deny a grant to Open Studio Hudson; Stephanie Seibert in support of a five-year sunset clause in the proposed short-term rental (STR) law and a request to remove a section regarding payment of taxes for inclusion in the sunset clause; Jenny Douglas, Serra Butash and Julia, Juan, Oliver and Ines Saucedo supporting the five-year sunset clause in the proposed STR law; and Yves Jaques and Sienna Reid seeking quantification regarding the STR situation and opposing various sections of the law.

The Council also received a report from Dog Control Officer James Delaney for July and August. He received two reports of found dogs in July; one was returned to its owner and the other remanded to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society. He patrolled city streets and the dog park on July 2, 5, 9, 13, 16, 20, 23, 27 and 30. Mr. Delaney had three reports of found dogs in August; one was returned to its owners and the other two were sent to the Humane Society. He patrolled city streets and the dog park on August 1, 5, 7, 9, 21, 18, 22, 23, 27 and 30.

Mr. DePietro said more communications were received regarding the STR law, but they came in too late to be posted on the city website.

## Resolutions

The following resolutions were introduced for consideration at the Council's regular monthly meeting in September:

Appointment of Jayne M. Kendall, Alyssa Rice, Shawntelle Murphy, Lauren Mabb, Michelle McDonald, Catherine Diehl, Scott McDonald, Melinda Peck and Gavin Cipollino as Commissioners of Deeds from October 1, 2020 through September 30, 2022. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

Authorization for Mayor Kamal Johnson to sign an agreement with the Energy Improvement Corporation, which is required to implement the Energize New York Open C-Page Local Law. Introduced by Ms. Wolff and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Sarowar asked what the law was for. Mayor's Aide Michael Chameides said it allowed property owners to borrow money for capital improvements for energy. The law enabled the mechanism, and the contract allowed the city to implement the program. It encourages people without a lot of savings to make capital improvements.

Approval of a \$1,000 grant for Daniel Rothbart Studio as recommended by the Tourism Board. Introduced by Ms. Wolff and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. Lewis congratulated Mr. Rothbart for reducing his grant request without compromising the project. Tourism Board member Chris McManus said Mr. Rothbart had been very accommodating with his "Floatilla" project planned for Oakdale Lake and had an enviable list of artists.

Authorization for the city treasurer to amend the city budget to fund Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) projects. It would involve increasing expenditures by \$22,000 for ADA compliance and increasing revenues by \$22,000 for use of the fund balance.

Approval would keep the city in compliance with a Department of Justice agreement requiring retention of an architect to identify and report all barriers to access along pedestrian walkways, and remediation of non-compliance facilities.

Ms. Garriga asked if Mr. Chameides and Public Works Commissioner Peter Bujanow would be willing to speak to residents of Providence Hall regarding ADA compliance and "the sidewalks we are sorely behind on." Mr. Chameides said they would if Ms. Garriga organized the meeting.

Approving support for creation of a housing trust fund to support city residents at risk of displacement and applying for an anti-displacement grant to seed the fund and to support a housing justice manager, whose responsibilities would include management of the trust fund. Introduced by Ms. Wolff and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

Designation of 241 Columbia Street, the Old Shiloh Baptist Church, as a landmark. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Ms. Wolff. The Historic Preservation Commission recommended the designation.

Authorization for Mayor Johnson to sign a license agreement with the Schooner Apollonia for dock space in exchange for free tours at least an hour long to at least 50 Hudson residents for one month and four days. Introduced by Ms. Wolff and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Mr. DePietro said the Apollonia was central to Waterfront Wednesdays. Mr. Merante asked why ADA compliance had been excluded. Mr. DePietro said the ship was compliant during Waterfront Wednesdays, but Mr. Merante did not believe that was so. The previous contract didn't include an ADA compliance requirement either. Mr. Baker said it was a matter of providing dock space in exchange for tours and that a section of the resolution could be amended to include persons with disabilities. Mr. Chameides said there were steps to get on the boat, but it was possible that a portion of it was ADA compliant. He agreed to contact ship owners about the issue.

### **Traffic Study**

Alderman Rosenthal and Public Works Commissioner Peter Bujanow had met with companies that responded to a request for proposals for a truck traffic survey. Mr. Bujanow hoped to have a contract put forth for approval for next week's Council meeting. Five responses were received, which was narrowed to three firms. Representatives from each interviewed. The study will include the origins and destinations of trucks.

### **Local Law Increasing Fees for Parking Violations**

Aldermen received a draft local law that would increase the penalties for the following parking violations: parking in a crosswalk, \$25; parking in a no-parking zone, \$25; parking in a fire zone, \$50; blocking a driveway, \$25; wrong side parking, \$25; and double parking, \$50. The fees for the remaining seven violations are not included in the City Code.

Mr. Rosenthal said there were no signs to indicate what the laws were. Mr. DePietro said the law was not being changed, only fees were.

He said double parking seemed to be more of a problem on Warren Street. The fee for that violation was doubled. Ms. Garriga said most of the double parking problem on Warren was due to delivery trucks. Ms. Wolff agreed and asked if the penalty applied to them. "Or are the people suffering because of the delivery trucks?" Ms. Garriga interjected. Mr. DePietro said ticketing was at the discretion of police officers. Mr. Baker said deliveries not left unattended could be excluded. Ms. Wolff asked if that was the same as someone double parking to run into a store. There is plenty of discretion regarding parking enforcement under the code, Mr. Baker said.

Mr. Mizan said there are companies, UPS for example, that only have one driver, so delivery trucks should be excluded. Ms. Garriga disagreed as she had seen some trucks search for a parking space. Mr. Mizan said drivers have limited time, but Ms. Garriga said everyone was on a time schedule and some even had to deliver to multiple sites, but no one should be excluded.

Ms. Garriga and Mr. Sarowar asked that the fee for wrong side parking be reduced from \$25 to \$15, which aldermen agreed to unanimously.

Mr. Merante said the \$50 fee for parking in a handicap zone should be increased to \$100 because there are a limited number of handicapped parking spaces. Ms. Garriga and Ms. Wolff agreed. Mr. DePietro said that could be changed any time because it was not in the City Code.

### **Short-Term Rental Law**

Mr. Rosenthal said passage of the short-term rental (STR) law would put an end to speculative investment. "This is an immediate victory," he said. The five-year sunset period seemed to be a compromise, yet only affects a small number of people. Rather than using lodging tax solely for tourism, some could now be used for housing, he added. "We're not losing

more units. The law is allowing us to gather funds to develop housing programs.” There are 1,751 housing units in the city and about 300 registered STRs.

Some residents have an STR to ease their tax burden, he said. Still, the number of amortized units is small and would have a negligible impact on the housing inventory. The longer amortization period insulated the law from a legal challenge. A landlord can sit on unrented units and write off the loss. “So rushing to get units on the market won’t help people who need help with housing immediately.”

Ms. Garriga again suggested a six-month sunset clause, but Mr. Baker said that might be unconstitutional. He referenced a case involving Grand Island’s law, which included a one-year amortization period with the opportunity for three one-year renewals. The court ruled that the law did not constitute a taking of property as all the STRs there were residential structures that could be reused. The burden was on the property owner to show that they could get no reasonable return from their property.

Mr. Baker said he found no case law in which an STR statute was overturned. A one-year sunset clause with a provision to extend was reasonable, he said.

Ms. Garriga said she would go no further than a year in her support of the law. Ms. Halloran thought a five-year period was reasonable. “Given the numbers, we should be smart about what we want to spend time and money in court.”

Ms. Wolff was trying to understand Mr. Rosenthal’s point that a five-year sunset clause would apply to only a small number of units. “There are 300 rooms registered under the lodging law now. We parse out rooms and units. Eighty rooms could represent 12 apartment units, but it still constitutes a small number of units put back on the rental market,” he said.

Ms. Garriga asked Mr. Baker to repeat why a one-year period was reasonable. Given the nature of uses, all STR properties could be sold or changed to long-term rentals, he said. The time period was essentially a policy decision.

Ms. Wolff still didn’t feel that she was presented a reason why a five-year amortization period was desirable. She would support the original proposal of two years or Mr. Baker’s suggestion for a provision allowing an extension, which would be heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals. Mr. Merante said COVID-19 could be cited as a hardship since experts predict the virus would linger. “I think it’s reasonable to consider five years with no appeal.” The money, he said, could be put toward a housing trust fund or other programs.

Mr. Rosenthal made a motion for a five-year amortization period, which was seconded by Ms. Halloran. The motion failed by a 7-3 vote, with Mr. DePietro, Ms. Garriga, Mr. Mizan, Ms. Wolff, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Walker and Mr. Sarowar voting in the negative. Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Merante and Ms. Halloran voted in favor. There was a question whether Mr. Lewis could vote on the issue, since he is employed by Galvan, which owns registered STRs. Mr. DePietro said Mr. Lewis would be more likely to vote in favor if he were influenced by his employer.

Mr. Sarowar advanced a motion for a one-year amortization period, which was seconded by Ms. Garriga. Mr. DePietro reminded all that the proposed law would require a public hearing and opinions from the Planning and Zoning boards. He then allowed public comment on the sunset clause.

A resident who identified himself as Dylan said a one-year period would put more units on the market. He proposed that all the lodging tax be put into a housing trust fund. “The amortization period was brought up as an investment issue. Now they’re asking us to extend that under-regulated market so they can collect on their investment. It doesn’t seem fair. It’s time for Hudson to stand up to these predatory investors.”

Elizabeth Dickey said that since the law would ultimately impact a smaller number of rentals than imagined, the city should move toward a swifter amortization period.

Kaya Weidman was in favor of a one-year period. She spoke of the dramatic impacts of lack of housing and significant changes since the Airbnb phenomenon. “We need to create spaces for people to come back. I’m shocked by the amounts people will pay to live here because they’re so committed to the city.” She opposed non-owner-occupied units and favored them being back on the market. “Twenty-three apartments could make a huge difference in a city of this scale.” If the risk of being sued, which she said was very likely, then so be it. “It will encourage other communities to see Hudson set a precedent.”

Wheeler, who only uses a first name, also supported the one-year clause over five years. “A lot of people will be long gone by then.”

Steve Dunn said the more Draconian the amortization period, the more vulnerable the law was to repeal. Some will sell out and the properties would likely be converted to single family dwellings.

Nick Zachos, the city’s Youth Department executive director, said the STR law was one of the most important pieces of legislation that he had seen the last few years. Families he works with were being displaced. “The concept of giving all this time to people so they continue to make a double investment in their property is a double standard.” The chance of getting displaced in 90 days was an insult to people who rent. “Less than a year would be fair,” he said.

Mary Ann Gazzola said the amortization period should be long enough to take in revenues that were being cut off. The city was going into uncharted waters with the economy. “What happens when it’s cold and people can’t be outside? There goes the sales tax,” she said in reference to the shared streets program. “Do what you can to keep funds coming in.”

Chris Lewine owns a building that he operates as an Airbnb. He took on debt to purchase it and additional debt to renovate and improve it. He counted on the opportunity to run an Airbnb to cover the cost. “I don’t want to lose the opportunity to pay debt.” He said he rents one unit at below market rate and that he would be moving so it wouldn’t be owner-occupied, thus ineligible for use as an Airbnb. He supported a five-year amortization period.

John Kane was on the side of reasonable regulation of STRs. He suggested that officials speak to realtors about who their buyers are. He said people were buying properties for use as weekend residences, which would not solve the city’s housing problem and could result in unintended consequences.

Haylee Adkins feared that if STRs were regulated, whether owner-occupied or not, that houses would be put up for sale. “There’s no correlating data...,” she said.

Craig Davis works at and manages a few Airbnbs in Hudson. His services wouldn’t be needed if they were owner-occupied, which he relied on to care for his family. He supported a longer amortization period.

Shanekia McIntosh said if this conversation had taken place four years ago, a five-year amortization period would make more sense. But with COVID-19 and the pushout of residents who work in industry, “they can’t live here,” so she supported a one-year limit.

First Ward resident Peter McPartland said he heard only two good arguments against a one-year amortization period—loss of revenue and having to prove hardship.

Kelly Crimmins also supported a one-year clause. “It doesn’t seem that this law should be fixing the budget. Why let 80 units bully us into this?”

Julia Saucedo is an investor who will be affected. “I’m the face of someone who put their bank account into an STR.” She and her family planned on living here, but life changes forced

her to move. She said a one-year amortization period would place significant hardship on her and her family.

Mr. DePietro called for a vote on the one-year proposal, which was approved by a 7-3 margin. Ms. Garriga, Mr. Mizan, Ms. Wolff, Mr. Lewis, Mr. Walker, Mr. Sarowar and Mr. DePietro voted in favor; Mr. Rosenthal, Mr. Merante and Ms. Halloran voted in the negative.

“The treatment of homes as businesses in a small community is conflicted,” Ms. Wolff said. “The size of the city doesn’t allow for homes as investments.”

