

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, April 16, 2020 5:00 P.M.
City Council Chambers
24 South Street
Auburn, NY 13021**

Minutes

The meeting of the Auburn City Council was called to order at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Quill.

Roll Call – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Michael D. Quill, Councilor Debra McCormick (by teleconference), Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy (by teleconference) and Councilor Tim Locastro were all present.

The following City Staff was present for the regular meeting:

- City Manager Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest (by teleconference)
- City Clerk Charles Mason
- Planning Director Jennifer Haines (by teleconference)
- MU Director Seth Jensen (teleconference)
- Capital Projects Director Christina Selvek (teleconference)
- Acting Fire Chief Mark Fritz (by teleconference)
- Comptroller Rachel Jacobs
- Deputy Planning Director Steve Selvek
- Engineer William Lupien (by teleconference)
- Tiffany Beebee – Planning (by teleconference)
- Renee Jensen - Planning (by teleconference)

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, City Clerk –

- The Civil Service Commission this week announced that the upcoming firefighter exam has been postponed to a future date to be determined.

Ceremonial Presentations and Proclamations, City Clerk -

WHEREAS, on April 22, 1970, an estimated 20 million Americans took to the streets and college campuses of hundreds of cities throughout our country to protest environmental ignorance and demand a new way forward for our country and our planet launching what was the first Earth Day and the beginning of the modern environmental movement; and

WHEREAS, the first Earth Day launched a wave of action in the United States, including the passage of landmark environmental laws such as the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts, as well as, the signing into law the creation of the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) by President Richard M. Nixon; and

WHEREAS, fifty years following the first Earth Day event our environment and the protection thereof remains at the forefront of public discourse; and

WHEREAS, the enormous environmental challenges we face today along with the vast opportunities for action on climate change combine to designate *Climate Action* as the theme of the 50th anniversary of what is now an international celebration with over one billion participants; and

WHEREAS, locally the public health of the City of Auburn, Cayuga County and all of New York State is inextricably linked to environmental conditions, making the goals of Earth Day immediately relevant to current pandemic conditions; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn has long demonstrated and continues to pledge to make measurable positive change towards becoming more sustainable; and

WHEREAS, the City's sustainability initiatives include geothermal heating and cooling of the following municipal buildings, Memorial City Hall, the Police and Fire Headquarters, and the Equal Rights Heritage Center; and

WHEREAS, the City and New York State have invested in hydroelectric facilities at the Mill Street Dam and the recently completed N. Division St. Dam, electric vehicle charging stations at the downtown parking garage, as well as, the future installation of solar panels at the City Landfill; and

WHEREAS, in 2018 the City was designated a Clean Energy Community by New York State; and

WHEREAS, Earth Day is important to the citizens and businesses of Auburn as a means of reinforcing the importance of responsible stewardship of the earth's resources, demonstrated by several volunteer citizen initiatives that keep the environment at the forefront of local civic action including the Auburn Permaculture Park, the Auburn Beautification Commission, the Grow Auburn's Trees program, the Owasco Lake Watershed Management Council, the Owasco Watershed Lake Association, the Save Owasco Now organization and the public group Cayuga Climate Action; and

WHEREAS, on this 50th anniversary, the traditional local and international Earth Day public events will instead go digital with an online celebration and call for *Climate Action*, and we encourage all to use and share #EarthDay2020, #ClimateAction, #AuburnEarthDay & #CayugaEarthDay to mark the occasion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that I, Michael D. Quill, Mayor of the City of Auburn, New York, on behalf of the members of City Council and citizens of Auburn, do hereby proclaim the 22nd day of April, 2020, as **EARTH DAY** in the City of Auburn, New York and we encourage our citizens to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary by promoting actions towards improved climate and environmental sustainability.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the seal of the City of Auburn to be affixed this Twenty-second day of April 2020.

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

City Clerk Mason - Now, Mayor under normal circumstances, we had arranged for the local group Cayuga Climate Action to be here tonight to accept the Proclamation. However, they sent a statement that I'll read into the record as well. I know that this organization had great hopes of organizing an Earth Day event that was going to be held here in downtown Auburn. But due to the pandemic, that event is not able to come to fruition. The Cayuga Climate Action comprises a group of citizens from the City of Auburn and the surrounding areas of Cayuga County, who are concerned about climate change. Cayuga Climate Action seeks to educate, advocate and act on

the climate crisis to protect and restore our lakes and lands. Additional information is available at their website, which is cayugaclimateaction.org and they also have a Facebook page. Then they sent the following statement, "our current pandemic demonstrates that governments must embrace science, embrace science early, as we see now, many governments were slow to respond or even indifferent about the science of the coronavirus pandemic. But the last few weeks have also demonstrated that our society even at the international level, is capable of mass shifts across all sectors to meet a crisis head on and we must apply the same scale and urgency of our response to climate change." Again that was from the Cayuga Climate Action organization and that ends the presentation for today. Thank you.

Public to be Heard - none

Approval of Meeting Minutes:

March 12, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 12, 2020 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Locastro. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

March 26, 2020 Council Meeting Minutes

Motion to approve the March 26, 2020 minutes by Councilor Giannettino, seconded by Councilor Locastro. Motion to approve carried 5-0.

Reports of City Officials

City Manager Dygert's Report:

- Staff has been working to keep up with daily changes in New York state executive orders. I continue to modify the way we conduct business and protect our employees during the COVID situation. In addition to changes that impact our operations, we continue to Monitor and interpret changes imposed on private sector and the public as we have enforcement responsibilities as directed by New York State. So that keeps a lot of folks here, whether it's the corporation counsel, the police department, or planning. Staff is hopping, trying to stay on top of these things that tend to change day to day.
- Work is continuing on a significant sewer and storm sewer replacement project on Orchard Street. The project has and will continue to impact the traffic on Orchard Street as well as a section of Columbus Street throughout next week as necessary connections and repairs are made there. if possible, if our members of our community could avoid that area probably make it easier on them as well
- This week, we made the final and difficult decision to cancel our city-sponsored May events. As such, our annual Memorial Day Parade, the Major Palooza event, the Kiwanis Duck Derby and the annual downtown BID flower planting are canceled. As the covid-19 continues to unfold, we will discuss other future summer 2020 events. Approximately every other week and provide updates to the public as we have a better feel for what our local situation will be.
- With that said and with that cancellation in mind something that isn't getting canceled is our annual spring cleanup days at the landfill. So there's one coming up by next this Saturday, but the following Saturday, at the landfill and another one again in May. Those will proceed this year. We're going to implement some minor changes to ensure appropriate social distancing and safety for all workers, as well as, the public. Our hours are going to be extended to encourage residents to time their visit throughout the day. As it typically have been there long lines. People

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waiting right first thing in the morning but we're going to extend the hours to try to avoid that to some extent as well as to accommodate an anticipated increase in activity. The reason we're anticipating an increase in activity, is Public Works has reported that they are documenting approximately 5 tons of curbside trash collected each day for their normal trash collection. So the fact that folks are staying home and have maybe a little more time to clean out the closet or the cupboards and the basement is having an impact on the landfill in trash collection.

- After we finish up the agenda items that are published here, we had hoped for and planned on having some discussion about the budget process, as well as, the budget process later on in the meeting. Jenny Haines, Renee Jensen, Tiffany Beebee, as you know, are on the line. They're going to be available to discuss what they know about the recent edition of CDBG funding and the applicable guidance for the distribution of those funds. While that program guidance has not been finalized at the federal level, we'd like to get council's input on priorities and allocations. So those are two important topics you want to hit on before we're done tonight.

