

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL**

June 28, 2021

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President John Mootooveren at 5:30 p.m. by Webex Teleconference.

Mr. Mootooveren asked Reverend Ronald Hunt to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called on Council Member Carmel Patrick to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council Members: Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, and John Mootooveren.

Also Present – City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Corporation Counsel Andrew Koldin, and Mayor Gary R. McCarthy.

At this point, Mr. Mootooveren asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item seventeen out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2021-130 A Resolution Honoring the 25th Anniversary of C.O.C.O.A. House

The resolution was moved by Ms. Patrick and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by William Rivas, the Chief Executive Director of C.O.C.O.A. House. He thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding Accepting Ownership of Barrett Village Lane

Mr. Mootooveren invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing Number One to come forward:

P.D. Voorhis – an email was sent that stated that Barrett Street should belong to investors and their management partners.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Public Hearing Number One to be closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 14, 2021, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Porterfield seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From David Giacalone and Emmanuel Maillet, and email regarding further safety recommendations for Stop Signs that were erected in the Stockade neighborhood.

From P.D. Voorhis, an email explaining her current situation of needing to move and missing the last City Council broadcast regarding City Hall re-opening. She also stated that Barrett Street should belong to investors and their management partners and she was shocked to find out that being a resident of the City does not automatically give you membership to the Muni Golf Course.

Petitions:

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. Mootooveren invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk:

Seeing no speakers to come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Mootooveren made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda, and the motion was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2021-10Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-131Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-132Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-133Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-134Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-135Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-136Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-137Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-138Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-139Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-140Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-141Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-142Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-143Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-144Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-145Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-146Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-147Adopted Unanimously

2021-148 A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Enter into Revocable License Agreement with 430 Franklin, LLC for Erection and Maintenance of a Ramp in the City's Right of Way

The motion was moved by Ms. Patrick and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

4:0:1

Voting AYE: Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Patrick, Mr. Polimeni and Mr. Mootooveren

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Mootooveren directed all who wished to discuss any items for City Business to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk.

Seeing no speakers come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Privilege of the Floor to be closed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas – Stated that with the 4th of July weekend ahead, she asked that residents be respectful and kind and not set off fireworks.

Marion Porterfield – Thanked her colleagues for supporting the cricket resolution and said it's a growing sport. She wished everyone a happy 4th of July, asked them to be safe, and reminded residents that fireworks are illegal in the City of Schenectady.

John Polimeni – Asked to add traffic enforcement and signage be added to the next Committee meeting agenda. He stated that he has received many noise complaints and asked that residents play their music at an appropriate level and to not shoot off fireworks.

Carmel Patrick – Announced that the library is a cooling station in the City of Schenectady and that residents should be careful of how much time they and their pets are outside during this current heatwave.

Mayor McCarthy – Encouraged residents to stay hydrated and not overexert themselves in the hot weather. He then announced that with the expiration of the Governor's Executive Orders, City Hall will be reopening on July 6th and will be going back to regular meetings. He encouraged everyone to use common sense and wash their hands and stay ahead of the virus.

John Mootooveren – Stated that this meeting is the last virtual meeting, and the next meeting will be in person on Tuesday, July 6, 2021, at 5:30 p.m. in City Hall. We will be taking necessary precautions and adhering to CDC guidelines.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Patrick. The meeting was adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samantha R. Mykoo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

**By Samantha R. Mykoo
Schenectady City Clerk**

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: John Mootooveren
Sent: Thursday, June 17, 2021 9:29 AM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Fw: striping needed at new Front St. Stop Signs

John Mootooveren
Schenectady City Council

From: Emmanuel Maillet [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, June 16, 2021 7:43 PM
To: davidgiacalone [REDACTED]
Cc: John Coluccio <JColuccio@schenectadyny.gov>; Paul Lafond <PLafond@schenectadyny.gov>; Suzanne Unger [REDACTED] Matt Stromberg [REDACTED] Lawrence Schmidt [REDACTED] Carmel Patrick <CPatrick@schenectadyny.gov>; Karen ZalewskiWildzunas <kzalewskiwildzunas@schenectadyny.gov>; John Mootooveren <JMootooveren@schenectadyny.gov>
Subject: Re: striping needed at new Front St. Stop Signs

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All,

I would like to echo David's recommendations and hope that you will be able to implement them shortly.

We live at 25 Front St near the intersection of Front & Church. The installation of the new stop signs was really welcome. The stop signs have made this intersection a lot safer, and have considerably reduced speeding on the stretch of Front St between Church St and Lawrence Circle. However, many drivers still seem confused about where to stop, or miss the stop completely (especially going East). In addition, there is no defined location to safely cross Front Street near this intersection.

I hope you will consider the recommendations brought up by David to further improve the safety of this area.

Best regards,
Emmanuel Maillet

On Wed, Jun 16, 2021 at 9:59 AM davidgiacalone [REDACTED] wrote:
Hello, again, Mr. Coluccio [John] and Mr. LaFond [Paul]:

I have not received a reply from you in the four weeks since I sent the email below, and the requested actions have not taken place. Please let me know your plans for this intersection.