Ms. Garriga spoke of a constituent who lived in substandard housing who still had to work three jobs. “She feels like she can never get ahead.”

Mr. DePietro asked aldermen if they wanted to add a one-year extension clause. Ms. Wolff said it would be a good mechanism to protect the law and give people a chance to show economic hardship. People could reapply up to three times, for example. They also had the opportunity to seek a use variance from the Zoning Board of Appeals, but they probably wouldn’t get one. The extension would provide a safety valve for unique circumstances.

Ms. Garriga asked if there would be a rush to apply for a waiver. She also asked who would decide whether a waiver would be granted. Mr. Baker said the ZBA would have that authority. “People might apply, but would it be worth it? They have to prove financial loss,” he said. It would be odd for the Common Council to get involved in that level, as it would raise the question of political favoritism. He added that the Council could offer just one or two one-year extensions. He agreed to draft language for the extension for the Council’s review.

Mr. Sarowar made a motion to adjourn at 9:16 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Mizan and approved unanimously.

## **Finance Committee**

September 15, 2020

In attendance: Common Council President Tom DePietro, Chairman; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff; Alderman John Rosenthal; City Treasurer Heather Campbell

Absent: Alderwoman Eileen Halloran

Mr. DePietro called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m. after some technical difficulties. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

### **Treasurer’s Report**

Three proposals were received for the city’s 2019 audit. Ms. Campbell asked if the matter had to be discussed in executive session. Mr. DePietro asked if the proposals contained any proprietary information and was told they did not, only prices. He said the closed-door session would wait until the end of the meeting.

Ms. Campbell also said that the committee, at some point, had to discuss the state Comptroller’s Office Corrective Action Plan, which is part of the audit process. She agreed to provide more details next month.

Parking revenues through August were \$301,753, down \$222,577. Building and plumbing permits totaled \$62,176, which was 50 percent of the 2020 budgeted amount.

August saw a sizable drop in the lodging tax from a year ago. There were offsetting increases in sales tax through August versus a year ago of \$392,600. Despite a net increase in July versus a year ago, less second quarter, sales tax was still down \$71,069. In all, there was a net decrease of \$935,579 in revenues from a year ago. She said from March to August, the average loss of revenues was about \$170,000 a month. If it continued at this pace, the city could see another \$600,000 in losses.

Mr. DePietro asked why the community-host agreement with Stewart's and sale of real property showed declines. Ms. Campbell said the figures explain where drops from prior years had come from. "If you're doing a 2021 projection, wouldn't it be there?" Ms. Wolff asked. "Right. And none of it is spent," Mr. DePietro said. Ms. Campbell said the figures recognize the revenues of the community-host agreement, but not the expense.

Offsetting increases for the year to date versus a year ago came from property tax (\$160,600), sale of tax-acquired property (\$100,700) and Friends of Hudson Youth grants and donations (\$115,250).

One of the reasons figures from a year ago were looked at is because the city doesn't budget on a monthly basis, Ms. Campbell said. "It would be ideal to say here's where we are in August, here's where we should be."

Another way to look at it is to look at 2019 revenues through August, which were \$8,337,551, or 71 percent of revenue recognized. Non-property tax revenues of \$3,070,431 through August 2019 represented 47 percent of revenue recognized. The total revenue through August of this year was \$7,440,609, or 71 percent of recognized revenue, and non-property tax revenues through August were \$2,023,861, or 47 percent of recognized revenue. If the city earned the same amount of revenues this year, the total would be \$1.4 million, but she didn't think that would be the case. "Assuming things pick up the last four months of the year, total revenues could be higher," she said.

The use of \$1,153,152 from the fund balance could be a little deceptive. When there are encumbrances (items budgeted for one year and carried over to the next) that are released, they have to be listed in the unassigned fund balance. It makes that balance look artificially high. She will see if she can create different lines in the budget. With encumbrances of \$662,072 and \$83,220 in releases from the tourism reserve, the total use of the unassigned fund balance would be \$407,860. The beginning fund balance was \$2.8 million. With funds taken out in four areas (the Youth Department, youth training, John L. Edwards Elementary School feasibility study and a crosswalk sign grant match) plus one pending (an Americans with Disabilities Act survey), an addition \$88,960 was taken out of the fund balance since the beginning of the year, she said. The city spent about \$6.6 million through August, slightly under the \$6.8 million spent through August 2019, but some of that was timing, she said.

Monthly revenues, excluding property tax, were \$553,103 through August while cumulative revenues, also excluding property tax, were at \$2M through August, compared to \$3M for the same period in 2019.

If the fund balance was used to cover the city's budget shortfall—\$1.4M to \$1.9M—Mr. DePietro wondered how it would be re-funded. The city owns 81 properties and enough of them were sold, even on a conservative level, there could be enough money to apply to the fund balance, he said. Ms. Campbell said sale of property would only address the problem one time and would get the fund balance up to the city's requirements. Ms. DePietro said the sale of properties could more than cover that amount.



He asked why the city owned 98 Paddock Place in particular. Ms. Campbell said it was acquired through foreclosure. The existing owner filed for bankruptcy and entered into a bankruptcy agreement, which was violated by failure to pay taxes. The eviction process was begun, but then COVID-19 hit, she explained.

The city shouldn't be in the landlord business, Mr. DePietro said. "Those would be high priority buildings to sell."

Use of the fund balance was okay because it was large, but \$400,000 was used last year, which brought it slightly below the required amount, she said. "We can't do this going forward."

Mr. DePietro said the city couldn't spend down the fund balance, but if the city budget could be reduced, less of the fund balance would be used. "Our projected expenses have always been higher than projected revenues."

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment (BEA) had discussed a plan for handling the shortfall for one year, Mr. DePietro said. Among the possibilities were sale of city-owned properties and federal funding, which he said couldn't be counted on.

Alderwoman Jane Trombley asked if the BEA would discuss the possible sale of property at its next meeting. Mr. DePietro said the board had to get assessments, etc. A procedure is involved that might involves leases, he said, so City Attorney Cheryl Roberts would have to be consulted.

Resident John Kane said the BEA process involved a series of meetings. He asked if separate departments would be discussed. Mr. DePietro said all budget requests had to be in by September 10. After that, a schedule would be set for the various departments.

Mr. Kane wondered how a \$1.9M shortfall would affect the property tax. Ms. Campbell said a roughly one percent increase in taxes would be worth about \$50,000 if all were paid. Mr. DePietro added that there was a two percent limit on the amount to be raised by taxes. Ms. Campbell did not anticipate the city having the ability to raise taxes without going over the tax cap.

The committee entered into executive session to discuss a contract for a city audit. No decisions were made.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adjourn at 6:39 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Rosenthal and approved unanimously.

### **Finance Committee**

November 17, 2020

In attendance: Common Council President Tom DePietro, Chairman; Alderman John Rosenthal; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff; City Treasurer Heather Campbell

Absent: Alderwoman Eileen Halloran

Chairman DePietro called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Ms. Campbell said the state Comptroller's Office Corrective Action Plan, which is part of the audit process, needed to get under way and asked members how they would like to approach it. She noted that the process involved Common Council passage of something that determined how accruals were achieved and reported, and how long they were held before paid out. A policy

needed to be created on who can accrue hours and how to redeem them. She, Mr. DePietro and Mayor Kamal Johnson were to meet later in the week. The 2019 audit was to start this week and a portal was set up to share documents.

Ms. Campbell then reported on 2020 budget figures for October. There was some improvement in parking revenues, which totaled \$385,309 for the year to date, or 47 percent of the \$820,000 budgeted. Parking revenues were down 42 percent from the same period in 2019.

Building and plumbing permits were at 61 percent of the \$125,000 budgeted for the year, down 30 percent from the same period in 2019.

As for non-property tax revenues, Mr. DePietro announced that sales tax had recouped, with \$1,343,214 collected through October, or 71 percent of the budgeted amount. Mortgage tax was at 47 percent of what was budgeted and down just 3 percent from last year. The lodging tax was only at 29 percent of what was budgeted, at \$99,544 through October, and 54 percent for the same period a year ago. Non-property tax revenues were down just 8 percent from 2019, at \$1,512,847. While sales and mortgage taxes were on track, Ms. Campbell said the lodging tax would probably not recoup.

She also reviewed her low and high impact cumulative non-property tax revenues. Her projections showed an increase from month to month, but she did not see a dramatic change between October and November.

The total percentage of non-property tax revenues through September was 63 percent, and less the 2019 community host agreement, 61 percent.

Monthly revenues excluding property tax were \$606,721 for October, while cumulative revenues for the year to date were down \$1,339,014, or 32 percent. She said parking revenue projections were aggressive and she probably should have realized that because they followed a similar pattern from last year. They were probably closer to \$70,000 than \$80,000. Mr. DePietro announced that there would be no free parking next year, which Ms. Campbell predicted would result in an increase. As for the lodging tax, she said the city would have to assume that some people were filing late because they have income issues. Building and plumbing permits had \$30,000 to \$40,000 in losses, leaving sales tax revenues as the one good piece of news in the budget picture.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adjourn at 6:13 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Rosenthal and approved unanimously.

### **Police Committee**

November 23, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Dewan Sarowar, Chairman; Alderwoman Jane Trombley; Alderman Malachi Walker; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff; Police Chief Edward Moore; Police Commissioner Shane Bower

Mr. Sarowar called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

## Monthly Report

Chief Moore said the department made 32 arrests in October, lower than the usual 40 or so. There was “nothing real strange or out of whack,” and there was no use of force. Four calls were for emotionally disturbed people and one was for an overdose that required Narcan revival.

A body worn camera (BWC) report for October and part of November was submitted. The chief also submitted a report of bookings by race for October, which showed that 62.5 percent of those booked were Caucasian on 32 criminal counts, 34.4 percent Black on 14 criminal counts and 3.1 percent Asian or Pacific Islander on one criminal count.

Commercial truck enforcement was conducted last month and included those off the truck route or who were improperly registered. Twenty-two operators were stopped.

Ms. Wolff asked what happened during the stops. Chief Moore said the majority were making local deliveries. Five were given warnings for being off the truck route, which he said probably occurred because they were relying on GPS.

Mr. Sarowar asked about trucks double parked. The chief said there used to be a problem with CVS, but the store adjusted its delivery times. If a tractor trailer is seen double parked to make a delivery, the driver was asked to move and park in a safe area.

Mr. Sarowar asked if there were any time limits for deliveries. “They have to be delivering. They can’t have a cup of coffee,” Chief Moore said.

Ms. Trombley asked if truck watches would be conducted routinely each month. The chief said they would be random and that the department would not do them if State Police were.

## Light Duty

Chief Moore said the department was in an unusual situation with three members on light duty. One was injured during an arrest, another hurt during training and one was under the Family Leave Act.

## 12-Hour Shifts

The city and police union reached a memorandum of understanding for 12-hour shifts. The chief said the shifts have had a positive effect because there has been an increase in the number of hours officers patrol the city and an increase in the average number of patrol officers working, which also helps with coverage. Many departments have done so and have seen less sick leave and improvements in officers’ quality of life. The memorandum of understanding includes an opt-out clause.

“The guys are very happy. They have better quality of life and greater safety,” Chief Moore said.

Mr. Sarowar was concerned about officers working for 12 hours and the stress involved. Chief Moore said the normal day for an officer was not eight hours, but nine to 10 was normal. “This is definitely better. They get more days off for rest.”

Ms. Wolff said it seemed that working 12 hours regularly could cause problems. “Don’t people get exhausted?” The officers liked the alternating shifts better, the chief said. Changing shifts seemed to take a greater toll on the body.

Asked by Ms. Trombley whether the new plan was under way, Chief Moore said the new shifts began in April.

Resident John Kane asked about the overtime agreement and whether it started after an eight-hour day or a 40-hour week. The chief said there was no overtime for the 12-hour shifts.

Both sides could opt out at any time and if there was no agreement, the schedule would revert to the last contract, according to Commissioner Bower.

### **Thanksgiving Gatherings**

Ms. Wolff said county Sheriff David Bartlett had stated that his department would not enforce state rules regarding Thanksgiving gatherings and asked what the city's plan was. Chief Moore said Governor Andrew Cuomo issued an order that forced bars to close at 10 p.m. The chief predicted that would not be an enforcement issue because bar owners would not want to risk losing their liquor licenses. Gathering at home was a constitutional issue. "The police department won't knock down doors and arrest people. I don't think that was the intent." Officers will try to educate first and get them to comply with social gathering recommendations if there are too many people together. "It's their [residents'] civic responsibility to keep the community safe, above personal interests."

### **Improving Morale**

Ms. Wolff read Commissioner Bower's five goals for the department, the first of which was to improve morale in the department. She asked what some of the issues of morale were. Relieving stress was one way. There is a false conflict between their jobs and the national debate over policing, as well as budget reform initiatives, that are not attacks on individual officers.

