

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 14, 2021 5:00 P.M.  
City Council Chambers  
Memorial City Hall  
24 South St.  
Auburn, NY 13021**

**Minutes**

The meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom videoconference from the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn, NY by Mayor Quill. The meeting was held by videoconference due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

**ROLL CALL** – The City Clerk called the roll. Councilor Deb McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy, Councilor Tim Locastro and Mayor Quill were all present.

**The following City Staff was present for the meeting:**

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Superintendent of Public Work, Mike Talbot

**Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag** – Mayor Quill led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Moment of Silent Prayer or Reflection** – Mayor Quill asked for a moment of silent prayer.

**Public Announcements –**

**Chuck Mason**

Thanks, Mayor. Just one announcement this evening. And that is that the next Zoning Board meeting for the City of Auburn. Will be coming up on January 25. That's a Monday night. That meeting will be held via videoconference such as this Council Meeting and the agenda notification went out this week. There's one item on the agenda that night for the Zoning Board and it'll be an online meeting, Monday night January 25th at 7 p.m. Thanks, Mayor.

**CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –**

**WHEREAS**, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. devoted his life to advancing equality, social justice, and opportunity for all, and challenged all Americans to participate in the never-ending work of building a more perfect union; and

**WHEREAS**, Dr. King's teachings can continue to guide and inspire us in addressing challenges in our communities; and

**WHEREAS**, the King Holiday and Service Act, enacted in 1994, designated the King Holiday as a national day of volunteer service, and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort; and

**WHEREAS**, since 1994 millions of Americans have been inspired by the life and work of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to serve their neighbors and communities on the King Holiday; and

**WHEREAS**, serving on the King Holiday is an appropriate way to honor Dr. King, meet local and national needs, bring our citizens together, and strengthen our communities and nation; and

**WHEREAS**, the King Day of Service is the only federal holiday commemorated as a national day of service, and offers an opportunity for Americans to give back to their communities on the holiday and make an ongoing commitment to service throughout the year; and

**WHEREAS**, King Day of Service projects are being organized by a wide range of nonprofit and community organizations, educational institutions, public agencies, private businesses, and other organizations across the nation; and

**WHEREAS**, each of us can and must contribute, support, and implement projects that increase economic opportunities, improve education, support veterans and military families, help combat the opioid crisis, and help communities prepare for and recover from disasters.

**NOW, THEREFORE, I, Michael D. Quill**, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the City Council and the citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim January 18, 2021, as a Day of Service in honor of

**DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.**

in the City of Auburn, and call upon the people of this community to pay tribute to the life and works of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. through participation in community service projects on Martin Luther King Day and throughout the year.

**In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Fourteenth day of January 2021.**

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**Michael D. Quill, Mayor**  
City of Auburn, New York

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Councilors. with us this evening. We have Mr. Dillon Davis, who is representing Bishop Murray. With your permission, I'd like to say a few words and then turn it over to Council, and finally we'll turn it over to Mr. Davis for his thoughts. Mr. Davis, on behalf of myself and all City of Auburn employees, residents, visitors, we're very proud to honor Martin Luther King on this weekend. It's unfortunate and sad that we're all quarantined, confined due to COVID. But our thoughts, our prayers are with everyone. This is the first year in 14 years that I have not been able to make the event. But I'm certainly looking forward to next year. I think it would be a very interesting world, with our new President coming in in less than a week, what his interactions with Mr. King, Dr. King would be, I'm sure, I'm sure they would work very well together and we would have a much better much different world. So congratulations, please give my best to Bishop Murray, ask him the story about the electric chair and if he doesn't give you the whole story. Let me know. And I'll tell you the whole story.

**Dillon Davis**

That's tradition, every time you tell it I love when you tell that story. Always cracks me up ever since. It's always cracked me up. Thank you very much.

**Mayor Quill**

All right. Thank you. Councilors, anyone?

**Councilor Cuddy**

Yes, Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

Please, Councilor Cuddy.

**Councilor Cuddy**

I'd like to start. Last year, during Martin Luther King's birthday, I had the opportunity to listen to a speech that accompanied his book, Trumpets of Conscience, and listening to it, the injustices and prejudices of his time are the injustices and prejudices of our time. And, you know, with recent events in our Capitol, you know, it only shows it has intensified his mission. And now more than ever, his message of equality, equity, civil rights, worker's rights, and human rights, needs to be upheld and defended as Americans. So, please pass my message on to the to the Bishop, the Council's message for Martin Luther King's birthday.

**Dillon Davis**

Well, thank you very much.

**Mayor Quill**

Anyone else, Council?

**Councilor Giannettino**

Mayor, if I may.

**Mayor Quill**

Councilor Giannettino, please.

**Councilor Giannettino**

This celebration has occurred in our community for the last 46 years. And my time on Council, it's one of my favorite events to go to every year. And you know, it was probably one of the last public events we had prior to everything shutting down for COVID in 2020. Obviously, the celebration is our community's way of honoring a legacy and the work of Dr. Martin Luther King. But it also, to me, is a recommitment every year of this community's value on social justice. It really dates back to the abolitionist movement, the women's suffrage movement, and continues today. And I think the best example of how this community has recommitted itself, is the work that our local law enforcement agencies have embarked on with the with the local social, social justice groups. And that work is important. I think Dr. King would be proud of that work. I look forward to us all being together again next January. And again, please offer my thoughts, my well wishes to the Bishop Murray as well. Thank you.

**Dillon Davis**

Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Giannettino

**Councilor McCormick**

Mayor,

**Mayor Quill**

Councilor.

**Councilor McCormick**

I just want to, from my personal point of view, when Dr. King was doing the work that he did, and when he was killed, I was 11. So, the impact to me wasn't as insignificant because I was so young, but the legacy of what he did, what he meant, has been so huge of an impact since he's been gone. The most relevant and recent person that I can think of that walked and talked and walked next to Dr. King was John Lewis. There's someone that for my era, or my generation, is so real, and what he stood for. It makes it so much more real and to know that I live during a time when we have had people like John Lewis and still have people going, working, unfortunately, still having to work as hard as we do for equality and justice. It's significant. And I'm so proud of our City to continually remember people like Dr. King that came before us. That did that work. It means a lot to our community and a lot to the kids in



our community, and to the people of color in our community. I'm very proud to know that we do this each year. I hope and pray next year that we can be together when we do it.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, Councilor. Anyone else? Councilor, please.

**Councilor Locastro**

I just want to thank Dillon for showing up tonight and keeping the ball rolling in the right direction.

**Dillon Davis**

You're welcome. Sorry, for the background. We're in my office at home, which is my kitchen. So..

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Don't worry. Yeah, we all could be in better places. But we're here and we're safe and comfortable. So Mr. Davis, if you care to say a few words, we'll be glad to share with you please.

**Dillon Davis**

Well, thank you very much, Mr. Mayor. And then thank you all for giving me the time to speak. I'm here on behalf of Bishop Murray, the Apostolic Church of the Lord Jesus Christ to accept the award. First of all, Bishop Murray sends warmest regards, and I will be sure to convey yours as well. We've really appreciate this Proclamation. And every time we do this celebration, it's always a wonderful thing that brings the community together brings the City together. It's always a good time. So it is very sad, unfortunately, that we can't have it this year. But I really look forward to hopefully being a part of the celebration next year and to keep doing this again. Otherwise, the work that we've done for the celebration is all been in the memory of Dr. King. And it's not so much as we thought we were going to not be able to do it. But the struggles and the kind of hurdles we have to jump over to make this happen have been very, very huge. And I'm so grateful that we are still able to carry on his memory. Even the current crisis, we find ourselves in, that we're still able to find the means through technology, and just through sheer human will, to just make this happen. So, thank you all so much for giving us the platform to be able to do this in this great city. And to be able to continue to carry the dream and make that dream hopefully happen. As much as we've seen doubt and fear strike the country in the past couple of weeks, I have never found myself more hopeful that, at least that, to know that we are making progress because attention is being drawn to the fact that change needs to happen. So, that dream will become a reality.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, very well said. Please pass the word to the Bishop that when we open City Hall again and we're back to our normal we hope he could join us for a few minutes on any Thursday night just to say hello.

**Dillon Davis**

Absolutely. I'll be sure to make sure he can find some time. Thank you very much. Mr. Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you Have a good evening.

**Dillon Davis**

Have a good evening, everyone.

**PUBLIC TO BE HEARD** – Mayor Quill opened the Public to be Heard portion of the Council meeting and there were no residents that contacted the City to participate.

**Approval of Meeting Minutes -**

- January 7, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve the January 7, 2020 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Cuddy. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

**Reports of City Officials**

**A. City Manager's Report**

**City Manager Dygert**

Thank you, Mayor. I just have a couple of updates. COVID has really taken center stage with a lot of our efforts this week at City Hall. I'll explain more about that later on in the meeting. After Mike Talbot is done with his presentation, we'll talk a little bit more and give a more in depth update on COVID. You had mentioned just before the meeting started, Mayor, your daily drives past the Public Safety Building or fire station construction location. That project is moving along at a pretty good pace. The walls are being laid up at this point. They're masonry walls so those are starting to go up. There's roof going on, which seems kind of odd, that's not typical but we have a roof going on before all the walls are up. But there is a plan there. The projects moving along, it is slightly behind schedule. Luckily, the weather has been relatively cooperative with us. So we don't see that this is going to be, necessarily at this point anyway, a long term problem, we can make it up along the way. The parking garage repair project is moving along. The last portions of concrete were poured this past week. We're now waiting for a little bit of work to get done on electric and some doors and things like that to get replaced over there, as well as a cleanup of the immediate area. We are also looking to have a condition report, an engineering report done, on the parking garage very soon. Which will inform us on some other upgrades to the parking garage. We have some funding available and we are anticipating doing some things to extend the longevity of that building. It's has lasted us very well. We've squeezed more life out of that parking garage than would have been anticipated and we think we can get a fair amount more out of it. So we're looking at things like protecting the concrete and possibly upgrading stairwells and lighting and things like that. Those are things we'll be looking at over the next month or so and see where we're at, though. Those are two of the big projects that are going on right now. A little update on those and I'll update you on COVID here shortly.

Mayor Quill

Mr. Dygert, what year was that built 74/75 somewhere in there?

City Manager Dygert

I don't remember the exact year, Mayor, but yes, that would be right along time as the arterial went through.

Mayor Quill

Does it conclude your report Mr. Dygert?

City Manager Dygert

Yes, Mayor.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Any questions for the City Manager, Councilors? Very well. Reports from Members of Council. Anyone? Councilor Gianettinno.

### **B. Reports from members of Council**

#### **Councilor Giannettino**

Thank you. This past Wednesday, we had our Historical and Cultural Sites Commission meeting. Just a couple items to report on. It was announced that Ahna Wilson will be the new Park Director for the Harriet Tubman National Historical Park. She was introduced at the meeting. She will be splitting her time between the Tubman Park and the Women's Rights Park in Seneca Falls. So, it's great to have her on board and hopefully, that'll bring a lot of positive momentum to the park. Kirsten Wise Gosch of the Cayuga Museum was reelected to another term as the Commission Chair. So, I want to thank her for her commitment to the commission and for stepping up to serve a second year as the chair. There was some really good discussion on the 2021 tourism season. Despite everything that's going on, there seems to be a lot of positive news. As we, believe it or not, start to gear up for that tourism season. We all believe that Cayuga County and Auburn are positioned to have a very good 2021 tourism season, despite COVID. All the research and the surveys that are being done seemed to indicate that. So, all the sites are excited about that and they're all staying very positive despite the current situation. It's just nice to see everybody working together for the common good in that area of tourism. So, all positive news.

**Mayor Quill**

Good. Thank you. Everyone has Cabin Fever this year.

#### **Councilor Giannettino**

Yes.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, Councilor. Anyone else? Very well. First reading of Ordinance number 1 of 2021. Repealing and replacing City Code Chapter 75, Article two, Section 75 - 11A. This is a first reading. Mr. Clerk.