Councilor McCormick - going back to the trash pickup, I wanted to know if there are any plans or any information on plans for when the landfill is closing. I don't know if the public is quite aware. It may have slipped between the cracks with everything going on, or may not have been seen in our communications.

City Manager Dygert – you're talking about switch over to a transfer station, rather than the actual landfill. About 2 weeks ago we had planned a presentation but with everything going on, we kind of scratched that from the list. As we get a little more adept at doing things, we might be able to do a remote or canned presentation that we could play as we go through one of these remote sessions. I would say this, just generally speaking, our residents will not see a difference in their curbside collection and the landfill will still remain open. They will have the ability to drop off trash. Those people that like to make a trip in the morning and go down to the landfill and drop-off their single bag. We have quite a few of those. They'll still be able to do that. We will get that presentation together and figure out a way we can do that.

Reports from members of Council

Councilor Giannettino - yesterday was the monthly AIDA meeting. Councilor Cuddy and I were in attendance via Zoom. A quick update, Mr. Dygert, you've talked about in the past; Tracy Verrier gave an update on the microloan program for local businesses. Out of the hundred and twenty business that they've worked with, 21 have applied to that program, 4 have been approved, and two have already received funding. She mentioned that there's a \$5,000 maximum to that. They're also offering guidance to local businesses on the payroll Protection Program and a variety of other services to local businesses that are experiencing a downturn during this time. Gwen Webber McLeod was appointed to the governance committee, and I was appointed to the finance committee.

Matters to Come Before Council:

GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION #50 OF 2020

AUTHORIZING GRANT FUNDING FROM THE DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK FOR CASEY PARK POOL IMPROVEMENTS

By Councilor Giannettino

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn owns and operates an Olympic-size swimming pool at Casey Park Recreational Complex located at 150 N. Division Street that was originally constructed in 1971; and

WHEREAS, the current pool membrane that was last installed in December 2007 is actively leaking and requires replacement; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2019, the City of Auburn submitted a request to Assemblyman, Gary D. Finch for funding assistance to complete improvements to the Casey Park Pool related to the failing pool liner; and

WHEREAS, on March 3, 2020, the City of Auburn was notified of a State and Municipal Facilities Program grant from the Dormitory Authority of New York State (DASNY) in the sum of \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Public Works has already received competitive bids for the replacement of the pool liner with an estimated project cost of \$248,000; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is now requesting that the DASNY grant funds be used to partially reimburse the Casey Park Pool Liner project costs paid from bond anticipation notes previously authorized in Bond Ordinance #2 of 2019 in the amount of \$100,000; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor of the City of Auburn must be authorized to accept the grant funding and execute all necessary documents in connection therewith prior to commencing the project.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF AUBURN hereby accepts a State and Municipal Facilities Program Grant Project ID: #22669 from the Dormitory Authority of the State of New York State (DASNY) in the amount of \$100,000 to reimburse project costs paid from the Casey Park Building Improvements capital account #HA.7143.440.JW; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor of the City of Auburn, or a designated representative, is authorized to execute the grant contract and all other documents necessary for the acceptance of the grant, and otherwise act on all matters related to the grant.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Councilor Giannettino – I noticed it this work is already started. If we are able to open the pool, due to the pandemic situation, will work be done before that?

City Manager Dygert – Yes. That is why we decided to go ahead with this project. Again, the city is considered an essential business from a central service. So there by work that's been done by contractors for us can continue on. We're trying to be careful about how extensively we utilize that ability. with something like Casey Park Pool, I felt that it was prudent, not knowing exactly how long the restrictions would go on, to keep the work on the pool going because if they are lifted by August or September, and if they happen to run through June or July, we may not be able to get this work done in this season. With that in mind, knowing that the pool wasn't going to be functional for the year, without this work, we decided to go ahead with that project. So there's a small crew down there at work. I think they're going to wrap that up next week. So if it ever stops snowing, and the weather turns around, and we get relieved of some of these restrictions, and you know, we get that hot summer weather, I know last year we were getting,

sometimes getting 200-300 people a day utilizing that pool. It was something we didn't want to be without.

Councilor Giannettino – I would also like to thank Assemblyman Finch for providing the funding for the project.

Councilor Locastro - is the grant money secure with everything going on?

City Manager Dygert – yeah. I normally would say, once this stuff is locked in we are in pretty good shape once we accept that. Typically, what will happen is, tomorrow morning once Council accepts it, is Christina Selvek, will take care of it and will start filing the grant paperwork. It takes a while. These DASNY grants take us a bit of time to collect the funding, but once it's there we are in pretty good shape. Unless we drag our feet.

Councilor Locastro - as far as the job, are there extras or is anything going on down there with that?

City Manager Dygert – Not that that I'm aware of. It sounds pretty straight forward.

Mayor Quill -
Hearing no further discussion. Clerk, please call the roll.

**City Clerk Mason -
GRANT ACCEPTANCE RESOLUTION #50 OF 2020 - AUTHORIZING GRANT
FUNDING FROM THE DORMITORY AUTHORITY OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK
FOR CASEY PARK POOL IMPROVEMENTS**

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

AWARD RESOLUTION #51 OF 2020

**AWARDING A BID FOR THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF
EXTERIOR BUSINESS PARK SIGNS AT TECHNOLOGY PARK**

By Councilor Giannettino

April 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the Auburn City Council authorized Bond Ordinance #2 of 2019, which included funding for infrastructure improvements, and specifically upgrades within Technology Park; and

WHEREAS, on November 4, 2019, City staff released a request for proposals for the design, fabrication, and installation of Exterior Business Park Signs at Technology Park Auburn, NY; and

WHEREAS, the City received two (2) responses, which were then reviewed and scored; and

WHEREAS, Mack Studios of Auburn, NY is recommended as the highest ranked firm to provide the above mentioned signage design, fabrication, and installation services.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Auburn City Council does hereby award a bid to Mack Studios of Auburn, NY for the Design, Fabrication, and Installation of Exterior Business Park Signs at Technology Park Auburn, NY as outlined in the Request for Proposals in an amount not to exceed \$49,695.00; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor, or appointed designee, is authorized to sign an agreement and all other documents relating to the agreement on behalf of the City of Auburn; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the cost of the professional consulting services agreement in the amount of \$49,695.00 is to be charged to the 19-20 Tech Park Upgrades capital account #HA1620-440-JU.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Councilor Giannettino – Mayor, I know that you, Mr. Dygert and several members of staff have had ongoing meetings with members of Technology Park. Is this one of the items that has come up from those meetings?

City Manager Dygert – Yes. Signage for Tech Park, street lighting for Tech Park, general maintenance of the area, the shoulders of the road, things like that, lawn mowing had come up. Last year, Council had approved about \$150,000 for upgrades at Tech Park through one of the general approvals that was done. This is part of it, and we're continuing to work through the street lighting project with NYSEG. I would expect that, probably, would have already been there had not been for all of the other current events going on. We are moving forward. That list of items we've talked with the businesses at Tech Park. So, this will be three signs, the small island that is near the entrance of Tech Park, that was struck by a vehicle this winter. That will be replaced and that will have a lighted sign. The other two signs, at the entrances, are approximately six or eight foot wide, stand-up on 2 posts. There's also been some discussion going on with BOCES about having some of their technology classes illuminate the signs, with solar.