Chief Moore said the police union voted overwhelmingly to give up raises and funds for uniforms, and agreed to not bring patrol cars home. "That's an indication that they are not offended in regards to what is going on nationally," he said.

### **Good Causes**

The chief said the department supported a couple of charities, such as No-Shave November for prostate cancer. The Police Benevolent Association (PBA) gave out Thanksgiving dinners.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adjourn at 6:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Trombley and approved unanimously.

## **Youth, Education, Seniors and Recreation Committee**

December 2, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Malachi Walker, Chairman; Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr.; Youth Commissioner Maija Reed; Youth Department Director Nick Zachos; Commissioner of Aging Robyn Waters

Absent: Alderwoman Eileen Halloran and Alderman Shershah Mizan

Mr. Walker opened the meeting with a short prayer at 5:33 p.m. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and streamed over YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

## **Youth Department Report**

Mr. Zachos said it was decided last week to transition from in-person programming to virtual programming at the Youth Center effective December 1. It took a lot of time and discussion with staff, Commissioner Reed and Mayor Kamal Johnson. With COVID-19 numbers on the rise, for safety and an abundance of caution, it was the right call, Mr. Zachos said. "It's a big change of us. We're in the process of developing virtual programs. We have some great ideas and opportunities. We'll see the first iterations next week."

Existing templates from the city and other communities will be used. Staff was in the process of seeing what other organizations and communities had done during the pandemic. Social media will be used extensively during the shutdown. The plan is to close for December. If it's better in January, the center will reopen in "COVID mode," he said. "Assuming even if a vaccine comes out soon, we wouldn't see it until 2021."

A staff development retreat day was conducted in November at Oakdale, during which there was much organizational work and bonding.

There has been significant growth in the organization. For example, a Vibes Room was added to the center. There are more separate areas, or pods, which has resulted in a quieter and less chaotic Youth Center. There are areas for homework, arts and crafts, and a video program. The bicycle program was successful and participants took a 1 ½-hour ride on the Empire State Trail to Stockport.

Mr. Zachos said he would be introducing staff at committee meetings. The first was Jabin Ahmed. She was a family intervention specialist at the Warren Street Academy, where she developed relationships within the community. She graduated from Russell Sage College with a bachelor's degree in sociology and from the University of New England with a master's degree in public health.

She spoke about the benefits of the pod system developed in response to the COVID-19 to keep all youths safe. Children are grouped by age and interests, which results in more interaction with pod leaders. The leaders have reported that they are making a difference. Youth are opening up about school and other matters, so leaders know what they need.

Mr. Lewis asked about the size of the pods. There are four pods, two each for ages 5 to 8 and 9 to 12. The largest has 10 youths, even though 15 can be legally accommodated. The younger age groups meet from 3 to 6 p.m. and older groups from 6 to 9 p.m. "It sounds like a great success," he said.

Mr. DePietro asked if the shutdown would save the city some money. Mr. Zachos said it would, through reduced hours for staff. All are still working to develop a regimen and rearranging the Youth Center to create as individual spaces as needed, he added. Ms. Waters asked how much savings he anticipated. Mr. Zachos said he would have to wait for a few payroll periods to see the impact.

## **Aging Report**

Ms. Waters' report was grim. She said her department was still recovering from the budget process and lack of funding. There is only one part-time employee who works 11 hours a week at the Senior Center. A new volunteer would be starting, which will help the cause.

The pandemic has led to isolation for many seniors, so the center is trying to create and offer more programs on-line. Among them are Building Immunity and Maximizing Health, core strength and yoga. A meditation class is planned and the center will give virtual bingo a try. An event is being planned at the Firemen's Home with social distancing..

“Mental health is important to think about at the Senior Center and throughout the city,” she said. “Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility is still an issue. We’re working on which areas need the most attention. Hopefully we can get a ramp at Oakdale in 2021.”

Ms. Waters said Hudson police donated the proceeds of No-Shave November to seniors through the county Office for the Aging so their wishes would be fulfilled during the holidays.

She cited the need for more staff. Mr. Lewis asked if volunteers presented themselves or were referred. She would love more volunteers, but said they would have to be willing to participate virtually for now. Anyone could volunteer, but they would have to go through a vetting process.

She said seniors sent a letter about a program that was beneficial to their health. One program held outdoors will transition to Zoom. There are problems with virtual programming, including lack of internet access and equipment. She said she reached out to The Spark of Hudson regarding those issues.

Mr. DePietro asked about the center’s staffing needs and if programs were ready to go if funding was received. Ms. Waters said programs were lined up, but there were others she wished could be implemented. A full-time staff member would be ideal, she said.

Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn at 6:14 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved unanimously.

## **Tourism Board**

June 26, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr., chairman; Sidney Long; Kristan Keck; Chris McManus; Kate Treacy; Filiz Soyak; Hannah Black; Tamar Adler

Absent: Selha Graham

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed over local radio station WGXC.

### **Project Hudson Grant Requests**

The board reviewed and voted on the following requests for proposals (RFPs) for Project Hudson funding:

Betsy Miller: \$3,200 to create three walking/audio tours of Hudson. The goal is to allow individuals or families and friends to learn more about Hudson and surroundings. Mr. McManus said he didn’t think she qualified for funds because she wasn’t a city resident. Ms. Adler said she wouldn’t qualify if she didn’t have a partner in Hudson. Ms. Miller was collaborating with Verdigris Tea in Hudson. The request was approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Foreign Press USA Media Productions LLC: \$15,000 to interview and photograph 50 Hudson residents who will describe the city to a global audience. Mr. McManus wondered if it was necessary to interview 50 people. Mr. Lewis thought 50 was an ambitious number, “but they seem to have a plan.” Ms. Black was uncomfortable with the amount of funds requested. She also questioned how the proposal would benefit Hudson. The request was denied unanimously in a roll call vote.

Bindlestiff Family Cirkus: \$15,000 for a multi-phase outdoor public performance series titled “Rising Phoenix: A Celebration of Life and Community,” that will safely address immediate and long-term cultural, social and economic needs in Hudson. Mr. McManus told members that the Columbia Economic Development Corp. (CEDC) asked for a more detailed outline for its budget review. Ms. Long said it would be good to see a budget. Given the comfort level of members, Mr. Lewis asked if they preferred to wait for a new budget or proceed. Members decided to hold off on a vote and to revisit the application.

The Hudson Eye: \$15,000 to support The Hudson Eye 2020, to take place August 28 to September 7 for the purpose of cultural and intersectional community-based programming targeted at the diverse populations of Hudson, with a strong focus on cultural tourism and a strong alignment with the renewed need for tourism stimulus following the local economic impacts of COVID-19. Last year was The Hudson Eye’s inaugural year and organizers provided many statistics on the number of visitors and such. Members approved the RFP by a 7-0 vote. Ms. Soyak recused herself because she was one of the participating artists.

Hudson Arts Coalition: \$5,000 for Waterfront Wednesdays, to run June 24 through September 2 from 4 to 7 p.m. The Coalition will team with Operation Unite to energize Henry Hudson Riverfront Park to present offerings for the entire family. Bindlestiff After School, TSL, Kuumba Dancers and Drummers, the Literacy Fund, Senior Center and a growing number of vendors expressed interest. Ms. Black asked if the Coalition had flushed out the collaborators. Ms. Adler said 11 vendors signed up to sell goods. There will be food, music and more. Ms. Soyak said vendors would be charged \$5 each week. She asked if organizers collaborated with the Wednesday farmers market. Mr. McManus said vendors provided a service to attract people to the waterfront. “The fact that so many organizations are working together is a smart approach,” he added. The request was approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Hudson Sloop Club: \$9,000 for Waterfront Wednesdays water-based initiatives, to work parallel to land-based initiatives offered by the Hudson Arts Coalition to create a community-forward experience. A pilot run comprised of six weekly events will start July 15. The club plans to create a base of programming to include free boating excursions from the Hudson Sloop Club and Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society, and performances ranging from puppets to a drive-in style movie experience shown on the sails of the Schooner Apollonia, provided in collaboration with Time and Space Limited (TSL). Additional live performances will take place aboard the Apollonia, sponsored by TSL, which will be viewed from the shore. All activities will be free and open to the public; food will be affordably priced. Ms. Black said it made sense to approve the funding since the board had already approved funding for land-based initiatives. Mr. McManus said a lot of thought had gone into “how to get people to one of the greatest rivers.” The request was approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Operation Unite New York: \$4,900 for the Hudson Sankofa Black Arts and Cultural Festival and Parade. Much of the event has to do with symbolism and remembering the past to protect the future. Ms. Adler said Operation Unite would have a booth as part of the shared streets program on Warren Street, thus would have a regular presence. The request was approved unanimously in a roll call vote.

Friends of Oakdale Lake: \$14,725 for 20 beach umbrellas, fabric shade sails for the picnic grove, four commercial garbage cans, two recycling cans, paint for picnic tables, signage in conjunction with the Hudson Safe campaign and a part-time park monitor. Board members agreed that Oakdale provided services for the entire community. The request was approved; Ms. Adler abstained because she is a member of the organization.

Dirtworks Landscape Architecture: \$15,000 to build the first component of a series of planted bioswales along North Fifth Street that would connect Warren Street with the Hudson Area Association Library. Ms. Long said the idea was wonderful, but the amount requested was too high. Ms. Adler said she asked the applicant if the idea had been discussed with neighbors and was told that some were approached, as were some landlords. She also wondered why it would take 75 hours to do the work. Mr. McManus said it looked like a large part of the cost was for deconstruction and construction. He said the project was too much of an investment that would take away from other worthy projects. The request was rejected by a vote of 7-1, with Ms. Keck casting the lone vote in favor.

Basilica Arts: \$15,000 for a Tree of 40 Fruit project, part of an ongoing series of unique hybridized fruit trees, each of which have the capacity to grow more than 40 different varieties of fruit from the family of stone fruits. Ms. Black thought it would be better to have an orchard of 40 fruit trees. The request was denied 7-0 in a roll call vote. Ms. Keck was not present for the vote.

All Is Leaf: \$15,000 to provide space, support, community and resources to under-represented students and recent graduates of fashion and clothing-based design programs. The applicant's address was listed as Valatie, though it was intended to take place in a leased storefront/boutique space in Hudson, where students would work with mentors to develop a business plan and products to produce and sell in the space. Ms. Black didn't feel that the ideas were well flushed out. The board rejected the request unless the applicant collaborated with someone in Hudson or actually rented a space in the city.

Lil Deb's Oasis: \$15,800 to bring "A Queer Night of Performance" to the streets of Hudson. Queer Night has historically taken place on Thursdays at the restaurant. The new format would require a mobile stage. Members said the applicant would be reminded that \$15,000 was the maximum grant request. Mr. McManus said the events would be beneficial to a larger community than solely LGBTQ. "There's a voice that isn't heard all the time." The reduced request was approved. Ms. Black recused herself because she is the restaurant owner, but had nothing to do with the performances.

Trixie's List: \$4,940 for a tourism website maintained by local resident Rich Volo. The site, already in operation, has videos that help explain what local businesses are doing. The site is designed to help people share information on events and promotions, and is constantly updated. Ms. Soyak said a few calendars had already been proposed and that the board had been trying to connect them. Mr. McManus said Trixie's List was not a traditional media outlet, but more of a personal blog. Ms. Long disagreed. Mr. McManus and Ms. Treacy didn't think the project qualified for city funding. Common Council President Tom DePietro said the site accepted advertising, which could mean that it didn't need city funds. When a search for the site was conducted, it did not come up under Hudson, just Mr. Volo's name, which Ms. Long said was a drawback. The request was denied by a vote of 7-0. Ms. Keck was absent for the vote.

### **Parking Spaces Fees**

Ms. Black said the city was trying to charge businesses \$24 a week for parking spaces during the shared streets initiative and predicted that it would not work. Money in the budget could be reallocated to pay for those spaces, she said. Ms. Adler said much of the initiative was experimental, but the parking fees did not make sense. Mr. DePietro said the idea originated in the mayor's office to compensate for unused parking meters.

"It's an optics problem, too," Mr. McManus said. "We're doing this program to help keep businesses going. Even a nominal fee doesn't look good."



Mr. Lewis said an official letter or an individual effort would be needed to change the fee. Mr. McManus suggested that the board indicate that the fees were not a good idea and should be reconsidered. Ms. Adler said that sounded aggressive.

“This is a trial. Things like this will pop up and have to be dealt with,” Ms. Treacy said. The board’s response shouldn’t be an attack, but should encourage a way to work together. She was nominated to talk to Mayor Kamal Johnson.

### **Late Consideration**

Hudson Business Coalition Board President Chuck Rosenthal wondered why the organization’s application had not been reviewed since it was submitted before the deadline. Now, he said, the earliest it could be considered by the board was July 17 and the next formal Common Council meeting, where a final vote would be taken, was July 23. Ms. Adler said a special meeting could be called. Mr. McManus asked if the Common Council could have a special meeting. Mr. DePietro said the idea was to vote on the applications on a first-come, first-served basis. Ms. Adler said frustrations were valid, but there was still ample funding in the pot. Mr. McManus said the board could schedule a special meeting July 6 if the Common Council would do the same. “The Tourism Board is committed to accelerating this,” he said.

