

**Auburn City Council  
Regular Meeting  
Thursday, January 28, 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:**

- Acting City Manager, Jennifer Haines
- Assistant Corporation Counsel, Nate Garland
- City Clerk, Chuck Mason
- Police Chief, Shawn Butler
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz
- Senior Planner, Tiffany Beebee
- Senior Planner, Renee Jensen

**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**

The first announcement this evening is that next week, we have a couple of Public Meetings on our schedule on Tuesday, February 2 2021 at 6:30pm, will be the Planning Board meeting for the month of February. That meeting will be held by Zoom and all the information how people can participate is on the Planning Board agenda on the City website. And then our Wednesday night February 3 at 5:30pm, the Human Rights Commission meets. That meeting also is a Zoom meeting and the information that is available on the City's website as well, for anybody that would be looking to participate in that. That's all we have for tonight for public announcements, Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

Very well. Mr. Clerk, do we have any, we have no Ceremonial Presentations or Proclamations, am I correct?

**Chuck Mason**

None this evening.

**Mayor Quill**

So at this point, I'd like to open up the Public Hearing in regards to the CDBG Annual Action Plan. Is there anyone this evening that would care to speak in regard to that?

**Chuck Mason**

Jenna , is that what you're here for?

**Jenna**

Yes.

**Chuck Mason**

Okay, go ahead.

Jenna

Hi, I just wanted to join this evening, because I've been in correspondence with Renee and Trevor Staples. He is a built skate park manager in Ann Arbor, Michigan. And I just want to acknowledge that I think that a renovation for Auburn Skate Park would be beneficial. And I know it's been discussed and it's in the Annual Action Plan for this year. And I just I just am here to support that.

**Mayor Quill**

In regards your request, you're talking about the Roller Skating Park at Casey Park. Am I correct?

**Renee Jensen**

Yes, a concrete a new, concrete renovation for that.

**Mayor Quill**

Very good. Thank you. Thank you.

**Chuck Mason**

We also have David Scott tonight. David, are you prepared to speak for the CDBG Hearing or were you here for Public to be Heard?

**David Scott**

Good afternoon, evening, I'm not sure. But yes. Mayor and City Councilmen. David Scott 63 South Street. Auburn 13021. I'm here to speak regarding the CDBG Action Plan.

**Mayor Quill**

Please continue.

**David Scott**

Yes, forgive me for my disheveled appearance had to switch from one zoom meeting to another. My thoughts are at this point in time is that the City of Auburn needs to really seriously consider halting all planning processes for the CDBG program. Until we get a solid minority enterprise development program in place. We need to integrate a minority enterprise development plan into both the City Sustainable Development Plan, which has not been updated in 11 years, as well as the Comprehensive Plan. Right now, as this action plan stands, only approximately \$15,000 is devoted to minority enterprise development out of a nearly \$1 million allocation. I can think of many programs and services, here, in the City of Auburn that deserve the allocations that are proposed in that action plan. But I believe at the top of the priorities, it should be minority enterprise development, particularly after this Coronavirus. And so again, I'm asking that we just completely delay any approval of the action plan until we get such time as a minority enterprise development plan, a sustainable development plan, and a fully integrated comprehensive plan. Thank you, Mr. Mayor. Thank you, members of Council. That's all I really had to say this evening.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, Mr. Scott.

**David Scott**

Yes, sir. Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Mr. Clerk, both of our guests are going to remain with us. I believe from our conversation that is all that have requested, so far, to speak.

**Chuck Mason**

You are correct, Mayor.

**CEREMONIAL PRESENTATIONS –**

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Thank you. Ms. Haines, you're an acting City Manager and on my agenda. I have employees leaving City employment. Do you have anything for that?

**Jenny Haines**

I do. Thank you, Mayor. Thank you. I have four employees. Vincent Canicelli, Police Officer retired on January 22 2021. Thomas Hansen, Firefighter retired on January 24 2021. Andrew Kalet, Police Officer retired on January 27 2021. And Candy Lucas from the Assessor's office retired on January 27 2021. We appreciate our dedicated employees and their years of service to the City. Thank you, Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. I guess you getting pretty old when you remember the guys and gals that you hired and now they're retiring. So, Councilor Locastro told me that, I don't know what he was referring to. Yes, Councilor. There are there's no takers for Public to be Heard, Mr. Clerk

**Chuck Mason**

None this evening, Mayor.

**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 14, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes  
Motion to approve the January 14, 2020 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor McCormick. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

**Reports of City Officials**

**A. City Manager's Report**

**Jenny Haines**

Thank you, Mayor. We have a couple of images to show you as I'm talking here. On a couple of the items that I'm updating you on. The first one is on the City owned property at 1-7 State Street. Am I sent an email to the Council yesterday to let you know that the City's build out of public space at 1-7 State Street is going out to bid tomorrow, Friday, January 29 2021, with bids due back on Wednesday, February 24. The conceptual drawing is up on the screen right now. And we have construction documents available if anyone would like to take a look. We are extremely excited for this project. It's been a long time coming. As you may remember Council, this is one of our two DRI funded projects. The other one being the Public Safety Building. So we're excited to get this this one moving as well. Also, I'd like to share 2020 Sewer and Water year in review highlights. I believe the Council are also received an email from Seth Jensen related to this, and I'll just quickly run through the highlights here. All hydrants are on and in working condition. The Water Department installed two new water mains in 2020 on Auburn Avenue and The Commons at St. Anthony. Water main breaks were at an all time low in 2020, attributed to Proactive Leak Detection and recent support of infrastructure investment over the past 10 years. Significant i&i was identified and removed on Orchard Street, next to the old Alco building. The Sewer Wholesale Meter Project general contract was not awarded. And the Sewer Department, alongside Vitale, saved the City and Towns over \$100,000 to date. Self coordinating and

self performing this work. And in addition to Plowing services and other coordination with the Department of Public Works on an annual basis, Tom Gabak's crews installed new concrete aprons at Station Three, and a new high pressure gas main for the new Public Safety Building, saving the general fund over \$50,000 in 2020. And then third thing I wanted to share is related to our Water Treatment Plant, and the Clerk has an image to bring up there. The rotating element on Low Lift Pump Number One from the Water Treatment Plant was sent out for rehabilitation on December 17 2020. The rotating element was showing signs of deterioration and was in need of a full inspection and repair. The last time this was done was likely over 20 years ago. Today, our contractor Estabrook returned the rotating element and assisted the Water Treatment Plant maintenance staff and reinstalling the rotating element. As of 3:15, today, the rotating element has been put back into place and the pump is up and running. This pump provides a vital role in delivering unfiltered raw water from the basement of the main filtration plant up to the sedimentation tanks where water is then treated and polished in our rapid sand filters prior to being pumped out to distribution. So this guy is really important. And we're excited that that is back in place and running well. And I just had just a fun thing. Just to give you, sometimes we have some fun questions that come up into our offices. And we don't know why our office is chosen for these but or any office could get this question. I had one today about the history of Lizette Street or the naming of it. And was that named after Lizette? Who was Francis Seward's sister? And the answer is, Yes. It was named after Francis Seward's sister, but the name is spelled wrong. Her name was spelled L A Z E T T E. And of course, we spell it with L I. So my friends at the Seward House and Cayuga Museum tell me, that it's a mystery as to why the misspelling, but anyway, that was a really interesting and fun question. I'm going to send the Council a document that I got from the Cayuga Museum, compiled by Ward O'Hara as to how streets were named. It's a really interesting read. You know, from A-W, I think. A to W, All of Our Streets and How They Were Named. So I'll send that along. It's really, really neat. That's all I had.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Councilors, any questions for our City Manager?

**Councilor Giannettino**

Thank you, Miss Haines, in regards to State Street, I have a couple of questions. You mentioned that it's going to go out to bid. I think tomorrow you said yes. And the bid periods about a month? Are we stipulating in there any timeframe for construction?

**Jenny Haines**

So the date that we had talked about was November 12. We're trying to think of some milestone events that may happen, hopefully, this year. And we're thinking about the Holiday Parade, Thanksgiving weekend, and hoping that we could have the site open for the public to use for that event. So we were probably about a four to five month construction timeframe. Um, so we're out to bid now, we think we can hit that date.

**Councilor Giannettino**

That'd be great. I know there is some interest in the community if it is safe to have an a late summer early fall event Downtown to kind of help kickstart business backup. And if that park was available for that, that that would be fantastic.

**Jenny Haines**

Yeah, we'd love to see it that fast. Hopefully, we can we can get it going. We want to say a big thank you to Renee Jensen and Seth Jensen who have been spearheading that project for us.

**Councilor Giannettino**

And the other question I have is, if you look at the rendering, and I know that we've sold one parcel, we're in the process of selling others. Those parcels are developed in a specific way. Has there been any conversation with those adjoining property owners that if and when they purchase those parcels that there'll be requirements for them to develop them in a way that you know is complimentary to the park?

**Jenny Haines**

Yes, we have had those conversations with adjacent property owners. And we, and I mentioned in my email to yesterday, those discussions are still progressing. A couple of the property owners are interested in seeing the bid pricing. When it comes back. Those spaces are the ad alternates in the bidding documents. And so at that time, a couple of the property owners are making decisions on how the sales will be structured as to whether they are going to build the spaces out or have us build them out and then take them. So depending on the pricing, that's how those will happen. Stacy DeForrest has been fantastic in working through those sales. And we appreciate her doing that as well.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Thank you. This is exciting. You know, the first time I ran this was the hot button topic in the community. Yeah, it's nice to see it finally coming to fruition.

**Jenny Haines**

Yes. This is another one of those full, full career projects for me. In 1995 was when the city took it for taxes. That was two years after I started here. And so we've been having fun with it ever since.

**Councilor McCormick**

Yes, Jenny brought up something I was going to talk about. I've been to one groundbreaking on that same property. That's how long I've been here. That groundbreaking didn't. It didn't, nothing came about, sadly. I think this is just the beginning of construction there, the day that we break ground for something to happen, there is to me is a day to celebrate. When we can take down that wall and and do something behind there. I don't know what time of year, it'll be. But I hope we can find some way to make a big deal about it. Because the State Street business owners, the Downtown business owners, and

a lot of people in the in between, will be so happy to see that become something other than a pit. So if I can help with anything like a groundbreaking or ribbon cutting, let me know.

**Councilor Locastro**

One of the things I also wanted to mention, and Seth was really great and diligent about this part, is we are going to make sure to hold the contractor to the site. We are committed to keeping the street open during construction. We understand that we'll be there at the same time that some of these businesses will be trying to get back open and running. And so we are gonna make sure that our staging and all of that. We might have to a couple of parking spaces here and there. But we're committed to keeping that site industry open.

**Councilor McCormick**

That's good to know. That's good to know, which having just come from a BID meeting this week and talking about the future, the immediate future, that will be a help.

**Councilor Locastro**

Jenny.

**Jenny Haines**

Yes.

**Councilor Locastro**

The drawings look great. It's really going to help that area out a ton down there. Can you just explain to the public the funding? Where's the funding going to come for all that? Yes. So as I mentioned, the this is one of our 2 DRI, Downtown Revitalization Initiative projects. Sorry, I speak in acronyms. So the other project is the Public Safety Building. The grant is through the Department of State. The grant agreement has \$1.2 million in it for the Public Safety Building, and \$1 million in it for 1-7 State Street. So that's the majority of the funding. We are hoping for some fantastic bid prices coming back. So that that will take the majority of the funding. We have approached some local foundations in the past, who we hope may be interested in helping us if there's a gap when the prices come back. We also picked the date that the bids are coming back, February 24, which is the day before we have the CIP presentation scheduled for the Council. So we wanted Christina to have some solid numbers for that in case we needed to have a discussion about potential portion of a bond for this project as well. So majority will be DRI, 1 million, and then any gap of maybe a combination of foundation and bond. Great. Have you gotten a lot of positive input from the businesses down there and the you know, stores in the area? When we initially had done some of this design work, we did a lot of outreach and meetings with the businesses. We've had a lot of discussions recently with the adjacent property owners. I will say that we haven't recently talked to some of the other business owners on the street. I just talked to Stephanie DeVito, yesterday, about helping us get the word out about this bid. So she is going to be assisting us with some of that as we get this project rolling. Thank you

**Mayor Quill**

Jenny, would the PSB , the way the state of our country, with was nobody working or anything, we hit a couple of local bidders that won a bid on PSB. So hopefully, we'll have some more. You know, we want this done by local bidders would be great. So if we can just do everything we can to notify them that it is going out for bid or has gone out for bid. So yeah,

**Councilor Locastro**

we will do that. The bid will be up on the City's website. But we are also going to be reaching out to some of our local contractors that do this kind of work to make sure that they're aware.

**B. Reports from members of Council**

**Mayor Quill**

Great, thank you. Thank you. Councilors, anything else for acting City Manager? Jenny, you can sit in all the time, you're easy. Thank you. Reports from Members of Council, anyone? Councilors? Councilor McCormick, please?

**Councilor McCormick**

Just briefly, we had our Monthly BID meeting this week. And one of the things that came up that's a really positive good news is, through the holidays, they had a, like a gift certificate program. And Stephanie DeVito reported that it raised, or people spent, over \$30,000 buying gift certificates for Downtown business, to spend locally. And I think that says a lot for the support that local people did for our Downtown. And these can be used, you know, anytime. So it hasn't been that they purchased yet, but the money will go back to the businesses. And it was a really good program. I hope we can keep doing something like that to help businesses out throughout the year. So that was good news.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you, Councilor. Councilor Giannettino, I see.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Yes Mayor, thank you. A couple things. Monday evening, I attended a Fix It or Fund It meeting, which is an advocacy group of School Board Members, school administrators and parents trying to pressure New York State to restore funding that has been traditionally cut over the last 10 years to the Auburn Enlarged City School District. The picture in this upcoming budget is pretty grim. There's an additional almost \$500,000 in cuts. At the same time other school districts in the area are receiving huge increases in funding. You know, while the school board is solely responsible for advocating for this funding, I do think it's important that you know the City of Auburn and Cayuga County are aware of what's going on, and that we assist them in anything we can do to restore that funding. So I'm going to continue to attend those and I'll keep you all updated on where those things stand. Tuesday evening, I attended the School Board Meeting. As you may know, there is a local effort by a group of students underway to rename Auburn High School, Harriet Tubman High School. I just want to give a shout out to those students.



They did a great job. Their arguments for renaming the school were well thought out well presented, done so in a respectful manner. And, you know, listening to them. It's been a pretty dismal 10 or 11 months and listening to them and the positive outlook they have on the future was a welcome respite from what we've been experiencing here. And on the topic of Harriet Tubman is, I'm sure you're all aware, the effort has been renewed to put Harriet Tubman on the \$20 bill. That's good news. It's long overdue. It was passed in the previous two administrations ago, and it was shelved in the past administration. Senator Schumer, who is now the Majority Leader of the United States Senate gave a speech this week on that topic, and I believe the Clerk has it and if Councils is agreeable, we'd like to play it.

**Chuck Mason**

Can everybody see that?

**Councilor Giannettino**

Yes,

**Senator Chuck Schumer (on video)**

It was a great pleasure to see the Biden administration's announced that the Treasury Department intends to speed up the plans to add the portrait of Harriet Tubman to the \$20 bill. This is an issue I have long championed, and something that should have been done a long time ago. I feel particularly strong about it since Harriet Tubman was an Auburn, New York resident. And our office worked for years to successfully make our home in Upstate New York, a National Historic Monument.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Thank you. I just thought that was important, Mayor and Council that that be entered into the record. The Senator Schumer, along with Congressman Katko have long championed this for us. It's long overdue, and hopefully, it does get fast tracked, and it happens. Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Thank you. Councilor McCormick.

**Councilor McCormick**

Yeah, I was gonna save this for Other Business, but it segues right from what Councilor Giannettino just talked about. A little history on the the women, Harriet Tubman, how she became the woman from the United States that was selected. I just thought it would be good to recap it so we know how it started and where it came from. And it's really a simple story. I think it was around 2012. A woman was paying for her coffee in a coffee shop, and she was waiting in line and thought to herself, "there's something missing" and she said to herself, "there's no women on this currency". And that initiated this, just a few women got together and formed what they call now, Women On The 20s, kind of a primary election. They picked 15 women of note historic women. And they had an online poll, and it narrowed it down to

four people. It was Harriet Tubman, Eleanor Roosevelt, Rosa Parks, and I can't think of the fourth one right now. But over 360,000 people voted. And Harriet Tubman was the number one choice throughout. The voting was throughout the United States throughout the world, actually. And that became the beginning of the initiative, which Harriet Tubman ended up being the selection and lucky for us, well deserved by Harriet Tubman. The thing that people don't realize, so close is when Harriet became, it became obvious Harriet was going to be one of the selected. It was coming close. They contacted the Harriet Tubman Boosters, here in Auburn. The women that were behind this initiative, and that campaign to get the government to do this, what Senator Schumer was referring to, was a hard fought one. And that's that was in 2015. The hope was that by 2020, when the Centennial Celebration of women getting the right to vote, this would have all been done. And over with Harriet would have been on the \$20 bill, and everything would have been great. But as Councilor Giannettino mentioned, that was shelved. But this week, between what the what the White House has announced with a refreshed effort to get this to happen with Senator Schumer. And then this week here locally, the students have been named back on the initiative again, to name a building after her. I think that the stars are aligning for Harriet Tubman. And I think it would be great to pass a Resolution, even though I think we've done it before, years ago, but if we could pass City Council Resolution to support this to Congressman Katko, and anybody to let them know Auburn is here. We are ready to see this happen. And we just want the community to know it, too, because it's a great thing. And she's a historic, heroic. She was a spy, a former slave freedom fighter. No one woman can do all that. And I think she's definitely deserves the honor. And I think we need to support it. So if Council was agreeable to maybe next week, because Black History Month starts next week, it would fit really well to kick off that month with the resolution for Harriet Tubman. If we could do that.

**Councilor Cuddy**

I'll second that. Councilor McCormick.

**Councilor McCormick**

Thanks.

**Councilor Giannettino**

I'm in agreement.

**Councilor Locastro**

I'm good.

**Councilor McCormick**

Thank you. Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Mr. Clerk. If you could work on that with Councilor McCormick, that would be great.

**Chuck Mason**

Yes, Mayor, thank you.

**Councilor McCormick**

I'd be happy to work on it with you. I've got pictures of, we had a big celebration and City Hall and Pauline Copes. And it just was a beautiful. We had so much optimism that that would happen by 2020. But it's going to happen now. I know it is. It will happen. So get ready. Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Anyone else? Any Councilors, anyone?

**Jenny Haines**

Mayor, just really quick. Um, Chuck, could you let Stacy back in? She lost connection and is trying to get back in. Thank you.

**Councilor McCormick**

Thats not Stacy.

**Mayor Quill**

Okay, see you back with us.

**Stacy DeForrest**

Yeah, I'm here. Mayor. Sorry about that.

**Mayor Quill**

We completed all our business. We bought a lot of things, sold alot of things. Chuck will give you a message or email you tomorrow. All right.

**Stacy DeForrest**

Wonderful. Sorry about that.

**Mayor Quill**

We all got a big pay raise too. Well, Corporation Council kind of missed out, but we all

**Stacy DeForrest**

Oh, man.

