



June 11, 2013

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
Agenda

1:00 PM

CALL TO ORDER

ROLL CALL

SALUTE TO FLAG

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD / 15 MINUTES

PRESENTATION(S)

EXECUTIVE SESSION

CONSENT AGENDA

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

1. Discussion and Vote: Consent to New York State Franchise Oversight Board as Lead Agency for Saratoga Race Course Improvements

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

1. None

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

1. None

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

1. None

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

1. None

SUPERVISORS

1. None

ADJOURN



June 11, 2013

CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS
City Council Meeting
City Council Room
1:00 PM

PRESENT: Scott Johnson, Mayor
Michele Madigan, Commissioner of Finance
Anthony Scirocco, Commissioner of DPW
Christian Mathiesen, Commissioner of DPS

STAFF PRESENT: Shauna Sutton, Deputy Mayor
Lynn Bachner, Deputy Commissioner, Finance
Sharon Kellner-Byrnes, Deputy Commissioner, Accounts
Eileen Finneran, Deputy Commissioner, DPS

Matt Dorsey, City Attorney

EXCUSED: John Franck, Commissioner of Accounts
Tim Cogan, Deputy Commissioner, DPW

Matthew Veitch, Supervisor
Joanne Yepsen, Supervisor

RECORDING OF PROCEEDING

The proceedings of this meeting were taped for the benefit of the secretary. Because the minutes are not a verbatim record of the proceedings, the minutes are not a word-for-word transcript.

CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Johnson called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Johnson said the public comment period is limited to a total of 15 minutes and individuals are limited to two minutes each according to the rules approved in February of 2004 by the City Council.

Mayor Johnson opened the public comment period at 1:04 p.m.

No one spoke.

Mayor Johnson closed the public comment period at 1:04 p.m.

MAYOR'S DEPARTMENT

Discussion and Vote: Consent to New York State Franchise Oversight Board as Lead Agency for Saratoga Race Course Improvements

Mayor Johnson advised this special City Council meeting was called as this item came up through the New York State Oversight Franchise Board and a response is due back to them before our next meeting. The mayor received the request to consent to let the state be the lead agency for SEQRA.

This is a necessary part of the process. They are the agency that has the most logical involvement. He consulted with our city attorney to see if the City would be lead agency in any way. The City is not involved in that way but would be an involved agency and will be informed as matters progress.

Mayor Johnson read the following resolution into the record:

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SARATOGA SPRINGS, NEW YORK

Mayor Scott T. Johnson
Commissioner Michele Madigan
Commissioner Anthony Scirocco
Commissioner Christian Mathiesen
Commissioner John P. Franck

WHEREAS, the New York Racing Association (NYRA) is establishing a comprehensive development plan to preserve, restore, and enhance the approximately 330 acre historic Saratoga Race Course in Saratoga Springs, New York (hereinafter "the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan"), and

WHEREAS, the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan is expected to include the construction of new buildings, parking areas, pedestrian facilities, horse paths, planted areas and the renovation of existing buildings and facilities, and the removal of certain other structures over the course of approximately ten years, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Franchise Oversight Board intends to declare itself lead agency pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) review of the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan, and

WHEREAS, the New York State Pari-Mutuel Wagering and Breeding Law section 212(6) established the Saratoga Community Advisory Board for the Saratoga Race Course to act as a local resource to the New York State Franchise Oversight Board,

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that as an involved agency pursuant to SEQRA, the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs does hereby consent to the New York State Franchise Oversight Board acting as lead agency pursuant to SEQRA regarding the review of the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that as an involved agency, the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs intends to participate in the SEQRA review of the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan and anticipates strong public interest in the process given the importance of the Saratoga Race Course to the economy, culture, and vibrancy of the City of Saratoga Springs, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Council of the City of Saratoga Springs recommends that it and the Saratoga Community Advisory Board for the Saratoga Racecourse be active participants in the SEQRA review of the Saratoga Racecourse Development Plan.

Mayor Johnson moved and Commissioner Madigan seconded to adopt the resolution as recited.

Ayes – All

Mayor Johnson stated we all know how important the track is to our history and economy. We plan to be very active in this regard.

Matt Dorsey, city attorney advised the Saratoga Community Advisory Board will be having a meeting tonight at the City Center to talk about the plans. The public can attend to learn more about this. He also had conversations with NYRA's counsel and the FOB's counsel regarding the SEQRA process. The FOB will declare itself as lead agency and there will be an initial scoping session on July 11th. It is expected the scope will be finalized in August and an EIS will be forthcoming in January 2014 with public hearings to follow that.

****Mayor Johnson introduced Marilyn Rivers, director of risk and safety, to inform the Council and public of a tropical storm that is problematic for our area. We will need to prepare from a community perspective for that storm.**

ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENT

None.

FINANCE DEPARTMENT

None.

PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

None.

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT

None.

SUPERVISORS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor Johnson moved and Commissioner Madigan seconded to adjourn the meeting.

Ayes – All

There being no further business, Mayor Johnson adjourned the meeting at 1:12 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Ribis
Clerk

Approved:

Vote: