

March 17, 2020

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held on Tuesday, March 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM, in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall with President Thomas DePietro presiding.

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

Absent: Alderman Mizan.

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

Due to the world-wide Covid-19 Virus Crisis, 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 public in-person access to meetings and authorizing such meetings to be held remotely by conference call or similar service, provided that the public has the ability to view or listen to such proceeding and that such meetings are recorded and later transcribed. Meeting was live streamed on WGXC Radio Station. Aldermen Halloran, Rosenthal, Trombley and Wolff participated in the meeting remotely.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Garriga**, the minutes of the February 10th and February 18th meetings were ordered received and placed on file. Carried.

Committee Reports.

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

Economic Development Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 20, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr., Chairman; Alderwoman Eileen Halloran; Alderman Dominic Merante. Alderwoman Jane Trombley

Mr. Lewis called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. and said the agenda would be a continuation of outreach to the community and to give various agencies a chance to speak about how their work could benefit the city and develop initiatives. Invited guests included Betsy Miller, a marketer and event planner; Jay Neuschatz of the Hudson Business Coalition; Columbia-Greene Community College President Carlee Drummer, Ph.D.; John Lombardi, assistant professor of construction technology at CGCC; Hudson Housing Authority Chairman Randall Martin; and Columbia County Chamber of Commerce President Jeffrey Hunt.

Hudson Promotion

Ms. Miller told committee members that she was interested in creating some type of campaign involving places of worship. She has local clients, including Temple Israel in Catskill, Verdigris, the Columbia County Fair and Elijah Slocum, and worked on the Hudson Area Association Library's capital campaign for five years.

She was interested in promoting Hudson and felt that there were subjects not being explored. “The neighborhoods in this community all have their own dynamics. Not just by architecture, but by how and why they were developed and their ethnic makeup,” she said. “It's that diversity that makes this town so vibrant.”

After a conversation with the Rev. Ed Cross, who is trying to save a church building on Columbia Street, it struck her that an entire classification had been overlooked—churches and places of worship.

She proposed three projects: Battle of the Choirs, Church Lady Suppers and a Walking Tour of former and current places of worship. The ideas were inclusive of all aspects of the community, she said.

The Battle of the Choirs would be the biggest production. Choirs would be located at various places of worship throughout Hudson and would perform for 10 minutes at appointed times. It would be a ticketed event that could go on for two days. Ticket holders could walk (or drive) from place to place to hear the music. Individual churches could man food tables at a central location where tickets could also be purchased. The voting public would determine the winning choir, which would receive a cash prize.

Church Lady Suppers would also require tickets and could be held twice a year. The idea is to have church members host guests for a meal and a tour of their church, which would include its history.

The Walking Tour would include facilities of all denominations—Shiloh Baptist Church, which was originally a synagogue; the mosque now under construction; and the Quaker Meeting House—as well as former churches used for other purposes, such as the Haddad house. The tour would be broken down into neighborhoods with background on how that community came to be woven into Hudson as a whole, not just a description of the architecture. The tour would expose visitors to parts of the city they might not see otherwise. “It presents a more cohesive picture of Hudson,” Ms. Miller said.

A tour of nine city churches is available on geotourist.com. It was funded by the Hudson Development Corporation (HDC). She said if the committee wanted to pursue the tour that it use that one as a basis to build upon. The application is free, but there is a small fee to download the tour. Ms. Miller said she believed the city owned the tour. Hudson blogger Carole Osterink said the tour was created by HDC and she believed that the agency owned the rights. It was suggested that more revenue might be generated if the application was free and businesses were involved through advertising.

Ms. Miller said if the ideas were to be funded, she would be interested in pursuing it as a contract and she would develop and handle organization and promotion. Resident John Kane asked Ms. Miller how she would be compensated. Committee feedback would be required first on how to proceed. “It all has to be seen,” she said.

Ms. Trombley asked if people taking the tour would be able to enter the buildings. Ms. Miller said they would not. Ms. Trombley thought it would be interesting to engage the churches by speaking to their members and to former parishioners of churches that are no more. That way

it's not one person's research, it's what's important to the churches' history, she said. A list of questions could be compiled to provide some continuity in the replies, she added.

Ms. Halloran said she thought the tour might be a correct use of Tourism Board funds. She also thought it could be a way to bring in youth for help with research or serving as tour guides at the sites. "It could have great community aspects," she said.

Ms. Miller said she would need official notification from the committee to proceed with one of the projects. She would then put together a detailed proposal of the event and costs. Ms. Halloran said if the committee felt the city could afford it, a recommendation for approval could be sent to the full Common Council.

With the application, the tour could be done any hour and any day, Ms. Miller said. She also said she would figure out a way to engage youth. Ms. Halloran said that youths who conducted research might be voices on the application. Ms. Trombley agreed, saying it would be more personalized.

College Programming

Dr. Drummer said the college performed an economic impact study last fall, the results of which were for fiscal year 2017-2018. The study found that the college added \$63 million in income to the economies of Columbia and Greene counties, a value approximately equal to 1.4 percent of the region's total gross regional product (GRP). The college's impact supported 1,150 regional jobs. For perspective, the activities of GCGG and its students support one out of every 47 jobs in Columbia and Greene counties.

Dr. Drummer said the college has traditionally done a great job preparing students to transfer to four-year institutions and was now thinking about trades, of which there is a need. Nursing is the signature program for trades; automotive technology also is offered. She said the college needed to look forward to know what the trends were going to be, so it launched a gap analysis for needs in the trades. The greatest need was in business, she said. There also is a need for home health aides, which could be trained through the college's allied health program.

One of the largest gaps, however, was in construction technology. The program started in September and had full enrollment, but due to various issues, there are now only 13 students, she said. "The sky is the limit for that program," she said, noting that it had an historic element that would be important to a city like Hudson.

"My job is to get people to look to the ceiling and say, 'How do you do that?', not look at their phones," Mr. Lombardi said of the construction technology/preservation carpentry program. The program is all-encompassing and uses a classroom and live lab model. Students are setting kitchens to full scale. Structurally, the program is about 90 percent of the way there. He said he would love a longer line of students out the door, as there is need in Columbia county for about 800 or so people trained in the field and about 53,000 statewide.

The hands-on curriculum trains students to construct and renovate residential buildings through skilled use of tools and machines, knowledge of efficient procedures and an understanding of traditional construction principles, including current and emerging industry standards and building practices.

Students gain experience with tools and equipment used in the industry, learn to read blueprints, become familiar with building codes and historic preservation guidelines, and learn exterior and interior finishing and frame construction through hands-on experience. Special emphasis is placed on historic preservation techniques.

One of the assignments is to have students walk down Warren Street and list what parts of a building “turns them on” and to identify a building that “needs love.” The assignment shows how economic development and historic preservation go hand in hand, he said.

Ms. Halloran asked him to describe the typical student and how the city might help promote the program. Mr. Lombardi said the typical student is not 19 years old, but older, and many are from the military looking for civilian careers. The top two students are women, which shows that the program is not gender-restricted, he said.

Mr. Lombardi said mathematics was an important skill set for those entering the program, which has led to some remedial work. There also is a copious amount of reading. The program requires 30 credit hours in two semesters, plus a four-week summer internship in which students are paired with local companies.

Dr. Drummer touched on the college's partnering with SUNY Delhi and the opportunity for students to obtain bachelor's degrees locally. She also said CGCC was eager to connect with Questar (BOCES). “We have to convince parents that trades are high tech,” she said.

Today's students don't want a 40-hour-a-week work commitment, so the college is looking at how to prepare them for what she called a “gig economy.” She noted that there were advantages to being self-employed.

Ms. Trombley asked Mr. Lombardi to estimate the incomes of students who completed the program and what their first jobs would be. Mr. Lombardi said there was no industry wider than construction. He was amazed at where students ended up. “They all find their place,” he said, such as dry walling or plumbing. They usually start at just under \$20,000 a year and upwards to \$45,000 to \$50,000, and move on to \$30 per hour or more.

Mr. Lewis asked the cost for the program, which included tuition, books and tools. Mr. Lombardi said there was a sliding scale for tuition. As for tools, there are probably 6,000 in the building. Students are asked to buy the basics, such as measuring tapes, but they will be given help if they can't afford to buy the tools. Many of the books are used in multiple classes, so that cost is less than \$400, he said. For instance, students do not have to purchase the \$180 ring binder that contains the state Building Code because it is available online.

HUD Section 3 Policy

Mr. Randall outlined the federal Housing and Urban Development's (HUD) Section 3 policy. It is the legal basis for providing jobs for residents and awarding contracts to businesses in areas receiving certain types of HUD financial assistance. Under Section 3, wherever HUD financial assistance is expended for housing or community development, economic opportunities will be given to Section 3 residents and businesses in that area to the greatest extent feasible. That means that agencies such as his, the Hudson Housing Authority, might have to look for apprentice workers who might not be trained yet. Section 3, coupled with the construction technology program, could boost the economic prospects of individuals, he said.

Ms. Trombley asked Mr. Randall to clarify what a Section 3 business was. He said such a business was owned by at least 51 percent or more Section 3 residents (public housing), or whose permanent, full-time employees included at least 30 percent of people who were currently Section 3 residents or moved to public housing within three years of their hiring.

Recipients of HUD financial assistance and their contractors and subcontractors are required to provide economic opportunities, to the greatest extent possible, consistent with federal, state and local laws. Priority for training and employment under Section 3 is given to people in public and assisted housing, those in the area where HUD financial assistance is

expended, participants in HUD Youthbuild programs and homeless persons. Business that meet the definition of a Section 3 business are given priority under Section 3.

Mr. Randall said the college's apprenticeships might be a great way to get Bliss Towers involved, as rehabilitation is planned there. Mr. Lombardi added that a Youthbuild chapter might be a way to draw in dropouts.

Hudson Business Coalition

Mr. Neuschatz said the Hudson Business Coalition was formed about three years ago and had about 120 members that represented a spectrum of businesses. He said that as business owners and residents, members felt somehow disconnected from what was going on. "How can we work better with city government?"

