

**Auburn City Council
Regular Meeting
Thursday, May 28, 2020 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 5:00PM in the City Council Chambers, 24 South St. Auburn NY by Mayor Quill.

Roll Call – The City Clerk called the roll. Mayor Quill, Councilor Debra McCormick, Councilor Jimmy Giannettino, Councilor Terry Cuddy and Councilor Tim Locastro were all present. Councilors McCormick and Cuddy were present via teleconference.

The following City Staff was present for the meeting:

- City Manager, Jeff Dygert
- Corporation Counsel, Stacy DeForrest
- City Clerk, Charles Mason
- Superintendent of Public Works, Mike Talbot
- Director of Capital Projects and Grants, Christina Selvek
- Director of Municipal Utilities, Seth Jensen
- Deputy Police Chief, Roger Anthony
- City Engineer, Bill Lupien
- Fire Chief, Mark Fritz

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.

Mayor Quill

Thank you. Mr. Clerk, any public announcements?

Chuck Mason

Thanks, Mayor. We do have an announcement this evening. This came over from our police chief Shawn Butler so I will read it for everybody. This weekend. There is a cute County Community Food Drive at the BOCES campus on West Genesee Street Road. This Saturday May 30 10am till 2pm members of the Auburn police department, as well as Cayuga County Sheriff's Office will partner with volunteers from the central New York Tomatofest to collect non-perishable and canned food items as

well as personal hygiene and laundry products during a drive thru collection event. It's going to be held again at the BOCES campus 1879 West Genesee Street Road in Auburn, all the donations will be immediately distributed to food pantries throughout Cayuga County. Many of our area pantries are stuck at the moment to meet increased demand to feed people living in our own community, any size donation will be accepted and greatly appreciated. Fresh pizza fritte will be sold by the CIAO organization during this event and will be available through the drive thru. Proceeds from the sales will be distributed to our food pantries as well. So that's this Saturday. Thanks. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Any others? Also under public announcements, Mr. Dygert. I know you're expecting your birthday in the next couple of days. So Happy birthday.

City Manager Dygert

If we make it, thank you.

Mayor Quill

And there's all kinds of numbers ranging from 89 years old and 21. So I know you're not going to step forward and tell us.

City Manager Dygert

The hair that makes it hard to tell.

Mayor Quill

Very well. Mr. Dygert ceremonial presentations, are there promotions?

City Manager Dygert

Yep. So we have several retirements, promotions, things like that between our police and fire departments in the last month. While we normally will do a ceremony here at City Hall, promotional ceremonies, obviously because of our restrictions on public gatherings, we're going to hold off on those things, but we do want to make the announcement and recognize the following individuals. Officer Michael Chadwick from the police department has been promoted to Sergeant effective June 1 Monday. Sergeant Joe DeVitro retired on May 15 from the Auburn Police Department. Assistant Chief Mark Fritz was promoted to Fire Chief on May 18. Lieutenant Mark Pineau from the fire department was promoted to Captain on May 1. Lieutenant Matthew Pysnack from the Auburn Fire Department was, was promoted to Captain on May 18. And William Siemens was promoted from firefighter to Lieutenant on May 21. And there are still some vacancies and some movement at Auburn Fire Department, actually, both departments that are taking place, so, more to come.

Mayor Quill

Congratulations to everyone on their retirement and promotions and best of luck from all of us here. So, Mr. Dygert, are you planning on doing that sometime in the future or are you just going to leave that open for now?

City Manager Dygert

Well, we don't have anything specifically until we know what we can do here at City Hall because often times, those are very well attended some of the best attended ceremonies that we have. So

Mayor Quill

And that's my thought. I certainly wouldn't want to, I know we can't do it immediately, but I wouldn't want to take it away from any of our employees right. Their recognition. So, Anything else? Thank you. Council, I understand the meeting minutes will be on next week's agenda. City Manager's report, Mr. Dygert.

City Manager Dygert

Mayor, just a couple of updates and things. The State Street Bridge work initially was announced that it would start on Monday June 1. It's been bumped back slightly to Thursday, June 4. The message boards are reflecting that when you drive by that area right now, but we're expecting June 4, the State Street Bridge will be closed. Local businesses and Correctional Facility all those folks have been notified. The City of Auburn is currently accepting bids for the biosolids processing and drying design, construction administration and construction inspection services. Those bids are due back on June. 26 and more details can be found on the city webpage under the tab Bids and RFPs. The City of Auburn is also accepting funding applications for the new CDBG-CV program for not for profit human service agencies. Those applications are due back on June 5, then again more information can be found on the city webpage under Bids and RFPs. And likewise, the city is accepting applications for the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Support program. Those applications again are due back on June 5, we're trying to expedite that process, further information is available on the web page under Bids and RFPs. I also did see this afternoon that CEDA has been passing the word long as well. So, there's multiple areas where you can find information but the most directly is going to be to go to the city webpage. That's it. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Reports from members of council and councillors. Council, please.

Councilor McCormick

No, thank you,

Mayor Quill

Councillor Locastro.

Councilor Locastro

I just want to take a second to commend the people at Auburn Housing for the great job they're doing down to Malone Village. I happened to walk by the other day and what a boost to that area of the city, great job they're doing.

Mayor Quill

It's remarkable the transformation going on down there. Very good. Thank you. Councillor Giannettino. Thank you. Very well. Mr. Dygert discussion and the reopening of the City of Auburn.

City Manager Dygert

Mayor if you all don't mind, I'm going to step down to the podium. I've got a couple, we had an opportunity, so, I figured it would be a good opportunity to discuss, to give you some updates on some of the capital projects that are going on. And then we'll roll into that reopening plan for the city. So I'm going to just step down to the podium so I can operate that PowerPoint if you don't mind. Okay, so again, we have some capital projects that continue to move along. A lot of these projects were things that had been previously planned and designed, bid out and awarded prior to the situation we're dealing with with COVID. So we'll just blow through a couple of these relatively quickly. Casey Park pool is a project that just wrapped up. I've got a couple photos here from Jeff Brown down at Casey Park showing the condition prior to and you may have recall, I've discussed on several occasions, the liner in the pool had been leaking pretty significantly to the tune of I've heard some reports that we were losing, on some occasions up to 18,000 gallons a day of water through that defective pool liner. So something needed to be done not only to preserve the water and to make sure we weren't wasting chemical and water, but also make sure that we weren't inadvertently undermining the structure of the pool itself. So, you can see some of these pictures here, just a couple of them when they remove the flexible liner from the pool. What they found is that, over time, a significant amount of water had been trapped underneath the liner and had done damage to the pool and to some previous coatings that had been ripped due to do repairs and replacements in the past. So, this is what was underneath the liner, and certainly wasn't any good for the liner. And that is the after shot. So this is just within the last couple of days down at Casey Park pool. We understand that, as it stands right now, we're not allowed to open that pool up for public use. But we wanted to make sure that when the time came, we were ready. And if we hadn't done that work, we likely wouldn't have been able to get this thing ready for, I believe it's phase four under the New York State Plan for recreational facilities like this. And we still don't know whether or not there will be some restrictions in place on the use of that pool. But again, there are times in the dead of summer with the high heat that there are several hundred people a day that in the past have utilized that pool. So we wanted to make sure it was going to be available. When the time came, total cost on that project was \$248,000. And just want to mention that there was a DASNY grant award through Assemblyman Finch's office recently for that, so there was a nice offset, nice parting gift from Assemblyman Finch so we appreciate that. We've talked for some time about the lockers at Casey Park. So the first load of lockers came in. The home locker room is going to receive lockers that are going to look just like this except they're going to be Maroon for obvious reasons. I think this was this will be the visitors side. So

those are on underway currently there, they've been dropped off, they'll be installed by our staff. Again, those were, you may recall the bid award. Those were awarded to a local company Colella Millwork. Down on Genesee Street, got that bid. They've done a beautiful job on those things. And they should more than likely last us, hopefully, almost another 50 years, you have to remember that the Casey Park facility is nearly 50 years old now and as needed some updates. You may also recall this project was tied in with some grant funding from Senator Helming and the chiller replacement that happened a season or so ago. Total cost on that locker projects about \$49,000. And the last thing right at the moment going on at Casey Park, you may have noticed again over the last year or so when you travel down to Casey Park, if you look And look at the roof, the roof was peeling back curling up from the edges significantly, there were several leaks in the roof. And before we get into a situation where the structure was compromised or rotted, we wanted to make sure we got that reroofed. So that project is wrapping up but may have already wrapped up by today just shy of \$250,000 project there. And again, some of this work is continued even with the restrictions in place because as a municipality, we are considered essential and those contractors were allowed to continue their work. So actually, my notes here say that that projects supposed to wrap up by tomorrow. So one of the other things we've got is a road program which got off to an earlier start than usual this year, on the map that's shown up there, the purple areas are streets that are under the resurfacing program for this year and again, we went to a quadrant based system this year. So all the resurfacing is happening in one quadrant and then the micro surfacing and crack sealing are happening in the other three. And we'll continue that and see how that process works for us. So our resurface streets, all the milling has been performed and the streets that are getting blacktop that started today and will continue until things are done. They'll certainly be adjustments, demand, manholes, catch basins, curbs and things like that along the way, but work is underway. It's going to be a little busy in that area for a bit but all good stuff happening. And then our micro surface streets are happening in phases. So phase one is starting on Monday. Those will be some of the easier micro surface streets and some crack sealing and things like that going on. Phase two will happen later in the summer. And the reason for that is some of those streets have areas that will get areas actually milled out and repaired and then a micro surface over them. So the first round of streets, I guess you could say is the easier streets and then the, the more in depth ones will happen later in the summer. And we've got some pretty cool pictures here of the zebra mussel control project. Again, this was situation cars that this is the water intake line that goes out into Owasco Lake and brings water into the swift street water filtration plant. So over time, this thing was originally outfitted with two systems that were intended to keep zebra mussels out of that intake. Over time, those systems have broken down and become inoperable. And in that time, what you see in that picture is zebra mussels, both live and dead, partially blocking that intake. And I don't know if I've got the other picture as this is, this is what's referred to, as they call it, the crib. Okay, so we've got a crib at the end of this, which is essentially, if you were to look into a catch basin on the street saying a similar type of structure, you can see the grading on the top, and that's where the water flows in and then goes down the pipe. So certainly some restriction there, as well as, that can do damage to the structure itself. So over the last several weeks, crews have been down there, removing the zebra mussels and removed the old nonfunctioning line and then reinstalling, to new chlorination lines that

will keep the zebra mussels out of that for the foreseeable future and that water intake. Any questions on those projects? We've got staff here that specializes in each one of those. So

Councilor Giannettino

Not questions, but comments. Thank you for giving the update. You know, I think it's important during any time to communicate what's going on in the city, to the people of Auburn, but, you know, especially during these times is important to show that things are still continuing. These were all projects that funding was allocated for whether through our budget or through funding through the state or federal government, like to acknowledge staff for, you know, moving these things forward. Mr. Dygert, you mentioned that on several of these projects, there was local companies that included the road program. I believe it included the roof on Casey Park as well. I think that was a local company and the zebra mussel. So, you know, it's really important right during this time that things are continuing forward. This is some money going back into the economy. So kudos to everybody involved, and I really appreciate the hard work that has gone into it. Thank you.

City Manager Dygert

Anything else?

Councilor Locastro

Would the asphalt index down? Does it affect the bid price on the road program?

City Manager Dygert

Bill Lupien would be the best person in the room to answer that one right now.

Bill Lupien

When the contracts bid, we lock into whatever the current asphalt index is. So if the price goes down, then we get a savings based on how much the index goes down on a certain formula. That same thing to is, if it goes up, then the contractor gets a little extra. So it takes he doesn't have to hedge his price, worrying about whether or not the price is going to go up or down. There's an automatic adjustment in there. And we use the same formula that the state does. The DOT. Okay, there would be a savings of the price goes down.

Councilor Locastro

Thank you. As far as the work at Casey Park, are we close to the budget? Or the bid numbers? Or? Yes,

City Manager Dygert

Yeah, actually, we've done very well the roof project came in quite a bit less than what we originally anticipated for that roof project. So it leaves us a little money potentially to take care of a couple smaller items down there that need to be taken care of. Again, that that facility I don't know, off the top of my head. Exactly. It was early 1970s, I believe that that facility was constructed and you know, we've

invested in it over the years, we've invested pretty heavily the last couple of years to kind of get it up to snuff, but we should get some mileage out of that.

Councilor Locastro

Are there any other big ticket items down there that are gonna have to be addressed soon.

City Manager Dygert

I think we're in good shape. We have some issues with with doors and a little bit of flooring, but they're in the overall scheme of things. Those are small, relatively small ticket items. So a handful of years ago, I think Seth was in the Engineering department when they did the flat roof section. So approximately three four years ago, maybe five. Time flies. So by doing that, the peak roof and haven't gotten the flat roof, we've got the new compressors and the for the ice and the pool has been redone. The pool pump and filtration system has been done. And the locker rooms are being addressed now. So really, there's not a whole heck of a lot left on there. But it's been a significant investment on the part of the city and city council to keep that facility up to snuff and get it back where it needed to be.

Councilor Locastro

Not getting too involved. Where do we stand with Falcon Park?

City Manager Dygert

As far as,

Councilor Locastro

Are we still managing that? Are we taking care of the field?

City Manager Dygert

We had expected certainly by this point to have more staff at Falcon Park because at this point in time, we'd be ramping up opening day was slated to be Father's Day again this year. But I don't have any concrete information yet on what's going to happen to the Minor League Baseball season. I'm hoping to get more information tomorrow on a conference call. But as far as the facility goes, you know there's a bare minimum amount of maintenance that has to happen, but we haven't staffed it fully like we would have if we were prepping for opening because I just don't see opening day being on Father's Day. If there is an opening day. It very likely is going to be later in the season. Thank you.

