March 16, 2021

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held on Tuesday, March 16, 2021 at 7:00 PM with President Thomas DePietro presiding.

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

(Alderman Sarowar arrived after roll call)

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

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

On motion of **Alderman Wolff,** seconded by **Alderman Lewis,** the minutes of the February 16th meeting were ordered received and placed on file. Carried.

Committee Reports.

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

Informal Meeting

January 11, 2021

In attendance:
Common Council President Tom DePietro
First Ward Alderpersons Jane Trombley and Rebecca Wolff
Second Ward Alderperson Tiffany Garriga and Alderman Dewan Sarowar
Third Ward Aldermen Calvin Lewis Jr. and Shershah Mizan
Fourth Ward Aldermen John Rosenthal and Malachi Walker
Fifth Ward Alderperson Eileen Halloran and Alderman Dominic Merante
Jeffrey Baker, Counsel

Mr. Rosenthal made a motion to open the meeting at 7:20 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Lewis and approved unanimously. The meeting was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

Reports and Communications

The Council received the minutes of its Informal meetings (11-9-2020 and 12-7-2020) and minutes of the following committees: Department of Public Works (12-23-2020), Finance (12-15-2020), Legal (12-23-2020), and Housing and Transportation (12-2-2020).

The Council also received a report of annual completion of training for members of the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals from City Clerk Tracy Delaney.

Hudson BRIDGE District Connectivity Plan

James Ribaudo and David Lustberg of the urban planning firm Arterial gave a presentation on the Hudson Connects project to the Council. Arterial is working on improvements to the intersections, sidewalks and streets in the city's downtown BRIDGE District, using funds from a grant for the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). The first phase of the project, scoping and planning, is winding down. The second phase will focus more on design and will be an opportunity for the public to weigh in on materials to furnishings, to what everything will look like. "How and what can be implemented as part of the DRI grant," Mr. Lustberg said.

Mr. Ribaudo shared the three goals of Hudson Connects: celebrate the historic integrity of the city, make the streets safe and accessible and reconnect the waterfront. The first will be done by supporting all that exists in the district. The second goal will involve making intersections compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) and include a bicycle network that can be citywide and connect to the Empire State Trail. A shared use path is eyed for State Street. The third goal involves recreation—the boat launch, picnic and gathering area—the scenic Promenade Hill park and the historic fishing village (known locally as "The Shacks" and "Fugary"). Arterial is coordinating with work done by Starr Whitehouse at Promenade Hill.

Mr. Ribaudo said the city has $3.5 million to use toward the project and must prioritize where it is spent. A total of $250,000 has been set aside for the Cross Street staircase. He outlined two strategies for spending—focused improvements and distributed improvements.

The first strategy would:

1—Address all significant ADA issues identified in the ADA evaluation.
2—Upgrade all intersections along Warren Street.
3—Upgrade some residential intersections.
4—Improve Columbia Street, portions of Second Street and Allen Street with sidewalk infill and street trees.
5—Upgrade all of State Street with a shared-use path connection to Front Street (for bicyclists and pedestrians).
6—Upgrade Front Street with the promenade to reconnect the city to the waterfront.
7—Transform Front Street into a destination/amenity for all city residents.
8—Enhance and capitalize on Promenade Hill park improvements.
9—Calm truck and vehicular traffic on Front Street.

The second strategy would:

1—Address all significant ADA issues identified in the ADA evaluation.
2—Upgrade all intersections along Warren Street.
3—Upgrade all residential intersections.
4—Improve all streets with sidewalk infill and street trees as needed.
5—Upgrade all of State Street with a shared-use path connection to Front Street.

6—Keep Front Street largely as-is with new roadway striping and signage.

Ms. Wolff asked for clarification on how the proposals would calm traffic on Front Street. Mr. Lustberg said the width of the lanes would be reduced slightly. There would be two 11-foot travel lanes, eight feet of parking and 10 feet of sidewalk on one side, and an eight-foot multi-use path and a six-foot sidewalk on the other side. Arterial is aware of truck traffic along Front, but believed the width should be ample.

Mr. Sarowar asked for the cost of each strategy and was told they were about $3.5 million each.

Ms. Trombley asked if the $250,000 for the Cross Street staircase was part of the $3.5 million. Mr. Lustberg said it was figured into both strategies.

Ms. Garriga asked whether the sidewalks on State Street were planned for areas where they do not now exist. Mr. Lustberg said they were, but would be a shared-use path to accommodate bicyclists and walkers. “So it’s not an actual sidewalk,” Ms. Garriga said. Mr. Lusterberg said it would be asphalt, which is better for bikers and joggers because it is softer, but it would function as a sidewalk. Ms. Garriga asked when the path would be constructed. She was told that all of the planned $3.5 million in work would happen at the same time, “hopefully very soon.” Ms. Garriga asked if Arterial discussed a ramp for the entrance to Promenade Hill and was told that was a different part of the DRI project.

Ms. Wolff, who lives in the DRI zone, said it was possible that some of the design strategies could result in a different feeling for that part of the city. “That’s one of the challenges,” Mr. Lustberg replied. “We will have to work on that materiality and how it all comes together. We are looking at it closely. We are doing entire blocks so we have to be cognizant of that.”

Roberta Gratz, an urban critic, lecturer and author, asked if an image of the Cross Street project was available. She was told that it was an existing staircase that extended from Allen Street at Second Street down to Cross Street. The stairs would be replaced.

She also said that the many plantings proposed would require maintenance and replanting during the year. Mr. Lustberg said Arterial was working with the city’s Department of Public Works. If the plantings were not appropriate, “we will pull back.” He said the plantings were included in the planning stage of the project and that there had been no formal design yet.

Hudson Housing Authority Commissioner Rebecca Borrer said it was important to communicate because her organization had a project planned in that area of the city as well. If talking about new development, it would be great to have a channel to communicate and have a seat at the table, she said. Ms. Garriga agreed.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were introduced for consideration at the Council’s regular monthly meeting on January 19:

Appointment of Sha-Quesia Austin, Mindy Miller, Peter D. Merante Sr., Michael Chameides, Joanne Lowery, Heather L. Dianda, Betty J. Buffa, Michael Hofmann and Rebecca Borrer as Commissioners of Deeds from February 1 through January 31, 2023. Introduced by Mr. Sarowar and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Authorization for City Treasurer Heather Campbell to accept donations of $200 from Results Refrigeration, Heating and A/C, LLC, $50 from ORPHEO LLC and $200 from Linda S. Friedner and Seth Rogovoy. Introduced by Mr. Sarowar and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Authorization for City Treasurer Campbell to transfer funds to various personal services accounts. Introduced by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

Authorization for Mayor Kamal Johnson to work with Columbia County Civil Service to create the position of Housing Justice Director, to sign a contract with the Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency (HCDPA) to accept funding for the position from the anti-displacement grant awarded to the city, to fill the position and budget funds from the grant to cover salary and fringe benefits. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Dewan.

Alderperson Wolff worked on the grant application. She said it would be administered through the HCDPA, which has a mission of serving low-income residents of the city, except for the portion that will seed a housing trust fund. A large part of the application was creation of the Housing Justice Director.

Hudson worked with nine other cities seeking grant funds. The most glaring difference between them was that Hudson had no person to coordinate housing plans.

Funding will make other things possible, Ms. Wolff said, such as maintaining housing for residents and studies. The most immediate project is to start an emergency rental relief program that will make it more available to people navigating the qualification system.

Mr. Rosenthal said the city would start working on inclusionary zoning in the next month or so. That effort should speak mainly to new housing development, setting aside units at affordable rates and possibly tax relief, he said. The grant also could help lawmakers revisit the zoning code.

Authorization to renew senior citizen and lower income property tax disability exemptions for the 2021 assessment roll. Introduced by Mr. Walker and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Authorization for Mayor Johnson to sign a contract with MUNIRevs, Inc., for short-term rental services. The city will only opt for the first module of the contract for detection, monitoring and compliance for a one-time implementation fee of $1,875 and an annual fee of $8,000. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

Mr. DePietro said the city's current contract with another firm has no way to be sure short-term rentals are registering under the new law or how many nights guests are staying. He said the price may seem steep, but it is a one-time fee. Ms. Wolff added that the purpose of MUNIRevs' services was to detect those who were not registered and not paying lodging tax, or who may not be paying enough sales tax.

Requirement for Police Chief Edward Moore to provide monthly reports detailing traffic, vehicular and pedestrian stops in the city. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

Paid Sick Leave

Council members received a proposed local law to amend the City Charter to provide for additional paid sick leave during the COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Lewis made a motion to move the proposal to members' desks, which was seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

Human Resources

Mr. Rosenthal inquired about the status of the city's human resources situation and whether anything actionable had occurred. Mr. DePietro said there had been nothing yet, but he was to contact county Board of Supervisors Chairman Matt Murell to find out why the city was not getting the human resources services it needed. Mr. Rosenthal asked if the city was leaning toward a shared services agreement. Mr. DePietro said that would be the case eventually. Mr. Chameides, the Third Ward Supervisor for Hudson, said the county was not the human resources service for all the towns, but would offer some form of free, basic advice. Shared services would be provided for for-hire work. "They won't come in and be our HR person," he said. "The city is the driver; they'll help put it into action."

Public Comment

Resident Ron Kopnicki said there was some controversy regarding the selection of the minority leader. When the Council's Rules of Order were adopted, it was mentioned that Ms. Wolff, who was named to the post, was the only member of the Working Families Party. Mr. DePietro said Alderman Merante, who had expressed interest in the position in the past, had changed his enrollment to the Democratic Party.

Resident John Kane asked if MUNIRevs, Inc. would scrub sites for actual revenue coming to a host, AirBnB for example. If not, he said, the firm would only be providing an estimate. Mr. Rosenthal said the firm was contracted for compliance. Ms. Wolff agreed to determine the exact process and get back to Mr. Kane and the full Council. Mr. DePietro likened it to enacting the lodging tax; it was important to get into place then work out the details. Ms. Wolff said the company would probably provide a demonstration.

Mr. Lewis made a motion to adjourn at 8:40 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Garriga and approved unanimously.

Informal Meeting

February 8, 2021

In attendance:
Common Council President Tom DePietro
First Ward Alderpersons Jane Trombley and Rebecca Wolff
Second Ward Alderperson Tiffany Garriga and Alderman Dewan Sarowar
Third Ward Aldermen Calvin Lewis Jr. and Shershah Mizan
Fourth Ward Aldermen John Rosenthal and Malachi Walker
Fifth Ward Alderperson Eileen Halloran and Alderman Dominic Merante
Jeffrey Baker, Counsel; Cheryl Roberts, City Attorney; City Treasurer Heather Campbell, Youth Department Director Nick Zachos, Commissioner of Youth Maija Reed, Fire Commissioner Tim Hutchings, Department of Public Works Commissioner Peter Bujanow, Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry, Second Assistant Fire Chief Nicolas Pierro, Police Chief Ed Moore

The meeting began at 7 p.m. and was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing and live-streamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

Reports and Communications

The Council received minutes of its January 11 and 19 meetings; City Clerk Tracy Delaney's annual report for 2020, which included a summary of financial activities of her office, monthly reports of financial activities and a copy of bank statements; and Dog Control Officer Jim Delaney's report for December 2020. He received one call for a found dog, which was taken to the Columbia-Greene Humane Society, and a report of a lost cat. Mr. Delaney patrolled city streets and the dog park on December 2, 3, 6, 9, 12, 14, 17, 18, 22, 23, 28 and 29. Ms. Garriga requested that a flyer be created regarding the dog control officer to alert people that the city has one and how to contact him.

Department Reports

Fire Department

Assistant Fire Chief Pierro reported that the department had 396 calls for service last year and 31 in January.

He was asked to outline the Length of Service Award Program (LOSAP) because the Council would act on a resolution regarding it later in the meeting. When COVID-19 struck last year, volunteers were unable to participate in drills and other qualifying activities for the program. The New York State Association of Fire Chiefs and Firemen's Association of the State of New York proposed to the state Legislature that Section 1 of General Municipal Law §217 be amended to allow volunteer firefighters and ambulance workers to receive points toward their LOSAPs.

LOSAP is the only means that volunteer firefighters obtain compensation for their service to the community. To qualify, volunteers must earn 50 points a year. Half of them come from their response to a minimum of 10 percent of the department's calls and the rest are earned by attending meetings, drills, work details and such. There are caps on each category of points. Because the Central Fire Station was closed down during the pandemic, there were no opportunities to earn qualifying LOSAP credits other than fire calls. The state Legislature approved a bill authorizing localities to award up to five extra service points per month for the months of April to December.

The fire chief and two assistant chiefs were the only members who reached the required number of points. Fire Commissioner Hutchings and Fire Chief Anthony DeMarco recommended that the city award two points to each participating member for the nine months covered by the law. That would add 18 points for each of them and allow 30 active members reach the 50-point total for 2020.

Ms. Garriga asked if there was a cost involved. Mr. Pierro said the city would only be authorizing additional LOSAP points. Ms. Trombley asked if the program had an end date or if it was open-ended due to COVID. Mr. Pierro believed the amendment was set to end in 2022, but was sure the state would extend it if necessary.

Mr. Sarowar asked the status of the new ladder truck. Mr. Pierro said COVID provided a bit of a silver lining as the truck was scheduled for delivery in early summer. Mr. Walker asked about the sale of the old truck. Commissioner Hutchings said the department had not officially advertised the sale, but had received an offer of $150,000 from the Madisonville Fire Department

in Tennessee. The department had been considered an asking price of $175,000 with a 10 percent broker's fee. That amount was reached based on the condition of the truck, mileage, etc.

Youth Department

Mr. Zachos reported that the Youth Center had been closed for all after school programming due to an abundance of caution during the Coronavirus pandemic. Academic support has been available five days a week and virtual programming has continued. "It's been a tough time," he said. Junior staff has been working on online content and the department has been collaborating with the Hudson City School District in that area as well.

Repairs and renovations have been made to the building. There is a new gym floor and almost the entire interior was painted. Staff also looked at the actual physical space at the center because one of the things they had to transition to quickly was how to work with smaller groups, which required dedicated spaces. "When the kids come back there will be a greatly improved space," he said.

Food drop-offs ceased, but deliveries are still being made to nearly 50 families a week. "There's still a big need, a lot of food insecurity," Mr. Zachos said.

The staff has been undergoing training some of which was done in-house and some led by professionals. Some of the training subjects were therapeutic crisis intervention, harassment in the workplace and an introduction to restorative justice practices.

Mr. Zachos said the big news was that the department would go through significant staffing changes, which would begin with a job search for a new director. "No, Nick," Ms. Garriga said." What do we have to do to keep you?" Mr. Zachos said he didn't think he would still be doing the job four years after being hired. At the time, the existence of the Youth Department was in question and needed someone to advocate for it. He believed that the point had been reached where "the community has spoken" and the department was valued again.