The common complaint of business owners is that they can't find help. He said all parties involved need to work together on job training and improving technology, such as high-speed internet. There also has to be an effort to expand businesses beyond Warren Street, he said.

The coalition would like to work with young entrepreneurs on how to get a business up and running in Hudson. "There's a lot of expertise and talent that has come into this town and we want to give back," he said.

Ms. Trombley said she had talked with many in the hospitality industry and learned that recruiting and retaining employees was a chronic issue. She suggested that an ad hoc committee be developed to address the problem. "There are challenges that can be worked out," she said.

Mr. Lombardi said the college could develop appropriate programming. "We're here to help you succeed." Ms. Halloran asked if the college would be interested in letting community members do the teaching and was told that it would.

Chamber of Commerce

Mr. Hunt said the Chamber had begun discussions with the college regarding the hospitality and retail industries, but they were not at the point where they could be revealed to the public.

Another Chamber initiative was a workforce preparedness program to expose high school students to the various industries in Columbia County. Guidance counselors also are invited to come and see what is already here and what is coming that they can pass on to students.

The Chamber worked with the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), which funded a workforce program that 13 students graduated from. Of those, seven were from the Hudson City School District and the remainder from the Chatham, Taconic Hills and Germantown school districts. During the five-week course, students learned what was coming down the pipeline. After earning their certification, they had to get a summer internship.

The Chamber is working directly with BOCES for a career signing day. The Chamber started a program for youths who graduated and went directly into the workforce last year and now will expanded to include eighth and ninth grade students in an effort to get them involved and knowledgeable of job requirements.

Mr. Hunt said he had a discussion with Mayor Kamal Johnson about a Job Fair in the fall. Mr. Hunt noted that Greylock Credit Union from Massachusetts would be opening locally and would be looking for employees. The Chamber will facilitate that effort, just as it did for The Wick, by providing space for interviews and more.

The Chamber also is looking for ways to attract and retain employees. “We have to think outside the box,” he said. “We have to prepare them with basic skills so they can climb the ladder.”

Transportation is an issue as well. Mr. Hunt said there have been preliminary discussions with Greene County regarding bus service. Those buses already make stops at CGCC, the train station and Columbia Memorial Hospital. He said he also had been working with Assemblywoman Didi Barrett regarding transportation, as well as the Columbia County transit system.

Ms. Trombley asked if the Chamber had a job bank and was told it was available on the agency's website, where member businesses posted vacancies.

Public Comment

Mr. Kane said that as a non-religious member of the community, he was uncomfortable with city money going to churches. He said the projects proposed by Ms. Miller did not need to involve city resources. “Let the churches do it,” he said. “It's something the city should stay away from.”

Mr. Martin said the reason for the tour was not necessarily focused on the spiritual context. Ms. Miller added that she purposely tried not to have a religious context. “I'm not in any way trying to make this religious,” she said.

Ms. Halloran said the evolution of the buildings was important; some remain as houses of worship, some are private homes and one is a music studio. The Youth Center was once a church, she said. “They are part of our history,” she said.

Ms. Trombley agreed with the historical aspect. She said it would document the backgrounds of the city's earliest denizens, the Proprietors, who were Quakers, and chronicle the evolution of Hudson to the diverse community it is today.

Ms. Trombley made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:29 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Halloran and approved unanimously.

Finance Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 18, 2020

In attendance: Common Council President Tom DePietro, Chairman; Alderwoman Eileen Halloran; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolfe; City Treasurer Heather Campbell.

Absent: Alderman John Rosenthal

Chairman DePietro called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Treasurer's Report

Ms. Campbell reported that an attorney, Carl G. Whitbeck, had been appointed to handle *In rem*, or foreclosure, proceedings for the city. She expected a resolution to begin proceedings on 21 properties with delinquent taxes to be presented to the Common Council in March.

She explained that a report was generated at the end of the year and letters were sent to property tax delinquents. The city conducts foreclosures every two years so the report was for

properties with tax money due as of 2017. Technically, the city has to wait nine months before engaging an attorney. Letters would again be sent, but these would be “more noticeable and aggressive” because they were from an attorney.

Ms. Campbell said property owners had options—sell, pay or pay in installments.

Fourth quarter sales tax distribution for 2019 was \$442,300, less than the \$455,900 received in the fourth quarter of 2018, but still enough to meet the 2019 budget, she said. The sales tax contribution for 2019 was \$1,791,922, a slight increase of the \$1.7 million budgeted.

Ms. Campbell said the city had the legal authority to implement a sales tax of its own. Columbia County has a four percent tax, of which the state keeps a chunk and the remainder is distributed amongst the municipalities. If the city implemented a sales tax it would have to opt out of the county's. The problem with implementing a city sales tax has been getting data. The city shares its 12534 zip code with a number of other municipalities, such as Greenport, which has a number of box stores, she said. The most significant issue is that the federal Internal Revenue Service would not release what it considered privileged data.

Ms. Campbell said she took a second cut at the 2019 fund balance. She started by restating the 2018 beginning unassigned fund balance. Until 2018, the state allowed for encumbrances, which acknowledged that funds had been assigned, but would be paid the following year. The state changed its method to recognize an assigned unappropriated fund balance, which would involve any funds committed for future use.

By restating 2018, Ms. Campbell found a potential unassigned fund balance of 23.7 percent. Under a city rule the fund balance should not fall below 25 percent.

Ms. Campbell urged committee members not to panic about the percentage at this time. The beginning unassigned fund balance for 2019 was \$3,273,849; revenues minus expenditures brought that to \$4,309,179. But taking away the 2019 assigned appropriated fund balance of \$353,900 (the amount used to balance the 2020 budget) and the 2019 assigned unappropriated fund balance of \$1,267,518 (which included encumbrances, donations and grant matches), the potential unassigned fund balance would total \$2,687,761. That would leave a potential unassigned fund balance of 22.5 percent in the 2020 budget. However, without the tourism board distribution, the percentage rose to 24 percent, she said.

Ms. Campbell noted that a budget amendment to transfer \$3,200 from the fund balance to the Youth Department training budget was to come before the Common Council. The funds would cover the cost of junior lifeguard training.

Fee Schedule

Mr. DePietro said he continued to work on a new fee schedule and that the Council would consider an increase in parking meter fees to 25 cents per half hour on Warren Street at tonight's meeting. He said he spoke with Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh and found that quite a few fees could be raised. He said Mr. Haigh cautioned that if some fees increased beyond a certain level that people might try to dodge them.

Mr. DePietro said he had already received City Clerk Tracy Delaney's fee schedule and was waiting for numbers from Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry.

Smart Street Lighting NY Program

Mr. DePietro said he and Ms. Campbell met with representatives of the New York Power Authority (NYPA) regarding the Smart Street Lighting NY program, which would replace at least 500,000 street lights throughout the state with energy-saving LED technology by 2025.

Through the statewide street lighting program, NYPA's government customers would be provided an array of lighting options to help meet their needs, including specifications on the lights to incorporate SMART technology, which can be used for other functions, such as cameras and other safety features, weather sensors, Wi-Fi and energy meters.

Mr. DePietro said three options were presented. If the 15-year plan was accepted, there would be no city expenditure. He said a resolution would be drafted to authorize the mayor to sign an agreement with NYPA.

Ms. Wolff made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:15 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Halloran and approved unanimously.

Police Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting February 24, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Dewan Sarowar, Chairman; Alderwoman Jane Trombley; Alderman Malachi Walker; Alderwoman Rebecca Wolff; Police Commissioner Peter Volkmann; Police Chief Edward Moore; Lt. David Miller

Mr. Sarowar called the meeting to order at 6 p.m.

2020 Goals and Objectives

Mr. Sarowar asked representatives what the department's goals and objectives were for 2020. Chief Moore said he usually presented his goals and objectives for the coming year, but did not bring them as he had no advance agenda. Completion of policy set forth two years ago and an open house at the new station were among them, he said. The list will be provided to the committee.

January Report

The department had 601 incidents with 44 arrests in January. A total of 215 traffic tickets were issued, nearly double from last year. The chief said activity and staffing has been good.

Dog Control Officer

Chief Moore said the city had 30 days to fill the vacancy of Dog Control Officer Wes Powell, who was retiring on March 31. The department will do what it can, but after looking at the 16 pages of regulations for the position, said "I don't know that the police department is prepared to take over for any amount of time." The department doesn't have a lot of equipment or the training required for the position. "We can figure out a stop gap, but in a few months, the Common Council has to figure something out."

Mr. Volkmann added that the officer that would handle the job would be required to get a rabies shot at a cost of \$750, the cost of which would be borne by the municipality, not to mention the cost of equipment and training, the latter of which is not offered regularly. It could

cost \$1,500 to \$2,000 to outfit a car, he said. Lt. Miller also said the police union would have to be approached about any change in its contract.

Mr. Volkmann suggested that the city reach out to Greenport Dog Control Officer Jennifer Pinkowski. Ms. Trombley said that was worth exploring. Common Council President Tom DePietro said that the Council had asked City Clerk Tracy Delaney to reach out to other dog control officers as well.

Shared Services Agreement

Chief Moore said the department first entered into a Shared Services Agreement in 2015; the four-year pact ended in 2019. He recommended, from the point of public safety, that the city sign on again for another year.

The Shared Services Team is a Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team comprised of the officers from the Hudson Police Department (HPD) and the sheriff's offices of Columbia and Greene counties. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) provides funding, so any work performed outside of the city necessitates a Shared Services Agreement. Membership on the team gives the city the ability to share equipment and/or services that directly benefit taxpayers by foregoing the need to hire private contractors or rent special or supplemental equipment.

Ms. Wolff asked for a snapshot of what the team does. Chief Moore said there was one deployment in June 2018 on the 200 block of State Street, where a warrant was issued for drugs. Ammunition was seized and an arrest was made. He said there was one deployment in Hudson in 2019 for a drug warrant for crack and cocaine on Frederick Street. The suspect in that case had a history of violence. The team also was deployed to a case on Union Turnpike this year.

Ms. Trombley asked the chief if he was a decision-maker on the team. He replied that he was; the team was set up so each agency had a say in its own jurisdiction.

