

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

October 11, 2022

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

Ms. Porterfield asked Reverend Jeremiah Bruce Lennox of the Nemeton of the Ways to offer the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Fire Chief Don Mareno, 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 Mootoveren, 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 Koldin, Esq.

Absent: none.

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

Resolution No. 2022-233 A Resolution Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

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

The resolution was accepted by members of the Schenectady Fire Department's Cancer Foundation. They thanked the Mayor and Council for their past and future support.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding the 2021 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

See comments on file in the Office of Development.

2. Regarding the 2023 Budget

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

Mabel Leon – Noted that for the first time she has seen a line item in the police budget for a mental health person. She looks forward to seeing this built upon in the future; it's a very good beginning. She also communicated that there is also a line item for anti-racism training for the police, which is another good beginning but also will need to be built upon. She added that there should be additional focus on the sewage treatment plant in the Stockade.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2022, Council Meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk. Mr. Mootoveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From David Long, a religious newsletter which mentioned the conflicts between elected officials and a conversation he had with an elected official who said he will not be seeking re-election.

From Rev. Sara Baron, an online submittal stating that racism does exist and that the most skilled at identifying it are people of color.

Petitions:

None.

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:

Seeing no 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 Ms. Patrick and seconded by Mr. Farley.

Consent Agenda

Resolution No. 2022-233 Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2022-234 Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2022-235 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.

Michael Zippieri – Expressed his disappointment and disgust at certain Council Members at the September 26th Council Meeting. These meetings were not the appropriate venue for racist accusations or attacks. Apologies are owed to each other and to the residents of this City.

Wayne Harper – Stated that he is loud on the phone with city employees because of difficulties hearing and is disappointed when they hang up on him. He called the Fire Department to report a burn pit at a neighboring property. He was told he needed to call when it was actively burning. He said he did get a bit louder because they would not be proactive and was hung-up upon. He called again and spoke to the Chief who had an attitude and told him that he is not allowed to disrespect his employees. Mr. Harper states that he then hung-up on the chief.

Nandalall Hariraj – Owner of an auto-repair shop, expressed his need for assistance due to harassment by a former policeman who consistently files false reports against him and his business. He has cameras all around his business and could go back to the recording to disprove all the complaints.

Anne-Marie Serre – Remarkd on the newspaper articles she’s read concerning the conflicts between Council. She added that we are more divided and pitted against each other nationally than ever before and it is impossible to get anything done in this climate of constant hostility. She then told a story regarding implicit bias and added that training on this matter would be an opportunity to grow, learn, collaborate more effectively with each other, and then be able to deliver tangible results to the constituents. She recommended looking up the Harvard IAT test on implicit bias.

Dean Mirabito – Quoted a book titled “Stamped from the Beginning” by Ibram X. Kendi, “The only way to undo racism is to consistently identify, describe it, then dismantle it.” Making a claim of not being racist is not the same as being anti-racist. Racism has a long history in our Country, it is ingrained in our cultural and emotional DNA. Being informed by someone that you are being racist presents an opportunity for self-reflection, but not a reason to claim that someone you disagree with is “playing the race card” when they express their feelings and ideas based on their lived experiences. That is an attempt to shut the other person down while at the same time indicating your reluctance to work towards being an anti-racist.

Ellie Pepper – Commented on recent conversations about racism and pointed out that it is important for senior Council Members to mentor less experienced Council Members. Instead, the opposite is happening with the public name calling and criticism. She is pleased to hear that the Council will engage in implicit bias training, it is a good first step, but not the final step. There is no finish line here, it is an ongoing practice towards becoming anti-racist.

Gordon Hendrick – Spoke on behalf of the skateboarders in the Stockade, they condemn the vandalism of Lawrence, the statue in the Stockade.

Mabel Leon – Relayed her emotions upon reading an article in the Gazette about Council Members disparaging other Council Members of Color. This is a line not to be crossed. Our Council Members are a diverse group representing a diverse community. We are living in a very polarized time. The Republican Party did a great disservice to our community when they made an outrageous attack on the group, Black Lives Matter. There were falsehoods in their accusations, and it was really an effort to divide our community along racial lines. She is hopeful

that Council can work as a model by knowing there are things that should not be said and lines that must not be crossed. Diversity is a strength.