The department has a full staff and big improvements have been made to the building. "The Youth Department is in a place to make a transition and usher in a new phase," he said. He said he would oversee the job search and help with the transition "to be sure it's in the best interest of the community."

Ms. Garriga noted the many changes to the department during Mr. Zachos' tenure and his exit left "pretty big shoes to fill." Commissioner Reed said the department had been in a "good place" because Mr. Zachos stepped in four years ago. "Nick has set into motion some important transformations," she said.

Resident Bill Huston asked when the Youth Department took over maintenance of Oakdale Park. Mr. Zachos said it was before his time. Mr. Huston asked why there was a problem emptying trash cans at the park. Mr. Zachos said they were checked once a week and more when the park was in season. One problem is due to people disposing of personal garbage, which quickly fills up the cans. Mr. Zachos said he would go to the park tomorrow to check on the status. Mr. Huston said the cans hadn't been emptied in three months. Mr. DePietro said they would be checked by the director.

Aging Department

Commissioner of Aging Waters reported that the department was in the process of putting together a website that would allow seniors more access to programming. Yoga and aerobics classes have been given regularly via the internet and a stretching class was added. "People feel differently when they are able to exercise regularly. They're able to maintain their

independence and mobility," she said. A step-by-step guide to apply for HEAP and STAR, and a section for advocacy will be added to the site as well. Ms. Waters said there were many groups advocating for better care as well as better pay for caregivers.

Ms. Garriga asked for the attendance at online classes. Ms. Waters said attendance ranged from five to 20 depending on the class and instructor. New programs take times with word of mouth, she said.

The Senior Center continued to struggle with staffing and must advertise. She hoped the website would help in that regard. Ms. Garriga suggested she contact each alderman so they could share the need in their wards. Ms. Waters asked that pay be above minimum wage. Illinois was the only state to raise pay for caregivers, but that was only to minimum wage, she said. There is a caregiver shortage in Columbia County and raising the pay might attract more people to the profession. Resident Becky Siegel suggested the department contact Lance Wheeler to put a segment on his weekly cable television program because not all seniors have computers. She also suggested posters in doctors' offices for people interested in becoming caregivers. The posters could provide information on where to sign up. Ms. Waters agreed to follow up on both suggestions.

Ms. Siegel asked if caregivers were trained. Ms. Waters said she believed that training was provided for both individuals and family members,

Treasurer's Office

Treasurer Campbell told aldermen that the 2019 audit draft had been completed. Work got off to a late start, but remained on schedule until it was discovered that the Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency (HCDPA) wasn't completed. The good news was that there were no adjustments from the auditors. Work was beginning on the annual update audit. Ms. Campbell took on the work of accountants over the past few years, which saved the city $15,000 to $18,000. The city needs to begin implementation of the state Comptroller's Office Corrective Action Plan. Mr. DePietro said the city might be able to deal with that soon and talks were going on with the county regarding Hudson's human resources needs.

Ms. Campbell reported on the city's three major revenue streams. Parking revenues hit 57 percent of what was budgeted in 2020. That figure will change because some meter money wasn't recorded in the ledger system. Tickets and parking permits generated the most revenue, reaching 81 percent and 77 percent of budget, respectively. Fees from the Front Street municipal lot only reached 34 percent of budget. There were no revenues from the lot in October and November and only $2,600 was generated in December, compared to $26,000 from the prior year, because people were not commuting during the pandemic.

Building permits and fees reached 94 percent of what was budgeted in 2020, better than what was anticipated six months ago.

Other tax revenues—sales, mortgage and lodging taxes—reached 67 percent of what was budgeted in 2020. Sales tax reached 71 percent of budget, mortgage tax 110 percent and lodging tax 29 percent. Ms. Campbell said an additional month of lodging tax would be charged back to 2020.

Ms. Campbell began projections last year to provide a first cut of what 2020 might look like. Revenues were $11,945,838 and adjusted to $9,909,506, while expenditures were $11,153,686. The city's unassigned fund balance for 2020 was $2,837,412, which fell to $1,830,721 due to the difference between revenues and expenditures. Less a 2019 unassigned appropriated fund balance of $499,768 (the amount used to balance the 2020 budget) and less a

2019 assigned unappropriated fund balance of $720,000 left a potential unassigned fund balance of $610,953. The city has a policy that requires the unassigned fund balance to be between 25 and 35 percent of the general fund. Mr. DePietro said the city was still on target to sell property it owns to replenish the fund balance.

Ms. Siegel asked what firm the city used for accounting and where the savings referred to earlier was realized. Ms. Campbell said the city used the firm of Pattison and Koskey and used to pay roughly $23,000, but with inflation, the fee rose to $25,000 to $27,000. By doing some of that work in her office, she said the city paid $8,000 last year. “That’s great. I commend you on that,” Ms. Siegel said.

Resident John Kane asked if the city would be looking at a significant draw on the 2021 fund balance. Ms. Campbell said the city had not had a large take from the fund balance since before her time, though that was a concern. There have been years where the fund balance was increased. “Unless difficult decisions are made, it will be almost impossible not to draw from the fund balance,” she said.

Mr. Kane asked how the city would allocate potential federal funding. Mr. DePietro said inquiries had been made about the COVID-19 relief bill, which would include aid to state and city governments, but there was no word yet on how much funding might come to the city.

Department of Public Works

DPW Superintendent Perry reported that septage revenue for 2020 totaled $432,453, higher than the $340,000 budgeted, due to more an increase in the number of people living in the county during COVID-19. “There was lots of business out there and we were happy to take it,” he said. The annual septage hauler report showed an average of 42 loads per week at 2,800 gallons. That represented less than one percent of the flow to the sewer plant and 30 percent of the annual revenue.

New pumps and control systems for them, and a back-up generator were installed at the Power Avenue pump station as part of a Water Quality Improvement Program grant to upgrade the 30-year-old station. The Mill Street pump station will be upgraded in the spring. The Community Development Block Grant was progressing into the design phase.

The 2021 budget for the Water Department included $5,000 to replace an original chlorine analyzer, which monitors chlorine residual. He provided before and after photographs.

He said the ears of universal pipe were exposed in a water break on Harry Howard Avenue. Tightening bolts pulled adjacent sections apart, so the pipe was cut. A replacement is required.

Contract and public documents for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) were submitted to the Department of Health. The design of the Water Infrastructure Improvement Act (WIIA) water main project for Washington Street was under way. The project, which involves replacing lines to the boulevards, is ready for financing and construction this year, he said.

Mr. Perry reported that a crosswalk light could not be installed at Columbia Memorial Health due to a utility conflict with Verizon that involved copper and fiber optic cables where the pole needed to be installed.

Brakes were replaced on one of the six-wheel dump trucks. The DPW had surplus equipment auctions in November and December that raised $15,000, he said.

The city issued documents to two property owners adjacent to the Ferry Street Bridge for easements—Hudson Terrace Apartments and the state Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic

Preservation—and submitted a structural design report to the Department of Transportation, Mr. Perry reported. He also said that all necessary approvals to proceed with the Dugway project had been received and the department was waiting for final complete street design from the Downtown Revitalization Initiative Committee for the Front Street portion in order to coordinate plans and projects.

The commissioner gave a report on snow removal after a December 17, 2020 storm. Snow removal from curbs required an eight-foot snow blower attached to a 30,000-pound loader. Streets with alternate side parking allowed DPW to push snow to the curb to allow passage of emergency vehicles and normal traffic during and immediately after the storm. Streets without alternate side parking were "death traps," he said. Tow trucks were in short supply so the blower had to go around several cars, leaving two-plus feet of snow against the curbs and forcing parked cars into the driving lanes. Various pieces of equipment were used for snow removal, including skid steers from the Water and Cemetery departments at crosswalks and parks, and a loader from Greenport at Bayley and Jenkins boulevards. Mr. Perry said the county asked the DPW to send overtime figures for Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) reimbursement. The amount totaled $57,653, but there were still many regulatory hoops ahead that might not result in any reimbursement.

Mr. Perry gave a lengthy explanation regarding street sweeping. He showed pictures of piles of dirt behind St. Mary's Church, each of which represented one load from one night of sweeping. He said 99 percent of the material was dirt, which would easily settle in city sewer mains and clog pipes. If a catch basin is behind a utility pole, the sweeper can't access it. Debris easily covered and blocked such basins and forced water to flood the streets below.

A consent decree from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) required the city to keep the system clear of debris. Since the DPW had no way of removing debris from more than 20 miles of sewer main, it had to sweep daily, he said. Reduction in sweeping would result in more debris in the collection system, which would cause more combined sewer overflow and more debris in the sewer plant, which would contribute to decreased mechanical life of pumps and process, inefficiency and increased removal by a vac-truck, which would cost taxpayers more. DEC and EPA fines would be inevitable, as would the ability to receive septage, which funds 30 percent of the sewer budget.

Mr. Perry also said the city's State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit required implementation of best management practices to maximize pollutant capture and minimize water quality impacts form combined sewer overflows.

He went on to make a case to keep alternate side parking in effect. He referred to a July 27, 2019 fire on lower Union Street where houses share common walls. The ladder truck could not be used because its outriggers couldn't be extended due to cars parked on both sides of the street. (Alternate side parking rules were suspended for the summer.) Alternate side parking must be done seven days a week for regulatory compliance and the safety of residents, he said.

Ms. Trombley asked for the street cleaning schedule and was told it was done weekdays from 3 to 6 a.m., and then transitioned to a regular shift. None was done on weekends. He said the size of the piles indicated that weekend sweeping probably should begin. Ms. Trombley also asked if DPW swept every curb in the city. Mr. Perry said there was a route. The boulevards were not swept because there were newer lines there.

Mr. Sarowar asked if the city had to pay for a dump truck for snow removal. Mr. Perry said the city's trucks were small so larger ones were brought in to keep the process moving.

Ms. Garriga asked if crews were able to refill dog refuse bags. Mr. Perry believed they were and would check with his crew.

Mr. Huston asked why the top level of Promenade Hill Park wasn't shoveled, a matter he said he had been complaining about for three years. The entry to the park was shoveled to the top step, but not to the fence with a view of the Hudson River. Mr. Perry was unaware that the park was not shoveled and Mr. DePietro said the matter would be looked into.

Mr. Kane asked if the DPW ever mowed the lawn at Oakdale Park and, if so, how long it would take. Mr. Perry said the DPW did not mow at Oakdale and that the job would take the better part of a day to mow and weed-whack.

Police Department

Chief Moore said it was not a surprise that Governor Andrew Cuomo's police reform initiative was a priority and that the city was trying to meet the April 1 deadline. If not met, state and federal funding for the department could be jeopardized, so it's important that the work gets done, he said. The reconciliation committee was making very good progress. "I'm positive Hudson will meet its obligations," he said.

There were 38 arrests last months and eight calls for emotionally disturbed people. One of the arrests was a felony for possession of a weapon (a knife). There were no cases involving use of force.

Ms. Wolff heard that officials in another county had sought an extension of the deadline for a police reform plan based on the need for more significant involvement from "people outside the power structure. Could the process benefit from other community sources in a more meaningful way?" Chief Moore said the governor didn't seem happy about granting extensions. The chief added that the plan could always be reviewed.

Ms. Garriga asked if the department had received more or fewer calls of violence since the pandemic. "Absolutely less," Chief Moore said. Calls for service were down and arrests declined nearly 37 percent. Arrests have been on a downward trend for years, but more recently due to COVID-19.

Mr. Kane said HPD had recently revived a person who overdosed by administering NARCAN. He said there had been an uptick in opioid use since the pandemic, as well as an increase in in fentanyl arrests and overdoses. He wondered if the department had the resources to let the public know if a bad batch of drugs was out on the streets. Chief Moore said the department's statistics were relatively flat, but that officers were equipped with NARCAN. "Unfortunately, they know how to use it well." As for public notification, the chief said the department would use social media.

Ms. Garriga asked if the Mobile Crisis Assessment Team (MCAT) had been used (it was) and whether aldermen could be sent statistics on the number of calls per ward so they would have a better understanding of what's going on and be better able to help their constituents. The chief said that would be a special report that he would provide if able to do so.

Mr. Huston asked how officers wrote tickets for speeders, whether any leeway was given and if radar was needed to issue a ticket. The chief said all officers were certified in radar use. There was no policy regarding speeding and said that a ticket could be issued for driving 31 miles per hour in a 30 mph zone.

Mr. Huston also asked the turnaround time for a parking meter when one went missing. Chief Moore didn't know, but said inventory was taken to see how many were missing. The department has seen missing meters and has four ready to be installed.

Ad Hoc Committees

Mr. DePietro announced the following ad hoc committees: sidewalks with Aldermen Rosenthal, Merante, Sarowar, Lewis, Halloran and Garriga, to meet February 16 at 5:30 p.m.; parking with Aldermen Trombley, Walker and Sarowar, to meet February 18 at 6 p.m.; sale of city-owned properties with Aldermen Trombley, Wolff and Merante, to meet February 24 at 5 p.m.; and siting a solar farm with Aldermen Rosenthal, Sarowar and Lewis, to meet February 24 at 6:15 p.m.

Mr. DePietro said the ad hoc committees, which replaced standing committees, to shepherd through various issues.

City Hall Relocation Offer

Dan Kent, vice president of initiatives for the Galvan Foundation, gave a presentation on the organization's proposal to donate 400 State Street for use as a new city hall. A previous offer to swap a parcel of vacant land on Washington Street, across from the Central Fire Station, "is absolutely off the table," he said. Instead, Galvan would donate the building to the city and ask for nothing in return.

Mr. Kent said the former library would be 100 percent Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant; was in a central location, only one to two blocks away from each ward; would place city hall in a historically significant building; and be affordable to build.

Galvan would donate ownership to the city and provide a $1.4 million construction grant, construction drawings and pricing, and environmental reports. An analysis was done on how all city offices would fit in the building. Mr. Kent said R.L. Baxter Construction produced a construction cost estimate of $2,788,665. He also said the project was would be easy to fund. The Galvan grant could be supplemented with a U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) facilities grant of $38,071, a USDA community facilities loan of $500,000 and the sale of 429 Warren Street for its assessed value of $570,000 and of 520 Warren Street (the current city hall) for its $800,000 assessed value, for a total of $3,308,071. USDA loans have an interest rate of 2.125 percent, which would result in an annual debt service payment of $23,707, assuming a loan of $500,000, Mr. Kent said. The city also would have additional tax revenues for the two buildings returned to the tax rolls.

Mr. Kent said the city would decide how to allocate space in the building. Architect Walter Chatham said many suggested it would be expensive to renovate the building because it couldn't accommodate modern plumbing. He came up with the idea of an annex in the rear so there would be no need to destroy the building to occupy it. "It preserves the historic aspect and you don't have to rip out the entire interior," he said. Mechanicals would use split systems so invasiveness into the building would be minimal.