HPD has four members on the team who logged about 224 hours of specialized training; 776 hours of training were logged in 2019 and about 48 hours so far this year.

HPD had a SWAT team for years, but the chief suspended it because it didn't meet state standards and would have put the department's accreditation in jeopardy. The agreement provides an equipped and fully trained team that is used when needed. Mr. Sarowar asked the cost of the agreement. The chief said that came in the form of overtime: \$6,945.65 paid in 2015, \$18,164.60 in 2016, \$11,617.22 in 2017, \$11,393.97 in 2018, \$4,175.44 in 2019 and \$1,835.51 so far this year. Chief Moore said he changed schedules to reduce overtime. He also said that HPD had five members on the team in the first two years. "It's a fairly modest price for the extra training the officers receive," he said. Lt. Miller added that the extra training that HPD officers received allowed them to "systematically take down bad guys. It's a very elite force."

Mr. Walker asked how the department would function without a Shared Services Team. Chief Moore said the city would have to rely on the State Police tactical team. He said that raised concerns about response times, since a locally based team would get to a scene faster, which provided an extra measure of safety, plus the members would be more familiar with the area.

When the team is deployed, its actions need to meet a threshold for use of force, so it has to justify its use, the chief said. The team is not used strictly for execution of warrants; that was only a percentage of what members were trained for, which ranged from an active shooting at a school to rescues involving rope repelling, hazardous material incidents to train accidents. Lt. Miller noted that HPD executes warrants without the team.

“We don't want a SWAT team, but there are occasions where we need tactical training,” Chief Moore said, citing an issue with guns in the community. Use of the team is not taken lightly and officers do a complete assessment, taking into consideration such factors as whether a school is nearby. He said he knew deployments could be upsetting, but a lot of study went into them before going ahead. Mr. Volkmann added that the team identified the needs of the community and police departments in decisions to deploy.

Mr. Walker asked how many guns had been seized. Chief Moore said eight illegal handguns were seized in a single arrest with SWAT. He said he would provide the precise number.

Mr. Walker said Hudson needed community policing. “We need to bridge the gap, figure out ways to help things not occur,” he said. He suggested bringing officers into the Youth Center, for instance, as a way to keep officers involved in the community. Lt. Miller said the majority of officers are from the community. The chief added that officers were involved in a number of charitable activities.

Ms. Wolff asked why officers were not on foot patrol. The chief said officers are on foot and bicycle patrol and their hours were tracked. Lt. Miller said officers must call out where they are. He added that shifts are changed so one officer doesn't get burned out doing all the walking or biking. Mr. Volkmann said he would provide members the hours of foot patrol.

Bail Reform and Discovery Requirements

Chief Moore said that just one month into the year, the impact of discovery requirements should be of concern down the road. The clerical staff is putting in a lot of time on those requirements, which could mean that the city might have to look at staffing, especially since there will be more arrests and more discovery to be dealt with. Bail reform is causing extra work, too. A single arrest can mean hours of work for a clerk, Lt. Miller said.

Truck Route

Mr. Sarowar expressed concern about trucks straying from the designated truck route and wondered if signs were a possible solution. Chief Moore said that even though there are truck route signs, it is a continual problem and if drivers are spotted off the route, they are stopped. Mr. Volkmann said truckers were encouraged not to use GPS and to follow the signs. Chief Moore said the department could set up its variable message sign. In regard to signs, Mr. Volkmann said there is a process that has to be followed because the truck route is a state road.

Ms. Wolff asked if officers could issue tickets. The chief said sometimes tickets were issued and sometimes drivers were given a warning.

Public Comment

Henry Haddad, a former alderman, reiterated the history of the SWAT team and its evolution to enter into the shared agreement. He said the city would have been open to liability issues if HPD was not accredited and would have been ineligible for grants, so the chief disbanded the team and worked toward accreditation. When the shared services team was formed and the city signed on so it could take advantage of the tactical benefits. Mr. Volkmann said the state started the accreditation process so departments had standards to meet.

Alderwoman Tiffany Garriga asked about the controls of the team. Mr. Volkmann said the control point occurred when the team was activated and for the length of time it was on the

scene of an incident. When activation occurs, HPD is “at the table with other agencies to talk about the science of how this is going to happen. If we're not part of it, we have no say,” he said.

Ms. Garriga asked how the team dealt with mental health issues. Mr. Volkmann said there was a Crisis Intervention Team (CIT), a police mental health collaborative in which law enforcement is trained to help guide interactions with those suffering from mental illness. All rookies that go through the Police Academy have the training and the SWAT team has special training to de-escalate situations, he said. Ms. Wolff asked for more information on de-escalation training.

Ms. Garriga asked when the commissioner would see the new contract. The chief said he didn't know because he hadn't seen one yet either.

Ms. Garriga also complained about using a boot on cars to penalize people who accumulated a number of unpaid parking tickets. “It makes it extra hard for people with low incomes.”

Resident Claire Cousins said there was a mistrust of SWAT in the community. She pointed out a raid that took place when children were boarding a bus for school. She asked how fast children were removed from the sites of raids and how HPD dealt with the community in the aftermath. Mr. Volkmann said public reaction to what occurred was often based on misunderstanding. The presence of children was part of the pre-planning, he said.

“Where's the follow-up? Community policing also involves speaking with kids about what happened,” Ms. Cousins said. “The reality is these are kids' parents. It creates a monster behind the curtain that kids think cops are,” Chief Moore replied.

Mr. Volkmann said the department could figure out a way to better communicate in the aftermath of an incident; “we have that responsibility.”

Lt. Miller said some “hits” were canceled because the situations involved children, but the public wouldn't know about that.

Ms. Cousins said police should actively listen to what the community is saying. The SWAT team, she said, has put up an iron curtain. Mr. Walker agreed that dialogue was needed. Full force tactics may be required, but empathy also is needed, he said Mr. Volkmann replied: “Community conversations will lead to community solutions, so let's have these hard conversations.”

Mr. Walker said he heard that a gun was pointed at a girl during a raid. Lt. Miller said it was the first he heard of such an incident. Ms. Cousins offered that even if the event was not as it seemed, it is what the child remembers. Mr. Volkmann said that if anything like that should happen they should let him or Chief Moore know so they can correct the action of officers. Mr. Volkmann said the team would work on building trust and how to communicate with the community after a high impact event. That could involve trauma training for officers or creating a system in which Social Services was called afterward if there was trauma from policing. “Policing is sometimes ugly, but we try to move on,” Mr. Volkmann said.

Alderman Dominic Merante asked the chief to talk about other training offered to team members. Chief Moore said the team's training was multifaceted, such as high angle rope rescues. All of the members have to stay physically fit and they get no extra money for putting themselves in danger. “We should be happy that the officers take on additional risk,” he said.

Ms. Garriga asked if the officers were paid for training. Lt. Miller said they were paid about \$200 a year. He said it was a very professional team that not all could make.

Mr. Volkmann recommended continuing with a one-year contract rather than for a shorter time period as suggested by Ms. Garriga, because pulling out in mid-year would impact

the other municipalities on the team in terms of manpower and logistics.”It leaves a void if we back out.”

Fourth Ward Supervisor Linda Mussmann said she witnessed a very aggressive raid in her neighborhood. “Militarization of the police department is a concern of the community,” she said.

Mr. Haddad urged the Common Council to conduct fiscal research before initiating any change.

Resident Bill Huston asked if Mr. Volkmann was the “go-to guy” for traffic signs. Mr. Volkmann said he worked in collaboration with HPD and Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry. “My job as commissioner is to control personnel, strategic planning, ultimately every officer's actions,” Mr. Volkmann said. Once a need was established for a traffic control device, it was his responsibility, but he said he would keep the chief involved as well.

Mr. Walker made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Wolff and approved unanimously.

Fire Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 24, 2020

In attendance: Alderman Dominic Merante, Chairman; Alderman Dewan Sarowar; Alderwoman Jane Trombley; Alderman Malachi Walker; Fire Commissioner Timothy Hutchings; Fire Chief Anthony DeMarco Jr.; Second Assistant Fire Chief Nicolas Pierro.

Mr. Merante called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2019 Annual Report & Year-to-Date Report

The fire department had 453 calls for service in 2019. Assistant Chief Pierro gave the following breakdown:

- 29 fire calls (structures, chimneys, a car, brush, cooking, a Dumpster, special outside fire and an outside equipment fire)
- 42 rescue and emergency medical service (EMS) incidents (watercraft rescues, water and ice related rescues, removal of victims from a stalled elevator, assistance to EMS crews, a motor vehicle accident with injuries, a rescue/EMS incident, motor vehicle accidents with no injuries, extrication from a vehicle and motor vehicle/pedestrian accidents)
- 56 hazardous condition calls with no fire (gasoline or other flammable liquid spills, gas leaks, a chemical spill or lead, carbon monoxide incidents, electrical wire/equipment problems, down power lines and arcing, shorted electrical equipment)
- 56 service calls (water problems, smoke or odor removal, defective elevators with no occupants and cover assignments, standbys or move-ups)
- 33 good intent calls (good intent/other calls, dispatched and canceled en route, smoke scares and odors of smoke, and steam, vapor, fog or dust thought to be smoke)

- 7 false alarms and false calls (malicious false alarm, bomb scare, alarm malfunctions, unintentional transmission of alarms, smoke detector activation with no fires, detector activations with no fires, alarm system activations with no fires and carbon monoxide detector activations with no CO found)
- 2 severe weather and natural disasters.

Mr. Pierro said it was the highest number of incidents handled by the department in at least 12 years.

There were 27 incidents in January: three fires, three rescue and EMS, three service calls, one good intent call and 17 false alarms, one of which was malicious.

Grants

An Assistance to Firefighters Grant (AFG) for portable radios remains under review. Mr. Pierro said he hoped to have word in the next few months because the department's radios were dieing quickly.

Commissioner Hutchings said the problem with the AFG grant is that the department had to compete against departments that don't have the equipment that Hudson does. A department from Alabama might have no turnout gear or have equipment that is 30 to 40 years old, he said by way of example. Funds go to departments with the greatest need, he said, and to make the competition stiffer, funds have been reduced each year.