A special meeting was scheduled for July 6 at 6 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

## **Tourism Board**

July 6, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr., chairman; Sidney Long; Kristan Keck; Chris McManus; Kate Treacy; Filiz Soyak; Hannah Black; Tamar Adler; Selha Graham

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed over local radio station WGXC.

### **Dispersal of Project Hudson Funds**

The board discussed how to disperse funds, such as focusing on short-term projects first then long-term projects. Mr. McManus said there were requests for long-term funding that expected to start soon. Chairman Lewis said the board had already approved six requests for funding totaling \$66,825. The board voted unanimously to go through applications during the meeting to determine if money had to be added to either funding category. Common Council President Tom DePietro suggested that the board send a representative to the Council meeting and to notify applicants afterward if their requests were approved or denied.

### **Project Hudson Grant Requests**

The board then reviewed and voted on the following requests for proposals (RFPs) for Project Hudson funding:

Free Columbia: \$5,000 for a series of free outdoor puppetry performances of an original play, titled “The Bird Hunters of Anthropocenia,” which took on the subject of climate resiliency. A variety of puppetry styles will be used in the 8 to 10 performances in Hudson and

surrounding area during the last two weeks of August. Fifth Ward Alderman Dominic Merante asked for clarification of what constituted the “surrounding area.” The project should be geared toward Hudson, he said. Mr. McManus said the board could stipulate that funding would only be given for shows in Hudson. The request for funding was approved.

Daniel Rothbart Studio: \$5,000 for “Flotilla,” floating sculptures installed in the Hudson River, close to the riverbank at Henry Hudson Park. Ms. Soyak was concerned that the installation could only be seen for two weeks. Ms. Graham asked if any rain dates were included. She also said there was no indication if the installing artist would be paid and whether that person was a local resident. First Ward Alderperson Jane Trombley said liability issues were not addressed in the RFP. The board decided to hold the application until better budgeting and more details were provided.

Hudson Arts Coalition: \$5,000 for Hudsynthesis Phase 1, and \$15,000 for Phase 2. Hudsynthesis is an initiative to create and maintain a robust digital infrastructure platform in response to the unique challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic. The first phase would involve building a private “back-end” calendar to help organizations and individuals find opportunities for cross-promotion and resource-sharing while mitigating unnecessary competition. The data and back-end system would be embedded on other websites, such as VisitHudsonNY, the city’s website and Hudson Hall. The second phase would cover long-term staffing and maintenance of the calendar. A part-time job would be created for a Hudson youth, who would work in an office in Hudson Hall. The board did not act on the RFPs and asked for a presentation on data analysis.

Hudson Business Coalition: \$5,000 for Hudson Bonds, a fundraising initiative to create a Small Business Emergency Relief Fund designed to help Hudson businesses survive in the near term and successfully reopen. The Coalition raised \$25,000 in bonds since the program was launched in May, half of which went into the relief fund. Ms. Graham asked if there was an expiration date on the bonds. Coalition Board President Chuck Rosenthal said they would be good through July 2021 and would only be for Hudson businesses. Mr. McManus said the program was “an investment that will touch many businesses in Hudson.” The board voted 8-0 to approve funding. Ms. Keck recused herself.

Hudson Business Coalition: \$9,850 for the first phase of a digital Hudson Walking Guide and \$13,750 for the second phase. The first phase would involve design and a more streamlined website (VisitHudsonNY.com) with an integrated map. The second phase would cover site coding and testing. Asked if the Coalition planned to bring back its printed guide, Mr. Rosenthal the intent was to improve the website first, with the earliest reprint in May 2021. He hoped the new site would be live in mid-October. Mr. DePietro said the requests were the best planned of all those seeking websites. Others were sent back to talk to one another, he added. The board approved the RFPs by a vote of 8-0. Ms. Black recused herself.

The board voted to meet again on July 10 at 5 p.m. because several members had to leave. Mr. Lewis adjourned the meeting at 7:28 p.m.

## Tourism Board

July 10, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr., chairman; Sidney Long; Kristan Keck; Chris McManus; Kate Treacy; Filiz Soyak; Tamar Adler; Selha Graham  
Absent: Hannah Black

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:03 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed over local radio station WGXC.

### Project Hudson Grant Requests

The board reviewed and voted on the following requests for proposals (RFPs) for Project Hudson funding:

**Goddess Guru Boutique:** \$15,000 for the declaration and branding of Hudson and creation of the Hudson Constitution. The goal of the project is to promote Hudson as an attractive destination and to strengthen the local community and economy. The Hudson Constitution would protect the city's most marginalized members. Mr. Lewis thought the concept was inclusive and advanced what Hudson stood for. Ms. Graham was concerned about the language and content of the document and whether it would speak to all people. "It feels like an idea that needs more people involved to bring it to an effective level," Mr. McManus said. Ms. Long felt that the amount requested was high for something that was not yet put into writing. The board voted unanimously to revisit the RFP after hearing from the applicant.

**Open Studio Hudson:** \$12,840 for an online version of Open Studio Hudson, a celebration of the arts in the community during a turbulent time. Ms. Soyak said it was a great event and needed to be adapted to an online version. It could be strengthened with outreach. Also, there were a number of projects being done online that the applicant could collaborate with. The board decided to hold the application until it received more information on collaborations.

**Basilica Hudson:** \$15,000 to produce an outdoor Green Market in October as part of Basilica's ongoing commitment to local makers and small business with an enhanced commitment to environmental advocacy. The event is designed to promote independent small local business and environmental and social justice-focused products and organizations in Hudson and surrounding regions, complemented by a month-long local business campaign online. The board decided to ask Basilica representatives to provide further explanation before acting on the RFP.

**Hudson Creative:** \$2,500 to replicate early 20<sup>th</sup> century postcards into tiles to be placed in sidewalks across from the postcard image so pedestrians could view what had been there previously. Hudson Creative hoped to collaborate with the Hudson Area Association Library and Historic Hudson. Common Council President Tom DePietro said most of the tiles would be in the Warren Street Historic District so approval from the Hudson Preservation Commission (HPC) would be required. He also asked if applicants had to be city residents; this one, Chad Weckler, was not. The board approved the request contingent on approval from the HPC.

**Good for the Bees:** \$15,000 for a mural to create a tourism experience unique to Hudson. The board felt that the applicant might not qualify because she had a New York City address. Ms. Adler said the application might qualify if there was collaboration with a city organization.

Ms. Long felt that the amount requested was too high. The board unanimously denied the request.

Hudson Community Incubator: \$15,000 to put on Hack Hudson, a mid-Autumn hackathon to bring the community together for a weekend intensive on public-private partnerships. It could be run entirely virtually, with breakout meet-ups around the city. Ms. Graham said the project shouldn't mimic anything that's already in brick and mortar. Ms. Adler loved the function, but was concerned about the launch of the incubator. "You need to see who's in the room," she said. First Ward Alderperson Jane Trombley said the proposal needed more focus. Ms. Soyak approved of the vision and how it promoted thinking about Hudson in a different way. Ms. Adler made a motion to narrow the focus and not have the board provide seed money. Ms. Treacy offered a second and the motion carried.

Hudson Cruises: \$1,200 to cover the city's docking fee. The outfit has a tour boat that offers lighthouse tours and ferry service, and charters when available. Hudson Cruises expected to collaborate with the Hudson-Athens Lighthouse Preservation Society. Fifth Ward Alderman Dominic Merante asked if the boat was Americans with Disabilities Act compliant. Because the boat is small, it could be docked on the side where canoes are kept, which is ADA compliant. The board approved the request contingent on ADA compliance.

Hudson Hall: \$15,000 for the Hudson Shared Summer Streets Workforce Development Program, a six-week educational workshop that will teach 7 to 14 students about tactical urbanism and shared streets concepts. The number of students is dependent on the Columbia-Greene Workforce Development Office receiving funds already approved by the state to support its workforce development program for youth. If the state does not release funds, the project will continue with Operation Unite New York students and fundraising will continue to accommodate addition Hudson youth. The board voted 7-0 to approve the request. Ms. Graham recused herself.

Hudson Development Corp.: \$12,900 for city lodging businesses to work together to list all potential lodging (except for AirBnBs) to provide a clean, clear and aesthetically united aggregate website for visitors to view offerings available and book lodging. "Anything you can do to spoon feed the consumer is helpful," Ms. Keck said. Ms. Treacy asked how the site would be promoted and accessed. The board decided to invite the applicant to a meeting for more detail.

Hudson Business Coalition: \$15,000 for a multimedia campaign. The Coalition would be responsible for producing, implementing and managing the campaign, which is intended to draw tourists to Hudson in a safe and responsible manner. The campaign will be in the spirit of "Welcome Back." Coalition board member Chris Draghi said it was important to have an awareness campaign about where to shop, eat, etc., but also what to expect upon arrival, such as wearing masks, cultural events and the Shared Streets initiative. The campaign would occupy space on VisitHudsonNY.com and was meant to be a dashboard that led to other pages. Mr. Draghi had analytics from other campaigns so he had insight on where to place money for promotion, which would be in print media and on the radio. He also said it could be launched in two to three months. The board voted 7-0 to approve the request. Ms. Keck recused herself.

### **Shared Streets Commercial**

Ms. Treacy viewed the commercial for the Shared Streets program that was produced by Mid-Hudson Cable and aired at no cost to the city. She recommended that all marketing and advertising be reviewed to be sure it was representative of the board's initiatives and the City of Hudson.

### **Agendas and RFPs**

Resident Ronald Kopnicki asked the board to post its agenda in advance of the meeting, as well as the texts of the Project Hudson RFPs. “To what extent will the public be allowed to comment on the proposals?” he asked. Mr. DePietro felt that the Tourism Board had done due diligence. Mr. Kopnicki said the Common Council basically voted on a lump sum of Tourism Board funding during its last meeting. Mr. DePietro said he would try to have all the applications available in advance.

Ms. Treacy made a motion to adjourn at 6:35 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McManus and approved unanimously.

### **Tourism Board**

July 17, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr., chairman; Sidney Long; Kristan Keck; Chris McManus; Kate Treacy; Filiz Soyak; Tamar Adler; Selha Graham  
Absent: Hannah Black

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed over local radio station WGXC.

### **Project Hudson Grant Requests**

The board heard from Project Hudson applicants they had requested more information from.

Goddess Guru Boutique: Founder Melina Kai described creation of the Hudson Constitution as a “call to action for Hudsonians, a reimagining of the American dream. There is an underlying knowledge we all have here, but we really haven’t pushed it to the forefront.” Ms. Kai said the approach would be three-pronged—mental, emotional and physical. “Our responsibility as leaders is to galvanize our community,” she said. “As long as we celebrate each other we will be abundant.”

Ms. Adler asked who Ms. Kai had talked to and what organizations had done this already, such as Future Hudson, and how her project was different. Ms. Kai said she was working with the Hudson Community Incubator. She planned to pull from different mission statements, private and public, all of which have “aspects that speak to the truth that all are created equal.”

As for concerns about language, Ms. Kai said that would come from inclusive organizations. She asked the board to suggest some. “It’s open-ended. Justice and equality for all is the common goal.”

Ms. Kai thought an application could be created in which one could scan a code at stores and listen to people’s stories. “Let’s make it a living digital document with videos and stories, make it more dynamic and not text heavy.”

Mr. McManus said it was a great idea, but needed to be more refined. He recommended she find a way to get many people involved.

Common Council President Tom DePietro said the project sounded “wonderful and utopian,” but no specific costs were given for use of the city’s tax dollars. Ms. Adler said there were parts of the project that could be started without city funds. Ms. Kai applied for \$15,000.

Hudson Development Corporation: President Robert Rasner said construction of a website that was specifically pointed toward prospective visitors to Hudson who needed a room in a bread and breakfast or hotel was proposed. AirBnBs would not be included. The website would allow people to visit a single website to look for availability.

Mr. Rasner said it was different from other sites, like Booking.com and Trip Advisor, which take a 15 percent commission. In this case, people could click on the site and be linked to the booking page of local establishments which would be able to keep all the money from bookings. The only requirement is that the businesses have an active website to be linked the proposed site, he said. There would be no fee to join. The site also would show dining places in Hudson, but would not allow people to reserve tables.

Ms. Adler said the board had received a litany of calendar ideas and had already invested in one, VisitHudsonNY.com, and a digital walking guide as well. She asked if there was a way to make the site a plug-in to VisitHudsonNY.com. Mr. Rasner said there was not since it was proprietary software built around a template. "That's why it's so reasonably priced," he said. It would be a way to track every visitor to every inn.

Ms. Long asked how many lodging establishments were in Hudson. Mr. Rasner said he believed there were 14 with about 140 rooms. Ms. Long said the idea was a good one, but expensive for 14 places.