Shawn Young – Explained that there has been much division and it has been uncomfortable to watch. Someone said that people are tired of hearing about racism, but people are also tired of dealing with racism in our community. It is an issue that will continue to materialize amongst us if ignored. He recounted the election last year where there was a slate of candidates that the City has never before seen. This was the first time a group of people from the Black, Indigenous, and people of color (BIPOC) community was ever elected. He then explains that being the firsts, they will encounter difficulties and criticism. You are the pioneers that the City needs, you are working your hardest to make sure that everyone in this City is represented and has a voice. He looks forward to this entire body working together to make our City successful.

Justin Chaires – He listened to the City Council meeting two weeks ago and heard that there is a need for growth from sitting Council Members. There were divisive moments that held a whole lot of nothing. He asked the Council to look past themselves, look past their ambitions political or otherwise, look past where they grew up or stood in life, and understand that the position they hold means so much more than they realize. This is the most diverse Council the City of Schenectady has ever seen, which means this Council has the ability to represent everyone in a manner it has never done before.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

John Mootoveren – Announced the scheduled budget hearings for the coming week and asked that any further comments regarding the budget be sent to the City Clerk.

Carl Williams – Stated that he appreciated everyone's comments and perspectives on the articles that were printed in the Gazette. He will use it as fuel to make sure he is learning and growing in every aspect and facet of this job. He then made several announcements. First, he asked that neighbors be cognizant of parking, especially during the winter months. Second, Aladdin will be at Proctors until October 23rd to purchase tickets. Thirdly, the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation is holding their Spooktacular event on Saturday, he hopes everyone can make it. Lastly, the Town Hall is not forgotten, he will be adding it to an upcoming legislative cycle.

Mayor McCarthy – Thanked everyone for attending this evening. Then announced that the Francis Avenue Bridge was reopened today after being closed since March. The closure allowed for the construction to take place over a shorter period of time and was most cost effective.

Marion Porterfield – Thanked everyone for attending and voicing their opinions this evening. She then apologized to everyone for what they've seen in the newspaper and witnessed in this chamber. The Council has agreed to go have anti-racism training, we all come with bias and the first step is recognizing and admitting that we do have a bias and then addressing the problem. She asked Council to move past this rather than spiral downward so that they are all able to do the work they were elected to do.

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. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 7:52 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "S" and "M".

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

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: John Mootoveren
Sent: Saturday, October 01, 2022 9:19 PM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Fwd: RACE-BAITING CREATES CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY, AND DIVISIONS IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY — The public should be able to expect a sense of decorum from our elected officials at Schenectady City Council meetings — NOT accusations of racism made by newly ele...

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: David Long [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, October 1, 2022 11:03 AM
To: David Long <davelong104@gmail.com>
Cc: Omar Sterling McGill for Schenectady County <omarforschenectady@gmail.com>; Donna J. Moore [REDACTED]; Nicole Harris [REDACTED]; Richard Parsons [REDACTED]; Miki Conn [REDACTED]; Rev. Hamilton [REDACTED]; Richard Harris [REDACTED]; STEVEN MCCOY [REDACTED]; kevinhourigan [REDACTED]; Marion Porterfield <MPorterfield@schenectadyny.gov>; John Mootoveren <JMootoveren@schenectadyny.gov>; [REDACTED]; Ashley Kahler [REDACTED]; McLeanford [REDACTED]; Karen Cummings [REDACTED]; David & Tammy Mills [REDACTED]; Matt Stromberg [REDACTED]; Lyn Gordon [REDACTED]; Daniel Carlson [REDACTED]; Heather Scribner [REDACTED]; James Gonda [REDACTED]; Barbara Mancuso [REDACTED]; Bill Ward [REDACTED]; Linda Ward [REDACTED]; Matias, Pastor [REDACTED]; Gino & Eneri [REDACTED]; Fernando [REDACTED]; Shin, Win [REDACTED]; Campise, Elder George [REDACTED]; Anthony [REDACTED]; Pastor George Yurick [REDACTED]; Tom Johnson [REDACTED]; Pastor_Frank [REDACTED]; Richard Soedler [REDACTED]; Richard Scheenstra [REDACTED]; Richard Frank [REDACTED]; Seeds of Abraham Rabbi Steve Feldman [REDACTED]; Betters, Stan [REDACTED]; Davis, Steve [REDACTED]; Omega [REDACTED]; Reeves [REDACTED]; Matt Whelan [REDACTED]; Craig Cardinal [REDACTED]; Dave KING pastor [REDACTED]; Joseph Mastroianni [REDACTED]; Gary McCarthy [REDACTED]; <GMcCarthy@schenectadyny.gov>