Mr. Pierro also said the department would like to submit another grant to Homeland Security, via the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), for a new fire boat. The request was denied last year. The boat would cost more than \$500,000 with a 25 percent match. Because federal funds were sought, the standards of the boat—and price tag—were higher than state funding would require.

A resolution adopted by the Common Council would be needed for the grant, the specifications of which would be the same as last year. The department now has a 1998 hand-me-down from the Columbia County Sheriff's Office, but is not conducive for diving, he said. Mr. Hutchings said the boat has no equipment and became overweight when two men and diving gear suits were aboard, "so it's a safety issue." Mr. Pierro added that the boat's trailer also is old.

Mr. Merante told members that the boat would be state-of-the-art. He suggested that the department might utilize the city's grant writers. Mr. Pierro said if the grant writers were not used, he would take it on himself and use the language from last year's application. The grant has a very short window, which opened February 13 and closes in April.

The department reached out to Assemblywoman Didi Barrett regarding funds for the boat as well as radios (\$180,000), a generator (\$7,500), internal and external doors for the Hose Co. 8 firehouse (\$6,000 with labor) and a new body for a pickup truck (\$1,300).

Mr. Merante said resolutions for funding the boat and radio should be paired and forwarded to the Finance Committee so all could keep an eye on the time frames for submission.

New Ladder Truck Update

Mr. Hutchings reported that members traveled to Florida to visit the factory where the city's new aerial ladder truck was being built by E-ONE. Some specifications were changed to make the vehicle more user friendly. The truck is expected to be delivered in March or April of 2021.

Mr. Walker asked the cost of the truck and how it would be financed. He was told that the city approved a \$1.4 million bond last November. Mr. Merante asked if money was set aside for

the truck. Mr. Pierro said \$353,000 was set aside. Also, the department expects \$100,000 to \$150,000 from the sale of the existing ladder truck.

Central Station Parking Lot

Mr. Hutchings said a large portion of the parking lot at the Central Station was torn up in the winter and that the curbing on the bank in the rear had started to topple and needed to be reinforced. He said the matter would be addressed with the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Polar Plunge

Mr. Merante said all was ready for the annual Polar Plunge set for February 29 at Oakdale Lake. The forecast looked good and the department had all bases covered. Proceeds from the event benefit the department's Dive and Rescue Team and the Hudson Youth Department.

Mr. Sarowar made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:54 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Walker and approved unanimously.

Public Works and Parks Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 26, 2020

In attendance: Alderman John Rosenthal, Chairman; Alderman Calvin Lewis Jr.; Alderman Shershah Mizan; Commissioner Peter Bujanow; DPW Superintendent Rob Perry.
Absent: Alderman Dominic Merante

Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 5 p.m.

Sewer

Mr. Perry reported that 1,414.4 wet metric tons of sludge was disposed of in 2019 at \$170,000 or 14.4 percent of the sewer budget. Sludge is the end process of treatment; it comes in as raw sewage, is broken down by bugs and shipped to a landfill in Ontario County, he said.

There were two rain events in January, both of which resulted in sewer overflows.

The city used to have a map room upstairs in City Hall, but it was not comprehensive so no one could tell where the lines were. The city completed a GPS mapping project for all manholes and catch basins in 2010. It was a \$50,000 project. The department now uses that platform with new technology to assess the construction and condition of the structures, Mr. Perry said. The stone lines are the oldest, brick lines are second oldest and tile lines are the newest.

He said State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) Resident Engineer Jamie Malcolm reported that a potential groundswell of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) money would be available for separation of water and sewer lines. Mr. Perry said the DEC said the city needed a better idea of what's in the ground. The technology that the city has will allow it to do so, but it will require a lot of work, he said. It should be done city-wide in a couple of weeks.

Various maintenance involved floatable removal from a hydrodynamic unit installed two years ago on Columbia Street; demolition and removal of damaged catch basins and subsequent rebuild; and removal, repair and replacement of damaged manhole rims.

A request for proposals for pump station upgrades was published. Bids will be received until March 23, and they will be opened that afternoon. A Water Quality Improvement Program (WQIP) grant received in 2019 will partially fund the upgrades. Design work was done last year, but it wasn't part of the grant so funds came out of the budget, he said.

A Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) for \$750,000 was submitted and should be stronger than other years because the work is complete and another grant had been approved for it, he said.

Water

Various technology has to be upgraded and replaced in the 15-year-old water plan, Mr. Perry said. New chlorine analyzers were installed for about \$3,500 each. Programmable Logic Controller upgrades will be required in 2021.

Inside work during the winter months included maintenance and housekeeping, including cleaning and painting.

There were several water main breaks on the 200 block of Columbia Street this year, as well as a sleeve on upper Union Street and a valve replacement at Third and Columbia streets. Mr. Perry said it was odd to have so many water breaks without severe cold, but changes in temperatures could have been the culprit. He said a seal failed on a sleeve during the night by the mosque under construction at Third and Columbia streets. The department cut out a section of the main. The contractor was to return and redo the work.

Last year the department converted a truck into a trailer set-up for comprehensive responses to water breaks.

The Hudson Fire Department requested "Storz" connectors on new hydrants, Mr. Perry said.

The city was awarded a Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) grant for \$540,000 to replace the water main on the 500 block of Washington Street to complete the department's five-year project to deliver high volume via 12-inch lines to the upper part of the city known as the boulevards. The design phase included surveys of where utilities were located. It was more extensive than what was typically done. The project will go out to bid this summer, he said.

Mr. Perry provided a sample mailer for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program. He said it would be revised with information and an application that pertained to Hudson. It will be sent out with March water bills.

He also announced that water and sewer rates would increase \$5/unit starting in the next bill. There has been no increase in 11 years. The hike was needed to cover increased cost of operations due to old infrastructure and obsolete and aging technology, and to cover grant matches.

He said every drop of water used a 110-year-old transmission main, entered a reservoir made by a 110-year-old dam, through a \$10 million plant into 20 miles of distribution main. Those costs existed regardless of individual consumption, he said. The new rate would amount to \$1.22 per day for water and sewer. He noted that the amount of water going into the system had been on the decline.

Department of Public Works

Mr. Perry reported that all trail markers had been installed for the Empire State Trail, brush had been cleared from Promenade Hill, old paint was used for curbs and streets, new tool racks were constructed for the garage and new park bench boards had been cut, sanded and painted.

A street light was run over by a car going the wrong way on North Fifth Street. The new pole was put in place at a cost of \$3,000. The department is waiting for National Grid to install the new head and to energize the light.

The department also constructed shelving for Hudson Police Department file storage. The modified truck from the water department with a new flatbed and lift gate was used to deliver files to the new area. Another shared services effort involved use of the department's front wheel loader to assist the Hudson City School District with installation of new dugouts at the high school softball fields.

He also said that new blades on a snow plow showed wear from the streets.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Mr. Perry said he would refute a claim that the garbage bag vending machine in front of city hall was non-ADA compliant because the controls and all current receptacles were below 48 inches. A toilet paper dispenser in a ladies room in the Henry Hudson Waterfront Park bathrooms was relocated because it only had a two-inch clearing. He also said that DPW had ordered handicapped-accessible picnic tables for the park. Concrete pads will be poured to accommodate wheelchairs at the tables.

Ferry Street Bridge

Mr. Perry gave an update on the Ferry Street Bridge project. Amtrak agreed to a coordinated review on behalf of itself and CSX in 2017. Agreements were executed and escrow was committed. In 2019, however, CSX decided that it would conduct its own design review. Agreements were again executed and escrow committed.

He said the state Department of Transportation (DOT) found that a ramp on the northwest side was still outside of the highway boundary and temporary easement area. DOT, he said, indicated that the city should acquire permanent rights for the sidewalk ramp or it should be moved within the existing highway boundary and, if not, removed from the contract.

Mr. Perry said that design approval could be given by this summer and that right of way acquisition and final plans could be completed and approved by the spring of 2021.

Bike Path/Empire State Trail

There had been discussion regarding lighting and other enhancements along the bike path, which runs along Dugway Road. Contracts were awarded to replace and relocate hydrants on Harry Howard Avenue, he said.

Cemetery

Mr. Perry said DPW had capitalized on the mild weather for tree maintenance and other ground work at the cemetery. He said he was surprised by how many needles were shed by pine trees.

Sidewalk Legislation

Mr. Rosenthal said two local laws had been drafted to address sidewalk issues—one that would create a sidewalk improvement district and the other that would address the landowner's responsibility. The latter would change the arrangement of the city's responsibility versus homeowners and would create sanctions for lack of upkeep. Mr. Perry said City Code allowed the city to enforce upkeep of sidewalks. The city could issue an order to remedy (OTR), contract out the repair work and levy the cost on the property owner's taxes. He said that had never happened before. One of the issues, he said, was that there was no real standard for materials; some were concrete, others were slate. Mr. Perry also said that Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh had issued OTRs, but they were thrown out of court because there was nothing specific about acceptable materials. "Right now it's completely subjective," Mr. Perry said.

Mr. Rosenthal said the proposed sidewalk improvement district would define standards for various areas of the city. There may be predominantly slate in some neighborhoods and cement in others, he said by way of example regarding the city's 3,000 miles of sidewalks.

The district also would create fees for residential and commercial properties and establish a schedule for repairs to be set up by DPW and contracted out. The fee schedule would also address non-profits who don't pay taxes to the city, he said.

Mr. Rosenthal said that under the current system, repairs lie with the homeowner and getting someone to do the work could be expensive. The point was to make a more equitable model with a phased system of general maintenance. There also would be some change in the liability aspect between the city and owners, he said.

Mr. Rosenthal added that complete streets and the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) would change the streetscape. Mr Perry said a firm would be brought in that specialized in such work. It was his understanding that the city would see what the firm came up with, the associated costs and what people liked.

Mr. Rosenthal said the Common Council believed that smart streets and sidewalk legislation should coincide. "We need a way to keep up with it," he said. Mr. Perry said the property owner would pay either way. He also questioned why the fee was doubled for Warren Street when those sidewalks were in pretty good shape. Mr. Rosenthal said sidewalks were unique because they were a public easement.

Crosswalks

Mr. Mizan asked about his request for a crosswalk between Prospect and Rossman avenues that could be used by hospital workers going to their cars parked on Rossman. He said the city received \$4,000 in grant monies for crosswalks that could be used. Mr. Perry said discussion of crosswalks often came "out of nowhere." He said installing a crosswalk required a process and consent of the neighborhood, which would lose parking spaces. At this point there had been no discourse with neighbors in that area, he said. "It's not just a one-intersection discussion." That area had no sight lines so it would require a more comprehensive review and discussion, he added.

Mr. Perry said that once a crosswalk was created it had to be maintained each year. The thermoplastic material used to maintain existing crosswalks costs \$15,000 a year and his budget for materials was routinely cut by the Board of Estimate and Apportionment. The budget had to contain enough money for annual maintenance of existing and new crosswalks, he said. Mr. Rosenthal asked if DPW prioritized painting of crosswalks or whether it was arbitrary. Mr. Perry said that now the department was just maintaining them.

Mr. Mizan believed crosswalks were a safety issue. The grant money and perhaps funds from increased parking meter fees might be used, he said. Mr. Perry again said that his budget for materials was decreased each year while the cost of materials increased. Mr. Rosenthal said the city needed to maintain crosswalks and that the issue should be addressed in the budget process.

Alderman Tiffany Garriga said she had heard concerns and complaints regarding crosswalks and that some were fearful of crossing in them. She understood that they were repaired in the summer in time for school, but she hadn't seen anything being done. Mr. Perry said that the product used for crosswalks had not been purchased yet this year and that work couldn't be done anyway because of the weather.

Mr. Rosenthal asked how DPW could be commissioned to do the work. Mr. Perry said there had to be a public discourse component in a formal review process. Resident Bill Huston asked who would create that process. Mr. Rosenthal said all committee members agreed that follow-up was needed.

Mr. Rosenthal asked for a ballpark cost to do all of the crosswalks. Mr. Perry gave a figure for a single crosswalk, which Mr. Huston said was much lower based on information he had obtained. Mr. Perry said he had no exact count of the number of crosswalks and that none of them met any of the standards.

Commissioner Bujanow said there was a program in previous years in which the DPW and HPD commissioners went out and surveyed crosswalks and intersections, then relayed their recommendations to the DPW superintendent. He said the program had some success and could be re-instituted.

Mr. Rosenthal adjourned the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Legal Committee

Minutes of Regular Meeting
February 26, 2020

In attendance: Alderman John Rosenthal, Chairman; Alderman Tiffany Garriga; Alderman Shershah Mizan; Alderman Rebecca Wolff; Jeff Baker, Counsel

Mr. Rosenthal called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m. He said the agenda would include draft legislation on repairs and upkeep of sidewalks, an update on Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) compliance and a proposed Short-Term Rental (STR) law.

Sidewalk Legislation

Mr. Rosenthal said two local laws had been drafted to address sidewalk issues—one that would create a sidewalk improvement district (SID) and the other that would address the landowner's responsibility. The SID would cover the entire city and would remove the burden of upkeep on the homeowner. At present, repair work is contracted out and can be costly, and if someone refuses to have the work done, the situation could go on for years.

Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry said at the DPW Committee meeting held prior that Warren Street sidewalks were in good condition and “strollable,” but the

north side of the city was in worse shape, with some sidewalks in dangerous condition. Mr. Rosenthal said the city had to be aware of the historic fabric of individual neighborhoods, where the types of materials might vary. If 70 percent of the materials used were the same, that would become the standard. The Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) could be used as a leg up in areas that don't have standards, he said.

The initial phase of the district would involve an assessment, which would then become annual. The budget for the district would have to go before the Board of Estimate and Apportionment (BEA). Ms. Garriga asked if would be better to separate the district from the BEA. Mr. Baker said someone had to oversee the district. He said he would have to look at setting that up within the City Charter. The district would have its own line in the city budget. Ms. Garriga asked if those funds would be exclusive to the district and Mr. Baker confirmed that the funds had to be segregated. The fees for the sidewalk district (residential and commercial fees are proposed, based on frontage) would appear as separate lines on property tax bills, he said. The district would not be separated by wards and no changes were planned regarding snow removal, etc., Mr. Rosenthal said.

Basically, sidewalks were public easements, he said. The city would take on liability and would have to put people on notice if sidewalks fell into disrepair. The real question is how the city wanted to enact the legislation and assume liability, he said. It would probably be done in phases.

Mr. Baker said the other law should specify that homeowners still retain responsibility as phases go on. He asked if ownership extended to the street and Mr. Rosenthal believed that it did. Ms. Garriga said it seemed like the city and homeowner shared ownership in the draft law prepared by former City Counsel Andy Howard. "Who's to determine who owns what and who's responsible?" she asked. Mr. Mizan agreed that there was a question of who was responsible.

Resident Matt McGhee told members that he had his property surveyed and the line did not extend to the curb. It was about four feet from the curb, but did include part of the sidewalk. Resident Peter Frank said his property line didn't go much further than his house.

Mr. Rosenthal said it was interesting that there was no uniformity. He said DPW would know what they have to maintain. Resident Nicole Vidor said most insurance companies provided coverage for sidewalks through homeowner policies.

Mr. Baker said he would speak to Mr. Perry and would get a history of trip and fall cases in the city. He said that in general, the concept of the law was acceptable and just required changes to the City Charter and budget.

Resident Peter Frank had two questions and a comment regarding sidewalks. The first was whether the complete streets program in the DRI. Common Council President Tom DePietro said it would. The second was whether the cost for the sidewalk district would be assessed on property tax bills and whether non-profits would be participate as well. Mr. Rosenthal said the cost would appear on bills, but would not be a tax. Also, non-profits would chip in as well. Mr. Frank said it was wonderful that the city was addressing whole streets and trees. He thought the law should be comprehensive and include trees. Mr. Baker said it was a question for the DPW on who was responsible for trees. He was told that DPW only trimmed the trees if they caused a blockage, otherwise homeowners were responsible for pruning.

Ms. Garriga said the type of materials used for sidewalks had been discussed by the committee several times. The City Charter, she said, indicates that sidewalks should be concrete. There are some homeowners who did not use concrete and are concerned. She asked what the

city needed to do to change what was now in place. Mr. Baker said the materials requirement could be changed now and changed to read that more permeable materials be used.

Mr. McGhee said that sidewalks were landmarks. He cited the brick one at the corner of Front and Union Streets, which he said was 200 years old and should not be touched. “It’s not cement, but it is of historical interest,” he said. “It’s something that should be protected as it is.”

A resident said sidewalks in Hudson were a patchwork—pavers, blue stone, slate, etc. She said officials had to be mindful of what existed and what could be repaired to current standards, while being careful to maintain the historic fabric.

Americans With Disabilities Act

Mr. Rosenthal said that Mayor's Aide Michael Chameides was the ADA coordinator. Ms. Garriga asked what had to be done now that the position was filled. She said that as details were being hashed out, there were still people in the city in danger when trying to access sidewalks. Many, she said, are difficult to maneuver onto. “What can we do now?” she asked.

Mr. Baker asked if she was referring to privately owned sidewalks or curbs. Ms. Garriga said it was already known that many sidewalks were in bad shape, but curb corners were particularly troublesome.

Mr. Baker said the DPW had to be told to prioritize. Mr. Rosenthal said Mr. Perry believed he had limited responsibility. “I disagree,” Mr. Rosenthal said. Mr. Baker said there was no question that curbs were owned by the city. Mr. Rosenthal said clarification was needed on whether the DPW commissioner had the ability to prioritize and direct the superintendent to do the work. Mr. Baker said private citizens could send letters of complaint and aldermen could enact resolutions.

Mr. Baker said the city had limited funds so it should first identify the critical curbs—the top 10 that created obstacles to accessibility—in areas that are used often. That would help show compliance with the consent order from the U.S. Department of Justice.

Short-Term Rental Law

Mr. Rosenthal said that now that a six-month moratorium had passed, the committee would continue to work on a short-term rental (STR) law. Ms. Wolff, Mr. DePietro and City Treasurer Heather Campbell spoke with a representative of Host Compliance, a company whose software helps municipalities implement, monitor and enforce STR ordinances.

Ms. Wolff said the company was at the forefront of and responsive to the challenges of the short-term rental phenomenon. Features of the software include address identification; registration, permitting and tax collection; compliance monitoring and outreach; rental activity monitoring; lodging tax audit automation; and a dedicated hotline. All of the features are completely tied to STR listings, she said. The company monitors 80 sites and cross-references with those that are registered. They also follow through with enforcement. She said the software can create letters to send to those who are non-compliant. “They report a high success rate in getting people to comply,” she said.

Other municipalities in the state use Host Compliance, including Ulster County, Lake George and Seneca County. Ms. Wolff said if the city chose to go with all the modules offered (the deluxe version), the cost would be around \$20,000.

Ms. Garriga asked where the \$20,000 would come from. Mr. Rosenthal said presumably from the lodging tax, which has been fairly robust. Mr. Frank said if revenue increased six percent or so because of the software, it would pay for itself.

Ms. Garriga also wanted to know who would have access to the computer program. Mr. Baker said probably the treasurer. Ms. Wolff noted that the software would take the load off of the enforcement question. "This is a tool for the city to enforce the STR law," Mr. Rosenthal said.

Resident Nicole Vidor said it seemed to be an invasion of property. Mr. Rosenthal explained that people had already assented to that loss by advertising their property. Ms. Wolff added that STRs referred to properties rented out for less than 30 days and that those to be targeted by the city were non-owner-occupied.

In response to a question from Ms. Garriga regarding the need for additional staff, Ms. Wolff said there would be no need and that the software would actually take some of the burden off of the treasurer. "The company is very good at what they do," Ms. Wolff said, noting that it had a 98 percent satisfaction rate. "Jewett (in Greene County) uses it so we could approach them."

Resident John Kane asked if the committee might have more meetings since there were so many issues before it. Mr. Rosenthal said the committee already had a draft of the law and was honing in on metrics for residency. A new draft should be ready next month, he said. The sidewalk laws also were in draft form.

