

FINANCE

Tuesday, April 2, 2020 – 5:30 p.m.

Council Chambers – Olean Municipal Building

Present: Members: Chairman Gonzalez, Vice Chairman Crawford, Alderman Witte, Alderman Panus, Alderman Dougherty, Alderman DaPolito, and Alderman Anastasia. Others: Mayor William Aiello; Fred Saradin, City Auditor; Bob Ring, Director of Public Works; Tim Richardson, Fire Chief; Jeff Rowley, Fire Chief, and Tiffany Taylor, Managerial Confidential Administrative Secretary.

1. Roll Call

Alderman Gonzalez called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. and asked that the record show that all Aldermen were present.

2. Unfinished Business

None

3. New Referrals for Consideration

a. 2020-2021 Budget Discussion

Alderman Gonzalez explained that when the committee left the meeting Tuesday, it was determined that at this meeting they would be presented with some adjustments to the budget that was originally received from the Mayor, and they have since received those adjustments.

Mayor Aiello thanked all of the Department Heads who have stepped up to the plate. He explained that there are a lot of cuts that were made, and in the future a lot of these things will need to be revisited and taken care of. He explained that the City has been preparing for the worst case scenario for several weeks now. He explained that he had each Department Head take a look at their budget and come back with what they felt that they could do without this year due to the situation at hand. He presented a document with summarized going through the different departments what could be removed from the budget, and he explained that an additional \$203,944 in additional cuts were found.

Mayor Aiello explained that the number that had to be cut from the budget to come in at a zero percent tax increase was \$117,000. He explained that if the City defers on the Federal Tax on payroll, the City can defer \$149,999 and put \$140,000 into a separate fund. He explained that there are two added positions in the budget, one for the Police Department related to the Discover Reform and one HVAC “jack of all trades”. He explained that if the HVAC position is removed from the budget, then \$65,000 will need to be put back into the budget for a

maintenance contract for different facilities. Alderman Gonzalez asked if this position used to be subcontracted, and Mayor Aiello explained that it was. Mayor Aiello added that \$10,000 is also being added because we are unsure what type of health insurance the employees will take. Alderman Crawford asked what departments are picking up these expenses, and Mayor Aiello explained that the Police Department budget would cover the cost of the Discovery Reform employee, and the Department of Public Works would cover the cost of the HVAC employee.

Mayor Aiello explained that he has received an advocacy update from NYCOM, which included a Discovery Reform implementation aid. He explained that the City may be eligible for technology related to the implementation of the new discovery Reform. He explained that there was funding in the budget for software, but it was cut from the budget and the City will leave it out of the budget while they try to get the aid from the State. He noted that eligible entities include Cities of less than one million, so the City is eligible to apply and may be able to receive some funding aid for this position.

Mr. Saradin explained that the HVAC position is split between the three budgets, and Mayor Aiello explained that this is because they will be working in buildings in each division.

Mayor Aiello explained that the savings, plus the amount saved for the payroll tax, minus the \$117,000 that needed to be cut from the budget will allow the City to have a \$216,944 cushion in the event that sales tax comes in considerably low. Mr. Saradin explained that he can lower the sales tax revenue from \$4,390,000 less \$216,000 because he is concerned that we will not come in at that mark. Alderman Gonzalez asked if that would be good enough, and Mr. Saradin responded that he is not sure. He explained that he anticipates possibly two months of a negative impact due to sales tax losses.

At this time, Alderman Anastasia entered the meeting.

Mayor Aiello explained that he had his weekly call with Tom Reed's office, and one thing that was discussed was Recovery Phase IV. He explained that one thing that will be included in this phase will be the recovery of lost revenues for smaller municipalities, where Phase III included the recovery of lost revenues for larger municipalities. He noted that the only qualifying City in New York State is New York City.

Mr. Saradin explained that he spoke with the Mayor, and that we are in a crisis and everyone is trying to absorb the hit. He explained that he cut the demolition account in half, and he felt that it was important to mention that. The balance was \$55,000, and it will now be half of that.