Ms. Adler asked if other software existed. Mr. Rasner said there was, but at least four local inns had contracts with the developer, ResNexus, for their lodging management software. Also, ResNexus is the nation's leading provider of such services.

Mr. DePietro said there was a \$5,400 development fee, but wanted a further breakdown of costs. Mr. Rasner said there was an initial fee and then monthly charges. Mr. DePietro asked if all 14 members agreed to pay the fee. Mr. Rasner said there would be no charge to the members because that was what the grant was for. HDC would ensure an administrative role for three years. Ms. Long asked what would happen after three years. Mr. Rasner said the effort would be continued on a subscription basis for \$10 to \$12 a month.

Ms. Heck recused herself from the discussion because her business, Wm. Farmer & Son, was a collaborator.

Hudson Community Incubator: Owner Eric De Feo told the board that Hack Hudson, a hackathon, was intended to bring the community together for a weekend intensive on public-private partnerships. It would be similar to the Great Barrington, MA, Startup Weekend, which taught participants how to build businesses. The winners went into the incubator to work on their ideas.

Ms. Adler asked if there were any marginalized partners. Mr. De Feo said the summer program has people from marginalized communities. Outreach could be done, he said. Jeremy Rawitz said the Great Barrington workshop was very diversified, and was all volunteer and locally funded. Ms. Long said there was a \$43 charge for that program and wondered why that couldn't be done here. Mr. De Feo felt it would be nice to have a partnership with the incubator. Mr. Rawitz said there was a charge because meals were offered. He added that money was donated to scholarships. Mr. Rawitz said 13 percent of the ideas generated at the event continued.

Ms. Adler asked how the project addressed the digital divide for marginalized populations with no internet access. Mr. De Feo said it was difficult to add all information into

one application and that he was trying to reach out to various organizations, such as Kite's Nest. "Inclusivity is always a mission of the Hudson Community Incubator," he said. Mr. Rawitz said the program was designed to reach marginalized persons that no one would listen to or banks refused to finance. "For many, it is their first and only opportunity to pitch their idea and have someone listen to them," he said.

Of the \$15,000 requested, \$1,250 would go toward print and paid marketing, \$1,000 for administrative costs, \$750 for food and beverages and \$12,000 for three prizes to be awarded at the hackathon. Ms. Soyak asked how the other 1,100 events put on were funded. Mr. Rawitz said almost all of them were community organized, sometimes through banks or through in-kind services from local businesses. "There are many organizations that have access to marginalized communities and we work with them. It's grassroots," he said. Ms. Keck asked if they worked with translators. "We never did, but we could," Mr. Rawitz said.

Mr. McManus recused himself from the discussion.

Hudson Arts Coalition: Coalition Chairman Adam Weinert said Hudsynthesis was an initiative that emerged after numerous conversations between local and regional arts organizations to create and maintain a robust digital infrastructure platform in response to challenges posed by the pandemic. Funding would help the Coalition accomplish a back-end calendar that would help organizations and individuals find opportunities for cross-promotion and resource-sharing while mitigating unnecessary competition. The intent was not to create a website.

"We must invest more in the digital infrastructure to allow equity of access," said Mark Scrivo, who also is associated with the project.

A local firm would build the system and a Hudson youth would maintain it from an office at Hudson Hall. The person who filled the part-time job (8 to 10 hours a week over the first year) would be responsible for populating and disseminating calendar information, organizing monthly virtual meetings, while also collecting and distributing guidelines and best practices for organizations operating safely in a post-COVID environment. A 19-year-old Bengali youth is being considered for the post, which would be similar to a Main Street marketer.

The front-end application would be easily embedded within current organizational web systems and user capable subscription calendars that automatically populates across multiple software workflows.

The impetus for the project came from a Hudson Development Corporation Cultural Task Force meeting. It was noted that not everyone, even locals, knew what was happening and there was no central location for information, which resulted in overlap. Hudsynthesis would allow all listings to be shared on various websites.

Ms. Long said \$20,000 would be spent over the two phases. She wondered what would happen if the money was spent and the idea didn't work. Mr. Scrivo said there were two financing windows, but by the third or fourth phase, the Coalition would know what was working.

Mr. McManus asked if newspapers would be charged for using the listings. Mr. Scrivo said they would be able to embed it. "Access to information should be free so it's equitable," he said. "Because it's a central clearing house, it's ours to share." It was built so Hudson owns its data. Mr. McManus said if there was value in the list, it made it "infinitely more interesting."

Basilica Hudson: Co-Founder and Director Melissa Auf der Maur explained that funding was sought because Basilica would have to put on a free to the public event in lieu of the annual Farm and Flea. There would be cap on the number of vendors and attendees, but a digital platform would make up the limited scope. Ms. Auf der Maur said the outdoor event would be hyper-local and conducted in the fall with an online component. The intent would be to create a platform for people to share their wares and causes, she said.

Ms. Graham said the marketing strategy didn't seem like it would penetrate the marginalized community. She asked how that would be accomplished. Ms. Auf der Maur said the event would showcase local businesses. Basilica would look at diversity in business owners and their products. The vendors would be carefully localized, in the 12534 Zip code, unlike Farm and Flea, which had a three-hour range.

Ms. Graham asked how the event would be marketed to local people and if organizers had heard of the Hudson Valley Black List. Ms. Auf der Maur said that was an obvious choice for vendor outreach.

Mr. McManus is some thought could be put into activities that would draw people who wouldn't necessarily come to such an event. "What can be done to proactively draw those communities?" Ms. Auf der Maur said the Badila family had performed in the past. Mr. McManus replied that the board was looking for things to be done differently.

The board decided to complete the remaining agenda items and possibly vote on RFPs at a special meeting July 24 at 5 p.m. Mr. McManus made a motion to adjourn at 7:08 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Long and approved unanimously.

### **Communications.**

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the following communications were ordered received and placed on file:

- 1) Melvin Lett, lifelong residents of the Twin Counties, regarding potential legislation to address defunding police, drug epidemic and the rising crime and violence.
- 2) Columbia County Board of Supervisors' Resolutions regarding Self-Insured (Workers' Compensation) Budget and Chargebacks and Mortgage Tax Monies.
- 3) Dog Control Report for November, 2020.

Carried.

**President DePietro** stated Arterial, LLC had been hired by the City to design the largest project of the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI), the Hudson Connects Project and he stated Arterial, LLC were at the stage of inviting comments and also proposing the design plans to be completed by construction contractors. He said "they are here tonight to present, it's not a final presentation, they're inviting comments on everything you will see". President DePietro introduced Arterial, LLC representatives James Ribaldo, David Lustberg and Saeed Piracha.



**David Lustberg** stated this presentation would be the culmination of five (5) or six (6) months of work and he said “we’re very excited to discuss this with all of you”. He said “a quick special thank you to you know, everyone who’s been participating all along now, the Mayor, of course, Michael and Tom for you know really guiding this, Rob Perry and his team, we’ve been working really closely with, and of course the members of the community that have come out at the various outreach projects and of course the demonstration project, this truly has been a collaborated effort and we’re excited to bring it forward to you tonight”. Mr. Lustberg said “our firm is called Arterial, I’m one of the partners, James is the other partner and Saeed is with us tonight”. He said “the project is in two phases so the first phase just as a reminder, is a planning phase, planning and scoping and that’s what we’re in right now so this phase right now we’re figuring out the scope and what the improvements might be” and he said “for that phase, Arterial is teamed with a firm called Streetplans out of Brooklyn and they’re a planning firm so we’ve partnered on this first phase together”. Mr. Lustberg said “as it moves to the second phase which is construction, Arterial will be partnered with Creighton Manning which is an engineering firm and they will guide the construction of the project” and he said “so that’s the team, we’re very excited to present this to you tonight”. He said “just a quick reminder of what this is all about and how we try to view streets, we want to create really high-performance streets, streets that do more, streets that are really giving you a great return on your investment”. Mr. Lustberg stated there were five categories to view high performance streets through which were functionality and safety; arts and culture; health and the environment; economic vitality and design quality.

**James Ribaud** stated there were three objectives with the first being to identify the project goals and the key findings which would include the data collection and public outreach process that had been extensive for this project and solidified the goals for the Connectivity Plan; second would be to present the Connectivity Plan vision to share general concepts for streetscape improvements which could be applied district wide and then finally would be to look at how some of those examples would be applied to specific areas within the district. Mr. Ribaud said “the money that was received by the City was roughly four million dollars for improvements to what was outlined as the Bridge District” and he said “the goal was to address pedestrian safety, enhance multi-mobile transportation and improve connectivity to adjacent neighborhoods and the city’s downtown”. He said “from a schedule standpoint, where we sit right now, is the Fall/Winter of 2020 where we’re presenting the Connectivity Plan, we look to have a final submission in late January and we’ll have some more next immediate steps at the end of the presentation and then the exciting part which is getting into construction, the idea is to begin construction in the Fall of 2021” and he said “this project will become a reality very shortly”. Mr. Ribaud stated the project area would include Second Street to the Waterfront and from Dock Street to the area around the Basilica and he said “the goal with these improvements again is that they can be, they can be applied city-wide so while we are looking at this particular area, there are things that will come out of this plan that can again be applied to the City itself”. He gave an overview of the public outreach process over the past several months which included a walkabout to take in all of the observations of what people experienced from a day to day standpoint in their neighborhoods; conducted a high performance street analysis; conducted a number of stakeholder meetings with various groups to understand concerns and aspirations both local residents and professionals had for the project and an open-house had been held at the

Waterfront which had been combined with the Promenade Hill Project which would be concurrent with this project, to collect and share feedback that had been heard. Mr. Ribaldo said “it was at this open-house that we vetted the idea of a demonstration project where we would actually test some of these concepts on the streets so instead of drawing them on paper, we would actually put them out on the street and get some feedback so that was driven by the community input that we got from that open-house” and he said “the whole idea was to take design concepts that we had arrived at primarily through the feedback that we had collected and use temporary materials to actual demonstrate how streets and intersections could be made safer, could be transformed in reality so that we could then collect feedback from that demonstration project, get actually comments back from the public, how did you feel about this, what were your thoughts and then take that and incorporate it into the final design”. He said “in addition had the engineer who was on our team, actually go out and observe both of the locations to see how cars were reacting, how travel speeds may have been effected, pedestrians crossing the street” and he said “it was really a great culmination of outreach in that demonstration project to collect a lot of feedback and we’re thankful for everyone for filling out those surveys, we collected over two hundred and fifty responses, so very good data that we’ve been able to use”. Mr. Ribaldo said “from all of that, we have boiled down a few key findings that we’d like to share”. He said “it is clear that there are gaps in the pedestrian network, some streets are missing sidewalks entirely while others have sidewalks that are in disrepair; there are inaccessible intersections, there are no intersections within the entire Bridge District that have ADA accessible ramps at all corners, so not one intersection is completely ADA compliant; high design speeds, we found that a lot of the road designs do not actually re-enforce posted speed limits, drive lanes are often wide, they lack on road striping which is visual cues to slow down and where a vehicle should be; also uncomfortable cycling conditions, there are few amenities to support recreational or transportation options such as biking or scooters and that kind of thing and it’s something that we in our time in Hudson had seen a lot of cyclists from a recreational standpoint and transportation, biking around the streets; and then finally one the things that really struck us the dis-connection between the waterfront, Front Street which is essentially the waterfront promenade for the City, that’s the street that parallels the River, you wouldn’t recognize that, you wouldn’t realize that the Hudson River is right there, there’s very few direct kind of connection to the waterfront”. He said “based on those key findings, we developed a series of goals that we feel will address all of these key findings” and he stated the three (3) goals that would be set forth for the Connectivity Plan would be to celebrate the historic integrity; to make streets safe and accessible for all and to re-connect the waterfront. Mr. Ribaldo provided additional details of the goals mentioned including the materials and furniture to be utilized in the palette which would complement the diversity and richness in that history of the City; streets safe and accessible for all including the identification of the streets based on their character and function to determine the topology for the improvements on the streets; and the reconnection to the waterfront by the celebrating of the various connections to the Hudson River to include the Henry Hudson Riverfront Park, Promenade Hill Park, community gardens and the fishing village. He said “just the end on the project schedule, in a little bit more detail, where we are right now is Council presentation number one, this is the first time that we are presenting in front of the Council” and he said “we plan on collecting feedback, getting some thoughts on what we’ve been proposing, making any revisions necessary, continuing to work through the plans so that we can give order of magnitude costs and start to talk about phasing and implementation of the project itself and what would be built”. Mr. Ribaldo stated the next presentation would be held at the next Common Council

Informal Meeting to be held on January 11<sup>th</sup> and he said “we’ll submit the final Connectivity Plan at the end of January and then basically start to look at design and implementation of the project that is identified”.

**Alderman Garriga** said “thank you for your presentation, I am extremely impressed with the examples that you have shown, it’s really exciting and something to look forward to, something that the people have been requesting for years, it’s a beautiful thing” and she questioned if there could be shelters to protect passengers from the weather at the bus stop locations through this project.

A representative from Arterial said “yes, absolutely”.

**Alderman Trombley** said “these are just beautiful plans and it’s very exciting” and she questioned if it would be in the scope of this project to install a traffic device at the intersection of First and Union Streets.

A representative from Arterial said “we will absolutely look into that”.

**Alderman Merante** said “a great presentation, thank you very much” and he questioned if there would be signaled boxes for safety purposes at each of the crosswalks.

A representative from Arterial said “we could look at that, I think there are a number of different applications that we can look at for any of those mid-block crossings, there are the flashing beacons you know that help make it more visible, there’s a number of different things that we can look at you know, signage and related to ensure that it’s entirely visible”. He said “specifically that was one of the reasons why we were looking at, in key spots, raising those mid-block crossings just to elevate the visibility of people looking to get across the street itself”.

**Alderman Garriga** suggested the material used for the sidewalks should be as flat as possible to allow the individuals in wheelchairs, etc. to maneuver better.

A representative of Arterial said “absolutely and just to let you know, the granite set that you see in this image, where we were proposing using them, were not in the path of travel”.

**Aliyah Schneider**, Reporter for the Register Star requested clarification of the steps between tonight’s presentation and the next presentation to be held on January 11<sup>th</sup>.

A representative of Arterial said “we’re going to be collecting any further feedback from the Council and their comments on the plans themselves, working with them to begin looking at the costs implications of these improvements and how we can best spread those costs out to cover as much ground of the District as we can to determine what are the priorities, where do we want to see the money spent and improve which corridors, which intersections you know, covering different gaps and that kind of thing, so we’re going to have those discussions and then at the next meeting, we’ll present basically the summary of that and what we think is the way in which we’re going to move forward with the construction dollars and what that’s going to cover”.

**Ms. Schneider** said “you’ll be discussing with the Common Council”.

A representative of Arterial said “through the Steering Committee that we’re working with which is Tom, which is led by Tom and Michael Chameides”.

### **Resolutions.**

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

#### **Resolution No. 1 December 15, 2020**

**RESOLVED**, that the following be and hereby are appointed Commissioners of Deeds in and for the City of Hudson, Columbia County, for the following term:

#### **January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2022**

Tracy S. Delaney 7 Union Ct St PO Box 843 Philmont, NY

Ralph Graziano 111 Habeck Rd PO Box 218 Ghent, NY

Judith A. Bender 650 White Birch Rd Germantown, NY

#### **Work**

520 Warren Street

610 State Street

560 Warren Street

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Trombley**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

#### **Resolution No. 2 December 15, 2020**

**Local Resolution Calling for the Biden Administration to provide Emergency Money to the People to ensure critical relief to American families during COVID-19 crisis and until our economy recovers, and to develop a federal guaranteed income program to provide an income floor for all Americans;**

**WHEREAS**, A novel coronavirus causing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) first appeared in December 2019 and has spread throughout the world and on March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the outbreak a global pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, The spread of COVID-19 has resulted in an income recession and economic hardship for millions of Americans; and

**WHEREAS**, Across the country and in Columbia County, low-wage workers have lost far more jobs and wages than top earners due to the coronavirus pandemic; and

**WHEREAS**, the unemployment rate is slowly declining but 46% of American households have experienced serious financial trouble during the pandemic, including running out of savings, trouble affording food, paying utility bills, and paying their rent or mortgage; and

**WHEREAS**, Black and Latinx workers are more likely to have experienced COVID-19 related unemployment than white workers as well as higher levels of food insecurity and nearly twice as much difficulty meeting household expenses; and

**WHEREAS**, The U.S. Congress passed Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act at the end of March, which included a package of relief and stimulus programs including \$500 billion for large corporations and one-time \$1,200 Economic Impact Payment (EIP) checks to individuals; and

**WHEREAS**, The EIP checks to individuals were the primary reason that poverty fell by as many as 4 million people at the start of the pandemic-caused recession; and

**WHEREAS**, the EIP checks boosted the economy by increasing spending at all income levels, and the most among low-income earners; and

**WHEREAS**, People spent the EIP checks quickly, and most spent them on food, rent, and utilities; and

**WHEREAS**, When the CARES Act aid ran out, 8 million people were forced into poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, The Urban Institute estimates that one additional direct payment check could keep more than 8 million people out of poverty and two additional checks would keep 14 million people out of poverty; and

**WHEREAS**, Direct cash payments to the American people help state and local economies recover by putting more cash into local households and state budgets; and

**WHEREAS**, The Federal Pandemic Unemployment Benefits provided under the CARES Act have expired, and data show that unemployed Black workers are far less likely to receive unemployment benefits than unemployed white workers; and

**WHEREAS**, Stimulus checks have a bigger positive impact than unemployment benefits for families of color. The data show that another direct payment would increase Native American, Latinx, and Black family income by 4.1%, 3.9%, and 3.6% respectively, compared to 2% of household income for white families; and

**WHEREAS**, Ongoing, direct cash payments put real money in the pockets of people across the country, and increase spending in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, nearly 45 million Americans, or 12% of the U.S. population, were living in poverty, including about 7 million employed people who did not have resources to cover even the most basic necessities, despite working; and

**WHEREAS**, Nearly 40% of Americans could not afford a single \$400 emergency prior to the pandemic, and rising income inequality is compounded by an ever-growing racial wealth divide; and

**WHEREAS**, According to recent polling, there is strong bipartisan support among people in the country for direct cash payments with 77% of voters supporting another one-time payment and a strong majority, 61%, supporting ongoing cash payments until the crisis is over; and

**WHEREAS**, Providing an income floor through which no American family could fall will benefit individuals and communities; and

**WHEREAS**, These payments must include dependents and be available to non-citizens, including undocumented people, permanent residents, and temporary visitors whose stay exceeds three months; individuals who do not have a bank account, social security numbers, or permanent address; people living in unincorporated territories or protectorates and Americans living abroad; now, therefore, be it

**WHEREAS**, Mayor Kamal Johnson is collaborating with HudsonUP to pilot a universal basic income program where 25 randomly-selected residents receive \$500 each month

**RESOLVED**, That the City Council supports ongoing, direct cash payments throughout the pandemic and until our economy recovers, and calls on President-elect Biden, Speaker Pelosi and Leader McConnell to ensure such payments are included in the next stimulus package; and, be it

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, That the City Council urges President-elect Biden, Speaker Pelosi, and Leader McConnell to develop an ongoing federal guaranteed income that provides an income floor for all Americans.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that this resolution be sent to Mayors for a Guaranteed Income, Rep Delgado, Senator Gillibrand, and Senator Schumer.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 3 would authorize the Mayor to request that Assemblymember Didi Barrett sponsor legislation to authorize a 25 MPH Speed Limit in the City and he said “it’s been corrected to not exclude the truck routes”.

On motion of **Alderman Trombley**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Resolution No. 3 December 15, 2020**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO REQUEST THAT  
ASSEMBLYMEMBER DIDI BARRETT SPONSOR LEGISLATION AUTHORIZING  
A 25 MPH SPEED LIMIT IN THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**WHEREAS**, the residents of the City of Hudson have long complained about vehicles operating at an unsafe speed on local streets, and

**WHEREAS**, although the speed limit in the City is 30 mph, there is near universal agreement that drivers regularly exceed the limit and that there exists a threat to community health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, reducing the speed limit to 25 mph on city streets is likely to calm traffic in the city and protect public health and safety; and

**WHEREAS**, a special act of the state legislature is required to allow Hudson to impose a city-wide speed limit lower than 30 mph; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that Mayor Johnson is authorized and encouraged to write a letter to Assemblymember Barrett requesting special legislation authorizing the City to adopt a 25 mph speed limit on streets in the City of Hudson.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

Prior to voting on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Garriga** said “through the concerns of my constituents, yes they are concerned about the speeding of and you know, coming down the street going to the train as was stated earlier, which just don’t want this to be an excuse to sign this as a reason to harass black and brown people and with that being said, aye”.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 4 would object to the installation of a gate on the railroad maintenance road near Broad Street and urges New York State Department of State to join with Hudson River Communities in a collaborative effort to review local government and regional public access needs and implementation for Local Waterfront Revitalization Programs.

**Jeff Anzevino**, Scenic Hudson Director Land Use Advocacy said “I’ve been working with municipalities between Dutchess County all the way up to Rensselaer County to try to come up with a safer way, a way to reduce risk on the Amtrak line while promoting additional public access” and he said “it was done in March of 2020, it highlights ways to allow people to go up along the tracks, on trail or across the tracks as happens in other communities across the Country”. He stated the proposed resolution before the council members had been similar to seven (7) other resolutions that had passed unanimously by Dutchess County Legislature, Columbia County Board of Supervisors’, the Rensselaer County Legislature, Towns of Hyde Park, Rhinebeck, Village of Tivoli and the Village of Castleton-on-the-Hudson and he said “have all passed resolutions asking the Department of State to assist in developing a regional shoreline access plan that uses these 21<sup>st</sup> Century techniques to allow people to cross the tracks or go along the tracks, public access areas”. Mr. Anzevino said “would love it if the City of Hudson would likewise pass a resolution so that we can have strength in numbers” and he said “communities up and down the line between Dutchess and Rensselaer County to ask for the same thing”. He said “I know things are a little bit different in Hudson now because there’s a gate that, basically a new gate or it may be a gate that’s been there for a while but it’s just now simply closed but I think that gate being closed really prevents people from using the Hudson River at points for example, just south of the Colarusso Dock right down to South Bay, it’s a very popular place for fishing”. Mr. Anzevino said “Scenic Hudson would love to work with the City to try to ensure access along the shoreline for fishing and other water related uses”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “we should definitely be asserting our rights to the access along that right-of-way there and really make a stink about this gate issue”. He questioned when the gate went up.

**President DePietro** said “no”.



**Alderman Trombley** asked “have you really looked at how this resolution kind of ducktails with the plans for the Bridge District” and she asked “how does it, you know, are we contradicting ourselves”?

**President DePietro** said “no”.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**Resolution No. 4 December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE INSTALLATION OF A GATE ON THE RAILROAD MAINTENANCE ROAD NEAR BROAD STREET AND URGING NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF STATE TO JOIN WITH HUDSON RIVER COMMUNITIES IN A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT TO REVIEW LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND REGIONAL PUBLIC ACCESS NEEDS AND IMPLEMENTATION FOR LOCAL WATERFRONT REVITALIZATION PROGRAMS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson’s approved Local Waterfront Revitalization Program (LWRP) explicitly prioritizes and proposes increased access to the Hudson River shoreline;

**WHEREAS**, the Hudson River Railroad, constructed in the 1850’s and now owned by CSX and managed by Amtrak, runs along the Hudson River shoreline and, as stated in the City’s LWRP, prevents river access in Hudson;

**WHEREAS**, with approximately 1.5 miles of Hudson River shoreline, the railroad has limited the City’s public river access to approximately 540’ at the Henry Hudson Waterfront Park;

**WHEREAS**, on January 12, 2018 Amtrak submitted to the New York State Department of State (NYSDOS) an application for Consistency Review for a series of gates and fences at eight locations in five municipalities between Rhinebeck and Stuyvesant along the Empire Corridor South Hudson Line;

**WHEREAS**, hundreds of people, including many Hudson residents, expressed concern in comments to the NYSDOS that the construction of gates and fencing at these locations would reduce access for water-related recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, launching boats and ice boats, as well as viewing the Hudson River;

**WHEREAS**, the hundreds of people expressed concern in comments to the NYSDOS that the construction of gates and fencing at these locations would reduce access for water-related recreational activities such as fishing, hunting, launching boats and ice boats, as well as viewing the Hudson River; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 7, 2019 a letter was sent to NYSDOS Secretary of State Rossana Rosado signed by 11 mayors and Supervisors between Hyde Park and Castleton-on-Hudson, including the Mayor of Hudson, Supervisor of Clermont, Germantown, Livingston, Stockport and Stuyvesant. This letter reiterated and expanded upon concerns raised in the previous September 6, 2018 letter; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 18, 2019 Amtrak, after meetings with the NYS Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and NYSDOS, withdrew its proposal for gates and fences so it could be revised in conjunction with a five-year corridor plan to improve safety. Amtrak's press release also stated that Amtrak would continue to work with affected communities, Town officials, and State agencies in formulating the revised plan; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 3, and 4, 2020 as part of public outreach for its Hudson River Access Plan, Poughkeepsie to Rensselaer, Scenic Hudson conducted three stakeholder meetings and three public meetings in Castleton-on Hudson, Germantown, and Rhinebeck, at which approximately 300 people attended expressing the need to protect existing river access and expand future access; and

**WHEREAS**, during January 2020, Scenic Hudson conducted additional public outreach for the Hudson River Access Plan, which resulted in over 5,500 votes for various public access locations and 1,000 comments on access needs were submitted;