Charter Revision for Mayor's Term of Office

Ms. Garriga said that a proposed local law that would extend the mayor's term from two years to four was referred to the Legal Committee. She said she had discussed the idea of a city manager with both constituents and non-constituents. Many, she said, do not agree with a four-year term for the mayor.

Ms. Garriga wanted more research into how the responsibilities between a mayor and city manager would differ. "The people want someone they can depend on." She suggested that the committee invite some city managers to discuss what their responsibilities were. She said the city manager would help the mayor with the burdens of the office. The person should have a four-year term and not be politically motivated.

Ms. Wolff noted that city managers did not have terms because they were not elected. Mr. Baker said the Common Council would decide what powers would be conveyed on a professional manager. A manager would probably result in the demise of the commissioner structure as it would be redundant, he added.

Mr. DePietro said a city manager could be added with a simple charter revision, but it would require plenty of discussion. Mr. Baker added that a measure would have to appear on the ballot in November if such a plan were to advance this year.

Ms. Wolff said she, too, had heard many talk about the possibility of a city manager and it seemed obvious to talk about it at this juncture. Mr. Baker said a city manager and extension of the mayor's term were parallel discussions. One of the reasons for extending the mayor's term is that it would create what is referred to as "a strong mayor." It would give the opportunity for longer continuity. The two-year terms for aldermen were akin to the U.S. House of Representatives. Discussion on a city manager may be worth having; the Council could continue to consider its options, he said.

Resident Ronald Kopniki said he did not favor extension of term limits, but he disliked hiring a city manager under contract even more. "There is too much power in the hands of contractors, experts and consultants," he said.

Ms. Wolff said her desire to have a discussion about a city manager did not mean she favored having one. Mr. Rosenthal said the discussion would continue during the next meeting.

Chicken Ordinance

Resident Adam Weinert asked members to consider a law that would allow residents to keep chickens in their backyards. It was legal to do so until 2004, when the City Code was changed. He said the Legal Committee drafted a law in 2013 that would have allowed chickens in backyards once again. It was passed by the Common Council, but vetoed by then-Mayor William Hallenbeck. There was no attempt to override.

Mr. Weinert said there were many benefits to keeping chickens, which included cruelty-free eggs, enhanced pest control, soil fertilization, and stress relief and companionship for the owners. A 2015 study found that 93 percent of U.S. Cities allowed backyard flocks. The proposed law of 2013 would have allowed no more than five hens per lot (no roosters) to be kept as pets or for personal use only. The owners could not sell eggs or meat, or breed and slaughter chickens.

Briggin Scharf, the greenhouse program manager for Kite's Nest, whose youth were doing food justice work in Hudson spoke in favor of city chickens. She said youth visited chickens elsewhere and there was a lot of enthusiasm to care for them. She said it was important for young leaders to learn about food, not to mention helping to lower the amount of food waste and the environmental perks associated with raising chickens. Mr. Rosenthal said the matter could be revisited at the next meeting.

Ms. Garriga made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:34 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Rosenthal and approved unanimously.

Communications.

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

- 1) Mayor Johnson's Veto Message of Resolution No. 7 of February 18, 2020.
- 2) Invitation from Philip Abitabile, Columbia-Greene Safety Tree Committee inviting the council members to a special annual ceremony to memorialize victims of drunk driving.
- 3) NYS Comptroller's Report of Examination related to Payroll and Accrued Leave.

Carried.

Alderman Halloran stated the NYS Comptroller's Office required the City to provide a response of how the situation would be remedied.

President DePietro said "we'll have time to do that, I didn't notice that there's a timeline but I'm sure it can be you know; we'll do it as soon as we can".

Bills.

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

Office Business Systems	621.00	Business Automation Svcs, Inc.	1,850.00
General Code	1,195.00	AT&T	54.94
US Bank Equipment Finance	198.95	Willard W Powell	600.00
Passport Labs Inc	3,629.11	Linda L. Fenoff	780.00
Ricoh USA Inc	26.74	Mayor's Office (petty cash)	46.58
First Light	397.95	Eastern Managed Print Network	81.45
US Bank Equipment Finance	160.58	RodenhausenChale & Polidoro LLP	3,948.00
Paychex Human Resources Svcs	281.75	Heather Campbell, Treasurer	31.16
Ricoh USA Inc	27.29	Eastern Managed Print Network	47.63
Chatham Auto Parts	11.98	Mid Hudson Cablevision	41.45
Business Automation Svcs Inc.	1,940.00	Mid Hudson Cablevision	61.45
Verizon	51.24	Paychex of New York LLC	880.09
Valley Energy	65.55	Staples Contract & Commercial	116.72
Rackspace US Inc.	748.00	Chatham Printing & Copy Ctr	159.00
Johnson Newspaper Corp	173.37	JV Computers	480.75

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

Nays: None.

Resolutions.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1 March 17, 2020

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

April 1, 2020 through March 31, 2022

Dean A Rowe 1359 County Route 21 Ghent, NY
 Brent Rowe 95 Metz Road Ghent, NY
 Gunnar Wordon 11 Kinderhook St Chatham, NY
 T. Randall Martin 75 N. 7th Street, Hudson, NY

(work)
 701 Union Street
 701 Union Street
 420 Warren Street

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

Nays: None.

On motion of **Alderman Garriga**, seconded by **Alderman Wolff**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

RESOLUTION NO. 2 March 17, 2020

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS
ON BEHALF OF THE HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson Fire Department has received a check from William Jaeger Jr. in memory of James A Vining Jr, a member of the Hudson Fire Department, in the amount of \$100.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, the City Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to accept those funds.

\$100.00	Increase Revenue: A2089 Increase Expenditure: A3410.52	Grants, non-budgeted Misc Firehouse Donations
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Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, 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. 3 March 17, 2020

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXTEND THE
INTERMUNICIPAL AGREEMENT FOR THE COLUMBIA-GREENE
SHARED SERVICES RESPONSE TEAM**

WHEREAS, the County of Columbia, the City of Hudson and the County of Greene entered into an Inter-Municipal Agreement on June 18, 2015 to create a shared services Response Team and,

WHEREAS, in 2016 the County of Columbia, the City of Hudson and the County of Greene extended said Inter-Municipal Agreement period for an additional for (4) years which extension expired on December 31, 2019; and

WHEREAS, the parties desire to extend said Inter-Municipal Agreement on file with the City Clerk’s office upon the same terms and conditions for an additional one (1) year period commencing January 1, 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to enter into an agreement to extend the said agreement on the same terms and conditions for an additional one (1) year period commencing on January 1, 2020.

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

Nays: None.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 4 March 17, 2020

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING A
DEPOSITORY BANK**

WHEREAS, City Charter Section C12-26 requires the Common Council, following the election of the City Treasurer, to solicit proposals from banks seeking to act as the depository of public monies of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council caused to be published a public notice requesting proposals from banks seeking to serve as the City's depository and said notice was published in both the Hudson Register Star and Catskill Daily Mail on January 24, 2020 and January 25, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council only received one proposal from Greene County Commercial Bank which is a wholly-owned subsidiary of The Bank of Greene County with which the City of Hudson has maintained a relationship as the depository of public funds;

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby approves and authorizes a depository relationship with Greene County Commercial Bank.

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

Nays: None.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 5 March 17, 2020

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson has received the resignation of Wes Powell, Dog Control Officer effective March 31, 2020;

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson has received two (2) written letters of interest for the position of dog control officer to provide services to the City of Hudson under Chapter 70 of the Hudson City Code and the provisions of Article 7 of the Agriculture and Markets Law of the State of New York for the period April 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020; and

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized and directed to enter into an agreement with James Delaney, Jr. for the fee of \$5,400 for the remainder of the year, payable in equal monthly installments of \$600.00.

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

Nays: None.

On motion of Alderman Wolff, seconded by Alderman Garriga the following resolution was **DEFEATED** by the following vote:

RESOLUTION NO. 6

March 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO REUPHOLSTER THE BENCHES IN THE COMMON COUNCIL CHAMBER

WHEREAS, the cushioned seats on the public benches in the Common Council chamber are in a significant degree of disrepair; and

WHEREAS, to allow that condition to continue and worsen would be disrespectful to members of the public who attend Common Council meetings and could be considered as acting as a disincentive to public participation: and

WHEREAS, the City has received the attached quote from Sausbier's to reupholster the benches in the amount of \$3,550.00.

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

\$3,550.00	FROM:	A.0000.1001.0200	Use of Fund Balance
	TO:	A.1010.0460	Common Council Other Expense

APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT.

Sausbier's Upholstery Shop Inc.

*43 Eighth Street
Hudson, New York 12534
Phone: (518) - 828-3748
Fax: (518) -751-1033*

February 10, 2020

City of Hudson City Hall
520 Warren Street
Hudson, New York 12534
Attn: Tom

Dear Tom:

Per your request, we are happy to quote you on the replacement cushion bottoms and backs located in City Hall. Our quote is as follows:

- 6 – New Burgundy Vinyl covers made for bottom benches, 8' 6" - 9' long by 20" wide made and installed over new foam to be priced separately - \$ 245.00 each
 - 6 – New Burgundy vinyl covers made for bench backs, 8' 6" - 9' long by 12" wide made and installed over new foam to be priced separately - \$ 195.00 each
 - 6 – New Hi-Density foam cushion inserts 4" thick for seat bottoms - \$ 625.00
 - 6 – New Hi-Density foam cushion inserts 1 ½" thick for seat backs - \$ 285.00
- Total price with all new foam and covers - \$ 3,550.00

We thank you for the opportunity to quote your upholstery needs. This quote is good for 90 days from date of quote. Please contact me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Robert M. Stalker
Business Manager

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Lewis and Sarowar. (3)
Nays: Aldermen Halloran, Merante, Rosenthal, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (7)

Prior to voting “aye” on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Garriga** said “I’m going to support this resolution because I know it’s been a long time that people have been complaining about the chairs but I would like the Common Council to also take the time to think about the amount of money and also to think about what we are dealing with, with this crisis and maybe put that amount of money to the side and divide it or maybe more and divide between wards for these type of emergency situations and crisis”. She said “right before all of this occurred, I was talking to the Chair of Bliss Towers and we were discussing having some type of shelter or trailer of some sort just to have some things stashed for emergency situations and low and behold here we are dealing with this nationally” and she said “let’s think about that, let’s put some numbers together and put something aside for our constituents for these type of situations that we’re dealing with now”.