Alderman Gonzalez noted that the travel and training budget for the Council was \$1000 and is now \$750. Mayor Aiello explained that he took \$2000 out of the celebrations account. He explained that the Fire Chief, Police Chief, and Director of Public Works can explain anything

that was cut from their budgets if the Council has questions. He explained that they could also discuss any of the proposed Capital Projects that were brought up Tuesday night, including the cornice work on Fire Station 1 that is needed to get the building safe and prevent falling debris. He noted that Mr. Richardson is also taking a look at the aprons at the Central Fire Station, and we could probably wait another year to take care of that project and just patch in house for now. He explained that this could give us some savings out of what was going to be taken from the exiting budget's contingency.

Mr. Saradin explained that he has been here for nine budgets, and he has never seen asks from Department Heads more than what we have asked for this year. He explained that we will not be able to do repairs or the demolitions we want to around the City. He explained that Department Heads worked really hard to get this budget to zero and do the best we can possibly do in some cases with shorter staff.

Alderman Gonzalez asked about the change in the Police Department payroll account. Chief Rowley explained that initially, he was going to budget for a Sergeant to fill the Discovery Reform position, and he asked his secretary to budget in the cost of a new Sergeant. He explained that he should have budgeted in for a Patrolman in Step 1, so he inadvertently over budgeted. He explained that he discovered the oversight when he was going back through line by line looking for savings. Alderman Witte noted that the City may be eligible for funding to aid in the Discovery Reform expenses, and Chief Rowley responded that if the funding is received, that it will go into the General Fund to help with the payroll costs for the new position. Mayor Aiello noted that this is if it survives the governor's budget.

Chief Richardson explained that the \$36,000 savings in payroll in the Fire Department is because by April 28th, the highest paid employees in the department will be retired out. That creates a net savings, even with staffing the Fire Department, because of the lower salaries for the new employees. In addition, the new employees will be Tier 6 with the retirement system so they are going to be contributing to retirement, which also creates a cheaper employee.

Chief Richardson explained that right now, the Fire Academy is shut down. He explained that he signed five people up for the August 1st class, and since only two academies are held per year, he wanted to stay ahead of the curve.

Alderman Witte explained that two more people retiring will mean that the department will be down four. She asked how this will affect overtime. Chief Richardson responded that right now, the department is not really in the peak overtime season so he is really not seeing a high overtime expense. Mr. Saradin explained that the Fire Department budget's personnel services line reflects a full staff and phasing in four additions through the year.

Alderman Panus asked what the \$20,000 decrease at the airport is for. Mr. Ring explained that there is a \$35,000 building repair budget, and the City has been encumbering funds to replace the HVAC unit. He thinks that there is a really good possibility of getting a grant to replace both systems, so he thinks that we can fund this in other ways and hopefully next year will be better and we will be able to continue to do regular building repairs.

Alderman Witte asked where Mr. Ring thinks that we stands in terms of Capital Projects. Mr. Ring explained that he has a list of projects that he is trying to do, but for DPW most have been crossed off the list unless they are in house projects. He explained that the Times Square entrance to the building is really the one project that needs to be done. He explained that he still doesn't have bids yet, but he is close to being able to advertise and get a bid. He explained that as far as the Main Street restriping, he thinks the cost is \$65,000, but that \$25,000 is the cost for the striping. He explained that the project involves a lot of curbing and sidewalk replacement. He noted that this includes a possible \$10,000 from the hospital, but they still have to go through their processes, and he believes that it is on hold right now given the pandemic happening.

Mr. Ring explained that he believes that there is a project down the line to put a flashing beacon at Center Street and Main Street. He explained that the lane reduction portion of the project is time sensitive to a certain extent.

Alderman Witte explained that she understands that we are putting the Franchot parking lot off for another year, and she asked if we could hold off on the radio tower for another year. Mr. Ring explained that he and the Mayor had been coordinating on this together. Mayor Aiello explained that it could be put off for another year.

Alderman Crawford asked what the net benefit of the radio tower is. Mayor Aiello explained that the City used to have an agreement with Community Bank, but don't at the moment. He explained that the benefit would be that the tower would now be on the City's property, and it would be high enough to have no interference. HE explained that if the power goes down at the bank, that the City is down until they get it back up. Alderman Crawford asked if this is what communicates with the sewer system, and Mayor Aiello responded that it handles all of the wireless communication with the water and sewer systems. He explained that the plants have no wired internet. Alderman Gonzalez asked if the tower handles the police and fire radios, and Chief Rowley explained that it does not.