I hope that some of the copied Stockade residents knowledgeable about the location of the two stop signs will let you know their opinions.

thanks again for your consideration,
David

Please let me know

Begin forwarded message:

From: davidgiacalone [REDACTED]
Subject: striping needed at new Front St. Stop Signs
Date: May 18, 2021 at 3:07:53 PM EDT
To: John Coluccio <jcoluccio@schenectadyny.gov>, Paul Lafond <plafond@schenectadyny.gov>
Cc: Suzanne Unger [REDACTED] Matt Stromberg [REDACTED]
Lawrence Schmidt [REDACTED] Emmanuel Maillet [REDACTED]

Mr. Coluccio [John] and Mr. Lafond [Paul]:

Thank you for erecting much-needed stop signs at the T-intersection of Front St. and N. Church St. in the Stockade. If you are all ready planning on doing the recommendations below, thanks again, and please expedite the plans. If not already in the works, I hope you will agree with my recommendations and make them happen soon.

Below are pictures of the three Stop Signs at Church and Front Streets. After just several minutes chatting with a neighbor at Church and Front on Sunday, and passing by daily on foot coming from my home one block away, I make the following suggestions:

1] *NE Corner*. Many of the vehicles coming from Lawrence Circle west on Front St. are ignoring the stop sign completely (many are rumored to be speeding up Front Street after leaving the Casino). Some of the scofflaws also fail to come to a complete stop at Lawrence Circle and are going quite fast, or do stop and are used to speeding up on that long stretch of road to Church Street.

- Given the novelty of a stop sign at the NE corner of Front and Church, I recommend that a Stop Ahead sign be installed on that stretch as is done for the Stop Sign at Lawrence Circle.
- More important, there needs to be at a minimum a thick white stripe at or just before the stop sign to get the driver's attention, and to indicate where a vehicle should stop. The word Stop on the pavement might also be advisable. [The garage door and apron at that location is attached to 23 Front St., where Rev. Matthew Stromberg of St. George's Episcopal Church resides with his family. Rev. Matt may have useful input on the needs at that location.]
- In addition, crosswalk markings at that location should slow down drivers and help pedestrians cross safely. As no parking is allowed at that location, the striping will not eliminate parking spaces.



2] *SW Corner*: Drivers coming east on Front Street do not seem to know where to stop for the new stop sign on the SW Corner of the intersection. As show in the photo below, a sheriff's K-9 vehicle that happened to come by while I was snapping photos stopped well past the Stop Sign.

- This suggests that, again at a minimum, a broad white strip indicating where to stop is needed at that location; lettering reading "Stop" on the pavement might also be used.
- Cross walk striping may not be needed there (and would eliminate parking spots), if such markings are added at the location of the NE Corner sign.
- There is often a vehicle parked too close to the existing crosswalk markings on Church St, where a white car is parked in the photos. A vehicle in that spot obstructs the view of traffic on N. Church St. The spot needs to have its own No Parking Sign, and strict enforcement of the distance requirements.





The last photo shows the SE corner of Church and Front. Refreshing the white crosswalk striping and added th stopping line has greatly helped to control traffic coming north on N. Church St., and prevening unlawful parking too close to the Stop Sign and crosswalk.

Thank you for considering these recommendations. I urge quick action to make the new stop signs more effective.

David Giacalone

p.s. At the bottom of this email I have placed the two section of V&T Law related to stopping at stop signs.



Sec. 1172. Stop Signs

(a) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop at a clearly marked stop line, but if none, then shall stop before entering the crosswalk on the near side of the intersection, or in the event there is no crosswalk, at the point nearest the intersecting roadway where the driver has a view of the approaching traffic on the intersecting roadway before entering the intersection and the right to proceed shall be subject to the provisions of section eleven hundred forty-two.

[Sec. 1142.](#) Vehicle Entering Stop Intersection

(a) Except when directed to proceed by a police officer, every driver of a vehicle approaching a stop sign shall stop as required by section eleven hundred seventy-two and after having stopped shall yield the right of way to any vehicle which has entered the intersection from another highway or which is approaching so closely on said highway as to constitute an immediate hazard during the time when such driver is moving across or within the intersection.

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: PD Ironclad [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, June 28, 2021 9:16 AM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Miscellaneous To All Council Members and Corporation Council

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June 28, 2021

As some of you may know, I am being forced to move again because of month to month regulations. It is going to be very costly and I am in no way to do it myself any more. I will be spending time to change this undesirable regulation that is not in the public interest.

In the meantime, I notice that OSM On Demand does not facilitate Committee Meetings anymore, therefore I have missed your discussion of returning to public meetings instead of virtual. I also notice that none of the six pages on the agenda for June 28, 2021 addresses any discussion on the subject.

Regarding Barrett St., I still have the Daily Gazette article that names all those investors involved. I also lived in that neighborhood the entire time it took to construct the project, including the history of the demise of Luigis' and Missionary St. I feel strongly that the proposal of a city owned street at that project should belong to the investors and their management partners.

I have been a resident of Schenectady since 1998 (library card date) and am shocked to find that I assumed that all residents were members of the Muni Golf Course - au contraire. It costs \$1,000/year to be a member plus fees for actually playing, and it is only a golf course. A little different at The Stadium and Mohawk Country Club.

Regards,

P. D. Voorhis