### **Matters to Come Before Council**

#### **A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)**

**B. Ordinances** – *First reading, this will be on the January 21, 2021 Council meeting agenda for a vote.*

**ORDINANCE #1 OF 2021**

**REPEALING AND REPLACING  
CITY CODE CHAPTER 75, ARTICLE II, SECTION 75-11(A)**

**WHEREAS**, on September 23, 1993, the Auburn City Council enacted and established Ordinance #31 of 1993, which established Chapter 75, Article II of the City Code, entitled the “Records Management Program,” pursuant to New York Arts and Cultural Law, Article 57-A; and

**WHEREAS**, Section 75-11(A) of the City Code refers to a records retention and disposition schedule, namely the MU-1, which was replaced by the New York State Archives on August 1, 2020, by the Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (the “LGS-1”); and

**WHEREAS**, now, pursuant to New York Arts and Cultural Affairs Law, Article 57-A, the City must adopt the LGS-1 and, also, repeal and replace Section 75-11(A) of the City Code in order to legally dispose of valueless records listed therein; and

**WHEREAS**, City staff now recommends adoption of Ordinance #1 of 2021, which will repeal and replace Chapter 75, Article II, Section 75-11(A) of the City Code, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED** that the Auburn City Council does hereby repeal Chapter 75, Article II, Section 75-11(A) of the City Code, originally passed on September 23, 1993; and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED**, that the Auburn City Council does hereby adopt Ordinance #1 of 2021 as Chapter 75, Article II, Section 75-11(A); and

**BE IT FURTHER ORDAINED** that the foregoing repeal and replacement of Chapter 75, Article II, Section 75-11(A) of the Auburn City Code shall take effect immediately.

**AUBURN CITY CODE**

**CHAPTER 75, ARTICLE II, SECTION 75-11(A)**

Adopted on 9-23-1993 by Ordinance No. 31-1993

**§ 75-11 Powers and duties of Records Management Officer.**

The Records Management Officer shall have all the necessary powers to carry out the efficient administration, determination of value, use, preservation, storage and disposition of the noncurrent and archival public records kept, filed or received by the offices and departments of the City of Auburn.

**A.** The Records Management Officer shall continually survey and examine public records to recommend their classification so as to determine the most suitable methods to be used for maintaining, storing and servicing of archival material. These classifications are:

- (1) Obsolete and unnecessary records according to ~~New York State Records and Retention Schedule MU-1~~ Retention and Disposition Schedule for New York Local Government Records (the "LGS-1") thereby subject to disposition;
- (2) Information containing administrative, legal, fiscal, research and historical records of educational value which warrant their permanent retention; or
- (3) Records not subject to disposition according to state law.

**Chuck Mason**

Mayor, I could talk to this a little bit. Records Management comes under the City Clerk's office and our Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest, assisted us with writing this ordinance. The New York State Records Management law has changed. There used to be four different schedules depending on which

type of government that you were. What they've done at the State level is they've reduced everything into one unified schedule. This is an initiative that they've been working on for the past year. Everything took effect as of January 1 of 2021. The way that the law is basically structured is that before we would dispose of any documents under the new State records law, we need to adopt the new state schedule. So, that's why we will be doing this by ordinance next week, because the old schedule is actually spelled out in our City Code. So, we will be changing the code literally by just a few words, to remove the old State schedule and put in the new State schedule wording. And then also on next week's Council agenda, there will be a resolution from Council that just simply states that the City of Auburn now uses this new State record's schedule. So, this will be back before you next week for a vote. It's on tonight for the first reading. If there's any questions, I'd be more than happy to answer any questions. It's pretty straightforward.

**Mayor Quill**

Discussion from Council in regards to the ordinance, excuse me? Very well.

**Chuck Mason**

Also, along with this new initiative, I'll just let everybody know the State actually has quite a nice new website that people can go to under this new records management schedule. All the information is contained now within one website with a unification of all the different schedules and they've got a great search function there. You can search to find out what the Records Retention Policy is for just about any topic that there is out there. So the State's done a great job with getting this streamlined for everybody and their resources that are available online are really top notch. So thanks, Mayor. We'll be back with everybody next week.

**C. Local Laws – none**

**D. Resolutions - none**

**E. Staff Presentations –  
Mayor Quill**

Very good. Thank you. We're gonna drop right down to Mr. Talbot. Snowplowing Presentation regarding snow removal in the City of Auburn. Mr. Talbot, welcome.

**Mike Talbot**

Thanks for having me tonight, Mayor & Council. Too bad we weren't all together. What I'll do is share the presentation. Can everybody see that? Let's see. Screen. Share. What about now? Yes. Okay, I know everyone's probably on mute. So I'll go a little slowly. And if you have any questions, just let me know. I'll answer them in the best of my ability. But what we'd like to do each year is go over a snow and ice removal operation, because it's a, it's a lot more involved than just chasing snowflakes around. So in

order to be efficient, and because we have to be efficient, we have to have some kind of order and continue on with operations. So we do have a policy and it is on the website. We change our staffing. We go to three work shifts December through March. What this allows us to do is have, well it allows me to get some sleep for one thing, but it allows someone's always on the streets and looking out and keeping the mains open, the hills treated, and calling me if we have to call in additional staff. Now there is a criteria to begin snow and ice removal. Typically ours is about is two inches. So, two inches, it came, if it's going to go two inches an hour, you can just imagine after 2, 3, 4 hours how much snow was on the ground. So, we'll go over that a little later. You know, we also have issues not only the snow, but the safety of our plow operators and the public. There are people that still walk in the wintertime and park in the streets. So, our people have to be on guard and alert at all times. There is the possibility where we'll have to suspend plowing operations that really, we've never really experienced that. But if it's too windy, too icy, too snowy, even for us to safely negotiate the streets without seeing where we're going, and fear of hitting somebody or something, you know, possibly we may have to suspend while we can get, until the conditions improve. So, when we also plow to... yes, somebody say something? So, apply to minimize traffic and pedestrian obstructions. Now there is, you know, we go from the center first, we plow from the center line, out to the sides. And then we do the curb cuts. So, four passes is typical for your smaller roads. The larger roads have the six to eight passes to get it done like Rt. 326, outside of our garage here, Grant Avenue, North Street, where there's four lanes of traffic, it gets a little difficult. Now we do snow removal, what's that? Nope? We do remove snow from the downtown and commercial areas when we can. But that's not a guarantee, and that depends on the weather. If it's still snowing, or plowing, or if we need to give people rest, and also how much it costs. Typically, if we clear downtown, and it takes about, anywhere from four to six hours, depending on how big the piles are, it'll cost us about \$3,500 to \$4,000 to clear downtown. Which is well worth every penny but that we just have to plan on it. There are different plow routes in the City, there's 16 of them. And each route has streets that are of more importance than other. All the streets are important, don't get me wrong, but some are more utilized and a lot busier than others. A lot have, some have very few homes, some have a lot of homes. Some have few businesses, some have a lot. So, we have a good variety of different streets that we tend to. Operation, like I said before maybe suspended the safety of the staff or equipment is compromised. Salt use is closely monitored because of its cost and also to minimize its effect on the environment. We have proof of this even at the landfill where we have 64 monitoring wells on our property down there. The wells that are located close to the paved roads where we used to go out to the landfill are always high in chloride, which is a direct result of the salt usage. So, we do, so I'm sorry? But okay. So, now we do have a sidewalk plow to use to clear snow from City owned bridges, parks parking lots and buildings. We'll get into that a little bit. Unfortunately, there's some collateral damage with plowing. Mailboxes can get hit. Curbing, there is some lawn damage. Driveway approaches can take a beating once in a while. You know, everyone experiences that including our people. Everybody complains that we plow them in during a storm, when our people get home they have to clear their way into their driveway instead of out. So, it's deposited at the bottom of everyone's driveways and I know it's frustrating for people if they worked an hour, got their driveway clean, and all of a sudden here comes the plow truck. So, if everybody can just keep, you know, thinking the big picture, we don't plan

on doing it, we don't wait until you're done to come by, it takes about four hours for us to get through a route. So, that's the way it is. We'll get as close to the mailbox as possible. But it's up to every occupant to clear the mailbox so the mail can be delivered. What was really helpful for us is the alternate side parking. That allows us to, what we call pushback, after a storm so the cars move to the other side and we can get entire street coverage. So, it's very important for us for alternate side parking. And you can always call the garage, here, or there's a complaint line. I know most people aren't bashful to reach out to us. So, we do make mistakes. We do forget once in a while, or, we'll suffer a breakdown and we get another truck into a route that's not familiar. We may overlook a street or two and all you need to do is let us know and we'll be back out. Here's what our budget looks like this year. You can see we typically, we always have about \$25,000 in other equipment and we had nothing this year, obviously, because it's a tight year. What that usually covers is more spreaders or chains, things like that. Cutting edges, but you know, we're working hard to make sure this works. Fortunately, the weather has been cooperative, but the only thing you can really save on is the overtime. The operating supplies, that's where the salt comes out of, we have to commit to a certain amount of tonnage of salt. So, it's really a guessing game. They make us commit in October. So, you're really looking at the forecasts and trying to plan but if you don't plan for large enough supply, they don't guarantee that you're going to get salt. So, I think this year, we committed to 3,600 tons of salt. So, that'll be good. If not, we just stock pile it until next year.

**Councilor Locastro**

Mike, can I interrupt you for a second?

**Mike Talbot**

Sure.

**Councilor Locastro**

You committed to 3,600 tons. This time of the year, how much have you, what percentage is used so far?

**Mike Talbot**

Well, our Salt barn calls about 2500 tons. We're on our second go around? Well, to answer your question at 3,600 tons, we've gotten about 22, or anywhere from, we just started again, we have four trucks today delivered. So, I think we're up to about 2,200 tons delivered to us this year. So we have a little ways to go. Now what happens is, we have no room in the barn. The winter is over, and we still have a balance of say 500 tons. What the mine down in Lansing does is charges us a nominal storage fee. Which is you know, so we have to pay them just to hold it. But it comes to us the following year.

**Councilor Locastro**

If you commit the 3,600 tons and we have a bad winter, what happens then,

**Mike Talbot**



If we have a bad winter?

**Councilor Locastro**

And you go over your 3,600.

**Mike Talbot**

Oh, nothing. Yeah, they can't charge more. There's a percentage you're allowed to go over. And this is your, as far as economics go, this is your basic supply and demand model. Because if it's busy one year, salt goes up the following year. Or if it's a mild winter, salt stays the same the next year. I've got a graphic that you can look at, it's kind of, I find it interesting, anyway, of what we've spent over the years on salt. And it's not necessarily, it's probably 90% accurate of what we use, but it's actually what we get delivered. Because to me, if it's delivered we bought it. So, but all of our spreaders are computerized we have computer spreader systems, a Rexroth system it's called. They're all calibrated, and it's not like the old days where you open the gate on the back of the truck, and it's sometimes you'd be at the back of the truck at a streetlight, and it looks like he left the pyramid of Egypt behind them of salt. So, ours are all computerized now, that turn off when you idle and then turn back on as the RPMs get up. So, the guys are real happy with them and it really has improved our salt usage as far as using less. Now what we're also going to do, we have a truck, then we'll go over the equipment coming up. We have a truck coming, a brand new truck, a new 10 wheeler that's supposed to be here, I believe in April, and this one has a brine system on it. Now we're going, I think what we're going to do in the offseason, is also outfit another truck with a brine system. Because working with the (NYS) DOT over there, on Dunning, I got with Aaron over there, and brought Jason (Brown) over. We've looked at their equipment and there is a definite advantage to prepping the roads, not necessarily with salt, because that's all we can do now. If you know a storm is coming, you put salt down, and sometimes the scatter just sends it all over, if there's dry roads. What this (brine system) does, it's a salt solution. So, it looks like we're spreading water, but it's actually brine. And everyone's been having good luck with that. So, I've been watching the State on Dunning Ave do it for a couple years now. Hopefully, they've worked out the kinks. So we can invest in it now.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Mike, yes, that brine solution is that, is that deemed safer for the environment because it's diluted?