The code enforcement officer would occupy the third floor. The offices of the mayor and Common Council, and Council Chambers, bathrooms and a break room would be on the second floor. Departments visited by the public would be on the first floor. The public entryway would be in the front via steps or a ramp. "It's a nice way to bring city government under one roof and make it efficient," Mr. Chatham said.

Mr. Kent repeated what Galvan would offer: donated construction drawings and environmental reports; up to $100,000 to support project planning and evaluation; a $1.4 million grant to support project construction at the closing of construction financing; and the donation of 400 State Street to the city at the closing of construction financing.

Mr. Rosenthal said an architect and consultant had looked at city hall and came up with a low-end cost of $400,000 to meet ADA compliance and a high-end cost of $3.1 million to make it fully accessible. “We’ll be taking on debt beyond what you are proposing,” he said of a move to 400 State Street. Mr. DePietro didn’t know if the low-end estimate would satisfy the Department of Justice settlement regarding ADA compliance.

Ms. Trombley said the condition of the building, such as asbestos or oil tanks on site, was unclear and the offer could end up being pricier. “If we went down this path for a while and decided it was not in the city’s best interest, could we sell the building?” Galvan attorney Dan Hubbell said if the city could take a long look, including environmental considerations, and if the project seemed too expensive, could pull out with no penalty.

Mr. Rosenthal said Galvan had owned the building for some time and noted that it was supposed to be the foundation’s headquarters. “What stopped you from doing the renovations?” Mr. Kent said other projects took priority, such as finishing a day care center in the former Armory and low-income housing. “We wanted to work on those before our own offices.”

Mr. Merante said the building only had eight parking spots close by and assumed at least three of them would have to be handicapped spots. He wondered if the city would be allowed to park in the spaces at the former John L. Edwards Elementary School, located in the rear, if it were purchased. Mr. DePietro said that information would be shared once received.

Mr. Merante also asked about the library’s plans to renovate the building. Mr. DePietro said he was trying to get that. Later in the meeting, resident Carole Osterink offered a brochure she had that detailed those plans.

Mr. Kent added that a formal parking study had not been completed yet, but reminded officials that there was a city-owned lot across the street used for parking. Mr. Chatham said there were many areas of ground space parking in Hudson, “somebody has to find a way to stitch them together.”

Resident Ron Kopnicki asked for the dimensions of the new versus current Council Chambers. Mr. Chatham said they were roughly the same size, with one shaped like a Latin cross and the other like a Greek cross. Mr. Kopnicki believed that virtual meetings should continue for the time being, but was concerned about the meeting space. He described 400 State Street as a terminal feature on Fourth Street and wondered if city hall were relocated there, if some parts of the former school building be used.

Mr. Kane noted that virtual meetings had been conducted for a year and city employees had been working from home. He asked if there had been any review of how city hall was used, and whether the firehouse or library could be used to reduce the cost of ADA compliance. Mr. DePietro said it was worth looking into.

Reporter Aliya Schneider questioned the decision to take the land swap off the table. “We want to see this happen,” Mr. Kent said. “To the extent that transferrin the lot could be an impediment, we just want this to be a clear and easy process. It made more sense to set it aside.” He said Galvan was still interested in the lot and would be “first at the door for an auction.”

Mr. Rosenthal asked the going rate of the lot and said it should go for market rate. Mr. DePietro said anything involving the lot would have to be an open process and added that there were others interested in the parcel.

Ms. Campbell said the proposed city hall wouldn’t include the Youth Department so it would not be home to all city functions. She also said the city was looking to sell buildings to replenish the fund balance so no proceeds should go toward a new building.

She added that she was on the library board at the time renovations were being considered and the third floor was not used at all. She said her office in city hall was 300 square feet for three people and the assessor's office had one person, but more space. The city needs to study use of space, she said. "We're definitely going to discuss that further," Mr. DePietro said.

Alderman Lewis was removed from the Zoom room for the Galvan presentation because he is employed by them.

Executive Session

Upon a motion by Ms. Wolff and a second by Mr. Sarowar, the Council entered a closed door session to discuss potential litigation at 9:52 p.m. Members exited the session at 10:10 p.m. and reported that no action was taken.

Resolutions

The following resolutions were introduced for consideration at the Council's regular monthly meeting on February 16:

Appointment of Ms. Wolff and Kimberly Gaylord as Commissioners of Deeds from February 1 through January 31, 2023. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

Appointment of Planning Board member John Cody to the Hudson Industrial Development Agency. He would serve again instead of Planning Board Chairman Betsy Gramkow, who resigned due to professional time constraints. Introduced by Ms. Halloran and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

Authorizing a Secretary I title, from the Columbia County Civil Service Commission's list of approved titles, within the Youth Department and establishing a base salary of $35,083.75 in the first year. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Walker.

Authorization for Mayor Kamal Johnson to sign contracts with New York State Energy Research and Development (NYSERDA) and the Hudson Housing Authority for an energy reduction grant. The city received was awarded a grant to purchase 53 energy-efficient refrigerators for public housing rental units operated by the HHA and to make energy-reducing lighting improvements at 701 Union Street, which the city owns. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Walker.

Authorizing additional LOSAP points to volunteer firefighters. Introduced by Ms. Halloran and seconded by Mr. Lewis.

Authorizing a $1,061.25 reimbursement by the Tourism Board to the Common Council for required secretary and IT services in fiscal year 2020. Introduced by Ms. Halloran and seconded by Mr. Walker.

Authorizing transfer of $23,734.09 from the hospitalization budget to the Police Department's payroll account. HPD's payroll budget came up short. Ms. Campbell said more took the hospitalization buyout than expected, making the transfer possible. Introduced by Mr. Lewis and seconded by Mr. Walker.

Paid Sick Leave

The Council received a proposed local law to amend the city charter to provide for additional paid sick leave during a public health crisis or emergency.

Issues of Interest

Mr. DePietro asked members if they had anything to share. Ms. Wolff said she and Mr. Rosenthal continued to work on inclusionary zoning, which would be the first part of tax-related measures that would allow more affordable housing. They hoped to have a resolution prepared for the March meeting.

Ms. Wolff also said the city charter allowed a commissioner of grants who would look at the availability of federal and state funding and instruct the city's grant writers to submit applications. She said she would recommend that Mayor Johnson appoint someone.

She also addressed the appeal process for parking tickets. She said a constituent told her that was not currently happening. Mr. Baker said the appeal process went out with the notice of violation.

Ms. Wolff asked Mr. Baker if he had a change to work on language regarding a fair housing officer. He said he could work on it for presentation at the March meeting. He said a decision had to be made on what the city wanted the fair housing officer to do and whether to fund it. The HCDPA administrator currently serves in that capacity. If created, Mr. Baker said the position could have a Civil Service job description. Mr. Chameides said the county already has a fair housing officer job description.

Ms. Garriga received notice of an upcoming Planning Board decision regarding a Verizon antenna atop Providence Hall. She asked aldermen to reach out to their constituents to urge the Planning Board not to approve the application. Mr. Baker said the city was precluded from denying antennae based on health-related impacts so long as Federal Communications Commission (FCC) standards were met. The city could be sued if it did so. "My position is to alert the public to submit their concerns to the Planning Board," Ms. Garriga said. Concerns should be submitted to the FCC, Mr. Baker replied, otherwise the Planning Board would be put in a difficult position over something it could not legally do.

Mr. DePietro said that given the length of the meeting, the council might was to consider two informal meetings, "but at this point, it's still an experiment." Ms. Wolff suggested that department head reports could be given at the formal meeting.

Mr. Kopnicki said he submitted comments about Council reform to members on January 19, but they weren't shared by Mr. DePietro or either First Ward alderperson. He favored maximum input on issues and said that prior committee assignments were made by interests and wards. He asked if the public would be able to observe ad hoc committee meetings. Mr. DePietro said the public could both observe and make comments.

Ms. Garriga made a motion to adjourn at 10:45 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Sarowar and approved unanimously.

Ad Hoc Sidewalk Committee

February 16, 2021

In attendance: Aldermen Dominic Merante, Dewan Sarowar and Calvin Lewis; Alderpersons Eileen Halloran and Tiffany Garriga; Common Council President Tom DePietro; Department of Public Works Commissioner Peter Bujanow; Jeffrey Baker, Counsel
Absent: Alderman John Rosenthal

Mr. DePietro opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Ms. Halloran said she was not clear on the proposed legislation regarding sidewalks and spoke with DPW Superintendent Rob Perry and Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh about their roles and responsibilities regarding such. She also observed a grievance process in the proposal for people who don't agree with what their proposed was classified as. "I would benefit from another meeting," she said. "I'm not sure I understand what all of this intends."

Mr. Baker said the legislation would establish an assessment system so the city could make repairs to sidewalks. He was not sure if the proposal called for DPW to do the work or contract it out. Ms. Halloran said the law had different levels of costs for each classification, but was concerned about who determined the need for repairs. "Is the intent to ultimately have every property owner get an assessment [for the city] to receive funding?" Mr. Baker said it would be a citywide assessment based on frontage.

Mr. Merante asked how the issue would be addressed for property owners that have no sidewalks, such as Riverledge Road. He asked if they would be exempt. Mr. Baker said he would have to check.

Mr. Bujanow asked how the legislation squared with the commissioner's duties.

Mr. Baker said the proposed law would require a revision to the city charter and would be subject to permissive referendum. The city would be moving from an enforcement scenario to a municipal district with a means of assessing the cost.

Ms. Halloran thought it would be helpful to hear from DPW and code enforcement regarding implications of the proposals. Mr. DePietro said Mr. Perry submitted an e-mail which indicated that the DPW was not the enforcement body regarding sidewalks, the code enforcement officer was, and that the DPW superintendent "may cause removal of snow." The point, Mr. Baker said, is that the city wants to move away from monitoring and enforcement by the DPW primarily. There has been no discussion about the transition from the current law to the new, he added.

Ms. Halloran said the most current version had the Common Council participating in the grievance process. "I'm not sure what I feel about it being a Common Council responsibility. It should be an organization within government, maybe DPW consulting with or advising code enforcement."

Mr. DePietro said having the Council determine the schedule of repairs made no sense. It should depend on which district needs repairs the most. An Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) survey of all city sidewalks was due to be released soon. That document would provide the kind of information needed to schedule repairs, he said. He agreed with Mr. Perry that the repair schedule should be a Council committee. "It's not a political decision. It should be a decision from DPW," Mr. DePietro said.

Ms. Garriga asked if the legislation, in the works for years, would move forward and if so, when it would take effect. Mr. DePietro asked if the sidewalk work in the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI) would be impacted by the proposed legislation. Mr. Baker did not anticipate any impact.

Mr. Merante said Ithaca had sidewalk legislation that was very similar to what was being proposed for Hudson, but the funding style was different. He provided the following link to the Ithaca law: https://www.cityofithaca.org/219/Sidewalk-policy?back=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.google.com%2Fsearch%3Fclient%3Dsafari%26as_qdr%3Dall%26as_occt%3Dany%26safe%3Dactive%26as_q%3DIthaca+sidewalk+plan%26channel%3Daplab%26source%3Da-app1%26hl%3Den

Mr. DePietro said one of the ideas in Hudson's proposed law would have tax exempt properties contribute to sidewalk repairs and replacement as a fee, not a tax.

Mr. Baker was to make language changes, such as making it a city-wide district, and circulate to all members. Mr. DePietro said the district idea was a problem. It would make more sense to do work in certain districted defined by Mr. Perry. If not, high density streets would get repairs all the time, which would be unfair, Mr. DePietro said. Ms. Halloran asked who would determine what constituted low foot traffic. Mr. Baker said low foot traffic lots were determined by the property class code used by the assessor. There would be no actual counts; the designation was based on the type of use.

Resident Ron Kopnicki asked if there was any reason that there was no First Ward representation on the committee. Mr. DePietro said membership on the ad hoc committees was voluntary.

Mr. Kopnicki also wondered how the committee would interface with the Hudson Connects project in the First Ward. Mr. DePietro said Hudson Connects might come up with a repair schedule that could be a model for city-wide use.

The committee agreed to invite Mr. Perry and Mr. Haigh to the next meeting for input. Mr. Bujanow would be included more actively because there would be significant changes to his authority under code. The meeting will be scheduled as soon as Mr. Baker has the updated version ready.

The meeting adjourned at 6:04 p.m.

Ad Hoc Alternate Side Parking Committee

February 18, 2021

In attendance: Alderman Dewan Sarowar, Alderpersons Jane Trombley and Rebecca Wolff, Common Council President Tom DePietro, Public Works Commissioner Peter Bujanow

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m. and conducted electronically via Zoom.

Ms. Trombley started the conversation by saying that the exploration into alternate side parking was not intended to give Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry a hard time. He did not make the parking rules, but he was responsible for keeping the streets clean, she said. She hoped that the committee would help her understand what seemed like inconsistencies in the parking structure. For instance, lower Union Street has alternate side parking with some reprieve in the summer, but on the 400 block there is no parking on one side except for one night a week in the interest of keeping streets swept and grit out of sewers. That was probably the case

in other places of the city, she said. Mr. Sarowar also noted inconsistencies on Columbia Street. Ms. Trombley wanted to know the seasonality and why there was a lack of consistency.

Ms. Trombley referred to a memo from Mr. Perry that included photos of grit piles collected in a three-hour shift of street sweeping, the section of the city's State Pollution and Discharge Elimination System (SPDES) permit which identified some of the requirements and minimum expectations imposed by the state Department of Environmental Conservation, the two ways debris is kept out of the collection system (daily use of the sweeper on the 15 miles of city streets and the vac attachment to clear manholes and basins), a consent decree from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that reasserts the city's obligation to maintain a flushing and cleaning program that maximizes use of the collection system for storage, the combined sewer overflow (CSO) annual report, compliance reports and fines ($3,000 per day), and a letter from Police Chief Ed Moore regarding alternate side parking.

Mr. Perry recommended that seasonal street sweeping be done daily, that alternate side parking be instituted all year on Eighth Street and one-day no parking signs be added on the north sides of the 300, 400, 500 and 600 blocks of Columbia Street and the west side of North Sixth Street between State and Prospect streets.

Ms. Trombley looked at how parking is handled in other places, including the cities of Glens Falls and Kingston, and the villages of Catskill and Saugerties. She was unable to reach anyone on the phone because offices were closed due to COVID-19, but was still able to get some information. Glens Falls, with a population about double that of Hudson, seemed to have the most similar rules and had a cleaning schedule that spanned from spring to autumn.

Ms. Trombley and Mr. DePietro looked for more consistency in the entire grid of the city. Mr. DePietro assumed that the tax on the sewer system was from overflows that occurred during storms.

Resident Carole Osterink said some of the inconsistencies were tied to traffic patterns. Cars parked on both sides of Allen Street made it difficult to maneuver, and parking on both sides on part of Columbia Street was not allowed because it was the truck route.

Alternate side parking is from midnight to 8 a.m., so cars can park on both sides the rest of the time. That problem drives what happens on other streets with more traffic.

Mr. DePietro asked how the parking structure spoke to clogged sewers. Ms. Trombley said it was tied to regular cleaning to prevent clogs. However Union Street was only swept once a week, which seemed to be a contradiction.

Reporter Aliya Schneider asked if there was any signage regarding the parking rules. Ms. Trombley said there were signs, but they had different messages, citing Union Street as an example. Ms. Wolff said if the committee was to establish goals, one of them would be to determine where signage was needed. "I couldn't imagine anyone opposed to clarity," she said. Mr. Sarowar said there was no point to have many signs if the message on them was so small that drivers couldn't read them. Ms. Trombley agreed and added that signs with larger writing should be on both ends of streets.

Second Assistant Fire Chief Nick Pierro said the city's narrow streets, Union and Eighth in particular, made access difficult for fire apparatus, especially the ladder truck. He recalled a fire some years ago on lower Union Street in which the ladder truck couldn't be set up because there were cars parked on both sides of the street. Alternate side parking in effect the entire day might alleviate some problems, he said.

Ms. Trombley suggested that he city might use Union Street as an example by rotating parking more frequently, perhaps every night or three nights a week. Mr. Pierro said Union could

have parking on one side only and rotate it as needed for cleaning, which might even be done during the day. Mr. Pierro, who is also a Hudson police officer, said Union Street was a gateway for officers coming to or leaving their station.

Mr. Bujanow said some streets could be made one-way if they were wide enough, but that might not alleviate alternate side parking problems. He said it might be a solution, but it would require a culture change.

Mr. DePietro asked what the committee's next steps would be. Ms. Trombley suggested getting some clarity on why the parking rules existed. Mr. DePietro asked if Mr. Perry should be asked to provide more information. Ms. Trombley said that was not Mr. Perry's purview, it was Mr. Bujanow's. "It's not rocket science. We can work toward long-term change. We can make this work for everybody," she said.

The committee agreed to reconvene on March 18 at 6 p.m. The meeting was adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee Solar Farm Placement

February 23, 2021

In attendance: Aldermen Calvin Lewis, John Rosenthal and Dewan Sarowar, Common Council President Tom DePietro

The meeting began at 6:15 p.m. and was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Mr. DePietro said an ad hoc committee that met prior to this one broached the topic of selling city-owned properties. He had his eye on one parcel for a solar farm, 62 acres on North Second Street, the right (east) side of which is elevated. The west side is unusable.

The city is constantly looking for revenue sources and a solar farm was "the most plausible in my mind." The city could lease the land to a solar energy company and receive reduced energy costs.

Mr. Rosenthal said he wasn't sure what could be developed there. Mr. DePietro said there would be members of the Common Council who would ask why it couldn't be built on. Mr. Rosenthal offered two reasons—the land was probably clay that might limit its use, and running infrastructure that far from the city would be costly. A solar farm was "the highest and best use" for the parcel, he said. Mr. DePietro asked members who knew any developers should talk to them or let them know of the parcel's availability.

The committee agreed to a site visit on February 28. Mr. DePietro suggested that solar companies approached in the past could be invited to talk to members.

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Ad Hoc Committee Sale of City-Owned Properties

February 24, 2021

In attendance: Alderpersons Jane Trombley and Rebecca Wolff, Aldermen Dominic Merante and Dewan Sarowar, Common Council President Tom DePietro, Attorney Jeff Baker

The meeting was called to order at 5 p.m. and was conducted electronically via Zoom.

Mr. DePietro said the goal of the meeting would be to identify one to three of the 81 city-owned properties that could be sold. Sale of city-owned property required a three-quarters vote

of the Common Council. Property could be sold at public auction or in a private sale, so long as the price was at fair market value, Mr. Baker said.

Ms. Wolff asked how many of the properties could be developed for housing and was told only a few. She said the city needed to be thoughtful in its land use, include the sale of city-owned properties, in order to properly prioritize the demonstrated need for new construction of scatter-site affordable housing to meet the needs of residents as described in the Strategic Housing Action Plan.

The city should examine options for packaging properties that could be developable for residential housing to sell to an affordable housing developer, which might involve creation of a land bank, she said. The city failed to consider that option in past decades and now was in an affordable housing crisis

"Right now we're trying to deal with a crisis," Mr. DePietro said. There could be contingencies on any sale, such as a building not being removed from the tax rolls, he added. Buildings that could be sold were 1 North Front Street, 10-12 Warren Street and 429 Warren Street. The latter housed the code enforcement office, so a new location would have to be found before it could be sold, and 10-12 Warren had the Hudson Daycare Center and a private citizen as tenants. Mr. DePietro said it cost the city $15,000 to maintain the building and a recent inspection found that $250,000 in repairs were needed to meet state Department of Education requirements.

The North Front Street property had two tenants—the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce and Hudson Development Corporation (HDC). The building costs the city $6,000 a year to maintain and $21,368 in property taxes because it was not on the tax rolls. Ms. Trombley added that figure included county and school district taxes, so only about a quarter of it would go to the city.

The Chamber has a lease that runs until 2022 with an option to renew for two more six-year periods. Ms. Trombley asked if the city could sell the building if that was the case or if a contingency could be that the new owner had to lease to the Chamber. Mr. DePietro raised the possibility that a new owner could raise the rent to the point where the Chamber didn't want to stay. The rent is now $850 a month and any increase at the time of renewal would be based on the Consumer Price Index.

Mr. Baker said the Chamber might agree to give up their lease. Mr. DePietro said a potential buyer could have a buyout option or an auto-renewal provision for a lease.

Part of the building is used by the HDC. Its lease also runs until 2022 for no rent because it contributed to building renovations. "HDC has not lived up to their part of the bargain," Mr. DePietro said. Mr. Baker said the city took on some of the building maintenance.

Ms. Wolff said the building would be good for a restaurant or café, but it would be better to have a tenant. "Restaurants are volatile, they come and go," she said. "It would be very unwise to sell to the highest bidder without being thoughtful about what it means for the city."

The building was in an important location—at the entry to Promenade Hill and across from a vacant lot—and anything that happened there would have an impact on the city. "It's such an important lot. It could be a real disaster."

Mr. DePietro said there were small parcels in the city that neighboring property owners might be interested in buying. He said vacant lots and North Fourth and North Seventh streets were worth discussion. "The committee needs to understand what sale of (city-owned) properties entails," he said.

Ms. Wolff said the process should run parallel to the search for a fair housing officer and the Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency's assessment of its properties. "Which properties could be sold to developers for affordable housing? Maybe some of the properties need to be put in a land bank."

Mr. DePietro said the buildings on Warren Street would not be part of what Ms. Wolff talked about. "Why sell a building on Warren Street that could bring significant revenue? How would that building function as an affordable housing project? I think you're being unrealistic."

"Many apartment units in Hudson have disappeared," Ms. Wolff replied.

Mr. Merante said the task was to find properties to sell to replenish the city's fund balance. "It's a one-time revenue so we need to look for those best for the city."

"I don't believe that's the smartest way to go," Ms. Wolff said. "There needs to be careful, thoughtful planning for housing—an actual need of the residents of Hudson—that needs to be provided. We don't have to look at each property on the list."

Mr. DePietro said in his opinion, Warren Street properties should not be considered for affordable housing and added, "We can't correct the mistakes of the past." He suggested breaking down the list of properties so they could easily be incorporated into Ms. Wolff's vision of housing, if not for development, for placement in a land bank/trust. But at present, the committee was trying to address the city's revenue needs. "We don't want to create any more financial burden on the city. That would be irresponsible," he said.

Resident Carole Osterink asked if the Seventh Street parcel was part of the swap proposed by the Galvan Foundation. Mr. DePietro said it was. He also said there had been a developer who talked about buying that parcel. However, a number of longtime residents said the land below was not suitable for construction. It couldn't support a multi-story building, he said, anecdotally.

The following memo was submitted by Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry.

"Please find attached a detailed analysis of operating costs, full market assessment and potential tax revenue from buildings operated and maintenance by the DPW:

Washington Hose: in decent shape with 1-tenant.

10-12 Warren Street: required $250,000 of work to become compliant with Day Care inspection attached. 2-tenants.

429 Warren Street: terrible shape and definitely needs the 80-yrold steam boiler replaced as well as radiators. $30,000 - $50,000.

520 Warren Street: no additional major costs foreseen outside of ADA compliance work.

The DPW does not maintain any of the fire houses. The fire department manages the expenses and maintenance of the buildings with part-time staff.

The DPW does not maintain any youth department properties. The youth department manages the expenses and maintenance of the buildings with full-time staff.

Some of these facilities generate revenue for the city via rent. That information should also be included in the evaluation and discussion. The treasurer has that data.

The attached analysis considers the 1-time benefit from the sale. It also considers the cost associated with maintained each building, which effectively becomes -0- after the sale. The analysis also provides potential tax benefit if the property is sold to a taxable entity.

These are simply the facts as they are known to me. Should you have further questions, please don't hesitate to call or email."

The detailed reports can be viewed in the ad hoc committees section of the city website, under documents.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Tourism Board

January 4, 2021

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

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Project Hudson

Mr. Lewis asked members to speak about their visions for the spring and any related matters. Before discussion began, Common Council President Tom DePietro announced that the board had lost two members, Sidney Long and Filiz Soyak, and asked for referrals. One member would be appointed by the mayor and the other by the Common Council.

Ms. Treacy, Ms. Black and Ms. Graham worked on a timeline and flyers for the next round of Project Hudson grants, to be targeted at marginalized communities. A total of $50,000 has been earmarked for the next round of Project Hudson. Ms. Treacy requested a phone number that would lead to herself, Ms. Black and Ms. Graham so they could respond to applicants quickly. A Goggle number could be used so their personal numbers were not published around town. There would be no cost for a Google phone number.

She said the board could also create an email account for the grant process, projecthudson@gmail.com. Mr. DePietro said the city has tried to have all city-related communications go through city email, but this was slightly different and gave approval to proceed. Ms. Treacy said that address would only be used for the grant process and that emails could be forwarded to the three members and F. Michael Tucker, president and chief executive officer of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC). Mr. Tucker warned that having too many numbers made people think there was lack of focus and might not proceed. The Hudson Bonds initiative had emails sent to three people each time a bond was sold, he said by way of example. He said it was much like an extension on a personal phone line. Ms. Treacy asked if it would have to be attached to one person's cell phone. Mr. Tucker said he had someone on staff with technical capacity and that all could be tied to one of the CEDC's numbers.

Ms.Adler said the board should be sure to peg all deadlines to realistic payment dates and work backwards from when members wanted applicants to receive checks. For example, if the board wanted grant winners to have checks in hand by June 1, all approvals would have to come in mid-May. Since there was a possibility that the Common Council might not want to approve funding for a particular project, another month would be needed if the board wanted to resubmit.

Mr. Tucker said payment could be done more efficiently. There were groups where, if they had time, would have been better positioned to be approved. The board could have provided technical assistance to those less savvy.

Ms. Treacy suggested that the first round of applications to the Common Council in April and any outstanding ones in May. The board has had special meetings and subcommittees so that

route could be applied, Ms. Graham added. Ms. Treacy said the board could set a special meeting in advance to cover any applications not reviewed at the regular meeting prior.

In the original round, city legal advisers were concerned about giving all money up front, so loans were backstopped and the city paid back the CEDC. The board could decide on payment procedure in February.

Mr. Tucker also suggested that the board develop selection criteria.

Ms. Graham suggested that all members were on the same page when speaking with the public so they were unified and transparent. Doing so would avoid the "smearing" that occurred when people were misinformed, she said. Mr. Tucker said the board could put together talking points and he would review them.

Shared Streets

The Shared Streets initiative was being evaluated so come spring, people would be thinking about that as well. Ms. Adler said Shared Streets surveys conducted with stakeholders, businesses and residents were being analyzed. People who worked day to day on the initiative were interviewed as well. When complete, organizers will present the results in a synthesized form, she said.

Mission Statement

"…Because of the pandemic, I think we, as the Tourism Board, didn't get to totally articulate our vision," Ms. Adler said. A winter night might be the time to put that into words as the board moved forward and talked about a shared vision, she said, and offered to spearhead the process.

Mr. Lewis said a mission statement was a good one that also would provide better transparency. "I know that's been sought after by many in the community."

"This year it's crucial that we try to keep abreast of what's happen on the local level and reality," Ms. Graham said. "COVID forced us to move quickly. We should be more strategic and transparent."

Columbia Economic Development Corporation President and Chief Executive Officer F. Michael Tucker said the board had goals at the beginning of last year, but it was necessary to change the plan to support businesses. "You were really sustaining the local business community and making sure people had a nice visit." He referred to a front page article in the *Times Union* about how businesses came together. "The global picture of sustainable tourism did protect your business district."

Members often would talk about issues in passing, then never attended to them, Ms. Adler said. That might be added to the mission statement. "It was a pandemic. We were all doing our best," Ms. Graham said.

Public Comment

Resident Ron Kopnicki asked if the board would provide a more detailed account of expenditures and which events were conducted or still pending. He was especially interested in backstopping of funds by the CEDC.

Mr. Tucker said the Common Council approved backstopping of loans. He also said details of all applications approved and denied could be denied.

Mr. Kopnicki also asked if interviews from the Shared Streets project would be posted. He was interested in who the stakeholders were and how their roles were determined. “That, too, will be made public on the city website,” Mr. Lewis said.

Other Business

Mr. Tucker reminded the board that it still had to act on final reports for four projects—two from the Hudson Business Coalition, Rolling Grocer and the DePace Family Music Truck. A special meeting was set for January 14 at 7 p.m.

Ms. Adler made a motion to adjourn at 7:50 p.m., which was seconded by Ms. Graham and approved unanimously.

Tourism Board

Special Meeting
January 14, 2021

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

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Project Hudson

F. Michael Tucker, president and chief executive officer of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) reviewed outstanding Project Hudson proposals. He said the Hudson Business Coalition (HBC) had not finished paperwork for its Hudson Bonds and awareness campaign. He was still waiting to hear from Betsy Miller, who received a grant for three walking/audio tours, and received a request from Mark DePace for the board to consider letting his family complete travelling music shows in the spring. Mr. Tucker said the DePace family was unable to put on all of the shows funded due to COVID-19 and the weather. Mr. Tucker also spoke with Nathaniel Williams, who said his Free Columbia puppetry plays were given as scheduled, but all of them were not within city limits.

Mr. Tucker also provided a Project Hudson summary report that showed all 40 applications received and which ones were approved, denied or pending. Another section will be created when applications for the second phase come in.

The board voted to approve final reports for the first phase of the HBC walking guide and Hawthorne Valley/Rolling Grocer. Ms. Graham did not vote on the latter because she works at Rolling Grocer.