Councilor Giannettino

When, it's safe to do so I would recommend maybe that we reach out to Senator Helming and Assemblyman Fitch and invite them back to see the updates, because they both showed up when things were bad and toured the facility, so if we could reach out to them.

Mayor Quill

Glad to, Mr. Dygert. Maybe you can give us a your convenience, an approximate date when you're expected and we could try arrange it with the Senator and in the Assemblyman for tour. So. Okay. Very good.

City Manager Dygert

The next thing I've got what?

Mayor Quill

Councilor McCormick are Councilor Cuddy, do you have any questions for Mr. Dygert? Please.

City Manager Dygert

Okay. So the next thing I've got is we are anticipating New York State allowing us and other municipalities to reopen potentially in the next week or so. For more normal business, whatever that means, okay. Part of what we expect is going to happen is that we're going to have to have a written plan. That that's pretty much played itself out in phase one of the openings that have happened throughout the central region and across New York State. All the private sector businesses have been required to provide a written plan for that. So, staff, most notably, Stacy DeForrest, from Corporation Counsel's Office has been working on putting together a plan that addresses a number of issues that are laid out by New York State with some guidance from the CDC, Cayuga County Health Department, a lot of different agencies that we've consulted with either their guidance or their people to come up with this. Our reopening plan includes policies for our employees, policies related to our facilities and modifications to our facilities, we'll talk more about. PPE and it's written, in some instances somewhat vague so that we can adjust it as the situation moves along. What we anticipate is a phased in approach to reopening and you know what that means, necessarily and what those individual timeframes are. We don't know yet. We're going to have to play it a little bit by ear as we go along as well. So I believe all councilors received a copy of the the of draft of the reopening plan electronically through an email today. I'm not going to get into word by word and all the detail of this thing, but I want to go over a few of the highlights, and we certainly would like councils feedback on a couple of issues. Try not to click on anything to really mess us up right now. Okay. So the policy outlines responsibilities of everyone in the organization from department heads and supervisors, to our employees, board members, things like that anybody that typically does business or works for the city in one way or another. It lays out policies to evaluate employee wellness related to potential COVID symptoms as well as steps to be taken and if an employee is symptomatic. So what we've done is we've modeled our program here after what's been happening in the fire department for the last couple of months and the police department for months and certain sectors like our water treatment plant, wastewater treatment plant, which we're very clearly considered, and I don't like the term but I've got to use it, as the essential services. Okay. I think we've learned in the last two months, pretty much everything we've got is essential. It's just a matter of time and when it becomes essential. But what happens at police and fire and water treatment, wastewater treatment employees when they come to work at the beginning of shift, before they get too deep into the building, they are evaluated or they do a self evaluation, and that consists of a questionnaire and a

temperature taking a temperature. Those were recommended guidelines way back when and that was very important in the early stages to make sure we didn't have, what we were trying to avoid is an individual coming to work that was positive for COVID and potentially exposing other workers, right. So outside of the health implications of that, what happens is when somebody is positive and they interact with people, then other people become exposed and in some of those cases, they have to go into a mandated isolation. And when we do that to our workforce that really kind of crimps the way we do business, if all of a sudden, we have to take people out of the equation, and they can't work because they're in isolation. So we're going to continue or expand that program that we've already been doing across the board. It's also a recommendation of New York State to for the even private sector to be doing that to some extent, and, and you'll see that in some private sector industries where they're doing that just again, to protect their workforce. Because one infected individual, if you want to call them that, can really impact the workforce in a bad way. So the policy outlines employee practices to promote social distancing between employees as well as between employees and members of the public. So we've got some policies related to that and some of that stuff gets back to you know, distancing, barriers, facemasks, things like that. I'll talk more about that as we go along. We're attempting to do our best to address potential continued workforce reduction, through teleworking, or staggered schedules, things like that, in order to comply with the guidelines that are out there. Again, those guidelines continue to change sometimes on a daily basis. So we want to be compliant, we want to get our workforce back to work, but we want to make sure we're doing it safely and in a way that's not going to create problems for us down the road. Within the plan is an outline of how we're going to deal with the availability, distribution and use of personal protective equipment or PPE. That PPE ranges depending on what the work of an individual is, in most cases, most of our folks here at City Hall, that's going to come down to a facemask, where in other work environments, it could be a Tyvek suit, it could be a face shield rather than a face mask. So each individual department has to evaluate what their needs are in their particular situation. The use of some of this PPE again, more, most notably, and most commonly that masks. Some of that is voluntary, while in other situations it will be mandatory. Again, a lot of this is driven by the CDC recommendations or the New York State guidance are getting. Also a little outline personal hygiene requirements and workplace disinfection practices. So you'll you'll see in the next week or so we'll have up with some signage around, there'll be more cleaning and disinfecting materials around the building. Sorry Councilor McCormick, I almost clicked on, you know what that would have done. So along with having the materials, we have to have a cleaning and disinfecting plan. And again, that's something that even the private sector is having to deal with right at the moment. And so we're making sure we've got those things in place, as well as the materials and equipment. And one of the biggest struggles we've gotten, this is where I'd really like your input, is outlining public access to facilities and interaction and the public's interaction with city staff and I'll come back to that in a minute. But again, you know, how do we do we throw the doors open and let everybody come in? Do we, you know, how do we handle that? And there's a variety of ways we can do that and a lot of different considerations.

Councilor Cuddy

I have just a few questions. Is there any data or even anecdotal data, Debby, you were the city clerk, Chuck. Jeff, the mayor, people who spend a lot of time at City Hall, what is the average, any given hour of public being in the building?

City Manager Dygert

We've had that conversation in house as well. And it's really hard to get a grasp on at this point, and it changes sometimes not necessarily with the day of the week but the season of the year, right. So when we have assessment time, that changes. When it's July and people are paying their taxes, it changes significantly. So there there are events throughout the year that that create really busy times here at City Hall. We don't necessarily have a good handle on that right this moment, but we're going to try to get some more information on that.

Mayor Quill

Do you have many?

Councilor Cuddy

Obviously, when people are trying to pay their bills and whatnot, I can imagine it being a little bit more. How is business been since you know, the COVID-19 epidemic, what are some of the shortcomings of being closed, to shut down? what has stopped? or what has been minimized? Well, this can be anecdotal from anybody.

City Manager Dygert

I'll just throw it out there. I don't think that we've stopped necessarily doing much of anything. We've slowed down, we've changed the process. In most cases, people need to call ahead for an appointment, say for Code Enforcement, right? If somebody wants a permit, they call ahead. And somebody from Code Enforcement meets them at the door takes care of their business. In most other cases, things are either being done remotely and electronically via mail, whether it be snail mail or email, people are utilizing the drop boxes. The process for processing some of that paperwork has slowed down because of folks working from home and not necessarily being here at City Hall. But the work is still getting done. So we should be able to speed up some of those processes a little bit better.