**WHEREAS**, based on these meetings and public comments, Scenic Hudson on March 26, 2020 published the Hudson River Access Plan, Poughkeepsie to Rensselaer, which received letters of support from the Columbia County Board of Supervisors;

**WHEREAS**, on March 6, 2020 Congressmen Tonko, Delgado and Maloney sent a letter to Amtrak expressing hope that "Amtrak will work with all relevant state and local representatives to effectively reduce safety risks without compromising the public's ability to access the Hudson River;"

**WHEREAS**, this letter also supported cooperative efforts such as Scenic Hudson's Hudson River Access Plan, stated that "railroad development along both shores of the Hudson River has also created numerous barriers that may affect the public's ability to access the Hudson River,"

and expressed “a deep concern that the potential for loss of access runs contrary to New York State’s Coastal Program;”

**WHEREAS**, on May 22, 2020 Congressmen Tonko, Delgado, and Maloney followed up with a second letter to Amtrak expressing that “the loss of access with which we are concerned is not limited to designated public parkland, but also other places along the shoreline where generations of people have fished or simply enjoyed river views;”

**WHEREAS**, the letter also stated that Congressmen “remain concerned that Amtrak should do more to address local officials’ concerns regarding the past, ongoing and future loss of shoreline access” and expressed an interest in seeing a “cooperative effort that maintains, and ultimately increases, shoreline access throughout the corridor;”

**WHEREAS**, this letter referenced the Hudson River Access Plan’s “11 clear recommendations and over 70 case specific examples of crossings that need to be maintained or improved,” urged Amtrak’s project staff “to read the entire report before continuing to reformulate fencing and gate locations; adjust the proposal accordingly; and then explain on a case-by-case basis how risk can be managed without reducing river access at each location”

**WHEREAS**, on July 16, 2020 Amtrak convened a video conference, at which they presented a reformulated *Five Year Fencing Program on the Hudson Line Sections of the Empire Corridor* would expand the locations of gates and fencing to additional locations in Columbia Counties, including new locations in the City of Hudson – a 5’ gate and 1,570’ of fencing at Board Street (MP 114.4) and a 4’ gate and 290’ of fencing at Dock Street (MP 114.85); gates and fencing near at Broad Street and;

**WHEREAS**, this reformulated plan also requires a Consistency Determination from the NYSDOS;

**WHEREAS**, the gate at Broad Street has recently been installed without a Consistency Determination and will violate both New York State Coastal management Policy and Hudson’s LWRP with respect to public access policies;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City of Hudson objects to the installation of this gate and requests that the gate be removed pending the completion of a Consistency Determination on the *Five Year Fencing Program on the Hudson Line Section of the Empire Corridor*, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City Of Hudson believes It would be valuable for the New York State Department of State to join our communities in the collaborative effort to review local government and regional public access needs and implementation, and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a letter to the Secretary of State will be sent requesting assistance from the NYSDOS in developing a regional riverfront access plan; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that the City of Hudson urges every municipality along the eastern shore of the Hudson River between Rensselaer and Poughkeepsie to make a similar request of the Secretary of State; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be forwarded to the NYS Dept of State, NYS Congressmen: Tonko, Delgato, and Maloney.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

Prior to voting on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Merante** said “as someone who’s been educated and had a lot of recreational time down by the River, I definitely, aye, no restrictions, less restriction the better”.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 5 would re-appoint members to the Tourism Board and he said “I’ve gone to pretty much all of their meetings, they’ve done a phenomenal job, the only person not being re-appointed is Sydney Long who feels she needs to spend time on other things in this coming year so I want to thank Sydney for her service, she did a great job this past year”.

On motion of **Alderman Trombley**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 5 December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING MEMBERS TO THE  
TOURISM BOARD FOR THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**WHEREAS**, §275-41 of the Hudson City Code established the Tourism Board for the City of Hudson, and;

**WHEREAS**, §275-41 (A)(1)(iii) further provides that four members of the Tourism Board shall be appointed by the Common Council and shall serve at the pleasure of the Common Council and;

**WHEREAS**, the current members' terms are set to expire December 31, 2020, and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the following persons are hereby re-appointed to serve as members of the Tourism Board of the City of Hudson pursuant to Hudson City Code §275-41, and shall so serve until December 31, 2021 unless removed earlier at the Common Council's pleasure:

HANNAH BLACK  
SELHA GRAHAM  
KATE TREACY

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**Alderman Lewis**, prior to voting on the proposed resolution, said "as Chair to the Tourism Board, it's been a pleasure working with these three members in addition to Sydney Long and I look forward to more good meetings, with that said I say aye".

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 December 15, 2020**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING SETTLEMENT OF ARTICLE 7 PROCEEDING WITH  
ERIC GALLOWAY**

**WHEREAS**, Eric Galloway (the "Petitioner"), with real property located in the City of Hudson, commenced proceedings pursuant to Article 7 of the New York State Real Property Tax Law challenging the assessment of property located in the City of Hudson, Columbia County, New York and designated on the Official Assessment Map of the City of Hudson for tax years 2019 and 2020 as to tax parcel nos.: 109.51-1-49 and 109.51-1-50; and

**WHEREAS**, the parties have agreed to settle the proceedings whereby the assessment on the parcels which are the subject of the proceedings will be reduced, corrected and fixed for the 2019 and 2020 tax assessment rolls; and

**WHEREAS**, proposed terms of settlement have been presented to the City of Hudson for reduction of the assessments as follows:

Tax Map <u>S/B/L</u>	Original 2019 <u>Assessment</u>	Settlement <u>Assessment</u>	Amount of <u>Reduction</u>
109.51-1-49	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$200,000.00
109.51-1-50	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00

Tax Map <u>S/B/L</u>	Original 2020 <u>Assessment</u>	Settlement <u>Assessment</u>	Amount of <u>Reduction</u>
109.51-1-49	\$1,400,000.00	\$1,200,000.00	\$200,000.00
109.51-1-50	\$500,000.00	\$250,000.00	\$250,000.00

which terms provide that, with the exception of excess taxes already paid to the City of Hudson for City taxes based off the 2019 and 2020 tax assessment rolls, applicable tax refunds based off of both the 2019 and 2020 tax assessment rolls are to be paid with interest pursuant to Section 726 of the Real Property Tax Law of the State of New York, except that in the event the refund of taxes is paid within sixty (60) days from the date of a service of a copy of a final court order with notice of entry, then interest is waived; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council of the City of Hudson does hereby agree to the settlement and to the entry of the order for reduction of assessment for Petitioner; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor and the City's other officers, employees and agents are hereby authorized and directed for, and in the name and on behalf of the City, to carry out the provisions of the order.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that Rodenhausen Chale & Polidoro LLP is authorized to execute such documents as may be necessary to effectuate this resolution.

Prior to the Roll Call Vote, **President DePietro** stated Alderman Lewis would not be voting on the proposed resolution.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (10)

Nays: None. (0)

Recused: Alderman Lewis. (1)

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 7 would adopt the New LGS-1 Records Retention and Disposition Schedule.

**Tracy Delaney, City Clerk** stated New York State Archives had condensed the four (4) Records Retention and Disposition Schedules and she stated the council members would be required to adopt the new retention and disposition schedule prior to January 1, 2021.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE NEW LGS-1 RECORDS RETENTION  
AND DISPOSITION SCHEDULE**

**RESOLVED**, by the Common Council of the City of Hudson that Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records, issued pursuant to Article 57-A of the Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, and containing legal minimum retention periods for local government records, is hereby adopted for use by all officers legally disposing of valueless records listed therein.

**FURTHER RESOLVED**, that in accordance with Article 57-A:

- a) Only those records will be disposed of that are described in Retention and Disposition Scheduled for New York Local Government Records after they have met the minimum retention periods described therein;
- b) Only those records will be disposed of that do not have sufficient administrative fiscal, legal or historical value to merit retention beyond established legal minimum periods.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 8, December 15, 2020**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following transfer within the Fire Department Accounts:

\$ 147.96	From:	A3410.43 Maint. & Repair Buildings
	To:	A3410.49 Inspection
\$6,460.04	From:	A3410.43 Maint. & Repair Buildings
	To:	A3410.45 Maint. & Repair Equipment

To cover shortage in Fire Department accounts.

APPROVED BY BOARD OF ESTIMATE & APPORTIONMENT

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombly, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.  
Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 9  
DECEMBER 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING YOUTH DEPARTMENT DONATIONS FROM THE  
THEISS FAMILY**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson Department of Youth has received a \$50.00 donation in memory of David Hickey from Henry and Linda Theiss.

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to receive those funds:

	Increase Revenue:	A.0000.2089.0000	Donations non budgeted
	Increase Expenditures:	A.7310.0520.0000	Misc. grants & donations
\$50.00	Increase Revenue:	A.0000.2089.0000	Donations non budgeted
\$50.00	Increase Expenditures:	A.7310.0520.0000	Misc. grants & donations

**Approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment**

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombly, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.  
Nays: None.



On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 10**  
**December 15, 2020**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and directed to transfer funds to the following 2020 budget accounts within the Public Works, Cemetery, Water & Sewer Departments:

**DPW**

\$3,000	From: 1620.49 A – Buildings – 10-12 Warren
2,000	From: 1620.54 A – Buildings – Washington Hose
\$5,000	To: 1620.1 A – Buildings – Personal Services
\$5,000	From: 7110.1 A – Parks – Personal Services
5,000	From: 8160.1 A - Waste Collection – Personal Services
\$10,000	To: 8160.46 – Waste Collection – Tipping Fees
\$500	From: 8170.4 A – Street Cleaning – Materials & Supplies
\$500	To: 8170.1 A – Street Cleaning – Personal Services

**WATER**

\$500	From: 8310.1 F – Water Administration – Personal Services
\$500	To: 8310.4 F – Water Administration - Misc & Other
\$2,000	From: 8310.46 F – Water Administration – Electrician
\$2000	To: 8340.4 F – Water Administration – Materials & Supplies
\$2000	From: 8320.46 – Water Supply – Utilities
\$2000	To: 8320.4 F – Water Supply – Materials & Supplies
\$5,000	From: 8330.4 F – Water Treatment - Materials & Supplies
\$5,000	To: 8330.1 F – Water Treatment – Personal Services
\$2,000	From: 8330.48 F – Water Treatment – Utilities
\$2,000	To: 8330.45 F – Water Treatment – Maintenance of Equipment

**SEWER**

\$10,000	From: 8110.46 G – Sewer Administration – Other
\$10,000	To: 8130.4 – Sewage Treatment – Materials & Supplies

\$6,000	From: 8110.43 G – Sewer Administration – Staff Development
\$6,000	To: 8130.1 G – Sewer Treatment – Personal Services
\$5,000	From: 8130.48 G – Sewage Treatment – Utilities
\$5,000	To: 8130.46 G – Sewage Treatment – Professional Services

**APPROVED BY BOARD OF ESTIMATE & APPORTIONMENT**

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION INITIATIVE CAPITAL FUND TO COVER CONTRACTUAL COMMITMENTS PRIOR TO REIMBURSEMENT**

**WHEREAS** the City of Hudson is the recipient of a \$10 million Downtown Revitalization Initiative award with thirteen projects selected for implementation, and

**WHEREAS** five of those projects are city-based projects, including Multimodal Circulation (\$3,982,550), Promenade Hill Park (\$1,100,000), Cross Street (\$250,000), Fugary (\$150,290), and the Dunn Warehouse (\$1,000,000) for a total of \$6,482,840 in grant funding, and

**WHEREAS** contracts have been signed and project planning commenced for the Multimodal, Promenade Park and Cross Street projects, and

**WHEREAS** the DRI grant award is provided on a reimbursable basis, requiring the city to provide project funds up front,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Treasurer is directed to execute an interfund loan of \$250,000 from the General fund to the DRI Capital fund.

The Treasurer's Office is directed to ensure that the loan from the General Fund is paid back by the DRI Capital Fund as soon as the Treasurer's office has established interim project funding for the DRI Projects.

Approved Board of Estimate & Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the council members went into executive session to discuss “personnel issues”.

Following the executive session, all council members were present.

**President DePietro** stated there were no decisions made in the executive session.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Trombley**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 12**  
**December 15, 2020**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO CORRECT AN  
ERROR IN PAYROLL WITHHOLDING TAXES**

**WHEREAS**, the Mayor and the City Treasurer have recently undertaken a review of the City’s payroll practices: and

**WHEREAS**, the review revealed an error that resulted in the City failing to properly withhold the employee’s share of FICA taxes from five employees, through no fault of those employees; and

**WHEREAS**, 3 of the 5 employees no longer work for the City and the City is therefore unable to recoup FICA payroll taxes from those employees, and further, FICA taxes due from the remaining two employees are in excess of the anticipated pay those two employees will receive during the last pay period of 2020; and

**WHEREAS**, the total amount of the back taxes for all 5 employees is less than \$1300.00, for which the City is otherwise liable for if employees do not pay their share of FICA taxes.