Mayor Aiello explained that the cost presented includes a 100 to 130 foot tower, and battery backup so that if things go down it will continue to be up long enough until staff can get there with a generator, if need be. Alderman Crawford asked if this could be a revenue generator, and Mayor Aiello responded that there could be that opportunity. He explained that cell phone

companies and others may be interested in using the tower as well. Alderman Dougherty asked if the quoted price includes the amount to remove the equipment from the Community Bank building, and Mayor Aiello responded that it does. HE explained that it is currently a small antenna that you could hold in your hand, plus a small fridge-sized structure that is on the top of the building.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the tower will change the site line of the mountain, and Mayor Aiello responded that it would not. Alderman Dougherty explained that it is like the water reservoirs that you cannot see with the trees and what not.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is a large jump for personnel services under the engineering department. Mr. Ring explained that it is just a correction, and that one engineer is paid for split between the three funds, and one is entirely from the general fund. Mr. Saradin explained that he doesn't believe that the newest employee in the department has been there for a year, so a large part of the jump is because we are paying for her for a full year next year, where we only paid for a partial year last year. This is in addition to contractual obligations and step increases. Alderman Crawford confirmed that positions are not being added, and Mr. Ring responded that they are not.

Alderman Crawford asked why taxes and assessments raised from \$40,000 to \$52,000 and he wonders what this is for. Mr. Saradin explained that this is the impact of the properties that the City acquired from the County. He explained that we took additional houses last year and this is the additional tax cost for those.

Alderman Crawford asked why employee relations increased from \$20,000 to \$35,000 and Mayor Aiello explained that we are beginning negotiations with both police unions. Alderman Crawford asked if we use outside legal counsel for This, and Mayor Aiello responded that we do

Alderman Crawford explained that the contingency account has decreased from \$233,000 last year to \$200,000 this year. Alderman Gonzalez noted that the contingency account was at \$500,000 when he started. Mayor Aiello explained that it was \$200,000 for the last couple budgets but that last year there was funding that needed to be placed somewhere in order to come in at a 1 percent tax increase, so this funding was placed in the contingency account.

Alderman Crawford explained that there is a large jump in Parks personnel services. Mr. Ring explained that there should be a decrease in streets in the same amount. He explained that there was a lost position in streets, and a position in parks was paid for from streets last year until it was situated this year. Mayor Aiello explained that a parks maintainer was added last year, but was paid for from streets at the time and has now been fixed. Alderman Gonzalez noted that page 33 shows the drop in personnel services in parks maintenance.

Alderman Crawford asked if other things have been the same, such as \$45,000 for trees and \$5,000 for the TNVR program. Mayor Aiello explained that all of that has been left alone. Alderman Crawford asked if the new amount budgeted for the SPCA contract is fair for what the City has been incurring and spending, and Chief Rowley explained that he does not believe that we have gone over the \$30,000. He explained that the new program is doing great. Alderman Crawford asked if it is better than the previous arrangement and Chief Rowley explained that it is a lot better, because the City has a lot more control. He explained that we do not pay a SPCA bill unless the Police Department has provided them direction to pick up a dog.

Alderman Crawford asked about the Marketing Director position for the Bartlett House. Mayor Aiello explained that this is what the City did last year when a donation was made to fund the program. He explained that there is about \$7,000 to \$8,000 in the account that also covers the cleaner at the house. Alderman Crawford asked if this is, in effect, a new part time position, and Mayor Aiello responded that it is. Alderman Witte asked if we get into the new budget and things don't go well, if this will be the first thing to go. Mayor Aiello explained that right now, the position is not on the payroll. He explained that last year this position was funded by a donation, and this year he would like to fund it through the City. He noted that, however, there are no part timers on the payroll currently.

Alderman Crawford explained that he understands that Kris is a jack of all trades between coordination and marketing, but rather than spending \$10,000 on a marketing person that should be volunteering for the position, he would rather have \$10,000 more in street repairs. Alderman Witte agreed, that taxpayers want services. She explained that there is a lot of people involved in the historical society who could volunteer for this position. She explained that taxpayers are paying for services, and this should be a priority.

