

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

August 8, 2022

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Marion Porterfield at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Porterfield took a moment of silence and meditation before the formal start of the meeting.

Ms. Porterfield then called on the President of the Stockade Neighborhood Association, Ms. Susan Unger, 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: John Mootooveren, Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield.

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

At this point, Ms. Porterfield asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item seventeen out of order. There were no objections

Resolution No. 2022-186 A Resolution Honoring Harlem Cultural Fest as Part of Music Haven Concert Series

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

The resolution was accepted by Mona Golub. She thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and invited the public to attend the Music Haven Concert Series.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Amending the Code of the City Ordinance 87.6 Residency Requirements

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

P. D. Voorhis – Spoke about employees that worked in various departments that already do not reside in the City and an employee that was fired for not living in the City and the unfairness of it all.

Joe Anderson – President of Local 1037 AFSCME spoke in favor of opening the residency requirement; it will help fill vacancies. We need more help.

Suzanne Unger – President of the Stockade Neighborhood Association spoke in support of the change and suggested removing the residency requirement entirely. She said that the City is woefully understaffed and will not be able to provide adequate services, which will ultimately result in being unable to attract new residents and investments.

Donna Doll – Secretary of the Stockade Neighborhood Association stated that the City has a shortage of manpower, the expansion will help the City.

Richard Unger – Spoke in support of the amendment and noted that the expansion of the residency requirements is a step in the right direction toward employee support. He added that a bigger pool would attract more fish.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared Public Hearing Number One, to be closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 25, 2022, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Farley seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From Matt Nelligan, Chairman of the City of Schenectady Republican Party, a letter addressed to the Mayor and City Council requesting the process for having a mural painted on the City's Street.

Petitions:

A petition submitted by All of Us, with additional signatures in favor of the Black Lives Matter Mural on Jay Street because it symbolizes equity, equality, and justice for all.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

P. D. Voorhis – Expressed that the ceremonial resolution was a slap in the face because it took longer than 3 minutes. She then applauded Mr. Seber for his work with the legislative items from the Police Department but noted the difficulty in understanding it all. It was too data driven.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

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

Ms. Porterfield made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda, the motion was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Ms. Patrick.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2022-07Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-187.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-188.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-189.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-190.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-191.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-192.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-193.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-194.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-195.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-196.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-197.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-198.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-199.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-200.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-201.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-CS-18.....Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

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

Daniel Castillo – Stated that he dislikes the sign on City Hall’s door requesting identification. Then described an incident involving the arrest of a citizen seeking to obtain public services. This was a violation toward someone under the color of law and a violation of the U.S. Code. He asks that the sign be removed because it is a violation of the Constitution.

Diablo Montelongo – Questioned who authorized the Black Lives Matter (BLM) political sign to be created. It is not a mural, it is graffiti. It was done by petition and the Republican Party should have the opportunity to petition to have their own political sign.

P.D. Voorhis – Asked for signage around the electric car charging stations to say “No parking, except when charging”. Then spoke about construction on Albany Street by the AIK property group and stated that it is like a wall against a war zone.

Aubrey Corrigan – Communicated issues with landlords extorting their tenants and the hardships of tenants living with limited means.

Fran Lehmon – Expressed the difficulties he is having with his landlord increasing his rent and sought help to control the rental increase.

Ottavio Lopiccolo – Retired public-school teacher and U.S. Veteran, presented several ideas on how to use the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds. **see notes submitted.*

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor to be closed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Carl Williams – Thanked everyone for coming out and speaking. Then spoke about the residency requirement and how it has been plainly outlined to show help is needed. He thanked City workers for maintaining their work with reduced ranks; we are looking to expand our search. He addressed the rent control issues and added that Council is looking to hold town hall meetings to take more information.

Doreen Ditoro – Stated that the trash on Route 7 and 890 corridors is not being maintained well by the New York State Department of Transportation. It is filled with trash and grass that is four feet tall. She asked her fellow Council Members to write a letter to NYS DOT requesting they keep a regular maintenance schedule for Schenectady.

Mayor McCarthy – Announced that the National Night Out was postponed one night due to the weather and will be held at the Bellevue Little League on Wednesday. He then cautioned against the heat and asked that everyone check-in with their neighbors that are senior citizens, stay hydrated, and use the cooling stations set up by the County.