Councilor Cuddy

Yeah, one of the things that one of the things that I wanted to mentioned is that, the post office has been open. And they've, obviously has their protocols cannot be modeled, say after what, what we're doing what we might do at City Hall? as far as you know, social distancing where masks or requirement of wearing masks?

City Manager Dygert

I'm not sure exactly what they're doing, but we fall under New York state where they don't. Okay, so there may be some differences there that we've got to be aware of. Okay, just throwing it out there. And

I'm not very aware of what they're doing inside the post office right at the moment. But we can certainly take a look.

Councilor Cuddy

I guess what I'm saying is that because you're looking for guidance from from us, right. There are going to be people that are going to be shy coming out anyway as long as we're still allowing for people that choose to to do work from home, or not to work, but do business with the city from home. But, if we don't think that there's going to be a flood of people coming in, when the phase gets to the point, you don't think it will be overwrought as as a public building. Is that safe to say?

City Manager Dygert

Yeah, I don't know that there's that many people anxious to come to City Hall. And I don't mean to make light of it. But I don't know that we'll get overrun necessarily, but I'm not sure that we want to be in the same situation we were before all this happened, right. So, again, do we do we look at phased in approach to doing this, or do we just unlock the doors and go back to essentially business as usual, but

Councilor Cuddy

I mean, from my perspective, I would ease into it and, wait until there is the comfort level of, I mean, obviously, the state's going to be guiding when buildings are going to be open, but, as long as we're following all the safety protocols and being vigilant about that, I like the phased in approach. And, basically, following the state guidelines, that that's my perspective

Councilor Locastro

Does the city fall under a different set of rules than Wegmans?

City Manager Dygert

Yes. Yes, in some cases, no in other cases. The difficulty we're having with New York State is that in the initial stages, throughout some very broad guidance to municipalities, have not provided much detail and continue to not really address the concerns of municipalities. That's the best way I can put an answer to that. There are a lot of municipalities wondering about this. And in some cases, municipalities are conspicuously missing from a lot of the guidance coming out in New York State. So we're trying to ramp up the best we can, stay compliant where we hear some rumors that some things will happen under phase two. I've heard some things would happen under phase four and again, I think maybe some of that might be because the the range of services that we provide is so broad, right? We do everything from digging holes in the right of way, fixing roads, purifying water, taking care of sewage, picking up trash, to doing very much office type work. So we're kind of are all over the place with the types of services that we do. And the private sector, as New York State's been giving guidance to the private sector has been based on really based on what they do, what kind of service they provide. So we're trying to follow those things, generally.

Councilor Locastro

Are we at full staff right now back to work?

City Manager Dygert

No, that's what this is about. Before we do that, we're anticipating we're gonna have to have a written plan and that's why this is here. In the plan, we also have taken into consideration what happens if we have somebody that does test positive? What are the procedures we use? How do we deal with the rest of the workforce? How do we deal with that individual? What do we do with the test results, things like that. When do we send folks for COVID-19 testing? When do we send them for antibody testing? And testing is a whole nother ball of wax that we're trying to work with the County Health Department on figuring that out as well. And they've been good. For the most part, we're trying to let them handle the testing. There are other organizations and businesses around that do testing. We're trying to push all of our people that need the testing through the county health department so that we can have some consistency. So one of the challenges to reopening and getting people back to work is dealing with employee attendance and employee leave, and stay compliant with the directives of New York State and to work all that out with our labor unions. One of the big issues that keeps popping up is child care issues. That's happening in the private sector. It's going to happen to us. Where we've got folks that are dealing with a crisis of their own related to childcare because school is not in session, things like summer camps that people utilized as a form of daycare through the summertime or not in session. So we end up with a section, a group of employees that are trying to deal with childcare issues. So we're trying to work through that, to a certain extent New York State has got some guidance. And that through the end of the school year. But once the end of the official school year comes about and we're into summer, that game is going to change. So we're trying to be supportive of our employees, but we're trying to figure out a way that we can work this out and have it be equitable for everybody in the workforce. We've been doing some building alterations already, we know from the private sector, whether you go to a restaurant or a retail establishment, the few that are open right now and based on New York State guidance, that there are certain things that we are almost certain to have to have in place and some of those things are barriers between people that are providing a service and the public. So you'll notice on the first floor here, some of the doors have been modified with plexiglass and pass throughs similar to what you'd find again, in some of those retail establishments and such. So we're continuing to do that through the building, we're expecting that that work will wrap up tomorrow. The doors, for the most part, are done, they just need to be rehung tomorrow. And for areas like Code Enforcement, there's a plexiglass divider that will be installed in that location similar to the Treasurer's Office and things like that. We'll have those barriers. We're working on signage, again, some of that's going to be dependent on how we decide we're going to open the building back up. There's been some consideration to ventilation and you know, whether that's adequate and appropriate. And then again, the big issue is public access. That's just a quick view of the modification to the doors. I'm sure the council has seen that, the public may not have seen that. They shouldn't have seen it by now. But you know, that, in and of itself, is not necessarily an easy proposition. We've got a historic building, and we're trying not to really mess up the character of a historic building. So thank you to Collela Millwork, for

working with us on that. And they've done a few iterations of that before we got to this point. And that seems to be the least damaging to the historic nature of those doors. Again, that is when you get a chance to look through it, it's our draft plan and your questions and input are important to the final, the final document. Again, I think probably the biggest thing that I need to know from council is your thoughts on how we open up. So there have been thoughts on opening the building and essentially doing business as usual. But wearing the appropriate PPE, and actually I brought these for a reason. Early on in this when we were running low on PPE, we've had, you know, several people in the community's hands. So a lot of this stuff. So these were given to all of our employees that were working at the time. Since then, part of the New York State requirement is that we have to supply every employee with a mask. So we got a little bit fancier and found a company that was making these things and that they double as a can koozie I think also in the summertime when you're done, when you're not social, if your social distancing by yourself, you can keep your Bud Light cool on that. But these will be assigned to every employee as they come back to work. We also have some of these cloth masks that are available. And what we are thinking of doing as these are just paper disposable masks and making those available entry points to our buildings for the public that comes in? So the question is going to be, right, Do we mandate that every visitor to the building is in a mask? To what extent do we do that? And do we limit access to the building? Or do we just let people come into the building and go around and go where they need to go? One of the things that we are required to do, under the current phase one plan, is keep a log of all the people that come into the building for contact tracing in the future if somebody happens to be or to test positive. Did I click on or somehow do that. Sorry, I don't know if I did that or not Councilor McCormick. You're on mute Councilor McCormick. There you go.

Councilor McCormick

Oh, thank you. My battery died. You can't make this up.

City Manager Dygert

So again, we were able to we can work with with anything, but again, as a policy decision for the building, and something that is bound to get a significant amount, potentially, of feedback from the community, from the public that comes here to do business. I'd really appreciate your input on how you'd like to see things done.