Alderman Crawford explained that Department Heads did an awesome job on cost reductions, and that we are faced with a very tough year ahead. He asked if we are forecasting \$250,000 in lost sales tax, and Mr. Saradin explained that \$216,000 previously discussed would help cover what he predicts we will be short in May, that is paid in June. Alderman Crawford asked if the budget is staying firm with sales tax revenue and Mr. Saradin suggested lowering it by \$216,000. He explained that his budget is going to be a moving target, and that we will have budget transfers in the future, and good and bad things are going to happen. We are trying to keep 150 people working and continue to provide services.

Alderman Crawford explained that he is not necessarily looking to cut services, but he doesn't know how he feels expending services that were previously covered by a grant. Alderman Gonzalez asked where Alderman Crawford feels that the money should go instead, and Alderman Crawford responded that it should go into street repairs. Alderman Panus asked if

Mr. Ring preferred anywhere where the money, if cut, should go, Mr. Ring responded that it is really up to the Mayor.

Mr. Saradin explained that he wishes that Mr. Shewairy was here to maybe embellish as to what is going on at the Bartlett House, and to let the Council know the impact of the Marketing Coordinator's services. He explained that there is a lot going on there.

Alderman Witte asked if there is money coming in, and Mr. Saradin responded that the Bartlett House has fundraisers. He explained that they are also taking in money for events that they are holding. He explained that there is no revenue from the Bartlett House in the budget. Mayor Aiello explained that it goes into a Trust and Agency account, and is used at the Bartlett House. Alderman Witte asked if the Marketing Coordinator is really good at her job, if we are able to pay for her position out of the Trust and Agency account. Mr. Saradin responded that we could.

Alderman Witte explained that she did not see anything in regards to the sidewalk program, and she explained that it was very successful and wondered if it is being done this year. Mr. Ring responded that he is unsure.

Alderman Witte explained that the City saw \$100,000 in sidewalk repairs and we only contributed \$50,000, so she would like to see that continued. Alderman Crawford explained that was a one-time capital transfer from the fund balance, and the Council created a Capital Fund for this. Alderman Dougherty explained that depending on how everything pans out with the whole ordeal that we are in, we could possibly do this again when things begin returning to normal. Alderman Witte explained that it is a possible program.

Alderman Dougherty explained that he doesn't think that anyone will be interested in this program right now while people are being kept at home. Mr. Ring explained that there is \$10,000 left in the program he believes, and Alderman Crawford explained that he believes that some of this funding is committed. He explained that he had residents who could not do the work last year because of the Washington Street Project, so they plan on doing the work this year. Alderman Witte added that she knows of a resident in Ward 2 who is trying to get into this program as well.

Alderman Anastasia explained that Governor Cuomo has indicated that he does not believe that things will be back to normal until July or possibly August, which would mean no concerts in the parks, no filling the Franchot pool and no summer program at St. John's. He wonders if that funding can be transferred back to DPW since everything will be on hold for a couple of months, and the funding could be used to fill potholes. He explained that some of our streets are deplorable. Alderman Witte explained that if we don't get back to normal until August, that we won't be hiring anyone during the summer.

Mr. Saradin explained that we all kind of agreed to put a stake in the ground and say we think that business will be as usual on June 1st. He explained that we could do what if's through the entire budget and we could move \$500 because something might not happen until July, but he thought that we were working under the premise that we are going to be moving forward as if things were normal on June 1st. Alderman Crawford explained that fund transfers could always be done later. Mr. Saradin explained that the Council should get the budget passed and then take things day by day and wait to see what happens.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he knows that we always work on our streets, but he doesn't think that they are deplorable, He feels that they are better than they were five, ten years ago. He explained that every time he gets a call about an issue, he calls streets and they go out right away. Alderman DaPolito explained that they do get out there and fix them, but that they are bad.

Mayor Aiello explained that CHIPS funding was left the same, and the Extreme Winter Recovery Fund was left the same as well, so the City will receive funding for that. He added that there is also no change in AIMS funding.

Alderman Crawford explained that there was something in the email the Council received that the governor may need to make a mid-year change to his budget. Mayor Aiello explained that there is language in the budget regarding a possible mid-year budget reduction, and that the language allows for changes to be made if the budget becomes unbalanced because revenue is low or spending is too high. He explained that it would then be shared with the legislatures so they can make their own plan. Mr. DaPolito explained that a budget is a working tool, that's all it is. Alderman Witte added that it can change at any time. Mr. Saradin explained that this is our plan.