**Matters to Come Before Council**

A. State Environmental Quality Review Act Resolutions (SEQR)

B. Ordinances – none

C. Local Laws – none

D. Resolutions - none

E. Staff Presentations –

**Mayor Quill**

Glad you're back, Stacy. Anyone else, Council? Very well. Mr. Clerk, has anyone else signed the in regards to the Public Hearing?

**Chuck Mason**

No other takers at this point, Mayor.

**Mayor Quill**

All right. Well, we'll leave it open for just a few more minutes, and then we'll close it out. On my agenda, have Community Development Block Grant action plan for the 2021- 2022 program. By Tiffany, and Renee, ready All set? Ladies?

**Renee Jensen**

Yes, we're all set.

**Mayor Quill**

All right. Let's go for it.

**Renee Jensen**

Thank you. Chuck, are we able to share screens now?

**Chuck Mason**

Okay, should be able to.

**Renee Jensen**

Great, thank you. Well, good evening, Mayor and Council. Thank you for the opportunity to present tonight on the Community Development Block Grant 2021 to 2022 Annual Action Plans. Let's see. Here we go. So the CDBG, Community Development Block Grant Program, is a Federally funded program through the US Department of HUD, and just wanted to quickly show you, this is the Community

Development Block Grant, HUD exchange website. It is funded through HUD and it provides annual grants based on a formula basis to States, Cities and Counties to develop viable communities in providing decent housing suitable living environments and expanding economic opportunities for low to moderate income persons. And this act was developed in 1974. So I'm not sure if anybody's visited the website, I just wanted to bring it up, familiarize yourselves with it, and we use it quite often. And to that the Community Development Block Grant Program has certainly impacted Auburn on many different levels. Every year, it reaches 1000s of City residents of low to moderate income through not only programming through Human Service Agencies, but housing repairs, Park improvements, sidewalk improvements to neighborhoods, neighborhood improvements, and economic opportunities. And we've been lucky enough to have this funding since 1994. And part of the process in developing an Annual Action Plan which is in front of you tonight, is developing a five year plan which was done last year. So last year, in 2020, we did our five year Consolidated Plan and our first year Annual Action Plan for 2022 2021. So this year, we revisited the Consolidated Plan. We went back out to the public, held a number of virtual Community Meetings this year, we did that both alone and with CV-3 funding. We had a lot of community and PUC for CV funding and to develop this year's Annual Action Plan. So the virtual meetings actually worked out pretty, pretty well. So not only do we do the five year plan, but we do our Annual Action Plans. And when we go out to the community and get input, we prioritize many different programs and projects and we also look at those program or projects and make sure that they meet one of three national objectives, which is benefiting low to moderate income persons, prevention of slums and blight, or urgent need. And we also look to make sure that they meet the program goals outlined by HUD, which is decent housing, suitable living environment and expanding economic opportunities. So you'll see this throughout the Annual Action Plan, and how our programs meet the national objectives and program goals. So, as we have presented to you in the past, there are two ways that we're able to spend the funding, both on an area wide benefits. So that is throughout the City of Auburn, in areas that are low to moderate income, according to American Community Survey data. And this data, American Community Survey is just, it's based on US Census data. And so you can see here, the census blocks in blue are those that we can do improvements. And the other way we can utilize this funding is through direct benefits. Direct benefits is based on family size and income. So Human Service Agencies when they are reaching out to the public, and they are looking at income status. And that's not only for Human Service Agencies, but other programs such as the housing program, housing repair, mortgage assistance programs, are based on direct benefit. So for example, if we have a family of four, they would fit into low to moderate income guidelines if they make less than 56,900. These income guidelines are updated every year, roughly in June or July. Here we have our 2021, 5 major program areas for funding. So we have the Community Development Supportive Services line, which is \$119,000. These are all Human Service Agencies, housing programs at 137,000. Economic Development at 19,300. Administration at 146,700. And public improvements at 467,830. And I will point out, that this is just for this year's entitlement funding. Because we do not have our allocation amount yet. We are basing it on prior, our last year's funding amount. And so if anything does change, once we find out where actual allocation is, we will make adjustments and that is outlined in the Annual Action Plan. To kind of break it down further, we included a more comprehensive budget. Oops, sorry. I know it's difficult to see, it's small.

But I'll just point out a couple of areas. The first section is our housing and neighborhoods programming. So these are all the different programs and projects that we will be doing within the housing and neighborhood programming realm. And the first line is our anticipated 2021 program year entitlement funds. That's how much entitlement funding we're going to be allocating to each budget. Next to that is prior entitlement funds. So those are funds that were not expended due to, you know, a program maybe not running popularly that year, COVID hit, we've had a lot of delays because of COVID. So what we do is, we do budget that for this coming year. Next to that is our proposed revolving loan fund. This is program income that's going to be coming in. So we're projecting what revolving loan funds monies will be. And then the third line is our current available revolving loan funds. And the last total amount is the total amount of funding, including all of that I just talked about.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Ms Jensen, yes. Would it be possible to have that sent to us because I don't think it's in our packet.

**Renee Jensen**

So it is in the appendix of the Annual Action Plan. It's like the first page of the appendix. What I will mention is, when we submitted the annual action plan, we were continuing to develop some of the budget. And one thing that really stood out to us was the planning and admin line. So this budget that I'm showing you tonight on the screen is different from what's in your packet. With COVID, we've spent a lot more time administering CDBG projects. So what we did was, we did allocate \$160,000, to our planning and admin line, which was an increase. And where we took that money from was prior entitlement year funds. So that came from our home repair line. And that's the 11,000 that we see here. And then we also reprogrammed some of our special development funds that's from our revolving loan as well. And lastly, we shifted funds from our entitlement funding, the economic development program delivery, we just shifted, and decreased that funding to put more into our admin line. And we did discuss this with CEDA. And that's how we were able to make that funding shift. So the budget does look a little bit different.

**Jenny Haines**

I can just say one quick thing here, what we're trying to do is also look ahead to the City's budget process, and do everything we can to provide additional reimbursement for our staff salaries as part of that process. Again, if you remember, with both of the CV grants, we chose together, not to put administrative funds in the mix so that we could put more money directly out into the community. But that has been a lot of work. And we're seeing with the the hours that Tiffany and Renee have spent that we can provide more back to the general fund in reimbursement for their salaries. So that is the big reason that we're looking to do this.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Ms Haines, there was no administrative money in the second round of CV? Because I remember us trying to allocate money for for the administrative of the CV bonds.