Councilor Locastro

Is it mandated now that you have to have a mask to go into a building?

City Manager Dygert

It is not necessarily. So it all comes back to the social distancing thing. To my knowledge, it's again, if you can't maintain that social distance, then you're supposed to have the mask. I do know the Governor today released a new Executive Order that says businesses can mandate it now. Right? Do you have more on that?

Stacy DeForrest

Well, no. So the current requirements, it's mandated if you're within direct contact with the public, right now, the new Executive Order that we're waiting on, we'll probably see tomorrow, I'm hoping, allows business owners to mandate it if they choose. So, that's the distinction right now. You can walk into City Hall since it's closed to the public and not have a mask on it's fine.

Councilor Locastro

Thank you.

Councilor Cuddy

I was like, Councilor Locastro. Are you done? Yeah. I think if we are going to open and that's, if we decide to open to the public, I do think it is important to mandate the masks because, there's still a lot that is unknown about this virus and how it spreads. And I think that having that extra amount of protection, they say that the transmission decreases 70% if both the person that is at the establishment and the public are wearing a mask. And if there's people that do not want to wear masks, we can continue to do work remotely, you know if that's going to be an issue. But I think we're able to accommodate the public with our services can as they are right now. But if there if the rest of my colleagues think that it's worthwhile opening that I think the measure of required masks is probably the most prudent thing that we should we would do, if we decided to open it.

Councilor McCormick

Oh, sorry. Sure. Am I there? i can even tell,

City Manager Dygert

We can hear your councilor but we can't see you. There you are.

Councilor McCormick

Okay. I couldn't tell if I was interrupting anyone. I just wanted to add I agree totally with Councilor Cuddy. I think that the virus is still spreading. So I really think that to protect our employees and the public, but employees are kind of hostage if somebody comes in without a mask on. I've seen it happen in retail environments, people show up and they don't have a mask on, what is a teenager or clerk, they're stuck there. So I really think we should emphasize that in the spacing. But the other thing I think we should try to emphasize when as we reopen, is that so many things can be done online. And people, I don't know how much if you can tell how many people use the online services, but this would be a really good time for people to start using the online payment opportunities and other things you can do online. And the phone and people can call and ask questions. I don't think there's a whole lot of, except for I guess in the City Clerk's office, but most of that does have to have in person, funeral directors, people for birth certificates, that, in a way it has to be done, sometimes immediately. But I hope we can reinforce the online options that we have for going forward. It's my two cents

Councilor Giannettino

How much would you say occurs public interaction occurs on the first floor, or I guess this is the first floor, or a second floor? Okay. I mean, I would say probably 95% of the business in City Hall that the public has to do occurs on this floor or in the basement at Codes is that an accurate assessment?

City Manager Dygert

Code Enforcement's typically busy. Clerk's Office is busy. Certain times of the year, the Assessor's Office is busy, but not on a regular basis. It's a you know, a few week timeframe during the year, typically. And the second floor where the Managers Offices and Corporation Council, things like that. There's a lot of traffic whether or not it's necessary, I think is the big question. All right. Yeah, Civil Service, sure.

Councilor Giannettino

And, logistically, it's probably not easy to say, "Well, if you come to the Clerk's Office, you can come in and if you're going to Codes you can come in but if you're going to Civil Service If you have to make an appointment" that probably creates logistical issues.

City Manager Dygert

Again, you know, there's private sector businesses that are requiring appointments. There's private sector businesses that are putting in checkpoints so that you come in and we find out what your business is. You know, are you coming in just to say hi to Christina Selvek? Because you haven't seen her in a couple months? Or do you actually have business to conduct? That's the reality of it. I mean, that's what happens when you have an open building, right? And so we may need to consider some things like that. Do we restrict it to just necessary business? Sure.

Councilor Giannettino

And, you know, I'm not criticizing the fact that we were shut down. It was necessary. It was mandatory, but I do know from feedback that I've received, while everybody on city staff has been very, you know, easy to get ahold of, and, you know, they're meeting at the back door. I know that it's, you know, it's an issue. You know, I had somebody calling because they had left a message and they're looking for their Marriage Certificate. It just creates, you know, issues, whereas normally I could come in and get it.

City Manager Dygert

So there's a couple of considerations are not to interrupt you, but I just want to make sure that I don't forget to say this. So some of the considerations are the impact on our employees, right. So we've got employees on both sides of the spectrum employees that have got a pretty, you know, carefree attitude about the whole thing, like it's not a big deal. You know, let's go back to business. And then we have employees, who for whatever reason, whether there have a health compromise of their own or some other situation, maybe somebody at home that's compromised, that they are very sensitive to what interactions are going to have. So that's the balance we're trying to get here. You know, how do we how

do we serve the public? How do we have those interactions? Make sure our employees feel a level of comfort in doing that.

Councilor Giannettino

Sure, and that goes for any business. Right? It goes for the city, it goes for Wegmans. It goes for the company I work with, we're dealing with those issues too. You know, at some point, we have to accept what the new normal is, for whatever the time period is, that the new normal is. Did you feel that, and I know this is a hard question to answer because what's considered safe right in the middle of pandemic, but do you think that the precautions that we have taken so far with building modifications and cleaning of the building and requiring people to wear masks; Do you think that presents a reasonably safe environment considering the current health situation?

City Manager Dygert

My opinion, is just that it's only my opinion, I think that yeah, that that certain provides a heightened level of protection compared to what we've had before. But I also look at this and in some ways as an opportunity, we've had discussions for several years about building security. Right. And it's different. But it's the same if we had a little more time to plan this out, and we had some capital funds to spend, we could improve building security, and put some of these other things in place and kind of kill two birds with one stone. But we have neither the time nor the budget to do both of those things right now, but through procedures, we could potentially help to improve security in the building as well. And by that, I mean you know, having some sort of limitation or control, or accountability of the people that are coming in and out of the building.

Councilor Giannettino

When you say, in Councilor Cuddy brought up a phased reopening, would Phase reopening, you know, what that look like? Maybe, alright, June 1, if we get the guidance that we can bring our employees back to work. We do that for a week and get back into the groove of things and, you know, get over the logistical issues that are surely going to arise. And then, maybe a week later, open the building to the public, is that something that you?

City Manager Dygert

That's exactly what I'd like to do. And whether that's June 1, or the middle of next week, or whatever it is, I'd like to get our folks that have been either working remotely part time, or working remotely all of the time, back and get reacclimated. Get through some of their backlog and get everybody up to speed on what these new policies are going to be and how that's going to work. And then let the public into the building. And that, even that aspect of it, might be phased and maybe we're a little more strict at first and then as we see what's going on, and we Relax that a little bit more as well.