Alderman DaPolito explained that it would be interesting to see what the Marketing Coordinator's position entails. He explained that she could possibly market for the Community Building as well, if her job is not strictly to market the Bartlett House. He understands that the House is historical, but he wonders what events are there. Alderman Crawford explained that he would love to see all of the recreation programs marketed with someone rather than have someone market just the historical building that generates maybe \$2000 a year in revenue. He explained that we cut some of those costs down when the budget was done a couple of years ago, and now they are starting to creep back up He explained that he would rather see a bigger bang for our buck and see someone market all of the City, including the Recreation Center and the Community Building.

Mayor Aiello explained that from a marketing perspective for the Recreation Department, Mr. Shewairy is doing an awesome job, He explained that he is out there marketing the ice rink and

the pool, and he's doing one heck of a job. He explained that the Bartlett House and The Point Museum are an asset to the City. He explained that it is our history, the history of Olean that is being marketed there. He explained that he feels that they have done a lot of wonderful things, and that he feels it is an asset. He explained that for a \$7,600 savings, we would be making a big mistake cutting the position,

Alderman Witte explained that the Historical Society markets the historical stuff, but she is unsure what the marketing person is doing. She explained that the Historical Society is comprised of volunteers. She explained that with revenue that she is bringing in, maybe she can be self-sustaining.

Mr. Saradin suggested leaving the budget alone, and next year we will have a better idea about the marketing employee's efforts at the Bartlett House, and we can make decisions from there. Alderman Dougherty explained that essentially right now we aren't spending anything there anyways because it is shut down due to the pandemic.

Alderman Crawford explained that he is not saying that Mr. Shewairy isn't doing a good job, but that instead, maybe he could use some assistance. Mayor Aiello explained that this employee is helping with the Bartlett House and Point Museum, like Mr. Shaw is with the Senior Center. Alderman Crawford asked about Mr. Deckman, and Mayor Aiello explained that he is a historian with a \$2,500 stipend. Alderman Crawford asked what the position is, and Mayor Aiello explained that he is a wealth of information for the City, and he does a lot of research. Alderman Dougherty explained that if you think your house is in a historic district or you have questions, you can call him to help with questions you have. Mayor Aiello added that he helps Ms. Stephen out with SEQR requests as well. He explained that he is getting up there in years, and he was reduced from \$15,000 to \$2,500.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that this section of the budget will be left alone for now, and reevaluated next year.

Alderman Dougherty asked if the payroll tax deferment has to be paid back with interest, and Mayor Aiello responded that there was no talk of paying back with interest, and that it is to be paid back over a two-year period. Mr. Saradin added that this funding may be forgiven. Alderman Crawford asked if the money we are saving would go into a reserve account, and not be spent on anything, and Mayor Aiello responded that \$140,000 goes into the budget as a reduction, and \$140,000 is to be put into a reserve account at this time. Mr. Saradin explained that we will see what happens six months from now, and if it is forgiven or not.

The consensus of the Council was to allow for the deferment of the federal payroll tax with the provision that \$140,000 of the savings be placed into a reserve account.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the revenues in the water and sewer departments reflect zero percent increases, and Mr. Saradin responded that they show a 1 ½ % and 0.5 % increase, respectively. HE explained that he will have to adjust this, and he will need to get together with mr. Ring to see what line items can be reduced to account for this. Alderman Crawford asked what the impact is, and Mr. Saradin responded that it is around \$20,000 in revenue. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he believes that we are always putting money into the water and sewer funds at the end of every budget year, and Alderman Dougherty explained that we are always losing customers.

Alderman Witte asked if we have had less water main breaks this year because the winter was mild, and Mr. Ring explained that there were a few. He explained that we did have funding for them and didn't need fund transfers, and that the amount of breaks can depend on the weather.

Mr. Ring asked if it has been suggested that we have zero percent increases in water and sewer rates, and Mayor Aiello responded that it has. Mr. Saradin asked Mr. Ring how he feels about this, and Mr. Ring responded that he would like to see the increase. He explained that it hurt the bottom line of the budget, and payroll is going up. He explained that there is a large match for the state funding that we want to apply for, for water and sewer infrastructure projects. Mayor Aiello explained that he can look at the water and sewer budgets with Mr. Ring and Mr. Saradin, and can discuss this with the Council next Tuesday prior to the budget vote,

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he does not want to get into the habit of not increasing rates, and he doesn't want to see rates stay flat next year. He feel that this is prudent, however, with everything going on this year. Alderman Dougherty explained tah he feels comfortable with 0% increases. Alderman Anastasia agreed with Alderman Gonzalez, that if we can help the public this year, that we should do it. Alderman Panus explained that he feels that three zeros really make it look like we tried to help people out. Alderman Witte explained that we have an aging community, and seniors are pinching pennies because they are on Social Security. She explained that she hears a lot of them complain and she understands, and she sees it at the food pantry every week.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that we don't want to go back to the mistakes of 1990 to 2002 and have zeros for 12 years. Alderman Crawford explained that next year instead of one percent, we will have to raise two or three percent. He explained that he is okay with zero for this year, but it will be more for next year. Mayor Aiello explained that he will ask on the call tomorrow if there is a deferral on the mandates by the DEC, and that it may account for \$250,000 in the sewer fund that does not need to be paid this year. He explained that this could help as well.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if there were any other budget related questions. He explained that he would like to leave the meeting with a general consensus that we will pass the budget next Tuesday, because we don't want to cut it close.

Mayor Aiello explained that he would like to see a special meeting to adopt the budget.

Mayor Aiello explained that over the past several years, the Department of Public Works has been changing a lot of valves because of breaks. He explained that we did have a few this year but if we have another year with more than thirty days below zero, we will probably see more. HE explained that 95 percent of our employees are doing a good job, He explained that he is very proud of Department Heads for putting in this effort, and realizing the position we are in and stepping up to the plate to put together a good budget. He explained that we may not have everything, and may not have all the cuts that we are interested in, but this is a doable budget and we can move forward.

Alderman Witte asked if meetings can be reduced to twice in April, as once the budget is done that is the most important thing, Alderman Gonzalez responded that is fine, and that we can investigate the possibility of an online meeting to try it. Mayor Aiello explained that "Go To Meeting" is set up in the conference room, and everyone can be put up on the screen to see everybody. HE explained that if it works out, it can be done with everyone who has the capability.

Alderman Gonzalez asked if the app can be downloaded on an iPhone. Alderman Dougherty explained that he has spoken with Alderman Crawford about Google Hangouts, which is what was used several years ago, and testing out Skype. Alderman Witte explained that a lot of kids are having success on Zoom, and Alderman Gonzalez explained that they use Microsoft Teams where he works, but that it is through Office 365, which the City doesn't have.

Alderman Crawford explained that what has been happening with Zoom, that creates issues, is that students that use it for classes put out the secret password on the web and inappropriate people can login to it and do inappropriate things. Mayor Aiello explained that it poses an interesting question, that if we meet this way, will we let the public attend? Alderman Gonzalez asked if it is open under the Executive Order for the Open Meetings Law. Alderman Crawford explained that we should speak with the IT department to determine if the public is able to tune in, if we can prevent inappropriate things from happening.

Mayor Aiello explained that he has received the request to livestream all meetings. Alderman Gonzalez explained that he believes that the cost for this is around \$10,000, and Mayor Aiello explained that we can look into this in the future.

The tentative April meetings were determined to be April 7th to pass the budget, April 14th for a regular meeting and April 28th for a virtual meeting,

Alderman Crawford explained that he had spoken with Mr. DiCerbo regarding the property tax late fees that were discussed at the last meeting, and Mr. DiCerbo and Mr. Piechota did some research regarding helping taxpayers with their cash flows during this ongoing crisis. He explained that when Mayor Carucci was in office, there was a sixty day period to pay taxes without additional fees rather than thirty days. He explained that taxpayers currently only have thirty days to pay their property taxes without a penalty. He suggests that the City extend the time frame to sixty days without a penalty, but that after the sixty days, a 2% penalty incurs for nonpayment. He explained that typically there is a 1% late fee after thirty days.

Alderman Crawford explained that he would be in favor of this, and that it would really be revenue neutral since about 60% of taxes are paid from escrow and are paid immediately after bills are received. He explained that this would mean that there would not be a lot of impact on tax flows. He noted that the City may potentially see a benefit from the 2% penalty that would be effective after the sixty day period.

Alderman Dougherty asked how escrow works if people are not paying mortgages for two or three months. Alderman Crawford explained that he thinks that it would make sense that banks still have to pay.