**Mike Talbot**

Yes, and no, what it does it allows us, it would allow us to use less salt, solid salt. So, because and also an advantage of that solution, it sticks to the road. Like I said, any, you're going to have a percentage of scatter, that's called when you when we're just putting dry salt down, it bounces around. And you know a car can kick it off to the side. So, brine allows it to stick right to the road. So, we would use less and it'd be more effective.

**Councilor Giannettino**

All right, thank you.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Yes. Mr. Talbot, where is the brine coming from? Is it from Cargill as well?

**Mike Talbot**

It's using the same salt, the same salt we get dry, it's just in a solution of water. So, they mix their own over in Waterloo, and that's what we're going to be schooled on how to do that, because I envision us mixing our own solution here.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Okay, sounds good. Thank you.

**Mike Talbot**

Now getting back to the plow routes. Our city's divided into 16 routes. And this is trial and error, over 50 years of plowing, how we've done the routes. Some are easier than others, some are larger than others. But you have to, you know, you have to divide, you have to have some sort of form, when we go out. Now, this, these are, I call them the large trucks. These are the large, the big yellow plow trucks, you see, there's 11 of those. And you can see the number of streets. And like I said, it takes about four hours to get through all of one route. Each truck, it takes four hours just to touch your street one time. So, it's easy to envision that if we have a lake effect band over us that's dumping one and a half, to two, to two and a half inches of snow per hour, we could come by your house. And in four hours, you got another six or eight inches of snow. So, I know a lot of people get up, look out and think, "My God, they haven't even been here yet," when the fact is, we've already come through and we're working our way around a second time. You know, all of our vehicles have GPS. So, it's easy for me, when we get a concern from a resident to see who the closest is there, or, whose route it is. And we always figure it out that way, and that's just a depiction of the different colors of each different route. Now you'll notice this one, there's 11 routes, you see on the left, you'll see on the bottom right, there's only 10, because that 11th route is what we call the mains, and that's on a separate slide. So, these are all the plow routes that we do. Each has its own number. Some of the old timers we have down here would still refer to the wards, like the fifth and seventh or the sixth, which, you know, I don't know where that is, I have to go by a number one through 10. So, that's what it is, that's how our city's broken up. Now, we also have picked up routes that our large trucks can't get down. So, we have three of these. These are the back streets, the dead ends, the very narrow streets that, you know, probably these days wouldn't even be a street but back in the day, and you know, early part of the 19th or the 20th century where somebody bought up an acre and put a little road back there, and has 4 houses. So, these are, these can get a little difficult, because even with alternate side parking, these are more narrow roads. And if you get a period of a lot of snowfall, you know the sides start creeping in a little bit. And that's where these are. You can see they are scattered around a little bit. Less uniform looking than the large ones. This is where those small narrow streets are. Now this is the main routes that we have, one truck and that was your 11 plow

routes for the big trucks. If we think back a couple slides. You can see these are all the main routes through town. There's one truck that does these routes, that's all he does. He doesn't venture out into any of the other routes. He's strictly for the mains. So, any big storm over a period of four hours, he can hopefully get through, some of these are a long stretch. Like you figure, Vets Memorial Highway, this right side of the road here he's got to take, it turns into Grant Ave., all the way through town and there's four lanes, so it can take some time and some hills. That's what the mains look like. Those are the main routes. And, I guess, I know we're all disappointed in our reimbursement from the State. But really, the reimbursement from the state is supposed to be paying us to maintain this, but doesn't even come close. Now we have the sidewalk machine. We don't take it out all the time. We have a couple different attachments. Just like everybody else in town, including myself and yourselves, you know, you have 24 hours after a storm. So, our first priority is getting the streets clean, and then we'll jump in, if we have enough people to put someone in the sidewalk machine. Sometimes it's so, if you have got ice along with the storm, you get some ice that forms, and it's tough for the sidewalk plow to get down. Some areas it gets bounced off because it's kind of light. And that's where those are. So, you can see how spread out it is. Even, you know, to do the Arterial and Grant Ave., it takes a couple hours. That's what it looks like, we got a V plow, and we have a big snowblower right there. There's advantages to both. It depends really on what kind of storm it is, and what the snow makeup is like for what apparatus we use. Now we also do parking lots. We're responsible for that and these can be difficult. We typically, if there's a storm, we come in at three in the morning, because remember, it takes about four hours to get through a route. So theoretically, we can get through a route by 7am, if it's snowing heavily. So, but we have to get out into the parking lots before people start parking. And really that's what is, you know what street is really starting to be difficult for us, is the one way of State Street from Genesee to Dill Street. And that's good, because more people are living downtown. But, and I know there's no overnight parking along Genesee Street, we may want to consider no overnight parking on that also. Because we can barely get our pickup trucks down there if there's cars parked there, and we get a heavy snow. So, that's something we, every morning when I come through, it's the first thing I have to look at, is the condition of that little stretch. Because you know, we could take off a lot of mirrors there with just even our pickup truck sometimes. So, that might be something that we may want to investigate in the future. The good thing is, more people are living downtown and I think there's ample parking around besides that, that area right there. And that's where our parking lots are. But also our parks, you can see down there, in the southeast, Clifford, we do the sidewalks at Clifford field. So, all of our parks. Now this is where we're talking a little bit about how we staff. We have to fully staff each snow event to cover all the routes including the mains, pickups, parking lots sidewalks. You need 16 people, not only 16 people but also 16 pieces of equipment that aren't broke down. Because plowing is it's a tough sport. The, you know, our trucks take a beating, the plow blades take a beating, or people take a beating, it's not easy. You know, I used to think it was cool as a kid watching these guys and thinking, they crank up the heat and crank up the music, and looks pretty easy. But it's a very stressful job to be a Plow Operator. Not only do you have your equipment and your route to worry about, but it seems like everybody wants to either pass you or pull right up on your butts, you can't even see him in your mirror and sometimes we have to backup to clean out the intersection. So, it can get, it can get very stressful for our people. Let

alone when someone throws the shovel as you come through the street after they just got done clearing their driveway, of course not by design, we understand the frustration but we don't do anything like that on purpose.

**Mayor Quill**

Mike, do your drivers normally have the same route? Do you try and do that or is it all catch as catch can?

**Mike Talbot**

Nope. Everyone pretty much, everyone has the same routes. Okay. So, you know and then we have the routes are numbered. But if I was a plow driver some people refer to my route as Talbot's route, or Jone's route or Smith's route. So, that's another one. But everybody, we found that most efficient. Of course, when you have to plow 24 hours, there are people out in the routes that really aren't familiar, but each route has a listing of problem areas. Whether it's really easy to plow a driveway in or there's a manhole that's raised, or there's a cul-de-sac, we have to make sure we don't leave the blade down, because that can happen.

**Mayor Quill**

Okay, thank you.

**Mike Talbot**

Here's what, here's all the people we have. And this is including the people down at Logan Street and up here at Public Works. It does not include the people at the Landfill because they have their own job to do down there, even when it snows. But we do utilize the staff at the landfill to hold us over from, usually from 3pm to seven or 8pm at night, if it's a big storm. Because if our, if our normal, not normal, but if our Public Works crews come in at three in the morning, you know, unless it's a State of Emergency, we're allowed to work 12 hours. So, we'll work till three in the afternoon. Third shift starts at 11. I'll have them come in at seven to hold us overnight. So, that leaves that gap of 3pm to 7pm. But we only have our two second shift people on. So, that's where the younger people at the landfill and get their experience, a little bit here and there, with filling in when we need it.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Mike? Yes. When you're showing these numbers, like where it says 12 miscellaneous, is that including, like we have staff at Hoopes Park, we have staff at Falcon Park, we have staff out at the cemetery. Are all those employees counted in these numbers?

**Mike Talbot**

Yes. And what the miscellaneous, like for everyone's info, the Labor, everyone knows what the laborers is. MEO, is a mechanic, I think he's a mechanic equipment operator, and he's a truck driver, right? HEO is a heavy equipment operator, those are our loader operators. Tree trimmer, then your miscellaneous

positions are the job titles that are populated by one or two individuals, including like Hoopes Park, including the folks down at Falcon Park, Seoul cemetery, those are, and Logan Street. They're all included in these numbers, who are not included in these numbers are the three people we have at Casey Park, because we have ice down there. And it's a seven day effort and they have their own. There's always something going on there. So they're plowing the parking lots down there and maintaining the facility. Of course, if it's a big blizzard, you know, we call them in also.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Okay, thank you.

**Councilor Locastro**

Mike, it looks to me if we get a 24 hour storm. Everybody's backs are to the wall.

**Mike Talbot**

Yeah, there's no doubt about it. And usually, if you get an extended storm, where everyone's operating, you also run into more breakdowns, as your hydraulic fluid gets a little warmed up and thinned out. But you know, there's a lot that can happen. There really is. We all understand and these guys will tell you, we have probably five or six people that the last three years, they have responded to my calls 100% of the time. And that's and we should recognize those people, and I need to do a better job about doing that. Because, you know, it's not scheduled over time. They'll get a call from me at midnight, 1 a.m. in the morning, 2 a.m. in the morning. It's not like they know a week in advance like, I'm working Thanksgiving Day, or I'm working Christmas Day. If it snows and I think we need people in or we have an ice event I have to call them. So, these are the people that are leaving literally leaving their kid's birthday parties, you know, taking the party hat off and putting their hard hat on. And you know, it's a little different than having been scheduled to work on a holiday that we can plan on. So, ours is more spontaneous over time. Of course, you can look and see a nor'easter or a lake effect, and it's just gonna hammer us. But it's so it's an effort. Sometimes it takes me about 45 minutes to go through the list, because per the collective bargaining agreement, there's a certain order I have to follow, which is all fine. It does work. It just takes a little bit of time. But if you've got a 24 hour event, like Councilor Locastro said, yeah, there's, that's when people start to get a little antsy. The residents do because everything's that much slower. People are that much more tired. And the equipment is that much more tired. So yeah, 24 hour events are tough. But I'll tell you, though, thanks so much to the Mayor and Councilors for allowing Public Works to be included in the Capital Program for investment in equipment. So we've had less breakdowns, and that's, now that we were kind of over the hump. We're just going to do our normal replacement now. Because, obviously, less breakdowns mean more street time.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Mike and that was actually going to be my next question. I know you're probably going to get to equipment, because I usually do that every year. I know that in the last handful years we have invested

in new equipment. Obviously, a lot of questions surrounding the budget, going into this budget season. We were in an austerity budget last year due to COVID. I mean, do you feel that the fleet is in good shape right now?

**Mike Talbot**

Well, yes, I think it's in good shape, but I don't, we can't become complacent. And I know I have spoken with Christina, and Rachel about our upcoming and, you know, we all have our wants. And I won't even say needs when it comes to that we'll have, our wants we put down, like we think that would really benefit our department and our residents. We always include for ours, not only some Park improvements that need to be done, especially out at Hoopes Park, but also equipment. So, I'm hoping this year, we can just have enough in there just for one dump truck. But we're doing pretty good right now. But there are some trucks that need to come out of service.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Sure, and, you know, I agree. And I think my colleagues, I don't want to speak for them, but I mean, actions, I guess, speak louder than words. And the actions in the last several budget cycles have been a willingness to invest in that equipment. Because ultimately, that's what, that's 50% of our ability to provide services to the citizens, right? 50% of the people, 50% of the equipment. So, I was just wondering where we're at. And just because we've had a difficult year and may have another difficult year, this year, I just wanted to kind of to gauge that. So thank you.

**Mike Talbot**

Like I said before, and it's much appreciated, not only from me, but everybody who's a part of Public Works, that we have decent equipment that's reliable, and you can count on every day. That means a lot. I mean, I think we all can remember back when probably has been, excuse me going back 20 years or so when we probably should have rethought, you know, what our goals were? Because we really ran into some issues. And, you know, we're starting to overcome that.