Councilor Giannettino - thank you to everybody involved for reaching out to those local businesses and hearing their concerns. I'm glad to see it was a local company was able to be awarded the bid.

Councilor Locastro- so these signs, are new signs? Are they replacing signs? Are already there? Or both?

City Manager Dygert - they are going to be mounted on the same posts that are there. They will take the place of replacing those signs. They will replace those that were installed, and Jenny would have the exact year, but the mid-1990s, I'm going to stay. They're about 25 years old.

Councilor McCormick – It's so nice to see this coming to fruition. That entryway, there is so much behind there. There are so many wonderful businesses behind there employing so many wonderful people. It's like a hidden gem. The entrance needs to reflect that. I think this is going to do that. It's worth doing for the future.

Councilor Cuddy - I agree with Councilor McCormick.

Mayor Quill – I agree with everything said here this evening. What’s nice is over the course of a year, we award many bids and it's nice to award one to a local company. With no more discussion, Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Mason

AWARD RESOLUTION #51 OF 2020 - AWARDING A BID FOR THE DESIGN, FABRICATION, AND INSTALLATION OF EXTERIOR BUSINESS PARK SIGNS AT TECHNOLOGY PARK

	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #52 OF 2020

ENCOURAGING AND REQUESTING OUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO BE DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE COVID-19 CRISIS

By Councilor Giannettino

April 16, 2020

WHEREAS, the New York State Conference of Mayors (NYCOM) organization is the voice of New York’s 600 cities and villages, representing more than 12 million New Yorkers; and

WHEREAS, the City of Auburn is a long standing member of NYCOM and works with it on mutual matters of concern pertaining to Federal and State government matters; and

WHEREAS, in response to the Coronavirus epidemic (COVID-19), NYCOM is coordinating an effort for all cities and villages in the State to communicate with our Federal elected officials about the need for financial assistance to be provided directly to both the States and to the individual municipalities within each State; and

WHEREAS, our Federal elected representatives, Senator Charles E. Schumer, Senator Kirsten Gillibrand and Congressman John Katko have been advocates for obtaining financial assistance for New York State and the City of Auburn, and we would like to acknowledge and thank them for obtaining extra Community Development Block Grant funding in the recently passed CARES Act, which will be allocated to assist low to moderate income areas of the City that face hardship as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 crisis continues, Cities and Villages across the State realize that there will be significant financial impacts on current and future municipal budgets, with anticipated increases in expenses incurred due to COVID-19, as well as, a significant loss of budgeted revenues, in

particular anticipated reductions in sales tax due to the immediate downturn in the economy; and

WHEREAS, the significant loss of budgeted sales tax revenue caused by the COVID-19 crisis will have a significant negative impact on both the State and the municipalities; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor and City Council would like to join NYCOM in requesting that Congress authorize additional relief to New York State's cities, villages and towns, without regard to population size, as each of them struggles with the lost revenue and rising expenses associated with being on the front lines of this pandemic, and that this additional relief be allocated directly to the municipalities.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that City Council authorizes the Mayor to sign the NYCOM letter to our Federal representatives dated April 13, 2020; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Council respectfully requests of Senator Schumer, Senator Gillibrand and Congressman Katko that the following be included in future COVID-19 funding relief bills:

- Support for the authorization of funding to provide financial relief to New York State's cities, villages and towns, without regard to population size ; and
- Support for the additional financial relief to be directly allocated to cities, villages and towns, not passed through the State; and,
- Support for additional financial relief for New York State that accurately assists the State based on the magnitude of the COVID-19 crisis as well as the significant financial fallout incurred by the State due to the immediate downturn in the State economy; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City Clerk forward a certified copy of this resolution to all of our Federal representatives.

Seconded by Councilor Locastro

Councilor Giannettino – Mayor, I'd like to start by acknowledging NYCOM for putting together this effort. They're always a great partner in these things and their guidance is certainly appreciated. I'd also like to reiterate what was in the resolution and thank our Congressional delegation, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand and Congressman Katko for their support of the CARES act for the increase of \$500,000 in CDBG money. Those were much needed resources that were provided to us, we are thankful for them, but unfortunately they don't go far enough. It was announced today that the money in the paycheck protection program has already run out. It really seems to be no end in sight to the current situation. Currently there is an effort in Congress to re-fund, make additional funding, to that program. There's also a request that's being spearheaded by Senator Schumer to also include \$250 billion in direct aid to municipalities. Unfortunately, that's becoming a political football. It may hold up the passage of that bill. Last week we spoke about our budget and we talked about the potential impact that the covid-19 pandemic is going to have on our budget. New York State Association of Counties is estimated anywhere from 3% to 12% decrease in sales tax. According to our Comptroller, what that means for Auburn is, if it's a 3% decrease that's the loss of \$271,000, if it's as high as a 12% decrease, \$1,086,000. We rely heavily on sales tax. We cannot continue to provide the services that we provide at the level we provide them without that sales tax. It is imperative that Congress allocates this money directly to municipalities, not to the states, but the municipalities and really, municipalities regardless of size. There's been a lot of focus on large urban areas, like New York City, in Philadelphia. The reality of it is this hits us hard too. We have to provide the services. I'm hoping that everybody in the Senate will come to their senses, will support this bill. I'm

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hoping that Congressman Katko can have a say in it and can encourage his colleagues in Senate, and the President to support this funding, because it is needed. I will support this resolution 100%. I would ask that we also send a cover letter, and in that cover letter, include an estimate of 3 months of sales tax, estimate of other revenues that we're going to lose, including parking ticket revenue, revenue from the courts that are closed right now, and any unbudgeted expenses that we've incurred from allowing people to work at home, to having to buy additional equipment. So if we could get an estimate of those numbers, to put a somewhat real number, on with the resolution, I would think that would be beneficial.

Councilor McCormick – I support what Councilor Giannettino said. Our individual citizens are struggling, businesses are struggling, and when someone says they, the government, the city, assuming that we are another entity. Actually, we wouldn't be here if it weren't for every single individual paying tax, buying things, doing all the things, property taxes, all the things that make up our budget. We are people serving the citizens of Auburn. Sales tax is about 1/3 of our budget. We have trimmed our workforce, we have realigned and we have been doing more with less, it has been our mantra for 10 years. We are down to the bone. If our federal government doesn't come to help us I really don't know what will happen to all the work we have done for Auburn to grow and for Cayuga County to grow. They absolutely must, give us some relief there shouldn't even be a question. We must have the relief. I urge citizens listening to also call any of their representatives and let them know how important this is. We're here right on the front lines. Maybe they don't know that there are cities under 30,000 or 50,000 that are striving to just try to keep our head above water. I think it's a shame that, if we have a representative that is serving on the economic council development task force, that should be no question.

Councilor Cuddy - first off, obviously the first package that was passed by Congress, was an emergency package that was set to stabilize the market, Wall Street. Really what is needed is the stabilization of Main Street and that's what we're asking our federal representatives to do because at this rate, if we continue to go much worse is going to happen. So what needs to happen is that the federal government needs to really put their resources in where they're going to get the biggest bang for their buck. Which are these people that work for the city, that work for the state, I hope that our federal government sees the wisdom of putting the money toward municipalities.