Councilor Giannettino

I mean, I think that approach is understandable because, you know, I can tell you from working where I work as we were phasing people out of the building, but this became a very real issue. It was awkward for everybody cuz everybody's trying to keep, you know, six feet between them. And if somebody's going to get a cup of coffee, or somebody's walking down the hall, and I just think that a building that's been at 50% or less than you bring everybody back that does, you know, create some type of logistical hurdle that everybody's going to have to overcome. I think that's reasonable. But I do think that at some point, the building has to be opened back up to the public. Just for the everyday things, you know, Death Certificates, Birth Certificates, Permit. I mean, I had a contractor come to my house, to give me it was outside to give me an estimate outside and he said, "Well I can't do anything for Codes is open". I said "No, Codes Codes has been open the last two months". So I think the other thing is, how do we communicate that to the public. And I'm not and I know we've tried, and that's always a hurdle that we face in a day where the newspaper isn't as popular as it used to be. And people, some people rely on social media. Not everybody has cable anymore and can watch us on ARMA. So how do we better communicate that to the public of what the new plan is what the requirements are with the expectation there? So I think that's an important component, do it. When is our next stream line do to go out? Is there a way for us to put an insert in the stream line? Because everybody gets a stream line?

Mayor Quill

Even a special mailer?

Councilor Giannettino

Any way we can communicate to the public?

Councilor Locastro

What if we had a couple phone numbers where people called they got a live voice. And if we had two or three people at the door, so when people came, they could probably solve a lot of their problems with a runner that could run to whoever, before you started bringing them into the building? I think that because asking the older generation to get online and solve the problems, I mean, older people are looking for a voice. And they're looking for a person that can help them out in in other situations where they have that it works. Bring in a lot of people in this building, who knows if they're going to have masks on if they're not going to have masks on the last thing we need is a problem here.

City Manager Dygert

So again, there's been a lot of discussion, a lot of ideas thrown around. One of the ideas kind of getting back to your point was to have somebody or rotate staff through some sort of a check in point near the back door, have that be the main spot that should come into the building, so that we can keep track of who's in the building. They could provide that information, right. You know, who are you here to see because in some cases, people don't know who they're here to see. They know what the businesses they need to take care of, but they don't know where to go. So we'd actually improve service by doing that to be able to say, Oh, you've got that, then you need to go to the second floor of the first floor or what have

you. And doesn't mean that those folks can't come in the building. But we could kind of streamline that process a little bit, send them right where they need to go. We'll make sure they're accounted for and do those things and, again, either suggest or mandate that they have a mask on for the protection of our employees and the other people in the building when they're conducting their business. At that point, they can also have that could be that person that answers the telephone, right?

Councilor Locastro

I mean, just to have a live voice in City Hall, if somebody calls maybe alleviate somebody from coming down here, right if they get a recording, and I understand they're busy here at City Hall, but sometimes it doesn't work.

City Manager Dygert

Oh yeah, even even from home. Yeah.

Mayor Quill

Jeff are you all set. I don't have to. So, Jeff I I have a couple of thoughts, and take them for what their worth, in regards to the employees in their in their work areas, I think that wearing masks, that's up to the individual department or the employees. That's, I don't want to step on that, but I feel with my part of my plan, my thought, is that if any of our employees are in common areas, other than their particular office there in the hallway elevator, they should be wearing a mask. Okay, personal opinion, for the back door and also for the front door. Let's take the back door, there's a vestibule there we should have a phone as the councilor was was talking about. The inner doors locked in they pick up the phone with and whomever they talk to, "I want to talk with someone the Assessor's Office" and the Assessor's Office will be contacted to come down and deal with individual. The same thing with the front vestibule. We get many, many people coming to their their pay their taxes or pay whatever Clerk's Office or whatever. If we if the inner door was locked there and there was a phone, I know it's a historical building, but in my mind, this is somewhat short term till we come up with a final plan how we do it, but there would be a phone there to pick it up and "I'm here to pay my water bill", and then someone from the from the Treasurer's Office comes down with a mask on. And they should have a mask on because the individual coming into the building should have a mask on also. So I'm just thinking run a couple of telephone lines have the inner doors locked, they can come and go but they have to contact someone before they can get into the building proper. Is it making any sense what I'm saying?

City Manager Dygert

Yeah, I don't want to come off as argumentative, but when the buildings occupied, we can't have the doors necessarily locked, especially if we've got the public in the building.

Councilor Locastro

What about a person?

Mayor Quill

They wouldn't be. I'm not saying locking them from the inside to go out. Just to you wait in vestibule to it's a one way lack of your panic bar and the door so you get out. Are you following me?

City Manager Dygert

No, I know what you're saying. I'm just trying to work through how...

Mayor Quill

At the same time, and this would be short term for however long till we can come up with the money to make the building secure, more secure as we've talked over the years.

Councilor Locastro

Jeff, how about a job trailer right outside the door, with the person in it with all the lines right into the office? Just like they walk right up to the window. There's the person, the person can either call like the Mayor said or address the problem right there and then need to come into the building. Just a thought.

Councilor Cuddy

I just think so, maybe as Councilor Giannettino was saying about the phasing in having the employees come in first before the public comes in. Then maybe having this idea of appointment, where you call in call ahead of time before you work with who are coming to City Hall, to let to let them know which department you'd want to go to, and then then, basically, do what Councilor Locastro and the Mayor are saying is basically, have somebody come in and greet you. So that you're calling ahead of time. It's documented, who's calling, which department they're going to see. And if by chance there is somebody that, at that point in time just shows up, there may be some kind of mechanism for them to let people know that they're there, whether it be their own phone, or a sign on the door says, if you're here on business, please call this number and somebody will be there. If they don't have their own phone, obviously, Mayor like you were saying or Councilor Locastro was saying, they don't have their own phone maybe even there are some, there are those kind of doorbells that just at least let somebody know that you're there, and that somebody could come down and greet them. And that's like a low cost way of like a way. Low cost way. Number one, like having some visual, somebody's here, let's, let's go, well let them and ask them what their businesses is, point them in the right direction. But I do think having a call at a time or encouraging them to call ahead of time will, number one, we'll have a record of why they're there what they want. And that would kind of fill in the requirement, or at least for now, the current requirement the county and what other businesses or municipalities are doing, are having a record of a log of who's been there. That would be my suggestion as like the third week of beginning to open the building incrementally, and then once things open up, then it would be just, you know, making sure that everyone's wearing a mask. So hopefully that that makes sense.

City Manager Dygert

Anybody else we can throw some ideas at you through the week? See what makes sense?