**Mayor Quill**

Councilor Gianettinno, if I can jump in here real quick. Sure. Mike, the flip side of that, is we spent a lot of money in the past few years bringing the fleet up to where it belongs. But we have to keep after it now. Because if we wait another year, two or three, it's all going to be going bad at the same time. Am I correct?

**Mike Talbot**

Yeah, absolutely correct. And here's where we've also made some improvements Mayor and Councilor, not only is the equipment, they're making equipment, and everyone has their pet peeves on how things how, you know, everything's computerized now with vehicles, but mechanically and longevity, we have found, it's becoming better, but I have to really give kudos to our foremen down here, Jason Brown, who really has made it a priority of his to really lean on and lead our operators of this equipment on

preventative maintenance. And it's your responsibility, you know, as, I mean, here we are, as the City were turning over, you know, a quarter million dollar truck to someone, well, by Joe, you better keep it up. And we check your fluids randomly. And you know, and our guys have really responded. Good. So, it's really been a team effort for us down here. And I know, you know, Jason is a very serious and organized person, and it really has rubbed off. Because unfortunately, with how much we do with Public Works, my time is really limited on getting involved in a lot of different things for a lot of time. So, I really, Jason and I are good team, as well as some of our senior people down here who've taken the lead. And you know, it's all good. We understand our tight budgets. But the equipment, everyone is thankful that we have, that the Council and the Mayor have prioritized for us some equipment purchases, and it's, it's really paid off.

**Councilor Locastro**

And Mike, I know with tired equipment, your repairs got to be astronomical. So with newer equipment, your repairs have to be a lot less. Am I correct by that?

**Mike Talbot**

Yeah, I don't know about a lot. I wouldn't commit to a lot. But yes, we are seeing savings. But you know, you know, Councilor as well as I do. These big toys, even small pieces of these big toys can eat your lunch pretty quickly.

**Councilor Locastro**

Right. Thanks.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Going along with Councilor Locastro's question. I remember early on that you needed to plug in the engine blocks. Is that still, is that still having to be done with the newer trucks? Or is that something that we don't have to worry about?

**Mike Talbot**

No, that's just typical with anything heavy equipment with diesel. So, you know, they have black heaters and that's everybody has their own outlet. And, you know, it's done for you know, because we don't have interior parking.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Okay, it's always gonna happen no matter what.

**Mike Talbot**

Right? And that's really no problem. It's worked out well, because I think we've all heard some of the horror stories about some of the Public Works or town highway garages that enjoy the benefits of parking in one garage. But if there's an incident where that garage catches fire or something happens,

you can lose your entire fleet. So, which has happened. Once again, now we're talking about shifts. The months of December, January, February and March, what I do typically during the spring, summer and fall, we have one person that works second shift. We put another truck driver on second shift to work with that person Monday through Friday. And then we have, everybody chooses their weeks to work third shift, and also that works into working weekends also. So our, like I said, our guys are really responsive and really enjoy this type of work. So, unfortunately, well fortunately, or unfortunately, whichever way you look at, we really haven't shown off yet this year. But it looks like the atmosphere and the weather patterns are supposed to be changed in probably in the next eight to 10 days. So we'll see.

**Mayor Quill**

It's going to get warmer then right?

**Mike Talbot**

I don't know about that. But I think once that vortex moves down, like they say it's going to bring some cold air over the warm Lake Ontario region, pick up some moisture. So, we'll see. Now we'll talk a little bit about the costs. And once again, that I go through this every year I take our active people put them in. And this is, you know, I have input from the Comptroller who gives me some benefits, costs and all and this is really what it costs for 16 people per hour. I don't like to just go with your basic labor, I think benefits needs to be included in that because we do pay them. So, you can see, you would think it'd be a lot more, I always did for overtime, but majority of your benefits are paid in the 40 hour stretch. So, that's why it's that big a difference between the rates as we go through. And then like I said, our salt barn is designed for 3,000 tons, but the working capacity is 2,500. You can get 2500 tons in safely. Salt is \$54.40 per ton this year. That's the same as it was last year. We have a loader on our bucket, holds three times and then we've calibrated and gone down to the landfill, weighing them down there. Takes three buckets for smaller, bigger dump trucks. That's sounds crazy. But I don't want to confuse it with our pickup trucks, six and a half buckets more than double for 10 wheelers. So, we have three of them. And the one with brine is also a 10 wheeler coming in. So, you can see we're carrying quite a bit of resources for the City, when we go out and plow. Salt barns holding up well, we put a new roof on a few years back. It's pretty practical, nothing special, but it gets the job done. That's just a shot inside of how we load it. Now factored in is some fuel usage. Obviously, unfortunately, we get about three miles per gallon when we're fully loaded. Remember, one road equals four road miles of plowing because you have to go up and back and one side up and back and the other side, two plow cuts each direction. Each individual plow route contains approximately 40 miles, 10 road miles times 4, which is 40 miles a plow. So, it's not as simple as just going down forgetting about you got to come back and finish. We use about 20 gallons per route. Remember that's about, that's every four hours. So, including travel time and salt loading. The routes average three and a half to four hours to complete, on average to complete 16 routes on straight time which is four hours of plowing. That's what our cost is right there. So, you can see why we have to be on the ball. Our people have to be as efficient as possible. And they do a really good job of it. Now this is the same calculations on overtime. So, and we have \$35,000 in the budget for



overtime. Ideally a snowstorm, if we could order a snowstorm, we would order it Monday through Friday, hit us about 5 a.m., leave about 2 p.m. because we really wouldn't experience that much overtime. But unfortunately we can order the snow like that. So, you know, the ones that really are expensive are obviously the ones on the weekends or on holidays. So, that's what it costs to see the salt and the fuel are the same. It's the labor that changes. Here's what we've used over the years. I went back 10 years. You can see before we computerized our spreader systems, it was just open the gate and dump salt all over. In fact, to go back a few years before that, it was a lot more salt. And I'll tell you that we just don't, I don't know of any community or any of the superintendents that I'm involved with. Nobody has a bare pavement policy. That which means, every time we're going to get it down to asphalt. You know, some of these residential roads don't need to be down to asphalt, because what happens is, the more salt we use, the more melt we have, the more melt we have, the more freeze we have in the pavement itself, which of course will break it up and create potholes. So, that's another advantage of, well, another benefit, not too bad. It's another benefit of using less salt. Of course, we want everybody to be safe. But I think the Police Department will agree, the majority of fender benders and people sliding around in the wintertime are just people not driving for the conditions. And it's always evident on the first snowstorm, where people just seem to be sliding all over, because they still don't think there's anything on the streets. But you can see our investment in salt each year. We try to control it as best we can. So, that's just what it is. These are the numbers. This is, Councilor Giannettino, here is where we sit with our equipment. And all of these plows are in our fleet. So, like that 106, that's a backup truck. But if you experience a breakdown, and you don't have a backup truck, somebody's route is not getting plowed. Somebody may not be able to get the work. Someone may not be able to get home from work, someone may not be able to get off at the bus stop and walk safely to their home. So, that's what we have, you can see we started the effort in '15 a better effort any way of updating. So, that's much appreciated. We have to continue, like the Mayor said to be diligent and we also have to be practical. We know there's, you know, there's not an endless budget. We all understand that. That's our loaders there one's a year newer than the other one and they get used quite often. But not only Public Works, but every department comes and borrows one it seems. That's our newest truck right now. Right there, you're looking at about \$185,000. That's a six wheeled dump truck. We also have 10 wheel dump trucks that we'll see in a minute. But that's our newest. This is, this winter is this trucks first time. That's it from the side. There's one of our 10 wheelers and this is called a combination spreader, where that metal plate that has number 90 on it, you pull that out and that exposes the augers. And then you put the tailgate on with the actual spreader spinner. And that's how the salt gets fed onto the street. That's, we tried a stainless steel body on this truck 72, which is great, it doesn't rust, but what we found is we're so with our Public Works services we provide, we do a lot of tree work and hauling and things like that. The stainless steel just seemed to dent a little bit. So, we went into now the other newer truck you just saw with the black box that isn't stainless steel, but it is black. So, we're a little disappointed in, maybe not how, I mean this looks good, but you have to watch what to use it for. So, if we had a, we'd have a bunch of dimpled looking trucks if all of ours were stainless steel from the tree work and other heavier work we do. So, but it was worth a try. That's one of our small, that does the pick-up routes. Now have spreaders. That's the computerized spreader system the Rex Route system. Those buttons mean stuff and

that dial at the top right means something. So, everyone has one. Those, we've now, we're buying for pretty much outfitted, now with all stainless steel spreaders. You can see the homemade orange ones further to the left of that. We've gotten away from that, the maintenance on these newer ones that we buy already assembled is much less than the dinosaurs we use, the news those are much heavier, a little more dangerous. We've had a few people experience finger and hand injuries servicing them. So, all of our trucks now, we've gotten. Now when we trade a truck in and it has one of these newer spreaders. We don't have to buy a spreader. So, we'll just interchange spreaders because they're a lot more durable. And this is the last slide. It's, that's how we assign the routes. Of course everyone has the specified routes, but when they're in and out and like Councilor Locastro said, once you get beyond eight hours, 12 hours and then it gets confusing what time somebody came in. They have to go home. We have to get other people in. So this helps us. And it has all our trucks listed at the bottom. So when you put someone in one, what I do is check it off. So, so pretty much that that's it. Does anyone have any questions? Once again, at Public Works, we're very thankful for the commitment the Mayor and Council has made into equipment over the years. We've kept good care of the equipment. And you know, we'll just do whatever we have to do to make sure we provide the services for our residents. So, that's it. I hope this was meaningful. I hope it was informative. Anyone have any questions?

**Mayor Quill**

It's a great refresher for all of us, Mike. Thank you.

**Mike Talbot**

Well, including me, Mayor, because it really helps. You know, it helps every, it helps me, you know, you forget how important, sometimes you forget how important, and how much our residents count on us to come through. You know, was and you know, that lack of better English. Sometimes we just can't afford to have a bad day. And that's our goal is to have to minimize those bad days as few as possible. Good point.

**City Manager Dygert**

Hey, Mike, I asked you this every year because it's a common complaint or criticism. We often get asked why when the County Plow trucks are driving through the City, or the State Plow trucks are driving through the City, why do they not drop the blade and plow the City streets as long as they are in the neighborhood? And I know the answer, but I didn't see you to address that. Could you?

**Mike Talbot**

Right. No, but thank you, what I'm going to do and for future presentations, include that with a slide. Because our plows have what's called a trip edge, where if you hit a raised manhole or a water, any infrastructure, we have our plows hit it, and the plow will kind of fold over and kind of hop up so you can get around it. The State DOT and the County don't have that. Because really they're plowing, and that's why I'm a little partial, I think we have the best plow drivers around, because what they do is drop their plow and go straight for 10 miles. Turn around, go straight for 10 miles again. Our guys are in and

out of traffic, alternate side parking, slow, fast. So, that's why the State does not, or the County does not put their blades down because they could do some damage to our infrastructure. By hammer in our, you know, by really hammering our manholes and everything. Really, if you hit a manhole, sometimes that happens to us. You can eject that thing. It's like a frisbee. And if somebody was standing, you know, if you get clocked by one of them, boy you'll know it. So, as helpful as it would be, sometimes you pass a plow and it's a blizzard, they don't have their blade down. There's probably a reason. Even with our guys, if you pass one of our plows, in a blizzard and his blades not down, he's either got a broken hydraulic line, a broken cutting edge, or, there's some problem with his plow.