Mayor Quill - our life changes day to day going on. It would be wonderful to have a way of looking into the future and seeing where we are. I know where our future is bright; we will get there one day. But in the meantime, we have to do everything we can to protect our citizens in our community. With the Council's permission, I'm going to guess that this Council resolution will pass and ask the City Clerk to work with Councilor Giannettino to draft a letter that we can sign and send out as Councilor Giannettino requested.

Councilor Giannettino – if I could make one more point, I'd like to make actually two points. If I remember correctly, in the CARES act, in the amount of money that was distributed, New York State was 49 out of 50 states, in the amount of money that we received. So, while I do give credit to our Congressional Delegation for securing funding, it was nowhere near close to the amount of money that we should have received. That is in addition to the fact that according to New York State Comptroller DiNapoli, every year we send 2.6 billion dollars more to the federal government than we receive in return. In fact, we receive \$0.90 on the dollar for every dollar that we send, where other states are receiving a 1.21 on the dollar. So, there is clearly an agenda there. It's unfortunate, and we really need our Congressional Delegation to step up and fight for us on this one.

Mayor Quill – hearing no more discussion, Clerk please call the roll.

City Clerk Mason

COUNCIL RESOLUTION #52 OF 2020 - ENCOURAGING AND REQUESTING OUR FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVES TO SUPPORT ADDITIONAL FEDERAL ASSISTANCE TO BE DISTRIBUTED DIRECTLY TO MUNICIPALITIES FOR THE COVID-19 CRISIS

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	Ayes	Noes	Excused
Councilor McCormick	X		
Councilor Giannettino	X		
Councilor Cuddy	X		
Councilor Locastro	X		
Mayor Quill	X		
Carried and Adopted	X		

City Manager Dygert – Again, we would like to have a discussion on the budget, as well as, a discussion on the CDBG program. If it's okay with Council, I'd like to start out with the CDBG program, so that we've got a few folks that are calling in from home, and we can get them move through this and get on with their lives for the evening while we talk about the budget afterwards. So, Jenny, are you in there? Are you on there? Okay, if you'd like to give the council a little update on what you've all learned about the new CDBG funds and what's going on there.

Ms. Haines – sure. One of the most important things that Tiffany and Renee learned today on the technical assistance call, was that this is essentially purely in addition to our CDBG grant. So everything that is eligible for regular CDBG is eligible here. So they told us to just think of it as a regular grant through CDBG. So anything that we typically fund, economic development, human services, infrastructure housing, is eligible. So one of the things that Renee said we're talking is that, the one thing she took away with, we can use this as an economic stimulus for our city. They also gave some guidance in to us a couple days ago, that gave us some examples of things that can be done, specifically related to and in response to the pandemic. So those things are eligible, as well, if we wanted to do that. one of the things that would it take away related to public services specifically which is where we fund our human service agencies. If we do anything over the 15% cap, that is usually there for Human Services, those activities must be specially COVID related. But otherwise this is purely CDBG funds that can be used for eligible activity. The thing that they have done, is given us some flexibility related to the process for submitting our plan. They have provided only a 5-day comment period, instead of a 30 day comment period and some other flexibility related to that. One of the things that we also believe could happen is we could utilize one of the national objectives that we have never used in Auburn before, which is around urgent need. Because of the State declaration for a state of emergency, we believe, and we're still waiting for some guidance, but were confident, in being able to say that we could use that National objective in order to do things around housing and economic development for people that are specifically affected by COVID. Other CDBG regulations around economic development would require, in particular, job retention, would still need to be documented. They were clear that we could not duplicate existing programs. That is why I sent the document ahead. Councilor Giannettino has mentioned that the Paycheck Protection Program through the FCA are oversubscribed at the moment. So those programs, even though they're in place, need additional funding. I don't know if that could potentially be an opportunity for us. As far as process for this, the easiest way to do it is for us to do it in two amendments. One would be to our citizen participation plan which would allow for virtual public hearing and the shorter comment period. We also have to specifically request permission from HUD Buffalo to do that, which we will submit that letter tomorrow. Then, we have to amend our 2019 action plan. Because that is the plan that we currently have a contract for and that we don't have a grant agreement yet. So that is the guidance that we are being provided by HUD. We did find out today, that the funds are not yet in the city's line of credit. They are not available to us to draw down yet. that will allow us to continue to go through this process and then they'll be available at the point that we're ready. so, from Council tonight, were interested in hearing your priorities. The timing that were recommending around to doing the public hearing would be on May 14th. The reason for that is because we have on some survey data that were looking for responses from. So we were told the public hearing and public comment. During that week. Then submit the plan. Pending Council approval, of course, on May 22nd so Renee, Tiffany,

unless you have anything to add, we're interested in hearing what the Council's thoughts are regarding what their priorities are for funding.

Councilor Cuddy - so you mentioned about timing. I know in the past that CDBG money had a timeline attached to it. So what you would mention was that this would be part of the timeline of the 2019 action plan, is that correct?

Ms. Haines - so we would amend that action plan. We have been in that program year since last summer. We were when we got our grants agreement. We've already been, and I don't know if this is where your question is going, we've already been reviewed for timeliness. We have struggled with that and have conquered that hurdle. That question that we're still waiting for a response from HUD on, as far as what the requirement is going to be for timely expenditure.

Councilor Cuddy - so that's one thing but I'm glad that we're moving forward with the May 14th public hearing. I want to start, obviously, we want to make sure that that this money reaches all facets of our community. Obviously, housing is important. Making sure that that there's Protections in place for people to be able to pay their mortgage. These are important. to me, one of the most important one, but I also think, as Councilor Giannettino mentioned yesterday, we were at the AIDA meeting, and we were made aware that many of the businesses that weren't able to qualify for the small business of PPP, the payroll Protection Program, that is something that, there are several companies that are applying for the microloans. So, besides housing and protection for mortgages, I also think that, if we could work closely with CEDA, in getting those microloans, so that their businesses that could survive through this very difficult time along with the people that are going to have trouble paying for housing and mortgage. So that that's my suggestion, at least for now, for what the priorities should be.

Ms. Haines - we have had lots of discussions already with CEDA. I spoke with Tracy Verrier, again yesterday, to try to put together some details and ideas around that. I totally agree, and so does she, that is a priority for these funds, where we can fill in some gaps. We've also been discussing on the housing side, some ideas with HUD, related to foreclosure prevention and the mortgage payments as well as rental assistance.

Councilor McCormick – My primary thought was if we can give it as much relief to small businesses that will in turn, help them with helping employees with their economic woes. So I think if we could focus on the small businesses, I mean the tiny ones, that are kind of new, the next couple months could really be the end. Anything we can do to help small businesses that would be great.

Councilor Giannettino – I echo everything Councilors Cuddy and McCormick have said. Ms. Haines, I am assuming that this funding has to be used in a CDBG designated area. So you have to be a business that it is in one of those areas within the city. Not just any business within the city of Auburn. Is that accurate?

Ms. Haines – typically, our economic development loans are direct benefit related to the employees that they employ. So it could be any business located in the city, as long as we were going to be meeting that job retention requirement.

Councilor Giannettino - That's good news. Other areas I think we should focus on and typically had been a big part of CDBG funds is, Human Services organizations. Typically, I think it's like 11 to 14 different agencies every year, received funding. Would they qualify for additional funding?

Ms. Haines - we have a typical calculation of having to stay within 15% of our entitlement Grant. So, we are allowed to go over that cap, however, any funding over that 15% cap has to be very specifically related to response to COVID. So, that cap has been waived, but we have some additional requirements on that for any funding beyond that. We have additional ability to go up to 15% of that Grant amount like regular CDBG and beyond that is COVID related. Renee, correct me if I'm wrong I'm on that.