Mayor Quill

Yeah, I'm gonna pick on our Department Heads that they're here. Our employees they're here in the build that are here, right tonight. Do you have any thoughts? and I don't want to put any I don't want to make anyone walk the plank. But it does anyone have any thoughts what we should or should not be doing? You work here, you're in and out of this building continuously. Mr. Lupien, please

Bill Lupien

I, personally, when you're going to the Clerk's Office, I don't think that we want all of our employees in the building, just running up and down the halls, from all their offices going down to the door to greet the people, that people are here to pay their bills, they're going to have money, they need to go to the window, where we have, the cash registers on the one side them on the other side. I do agree that security at the doorways, ask people what they want to do, and then a let them in and go to the actual office where they need to go. I think the Clerk's Office, what a pain that would be if every time somebody came for a Birth Certificate or Dog License or Marriage Certificate or whatever they're going, they need to go to the window. The people need to be on the other side of it. Vital Statistics, they're looking at books, doing records, you know, that's not something they're going to be able to do at the doorway. So I mean, those people are going to have to come to their office anyhow. So I do see the idea of having people have a checkpoint at the doorway, and then let them go forward to wherever they're going to go. But then there's the other situation. Engineering Department doesn't get a lot of different people walking in, just to see our records and all the rest. I do a lot of meetings and a third floor training room. Now, I mean, we're gonna have to address that. I mean, I have contractor meetings, weekly, bi weekly on all our capital projects. We have all kinds of bid meetings we have. I mean, we use that third floor training room all the time. For various meetings. We have to really think about how we're going to handle meetings. I mean, maybe, I mean, some of the larger meetings, if we're trying to keep the social distancing. Then maybe they have to go like every other seat here in the council chambers and the six feet apart, and use every other over something, just to space out enough. But I mean, that's another issue, you got to think about, how are we going to treat all these meetings? and the people that come and go to them? And I mean, all of a sudden, we're going to have 8-10 people show up to a meeting, or sometimes some of those bid ones or recreational ones, when sometimes there's 20 people there. And so that's going to be that's something we really have to think about as well. But I really think that I don't think we want all of our employees running from every office down to the doorway. And then a lot of times, they're just going to escort the people right back up again. I think it'd be a lot more efficient to like, say, if you had somebody at the doorway, "who do you want to see?" They could log in, make sure they got a mask on and then send them on their way. Yeah, I do agree. And I also think, too, is that anybody that's waiting on the people, yeah, they wear masks. But if somebody's sitting at their desk in their own office, and they're and they're practicing social distancing. They shouldn't be required to wear the mask. I mean, because those things get hot after a while. And they, some people have a harder time breathing through them. So I think require them when they're necessary. You know, and like you say, maybe if we're

walking in hallways, riding in the elevator, you have to wear your mask. If you're just sitting at your desk, and nobody's near you within six feet, you know, you don't have to. It. Just my thoughts. Okay,

Mayor Quill

Fair enough. Thank you, Billy. Anyone else? Any any other employees here?

Councilor Cuddy

I mean, yeah. The other thing that we haven't really mentioned yet, that speaks to the point that Mr. Lupien mentioned, is that I mean, we may open up still, but if Mr. Lupien wanted to meet with engineers, and there wasn't anything that they didn't need to be done face to face, I mean, there still can be remote meetings that still occur that that should also be encouraged until we're done with this thing. As you know, that's the other thing. It's like, we don't want to just say we're open and all of these other abilities to flatten the curve or minimize risk are not being utilized. So, I just want to make sure that that's still considered as we move forward. You know, and as I said, calling ahead of time, if they do, if there is a push for people to call ahead of time before they do city business, you know, we, the person, fielding a phone call, or the person fielding the phone call could at least let them know like, okay, if you don't have a computer, come on in, and somebody will greet you at the door and they'll point you in the right direction or if they do have the ability to do their business online or over the phone, then they could walk them through that. So, I guess what I'm saying is like, try to proceed with caution and watch, like the state do this in a very kind of step by step way where we're, you know, where we're basically just protecting the public and the workforce. That's pretty much it for me.

Stacy DeForrest

Just wanted to I just wanted to piggyback off of what Mr. Lupien said about staff running to the door. Aside from the work flow issue that he raised, it raises another concern if we're going to mandate masks be worn by visitors. If, I don't want to try to predict anything, but I know most people know that, there are people that are very much against wearing the mask. So, it's not hard to imagine that there will be someone who shows up to City Hall who doesn't want to wear a mask. And I just don't think it's necessarily safe for our employees to be interfacing with that potential, letting people just come in the building and then get all the way to a window without a mask. It's not only unsafe for the person at the window, but it puts them in a difficult position of having to tell the person to put a mask on which really shouldn't be part of what they have to handle to begin with. So that's just something to consider. In like, Mr. Dygert, said, this is kind of an opportunity to address security. I know in my own office and in the City Manager's office, it's it's common that most people that visit our offices by the time they reach either me or the City Manager are not entirely thrilled with something. So this is, this is an opportunity, I think, to try to kind of tighten security. I know in my own office, my staff has had issues with having to call the APD in the past and things like that. So this this kind of kills two birds with one stone and tries to eliminate those potential issues. So just my two cents Thank you.

Christina Selvek

Almost don't even want to touch the microphone. How bad is that these days? Good evening, Mayor and Council. Thank you for the opportunity to make some comments. I would be in support of employees returning to work as of Monday. I can tell you after being in the building for the last 10 weeks, that there are lines at the back door of residents looking for service and it varies on all levels, needing permits needing marriage license, birth certificates, questions for the City Assessor. You know, so we already are basically running our 50% staff that are reporting right now to the back door to help answer questions. And you know, it's the service level that our residents have come to expect, you know, from us and that we're accessible and we're able to answer questions and provide information and do it almost on the spot when they come to City Hall, you know, in a courteous and prompt manner. So, if we're going to start talking about you know, making appointments, only that sort of thing, so it's, you know, everyone's going to need to understand, the community is going to have to understand you know, we're going to slow down service maybe a little bit. You know, we're going to do the best we can and certain individuals you know, like Shelley Lowe, she's been on call answering the uou know, problem resolution line this entire time. So, we are trying to do what we can for city residents in regards to meetings, you know, we would have to maybe just limit the consultants, you know, meetings up to 10 people until what is it June 21, I believe, for executive order 33. At this point, who knows what's going to change after that, you know, each department right now could track their appointments as we sort of phase in this, you know, reopening but we are getting into our busy season for customer service. So taxes are going to start to come due in July. You know, people are looking for building permits, so you know, getting married, etc. We do need to make sure we're providing those services, in terms of having someone at the back door. Maybe that's a good opportunity for summer intern in terms of hourly rates. I don't know if you would want, you know, senior staff sitting back there where they could be, you know, more productive doing other things for the community than just giving building directions or state and federal buildings already are by appointment pretty much right now. Very rarely Can you just walk in and see you're there to visit, you know, an office. Just this week, Monday, I drove to Syracuse for a critical design meeting for our public safety building. I went to Huber Breuer, upon entering the building I had to be by appointment. So, the staff was, you know, expecting me, walked in, there was plexiglass, basically right there with a little hole in it, you know, had my temperature taken, made sure that, you know, went through all the questions that APD and fire are using right now. Had to have hand sanitizer, and then to the Mayor's credit, you know, there you have to have a face mask in any of the public areas. If you're in a meeting or in your office, you know, then it's you know, by your own comfort level. So, so just to let you know how staff, you know, has been seeing things over the last couple of weeks. Thank you. Thank you very much. Thank you.