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED;** that the City of Hudson shall pay the employees’ share of FICA taxes that otherwise should have been withheld.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

Prior to voting “aye” on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Halloran** said “I hope at the very first meeting next year we have process and a deeper understanding of this so that we can avoid something like it in the future”.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 13**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO COVER EXPENSES ASSOCIATED  
WITH ASSESSMENT CHALLENGES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson had unanticipated legal activities associated with its defense of certain assessment challenges, and

**WHEREAS**, these expenses included out-of-pocket expenses for appraisals, previously approved by the council, and

**WHEREAS**, these were unbudgeted expenses,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is authorized to make the following 2020 budget transfer:

\$5,000	TO: A.1420.0470	CONSULTANT/EXPERT/FEES
	FROM: A.9060.0800	HOSPITALIZATION

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Trombley**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 14**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO THE CONTINGENT ACCOUNT**

**WHEREAS**, the city of Hudson and Council 82, AFSCME, Local 3979 Hudson Police Department (HPD) have entered into a memorandum of Agreement (MOA), and

**WHEREAS**, one stipulation of the MOA is that the HPD will forgo its negotiated 1.5% raise for 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, a second stipulation of the MOA is that the city's ability to reinstate the 1.5% raise will be reviewed on or about July 1, thus requiring the funds remain in case off reinstatement,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following budget transfer:

\$	36,475	FROM	A.3120.0100	POLICE PERSONAL SERVICES
		TO	A.1990.0400	CONTINGENT ACCOUNT

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 15**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO PAY IT EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, the city of Hudson has had unanticipated IT expenses, and

**WHEREAS**, there are available funds in other accounts,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following budget transfer:

\$4,000	FROM	A.9060.0800	HOSPITALIZATION
	TO	A.1325.0460	SOFTWARE LICENSES, SUPPORT KVS

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 16 would adopt a Uniform Policy for the Employment of Independent Contractors.

**Alderman Halloran** asked “does it address whose function and whose responsibility it will be within the departments to make sure that we don’t have this confusion again, by following this practice”?

**Jeffrey Baker, Legal Advisor** said “it says department heads are responsible for implementing this and then the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel will help administer it as well”.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Halloran**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 16**  
**December 15, 2020**

**RESOLUTION ADOPTING A UNIFORM POLICY FOR THE EMPLOYMENT OF  
INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson at times retains persons acting as independent contractors to provide services to the city; and

**WHEREAS**, the City is in need of a clear policy governing independent contractors and a standard form agreement used by all departments for all such persons; and

**WHEREAS**, a uniform policy and standard agreement are necessary for the efficient administration of the city’s payroll.

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that the City of Hudson hereby adopts the Independent Contractors Policy dated December 2020 and the Independent Contractor Agreement and all City Departments are instructed to comply with the policy and utilize the agreement for the retention of all independent contractors.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17**  
**December 15, 2020**

**INTRADEPARTMENTAL YOUTH TRANSFERS**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and directed to transfer funds to the following 2020 budget accounts as follows for the Youth Department:

\$22,044.43		From: A.7310.0100.0000	Personnel
	\$ 763.73	To: A.7310.0100.0004	Pers. Lifeguards

	\$13,072.10	To:	A.7310.0450.0000	Maint. Equip.
	\$ 7,053.31	To:	A.7310.0200.0000	Equip.
	\$ 1,155.29	To:	A.7310.0450.0003	Maint. Equip Oakdale
\$	47.53	From:	A.7310.0200.0003	Equip. Oakdale Imp.
\$	21.90	From:	A.7310.0400.0000	Mat/Supl
\$	542.29	From:	A.7310.0410.0000	Print/Adv.
\$	1,809.00	From:	A7310.0510.0002	Youth Saf.
	\$ 2,420.72	To:	A.7310.0200.0000	Equip,

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.  
 Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 18 December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO VARIOUS PERSONAL SERVICES ACCOUNTS**

**WHEREAS**, the city of Hudson has determined that certain contract providers of service are more accurately classified as payroll employees, and

**WHEREAS**, it is in the city’s best interest to enact this change, and

**WHEREAS**, this requires establishing new personal service accounts and appropriating the funds to cover that expense,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following 2020 budget transfers:

\$1100	FROM:	A.9040.0800	Workers’ Compensation
\$400	TO:	A.1210.0100.0110	Historic Preservation Commission
175	TO:	A.1010.0100.0100	Common Council
35	TO:	A.8010.0100	Zoning Board
100	TO:	A6410.0100	Tourism Board
400	TO:	A.8020.0100	Planning Board

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 19**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ACCEPTING DONATIONS FOR JANUARY THROUGH DECEMBER 2021 FROM THE FRIENDS OF HUDSON YOUTH, INC TO THE HUDSON YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Hudson Youth, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the youth of the City of Hudson, has presented a proposed memorandum of understanding (“MOU”) setting forth its desire to make donations to the Hudson Youth Department, and;

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to the MOU, future donations would be subject to review and approval by the Common Council;

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute a Memorandum of Understanding with the Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc. for future donations to the City of Hudson Youth Department.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Walker**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 20**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS TO THE HUDSON YOUTH DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc., a not-for-profit corporation dedicated to supporting the youth of the City of Hudson through enriched programs and facilities at the Hudson Youth Department and to support both youth and the community at large through support of the lifeguards at Oakdale Beach,



**WHEREAS**, Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc. wishes to make monetary donations to the Hudson Youth Department between the months of January and December 2021, and

**WHEREAS**, Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc. further wishes to donate equipment to the Hudson Youth Department for use in programs related to the youth of the City,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Common Council hereby agrees to accept monetary donations and donations of equipment from Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc. to the Hudson Youth Department, to be used for programs and facilities related to the youth of the City, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Common Council hereby agrees to accept up to \$125,000 in donations from Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc. between the months of January and December 2021, on the condition that the funds be used by the Hudson Youth Department for programs and facilities related to the youth of the City and in accordance with Friends of Hudson Youth, Inc.'s bylaws, and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is authorized to receive the subject donations and direct the funds from the following:

Revenue: A.0000.2705 – Gifts and Donations  
Expenditure: A.7310.0530 – FOHY Program Funds

Approved by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.  
Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Halloran**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 21**  
**December 15, 2020**

**A RESOLUTION TO TRANSFER FUNDS TO PAY IT EXPENSES**

**WHEREAS**, the city of Hudson's Sewer Fund has inadequate funds to cover hospitalization for the rest of 2020, and

**WHEREAS**, there are available funds in other Sewer Fund accounts,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following budget transfer:

\$ 5,000	FROM:	G.8120.0470	INTERFUND SERV
\$ 5,000		G.8130.0470	TREATMENT UTILITIES
\$ 850		G.9040.0800	WORKERS' COMP
\$ 1,150		G.8110.0430	STAFF DEVELOPMENT
\$12,000	TO:	G.9060.0800	HOSPITALIZATION

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombly, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 22 would authorize ADA compliance renovations at City Hall Building and authorize the issuance of serial bonds in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$475,000 and he said “for those who were at the Finance Committee Meeting, you’ll know that we’re bonding, we’re taking out a BAN which is the first stage in getting a bond and it’s going to finance two DPW projects, an ADA potential project and the fire truck, all in one”.

**Alderman Garriga** asked “what did you say with the DPW, what might happen”?

**President DePietro** said “the DPW projects will happen, the ADA is the only one that is not necessarily going to happen, I’m not sure and then finally the fire truck”.

**Alderman Garriga** asked “how come the ADA part is unsure”?

**President DePietro** said “I don’t believe we’ve actually approved that yet”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “something will be approved, we just don’t know the scope yet” and he said “it’s a fire truck, it’s whatever ADA improvements we decide to do for City Hall, it’s a DPW project dealing with water”.

**Alderman Wolff** asked “like the fire truck thing, like we were going to get more information on that”?

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “no, I think the point that was made in Finance was a good one, if we’re borrowing money to do something when it’s close to zero percent interest rate, we should do it now rather than later” and he stated the City had signed a contract for the fire truck.

**Alderman Wolff** said “we haven’t seen that contract”.

**President DePietro** said “yea we have”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “I don’t understand if it’s better so you put off borrowing money on something that we’ll be making small payments for later when it’s going to be more expensive to borrow money or now” and he said “we signed a contract for it, it seems like a very difficult thing to try to back out of it right now”.

**Alderman Merante** asked “I thought we don’t start paying on the fire truck until 2022, I believe, right”?

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “yes”.

**President DePietro** said “it’s a standard bond resolution created by our bond attorney”.

**Alderman Garriga** questioned the amount of \$475,000 being split between the projects.

**President DePietro** said “no, just the ADA” and he said “I think this is to add to one we already did, perhaps”.

**Legal Advisor Baker** said “this seems to only apply to the ADA project”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “I thought they could be bundled together”.

**President DePietro** said “let’s put this on hold then”.

**Alderman Garriga** questioned if the proposed resolution could be amended.

**Legal Advisor Baker** said “no, you need more information” and he said “I wouldn’t mess with a bond resolution right now like that but I’m not sure what the problem is about just adopting this one for the ADA and then doing another one”.

**Alderman Garriga** said “we wanted it all in one, that’s the problem”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “what was said in Finance was that, the bigger the package the more likely you get the municipal borrowing because it becomes attractive to the loan market”.

**Alderman Garriga** said “maybe we should hold off there until we have all...”

**President DePietro** said “either we could have a quick Special Meeting or just do it first thing in January”.

**Alderman Rosenthal** said “find out which one’s better”.

**Bills.**

**Alderman Garriga** asked “that \$5,000 for Mr. Hyman, is that a monthly bill”?

**Peter Bujanow, Commissioner of Public Works** said “Hyman Hayes was an RFP consultant hired to do the sidewalk evaluation and that’s a progress payment against their total costs, that’s their second phase payment” and he said “the total contract price is, for that work, the scope of work for that consultant is \$27,965, that was approved previously by the Council based on an RFP we did and the first payment was processed to them for their first phase, the first phase was the discovery and background and that was \$5,033 and that was paid last month, this is the second phase, a portion of the second phase”.

On motion of **Alderman Lewis**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the following bills were audited and ordered paid by the following vote:

Johnson Newspaper Corporation	119.01	Mayor Johnson	44.97
Rodenhause,Chale,&PolidoroLLP	898.33	Michael Chameides	20.00
JV Computers	162.00	Repeat Business Systems	1.47
James Delaney Jr	600.00	Rackspace US Inc	765.60
Valley Energy	26.07	TGW Consulting Group Inc	2,100.00
JV Computers	2,328.90	Paychex of New York LLC	774.62
Paychex Human Resources Svcs	273.60	Bonadio & Co. LLP	1,400.00
Parking Ticket Bureau(petty cash)	5.00	First Light	403.99
Goldberg Segalla	20.50	Amano McGann Inc	1,741.13
AT&T Mobility	47.94	Mid Hudson Cablevision	41.45
Ricoh USA Inc	10.60	Preferred Print Solutions	613.20
SicklerTorchiaAllen & Churchill CPA	313.56	Chatham Printing	980.00
National Band & Tag Company	102.13	Zoe Paolantonio	1,166.00
Verizon	48.62	US Bank Equipment Finance	110.84
Erin Reis	240.00	Atlas Business Solutions Inc	150.00
Jeffrey S. Baker	3,041.66	Mid Hudson Cablevision	51.45
US Bank Equipment Finance	160.58	Columbia Greene Humane Society	35.00
Passport Labs Inc.	4,184.94	Linda Fenoff	900.00
Michael DeWan Appraisal	4,100.00		

**DRI**

Chazen Engineering & Land Surveying	1,350.00	Arterial LLC	45,007.08
Starr Whitehouse	15,265.35		

**ADA**

Hyman Hayes Associates	5,224.37		
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**Tourism Board - Grant Awards (Final Funding payout)**

Daniel Rothbart Studio	500.00	Basilica Arts Inc	2,500.00
The Hudson Milliner Art Salon	2,452.50		

**Tourism Board – Grant Awards (Shared Streets)**

Hudson Opera House Inc	9,332.47
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**2021**

AP Technology	660.00	Edmunds GovTech	270.00
NYCOM	3,239.00	Col. Co. Chamber of Commerce	643.00
Fingar Insurance	108,927.00		

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Mizan, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

Carried.

**New Business.**

**Alderman Garriga** announced there would be a Hudson/Catskill Housing Coalition Christmas/Holiday Cleaning Supplies, COVID-19 give-a-way to take place this Saturday at Bliss Towers and Hop-O-Nose in Catskill from 12 until 3 PM and she said “this is something that we have done for the past eight years, giving back to the community so if anyone on the Council would like to give, please stop by”.

**President DePietro** wished those in attendance a pleasant holiday season.

On motion of **Alderman Merante**, seconded by **Alderman Mizan**, the meeting was adjourned.

City Clerk