Alderman Halloran, prior to voting, said “I’m going to vote no only because with everything that’s being shared about what’s going to happen, the length of time businesses may be out of business, our sales tax revenue is going to be hit, our mortgage tax revenue and what, on that basis, I’m voting no”.

Prior to voting, **Alderman Merante** said “at this time, I think it’s financial prudent to hold off and I’m going to say no”.

Alderman Rosenthal, prior to voting, said “I’m going to go with no, nobody’s going to be sitting on these benches for a while, they’re not presumed priority we can do this, we should do this at some point and also agree with Alderman Garriga that if we’re putting money aside for something, as we put money aside for, small amounts if we could do something for the community in turn, people are in need right now, so I’m voting no”.

Alderman Sarowar, prior to voting, said “I’m the same with Tiffany, I mean, I say aye”.

Prior to voting, **Alderman Trombley** said “I’m voting no, I’m voting against spending the money for the bench recovering sadly but now’s not the time”.

President DePietro said “well even though it’s my resolution, I have to agree that it’s probably not the most opportune time to vote for this expenditure so I’ll vote no also” and he said “but I do apologize to all those who will be here soon, we’ll bring it back”.

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 7 would authorize the issuance of serial bonds for Wastewater Treatment Improvements and he stated Robert Perry Jr., Superintendent of Public Works had requested the amount of the bond to be increased to include the full amount of the project which amount would be refundable by the state. He said “he would rather have the complete amount bonded upfront”.

Alderman Trombley questioned the additional amount requested.

President DePietro said “I think it was around two hundred and seventy thousand”.

Alderman Wolff asked “is this not supposed to go to various committees”?

President DePietro said “if you look at the Rules of Order, nothing has to go to a committee before it comes to the full Council”.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 7, March 17, 2020

BOND RESOLUTION DATED MARCH 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING WASTEWATER TREATMENT IMPROVEMENTS AT AN ESTIMATED MAXIMUM COST OF \$705,336 AND AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF HUDSON, COLUMBIA COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$705,336 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE CITY TREASURER

BE IT RESOLVED, by the Common Council of the City of Hudson, Columbia County, New York (the “City”) (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Common Council) as follows:

SECTION 1. Wastewater Treatment improvements, including upgrades to reconstruct its Power Avenue and Mill Street pump station, including original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus required therefor, are hereby authorized at an estimated maximum cost of \$705,336 and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. It is hereby determined that said purpose is an object or purpose described in subdivision 4 of paragraph a of Section 11 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is thirty years.

SECTION 2. It has been determined that the aforesaid purpose described above constitutes a Type II action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which has been determined under SEQRA not to have a significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 3. The City plans to finance the cost of said purpose by the issuance of serial bonds of the City in an aggregate principal amount not to exceed \$705,336, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the Local Finance Law. The proceeds of a Water Quality Improvement Project grant in the estimated amount of \$263,736 will be used to pay or reimburse a portion of the cost of such purpose.

SECTION 4. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of said bond.

SECTION 5. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be applied to reimburse the City for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

SECTION 6. The bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law. The faith and credit of the City are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the City and tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 7. Subject to the terms and contents of this resolution and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of said Law, the power to authorize bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of the serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the renewals of said notes and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said serial bonds and said bond anticipation notes (including without limitation the date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, consolidation with other issues, and redemption rights), the power to determine to issue said bonds providing for substantially level or declining debt service, and the power to sell and deliver said serial bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, and the power to issue said bonds as statutory installment bonds, is hereby delegated to the City Treasurer, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the City. The City Treasurer is hereby authorized to sign any bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of said bonds, and the City Clerk is hereby authorized to affix the corporate seal of the City to any of said bonds or any bond anticipation notes and to attest such seal.

SECTION 8. The City Treasurer is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and, to the extent applicable, to designate the bonds authorized by this resolution and any notes issued in anticipation thereof as "qualified tax-exempt bonds" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Code.

SECTION 9. The City Treasurer is further authorized, in her discretion, to execute a project financing and loan agreement and any other agreements with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and/or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the New York State Department of Health, and amendments thereto, and to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to provide for the financing or refinancing of the specific object or purpose set forth herein, or a portion thereof, by one or more

notes or bond issues of the City and the sale of such issues to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation or its designee pursuant to the New York State Revolving Fund Program.

SECTION 10. The validity of said serial bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said serial bonds may be contested only if:

- (1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the City is not authorized to expend money; or
- (2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with;

And an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication; or

(3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 11. The City Clerk is hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the Register Star, being a newspaper having a general circulation in the City and hereby designated as the official newspaper of the City for such publication.

SECTION 12. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

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

Nays: None.

Prior to voting on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Merante** asked “you said this is reimbursable, right”?

President DePietro said “yup” and he said “the increased amount is the reimbursable part”.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 8 March 17, 2020

A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT THE DONATION OF A PURPLE HEART COMMUNITY SIGN IN THE MEMORY OF PURPLE HEART RECIPIENT PFC THOMAS MERANTE

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson has declared itself a Purple Heart community recognizing the sacrifices made by recipients of the Purple Heart Medal; and

WHEREAS, Dominic Merante has donated a sign to the City of Hudson proclaiming its status as a Purple Heart Community; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Merante has made the donation in honor of his uncle, PFC Thomas Merante who received the Purple Heart for injuries he incurred during an air attack while serving in the Korean War.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the City of Hudson is hereby authorized and directed to accept the “Purple Heart Community” sign for placement at the entrance of the City where other similar signs are located.

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

Nays: None.

Local Law.

President DePietro stated Proposed Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020 would amend the Lodging Tax to provide for the revenues from the short-term lodging tax be deposited in the City’s General Fund and be allocated during the regular budget process to support the efforts of the Tourism Board as the City deems appropriate and necessary.

Alderman Halloran asked “is it the intention of this local law to take the funds, the three hundred thousand which is the number we kicked around for a couple of years, to take that away from the Tourism Board”?

President DePietro said “I think I’ve made clear many times that it has no effect on the existing money that’s been allocated”.

On motion of **Alderman Garriga**, seconded by **Alderman Sarowar**, the following proposed local law introduced by Alderman Wolff, seconded by Alderman Sarowar, was ordered enacted by the following vote:

Proposed Local Law Introductory Local Law B of 2020

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE LODGING TAX OF THE CITY OF HUDSON

SECTION 1. TITLE This Local Law shall be known as Local Law No. ____ of 2020.

SECTION 2. AUTHORITY The City of Hudson is authorized to adopt a short-term lodging tax pursuant to New York State Tax Law Sec. 1202-dd.

SECTION 3. PURPOSE By Local Law No. 3 of 2019, the City of Hudson extended the short-term lodging tax authorized by Tax Law Sec. 1202-dd. That law provided for the creation of a Tourism Board and provided a dedicated stream of revenue to the Tourism Board from the short-term lodging tax. The City of Hudson finds that the dedicated revenue from the short-term lodging tax unnecessarily constrains the ability of the City to meet the other fiscal needs of the City to protect the health, welfare and safety of City residents. This local law provides for the revenues from the short-term lodging tax to be deposited in the City's general fund and be allocated during the regular budget process for any municipal purposes including to support the efforts of the Tourism Board as the City deems appropriate and necessary.

SECTION 4. ENACTMENT The Common Council hereby enacts this local law amending Chapter 275, Article VIII of the City of Hudson Code as follows:

A. Section 275-32 shall be deleted and replaced with the following:

§ 275-32 Disposition of Revenues.

Subject to the provision of § 275-38 of this article, all moneys received by the City Treasurer under this article shall be paid into the treasury of the City and shall be credited to and deposited in the general fund thereof for allocation during the annual budget process for any municipal purpose including a portion of which may be allocated to the Tourism Board for its purposes set forth in § 275-41 herein.

B. The first paragraph of Section 275-41(A)(1)(d) is amended by replacing that paragraph with the following without changing subparagraphs (1) and (2) of Section 275-41(A)(1)(d):

The Tourism Board is hereby empowered to take all reasonable steps it determines desirable, necessary and proper to market the City of Hudson as a destination for overnight and day-trip visitors by making use of the funds allocated to it in the City budget provided that:

C. Section 275-41 shall be amended by deleting all of paragraph "B" therein.

SECTION 5. SEVERABILITY If any section or sections of this local law shall be declared unconstitutional or otherwise void and ineffective, the validity of the remainder of the provisions hereof and their application shall not be affected thereby.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE This local law shall take effect upon its filing in the office of the Secretary of State.

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

Nays: None.

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 9 would designate Proposed Local Law No. B of 2020 a matter of public necessity.

Jeff Baker, Legal Advisor said “normally the process is for a local law, the Mayor has to hold a public hearing on, within ten days, on certain days’ notice, the Charter allows the Mayor to waive that hearing and for the Council to have the law take effect as soon as possible in instances essentially of states of emergency like we have now”. He said “it’s a non-binding resolution but it’s urging and authorizing the Mayor to move forward, to adopt this as soon as possible and encourage him to waive the public hearing because, and the need is to you know, facilitate the additional revenues into the City’s General Fund as soon as possible” and he said “it stops the flow of the, of the tax towards the Tourism Board and takes it to the General Fund”.

Alderman Halloran asked “why wouldn’t we have a chance for the public to weigh in on it”?

Legal Advisor Baker said “you did have a public hearing here at the Council which you didn’t have to have and the public had an opportunity to weigh in, this is, you know, it’s your choice, obviously as to whether you think it’s important or not or ask you know the Mayor to do it, part of the question is there might be a difficulty in holding a public hearing at this time given the virus and there might be ways of getting around that or simply posting it for a while and taking written comments on the law which would be an alternative that would work but you’d have to do that for a period of time and again the question just presented to you to consider is whether you support trying to get this thing through you know, sooner rather than later so you can get the funds into the General Fund”.