Mayor Quill

Anyone else from staff? Clerk, please.

Chuck Mason

Thanks, Mayor. I believe your question was to share opinions, so, I'm not gonna miss that opportunity.

Mayor Quill

I've never known you to express your opinion, but.

Chuck Mason

Continuing the discussion, for the City Clerk's office, and then I'm, I'm more familiar also with the Treasurer's Office, because I see it more than some of the other offices I think for the first few weeks, March and April, I think the public was holding back a little bit, trying to see how long this thing was going to happen, the COVID situation. And what I've noticed is that the month of May, especially with the weather getting better things are definitely picking up. I know for the Clerk's Office, both Coleen, our Deputy Clerk and our Senior Clerk in there, Melissa, have been quite busy, especially in recent weeks with people, we've already been making appointments with people and they've been meeting people at the back door. And, you know, there is, I think what we have to remember is that we're in the, you know, the bottom line is we're in the people business. And while there are a lot of great online tools that we can use, there's not 100% of our population that has the ability to use those tools. And that requires, like Councilor Locastro mentioned earlier, somebody has to pick up the phone and be able to communicate and, and talk to people and really work them through the situation that they're in. So, I know that you know. The last couple to three weeks especially, there's been quite a bit of business being taken care of at the back door. Which, the other thing that I think that we have to remember in this whole thing is that are we better off having a building that's opened up and we're following all the personal protective equipment policies, and we've got the plexiglas doors in place, and we're controlling, flows in and out, are we better off in that situation than we are just running down to the back door and opening up the back door and all of a sudden, there's maybe three or four other people joining now because they see somebody being taken care of at the back door. And, you know, it's not necessarily the healthiest environment to be putting our public or our staff in, under what we've been basically having to do the whole time, but it's increasing. You know, the other thing I'll tell you about the Clerk's Office and in particular is that there's, you know, there's a lot of tough reasons sometimes why people need the vital statistics that they're coming for. It can be a very difficult situation for our elderly population and they're very, you know, people don't come to City Hall all that often, some people, they might even do it less than one time, a year, one time a year, once every couple of years type of thing. And when they do have to come in, under unfortunate circumstances, for the Vital Statistics, especially for our older folks, it can be an intimidating trip to City Hall, you know, and, you know, part of being in the business is making things as, you know, as comforting for the public as we possibly can. So, I think, you know, there's a lot of stuff for us to think about, but, I do think that what we're seeing in the world over the last two and a half months is that with the institution of the personal protective equipment and procedures, and the some of the barriers, like the plexiglass and stuff, you can conduct business, there is a way to be able to conduct business and we're probably going to have to conduct business this way for the next year or two. And I think that, you know, it's really just a matter of, you know, we certainly need a couple weeks to really be able to, to get this thing thought out a little bit and to phase it in a little bit. But it is a time that we really need to try to transition back in I believe it's going to be in the best interest of not only our staff, but the public to do it and do it right and make sure everybody's protected. But, you know, we can

go to grocery stores in our community that have been operating since day one, and they've slowly but surely phased in the personal protective equipment and people are becoming much more familiar with it. And doing it relatively successfully, because we're not seeing necessarily seeing COVID cases that are directly associated with those points. So, you know, I think it's, you know, there's a lot of information that's out there. And I'm sure that people have opinions about whether or not those things are or are not working. But from the perspective that we are a major employer and have major public buildings, we have to be protecting our staff and protecting the public as well by doing the PPE and doing the procedures and stuff. So, I think the sooner we're able to phase into it, the better off we'll be, because we're kind of already, you know, doing it in a manner that might not be the safest for some of the employees that are kind of stepping up and taking care of the public business that we're seeing. The other thing that Clerk's Office does at the Clerk's Office for the last couple years, is accept for the mail in the organization. And I can tell you that there's some days that they come back, they've been going to the post office to pick up the mail, since the building's been closed, they go over there once a day and there's some days that they come back, especially when the bills have been due, the water and sewer bills, they come back with a couple bags, chock full of mail. You know, you could be quiet one week, and then 10 times as busy the next week, depending on what the deadlines are and stuff. I'll wrap it up with that. But I do think that, you know, we still probably have a couple weeks to phase back into it, but I think there's gonna come a point in time where we've just got to realize that this is our life for the next couple of years. So thanks, Mayor. Thank you,

Mayor Quill

Councilors, anything else for Mr. Dygert?

Councilor Locastro

Please, we also have to remember that all it's going to take is one case in City Hall for a bad situation here. So, with what Chuck is saying about being safe. We have to be safe.

Mayor Quill

Councilor McCormick or Councilor Cuddy. Anything else. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Dygert. I'm sure it's clear as mud for you now.

City Manager Dygert

I knew you were going to say that. And you're very accurate. We will come up with a couple things. We'll float them past you over the next couple days and see what gets your interest. Fair enough.

Mayor Quill

Absolutely. Well, I personally, I look at this as a work in progress. There is some necessity to get it moving. But at the same time, it's easier just to do it once instead of backtracking back and forth, back and forth. So it's confusing to, to our employees to our public and I know that so it's going to be that way regardless, but why add to it. All right, ll right, thank you. You're all set. That's all you had, okay, thank

you. So, we're at the point of other business from the Council. Councilors, anything? Councilor Giannettino, please.

Councilor Giannettino

Mayor, I know that a couple of us have been contacted by local businesses, specifically, restaurants and bars in the downtown area that are anticipating when they can reopen. And one of the things that they brought to our attention is, other municipalities are expanding outdoor seating. That's something that they'd like to have a conversation about. I just want to put it out there that that conversation is evolving that city staff is listening to that, because I know that other business owners will probably be reaching out as well, that the BID is involved, city staff, some members of council, that we all recognize that this is probably going to be an important step forward, but it's something that we may have little control over because the state is going to be involved in it as well. But we're a willing partner and we're working with them on that. So thank you.

Mayor Quill

Councilors, Cuddy, McCormick, anything?. Thank you. Do we have a request for Executive Session,

City Manager Dygert

Yes Mayor we have one matter pertaining to the employment history of an individual

Mayor Quill

Very well. Councilors anything else you want to add to count to executive session. At this point, entertain a motion for Executive Session, Mr. Clerk If you'd read it back please

Chuck Mason

6:30pm executive session one matter pertaining to the employment history of particular individual.

Executive Session. Councilor Giannettino made a motion to enter Executive Session, seconded by Councilor LoCastro. Council voted unanimously to enter an executive session at 6:30 p.m. regarding the following matters:

One matter pertaining to the employment history of a particular individual.

Executive session adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Adjournment: By unanimous vote the Council adjourned the meeting. The meeting was adjourned at 6:46 p.m.

Minutes submitted to the City Council on June 11, 2020 by Charles Mason, City Clerk