Marion Porterfield – Announced the additional 3 weeks of the City of Schenectady Common Unity Cup. August 16, 2022, at Schenectady High School, August 23, 2022, at Central Park, and August 30, 2022, at Mont Pleasant Middle School; it's open to the public, free and fun. She then announced that Community Father's will be hosting an event outside of City Hall on Saturday, August 13, 2022, outside of City Hall. Music Haven has a series in Central Park. She stated that there is lots to do in our City and encouraged everyone to go out and have fun.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Farley and seconded by Ms. Patrick. The meeting was adjourned at 8:02 p.m.

A true record



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

PRESENTATION TO the SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL (Final Draft)

8 August, 2022. By Ottavio Lo Piccolo, Cellular 518-421-6807
email ottaviolopiccolo5@gmail.com

I live on Kings Ave
I'm a retired pub. school
teacher and ret. US VOT.

SUBJECT

I have ~~2~~ ² very important topics to present to you, ~~so please listen carefully.~~

First, the City must address the persistent trash problem in some areas in the City. As a minimum, garbage, ^{bins} recycle bins and No-Littering Signs should be deployed in the filthiest places in the downtown area, which are:

State Street- starting at Brandywine Avenue up to 1/4 mile toward Albany,
McClellan Street- starting on ^{UNION STREET} Eastern Avenue all the way to State Street, and
Albany Street, especially the area around and in front of Popeye Fried Chicken,
~~store.~~

Second, extend the time to submit ARPA applications, since, according to a Daily Gazette article of August 2nd of this year, you still have 36 million of the Covid funds unallocated/not spent. ~~The Gazette declared: "It's unclear when exactly lawmakers will allocate the funds."~~ So, I too would like to fill out an ARPA application, that is why you need to extend the time for it, so that others like me, can have a say on how to spend this money to improve our city.

~~ARPA~~
~~Third, my proposal will aim to make the city cleaner and more environmentally sustainable, and the first thing that must be addressed is the persistent trash problem at Saint Luke's Church and other areas in the City. As a minimum, the city must deploy garbage, recycle bins and No-Littering Signs in the filthiest places in the downtown area, then communities must be involved and made responsible to achieve the two goals of cleanliness and sustainability.~~

Now, I understand that you've been busy rebuilding the downtown business district and fixed many roads, and I commend you for it; you've done a great job, however, some of our neighborhoods- ~~but~~ especially the ones I mentioned- have been ~~completely~~ neglected.

That is why, the City must quickly fix this problem, which shouldn't be an issue since the city has received 54 million Covid relief money to spend.

Financial

SP

In addition to the 3 goals I just mentioned, the City must also consider achieving these 15 individual projects that will improve the city overall.

1. Install a rainwater system on Kingston Avenue, starting at McClellan Street down to Lancaster Street, and also, ^{install a drain near} ~~on~~ Lancaster Street, ^{install drainage} ~~install~~ directly across Zoller Elementary and repaving it ^{and repave} (Lancaster Street).
2. Repave all the parking areas of Sheridan Plaza on Gerling Street.
3. Reward and/or recognize those business and public entities who ^{are} ~~are~~ clean, earth-friendly; they recycle (single-stream, separate paper/cardboard to avoid contamination, separate/recycle redeemable bottles/cans, ^{and} are sustainable (use natural/biodegradable materials/products, instead of single-use plastic items like straws, cups, dishes, etc.) ^{of outdoor areas}
4. Power all City buildings with renewable energy sources.
5. Install electric charge stations throughout the city.
6. Change the city auto vehicle fleet to electric ones.
7. Divest any city investments from fossil fuel ~~type to~~ ^{and switch} ~~to~~ renewable/sustainable investment ^{types} ~~types~~ ^{on city curbs}
8. Install new rainwater drain covers that will prevent plastic and other materials from reaching natural bodies of water. Plastic waste is filling our oceans and contaminating the soil and water sources. ^{fish}
9. Hire environmental inspectors who will clean the City, educate/involve/engage ^{and} the public, business, schools/students, etc. ^{and help} ~~on how to~~ keep the city clean/sustainable and earth friendly. ^{them}
10. Build a new ^{bigger/better} recycling plant and/or update the existing one.
11. Mandate that all businesses and public entities recycle and follow environmental standards/mandated by local/state and national gov'ts.
12. Gradually ban the use/sale of single-use plastic items like straws, cups, lids, dishes, silverware and Styrofoam products too.
13. Plant trees throughout the city.
14. Find ways to protect and save our water sources/supplies for the near/long future.

~~If you're interested, I will email this message to you and send you a list of sources, both written and videos on recycling, and solutions to make our living environment earth friendly and sustainable.~~

I thank you for listening, and I hope you'll soon take corrective actions to improve the trash and environmental issues ~~plaguing~~ our city.

in