



MINUTES OF CAUCUS

Monday, August 30, 2023

The Common Council was convened at 5:36 PM in the Council Chambers on the Second Floor of City Hall, 24 Eagle Street, and was called to order by President Pro Tempore Kimbrough. It livestreamed on YouTube and Facebook.

Members Present: Anane, Clarke, Farrell, Flynn, Hoey, Johnson, Keegan, Kimbrough, Love, Robinson, Romero, and Zamer

Staff Present: Shaniqua Jackson, Jake Eisland, Bryan Jimenez, Max Thierry, and Juliette Geraghty

Invitee(s):

- Craig Waltz Jr (Chair of the Commission on Municipal Internet Service)
- Martin Robinson (Member of the Commission on Municipal Internet Service)

Discussion/Questions:

- The agenda for the September 7, 2023 regular meeting was discussed.
- President Pro Tempore Kimbrough called Commission on Municipal Internet Service Chair Craig Waltz Jr and Commission Member Martin Robinson up to speak.
- Craig Waltz Jr provided an overview of the Final Report on the Feasibility of Municipal Internet Broadband Internet Services for the City of Albany.
- Martin Robinson and Craig Waltz Jr discussed the commission's aim to offer cost-effective solutions for municipal internet and the recommendations provided.
- Council Member Keegan spoke on federal guidelines for broadband funding and the appropriations going to, at the lowest level, counties. Council Member Keegan asked if the recommended actions would allow for the capacity that would be required for resolving the internet equity issues in underserved communities to which Craig Waltz Jr responded yes the system could have the capacity, though it would depend on the funding provided to the program.
- Council Member Flynn asked who drafted the report to which Craig Waltz Jr responded that it was a collaborative effort.
- Council Member Robinson asked what the cost would be for implementation of the Municipal Internet recommendations to which Martin Robinson responded that it depends on the final implementation desired and contracts negotiated.
- Council Member Robinson asked about building system capacity over time to which Craig Waltz Jr responded that that would be the best approach and described the process the commission recommends.
- Council Member Anane thanked the Commission on Municipal Internet Service for their work in developing a plan for providing internet access to city residents. Council Member Anane also spoke on his hope for the provision of free internet to City of Albany residents.
- Council Member Anane asked what the next steps are for pursuing implementation of the municipal internet service to which Craig Waltz Jr responded.

- Council Member Anane spoke about states receiving federal funding for broadband expansion and Craig Waltz Jr elaborated on it.
- Council Member Farrell thanked the Commission on Municipal Internet Service for the work they've done in putting the report together.
- President Pro Tempore Kimbrough thanked Council Member Anane for his work with the commission.
- Council Member Zamer discussed there being a community organization gathering at City Beer Hall that would be occurring after the caucus/work session.
- Council Member Romero discussed an event by Capital District Latinos honoring the lives lost by overdose.

There being no further business, the President Pro Tempore called for a motion to adjourn. Council Member Flynn moved to adjourn, seconded by Council Member Anane, and the caucus/work session was adjourned at 6:30 PM.

Link to meeting recording:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pTRa7K3KRgE>

Respectfully submitted,
Bryan Jimenez
Senior Legislative Aide