The board also reviewed a draft request for proposals (RFP) for the second phase of Project Hudson funding. Mr. McManus asked if the RFP was limited to Black, Indigenous People and People of Color (BIPOC), or if the Latinx and LGBTQ communities were added. There are some in the Latino community that don’t consider themselves part of BIPOC, he said. Ms. Treacy and Ms. Graham, who drafted the RFP, said the RFP was not limited. Ms. Adler pointed out that question number eight asked if the applicant was not BIPOC, whether they were LGBTQ, woman-owned or veteran-owned. Mr. McManus said the board should focus on BIPOC and to some extent, Latinx.

Mr. Lewis asked board members' feelings on including senior citizens in the second phase. The board agreed to add language to include both populations and then have it sent out for translation into Bengali and Spanish. Ms. Adler said it was important that the English version not come out first.

Mr. Lewis said this time around, successful applicants should be required to credit the board in all materials associated with the funded project. Acknowledgement also should be a stipulation of contracts to those awarded funding. The board agreed to make the change to the RFP.

Privé Pods

Mr. Tucker reported that Antonio Dixon, a co-founder of SolarFi, was still interested in speaking with business owners in the spring about the company's privé pods. Mr. Dixon now has 10 or so of the pods in Manhattan establishments which would not have heard about them without his proposal to the Tourism Board. The pods provide a space for people to spend time outside, socialize and dine. They use solar power to provide lighting, air conditioning and heat, device charging stations and Bluetooth-powered speakers. They are made with 100 percent recycled materials and can accommodate two to 10 people.

New Members

Mr. McManus asked when the board would hear about new additions to the board. Common Council President Tom DePietro said he had asked a number of people and was waiting to hear back from them. One of the vacancies is appointed by the Common Council and the other by the mayor. He said he was trying to attract someone from the Bengali community. Ms. Adler said it would be a great opportunity for a youth "because they will be Hudson's future." Mr. DePietro said he was "going for a twofer."

Mr. McManus made a motion to adjourn at 7:33 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Lewis and approved unanimously.

Tourism Board

February 1, 2021

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

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Mission Statement

The board, having deemed it best to give a mission statement the time and dedication it deserved, created a subcommittee to take on the task. Ms. Adler started working on a draft that was not ready to share. It was decided that members would rotate in the drafting and editing process.

Project Hudson

Ms. Treacy reported that the request for proposals (RFP) for the second round of Project Hudson was being translated into Spanish and Bengali. There was no definitive timeline for completion, but she hoped within the next week. Mr. Lewis asked if the goal was to get all applications out at the same time. Ms. Treacy said that was correct.

Shared Streets

Ms. Treacy announced that Shared Streets organizers completed a presentation document and were ready to share with the public. Peter Spear will present the findings, which include infographics and a full synthesis of information gathered from the initiative, to the Tourism Board February 15 at 7 p.m.

Heaters

Ms. Adler gave an update on heaters for retailers. The idea was to find a way to help businesses have some kind of warming capacity during the in-between months. She spoke with F. Michael Tucker, president and chief executive officer of the Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC), regarding Albany's heater program. The conclusion was that it didn't make sense for Hudson to buy heaters because it doesn't have the budget Albany does. She suggested a cap on the amount for the entire city, to be structured as a reimbursement of up to $150 or 50 percent of the cost, whichever was greater. If businesses bought one last year, they could still get a bit of a boost this year. A limit could be placed on the number available to purchase.

Ms. Graham asked if businesses were surveyed on whether they would benefit from heaters. Ms. Black said that was done informally. Ms. Graham said there could be businesses that didn't need a heater asked what the Tourism Board could offer them of the same value so it seemed equal to all. She offered a reimbursement for tents as an example.

Mr. Tucker said there were 600 businesses in the business district so a $150 price tag per heater would break the bank. He said the board would have to limit the amount available to reimburse. He suggested $10,000 or $15,000, which was consistent with the grant amounts offered last year. Money would be rolled over from last year.

Ms. Black said the board would use the city's collective buying power to get the heaters at a reduced rate, but noted that they would only be used a few months during the year. The amount of use could be better gauged by talking to those who expressed interest, Ms. Treacy said. Ms. Black wondered who would own the heater if a business closed. Ms. Keck didn't think the city would want to own them because it would become a liability issue. At the same time, everyone benefits and people would keep moving from store to store, she said.

Ms. Adler said a survey should be sent to all businesses to see if they were interested in a heater. Mr. McManus said it was a great idea to send directly to people, but cautioned about how the question was asked. He would like to expand the survey to solicit ideas "Is there a way of doing something uniform? Could heaters benefit multiple businesses? Let people know the expectation is feedback. People may come back with ideas," he said.

Ms. Graham said it was important that the board conduct due diligence. She and Mr. McManus agreed to be a subcommittee to gauge interest in heaters and solicit ideas.

New Members

Ms. Graham asked if there was any movement on new board members. Common Council President Tom DePietro said some of the young people he approached were returning to college in the fall and could not commit. He hoped to have someone by the March meeting.

Ms. Graham made a motion to adjourn at 7:40 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. McManus and approved unanimously.

Tourism Board

Special Meeting
February 15, 2021

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

Alderman Lewis called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. It was conducted via Zoom teleconferencing.

Shared Streets

Peter Spear shared the results of the Shared Streets surveys conducted at the end of last year, one for residents and visitors, and the other for businesses, as well as an evaluation plan. The Power Point presentation included photos of and a review of what was proposed and funded by the Tourism Board with a Project Hudson grant.

He provided a timeline of Shared Streets. Hudson Hall, Future Hudson and Design for Six Feet collaborated on plans for how the city might best use public space to support businesses and residents during the Coronavirus pandemic. The ideas were presented to Mayor Kamal Johnson and about 40 separate consultations were had with business owners, city department heads, the Tourism Board, Hudson Business Coalition and the Hudson Development Corp. Emergency Task Force(s) for input.

The Shared Streets team continued public outreach and planning for a trial weekend, which eventually took place at the end of June. Meetings continued with various stakeholders and a virtual public town hall with the team and mayor was held. A first survey, which had 185 responses, was taken in June.

Outreach and refinements based on lessons learned in the trial weekend continued in July. The team began to procure and put program signage and infrastructure, and different planter and barricade placements were tested at intersections throughout the month. The mayor issued a proclamation that put Shared Streets in place for 30 days. The program was changed from three days a week to seven and planters were built by local artist Marc Scrivo and teens. A second survey was conducted and 325 residents and visitors responded and 107 businesses.

Applications were released for businesses to occupy the parking spaces on Warren Street and a grant was received to cover fees for use of those spaces. Hudson Hall and Operation Unite began a workforce development program, in which 14 local teens acted as Shared Streets ambassadors who handed out maps and information to visitors, took pedestrian and vehicle traffic counts to help evaluate the program, and build, setup up and maintain the planters, signage and other elements of Shared Streets. As part of the project, Kaja Kuhl of Design for Six Feet led a six-week course that explored public space design and the basic principles of the Hudson Shared Streets plan.

The mayor also formed an Advisory Committee in July, and all Warren Street businesses and residents were sent a letter with updated Shared Streets information.

The Advisory Committee released its recommendations in August. More planters were built and placed at intersections. Placement was further refined with input from the Hudson Fire Department. Slowed traffic hours were adjusted from seven days to weekends only in mid-month, but businesses that built out were permitted to operate daily.

The Workforce Program ended in September, after a four-week extension. October was the final month for Shared Streets. The third and last survey was conducted and 98 businesses responded, and 546 residents and visitors.

Mr. Spear told said the project came in under budget. The Tourism Board grant was $85,000 and the total spent was $54,045.

During the course of the program, Design for Six Feet developed a visual guide to barriers and outdoor dining structures to help restaurants build out their street space as safely as possible.

He also provided statistics about the resident and visitor survey. The survey had an 87.9 percent completion rate, with 480 completed and 66 partially completed.

The majority of respondents, 62 percent, said they were Hudson residents, 30 percent said they lived elsewhere in Columbia County, five percent resided in neighboring counties and three percent were visitors.

The majority, 84 percent participated in outdoor shopping and dining on Warren Street during Shared Streets, while 16 percent said they did not. A total of 34 percent said they shopped or dined on Warren Street somewhat more often because of the program, 33 percent said much more often than they would have otherwise, 19 percent said they weren't impacted one way or another, eight percent said much less often and six percent said somewhat less often.

Asked how Shared Streets impacted their ability to practice safe, physical distancing on Warren Street, 56 percent said yes, 32 percent said the sidewalks were too crowded sometimes and 11 percent said they did not have enough space to feel safe.

A total of 61 percent said they had an overall positive experience with Shared Streets, 16 percent said it was mostly positive with some inconvenience, nine percent said it was generally inconvenient, eight percent noted some positive experience with more inconvenience and six percent said their experience was equally positive and inconvenient.

The majority, 61 percent, said they would like to see Shared Streets again in the spring if COVID-19 was still an issue, 28 percent would like to see the program return with improvements and 11 percent said no. The overwhelming majority of respondents, 95 percent, said they would like to see Shared Streets continue on a seasonal basis when COVID-19 was no longer a health issue.

Mr. Spear said survey takers were asked to tell a little more about their experience of Warren Street during Shared Streets. The following themes were identified: support and desire to support local businesses in a crisis, support and enthusiasm for an open Warren Street in the future, concern for safety with people not distancing or wearing masks, concern for safety on sidewalks that felt too crowded, concern for safety of diners in street space, concerns for safety of pedestrians in street space, confusion about traffic calming, confusion about discouraging traffic at intersections, feeling the program placed visitor needs over resident needs and frustration about the impact on the driving experience.

Mr. Spear said there were 120 comments regarding potential improvements. Residents made the following suggestions: improve communication and signage; make Warren Street an open street (no cars) pedestrian zone; create a pedestrian lane by making Warren and Union streets one-way; create design guidelines for participating businesses; create safety requirements for participating businesses; require businesses to provide their own trash receptacles; make parking spaces available free of charge to businesses; limit the program to restaurants; define a safer standard of barrier between diners and cars; invest in more public art and safe events; and pass a physical distancing and mask ordinance.

The business survey found that 75 percent of respondents said they owned or managed a business in Hudson. The majority were restaurants, followed by retailers; professional services; coffee, tea and light menu establishments; lodging; clothing and accessories; grocery or prepared food for take-out only; and personal services. Mr. Spear noted that 58 percent of those who responded to the business survey said they did not participate in the Shared Street program on Warren.

Asked how Shared Streets impacted their business, 33 percent said there was no impact either way, 27 percent said much better than without it, 19 percent said somewhat better, 11 percent said somewhat worse and 10 percent said much worse.

A total of 52 percent said they would like to see Shared Streets continue in the spring, summer and fall if COVID-19 was still an issue, 37 percent said they would like the program to continue with modifications and 12 percent said no. If COVID-19 was no longer an issue, 75 percent said they would like to see Shared Streets continued on a seasonal basis.

Respondents offered the following modifications they would like to see: develop a pan with more business input; create design guidelines for participating businesses; create safety requirements for participating businesses; create more effective traffic calming; make Warren Street an open street/pedestrian promenade; design it for people with disabilities; make handwashing stations and masks available to the public; expand the permitting program to seven days a week; expand the program area above the 600 block; and move the farmer's market to Warren.

Mr. Spear said the impact of the Shared Streets program on the work of city leadership and other implementation team members was big. Most of the impact was shouldered by Hudson Hall, the Department of Public Works and Hudson Police Department.

Most of the implementation team members felt the program was successful in helping businesses re-open. Suggestions to improve how the program approached that objective included: committing to a seven-day-a-week schedule to justify business investment and streamline implementation; develop uniform design guidelines to enhance the experience; develop clear safety requirements for participating businesses; set clear expectations for businesses and residents about shared space; clearer communication to increase participation and safety; expand the program to Front Street, above the 600 block of Warren and to the triangle at Columbia, Green and State streets; and broaden the vision to become an equitable citywide initiative for play streets, open streets, etc.

Most of the team members also felt the program did not effectively create space on Warren Street for pedestrians to practice safe, physical distancing. Most also felt that the confusion around that objective put people at risk. Suggestions on how to improve the approach to that objective were: an open conversation about cost and benefits of discouraging traffic; early participation of the business community to make it work; make Warren an open street for pedestrians only on weekends; make Warren one way and commit half of it to pedestrians; and make the commercial benefits of open street programs visible to all.

Beyond the specifics of traffic calming and design, the team said the following six issues needed to be addressed if Shared Streets were to happen again:

--Clear objective: The team felt, if Shared Streets was done again, it was imperative that the city decide what its objectives were regarding open street space for pedestrians and allowing businesses to occupy parking spaces on Warren seven days a week. Open street space for pedestrians to practice safe, physical distancing was promised, but not achieved. The team believed the city could either implement Shared Streets as designed, make Warren an open street

during program hours or make it half one-way traffic and half open street. As for parking, clear guidelines must be announced about required build-outs for the safe occupation of spaces, with enough time for businesses to comply.

--Safety requirements: The team agreed that the next iteration of Shared Streets must include a design that provides sufficient protection for pedestrians and diners from cars and clear traffic calming measures that create space for safe physical distancing.

--Leadership and management: Any future iteration of Shared Streets must be managed primarily by the city. The city must determine what departments would be involved. The team also felt that if the program was to run beyond the pandemic, it would probably require Common Council legislation. Hudson Hall representatives indicated that they were open to assist in getting it implemented in the spring, provided that clear and achievable objectives were laid out.

--Heavy administrative duties: The Hudson Police Department stepped up to support Shared Streets by handling all the administrative duties of the permitting process. Moving forward, the program must find ways to lighten the load on the department.

--Compliance, cooperation and enforcement: The iterative nature of Shared Streets meant that expectations and requirements changed and were not always communicated consistently, which undermined the authority of the fire department and code enforcement to maintain accessibility. Whoever implements the program in the future must set clear guidelines and define key requirements and consequences for non-compliance.

--Expanded trash and restroom capacity: Trash receptacles were overwhelmed during Shared Streets. The team suggested that businesses be responsible for collecting trash from their customers and providing public restrooms.

Ms. Treacy said Shared Streets required an enormous amount of work. “It was a huge achievement in a very short period of time.” First Ward Alderperson Jane Trombley agreed that there was a large amount of work done by dedicated volunteers, businesses and city departments. “This didn’t just fall out of the trees. I’ll go out on a limb to say the Common Council needs to take a leadership position for Shared Streets II.” She offered to talk about what needed to happen next.

Advisory Committee member Allyson Strafella said the surveys felt biased and wondered how the survey reached the broader community and how people were informed about giving feedback. Mr. Spear said organizers “pushed out the survey through every channel we had,” such as Facebook, Instagram, e-mail lists and the city website. Ms. Treacy asked her thinking around the bias. Ms. Strafella said those who took the survey were a “privileged sort of population” and that the survey itself was “geared toward a certain class.” As an 18-year resident of Hudson, she said the survey seemed “very considerate, very classist.” She also did not feel that Hudson needed a lot more public relations. Ms. Treacy appreciated the he feedback and asked if Ms. Strafella if she had anything specific she would recommend should there be another round of surveys. Ms. Strafella said she would be happy to talk with her if the program continued.

Mr. McManus cautioned against not getting into the game of who’s in Hudson and who’s not. The idea behind the program, he said, was to “bring people together, not push them apart.”

Ms. Adler said the wonderful thing about the surveys and responses was that there were some who didn’t like Shared Streets and didn’t want to see it occur again. “That’s meaningful. That means that people who didn’t like it were well represented.” She said one should be sure to take into full account how dissent works. “Opinions being considered is different from people being in the majority. Something not favoring one’s own position doesn’t represent bias.”

Online survey creator George Wachtel of Audience Research and Analysis noted that 71 percent of those who responded to the survey lived in the 12534 Zip code and 62 percent identified themselves as city residents. Ms. Strafella asked how many Warren Street residents were included in those numbers. Those people should be considered and their input sought if the program continued. Ms. Treacy said that would be considered moving forward.

Zachary Bayman, CEO of The Maker Group, suggested that the flow of traffic, the availability of parking and loading zones and enforcement.

Former Tourism Board member Sidney Long previously told members about the lack of accountability. There definitely were safety issues, but no place to take the concern. Plus, she said, nothing came from a letter from the Advisory Committee about such concerns.

Mr. Bayman said the letter sent in early August focused on safety issues, such as access for emergency vehicles, jersey barriers enforcement of the five-mile-per-hour speed limit and lack of enforcement of what was on the sidewalks, which led to narrow spaces.

Mr. Scrivo said Shared Streets was borne from an emergency. He took offense to a comment about privilege. His goal was to get youths involved through the ambassador program, which made them feel empowered and part of an initiative. He described Shared Streets as a community effort that was not reflected in the survey data.

Advisory Committee member Marianne Courville, the co-owner of Hudson Wine Merchants and The Hudson Standard, said there was concern about how the program was handled. Businesses were told it was happening, but were never engaged in it until the very last minute, which "didn't leave a good feeling," so she asked the mayor to form the Advisory Committee. The majority of those who joined it were unhappy with the way Shared Streets was being played out. They had an informative meeting with those who keep the city running and safe (the police chief, fire department and code enforcement officer) and "tried to incorporate their issues with ours."

Ms. Courville questioned the reliability of the survey, alleging that one could respond multiple times if they wanted to. Mr. Wachtel said the survey settings used cookies that would allow only one response per computer to prevent people from responding more than once.

Ms. Adler, whose experiences with Shared Streets were mostly as a mother and resident, asked if pick-ups and deliveries were part of the plan. Mr. Spear said they were. The only vehicular traffic inhibited was through-traffic, from block to block.

The original thought was to have no traffic on Warren Street, Ms. Courville said. No one came to do errands on a weekend. "It was too confusing." She also said visitors with children felt they could walk down the middle of Warren.

Mr. McManus urged a healthy conversation without dividing into camps. People came to the meeting in the spirit of how to make the program better. "We might have different opinions, but we're all on the same side."

Extensive discussion followed on traffic, lack of cohesive infrastructure for safety and inclusion of the Advisory Committee in planning dialogues.

There was no Shared Streets plan as it was meant to be, Mr. Scrivo said, and urged city leadership to commit to the process. "It's really important that the city take a stand on this. "You're asking people to change their behavior. When asking that, it's sort of all or nothing."

Ms.Graham said there was some exclusivity for those who live in poverty and lack resources. Kids were out to have fun with their bikes and skateboards, as the opportunity to ride in the street was elusive. There were some drivers who didn't adhere to the limit and there was no one to go to about that.

She suggested that churches and food pantries be involved to reach children in the "forgotten communities." Whatever path is taken regarding Shared Streets, "remember the children."

The meeting was adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

Communications.

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

1) Audit Report as prepared by Bonadio & Co., LLP for fiscal year 2019.

2) Dog Control Reports for January and February, 2021.

Carried.

Bills.

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

Paychex Human Resources Svcs	272.40	JV Computers	734.00
Paychex of New York LLC	623.32	Mid Hudson Cablevision	102.90
Shallo Galluscio & Bianchi	2,100.00	US Bank Equipment Finance	81.27
Michael Chameides	20.00	Mayor Johnson (petty cash)	44.97
Rackspace US Inc	765.60	Jeffrey S Baker	3,395.83
TGW Consulting Group	2,100.00	RodenhauseChale&Polidoro	583.33
Staples Contract & Commercial	190.27	AT&T Mobility	36.14
General Code	1,195.00	Batteries Plus Bulbs	157.95
Eastern Managed Print Network	13.00	James Delaney Jr	600.00
Valley Energy	35.81	Passport Labs Inc	4,134.89
First Light	403.90	Verizon	14.80
Mid Hudson Cablevision	41.45	US Bank Equipment Finance	113.18
Craig Haigh, CEO (petty cash)	110.00	Amano McGann Inc	390.00
Hinman Straub PC	5,343.70		

2020

MJ Engineering & Land SurveyingPC	23,000.00
Bonadio & Co. LLP	1,800.00

DRI

Chazen Engineering & Land Surveying PC	9,219.83

Ferry Street Bridge

Creighton Manning 15,581.73

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

President DePietro stated the update on the DRI would have to wait until next month as the Mayor's Aide; Michael Chameides had a family emergency.

President DePietro stated a presentation for an affordable housing project at the J.L. Edwards School had been "bogged down" by the HCSD School Board and he said "the developer had hoped to have their deal completed before tonight but haven't been able to so that needs to be postponed".

President DePietro introduced the Friends of the 7th Street Park, a local landscape designer, Dale Schaeffer; local architect Walter Chatham and local lawyer, Dorothy Heyl.

Ms. Heyl stated Friends of the 7th Street Park joined together to discuss what could be done to improve the 7th Street Park and she said "we wanted to present to you first the history, second the current status and three the plan". Ms. Heyl provided the history of the 7th Street Park, formerly identified as Public Square, including the description of the photographs which dated back to 1822 and she said "what is a Public Square, the grid of the city's design is interrupted to preserve public spaces and they marked the termination of major streets and avenues and provided visual focal points at intersections, they became the centers of neighborhoods for civic identify like with Union Square and Written House Square and there was an opportunity that the squares afforded for recreation, light, fresh air and a mixing of the citizens". Ms. Heyl said "Hudson's Public Square was a determinant of the Columbia Turnpike, this is the twenty (20) mile road that goes all the way to Hillsdale, Massachusetts, and it was the primary way that people got into Hudson" and she said "the Public Square initially served as a staging area for goods that were delivered into and out of the City".

Mr. Chatham provided information from a map dated 1888 and he said "it's interesting that the Square had been, I think the determinants of the Turnpike in the era before the railroads and then when the railroad came, it was still the center of transport and in fact all of the industry, the freight depots, the air furnace, everything was up around this area and it, you know, became a 19th Century transportation nexus".

Ms. Heyl said "it's hard for us to see it that way now because it's been interrupted, although it does still have a train running through it". She said "I would like to thank Carole Osterink who has covered this park so extensively in the past ten or more years, the postcards, much of the illustrations come from The Gossips of Rivertown". Ms. Heyl stated the City Beautiful Movement occurred in Hudson as well as the rest of America and over time the freight yard that had been the center of the transportation hub had become an unsightly spot and she said

"there was a beautification effort in 1883 that was supported by and this is an important list, it was supported by the railroad company, they provided a lot of money; the Common Council itself; the citizens of Hudson and the local press, all got together to make I think what we can agree, is a very attractive park in the middle of this, what had been an ugly staging area". She stated the park had been a place to stroll, a place to rest on the benches, to chat and the park had been surrounded by buildings on the adjacent streets and she said "at the center of the fountain, at the center of the park, there was this 19th Century kind of victorian fountain, this one was eighteen feet tall and a marble octagonal base and rising from the fountain was a statute of Venus, the Goddess of Love, she was being lifted by Cupid's ten fish, how wonderful to have the Goddess of Love at the top of Diamond Street". Ms. Heyl stated she had taken a photograph last summer, posted the photograph to Facebook and had received so much reaction she had decided to begin a "Friends of the 7th Street Park" Facebook page. She said "this picture is inspiration fountain as it currently looked, at least last summer, what happened was, there was another beautification project, this one a little less successful than the last one" and she said "Venus was removed from the fountain and the Goddess of Love was replaced by a lighted mechanized jet spray". Ms. Heyl stated the work had been completed by the Hudson Department of Works. She stated she had been questioned on Facebook as to why there had been fences installed around the fountain and she said "why are there not one but two rings of fences around that fountain and more over why is there a high voltage sign on the fountain". Ms. Heyl stated the Norway Maple trees in the park were overgrown; the spirea bushes had been clipped so there were no little sprays of white flowers displayed and the plank benches were not too comfortable and she said "one thing that's really sad about the park is the lack of maintenance, I mean it looks, if you look at the ground it is now something a proud City would be proud about". She stated the railroad runs through the park and she said "children and old men, they love railroads right and something could be done to make this a really interesting feature of the park". Ms. Heyl described a photograph of the park today which included the railroad tracks barricaded with hideous bollards; the multiple signs posted regarding the prohibition of glass, instructions regarding dog waste and also the classic Hudson plank garbage cans and she said "the park has various additions to it that don't necessarily add, you have this charming railroad crossing sign, wonderful and then this clock next to it". She stated there had been a tourist kiosk boarded up with instructions to go to the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce which would not be open on weekends.

Mr. Schaefer said "I think everybody that lives in Hudson has an idea or an opinion about the 7th Street Park and any of the open spaces here in town and there's a lot of strong feelings one way or another but before a design begins to happen the idea that the Friends of Hudson 7th Street Park really, are hoping to kind of start with is some short-term steps to kind of improve the park without a lot of effort" and he stated the removal of fences around the fountain and some of the extraneous elements; the appropriate pruning of trees and shrubs and the consideration of some alternate and inviting seating. He said "appropriate pruning of trees in itself can really change the amount of light that the park gets; it also avoids having damage of broken limbs from windstorms". Mr. Schaefer said "looking at the overall design of the park, what could one do with the structure of the park as it is today such as the fountain you know, is the fountain as it is today, can it be improved in any way; replacing the paving from asphalt to something that might be more enjoyable to experience as well as not being a tripping hazard; sort of the appropriate landscaping that doesn't make people feel unsafe but would be considered

inviting and then attractive lighting that might also invite people to feel like the park is, has a really wonderful pedestrian experience". He stated there were different people that utilized the park for different reasons and not everybody utilizes the park at the same time and he stated there would be community input to consider such things as should there be a café to help activate the space; should the fountain in the park be interactive; could the park be a farmer's market; should the square be flexible to allow for performances, outdoor movies or other events and also how to keep the square feeling inviting, safe and comfortable. Mr. Schaefer said "then there are all different sorts of aspects of what the park could be without doing a whole lot to it and part of that is just how the park is activated whether there's a festival or there's food trucks or there's adequate shade but not too much shade". He said "then there's a question of where the money comes from and the intent is that the money does not come from the City because we all know the City doesn't have a budget to re-design a park, but the intent is that the friends' group would raise the money from grants and project fundraising". Mr. Schaefer said "most people probably don't think the park doesn't need to be restored or kind of improved but it seems like as time goes on, the City of Hudson is becoming more and more filled with energy and diversity and this part of town is, is getting new businesses, there's a proposed Depot District to the north and the Bronson Park to the south and this would essentially be that kind of open space knuckle that would pinch them together". He stated there were several local businesses that were in support of the project.

Alderman Wolff asked "what is Bronson's Park"?

Ms. Heyl said "there is a National Historic Landmark called Bronson House which is on the grounds of the state prison and it can be approached on Worth Avenue and it's open once or twice or three times a year and the leaseholders of the Bronson House is Historic Hudson and what Historic Hudson would like to do is to form a park around Bronson House so that it would be accessible from the City".

Alderman Halloran said "I think it's exciting to see something and this amount of thought and interest going on for 7th Street Park" and she said "I think it will make a big difference up street".

President DePietro said "I think it's worth pointing out by the way, they're not asking for any money, they just need to eventually get a memorandum of understanding with the City" and he said "it's called a public/private corporation, but it will be all privately funded".

Ron Kopnicki of Hudson asked "if the park falls within the boundaries of the Warren Street Historic District, should the Historic Preservation Commission have a voice in this planning and second, the second question, kiosk was mentioned, currently unused, are there any plans for the use of the kiosk in this plan for the park".

Ms. Heyl said "we don't have a plan for the park" and she said "what we would like to do initially is remove some of the problematic aspects of the park for instance the benches around the fountain, there is no plan right now and a plan will have a lot of community input including, one would expect, from the Historic Preservation Committee".

John Kane, in reference to Mr. Schaefer's comments about the farmer's market in the 7th Street Park, questioned if he knew the square footage of the usable area in the park as compared to the parking lot currently being utilized.

Mr. Schaefer said "no, John, I haven't done any analysis of that, I know that every farmer's market has a whole set of criteria that they need to make it a viable operation so that is a whole study that would need to happen and there'd probably be you know, coordination, interaction with the people who run the farmer's market".

Mr. Kane asked "would the grass be removed to make it a square just like Union Square, if you're looking at high traffic"?

Ms. Heyl said "it could be" and she said "there are ways that they have like in Paris where they use these little pebbles, you know it's not necessarily pavement".

Mr. Kane questioned if the thought had been to have a traditional or modern design park.

Ms. Heyl said "there's not commitment to anything" and she said "I would say that I'm keenly aware of the controversy that involves that fountain and I'm keenly aware of the views of many of the citizens of Hudson that the fountain should be restored and so whatever happens will have community input".

Mr. Kane questioned if anyone knew the condition of the soil.

Ms. Heyl said "no".

Alderman Merante said "I want to thank everyone for their presentation" and he said "it's very exciting as one that grew up here and remember 7th Street Park you know, in the hay-day, SPOUT had a lot of activity there you know, vendors and I got to enjoy the fountain without a gate". He stated two (2) crosswalk signals had been targeted for two ends of the park that should encourage re-interest in the 7th Street Park and provide safety as well.

Alderman Lewis said "this was a great presentation, I just had reservations for the kiosk, on behalf of the Tourism Board, there were some thoughts about utilizing that as a point of contact for tourists and so that's just something I wanted to make you aware of going forward".

Ms. Heyl said "that's a great point" and she said "my reaction to the kiosk is because it's boarded up and it refers people to the Columbia Chamber of Commerce which is closed on the weekends".

Mr. Chatham said "that's a really good pivot point because the first part of the idea would be to eliminate what you would call negatives, to have a no negative so anything that's not welcoming like a boarded-up kiosk, anything that's unintentionally ironic in suggesting the place is not happening should be banished because the place is happening".