Ms. Jensen – you're correct.

Councilor Giannettino – when you say COVID related, could you say, you know, that additional stress on food pantries is COVID related?

Ms. Haines - I would say, yes. Renee I'll ask you to answer that as well please.

Ms. Jensen – yes. so during our head call, there was actually specific examples ,such as Meals on Wheels, and their meal service delivery to seniors, people who are home bound due to COVID. That would definitely be eligible.

Councilor Giannettino - Do you think that, for instance, Calvary food pantry would be eligible, as well?

Ms. Jensen - yes. Calvary food pantry already receives funding, and so they are an eligible activity and the impact from COVID is pretty evident on that agency.

Councilor Giannettino –good, because I know that, I'll just throw it out a number, say was 25,000 that would, I believe, be equivalent to 75000when they go to the CNY Food Bank to buy food and that would go a long way in the community.

There was talk about public input and comment period and what that process is going to be. I would like us to have a separate meeting for CDBG input, not part of the council meeting. If we could do a separate meeting where constituents, or organizations, or businesses, could set up a time to call in. obviously, it got to be a limited amount of time. Do we want to go with the typical 3 minutes in public to be heard? That way everybody would have a chance to be heard, and have it recorded so that we could watch it as well.

Ms. Haines - we can definitely do it that way. We will have to change our thought process on that then. Instead of holding the public hearing on May 14th, we could hold it earlier in the week. We could hold it and set up a zoom call, we would need Chucks help with that, we could do it like that instead of having it as part of the Council meeting.

Councilor Giannettino - I think that will give us an opportunity to watch it and then discuss it at that council meeting. Think it's important, I mean, even though CDBG money is something that we get every year, and it's a very public process that we talk about, and the public has input on it. I think it's important to note for those who are watching, and hopefully it can be reported in the papers, we don't have free reign on this money. We can't use this to close the sales tax gap, or to balance our budget. It has to be used on specific programs, and specific projects, and I think it's very important that the people understand that.

Ms. Haines- yes we are bound by those regulations. Again, because of the specific funding related to COVID, they have given us some flexibility on process, but we still have to abide by the regulations that are in place by CDBG.

Mayor Quill – I'm in agreement, having a separate public hearing. Or even having 2, a morning and afternoon session, so we get as many participants as possible. If that's agreeable with you, so that we could record it and we can all see it and see what's going on. If you can work with your staff, I'm sure it would work out for all of us. Do we need to sign a date for that public hearing tonight? Or should we work through staff on that?

Ms. Haines - sure thing. We can do that Mayor. If we're not going to do it as part of the council meeting, maybe we could do it, maybe on Monday or Tuesday, ahead in the same week. I know that there's other, I think historic resources board meeting; we could do it earlier and that week. Renee and Tiffany, if we are setting a public hearing outside of the council meeting, what kind of approvals do we have to have? Or do we just post a Legal notice on that? So we wouldn't need a council approval for public hearing on a different day?

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That we were just holding okay we'll pick a date that week. We'll take a look at other things and maybe I'll touch base with you tomorrow.

City Manager Dygert - last week, we had a discussion about the budget and Council directed us to go back and get some estimates together on what Rachel thought might be the projected revenue loss due to sales tax. She sent all that information to you. So is that mind looking to get your input and thoughts and those projections and where are you would like us to aim this budget at this point.

Councilor McCormick – I want to make sure I got the right one different scenarios 12%, 9% is that the correct?

City Manager Dygert – yes. There should be two emails that went out. One has a little bit of a chart on it, the other one went out Monday. Rachel, can you step up to the podium? If you can't hear Rachel just let us know and we'll make sure. she's off camera but she is here

Ms. Jacobs - the first one that email specifically talks about the different projections based on the decrease in Sales tax, as well as, the fund balance. The other email was sent out on Monday, this week, and that projected Revenue impact that is projected for this current budget year.

Mayor Quill - I know everyone is trying their best. This is really cumbersome, trying to conduct you a budget meeting, when were not in the same room together. So hold your patience. That's for me more than it is for everyone else. Everyone's laughing here.

Councilor Locastro – I know it's hard to project, because we have no idea what we're going to get into. At this point, any increase of taxes, of any type, for the taxpayer, I just don't think we're going to be able to accept it. People are just trying to survive right now. I think we got to start shooting for 0 or -5, for property taxes

Ms. Jacobs – I will say that if we did keep our sales tax flat versus last year that would add an additional about \$250,000 to the budget deficit. At that point, if that was something Council wants to consider, I would need direction on where we're looking to cut. I'm assuming the fund balance amount we want to utilize, isn't going to be an exorbitant amount, because we don't want to get into that habit. So, that's another thing I'm kind of looking for direction on. What number does the council feel comfortable using for fund balanced to make up the budget? Then, that'll help us back into what we need to change elsewhere. I will say, as far as the taxes go, the impact of the tax increase is relatively minor, in my opinion. As I stated last week, it's \$18 for an average household of \$100,000. Our current average single-family home is \$98,957. So based on that average, I mean, it's an \$18 increase for one year.

Councilor Locastro - people are going to have a hard enough time paying the tax with no increase. On top of a 2% increase, with the people that have lost their jobs in Auburn, so far, it's going to be tough. On top of that, you have businesses that may not reopen after the next 30 days. I think we ought to try to stick to not eliminating any positions, try to keep everybody working, and do what we can do to get to 0 or minus.

Councilor Cuddy – If I may, counselor, as our comptroller stated, the increase, we're staying under the tax cap, and I understand your concern, and obviously, one of the things that we're doing with the with the CDBG money and what we want to do with CDBG money is to protect those people that have houses that do have, will have, trouble paying your mortgage or paying taxes and so on. the real concern I have, is not with the property taxes, the real concern I have is, what are we going to do to budget when there's going to be a huge gap in the sales tax, I really think focusing on property taxes albeit is, as I see what your saying, but that's a very minor, the small amount, as our controller mentions, compared to what we're going to need to do, to run this city, with the sales tax cap, that I'm seeing more along the 12% lines, personally, that's my projection, and as I said last week, I want to be very conservative in how we move forward. Because I don't want to under budget, and then have to make very, very difficult decisions in the future. So, I just wanted to put that out

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there, that we're not focusing on something that's not going to have much of an effect on the Budget. For most people, again, if this is staying under the tax cap, and could have actually could have negative repercussions if we do what my colleague is asking. So that's my input.

Councilor Giannettino –I stressed last week, and I'll stress again this week, I don't think it would be prudent to keep sales projections flat. I can tell you, just me personally, every month, typically I spend \$80 -120 a month on gas. In the last month, I spent less than 40. We know that sales tax is a big driver in this community and gas a big indicator of that. So I know its difficult project what those numbers are going to be, but I think we've got a project some loss of sales tax. I think last week, counselor McCormick, if I remember correctly, you asked if we could get the last three years of sales tax so we can see month to month, over the last three years . Can that information be provided to us? If we can look at it monthly, it if that's available, it would be beneficial, because we can look at the historic trend for these and see where we're at, you know, in terms of raising taxes. Nobody likes to raise taxes. Everybody in this room that makes that decision to raise taxes has to pay those taxes as well, but the reality of it is, right now, our federal representatives are failing us. They have continued to fail us. I gave you a staggering number. We send 2.6 billion dollars more a year to Washington than what comes back to us. The proverbial saying is, “it rolls downhill” and we're at the bottom of the hill. We have some very tough decisions to make. We want to continue to provide the services that we provide. We're going to have to make it very clear, that we do not want to affect Staffing in any way. The people that work for the city, and work for the people of Auburn, do a damn good job on a daily basis. We want to keep Services going to the level that Auburnian expects them to be. we need look at the budget overall, and I don't know if you want us to do that or staff to do it, and see where we can continue to trim with some projected sales tax loss in there. I don't want to sit here with a red pen and start crossing things off. That is not my desire. I think its bad business. I think it is disrespectful to staff. If we can work together and see where we can potentially trim, and I know that's already been done, but I'd like to see if we could do it some more.

City Manager Dygert – there are a few things that we could either defer or fund a little bit differently. I don't think we're going to be into a million dollars. 100000 dollars, maybe? Rachel and I are on the same page.

Ms. Jacobs – I want to comment on Councilor Giannettino's point, as the gas portion of sales tax is actually very, very minimal, it's less than 10%, it's closer to 5%, of our actual sales tax. The gas isn't really much of a driver for us in terms of what we're going to receive in sales tax. I did look at the different quarters in the past, you know, looking at March because we have a full month, half of it was COVID related. It was up compared to our projections, but it was down compared to last year, obviously, but then when I averaged out the quarter, you know, I looked at where we are versus where we're going to need to be by the end of the year. I think this current year, we're going to hit fine. So, I wouldn't worry about this year. Obviously, in next year's budget, we know there's going to be some sort of uncertainty, at that point. So what I am looking for, more from Council, is like a number, like I know Terry said 12%, but what number does counsel, as a whole, feel comfortable with decreasing the sales tax? So that I can determine what that number is. Plus, if we're talking about possibly reducing or flat lining the property taxes, and then add that number in, plus the \$500,000 we already have as a gap. I mean, those three things added together, are going to put us way over where we even started, which was there was a two-million-dollar gap. Originally which we got down to about 3 something, and then now it's back up to 5. So I just need basically. A number or a percentage that you guys are looking to see the decrease, and then also a maximum number of that you're looking to spend out of fund balance in this coming budget.

Councilor Giannettino - point taken on the tax for gas. I guess my point there is, if I'm spending a third of the amount of money I was spending on gas that means I'm doing a third of what I used to do. This means I'm spending a lot less. When I drive, I'm going places and spending money and nobody is right now.

Ms. Jacobs - there are reports that state that, you know, online sales are up, to go orders are up. Obviously, those things are going to be up. The grocery stores, obviously, still very packed. So you go to Home Depot, those places they're still very busy. So I mean there's going to be money spent, it's just going to be a different level of spending, and I think, possibly a different population of spending. But I don't know that there's really

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an accurate way to come up with a projection when we don't know when this is going to end. So for me, the only way that I can see moving forward, without keeping it flat, is guidance from you to give me an actual percentage.

Councilor Cuddy - can I just pipe in for a second? I I'm thinking that you gave us the 3-12% scenarios. I am leaning more toward 12%, personally, just because we can always adjust later on. I do not think we should touch the proposed property tax below the tax cap, so I believe it was 1.9 the number? I understand what Councilor Locastro is saying. I do believe maintaining that, and that's minimal compared to what I think we're going to need to do, as far as to make up for the sales tax. So I'm leaning more towards 12 percent, then. I'll open up to my colleagues to offer their input on that.

Mayor Quill - I'm going to jump in here, if I may. You know every year this is my 13th budget year. Every year I make the statement that it's never been the same. I've been through budgets where the council has sat there, and the mayor sat here, and the counsel started scratch off, "we don't need this, we don't need that, we don't need the other thing." in fact, one of year when I was fore chief, the city council scratched out all the part time help, they cut their own salaries out, and then they realized what they did, Councilor McCormick may have been City Clerk at that time. I do not want to put this Council in that position just yet. I want to throw this back to our city manager, our department heads. Who are all very professional and knowledgeable? I want them to work together on this, come back to us, and say, "This is where we are. This is the bottom line where we are providing the same Services. To accomplish that, it's going to take some of this, some of that some of the other thing." I want to toss it back to you. You are the professionals, we are not. So whatever you feel is your best scenario, I would ask the city manager to return that back to council. It's my own opinion. I'm not saying council needs to be in agreement with me. But we don't know yet working the inner workings, what the DPW may need, or fire, or police, Municipal Utilities. We want you to work with department heads and staff to come up with a workable budget and then it's up to us to make a decision how we get to that point.

Councilor Cuddy - I do agree with some of what councilor Locastro is saying. I do not want to see any reduction in Staffing. Again, our workers are our most important assets and we want to make sure no jobs for lost in this budget. I know it makes it harder. But it's obviously, very important to this Council.

Mayor Quill- I have lived through that, as well. We had layoffs. Along with Mr. Dygert, I don't ever, ever want to do that again. It was not productive for anyone. It was counterproductive. It took us awhile to catch up. So I don't believe in laying off or dismissing anyone. We just have to put our horns on and what we would like to have in the budget and move forward from there. Its same way when you're at home. When you go grocery shopping on a budget, you know, there are certain things you could buy, certain things you cant. We have to do the same here.

Councilor Giannettino - you know, last week, a word was tossed around several times. That word was austerity. Again I guess what I'm asking for is an austerity budget. What it takes to keep our staff and what it takes to pay them, to pay their benefits that they work very hard to earn, and they deserve them, to keep the lights on, to keep buildings functioning, for 1 year. Tighten the belt as tight as we can. Let's get those sales tax numbers that we requested, the three years of them, and go from there. Hopefully, hopefully, the federal government comes through and gives some direct aid to municipalities. And if they do, maybe we can do some of the extras that we, over the last four to six years, have been able to do to improve the city. I really think we just need to drop an austerity budget and just the bare minimum to survive for 1 year.

Councilor McCormick- I know where Rachel's and staff is coming from. I think when they presented the budget; they had already cut things out. That was probably done before COVID hit the news and the world. I looked at what's in the budget and it's mainly salaries, operational things, salaries, benefits, and like I said, people, that is what the city business is, people. You have X number of fireman, X number of water treatment plant people... it's all people that put our services out. When we say we don't want to hurt employees, I sure don't either. I think we've gotten to the bare-bones. I don't think there are people to cut unless you cut a service.

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In most of our services, all of our services are essential. They are critical. That's why we live in a city, because we want the services. But we do need to be conservative. I was trying to find places in the budget that we could eliminate. Travel and training was one. I hate to do that, but that's a suggestion. Is there any way you could give us a couple of scenarios? I don't know if I agree with the 12%, but like the 3 levels, and what that would mean to our services. If we go to 6%, show us what that would do to our expenses. It's going to be ugly. I don't know do we pay the rent on the courthouse? It's about a \$100,000. Do we pay the county? So they're our landlord, right? I'm sure they need the money to as much as we do. But, I don't know, if there's a way we could work something out? Just something that could chip away at that and get that down another level. I know every city is reducing their expected sales tax. I do agree that people are buying more online, grocery shopping has increased. People are doing a lot of things that they never did at home. There are still taxable things that they are doing. But there's really no way to tell until we have, like a good three months, of doing that. I really would like to see some scenarios so I can see this what 12% means, this is what 6% means, this is what 3% means.

Ms. Jacobs - Some of my questions would be, I guess, it would also be some of these outside agencies that we currently found in our budget. Is that something we want to continue to do with our budget? With the way times are going, I know they're going to need that money. But that's also money coming from us.

Councilor McCormick - examples of BID gets \$40,000 from the city. If they're not going to do their flower program, I don't know if they are or not, that may have to be one of the things. I don't mean I wanted to be, but those are the things that you have to look at.

Ms. Jacobs - That also includes the Human rights Commission, then the historic sites. So, there are other things that are decent sized dollar amounts, that we give other outside agencies.

Mayor Quill – Can you get us a list of things in that category of what you're thinking of. So we can take a look at that ourselves. is that possible?

Councilor McCormick - no that's a great idea. I don't know what they add up to. We are looking at austerity. Using the grocery shopping and you love popsicles. If you don't have enough money for popsicles, I mean, is it milk or popsicles? You get the milk. I know that sounds so 12% is a million dollars. I know 12% is conservative but I don't know if we could find a million dollars without affecting salaries, or staff. I don't want to do that either. We've done that and it ended up costing us money. For example, you've got to learn from your mistakes. In the past, the codes office. We cut staff there. "What do we need all those people for?" we did crazy things. We ended up with a lot of problems and no revenue to pay. Now revenue has gone up, up, up since we put people back into that office to serve the public. Everything suffered. So I don't think that is productive in the long run. I want to see that. Everybody we have, every position, I can't think of anything that isn't necessary. So I think we have to cut things like the donations and things like that. I don't know if that helps you respond to our request and come back with answers for us.

Councilor Cuddy - I totally agree. I mean the idea is that, these are all temporary. Obviously, we want to make sure that, you know, if there are going to be these kinds of reductions in some of the outside agencies. That it's only in recognition of our ability to do what our core responsibilities are as a city. So we need to kind of, hearing from my colleagues, is that kind of getting back to what are core Essentials are. from there, letting agencies know that that this is a temporary for us and that we will be back online once we get out of this ourselves.

Councilor Locastro – As I pan through the proposed budget this year, I circled numbers that were high. Numbers that had changes from last year this year. I think it's on page 7, I noticed some of the overtime numbers jumped. Is there anything we can do to try to bring them numbers down just a little bit?

Ms. Jacobs - The overtime, I'm assuming that you're referring to, is the police department because they're on

page 7. Their overtime numbers are handled differently.

Councilor Locastro - One number went from 240 – 580, if I'm not mistaken. Is that close to where you are talking? That number shot right out at me

Ms. Jacobs - and the reason for that is I sent this out to all of you in an Excel form. In the Excel, there's a little action on the side to break down all the sub departments. The way the police department currently handles all their overtime is, it's charged to each specific type of overtime. So when they budget for it, they budget a lump sum in their overtime line. Then each payroll, they move that money into these little sub accounts. So this total number here that it shows for usage is only for the specific line for the 160. But if you look at the actual spreadsheet, and breaks it down by each of the little funds. So that number isn't really as large as it appears to be on here. Originally had asked for I think about 5. they asked for 570. 580 was the actual as of the end of the budget year, which again, those funds were moved elsewhere. We usually budget about 400,000 in that line. 400-450 is the norm, which is why I reduce it to 470 in this budget presentation. That's really what it is. So it's those, it's just the way that it appears on here. If you looked at the actual spreadsheet, it shows you all the little breakdowns and all of those numbers, added together, would equal what they actually spent on overtime.

City Manager Dygert – some of those individual breakdowns, they might be things, or overtime, is funded out of seizures of property. So they have this fund that is set aside for training and things like that. Some of it may be mandatory training. The other thing to keep in mind is that, they are approximately 10 positions down, right at the moment. So there are 10 salaries, and 10 benefit packages that are being paid out but the trade-off is that in order to staff an appropriate levels they have to have over time to do it. So it may look like a big number in overtime but in the end sometimes that's a more efficient way to do things. There's a Breaking Point, granted. We don't control all that. We can't control with any certainty when people are going to retire from things like that. so we're still dealing with that issue of all those

Councilor Locastro - are the rules still intact even though we're going through what we're going through? Can you go back to a meeting? Do you have the right to manage in a situation like this? **City Manager Dygert** - Do we have to comply with the collective bargaining agreements? Yes, that's the simple answer. I can give you a number of examples, even relatively recent examples, where municipalities have attempted to break collective bargaining agreements and it normally ends up just costing money and grief and hard feelings.

Councilor Locastro - just with the overtime situation, there's no getting around that?

City Manager Dygert - there may be discussions to be had with individual departments. But typically, it comes down to contractual matters. When get when you break it all down, it doesn't necessarily always look as bad. When you look at the lump sum, which one thing, but again, there's grants that come in and fund some of those things. You know I know counselor McCormick mentioned Training and travel. That said always a Hot Topic in my past as a department head; it becomes a Hot Topic around budget time. I'm not saying this to be argumentative, but just to explain things. many of our departments, a great deal of our departments, everything from code enforcement, who have to renew the code enforcement certifications annually, to our water treatment plant wastewater treatment plant operators, who have to renew their certifications on a regular basis and do continuing education. Those are those are things that we can't necessarily always bring in house. We do when we can, but often times, because we're not a huge municipality, and we have just a handful of people here or there aren't any given role, they have to travel to go get those certifications or maintain that required annual training. Even our Corporation counsel has to have annual training keep up on certain things as well. And I don't mean to make light of it, and I'm not saying that any of you did, it's for the public. When it says traveling, it's not raining... it's not trips to Disneyland for a conference. It's certification training.

Councilor Giannettino – in regards to Councilor Locastro's questions about overtime. If I remember correctly, often time's police department will take part in state programs for DWI stops. Often times it'll work with different federal agencies that serve warrants. Those cause over time, but that overtime is reimbursed from the federal and state governments. So all that number is Big, it's not coming out of the city budget. Those

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functions of the police department are serving in and making overtime on, are vital to the safety of this community. so the other thing, maybe we could having a breakdown, if we had those salary and benefit packages in place for 10 employees vs. what the overtime is, that would put it in perspective. That we just don't have the people to work in those positions. We're working on that. We have people in the Academy's, but it is a problem that that's the only way to solve it. So if we can have it side-by-side comparison.

City Manager Dygert – Just another point, we do our best, and continue to do our best. I think this has been happening for years here, but the budget's really a moving Target. It's like a living thing. Every day that goes by the budget changes because we find out, like in the case of tonight, you voted on approving or accepting a grant for \$100,000. That, in the end, that changes the budget. So it's constantly changing, and then again there are things that we can't necessarily predict. we do the best we can and I've spoke to all of our department heads to do their best, especially this year, too anticipate or predict what they're Staffing situation is going to be. So I have a particular Department head has someone that they know his got 30 years of service and has been talking for 29 and 1/2 years about that retirement date that they're looking for. So we adjusted the budget to the extent that we could base on 6 months' worth of salary at maybe that higher rate, and 6 months and that entry level rate. So there has been a lot of work done. They really trim this up as much as possible. it's impossible to know at any given time when somebody just might walk to the door and say "yeah, I'm going to retire" and typically, that has a positive impact on the budget but we don't know when that going to be.