Mayor Aiello explained that we could do this. He explained that the Council could advertise that they are holding a special meeting next week, and include resolutions for the budget and to extend the payment period without penalty for property taxes. He explained that this will give everyone a week to think about the option that Alderman Crawford is proposing. He noted that Mr. DiCerbo will also be present if the Council has any additional questions at the special meeting.

Mayor Aiello asked if a resolution is necessary regarding water and sewer rates even if rates are not being changed, and Ms. Taylor responded that it would not be. Alderman Crawford explained that Mr. DiCerbo did indicate that it would take a Council resolution to extend the payment period.

Mayor Aiello explained that the Council may want to discuss late fees on water bills as well. He suggested possibly allowing for a one month period with no late fee. Alderman Crawford asked what the situation is if the bills are not paid within one month, and Mayor Aiello explained that there is a ten percent fee. Mr. Ring explained that the ten percent is non recurring, so it is only paid on the month you are late. Alderman Crawford explained that making this fee compounding would encourage people to pay water bills.

Mayor Aiello explained that with not increasing water and sewer rates, it's better to leave late fees for water bills as is and take things on a case by case basis.

Chief Richardson explained that he is looking to replace the boiler at the Central Fire Station, which is the original 1978 boiler from the building. He explained that the Captains Office windows are kept open on the second floor in the winter because of the way that the heat runs, and the front office staff needs to wear jackets. He explained that the boiler is at the end of its life and is not energy efficient. He explained that he did get quotes four or five years ago, and at that time the cost was \$40,000 plus an additional \$5,000 for cost overrun and other possible issues that they may run into.

Mayor Aiello explained that the cement work for the Central Fire Station aprons in the front and back of the building can be patched and can wait until next year. Mr. Ring explained that the parapet on Fire Station 1 needs work done. He explained that he met with R.E. Kelley, a mason who has worked on the Manufacturers Hanover building and the wastewater treatment plant. He explained that they discussed just getting the structure safe, and the stabilization would cost around \$16,000. He explained that this would allow for brick to be taken away that is at risk of falling right now. He explained that it would most likely fall with the garage door opening, and at that time there would possibly be firefighters standing outside. He explained that this is a life safety issue.

Alderman Witte asked if this is the same man that did the netting at the Manufacturers Hanover, and Mr. Ring explained that it is the same company and same manager, Mayor AAiello explained that with the stabilization at Station 1, the boiler at Central Fire, and fixing the Times Square entrance at the City Building, the total cost is \$186,000. He explained that there is \$196,000 left in Contingency, and that would cover this. He explained that this leaves us with \$10,000.

Chief Rowley asked if a police car was discussed, and Mayor Aiello explained that we could look for money for one police car.

Mayor Aiello explained that the City is keeping track of all lost revenues and expenses, and will be submitting this to the County for the possibility of reimbursement from FEMA money related to the pandemic.

Alderman Gonzalez explained that he would be interested in having a work session to go through capital projects again and trying to figure something out. He suggested that everyone chew on this a bit, and the first committee night in May, a discussion could occur.

Chief Richardson explained that he is interested in entering into a Mutual Aid Agreement with the City of Bradford. He explained that he would like to do this proactively, as there are

currently 16 positive cases in the City of Buffalo Fire Department, He explained that long term, if he loses half of the shift how can they protect residents? He explained that there is currently a County Mutual Aid Agreement, but there is not one with the City of Bradford and he would like to discuss this because of the situation does get dire, it would be in place if we need to pull staff or equipment from each other. He explained that this would make sure that everyone is on a united front, and that he has been discussing this with the Mayors and City Attorneys.

Alderman Witte asked if it helps that Olean General Hospital and Bradford Regional Medical Center are under the same umbrella, and Chief Richardson responded that it does not. He explained that this gives us another tool in the toolbox. He explained that from an emergency services standpoint, all bets are on the table.

Mayor Aiello asked if the City would be able to bill insurance companies with this agreement, and Chief Rowley explained that if we have the agreement we are able to recuperate costs. Alderman Gonzalez asked if this would create a union issue, and Chief Richardson responded that it would not

Mayor Aiello explained that this will be brought to the Council as a resolution to be passed.

4. Committee Reports

None

5. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Alderman Gonzalez, seconded by Alderman Witte. Voice vote, ayes all. Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at approximately 7:00 p.m.