Alderman Trombley said "I just want to echo the words of encouragement and thank everyone for the thoughtful design and thinking about this is such a critical sort of meeting point and has been mentioned, a welcoming center for people coming into the City" and she said "I commend everybody and anxious to see the next steps".

Ms. Heyl said "we are just three people and some, a few other people that we've spoke to and we're not really a group and we haven't figure out yet how to structure ourselves and therefore you know, we have been speaking to the Hudson Parks Conservancy but we don't have any arrangement with them, we're hopeful that we will because they have a 501c3 status and that helps for donations very much but we need to figure out how we're going to organize ourselves as far as being a group that has many a board, that has members, that has supporters" and she said "we don't really want to go there until we have some assurance that the City supports what we're doing and would enter into some sort of memorandum of understanding so that we wouldn't just be spinning our wheels and not getting anywhere".

Alderman Walker stated the fence around of the fountain could have been installed for safety purposes.

Ms. Heyl said "we've heard some explanation for the fences because there's two of them and we also have heard an explanation about the high voltage sign, we've heard that someone put a couple bats in the fountain, we're not sure about the safety aspect but I would note most fountains in American don' have fences around them".

Resolutions.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 1 March 16, 2021

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

April 1, 2021 through March 31, 2023	**Work**
Jonathan T. Merante 821 Union St Hudson, NY 12534	701 Union Street

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (9)

Nays: None. (0)

Abstained: Alderman Merante. (1)

President DePietro suggested to Alderman Merante that he should probably recuse himself from the vote.

Alderman Merante questioned if Alderman Wolff had recused herself when she had been appointed a Commissioner of Deeds.

Alderman Wolff said "I actually recused myself".

Alderman Merante said "I abstain".

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

RESOLUTION NO. 2 March 16, 2021

RESOLUTION REQUIRING REPORTS ON TRAFFIC-RELATED VIOLATION AND ARREST DATA TO THE COMMON COUNCIL

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson Common Council has previously expressed its concern that nationwide, racial profiling in patrol and traffic stops remains high and that collecting data on such interactions locally can alert the Council if there is a racial profiling problem in the City, and

WHEREAS, the State has recently enacted the Police Statistic and Transparency (STAT) Act which required the state to collect and report data on the race, ethnicity and sex of anyone arrested and charged with a misdemeanor or violation; and

WHEREAS, traffic-related interactions comprise a significant portion of the of annual Hudson Police Department activity; and

WHEREAS, it is in the interest of the City to understand the extent that racial profiling influences traffic enforcement which is data that generally is broader than is required to be provided in the STAT Act; and

WHEREAS, the Council previously attempted to address this issue in Resolution #13 of January 19, 2021 but did not have the benefit of input from the Hudson Police Department before adopting that resolution. Subsequent discussions have better informed the Council about how the HPD collects data and issues traffic tickets.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that pursuant to City Charter §12-24 the Common Council hereby requires the Commissioner of Police and the Chief of Police to provide quarterly reports detailing all violations of the Vehicle and Traffic Las in the city. The Chief of Police shall direct all police officers to complete all the demographic data inputs on the New York State TRACS software program unless exigent circumstances preclude an officer from having time to fully input the data, The Chief of Police shall compile the data of Vehicle and Traffic law violations and provide the data to the Commissioner of Police who shall compile the quarterly reports for the Council. The reports shall contain the following information:

1. Information on the location of each violation and the race and gender of the person issued the violation.
2. A summation of the total violations issued in the quarter delineated by race and gender of persons issued a violation.
3. Reports shall be filed quarterly by the date of the next monthly formal Common Council meeting following the end of the quarter.
4. Reports shall be filed electronically in either .csv or .xls format to facilitate posting on the City's website.
5. The first report required under this resolution shall cover the second quarter of 2021 and be supplied to the Common Council before its July 2021 formal meeting.
6. This resolution shall not require any police officer to ask a person their race or gender. Police officers shall use their best professional judgment completing the demographic information in the TACS system.

LET IT BE FURTHER RESOLVED that this resolution shall supersede and replace Resolution 13 of January 19, 2021 in its entirely.

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

Nays: None.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 3 March 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CITY OF HUDSON'S POLICE REFORM PLAN

WHEREAS, on June 12, 2020, Governor Andrew Cuomo signed an Executive Order (Governor's Order), requiring local governments to adopt a policing reform plan by April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Order authorizes the Director of the Division of the Budget to condition State aid to localities on the adoption of such a plan; and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the police reform plan is to rebuild the police-community relationship by convening stakeholders for a "fact-based and honest dialogue" about the public safety needs of their community; and

WHEREAS, each community was required to envision for itself the appropriate role of the police and to develop policies to allow the police to their jobs to protect the public while still meeting with local communities' acceptance; and

WHEREAS, the Governor's Order required each municipality to engage in a collaborative process to produce a police reform plan by April 1, 2021, incorporating the following steps or requirements:

- Review the needs of the community served by its police agency, and evaluate the department's current policies and practices;
- Establish policies that allow police to effectively and safely perform their duties;
- Involve the entire community in the discussion;
- Develop policy recommendations resulting from this review;
- Offer a plan for public comment;
- Present the plan to the local legislative body to ratify or adopt it, and;
- Certify adoption of the plan to the State Budget Director on or before April 1, 2021; and

WHEREAS, by Executive Order dated June 15, 2020 (Mayor's Order) Mayor Kamal Johnson mandated many of the police reform policies called for in the Governor's Order; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor's Order further established the Police Advisory and Reconciliation Commission (PARC) to among other tasks, provide an opportunity for community members and police to be heard on issues related to: 1) community policing; 2) police interaction with people of color, those with substance use disorders or people in a mental health crisis; and 3) incidents of police brutality or misconduct, if any, among other issues, and to produce a report of these meetings for the Mayor, including recommendations for addressing any concerns raised; and

WHEREAS, thereafter, the PARC undertook a four-month process to collect input from both the community and the police and produced a report with findings and policy recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor held a public hearing on the report, accepted comment from the public and thereafter, presented the PARC report to the Common Council for review and discussion on March 8, 2021; and

WHEREAS, upon review and consider, the Common Council supports and recommends the adoption and implementation of the report and its recommendations; and

WHEREAS, said report is on file with the City Clerk and available on the City's website.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that;

1. The Common Council finds that the PARC Report referenced above, including the Mayor's Executive Order date June 15, 2020, meets the requirements of the Governor's Executive Order dated June 12, 2020; and

2. The Common Council hereby ratifies and adopts the PARC Report, including the Mayor's Executive Order date June 15, 2020.

3. Directs the City Clerk to forward this resolution and the PARC Report to the State Budget Director before April 1, 2021.

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

Nays: None.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 4 March 16, 2021

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

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson Fire Department has received the following donations:

Time & Space Limited Theatre Co., Inc.	$200.00
Jospeh Gallo	$250.00

WHEREAS, the Fire Department also received a donation from Divemaster Services Inc. in the amount of $150.00, for use by the Dive Team.

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

$600.00	Increase Revenue:	A2089	Grants, non-budgeted
	Increase Expenditure:	A3410.52	Misc Firehouse Donations

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

RESOLUTION NO. 5 March 16, 2021

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT FOR AN URBAN FORESTRY ASSESSMENT

WHEREAS, the City of Hudson Conservation Advisory Council (CAC) has secured a grant from the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for $20,000 to retain a certified forester to conduct an inventory of park and street trees in the city and to help prepare a Community Forest Management Plan, and

WHEREAS, the CAC will be responsible or preparing and circulating the RFP for the forester and overseeing their work; and

WHEREAS, the CAC will recommend the forester to be retained to the Common Council which shall have the authority to approve the selection and approve the contract with that person or entity.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mayor is authorized to enter into the attached contract with the NYSDEC for the urban forestry grant and the CAC is authorized to solicit proposals from persons interested and qualified to undertake the tasks set forth in the grant contract to conduct the tree inventory subject to the Common Council's approval of the person and the contract for their services.
(Attachment on file in City Clerk's Office)

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

Nays: None.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 6 March 16, 2021

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

DPW

$2,500 From: 5110.45 A – Street Maintenance – Maintenance of Equipment

$2,500 To: 5142.4 A – Snow – Materials & Supplies

APPROVED BY BOARD OF ESTIMATE AND APPORTIONMENT.

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

Nays: None.

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 7 which would authorize the re-instatement of a Full-Time Account Clerk position in the City Clerk's Office and he questioned the City Clerk if the position would require a budget transfer.

Tracy Delaney, City Clerk said "no, it does not" and she stated there would be sufficient funds in the account to cover the position.

President DePietro stated there had been a recent retirement in the City Clerk's Office and the new position would be fully funded.

Alderman Garriga asked "who is sitting in this position now"?

President DePietro said "I don't think there's anyone, it's empty".

Alderman Merante questioned if the position would be civil service and the person hired would come off a list.

President DePietro said "correct".

Alderman Wolff questioned if this position had been reduced by the Mayor's Order to reduce spending by 10%.

President DePietro said "no".

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

RESOLUTION NO. 7 March 16, 2021

AUTHORIZING THE RE-INSTATEMENT OF A FULL-TIME ACCOUNT CLERK POSITION IN THE CITY CLERK'S OFFICE

WHEREAS, an Account Clerk in the City Clerk's Office will retire effective April 30, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the City Budget for the period January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021 reduced the Account Clerk position in the City Clerk's Office from a full-time position to a part-time position due to the unpredictable financial condition of the City of Hudson during the COVID-19 Pandemic; and

WHEREAS, with the cost savings of the long-time employee being provided two (2) months of sick leave pursuant to the CSEA Contract and the monies budgeted for the part-time position, no additional funds, will be needed to fill the Full-Time Account Clerk position in FY2021;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Full-Time Account Clerk position shall be re-instated and the City Clerk may move forward with the hiring of the Full-Time Account Clerk position at an annual salary of $35,960.95 which will be 15% less than the base salary of an Account Clerk for the first year of employment as per the CSEA Contract.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 8 March 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A PART-TIME CLERK/TYPIST POSITION WITHIN THE CITY OF HUDSON SENIOR CENTER AND ESTABLISHING A SALARY

WHEREAS, the Board of Estimate and Apportionment has determined that there are sufficient funds in the city budget to fund a part-time clerk/typist position for the Senior Center at the rate of $15.00 per hour for 20 hours a week; and

WHEREAS, paperwork has been submitted to the Civil Service to create that position; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council recognizes and agrees that the Senior Center would benefit from having a part-time clerk/typist.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Common Council hereby authorizes the creation of a part-time position of Clerk/Typist for the Hudson Senior Center at the rate of $15.00 per hour for 20 hours a week.

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

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

RESOLUTION NO. 9 March 16, 2021

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LICENSE AGREEMENT WITH THE HUDSON RIVER SLOOP CLUB

WHEREAS, in December 2015 the Common Council authorized the Mayor to enter into a license agreement with the Hudson River Sloop Club to use the southernmost embayment of Hudson Waterfront Park for the establishment of an Estuary Education Center, and

WHEREAS, the City subsequently entered into a license agreement with the Hudson River Sloop Club and the City and the Club received a grant from NYSDEC to develop the Everet Nack Estuary Education Center; and

WHEREAS, the Club has completed the first phase of the approved project with DEC and is proceeding to the second phase which will provide for the center to be housed in a mobile trailer on the site due to unforeseen expenses associated with the foundation of the building on-site; and

WHEREAS, to continue to the second phase of the grant , DEC seeks confirmation that the City supports the continued efforts of the Everet Nack Estuary Education Center and that the license will be renewed.

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Common Council supports the plans for the Everet Nack Estuary Education Center and authorizes the Mayor to enter into a renewed license agreement with the Hudson River Sloop Club subject to final review and approval of the license agreement by the Common Council.

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

Nays: None.

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 10 would authorize the mayor to sign a contract with the NYSDOH for the Lead Service Line Replacement Program and he said "it's very important to know that there is no immediate risk or long-term risk to residents from the lead in the public water supply but eventually we will get all of these pipes changed". He said "one of the major aspects of the grant money that's coming through from the Biden's 1.9 Billion Plan is outlined in New York State for water and sewer".

Alderman Garriga said "I hope we find some answers and some results to this resolution and this program to take place because we are seeing a lot of babies being born with seizures and adults having seizures out of nowhere and a lot of people are looking into the water system".

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

RESOLUTION NO. 10 March 16, 2021

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO SIGN A CONTRACT WITH THE NYSDOH FOR THE LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT PROGRAM

WHEREAS, the City received a grant from NYS Department of Health to fund the replacement of privately-owned lead water service lines in the amount of $548,422. The Lead Service Line Replacement Program (LSLRP) was created by the NYS Clean Water

Infrastructure Act of 2017 to provide municipalities with grant funds to assist in the replacement of lead service lines; and

WHEREAS, Phase I will involve the replacement of 35 service lines that will be coordinated with the replacement and upgrade of the water main on the 500 Block of Washington Street in 2021. Phase 2 will apply the remainder of the award to benefit various residents in the rest of the city in 2022; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health awards grants from the LSLRP solely on the basis of estimate of the age of the building stock in the municipality and the City of Hudson did not apply for the grant; and

WHEREAS, it is important for the public to know that **there is neither an immediate risk nor a long-term risk to residents from lead in the public water supply.** The City of Hudson utilizes a corrosion inhibitor to mitigate the risk of lead leaching into the water from pipes as required by USEPA and NYSDOH regulations. The City Water Department regularly tests for lead in water samples pursuant to USEPA and NYSDOH regulations and to date lead has not been detected above laboratory detection levels; and

WHEREAS, the LSLRP grant allows the City to take proactive measures to replace the oldest water service connections in the city and further reduces the risk of lead leaching into the water supply in individual homes; and

WHEREAS, while the LSLRP allows for reimbursement to the city to pay for staff-time for operational, administrative and review efforts, the Hudson Water Department is foregoing any reimbursement to keep as much money as possible available for residential service upgrades; and

WHEREAS, maintenance and repair, include the replacement in-kind of existing utilities is a Type II action under SEQRA and thus exempt from further SEQRA review.

NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED that the Mayor is hereby authorized to enter into the attached contract with the State of NY for the LSLRP up to and not to exceed $548,422, the amount of the award.
(Attachment on file in City Clerk's Office)

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

Nays: None.

Prior to voting on the proposed resolution, **Alderman Wolff** stated the language in the second paragraph of the proposed resolution indicated that the remained of the award would benefit various residents in the rest of the city in 2022 and she questioned how that would be determined.

President DePietro said "I assume it's the areas where the pipes still need to be replaced" and he said "it's all about replacing pipes and there's a schedule for that".

President DePietro stated Proposed Resolution No. 11 would authorize transfers of funds for the Youth Department.

Alderman Rosenthal asked "is it typical for a department to be paying attorney fees".