Yes, we were planning to do that, and then had a conversation with our Comptroller and determined that we would continue to hit the CDBG, the regular budget, with those salaries from an administrative perspective, it was a lot easier to do it that way. And we can get the money out of here. Tiffany and Renee are almost solely dedicated to CDBG. So they're the CV work is also eligible to reimburse out of here. So just from overall, on administrative perspective for both finance and us, it was easier to do it that way.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Ok, that makes sense. I just want to make sure that ,you know, it just it equals out but that ,I didn't want it. Okay, so this is okay. It makes sense. All right. Thank you.

**Jenny Haines**

Thanks Renee, I'm set.

**Renee Jensen**

Yeah. Thank you, Jenny. Does anyone else have questions on this budget? I know I kind of just briefly did an overview of it. No? Okay, I was going to try to share a page in AP 35, I believe is page 19 of the Annual Action Plan. It's a project summary. And within that project summary outlines each project and each budget for that project. And when you take a look at the budgets, it's the complete total amounts. It's not just entitlement funding. So I just wanted to make that clear as well. There is a lot more detail. So if you did review AP 38. You'll probably be very familiar with all the programs we're going to be talking about and how much funding goes in. Okay. Community Development support services is our Human Services line. We're capped at 15% of our entitlement funding for this. So we can only spend a certain amount of our entitlement funding on Human Service Agencies and their programming. All Human Service Agency programs must serve low to moderate income persons in the City of Auburn. And we have I think about 12 agencies. Let's see, 10 agencies that we currently funds. The Rescue Mission Youth Program. They're being funded at \$13,000 this coming annual action plan, ARISE Freedom Camp. We are planning on moving forward the summer camp this year. Last year, we had a program amendment made and they couldn't gather for summer youth camp. But what they did instead was School Break Camps. So they did virtual packages that were sent to homes. And then they met virtually and did at home kits. But we are looking forward to doing the summer camp this program with them. And that is allocated at \$8,000. Booker T Washington Center for their summer youth program. And that is \$9,500. Cayuga Counseling for youth counseling. And that is \$15,000. Community Action programs. This program is for rental assistance and security deposits for housing vulnerable individuals and families. And they're funded at \$9,000. Calvary Food Pantry is an emergency food for City of Auburn residents, and they're funded at \$10,000. Chapel House is that funding goes towards a Case Manager to successfully work in house homeless individuals. And they're funded at \$14,000. Legal Aid of Mid New York, they work with victims of domestic violence and help them through the legal

processes. And they are funded at \$10,000. Aurora of Central New York provides hearing and seeing assistive aids to seniors and in the City of Auburn. They're at \$10,000. SCAT van provides transportation to seniors and disabled individuals and they are funded and leave \$10,500. And Boyle Senior Center provides programming for seniors and they are at \$10,000.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Ms. Jensen, I just, for the benefit of the public, Can you explain what the process of the selecting of the program, how that works, the selection of the Human Service Programs and other programming is chosen?

**Renee Jensen**

Sure. So every two years we have a competitive request for proposals. It's a competitive process. And any agency can apply. They must meet the national objectives and program goals listed by HUD that I talked about earlier. And once they have their application in, we form a review committee of community members, and they review the applications and then the agencies present to the application review committee and the community members. The review committee makes the decisions for funding. I certainly help them in knowing past performance, if it's repeating agency, and impact and community input, know what priorities we have seen through our community process, but they really make the decisions on the funding amounts. This year was what's called a renewal year. So this was not competitive year. Instead, agencies submitted an application to staff and we reviewed based on performance and spending. And all of these agencies, they've done very well. So we funded them at the same amount. They were funded last year. I will say last year, we funded a new program, it was an East Hill Medical Program. It was a prescription adherence programs for seniors. Unfortunately, that program never got up and running. So we reprogrammed that money and they did not get funded this year.

**Councilor Cuddy**

The reason why I asked, and I again, I don't know how to, because I see Boyle Senior Center as were there ever any funding for like Stryker Homes or did they not apply? Or I just want to understand just the kind of, how some senior living facilities might get the CDBG funding and while others don't. Is it is it a question of not applying or?

**Renee Jensen**

Yes, so we advertise this among many different listservs, community emails, in the paper. We try, you know, Chuck is very good at getting it out on the website and social media. So we try to get it out to the public, to different agencies, and have new agencies apply. And some years we have new agencies and other years, we don't. So yeah, it's really just a matter of them applying, and having a program that fits HUDs guidelines. Okay.

**Councilor McCormick**



Can I throw in here? It could be because I know Boyle has a senior program, like a person dedicated to it. I don't think the other two senior centers have that. A dedicated events, I don't think it's an events coordinator. But I think that could be why Boyle, it usually gets identified as the place that people have events, and things like that. So it could be the reason. I'm not sure. But it seems like that could be part of it.

**Renee Jensen**

That's a very good point. Boyle Senior Center, they do have a nonprofit within their structure. And what I will also mention is, with Community Development Block Grant funds, there is a lot of program recording. So having that that dedicated staff member is very important. And they're all, there are a lot of rules and regulations that an agency has to adhere to. I do site visits every year to make sure that, you know, they are following HUD rules and regulations, the money is spent properly, reporting is done properly. So it is very heavy on their administrative staff. So if an agency isn't built to be able to do that, they may not apply. And Terry, I've also got that question about food pantries, you know, Calvary Food Pantries seems to be a food pantry that, you know, applies every year for funding, while others do not. And Calvary has, you know, a full time staff person who is able to do all of that reporting, and I'm not sure that the others have that. They're mainly a small grassroots organizations, where you have a lot of volunteers

**Councilor Cuddy**

You need that kind of administrative component of a nonprofit that has, that's able to apply, number one know to apply, and number two to be able to do the paperwork needed for making sure that everything is done properly. So that's what you're saying, correct?

**Renee Jensen**

Yes, and everyone's welcome to apply. And I always, you know, if I have them call me, we can discuss it prior, you know, to an application even. And I work with the agencies, especially through the CV funding, we've had a lot of new agencies receive funding. So I've really been putting a lot of effort into making sure that they understand all the rules and regulations, there's training involved. And so, yes, that is something that I'm sure agencies are looking at the RFP saying, "whoa, this is pretty heavy duty stuff", but they're always, you know, I'm always here taking phone calls and always willing to talk about it, if anybody ever has questions on applying or looking to apply.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Thank you.

**Renee Jensen**

Okay, I'm gonna hand it over to Tiffany.

**Tiffany Beebee**

Okay, our housing programs include the Home Repair Assistance Program, Mortgage Assistance Program, the Home Access Program and the Distressed Property Program. The Home Repair Assistance Program is administered by HomeSite. They are a certified community based development organization. This is ran as a combination loan and grant program for homeowners of low to moderate income. The program focuses on roof repair and replacement, furnaces, sewer and water lines, electrical and plumbing, accessibility modifications, and health and safety matters. Other priorities include exterior improvements for City beautification, energy improvements, and partnering with healthy neighborhoods and lead education at the County Health Department regarding lead abatement. We recently, in December, completed a roof rehab that is part of a lead abatement partnership project. While this program is designed for owner occupied homes, we are willing to partner funds as needed on rental units to address health hazards such as lead. Rental units will be 100% loan based. And pictured is just some before and after pictures of projects that we've completed. The Mortgage Assistance Program is a grant up to \$4,000 to be used towards closing costs of a first time homebuyer. Grantees must be income eligible, a first time homebuyer as defined by HUD, buying a home within the City of Auburn limits, they must take a homebuyers education class, meet with a housing counselor, and be approved for a mortgage. This breaks down into six grants. So far this program year we have reimbursed for four grants and we have 2 Habitat for Humanity future homeowners that are qualified for this and we've heard that one closing will be happening in the very near future. The Home Access Program is managed by our local independent living center, ARISE of Cayuga and Seneca counties. This program offers grants to low and moderate income disabled home owners or renters to address accessibility issues in their homes. Most often, accessibility ramps are installed but we can do stair chair lifts and minor home modifications as needed. The distress property program is kind of twofold. It allows for the substantial rehabilitation or the demolition of housing that is degrading a neighborhood. The City has partnered with Homesite fund and Home headquarters on an acquisition rehab grants. This grants is kind of ongoing through the years as we've partnered in total \$140,000. They are rehabbing their first home on Walnut Street, right now, and hope to start their second in the near future. These homes will be sold to income eligible homebuyers. Also planned for the use of these funds is going towards the demolition of the Wall Street Church. So that project is is ongoing.

**Jenny Haines**

Tiffany, I'll just give a quick update for the Council on that. Nate Garland, our Assistant Corporation Counsel is continuing to work with the court to try to get our application approved for demolition there and as soon as he's able to do that we do have the demolition bed book ready to go. So we can get that out as soon as the court orders that for us.

**Tiffany Beebee**

Our public improvements line includes the CDBG sidewalk program and neighborhood park improvements. With the neighborhood sidewalks and curbs program we are able to replace unsafe sidewalks on a more comprehensive basis in any of the income eligible block groups. This builds on existing sidewalk that is in good condition and creates walkable neighborhoods. The 2021 program will

be replacing sidewalks on a portion of the West side of North Division Street and on Case Ave and Perrine Ave as funding allows. Also the East side of Bradley Street between Case Ave and Perrine Ave will have a piece of sidewalk install as that will create a walkable connection for Case Ave and Perrine Ave. Street trees will also be planted where needed. You can see some pictures of the 2020 sidewalk program on the screen, one on North Division Street and one on Perrine Street. For neighborhood park improvements, the City plans to complete phase two of the Bradford Street Park project. We've recently wrapped up phase one, which was the installation of the playground equipment and a concrete walkway around the playground equipment. Phase two will consist of an additional pathway, landscaping, and a new fence along the fronts of the property. The City will also begin planning for the Casey Park Skateboard Project by releasing an RFP and working with a consultant and will potentially install a Path Bay at Miles Lepak Park.

**Renee Jensen**

I'm just gonna jump in really quick. I know Jenna was on earlier during the Public to be Heard or Public Hearing. And I have been working with her on the design future design of the skatepark at Casey Park. And we are looking to form a committee for that. And we're looking to do that February or March. We won't start the design process until we have our Community Development Block Grant funding, which we're hoping June, maybe July. But I just wanted to make you aware that we will be starting to form a committee as community members. So if you are aware of anybody who would like to join, please let me know. We have a flyer and I'm working on a date and invite.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Great Ms Jensen, I am, that has been something that I've been a supporter of for many years. I know, several members in the community that have that have been wanting this for quite some time. The upgrade is definitely needed. And I will, you know, reach out to the members in the community to be be part of that committee. And if you do need a, if you wouldn't mind a Councilor being on that committee, I would be willing to be part of the committee as well.

**Renee Jensen**

Excellent. Thank you. I'll send you some information and we can keep in touch about some other members. Thank you.

**Councilor Giannettino**

I think a prerequisite should be that Councilor Cuddy has to ride a skateboard at the new park.

**Councilor Cuddy**

Those days are over Mr. Giannettino. Those days are over, but it's for the youth. It's for the youth, so I was never good on the on the ramps. I just went from point A to point B in the neighborhood. So but yeah, so thank you, Ms Jensen. Thank you.

**Tiffany Beebee**

You can see a picture of the recently complete installed playground equipment at Bradford Street Park. We've gotten a lot of good feedback on this, so far, and actually compliments on the contractor that did this project as well. We were very fortunate to work with a good contractor. Economic Development This includes our small business program and our micro enterprise program. The Small Business Assistance Program provides fixed straight gap financing to businesses that commit to the creation or retention of jobs for low to moderate income persons. In the past, some recently some businesses that we've recently helped in the past two to three years include The Muldrow Group, Octane Social House and Moonflower Macaroons. The micro enterprise grant program, this is a new program. We are kicking it off this year with CEDA. We just got the application approved and worked with our HUD rep to make sure that we are covering all of our bases and understand the rules and regulations. Since this is a new program for us. We've gotten the go ahead. So CEDA will be advertising this and this will be kicking off in February with actual trainings, but it will offer three businesses a \$5,000 grants. After their initial application, they will complete a series of trainings and seminars within a six month period and these trainings include credit counseling and programs offered by a CEDA, SCORE, and the Onondaga Small Business Development Center. And we will also be focusing on educating businesses on becoming WBE, MBE DOSV and DBE certified

**Councilor Giannettino**

Ms Beebee, yes or Ms Haines? This program specifically is this similar to what Mr. Scott frequently comes to counsel and asks the city to participate in?

**Jenny Haines**

Yes, I just I muted myself because I was gonna just I wanted to reference his comment earlier in the meeting, just wanted to the accounts for the Council and the public to be aware, this program specifically came out of meetings with Mr. Scott, directly. Where we talked through some of his ideas and what we had available and the regulations that we had to meet. And this program was born out of those discussions. So we have worked to address some things that he would like to do. He has a lot of ideas, a lot of great ideas. This is one thing that we can do with the program, with the regulations that we have with the other needs in the community that needs to be met, in the other program areas. So yes, this was this is specifically in response to some of the things that he's been talking about with the Council over the past year.

**Councilor Giannettino**

All right, thank you. I thought I thought that was the case. And, you know, I know he frequently comes in, we welcome all input. And I'm glad that his ideas, at least some of his ideas, are coming to fruition, that staff was able to find value in those and to find an area within this program that the funding works. I wish he would have stayed on. So that, you know, we could acknowledge this and talk to him about this. You know, he brought up earlier tonight that he thinks we should stop all spending in CDBG. Which a I

don't even think is feasible, right? I know, there's certain guidelines, we have to spend this money down. Is that accurate?

**Jenny Haines**

That is, and I would I would not recommend stopping Planning or Programming with CDBG. Because if we if we waited to do a new sustainable energy plan, or a new comprehensive plan, those two items there would take at least a year each. We don't have the funding for either of those at the moment. And we would lose out if we could turn our grant back to HUD, but then, you know, it would not benefit the City. So you know, I continue to recommend that we program the way that we've programmed. You know, if the Council remembers last year, budget time, we talked about funding for the comprehensive plan. We weren't able to secure that at that time. That is a document that should be updated. It is now 10 years old. We wholeheartedly recommend that. You know, we'll talk about that in our budget request again, coming up. But I would not recommend waiting for those planning processes before we submit this action plan. I think this is a great new program. I think it's going to be fantastic. We're you know, our partnership with CEDA is great. You know, their new staff person has put a lot of time and effort into it. We put a lot of effort into discussions with Mr. Scott about it. And you know, we'd like to do this as a first step as a first step.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Thank you. And I think there's value in that, right. Sometimes you have to take baby steps. I think this is a good plan forward. Let's see how the program works. Let's see if we can build upon it. And I do hope Mr. Scott will give credit where credit's due. And you know, I think it's kind of bad for him to work with us, spend time with us, come up with a plan, and then at the 11th hour say, let's not do anything at all. I hope you'll see value in this and you know, the next time he does come to Council and brings this up, you know, I know that we can respond to make points of clarification. I do plan on doing that because I think it's important that he acknowledges that City staff has invested time with him to to come up with this program.

**Jenny Haines**

Thank you, Councilor.

**Tiffany Beebee**

Our final budget line is administration. As Renee mentioned, we did increase this after review. So after confirming a contract amount with CEDA, we lowered their 2021 program delivery amount and place the funds into 2021 admin. And we also move leftover 2019 entitlement funds into 2021 admin and moved a small portion of our special development RLF into 2021 admin. So this is a total of \$146,700 of our 2020 entitlement and then combined with our leftover entitlements, in revolving loan fund it brings the 2020 admin lines to a total of 160,000. We are capped at the amount of admin dollars that we can put into our CDBG budget each year. We are capped at 20% but we like to stay under that cap and keep dollars going out into the community. So this is approximately 18% of our budget. And

administration includes salary reimbursement for Planning, Engineering and DPW staff. It includes fair housing education and outreach through CNY Fair Housing. It includes forums and landlord training, through Cayuga Community Health Network. It includes the coordination of services through the Human Services Coalition. And it also includes work on the Homeless Task Force in the City and Cayuga County. We'd be happy to answer any questions that you might have on this year's action plan.

**Councilor Giannettino**

I have a couple. You know, we just talked a little bit about, I guess, recognition of the program and the work that goes into it. And I know a lot of the loan portions and the grant portions are administered through CEDA. Which I think is a good partnership, right. That's why CEDA was developed. They're a good partner. The success is undeniable. But the thing that, I guess, I always say bothers me is, that oftentimes the City is accused of not helping with economic development or helping businesses. The most recent example, and I'll say it, it was on social media last week, it was from the very person that you highlighted in tonight's presentation of receiving assistance. And he said that the City of Auburn does nothing for Downtown businesses. I gotta believe that part of that is because that that person just doesn't understand that the City is involved in this. And I would like like us to come up with ways to better educate the public, on the fact that this is a City program, to City program administered in partnership with CEDA. You know, the State of New York, the Federal government does a great job, anytime there's a project that's funded, whether it's the DEC, or Department of State, they put a giant sign up. And I really think we need to do some or have some discussion on whether or not that's something feasible for us. That, you know, a placard goes in a business that, you know, this program or this project is supported by the City of Auburn through CDBG. funding. Something of that nature. Just so there's an acknowledgement of City staff the work they do the commitment of the City of Auburn as a whole, in supporting these businesses, I think we could go as far as is requesting the same with the Human Services Organizations that request and receive funding. So that's something that I would like to discuss further. I think the plan looks great again this year. I've said it every year. And I'll say it again this year. This is very successful program. This is how In my opinion, government programs should work. There is very measurable success in this program. I would ask though, if possible, if there is available money, I've brought this up in the past, I know that I've spoken to City Manager about it. We did a lot of work at Francis Street Park, or not Francis Street Park, St. Francis Park, on the West End, great walking trail down there. And through COVID, a lot of people were out walking. And I run all over the City and I would see a lot of people walking at Casey Park. I'd see a lot of people walking at Hoopes Park, but not a lot of people using this brand new, beautiful trail at this newly remodeled Park. And, and talking to people, part of the reason was, there's just no shade down there. Throughout that whole walking area, there are no trees. And I'd like to see us focus on putting some trees down there. It'll provide shade. There's basically a State highway that runs adjacent to that. It'll help with air pollution. It'll help with noise. And I think it'll help revitalize that little section down there. So if we could find a way to free up some money through CDBG to, you know, over the next year or two to put some trees down there, I would really appreciate that. And I think that it would bring some equity in our City Parks,

it would show the West end of town that we value their parks as much as we value the East end of Auburn

**Tiffany Beebee**

That is still an eligible park so we can add some narrative and this year's action plan. That way it gives us flexibility with the funding that we could potentially put in some trees this year, if funding allows.

**Councilor Giannettino**

Okay, I would appreciate that. I'm all set, thank you.

**Councilor McCormick**

I just want to back up Councilor Giannettino on the idea of signage for places that we've supported through programs like this. I think that's a great idea. Many people don't understand and why should they? How much money funding from the City goes into various projects throughout the City. And I think that would be a good way to educate people, and is coming from as a BID board member. Bid businesses, I think, do themselves, the ones that publicly complain about certain things, do the whole BID a disservice. By doing things like that, because the City does help. We do everything we can to help businesses all over Auburn, within the limits that we have. And I think to the City, citizens of Auburn, taxpayers would be very happy to see where their money is going, whether it's Federal money, City money, State money. So I think it's a great idea, we should really make an effort to do that.