Alderman Trombley said “we’ve had our heads blown off in the last week and I am getting a great deal of concern raised from business owners and employees and, who live and work in the First Ward, extreme concern about the state of Hudson businesses going forward” and she said “I would strongly advocate that we just take a breath on this thing and that we wait”.

President DePietro said “just for the sake of moving this along, we already passed the law, that’s not the issue anymore”.

Alderman Trombley asked “I understand that’s not the issue but are we not passing this resolution that would put the local law into effect more quickly than not”?

President DePietro said “yes” and he said “it would be at the discretion of the Mayor”.

Alderman Trombley said “I’m raising my voice in opposition to this resolution”.

Alderman Merante said “I think in this resolution itself, I think that, if you take away the public, whether it’s in writing or in the public to have a say in this, I think is a disservice” and he said “I don’t agree with this resolution as it stands, I’m sure there’s other things that in terms of emergencies that the Mayor has some other powers that may supersede this resolution as it stands”. He said “to take away the public in this, I think it’s not transparent enough and again, if there’s another means to have them input, then fine”.

Alderman Garriga said “as far as the public hearing goes, I’m you know, I’m all for it, that’s how we get the information, that’s how we get to hear it and we also get to hear it by talking with our constituents” and she said “we’re dealing with a lot of, with what’s going on with the pandemic and the coronavirus and all the emergency situations that we have to deal with right now and a lot of things that we have to push forward so I don’t agree to moving this along”.

Alderman Halloran questioned the matter of public necessity that generates that authority.

President DePietro said “the pandemic”.

Alderman Halloran asked “on a local level, what are we going to do about the pandemic”?

Legal Advisor Baker said “the standard, Eileen, for the question is, is there a state of emergency or reason because of it that warrant short circuiting some of the normal procedures to put a law in place faster and the resolution finds that because of the pandemic, which qualifies as peculiar, it’s under the Charter, that it’s in the City’s interest to get this law in effect as soon as possible to maximize revenues into the general fund, that’s the emergency connection that you’re making”.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9 March 17, 2020

**A RESOLUTION DESIGNATING
PROPOSED LOCAL LAW INTRODUCTORY NO. B OF 2020
A MATTER OF PUBLIC NECESSITY**

WHEREAS, the Common Council has been considering proposed Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020 amending the lodging tax in the City of Hudson and held a public hearing to hear comments on the proposed law; and

WHEREAS, since the Common Council began considering proposed Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020, the coronavirus pandemic has resulted in the declaration of a state of emergency at the federal, state and city level; and

WHEREAS, the pandemic is and will place significant strains on the City’s budget as tax revenues are expected to be materially affected.

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Common Council finds that a state of emergency exists due the pestilence of the coronavirus and declares it is necessary for proposed Local Law Introductory No. B of 2020 be implemented as soon as possible to maximize revenue

into the City's general fund. The Common Council further finds that the Mayor should exercise his discretion pursuant to City Charter Sec. 12-8 (B) and not hold a public hearing on the law so that it can be implemented as soon as possible.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (8)

Nays: Aldermen Merante and Trombley (2)

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 10 would override the Mayor's Veto of Resolution No. 7 of February 18, 2020 and he said "since this was introduced and vetoed originally, Craig Haigh has since provided us with a rough schedule, a rough accounting of how many buildings would actually qualify under the vacancy law". He said "whether we override this veto or not, we still will probably pursue all, I mean, as far as I'm concerned, we'll pursue this regardless of what happens with this override" and he said "the fact that he's identified over a hundred and fifty units, suggest that maybe a vacancy, a complete accounting would be in order". President DePietro said "may I remind you, we talked about possible estimates, well that estimate has gone down considerably because Craig and his office has invested quite amount of time in this already so in theory or actually subsequently we've paid a lot already for this part of the study".

On motion of **Alderman Garriga**, seconded by **Alderman Wolff**, the following resolution was **DEFEATED** by the following vote:

RESOLUTION NO. 10 March 17, 2020

**A RESOLUTION OVERRIDING THE MAYOR'S VETO OF
RESOLUTION NO. 7 OF FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

WHEREAS, on February 18, 2020 the Common Council adopted Resolution No. 7 which authorized the Mayor to commission a housing vacancy survey to determine the City's eligibility under the Emergency Tenant Protection Act ("ETPA"); and

WHEREAS, on February 21, 2020, Mayor Johnson vetoed the resolution based upon his determination that the City would be unlikely to meet the statutory requirement for eligibility in the ETPA and that the cost of the study which he estimated to be \$15,000 would not be prudent use of city funds; and

WHEREAS, the Council notes that it was not specifically authorizing the expenditure of any funds for the vacancy study and expected the Mayor to return to the Council with a specific request to pay for a study; and

WHEREAS, the Council has heard from members to the public who are willing to volunteer their time to review city records to determine the number of buildings that may qualify for the ETPA;

NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby overrides the Mayor’s veto of Resolution No. 7 of February 18, 2020; and

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized and requested to work with Common Council and community members to gather the necessary information for the vacancy study without retaining consultants and to the extent retention of a consultant is necessary to present such a request to the Common Council for its approval.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Lewis, Sarowar, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (6)

Nays: Aldermen Halloran, Merante, Rosenthal and Trombley. (4)

Prior to voting “aye” on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Garriga** said “this is a wonderful opportunity to support over a hundred and fifty-four families; this is more than Bliss Towers, whether we decide to stay in the City of Hudson or not, this will be forever”.

Alderman Halloran, prior to voting said “I am going to vote not to override the Mayor’s Veto and I think we have to be very cautious as we said with other resolutions on what we’re, what we’re spending and we have information from Code Enforcement that Tom just described and we can get assistance from the Office of Real Property and I vote not to override the Mayor’s Veto”.

Prior to voting, **Alderman Rosenthal** said “I’m voting no, I want to do this another way and also I don’t know how we’re going to conduct a survey in a pandemic, in this manner and I’d like to investigate, I’d like the Council to drive this”.

Alderman Walker, prior to voting, questioned the cost of the survey and he asked “it’s based on what”?

President DePietro said “what Craig Haigh has compiled is based on his information that his office had to look for in their files” and he said “I think they had to look at various fire records and other things, but it’s not complete, it wouldn’t satisfy the kind of study that you need for a vacancy”.

Alderman Walker said “not complete but he did most of the study which was pretty much accurate”.

President DePietro said “no, he’s just identified buildings that would have to be then you know, questioned” and he said “if we do not override, it doesn’t kill the work that we’re moving forward with here in terms of the vacancy law”.

Alderman Garriga said “what it means is that when people were questioning the amount of availability of affordable apartments in Hudson, people were saying it’s not that many, it wouldn’t, we don’t know how much a vacancy study costs, that’s not what the resolution is about, the resolution is about doing the research”.

Alderman Walker said “I’m going to say yes simply because I just don’t want the chance to miss out on you know, if we’re able to get it”.

President DePietro said “don’t be discouraged because we will definitely look at this again and I think John made a good point, none of it could be done right now anyway given the state of the emergency, so don’t be discouraged, this will come back”.

Alderman Garriga said “for those of you that did support it, I thank you and we will continue to fight on behalf of our constituents and the Housing and Transportation and to explain it to you, the people are saying there’s not that many buildings in Hudson to disregard the study completely, what Craig did proves why we should do the study, there’s more units than Bliss Towers”.

Legal Advisor Baker said “the issue in a nutshell came up from a couple of the department heads, you have a number of part-time employees in both departments that are non-unionized and you have contract employees, the contract employees provide like lessons and classes at the Senior Center” and he said “the concern that was coming out was, and this was as everything’s developing very quickly obviously with all these shutdowns with the Coronavirus, the first question is could the City provide sick pay to the part-time workers who don’t get it otherwise so that they don’t have an incentive or dis-incentive to come to work, people who obviously need the pay would come in when otherwise they shouldn’t is why you should provide sick pay to keep the rest of the population protected”. He said “the second question is what do we do with these contract workers and such when the Senior Center or the Youth Center is being closed and they’re cutting down non-essential services, is there a means for them to get paid” and he said “we were evaluating a variety of different ways to approach this and the Governor saved us from trying to come up with a situation with an Executive Order yesterday which required municipal governments to reduce their staff by at least fifty percent of non-essential to sending those people home, even if they could work from home great but to the extent they can’t work from home, they are entitled to get paid at their normal pay rate from the City and it is not a count against them in their accrued vacation pay and sick pay, leave or anything else that’s been done”. Legal Advisor Baker said “so what that allows is the extent of the contract employees are no longer being employed by the City or not allowed to come to work, they can still get paid at the rate they were being paid before on the presumptive schedule and to the extent it’s even still going to be a problem with the sick pay for these employees and I don’t think their jobs are happening now anymore, Nick and I discussed this, what he can do is that we get into that kind of situation somehow that employee has been otherwise deemed an essential employee, he would deem that person a non-essential employee on that date, send them home, they would be able to get paid and he would figure out someone else to bring in”. Legal Advisor Baker said “it’s a long way of saying we’ve resolved the issue which was the desire and I know of a lot of people, to try and you know, provide some security to these employees but also working within the constraints of the budget and the law that you have to deal with”.

Nick Zachos, Director of the Youth Department said “the Youth Department is developing a plan to provide groceries and hot meals to community members, we’re working in collaboration with the school district, restaurants, the other food banks in town and other community organizations to ensure that while the school is shut down and the Youth Department

is shutdown, that all of the families in our community are still able to access food and have food security”.

President DePietro said “that’s great because I’ve gotten a lot of inquiries of people who would like to contribute in some way with food and I guess that means you going to be kind of the point man locally for a lot of this”.

Director Zachos said “you can start by emailing me and then I may, I may put you with somebody else and it would then be a group”.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the council members went into executive session to discuss pending litigation. Carried.

Following the executive session, council members in attendance were:
Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Merante, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro.

On motion of **Alderman Sarowar**, seconded by **Alderman Lewis**, the meeting was adjourned.

City Clerk