Alderman Wolff asked "what is the usual procedure for attorney fees". She stated the Police Department also had attorney fees and she asked "I wonder does the Police Department pay their legal fees".

Kamal Johnson, Mayor said "certain attorneys' fees when they have to do with the labor attorney which is hired separate from our regular City and Council Attorney, cost extra so each department that is using the labor attorney, that portion of the fees is coming out of their account".

Alderman Wolff asked "so that happened to the Police Department as well".

Mayor Johnson said "yes, it's happening with the Police Department, with my office, you know the Youth Department, every department that has to use the labor attorney as we like kind of clean up some of the issues that have kind of been lingering throughout the years".

Alderman Garriga asked "when has this ever been done before because the Police came from the General Fund".

Mayor Johnson said "this has just started last year especially as we fell into you know, really having to look at the budget and having you know, so many departments that needed to lean on the labor attorney, it really just wasn't enough for us to be able to cover".

Alderman Rosenthal asked "what exactly is this for"?

Mayor Johnson said "it could be for a number of things I mean they could have waited to call the labor attorney on any type of issues or clarification that was used by the Youth Center" and he said "usually what will happen is we'll pay for it from the legal counsel budget and then money will kind of be transferred out by the department that covered it". He said "we've had to use the labor attorney a number of times this year on different issues and different departments".

Alderman Wolff asked “you’re saying all those times that the labor attorney is used; the department pays those fees”.

Mayor Johnson said “correct”.

Alderman Rosenthal said “specifically, I mean there’s been a lot of activity certainly around unionizing in the Youth Department so I’m just curious specifically what this is about”.

Mayor Johnson said “it had nothing to do with that” and he said “that’s a separate conversation”.

Alderman Trombley asked “how typical is it that we transfer you know, as much as thirty-four hundred dollars into an attorney fee thing” and she said “my experience on the Council, I haven’t seen this before, I don’t recall, it seems to be an unusual circumstance”.

Mayor Johnson said “we’ve done it all through last year” and he said “a lot of you guys have known about some of the grievances and some of the kind of things we needed to clear up that occurred over the years and the only way to do that is to bring in a professional”.

Alderman Trombley asked “this wasn’t grievances that would have occurred a while ago”.

Mayor Johnson said “the issues that are continually, the labor attorney is help working through, so that could you know, the hire of a new position and working with Civil Service and the labor attorney, it could be you know the issue that is kind of being cleared up know with you know, 1099 employees, there’s a number of things”.

Alderman Garriga asked “can we get the specifics please” and she said “even if we have to go to executive session to get it and also, I want to know why didn’t the police department fees get transferred before the Council”.

Mayor Johnson said “I’m not sure what they used the labor attorney for before this meeting”.

Alderman Garriga said “we need some specifics” and she asked “can we go into executive session”.

Mayor Johnson said “you will have to reach out to the Director”.

Nick Zachos, Director of Youth said “I would be happy to go over any of these things, I don’t know if it has to go into executive session or not, but I could detail the issues that were brought up and needed the labor attorney”.

Jeffrey Baker, Legal Advisor suggested the council members go into executive session to discuss potential personnel and attorney-client privilege materials.

On motion of **Alderman Garriga,** seconded by **Alderman Trombley,** the council members went into executive session to discuss personnel and attorney-client privilege materials.

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

President DePietro stated no decisions were made in executive session.

Alderman Halloran stated that Alderman Merante had been experiencing connection issues.

Alderman Merante said "I am finally here".

On motion of **Alderman Lewis,** seconded **Alderman Wolff,** Proposed Resolution No. 12 was ordered amended to remove the first transfer listed; the second transfer would remain, by the following vote:

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

Nays: Alderman Merante.

Alderman Merante said "opposed because I have no idea what went on in executive session".

Alderman Halloran asked "can you summarize why we wanted to do that"?

Legal Advisor Baker stated the council members were requesting additional information related to the policy of assessing attorney fees to the departments.

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

RESOLUTION NO. 11 March 16, 2021

INTRADEPARTMENTAL YOUTH TRANSFERS

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

$2800.00		From:	A.7310.0510.0000	2020 Youth Programs
	$2800.00	To:	A.7310.0100.0000	2020 Youth Personnel

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Ayes: Aldermen Garriga, Halloran, Lewis, Rosenthal, Sarowar, Trombley, Walker, Wolff and President DePietro. (9)

Nays: Alderman Merante. (1)

Local Law.

On motion of **Alderman Wolff,** seconded by **Alderman Lewis,** the following proposed local law introduced by Alderman Wolff, seconded by Alderman Lewis, was ordered laid on the aldermen's desks:

Local Law Introductory No. B of 2021

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING ARTICLE I OF CHAPTER 174 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF HUDSON

Section 1. Title

This local law shall be known as the Fair Housing Officer Law, Local Law No. ___ for the year 2021.

Section 2. Legislative Findings, Intent and Purpose.

The Common Council hereby finds that the City of Hudson is renewing its commitment to promote fair, non-discriminatory housing within the city and that the best way to promote fair housing policies is to update and amend Chapter 174 of the city code to create the position of a Fair Housing Officer whom shall be an unpaid city position under the direction and supervision of the Mayor.

Section 3. Statement of Authority.

This local law is authorized by the Municipal Home Rule Law (Chapter 36-a of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York) and the General City Law (Chapter 21 of the Consolidated Laws of the State of New York).

Section 4. Amendments.

I. Hudson City Code Chapter 174 is hereby *AMENDED* by *REPLACING* the existing Article I with the following:

§ 174-1. Fair Housing Office established; policy established.

It is hereby ordained and directed that the City of Hudson by this article adopts and establishes a Fair Housing Office and establishes a fair housing policy. The Fair Housing Office will be an executive office under the supervision of the Mayor. The purpose, policy, duties and procedures to be followed by the Office under this fair housing article are set forth below.

§ 174-2. Statement of policy and purpose.

A. In accord with the Federal Fair Housing Act (42 U.S.C. §3601 et. seq.) and the New York State Human Rights Law (Executive Law Article 15) it is the policy of the City of Hudson to provide fair housing.

B. The opportunity for ownership, use and occupancy of housing accommodations without discrimination because of age, race, creed, color, national origin, sexual orientation, gender identity or expression, military status, sex, marital status or disability is hereby recognized as and declared a policy of the City of Hudson to promote fair housing.

§ 174-3. Definitions

All such definitions of the Human Rights Law of the State of New York as pertain to fair housing (Executive Law §292) as amended, are adopted and incorporated herein by the City as provisions of this article.

§ 174-4 Statement of unlawful discriminatory practices.

The unlawful discriminatory practices concerning public and private housing contained in §§ 296(2) and 296(5) of the Human Rights Law (Executive Law, Art. 15) are hereby restated by the City of Hudson as the unlawful discriminatory practices governed by this article.

§ 174-5. Fair Housing Office

There is hereby established a Fair Housing Office which is designated to administer this article. The head of such Office shall be appointed by the Mayor and whose title hereunder shall be the "Fair Housing Officer of the City of Hudson." The Fair Housing Officer shall be a resident of the City of Hudson and shall be required to undertake periodic training to stay up to date on fair housing laws and practices. The Fair Housing Officer who will serve at the pleasure of the Mayor and be unpaid but otherwise eligible for an annual honorarium set in city budget. The Fair Housing Officer shall:

A. Establish and maintain a principal office within the City as may be necessary.
B. Upon request, obtain and utilize the services of all governmental departments and agencies.

C. Formulate policies to effectuate the purpose of this article.
D. Receive and investigate complaints alleging violations of this article.
E. Develop fair housing plans and policies for the City and to assist in their execution, to make investigations and studies appropriate to effectuate this article, to inform persons of the rights assured and remedies provided under this article and to provide goodwill and to minimize or eliminate discrimination in housing practices.
F. Render each quarter to the Mayor and to the Common Council a written report of all of its activities and of its recommendations.
G. Furnish any person with such technical assistance that the Fair Housing Officer deems appropriate to further compliance with the purposes or provisions of this article.
H. Have such other powers and duties described hereinafter and as may be designated by the Mayor or otherwise authorized by the Common Council.

§ 174-6. Filing of complaint of discriminatory practice.

A. Any person claiming to be aggrieved by an unlawful discriminatory practice may, by themselves, or by their attorney, make, sign and file with the Fair Housing Officer, a verified complaint which shall state the name and address of the person or persons alleged to have committed the unlawful discriminatory practice complained of and which shall set forth the particulars thereof and contain such other information as may be requested by the Fair Housing Officer.

B. After the filing of the complaint, the Fair Housing Officer shall make a prompt investigation in connection therewith.

C. If, in the judgment of the Fair Housing Officer, the circumstances so warrant, it may, at any time after the filing of the complaint, endeavor to eliminate such discriminatory practice by conference, conciliation and persuasion.

D. Nothing contained in this article shall be construed as to limit or prohibit investigation by any other governmental unit of competent jurisdiction, nor shall anything contained herein limit any aggrieved party from pursuing any remedy available therefrom or from pursuing a private right of action through the courts. In the event of such a situation, the Fair Housing Office is hereby empowered to place any and all of its material obtained through the investigation at the disposal of such other governmental unit or the individual pursuing a private course of action.

Section 5. Severability

If any clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law shall be adjudged by any Court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid, such judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined to its operation in said clause, sentence, paragraph, section or part of this Local Law.

Section 6. Effective Date.

This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the Secretary of State.

New Business.

Alderman Rosenthal asked "want to talk about the potential unionizing that's going on" and he said "the Youth Department unionizing, do you want to talk about that"?

Kate Treacy of Hudson, directing her question to Alderman Rosenthal, asked "what are you getting after".

Alderman Rosenthal said "it's an exciting development" and he said "I'm just saying it was in the news today and it's exciting". He said "no one on the Council has commented what was in the paper today and what is happening, potentially at the Youth Department, so I'm curious what we think about it".

Alderman Trombley said "for those of us who don't know, John, could you just summarize what the article spoke of".

Alderman Rosenthal said "members of the Youth Department have decided or are trying to, I don't know what's, Kamal, the Mayor could address this maybe more specifically, are seeking to form a union under a different union than CSEA and I think it's called the Communications Workers, according to the article, they were at City Hall today, so I was just curious to what this is".

Alderman Halloran said "why would we address it without knowing or do we have a role in something like that".

Alderman Rosenthal said "I don't know".

Alderman Wolff , directing her comment to Alderman Rosenthal, said "I think you should put together a supportive resolution, if you'd like".

Alderman Rosenthal said "I'm just curious of what's going on".

Mayor Johnson said "at the end of last year, maybe around October, the CWA Union reached out to me on behalf of the Youth Center, they didn't feel like they were getting the best, well they're not getting any representation by CSEA, I'm not sure what the long-term issues are between CSEA and why Youth Center employees were not allowed into the union". He said "I met with the CWA Union in late October and I spoke to them and I told them you know, I'm totally onboard with the Youth Center, with them coming on to basically represent the Youth Center as their union, I also did that in writing and in-person and speaking with the labor attorney, I wanted to make sure that the process is done legally so it's not seen as anything

poaching because the CSEA does represent a number of employees in the City, I referred the representative from CWA to the labor attorney to make sure that everything is ironed out before I sign anything". Mayor Johnson said "if you read the newspaper today you will hear me say there was an extreme lack of communication from the Union and then there was supposed to be a conference on March 22nd which was postponed until April 14th, I believe, so you know, I am in support of the CWA unionizing the Youth Center but you know, I can't sign anything unless I get the ok that it's good to go from the attorneys, the CWA wants me to sign right away, I'm not comfortable with that until the attorneys kind of give the ok just to protect myself and to protect the City from any liability".

Alderman Rosenthal said "there's a dialogue then".

Mayor Johnson said "yes".

Alderman Wolff said "I'm in deep support of the need for representation for the workers at the Youth Center".

Alderman Rosenthal said "agree".

Alderman Walker questioned the Mayor if there were any updates regarding the gym equipment for Promenade Hill Park.

Mayor Johnson said "we just got the bids back on the park and the lowest bid, I believe was five hundred thousand over budget so somethings are going to be needing to be scaled back so that you know, we can re-bid again so I doubt that, that would make it in".

President DePietro said "don't give up hope because as I said before, we've been told that once we proceed with this project at Promenade Hill, we will be in better standing for further grants towards the park".

Alderman Walker stated possibly the 7th Street Park Project could include gym equipment as well.

Alderman Garriga said "I also am in support of the Youth Department unionizing and I stand with them".

Alderman Walker said "that's long overdue".

Mr. Kane, directing his question to Aldermen Wolff, Garriga and Walker, asked "are there particular issues going on at the Youth Department that you think require unionization or just sort of pro-collective bargaining in general".

Mayor Johnson said "everybody should have representation".

President DePietro said "that question speaks to motive and I don't really….

Mr. Kane said "no, I think that, I think that if people are saying that they support it, I'd like to know if there's something going on specifically at the Youth Department, if they think justifies this or if this is just collective bargaining in general for workers".

Alderman Rosenthal said "it's good for them to be organizing in my opinion, so I support them as well".

Alderman Wolff said "I support collective bargaining."

Vanessa Baer, Program Coordinator at the Youth Department said "I have been working there for a total of ten years, eight years part-time and for the last two years full-time and I have not been invited ever to be a part of CSEA , in fact after a month of gaining employment there full-time I got a very unofficial letter, not on CSEA letterhead, it basically felt like an intimidation letter, just a rejection letter, there was nothing union about it and I don't know why someone wouldn't want my union dues or my union support, I want to be a part of this you know, but I have felt from the start that I was just never wanted". She said "everyone needs protection" and she said "I want to have agency in choosing better health care because my health care right now is not adequate and I also just want worker protection, I also believe that part-time workers should be allowed to be part of a union because they make up a huge part of our workforce and they don't get the protection that they need".

Alderman Garriga said "pro-collective bargain and the right for workers to organize especially seeing that most of employees in the Youth Department are people of color that work there so this is very important, they need representation".

President DePietro said "I think our unanimous support of the hospital workers demonstrate that we are probably a pro-union Council, I think we can say that fairly, speaking for all of us unless somebody wants to contradict that".

Alderman Garriga questioned if a resolution could be prepared for the council members to support the unionization at the Youth Department.

Legal Advisor Baker said "I don't pretend to be a labor lawyer but I know it is complex and I defer to the Mayor having some discussions already to the extent that there's a possibility of a conflict in the CSEA, that the City could possibly put it in a position that is unintended on that, let's just wait until we figure out what the legal issues are" and he said "it's not questioning you know, you're support for collective bargaining and representation but beyond that, I think let's just stop, wait to find out what's appropriate".

Alderman Garriga said "in the meantime could you just have one on standby so we can vote on it in the future because they'll be waiting until October".

Legal Advisor Baker said “we’ll look into this and I think you know, by the next meeting we’ll have a better idea in terms of what the perimeters and what the City can do”.

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

City Clerk