**Councilor Cuddy**

You know, I agree with both Councilor McCormick, Councilor Giannettino. We all as Mr. Giannettino, or Councilor Giannettino mentioned. You see the icon, the logo of the State of New York, and which agency, or department, that is in charge, and I do think it may be a good project for my class to come up with some logo. Perhaps for the, you know, funded in part by the, you know, Auburn, you know, Economic Development or, you know, the Office of Planning and Economic Development. So that CDBG grant monies, I think that will solve some of the confusion, or lack of knowledge, of Auburn being a crucial part, and these monies going into these much needed places in community. So I do think it does help and weigh solidify and bring home the fact that we are still very involved with so many facets of everyday life in this City, besides, you know, Public Safety and, you know, Refuse Collection where we're, you know, Economic Development, you know, making sure that money is going to people that are in need. So I'm all for what Councilor Giannettino, and Councilor McCormick, and if there's any way I can facilitate that through graphic design, or my students at Cayuga Onondaga BOCES. I think it would make a pretty good project for us.

**Mayor Quill**

You know, it's interesting, we don't get to credit where credit is due. When there was a building, stone building the City, Downtown City of Auburn was never in the City's possession. Excuse me, but we were blamed for everything that was going on there. So yeah. I don't have an answer for it. But I agree

with the Councilors, we have to do something. But sometimes they wonder if it's really what we should be doing. So but anyone else? Jenny, Renee, and Tiffany, thank you very much for your presentation. We haven't been to Washington in a while. So things don't go right, I'm ready to head out. So fair enough.

**Jenny Haines**

Well, Mayor, that that was an awesome trip. And since that time, there has been a lion's share of work done by Tiffany and Renee and City staff and contractors and we are in a really good spot. And we have already met the timely expenditure requirement. So HUD will be very happy when they review us at the end of this month.

**Mayor Quill**

I never doubted the work of any City employee. So they do a great job for what's expected of them. So thank you. Thank you.

**Renee Jensen**

Thank you.

**Mayor Quill**

Mr. Mason, did we hit anybody else that wants to be talking in regards to the CDBG?

**Chuck Mason**

No mayor, no other takers.

**Mayor Quill**

Very good. So at this point, with no other takers, we'll close the Public Hearing. Thanks staff, for being here with us this evening. You're more than welcome to stick around for the next five minutes. So you will be dismissed. So thank you very much, staff. Thank you. Thank you. Ms Haines, Monthly Bargraph Reports.

**Jenny Haines**

Yes, those are in your packet departments have prepared those as we do each month. I'm happy to answer any questions that you might have on those. But otherwise, those are there for your review. Thank you.

**TABLED ITEMS - none**

**OTHER BUSINESS –**

**Mayor Quill**

Thank you. Any questions? Other Business from the Council? None? Second,



**Councilor Cuddy**

Councilor Locastro has some.

**Mayor Quill**

Yep. Councilor.

**Councilor Locastro**

Just wondering which direction we're going into with our meetings for the month of February. As far as are we coming to City Hall? Are we going?

**Councilor Cuddy**

Oh, that very good question, Councilor Locastro. I'm still uncomfortable doing in person. So I mean, if you all would, at least for one more month.. Until we really get a sense, or I'm looking at it at a month by month. just to see where we are with the numbers. I know things are improving. But you know, I mean, that's my two cents. Just to kind of keep it safe until we're out of the woods. But I will leave it to my colleagues to see what they what their thoughts are.

**Mayor Quill**

Corporation Council. Stacey, I believe you sent out an email today or yesterday. And they these Public Meetings are allowed for another month. Was there a drop dead date on that?

**Stacy DeForrest**

They are, Mayor. So basically what what the Governor continues to extend that original order. And NYCOM has advised that, you know, there's no, there's no end in sight on that. So they anticipate the extensions to continue, basically in ad infinitum, until we get to the end of this

**Mayor Quill**

Councilors, with your permission, I would defer to Albany in regards to when our meetings may actually go live again. So, you know, I'm only one vote. But until we hear something definite from Albany, I would, I would say let's continue in this manner as we are.

**Councilor Giannettino**

I agree with that, you know, I share the safety concerns that Councilor Cuddy has. I also think that we set an example for the rest of the community, that things can be done efficiently in this format. And we should encourage everybody to have as many meetings as possible in this format, rather than getting together in rooms. So if the executive order extends through February right now, I'm fine with extending through February and then seeing what the Governor releases at the end of February.

**Mayor Quill**

Councilor McCormick.

**Councilor McCormick**

Yes, I'm all for sticking with it for the same reasons. My only concern is in this. Not that we had a big crowd in City Council Chambers ever. But the participation, or the trying to get the word out, that it's so easy to attend a meeting for a City Council meeting and nobody can go anywhere. I really wish we could find a way to get more people involved. I'd asked the Clerk the other day, if you can tell how many people come online to watch. And it's hardly anyone. And the other, this hasn't happened with us, I don't think, but I tried to attend the Auburn School Board Meeting the other night. And it didn't work. I thought it was me. But I found out later, they had a glitch. So I was going to participate in the Public to be Heard. And I hope, I don't know how, if there's a way to have a backup plan or a phone number to call but I didn't have anyone to contact. I just worried that the participation of the public will be an impact. And there's not a lot we can do because of the circumstances. But I just thrown that out there to think about. That's just me.

**Mayor Quill**

Councilor Locastro, does that kind of answer your question without answering your question?

**Councilor Locastro**

That answers my question and I'll agree with you, Mayor and the rest of the Council. Men and women.

**Mayor Quill**

Very good. Councilor McCormick apparently you don't remember the meetings we had about sidewalks. We had standing room only for many of those meetings years ago. So

**Councilor McCormick**

Yes, but we don't want to have. Nice moderate, calm crowd would be good.

**Mayor Quill**

We make just as much money whether we're controversial or not. Public to be Heard there was no one else I believe Mr. Mason. Very good. City Manager, do you have a request for Executive Session?

**Jenny Haines**

I don't believe we do, Mayor. Stacy?

**Stacy DeForrest**

No, nothing here.

**Mayor Quill**

Council members, anything for Executive Session.

**Councilor Giannettino**

All set

**Mayor Quill**

Very well. Entertain a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:** By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m..

Minutes submitted by:

Chuck Mason, City Clerk