**Councilor McCormick**

Mayor, I just wanted to reply to Mike. I know you do this every year. And I think of all the things that the City Council and City staff get, you know, regular complaints or questions, it's about snow plowing. It's got to be in the top three. And it's so helpful to know what you, to go over this with us, especially for the public. And I believe you still put this on your website, the whole entire slide or PowerPoint presentation. It's so helpful to us. And I think it's helpful to you, in the long run, that we can answer, at least I can answer questions now, that I could never answer without. It gives people somewhat satisfaction, they understand it better, knowing that, you know, why doesn't the County plow or how come this isn't plowed. And when we can explain the priority, how you prioritize streets and the system that you use, it's very helpful. So I appreciate the time you take to do it.

**Mike Talbot**

Well, thank you. And you know, we know here, also when there's a storm, we're always going to be public enemy number one. You know, it really doesn't matter what happens and that's part of our role. But, you know, we do the best we can. Some still, you know, you have to really, I know, Councilor Locatro, you're aware of this also. Each storm is different in how it hits, with the water content of the snow, and it really impacts how quickly you can A - remove it or B - not remove it. So, there's a lot that goes into it. And I get it. People don't, I mean most, not that people don't care about other people. When they get in their car they want to get from point A to point B with no snow on the road. Well we live in Central New York. There's going to be snow on the road at times and we don't have a bare pavement policy. Because if we did, our roads would be crumbling, because of all the melting and refreezing, and all that. So, I get it, people get angry with me and I see all the derogatory things that social media can promote. And that's just the way it is. We do our best. It's funny, one contractor, I remember he's the, he's no longer there, but he used to stage his equipment kind of across the street from us down here. And he never could understand why the City forces were always getting hammered on social media. Then he goes, "you know, every time I'm here you guys were already here. Your trucks are already out. The beacons are going. The loaders going. There's activity. The parking lot full," he goes, "I just don't get it." You know, cuz he thought, we never, you know, it's like we're sleeping through it or something. So, his staging area was nearby and he could see, so, I always kind of chuckle with that. Yeah.

**Mayor Quill**

Most years, I get a phone call. Wanting to know if you could lift your plow just in front of someone's driveway. So you don't plow it in? And they, I'd love to do it one time. Yeah, it takes patience, which I know everyone realized how patient a person I am, to explain what's going on. But yeah, your people are, they do a great job. But you know, we don't see them because they're out when most of us are asleep, or nice and warm and cozy in our homes or whatever. But they're out there slugging it out. And for one, I'll speak for myself. It's truly appreciated, trust me.

**Councilor McCormick**

Mike, is the fact that school isn't as regular as it should be. Is that been impacted how you do things? Or we haven't really had a big snow event? But has it been an advantage or loosen things up?

**Mike Talbot**

It hasn't impacted how we approach anything, but it has, there's less traffic on the roads. And there's really, you can really tell the difference when school is not in session. Yeah, you know, just be for the less traffic. And it's really, it's really benefits, our efficiency and really protects some of the liabilities that the City is exposed to when we're out with this. Right? There's less people.

**Councilor McCormick**

Ok. Thank you.

**Mike Talbot**

Yep. Actually, what I wanted to say also, if anyone ever wants to take a ride in a snowplow for an hour or two, it really gives you a different perspective. So, just let me know. We'll pick you up at your house.

**Mayor Quill**

And then we'll get complaints that the Mayor & Councilors get their driveways plowed out.

**Mike Talbot**

Well, we'll make sure we plow you in anyway. Okay.

**Police Chief Butler**

Don't be stealing the thunder from the Police Department's ride along program. Yeah.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, Mike. It's very informative, as always.

**Mike Talbot**

Well, thanks for the time. Thanks for having me.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Thanks, Mike.

**Mayor Quill**

Mr Dygert, I guess you're on for COVID update.

**City Manager Dygert**

All right. Thank you, Mayor. I feel like I need to go up front and bring Chuck Mason a hat though. It must be cold out there in front of City Hall. So obviously, there's a lot going on with COVID in the community. I want to give you a little bit of an update on what I know, and what City staff has been doing, to a certain extent, what's going on at the hospital, what's going on with the County Health Department, things like that. Obviously, I'm not an official representative of the hospital or the County. But we do talk on a regular basis. So I can give you some basic ideas of what's going on there. In the community, we're seeing numbers seem to be stabilizing a little bit at this point in time. I say that very cautiously, because as I watched the news, especially in New York State, there's other areas of the state where they're seeing an increase. I think New York State today or yesterday, saw an increase in fatalities. They had a record, I believe that they broke, that was last set in May. So we'd never really know necessarily exactly where this is going from one day to the next. And we know that there's a lot of things that impact what goes on in the community. Well, I can tell you from in general terms of the hospital is still very busy. It's not quite, at one point they were working above peak, if you wanted to call it that, you know again, they're 99 bed facility and they had an excess of 100 people there for quite a period of time. The last I heard this week, they're down below 99. But they still have, they're hovering around 40 COVID patients at any given time, in varying conditions. They are also, the hospital continues to do some testing. The County Health Department is continuing to do testing clinics. We are working with the County Health Department and the Emergency Management Office to try to conduct some COVID testing at the Booker T. Washington Center. We really think it's important to try to get at least a couple of clinics here that are more local, more neighborhood oriented. So we are working towards a clinic on Saturday, the 23rd at Booker T. Washington center. That's not totally firmed up yet. But that's what we're aiming for. Because of the difficulties that are out there, because really, County staff from the Health Department, from Emergency Management Office, they're being pulled in a lot of different directions, as well as at the hospital, right so that the hospital not only has to take care of all of the the folks that they've got there and the increased number of patients, but they also have testing going on, they're doing vaccine clinics. So they're trying to do many different things above and beyond what they normally do with essentially the same amount of staff. Same thing is happening in the County, and we are trying to do our best to offer whatever services we can to aid in the effort to get testing completed or to distribute vaccines. We'll talk through some of that stuff, briefly. Related to the Booker T Washington Center, COVID testing, what we have offered up because the County has kind of a rhythm going with testing clinics pretty much at Emerson Park. So, they may dial that one down for a day. And in order to have enough staff, we're going to supplement their testing at Booker T. Washington Center

with some City staff so that we can accomplish that and provide that service. So, you know, that's something that really hasn't necessarily been getting an awful lot of attention. Once there was discussion about vaccine and vaccine became available. I think a lot of the public's attention really focused on that. And we didn't necessarily forget about testing, but it certainly wasn't the focal point. That's still a very important part of what's going on right now. With the number of active cases in the community, it's still important. And we have to realize that even though there's vaccine out there, there is not enough vaccine to make a tremendous impact right this moment. So the Health Department is trying to keep an eye on that it's a it's certainly a delicate balance. And it's certainly a stress on limited resources across a number of different departments and agencies. So related to the vaccines, again, Auburn Community Hospital has been doing vaccination clinics. They were the first in the community and then hospitals were the first across the state to get vaccine. And that was in an effort to vaccinate health care workers in those hospital settings. And then they were tasked with vaccinating frontline medical personnel outside of the hospital setting and they accomplish that. We mentioned last week, I think it was or maybe the week before, Auburn Community Hospital is actually ranked number eight in the State at one point as far as their efficiency and getting there a lot of doses out into the community. So that was a great thing. I think it was certainly a stress on their system. But they did it. And they got rid of their allotted doses and then were allotted more doses, right. So I don't know if they really were looking forward to those or not, but they got them anyway. And they had to go through the process of getting rid of those. The City has partnered with ACH in trying to coordinate some scheduling to support that vaccination process that they've got going on. And along the way, Cayuga County Health Department received a number of doses I believe it was around 2000 doses at one point and again, scheduling was an issue. So what we did is we kind of partnered with Auburn Community Hospital and the County Health Department to try to facilitate a way that we could help with scheduling help take some of that administrative burden off of their agencies so that their people could focus on providing the vaccine. And we'd answer questions. And in the case of, we knew we'd be hit with a senior population that was going to be prioritized, right. So we know that that population initially in 1B was 75 years of age and older. And then it was rapidly changed to 65 and older by the Governor a couple of days ago. And what we anticipated, and what we've seen is that a lot of folks in that particular age group have some issues dealing with the online portal that's required to sign up for slots in these vaccination clinics. So what we did early on is the City established a call in line and it was promoted by the County Health Department and the hospital, were people that fit that demographic, or just had issues accessing the portal that you had to go into to schedule could call that number. And we would, the theory was that we would assist them getting a slot. We had a few bumps along the road for the last few days. Related to that, where we even couldn't get slots to put these folks into had a lot of discussion with the County Health Department. And I think we, we finally tackle that problem today. And what we've had to do is when these when these vaccination clinics open up, and when the web link opens up to the public, there's a great deal of interest. And, and they fill up very quickly. So for an example, a couple of days ago, there was two links that were opened up for, I believe it was a Tuesday clinic and a Wednesday clinic, each with approximately 3 to 400 slots. Those clinics filled up, collectively, the two of them, filled up in approximately seven minutes, about 700 slots filled in seven minutes. So if you can imagine somebody in our senior community that's not

really great at utilizing the internet, or maybe doesn't even have internet access, doesn't have an email, they don't stand a chance of getting in utilizing that system. So what we wanted to do is, again, set up this phone line where those folks could call us. And somebody from staff would help them to either navigate it, or actually just put their information in and get them a spot. So we worked hard today. Staff worked very hard to get that set up and work through our backlog of folks that had called over the last three days asking for assistance. And I'll say that there are times when I actually will answer that phone call. Most of the time, that's early in the morning, some of you know I typically am here before most of the other staff. That phones ringing off the hook before seven o'clock in the morning. So I would take that opportunity to just get a feel for what's going on and to answer those phone calls and hear the anxiety and desperation in people's voices. It was really interesting how important these vaccines were to people. The nice part about it is that today when we were able to actually call those people back and provide them with a slot in a clinic, to get the vaccine to hear that relief in their voice and to hear how happy they were that somebody got back to them. We put a dent in things today and they're certainly more to do but I think we've determined and created a system that will work in the future to get those folks in. From the very beginning, we've told the County and the County Health Department, you know we anticipated this. This was going to be a big undertaking at some point in time, and things were pretty calm until October then things started ramping up. Testing was certainly one hurdle and one stress on the system. The challenge of delivering these vaccines out into the community is certainly another. So if you really look at what's going to happen potentially in Cayuga County, I guess I look at the whole County. The population of just to use round numbers is roughly 70,000 in the County. Not a huge County, but that's a lot of people for the number of people we have working in certain roles. The goal is for our medical professionals is to vaccinate between 70 and 90% of that population. So that brings us down to, I don't know, somewhere around if we take, like 80%, I think that gets us like, like 56,000 people. And then if we recall, that the vaccination is a two part system or a two shot system, that means that we would have to deliver approximately 112,000 vaccinations. And then if you look at what the average has been, of vaccine delivered in any of these clinics, so far done in Cayuga County. They're able to deliver around 400 vaccines give or take in a given day. That's 280 clinics, if you look at it that way, that's 280 clinics. That's a long time to get all this vaccination out into the community. And that's not i'm not saying that, that it's a it's not a weakness, it's just a reality, it's numbers. If you look around some of the statistics that have been thrown out around the State, in more densely populated areas downstate, their outlook on what it's going to take them to vaccinate, that same percentage of their population is staggering. So we're doing pretty good. Right at the moment, the limiting factor is vaccine doses available. I'll talk more about that in a minute. But there's also staffing needs, right. So, you know, County Health Department's trying to do testing clinics, now they're trying to do vaccines, there's going to be second vaccines required in just a week or so. So it's a monumental task. And there's a variety of different tasks that go on. It's not just about people putting needles in people's shoulders, there's a lot of administrative tasks that go along with it and support tasks and things like that. We're happy to have been able to provide support, and we hope to be able to continue to provide support to the County with their vaccination clinics, it seems to have been a good partnership, so far. It varies day to day on what the needs are. And some of you have got some first hand knowledge, you've seen the program in action.

These vaccine clinics are actually, they're very well organized. And they're pretty efficient for anybody that's been through it. But there is a lot to it. It's a huge undertaking, and a lot of staff people required to make that happen. The first one that happened was this past Saturday. And I believe the number of when I asked the Health Department about how many people they thought they had working there to accommodate putting 400 people through was about 30 people give or take in different roles and positions to make that all happen. So that's interesting. And, again, I want to make sure that I don't forget our City staff throughout every department, every labor organization that we've got, early on, as we thought about proposing this assistance to the County Health Department, we knew that we'd have to take care of we'd have to take care of business, right? Because there's always a business aspect of this. And for us, our labor force is mostly unionized. We sat down in the span of a few hours in one particular day, and met with all the labor unions and told them what are what we would like to propose to the County Health Department as far as providing support and were they with us? And without, without question. Each of the labor units said "yes, we're with you". We had a few minor details that we had to work out with each, but within 24 hours we had MOUs with each of our labor units to to just kind of memorialize where we were what the expectation was of them and what the expectation was of us. So I got to thank all the leadership in those groups, and certainly all of the different City staff and I tell you, when we say we're providing administrative support and things like that, it's all across the board. It's not just people that typically sit behind the keyboard, we utilize our Codes Cleanup Crew, worked a full day down at the clinic yesterday. They had a great time, it was something different for them, a different way to do good work in the community. And from what I'm told, the reception of them being there, doing their thing was very good as well. So I'm happy to say that we've had all different employee types down there from different backgrounds and different departments. And probably one of the things that's gotten the most attention recently, though, has been our firefighters. Our firefighters have, a handful of years ago, they have the ability for quite some time to give injections, but didn't necessarily get the certification. A few years back, it was determined that that might be a valuable skill, with different things rolling on down the road. Certainly never anticipated this, but a few, handful of years ago our firefighters were certified to give injections. And that really played an important part in what has happened here. As Chief Fritz and I discussed, when these things started rolling out and the discussion about mass vaccinations across New York State, and across the country, across the world happened. You know, the question is how many people are going to need to put that many needles in that many arms? And it was a great opportunity for the firefighters to be able to step up, get certified to distribute or to actually provide this vaccine out in the field. So at this point, we have, I believe, at last call, we had 26 firefighters that had agreed to get that additional certification and training. And they are currently providing some relief to some of the nursing staff from the County. That's been, they've been at it since March doing some of this stuff. So we're happy to provide that service, we're certainly not looking to replace that service, we're looking to supplement it. And we feel that in the future, as more vaccine becomes available, there's going to be a need for more people with that skill set to deliver it to the community. So we're happy to do that. They're also providing standby services as well, because during these clinics, it's recommended or required that there be EMS standby. So we can send those folks down there, they actually fill in, in a few different roles. We are working internally on a plan and we're



working in conjunction with the County Health Department to try to devise a plan where we can take the show on the road, if you will, and go right to some of our senior citizen housing complexes, whether that be an apartment building or a high rise or anything like that. And actually let our senior population avoid having to try to find transportation, get out in inclement weather, move around when they may have some mobility impairments and struggles. But to actually bring vaccine right to their facilities and be able to do this essentially right in their apartment and then move on and get to the next resident and the next department. We think we've got a plan to do that we think we can get the approval and the blessing of the County Health Department to work together on that. And that's how we're going to really be able to tackle this, I think is these cooperative efforts between them and us and the private pharmacies and the doctor's offices. Everybody's going to have to work together on this team to get this done in any sort of a reasonable timeframe. That's kind of where we're at right at the moment. I don't want to forget though, for everyone to remember that, first of all, the vaccine is not out there amongst the masses, yet. Please be patient. We are again, limited by the vaccine allocation. The County Health Department is limited by the vaccine allocation. They are doing their best to allocate vaccine based on the criteria set by New York State. We're all doing our best to make sure that we're trying to do it in a fair and equitable way. We want to reach out to folks that don't have good transportation, things like that. We've been having discussions like with Auburn Housing Authority to do multiple things there when the time comes. So please be patient, be patient with the folks in the Health Department, the City, whoever you're, the public is dealing with. Folks are doing their best. And they're under a tremendous amount of stress. And they don't always have all the answers. Oftentimes, our information that we're getting from the State changes with very little or no notice. So we need to be agile there. But the situation in the community still hasn't changed. If we were to look at it today, like I said, the last couple of days seem to be showing an improvement. But certainly a much worse situation than it was in early to mid-October, even at this point. So, you know, I don't want to diminish that there's progress hopefully being made. But there's a heck of a long way to go before we can say, "okay, we're through this, we're on the downhill side, and we're just going to coast". Certainly not the case, we need to get more vaccine, oh, we need people to still remain diligent and wear masks, social distance. Simple stuff, like utilizing good hygiene, and avoid gathering in groups. That's important. And we continue to tell folks that we need to do this, if you're not doing it for yourself. Think about the medical staff at the hospitals that have been busting their butts since March and are really under a tremendous amount of stress, pressure to do everything they typically would do, but to do more of it under worse conditions. And then add things like testing and vaccination on top of it. So our medical providers, our local hospitals, and medical facilities are under a lot of stress. Keep that in mind. Keep that in your thoughts and, and let that guide your actions. Think of your neighbors, your families, there's been a lot of cases here locally, we've had some local stuff that's made national news, some powerful stories. Hopefully, that influences people to do the right thing and help our businesses reopen. You know, that's that's the bottom line. As testing became more available, and then especially when vaccines came on the scene, a lot of focus turned away from those zones. And I'm not here to support or talk down the Zone System that New York State had for a while. But if you looked at Syracuse, and you looked at their numbers and assumption New York, that area that was declared an Orange Zone based on certain percentages and statistics. That's all well

and good. But Cayuga County was well into the Red Zone by all accounts and could potentially I haven't looked at the latest statistics. We may still exist in a Red Zone, but nobody's the focus has turned to vaccine. And there's the whole zone discussion just kind of went by the wayside. So we're not out of the woods. And if we want to help our neighbors stay healthy, and we want to help our businesses reopen and get everything back to normal. Everybody's got to do their part. I guess that's the recap of what's going on. And happy to take any questions you got and do my best to answer. Councilor?

**Councilor Cuddy**

Yes, Mr. Dygert, I just from my personal experience I teach at BOCES. So, I've been privy to the observing the organization. And I've noticed exactly what you were talking about in action. County, people collaborating, cooperating with City staff and other organizations and both the BOCES staff. It was great to see everybody working together. I had the opportunity to get vaccinated. So, I went through the process, I saw the workers in the Codes Department taking in people. I saw Councilor McCormick volunteering. It was a top down, everybody all hands on deck, working together. To me, it was the best of the people, best of our government, doing what it does, which is to help people. And everything that you said, now about how much coordination it takes paid off with a sense of hope in the people's faces, when they showed up to get their vaccinations. I know we have a long way to go. But you, the City and the County and the hospital, working together, are bringing that sense of hope. Are bringing that sense of hope to the people in this community in Auburn, New York. So, thank you for all of your hard work. And the people of the County and the hospital, you know, we have a long way to go, I know that. But I think that if we continue this kind of cooperation, and, you know, continue to work together, that we can we can minimize the risks and continue, and as you said, follow the protocols, you know, wear masks, social distance, stay at home, you know, what we've been saying since March, its all still relevant today. So, thank you again, Mr. Dygert. For all the hard work you've done to make this happen.

**Councilor McCormick**

Jeff, I just want to highlight the fact that we can't, the availability of vaccines is limited. But I'm very happy to hear that we're talking about more neighborhood, and I know not neighborhood is too limited, but the Booker T. Washington or the senior centers or high rises, I think that's going to be such a value after seeing people over 75, today. It's a long haul from the parking lot to the building. And it was, it was heart breaking and heart warming, but to see people try to get to their shot, to get their vaccine with the help of a friend or a family member. But what a great thing it could be if they could just go to the lobby of the building they live in and get their shot. And maybe for the second round, that will be something we can do. But the fact that we're talking about planning to do some extension of what the clinics are all about, is going to be a huge help at what we see now. I think they're grateful for anything. And no one is complaining that the ones that have made it through the door got through the process. But I think that getting it into the places where people don't have access to transportation, and internet access, the things that a lot of us take for granted, I think is a great idea. And I hope we can work for that. It's I could talk all day about it but I won't.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Mr. Dygert, I'd like to basically reiterate what Councilor Cuddy and Councilor McCormick have already said. You know, I say all the time that government exists to protect the public trust, and this is a perfect example. You know, currently, we don't have much direction coming from the Federal government, there's a lot of confusion coming from State government. And it really is falling on the shoulders of local governments to ensure that these vaccinations get into people's arms. And I can't thank you, and City staff enough, County staff enough. I was able to witness it firsthand. The great cooperation that is taking place. And you know, you mentioned it, and so did Councilor Cuddy, the sense of relief in residents faces to get that vaccination, realizing that, you know, this isn't the end that there's still a lot of work to do. But this is that glimmer of hope that everybody's been waiting 10 months for. And for us all to be a part of that I think it's very important to continue that trust with the public. You know, we talk about all the time about shared services. Right, this is the perfect example. This is what matters. Not shared services, buzz words to get, you know, money back from State government. This is shared, shared services that matter. And it really heartens me. And Councilor McCormick just said this that we are aware that there are populations that are going to need additional assistance, not only in the City, but talking with Miss Cuddy with the County Health Department, there are rural populations that are going to need assistance. And it's going to take a commitment from City staff as well. All right, we're not just partnering to help in the City. We're partnering to help throughout this whole County. So, thank you. If I could sum it up those two words. Thank you.

**City Manager Dygert**

Thanks, Councilor. Oh, yes, Councilor.

**Councilor Locastro**

Just one thing. I can't imagine what your day is, like every single day, because the rules, the laws, everything changes hourly. Just keep up the good work. I think you're doing a great job. And I could probably speak for the Mayor and the rest of the Council. Awesome.

**City Manager Dygert**

Well, thank you for that. But again, this place has been pretty frenzied here this week. And I know the Mayor has been in and out and Councilor McCormick has been in and out. We've got a number of staff that are just sort of, they're going above and beyond. And it can be a little bit daunting for some folks that that tend to be creatures of habit, because there are no habits that are created at this point. As we've mentioned, the rules change, sometimes within minutes, and we have to keep switching gears and that can be frustrating for folks, but I think our staff has done a great job and continues to step up for the challenge. Chief Fritz is on this call also. And I just want to make sure that, you know, Chief Fritz has been leading the charge with the Fire Department and coordinating things he took on a massive role throughout the pandemic. Whenever we'd have anybody that was either positive or symptomatic, or anything like that, Chief Fritz has been the point person with the County Health Department to try to make sure we were doing the right thing and that we didn't get caught in a bog down system, because

that's certainly what was happening. It's as things ramped up, it was very difficult. the State system bogged down. So, Chief Fritz was the point person to provide guidance when we couldn't, when we didn't have real quick response from the State or the County. And that's not a criticism. It's just the way this thing's got. But he's also been guiding things along the way to get these firefighters up into a position where I think they're going to have a dramatic impact. The ability to get vaccine out in the community. So, I've asked Chief Fritz if he could say a couple things as well.

**Fire Chief Fritz**

Good evening, Mayor and Councilors. Yep. The City Manager is correct. We currently have 27 City firefighters that have been trained and certified to administer vaccinations at the County's vaccination clinics. We currently, or I currently, provide 4 a day to support that mission. And those members rotate through the vaccination tables, providing vaccination to our community members. And also through the gymnasium where they have those people that have been vaccinated wait for 15 or 30 minutes post injection to make sure they don't have a reaction. Within the department, we are also starting to develop a mobile vaccination plan. And I am in constant communication with Kathleen Cuddy to ensure that our plan, you know, not only makes sense to us, but it makes sense to the Health Department who's going to be supporting our mission and supplying the vaccine for us. So, my department is very committed to doing whatever we can to support these missions, whether they be testing clinics at Booker T, or vaccination clinics at Boyle Center. My staff has stepped up and will continue to. I know I have additional firefighters that are still currently in the process of going to the training and will probably come online next week. So, we're ready to hit the ground running and we're working through our plans to get everything in place. So, that when vaccination becomes available, we will be ready to take our show on the road, if you will, and provide that service to people who may not find it easy to get to the Boyle Center, or Emerson Park, or I'm sorry, to BOCES for vaccination or Emerson Park for testing. So, that's my goal. That's the department's goal. And that's where we're at right now. So thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Jeff, this is Mike, can you hear me? All right.

**City Manager Dygert**

Yes, Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

Thanks to Councilor Giannettino, I was on mute, so I saved the best for last. I've always heard, and Councilor McCormick's father was always saying, busier than a one armed paper hanger. I've seen you for two days and now I know exactly what he meant. If you haven't caught Jeff at City Hall, he walks around looking down because he has his cell phone in his hand. At first I thought he was getting directions and how to get back to his office, but he just goes from one to the next. We have a terrific workforce. In listening to Rhonda and Coleen answering phones today and yesterday. It's the patience that they're exhibiting. And I'm sure those are the only two I really had contact with but I'm sure all our

employees are of the same, cut from the same cloth. They're there because they want to be there. They're helping their community. And they're not asking for anything special of it. Jeff, we took a little bit of heat when we reappointed you, when we hired you in the first place. And then we reappointed you. I never had a doubt about it. But after the last few days, I spent a little time with you, I would put you up against anyone. I've never seen anyone that works so well with the public, works so well with our employees, and has the community at heart. There's no pay raise in it, but you never asked for one. So, you're really someone that our employees look up to, and are trying to emulate because you're doing a terrific job. I'm very, very proud to work with you and the best thing I've learned is to stay out of your way and let you do your own thing. And you always bring it home. So thank you, thank you. And I'll speak for myself, I don't know what I am capable of, I know what I'm not capable of doing. But if I could be of any assistance in any of these outreach programs, feel free to let me know, I'd be glad to help.

**City Manager Dygert**

Thank you, Mayor. Just a couple of comments on things. I forget who actually, I think it was Councilor Giannettino. Sorry about that Councilor, you made a comment about the response from the federal government and the state government. And it's interesting, because obviously, you know my background. But in Emergency Management, one of the one of the key sayings in Emergency Management is that every emergency starts local and ends local. It doesn't matter how big it gets in the middle. But it starts out as a local emergency and it ends as a local emergency. And I think that's where we're really finding ourselves right now. Right? We get a certain amount of help from the Federal government, but certainly, right now, most of that help is in the way of just distributing some vaccine to the State. And then it trickles down to us, that's really the extent. There's a little bit of Federal aid out there financially, that hasn't necessarily made its way. There's been a little bit, but I think a lot of its log jammed up in Albany, for some reason, I'm not sure what's going on there. We might want to look at that. But and the State's providing certain service, like the vaccination clinic at the fairgrounds and things like that. But locally, what's happened is, there's been a whole lot of mandates put on local Health Departments and hospitals and things like that. A tremendous amount of responsibility and new regulations and things like that, that everybody's stepping up to try to deal with. But in the end the reality is that we got to have people that are able to do the job, get the vaccine out there, administer the tests, and do all those other things. And that's on top of whatever is going on on a regular daily basis. Anyway. So, there's a lot of people stepping up, in a lot of ways I hope the community can see that. I do my best to make sure we highlight our City workers. That may seem like a cheap publicity stunt, but the reality of it is, that we've got a lot of folks putting in a lot of time to do good. I want to make sure that we discuss something here. And I wasn't sure how to throw this out there. But I think it's probably most appropriate to do right now. So, questions pop up. And one of the questions that we've had internally amongst staff is, you know, we're taking on some different roles here. What the heck is, you know, our liability? What's the liability of doing this? It's different. Interestingly enough, this afternoon, just prior to this meeting, I got an email message from NYMIR, which is our insurance carrier. And it wasn't specifically to us it was to all the NYMIR insurance communities. And it was basically an

acknowledgement from our insurance carrier saying, "Hey, listen, we know that there is this crisis going on across the country, and across their customer base, and that they realize that in order to deal with this situation, communities and municipalities are doing things that are outside the norm of what they normally do", and they acknowledge that that's happening. Essentially, I think they may even said, we've got your back, I think it was almost a note in that many words, that they've got our back, they understand that not every municipality, nor do they, as the insurance carrier, have enough time to sit down and work through everything that's going on in these communities, but they realize that we're dealing with a crisis, and have committed to making sure that if we're utilizing reasonable precautions, and doing the right thing for the right reasons, they're there. So, that was good news. That's a huge concern that's been out there. That was kind of put to rest of this afternoon.

**Mayor Quill**

Jeff, would you forward it on to us, please?

**City Manager Dygert**

And then the other thing is, as you can imagine, you know, this effort is not without cost, everything we've done since March comes at a cost and whether that's the modifications, we made the City Hall or the PPE that we had to purchase, things like that. Every business that's out there has incurred costs to deal with the pandemic. Certainly municipalities are in a situation where this is going to cost some money. I honestly can't sit here and tell you, here's how much this is going to cost us to respond to the situation. It's going to cost some money. I don't know how much of our effort is going to be reimbursable. I can tell you based on my experience dealing with hurricanes and natural disasters, that typically, somebody comes through in the end. I've never been held short. We've always been made whole, one way or another. It may take a while. But we're typically made whole, I realized that this situation being nationwide or worldwide may have a different end result. But it's at least my opinion, that we're a municipality and first and foremost, we're here to provide for the safety and well being of our residents. And I think our efforts are part of that. So, I say that, I'm not trying to put undue pressure on you as the elected body of this municipality. But I certainly don't want to, you know, I want to continue to move on and provide these services. But want to make sure that we're being transparent and that, you know, it's going to come at a cost. I don't know exactly what it is. But again, every emergency starts local and ends local. If we don't do it, I'm not sure who's going to help us.

**Councilor Giannettino**

I mean, I think that's a good point. Right? You're, you're talking about the financial cost, but what's the cost of not doing it? And that's more important. You know, our job as a local elected leaders is to advocate on behalf of the citizens of Auburn. You know, tonight, there will be a new stimulus package unveiled. Once that starts to move, it'll be our job to lobby to reimburse us for the work that we've done and the work that we need to do. So, you know, I appreciate you bringing that up. I know that that staff is keeping a running count of what this pandemic is costing us in terms of dollars and cents, and that's going to be on us. And we will advocate for the people of Auburn.

**City Manager Dygert**

And I would like to add that along with that, we are, you know, this isn't a free for all. We are trying hard and some of the funds are there and so, I don't want anybody in the public or on the Council to misunderstand what I say. But the reality is, you know that this is going to cost money.

**Mayor Quill**

Anyone else? Jeff, the only thing I'll add is just keep up the good work, you have staff working with you. We're in unchartered waters, basically. And you're doing a fantastic job of keeping us above, keeping our nose above the waterline. So, thank you for that. And I know myself and any other members of Council are available, whatever you want, whenever you want it, don't be afraid to ask for it. Don't... you enjoy the job you're doing but don't overwhelm yourself and cause harm to yourself. We're here to do whatever we can for you. And I'm sure your Chiefs agree with that.

**City Manager Dygert**

Appreciate it. Mayor, thanks. Thank you all for your trust, your support of everybody that's working on this right now. Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

I was with Mr. Dygert, today, when all once he got up. I says, "Were you going?". He says somebody's trying to get in the back door without wearing a mask. So, I figure I'm gonna go along, I can't miss this one. But in the meantime, the unmasked bandit decided to leave or to mask up, never heard the remainder of that. So, getting back to business. Jeff, are you all set? I didn't want to cut you away. Thank you. Anyone else from the Council? Mr. Mason, I don't believe we have anybody else for the second Public to be Heard.

**Chuck Mason**

You are correct, Mayor.

**TABLED ITEMS - none**

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

**Executive Session:**

Councilor McCormick made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Council voted to enter an executive session regarding the following matters:

- Two matters pertaining to the sale or lease of City owned property.

The motion to enter executive session carried 5-0. The Council entered Executive Session at 7:07 p.m. Executive session adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

Auburn City Council Meeting, January 14, 2021

**ADJOURNMENT:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 8:30 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk



**City of Auburn**  
**Snow and Ice Removal Operations**

**December 10, 2021**

## SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

- Can be found on city website [www.auburnny.gov](http://www.auburnny.gov)
- Three work shifts December through March
- Criteria to begin snow and ice removal
- Safety of plow operators and general public
- Possible suspension of operations
- Plow to minimize traffic and pedestrian obstructions

## **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

- Technique: center cuts and then curb cuts
- Four passes for smaller roads, six to eight passes for the larger, four lane roads
- Snow removal from downtown, commercial areas and areas that can create a hazardous condition
- Removal operations dependent upon weather, staffing and budget constraints

## **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

- Plowing priorities for streets designated as Priority 1, 2 and 3
- Operations may be suspended if the safety of the staff or equipment is compromised
- Salt use is closely monitored because of its cost and also to minimize its effect on the environment
- Sidewalk plow used to clear snow from city owned bridges, parks, parking lots, buildings, etc.

## **SNOW REMOVAL POLICY**

- Damage does occur: mailboxes, curbing, lawn, driveway approaches, etc.
- From our plowing operations, snow does get deposited at the bottom of private driveways
- At times, it can be significant
- City does not clear private driveways

## SNOW REMOVAL POLICY

- We will get as close to the mailbox as possible
- Up to occupant to clear the mailbox so the USPS can deliver the mail
- Alternate side parking in effect
- Concerns and complaints can be reported at 315.253.9554 or [www.auburnny.gov](http://www.auburnny.gov), click on the 'Contact Us' tab at the lower left

## SNOW REMOVAL BUDGET

• A5142.150	Overtime	\$35,000
• A5142.250	Other Equipment	\$0
• A5142.412	Operating Supplies	\$200,000
• A5142.440	Services	\$3,000
• A5142.482	Veh. Maint./Repair	\$5,500
• A5142.801	Retirement/General	\$5,500
• A5142.811	Social Security/Med	\$2,678
• A5142.821	Workers' Comp	<u>\$4,245</u>
TOTAL		\$255,923

## **PLOW ROUTES**

- City divided into 16 individual plow routes
- Includes main routes, 11 large truck routes, 3 pickup truck routes and city parking lots and sidewalks



## THE ROUTES (Large Plows)

<u>Route</u>	<u># of Streets</u>
1	24
2	20
3	20
4	26
5	28
6	25
7	31
8	26
9	20
10	22
11	10

# Main Plow Routes

This map displays the main plow routes for a city, with streets color-coded by route number. The routes are as follows:

- Route 1 (Red):** Includes streets like Augustus St, Francis St, and Hockeborne Av.
- Route 2 (Blue):** Includes streets like Lincoln St, Elizabeth St, and Richardson Av.
- Route 3 (Green):** Includes streets like Jarvis St and Belle Av.
- Route 4 (Yellow):** Includes streets like Wright Av and Columbus St.
- Route 5 (Purple):** Includes streets like Allen St and Frazee St.
- Route 6 (Orange):** Includes streets like Quarry Rd and York St.
- Route 7 (Pink):** Includes streets like N Division St and Cottage St.
- Route 8 (Brown):** Includes streets like Dayton St and Standard Av.
- Route 9 (Cyan):** Includes streets like Summit St and Franklin St.
- Route 10 (Magenta):** Includes streets like Brookside Dr and Prospect St.

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10

## THE ROUTES (Pickup)

<u>Route</u>	<u># of Streets</u>
PU 1	32
PU 2	34
PU 3	30

# Plow Routes

Legend:

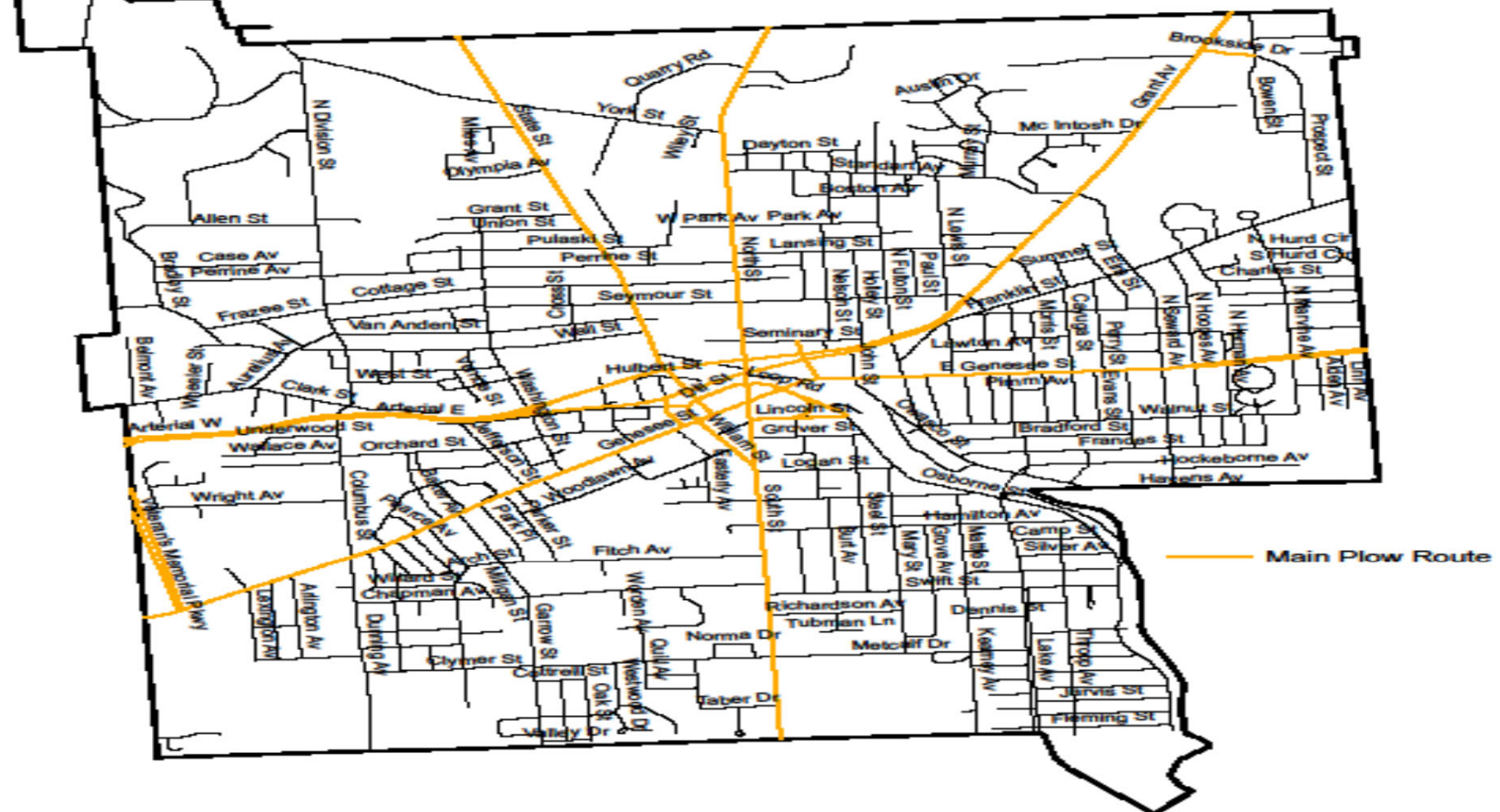
- Pick Up
- Pick Up
- Pick Up

- Pick Up Route 1
- Pick Up Route 2
- Pick Up Route 3

# THE ROUTES (Main Routes)

- Includes:
  - East and West Genesee Street
  - Vets Memorial Highway
  - Arterial East and West
  - North Street
  - South Street
  - State Street
  - Loop Road
  - Lincoln Street Hill
  - Osborne Street Hill
  - William Street
  - South Green Street
  - Clark Street (Arterial to Loop)
  - Seminary Avenue

## Main Plow Routes



## **THE ROUTES (SIDEWALKS)**

- Includes all sidewalks in front of city buildings, playgrounds, bridges, parking lots, highways
- Sidewalk machine purchased in 2011
- On occasion, snow and ice deposited on the sidewalks of the main routes can force the sidewalk plow into the road. We will then use heavier equipment to open the sidewalks, which is much less efficient and does not clear all the accumulated debris



# Sidewalk Routes

A detailed map of a city grid showing various streets. A legend in the bottom right corner indicates that thick purple lines represent 'Sidewalk Routes'. These routes are highlighted on several streets, including: Allen St, Case Av, Frazee St, Van Anden St, West St, Clark St, Arterial E, Underwood St, Wallace Av, Wright Av, Columbus St, Arch St, Chapman Av, Clymer St, Durbin Av, Arlington Av, Langdon Av, Union St, Pulaski St, Perrine St, Cottage St, Seymour St, Walk St, Arterial W, Genesee St, Lincoln St, Woodlawn Av, Fitch Av, Modern Av, Oak St, Dayton St, Standard Av, Boston Av, Park Av, North Park, Nelson St, John St, Arterial W, Lincoln St, Logan St, Elizabeth St, Hamilton Av, Silver Av, Swift St, Dennis St, Metcalf Dr, Norma Dr, Taber Dr, Austin Dr, Mc Intosh Dr, Grand Av, Brookside Dr, Bowen St, Postpaid St, Tyler Dr, N Howard Av, N Highland Av, N Sherman Av, N Lincoln Av, N Market Av, N Main St, N 1st St, N 2nd St, N 3rd St, N 4th St, N 5th St, N 6th St, N 7th St, N 8th St, N 9th St, N 10th St, N 11th St, N 12th St, N 13th St, N 14th St, N 15th St, N 16th St, N 17th St, N 18th St, N 19th St, N 20th St, N 21st St, N 22nd St, N 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 Sidewalk Routes













## **THE ROUTES (PARKING LOTS)**

- City Hall
- Parking Garage exit road
- AFD/APD Station 1
- AFD Station 3
- Market Street parking spots
- On street parking spaces, Heritage Center, Genesee Street

## **THE ROUTES (PARKING LOTS, CONT.)**

- Court Street lot
- Dill Street lot (back of Lattimore Hall)
- Seminary Avenue lot
- Clifford Field parking spots
- Soule Cemetery
- State Street One Way



# Parking Lots

This map of downtown St. Louis displays the locations of various parking lots, indicated by orange rectangles. The map includes a grid of streets, with major thoroughfares labeled in blue and local streets in black. A legend in the bottom right corner identifies the orange rectangles as 'Parking Areas' and the orange lines as 'Parking Lots'. The map shows a dense network of streets, with parking lots concentrated in the central business district, particularly along major corridors like Market Street and the Loop.

Legend:

- Parking Areas (Orange Rectangle)
- Parking Lots (Orange Line)



 Parking Areas  
 Parking Lots

## **STAFFING**

- To fully staff each snow event and to cover all routes, including mains, streets, pickup routes, parking lots and sidewalks simultaneously, we need 16 plow drivers and 16 operating plows at all times.
- Utilize all departments for plowing: streets, parks, recreation, sewer, water, central garage, urban forestry, landfill

## **STAFFING LEVELS**

- 1 foreman (CDL)
- 4 laborers (pick up routes, parking lots, no CDL)
- 13 MEOs (large plow routes, CDL)
- 4 HEOs (load salt) (CDL)
- 1 tree trimmer (CDL)
- 12 miscellaneous (6 CDLs)

Above includes all at DPW garage



## **SHIFT STATUS**

- During the months of December, January, February and March two drivers will work second shift (3:00pm-11:00pm) and one driver and one laborer and one HEO will work third shift (11:00pm-7:00am). Third shift will operate from 11:00pm Sunday evening until 7:00am Friday morning. One MEO will also work weekends through the winter.

## LABOR COSTS

- Most of the trucks are equipped with salt spreaders
- To attain 100% coverage (16 people), the approximate labor cost per hour is:
  - Straight Time  $\$431 + \text{benefits} = \$776/\text{hour}$
  - Overtime  $\$646 + \text{benefits} = \$904/\text{hour}$

## **MATERIAL COSTS**

- Salt barn at DPW holds 3,000 tons of salt by design
- Working capacity of 2,500 tons
- Salt is \$54.40 per ton for 2020-2021
- Salt loaded with loader, bucket holds 3 tons
- 3 buckets fill 6 wheel dump truck (\$490 cargo)
- 6.5 buckets fill 10 wheel dump truck (\$1,061 cargo)









## **MATERIAL COSTS**

- 2020-2021 wintertime fuel costs estimated at \$2.35/gallon (diesel mixed with kerosene)
- Fully loaded plow trucks average approximately 3 miles per gallon
- 1 road mile equals 4 road miles of plowing on average (2 plow cuts each direction)
- Each individual plow route contains approximately 10 miles of roadway (40 miles of plowing)

## SERVICE COSTS

- A truck will consume approximately 20 gallons of fuel per route
- Including travel time and salt loading (each route will use 1.5 salt loads to complete) the routes average 3.5 to 4 hours to complete
- On average, to complete 16 routes on straight time (4 hours of plowing):

Labor	\$3,104
Salt	\$12,362
Fuel	\$752
Total	\$16,218 (\$4,055/hour)



## SERVICE COSTS

- On average, to complete 16 routes on overtime (4 hours of plowing):

Labor	\$3,616
Salt	\$12,362
Fuel	\$752
Total	\$16,730 (\$4,183/hour)

- Assuming a snow event will require two passes per route (8 hours of plowing), our labor budget contains enough overtime (\$35,000) for approximately 5 overtime events

## **SALT USAGE (ORDERED)**

• 2010-2011	5,315 tons	\$201,965.94
• 2011-2012	2,582 tons	\$ 98,116.00
• 2012-2013	2,913 tons	\$109,779.06
• 2013-2014	4,770 tons	\$171,708.93
• 2014-2015	4,406 tons	\$188,040.75
• 2015-2016	3,967 tons	\$176,095.13
• 2016-2017	3,611 tons	\$160,302.94
• 2017-2018	4,066 tons	\$183,568.04
• 2018-2019	3,420 tons	\$182,614.65
• 2019-2020	3,657 tons	\$198,926.45

## **PLOW EQUIPMENT**

- (4) 1 ton pickups (4 with spreaders) – 1 (2015), 2 (2017), 1 (2019)
- (1) International Terrastar (plow and spreader) 2015
- (10) 6-wheel dump trucks:
  - (1) 2006
  - (2) 2011
  - (2) 2015
  - (1) 2016
  - (1) 2017
  - (2) 2018
  - (1) 2020
- (3) 10-wheel dump trucks (2 (2014), 1 (2018), 1 (2021) on order)
- (2) front loaders (2015, 2016)
- (1) backhoe with push blade (2009)



























PLOW ROUTE	OLD WARD	TRUCK	OPERATOR	IN	OUT
#1	1				
#2	2				
#3	Belmont				
#4	9 <sup>th</sup>				
#5	Upper 9 <sup>th</sup>				
#6	3 <sup>rd</sup> & 8 <sup>th</sup>				
#7	4 <sup>th</sup> & 7 <sup>th</sup>				
#8	5 <sup>th</sup> & 6 <sup>th</sup>				
#9	10 <sup>th</sup>				
#10	Upper 1 <sup>st</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup>				
MAINS	MAINS				
PU #1					
PU #2					
PU #3					
LOTS					
SIDEWALKS					

BREAK DOWNS: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

WEATHER: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

DATE: \_\_\_\_\_ DAY: \_\_\_\_\_ TIME: \_\_\_\_\_

CDL trucks: 57 70 71 72 73 86 90 91 104 S-36 W-34 ST-502  
 NON CDL trucks: 59 60 ST-504 ST-501 P-701 Pickup: ST-503 P-703