Councilor McCormick - 2 things. back to travel and training, As I look back at the budget, guess I looked at every Department, I realize that I just threw it out there, like you could do that, but I know that Codes has requirements, and your certification. People aren't going to take spiritual guidance classes. I don't think there's anywhere that we really can cut, it was one of those that people typically say, "that what we're going to do" as far as the police and fire department, because fire comes right next to the police department when we look at the budget of all the Departments, I would never want to see you, specially under the circumstances of being 10 officers short, and the extra and added pressures that we put on our Public Safety frontline people, to do anything that would affect their morale. I would vote against it twice if I could. They're earning every penny, and that's what I mean, like, "where are we going to get it?" everybody here is essential. It was trash day yesterday on our street, and those guys were right there doing what they were supposed to do as if there was no pandemic. Can you imagine the thought of what is going on and you're picking up trash? I don't think we should talk about tweaking overtime or anything like that. I think we're going to have to look at the things we do not have to do.

Ms. Jacobs – can I make a suggestion? One thing I was considering was manipulating the spreadsheet to separate out salaries and benefits, vs everything else. Just so that we have a better understanding of things that there's no way to cut versus things there's an idea, possibly, to cut. I think that might help separated a little. Then we can narrow down the in-betweens. Which they're basically the equipment versus the .4 contractual lines. Then, from there, we can see where each department is at versus where they were last year. I don't think including salaries or benefits really does any good because those are things we can't adjust really.

Mayor Quill - sounds good please do that if you would? Anything that is going to help us understand the budget.

City Manager Dygert - possibly, with a couple of these topics that tend to come up, we can get some more information from department heads on the how and why some of those things are.

Mayor Quill – along those same lines, the water treatment plant. Everything is mandated. Can we get an idea of what is mandated and what isn't?

Ms. Jacobs - On that, also like to add that, there in that same line item is where some of the contractual payouts come from, for tuition reimbursement, for example, those are in the collective bargaining agreements, and we have to pay those out. That's where they get much of it.

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Councilor Locastro - I hope I'm wrong, but I think we're in for a long battle the next 6 months. I just hope we're ready for it without anything drastic. I don't think this is going to go away. We have never gone through anything like this, and I think we should be ready.

Mayor Quill - one thing we know is, we don't know. so what we don't know what tomorrow ...

Ms. Jacobs - and does anyone have a suggestion or opinion on the amount of fund balanced we want to try to stay at a cap of not exceeding?

City Manager Dygert - worst case scenario, what do you thinking like 1.5?

Ms. Jacobs- I wouldn't even want to do that. I'd say a million, Max. I don't think you'd want to deplete more than that.

Councilor Locastro - so what would happen after that?

Ms. Jacobs - we have to cut the budget

Councilor Locastro - or raise taxes?

Ms. Jacobs - we have the option of raising taxes, in addition for what I proposed, if you want to exceed the tax cap. Which, obviously, I didn't assume anyone would want to do. So we were looking at those flat figures. So it wouldn't be anything that impacts taxes, it would be cuts on the expenditure side.

Councilor Locastro - why would you not want to see the million?

Ms. Jacobs - if you look, I don't know if you all got a chance to review the Moody report I sent you all. If you look where our fund balance levels are, in comparison to the median throughout the state, were very low. so I don't think we'd want to get into a position, you know, where were using 10% of our fund balance in one year, because then what are you going to do next year, really, I mean that's up to you all you guys you tell me your number and that's the number it'll be.

City Manager Dygert - so essentially, we update what going to happen in the next year, in order to gauge what's going to happen that's the following year. I mean, we really, there so many unknowns at this point, that I agree, we cut things to the bare minimum and utilize fund balance to the extent that we have to; create some stability for our workers and for operations, and see what happens in the community, and see what sales tax revenue does, see what the employment Outlook ends up doing, hopefully by the end of summer, see what happens.

Mayor Quill – part of the problem is our budget is due July 1. This all come up with the last couple months, the state of our country and the world. It was 6 months prior, 6 months after. You can wish on one hand... It doesn't always work. It's a combination of items.

Councilor Locastro – what did our fund balance do over the course of the last five years? Has gone up? Has it gone down?

Ms. Jacobs - I don't have it here in front of me, but what I can recall from the last presentation, it went up the past couple of years.

Councilor Locastro - How do we generate more money in the fund balance?

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Ms. Jacobs - by under spending expenditures throughout the year, or receiving additional revenues that were unanticipated.

City Manager Dygert - right off the top of my head, for the last three years, we've performed well enough that we've been able to put money on the fund balance at least for the last 3 years to a pretty significant extent. There were a year or two in there where we actually took some of that that additional revenue, and instead of putting it in the fund balance, we paid off some long-term debt. One of the things we did there was some outstanding debt with the retirement system it got paid off two budget cycles ago, I believe.

Councilor Locastro – that's good as long as the scroll continues to increase.

Councilor McCormick - If Rachel still looking for a number, I still want to see us a choice of two different scenarios. She said a million, I think, that's close to 12%, isn't it?

Ms. Jacobs - based on where our last fund balance was it would be actually more than that. yes

Councilor McCormick- it's more than that. What you can do that, just so we can see what awful thing that looks like as far as what we have to give up. But if you could give us a medium and a bare minimum, along with a million. You know, I think we need to see that. I think the public needs to see that and what it means.

Ms. Jacobs - did anyone have any further consideration about what they want to see based on the sales tax? Terry was the only one that gave me an actual number.

Councilor Giannettino - I would agree that. Start with 12 & see what it looks like and then go from there.

Councilor Locastro – Rachel, when are you going to start getting some numbers and see where we stand? Soon, with the sales tax?

Ms. Jacobs - we get our sales tax monthly, twice a month, actually. So the data that I have is up through March. But this budget process, I believe on the next week's agenda, we're going to be discussing it again before us getting to the point, where we need like final figures. But it is something that needs to happen relatively quickly, in terms of the property taxes, as well there's forms we have to fill out for the state to determine where we're going to be at. So if we do make a decision that we're not going to raise that, then that stuff that I need relatively soon. So that I can make those adjustments.

Councilor McCormick - Zoom is great and all, but I'm going to try and meet with you sometime next week, so you can go over everything with me in person, because from here it's awkward. I'm trying but it's kind of hard to do, and maybe like the middle of the week after you have had a chance to do whatever magic that you do. So I could see & ask questions.

Councilor Cuddy - I am on ZOOM about 5 days a week with all my students. There are some things that that ZOOM does that is pretty... you know, I don't think we've use this program to its fullest potential. So I mean, there may be some presentation elements that that our comptroller once given some guidance by our, I think its city clerk that is his running this. If I show the city clerk how to give some of the presentation tools that may be able to help you, and me, understand where we are with the upcoming changes. That way you're not breaking the social distancing.

City Manager Dygert - we have a request for executive Section. 1 matter made confidential under attorney-client privilege.

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Executive Session. Councilor Locastro made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor Giannettino. Council voted unanimously to enter an executive session at 6:47 p.m. regarding the following matters:

- One matter made confidential by Federal or State law. (Section 4503 of the Civil Practice Law and Rules which establishes that a confidential communication between attorney and client shall be privileged. Pursuant to this section, Council will be receiving legal advice from its attorney which fulfills the requirement provided in Section 108(3) of the Public Officers Law allowing this exemption.)

Executive session adjourned at 7:12 p.m.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 7:13 p.m..

Minutes submitted to the City Council on May 7, 2020 by:
Charles Mason, City Clerk