Subject: RACE-BAITING CREATES CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY, AND DIVISIONS IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY — The public should be able to expect a sense of decorum from our elected officials at Schenectady City Council meetings — NOT accusations of racism made by newly elected ...

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Greetings!

The public should be able to expect a sense of decorum from our elected officials at Schenectady City Council meetings — NOT accusations of racism made by newly elected and seasoned councilors... Schenectady City Councilor John Polimeni and I have had a number of great conversations. John has NEVER shown any signs of racism towards me or disdain for me as a registered Conservative (Moderate)... In fact, John Polimeni visited our home while canvassing for Democratic candidates. I invited him inside, and we sat down together and discussed politics and religion (lol, but proper). I've studied many religions of the world and was a double major in psychology and religious education. For the last fourteen years, I've been writing Christian apologetics to try and help people heal and become more unified in purpose and thought (1 John 3:15; 1 Corinthians 1:10; Matthew 5:43-48; 1 John 1:8-10; 1 Corinthians 1:26-29; 2 Corinthians 5:11-21)... Exposing the truth requires discernment (EPHESIANS 5:10-11).

For the purpose of better community bipartisanship, in this post, I'm gonna discuss "Christian Identity" politics that seems to have created a divide in America between citizens and some denominations — especially among far-Left and far-Right-leaning people.

Public Servants must be willing to act professionally, be respectful of others' opinions — and must be willing to make concessions on a community's comprehensive plan without harboring hatred in their hearts, casting ignorant (misinformed) insults, and unfounded accusations.

Here is a HOLY BIBLE Scripture to consider...

1 John 3:15 • New Living Translation (NLT)

15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

I shared **The Message** below as a Comment on a Schenectady Republican Committee controversial Facebook post that EXPLOITED differences between Democrats, but they DELETED my comment. So, I reposted it on my main FB Profile here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0o97FJ4ae7UkxdNyW7GgSrS2By5JnokCexxzVrYKhYLd3cjxf6RkkUu276zi1cZq8l&id=100010238987320

RACE-BAITING CREATES CONFLICT, CONTROVERSY, AND DIVISIONS IN A CIVILIZED SOCIETY

I have always enjoyed John Polimeni's candor, and his honesty and practical approach as a Democrat who also believes in Christian Conservative values. Besides, John Polimeni told me that he does NOT plan to seek re-election. So, why was it important for a certain politician to try and exploit the differences between Democrats on the Schenectady City Council now that Schenectady as a whole seems to have calmed down — having weathered the storm?

WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO READ AND SEE DURING THE MID-TERM ELECTIONS SEASON is less

mudslinging from all political parties — no deception and propaganda — less finger-pointing — **NO race-baiting to try to DIVIDE & CONQUER to win votes** — and **MORE focus on each party's own campaign platform and promises.**

Recently, I had the opportunity to talk with New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara after years of a dispute over our trademark. **However, when we met at the Order of the Sons of Italy Festa, the topic of our trademark did not even come up in our conversation... I've reached out to Angelo for years... WE FINALLY MET, AND ANGELO SANTABARBARA AND I PUT THE PAST BEHIND US FOR THE SAKE OF OUR COMMUNITY.**

Angelo knows that I am a registered Conservative (Moderate) and that my fiancée is a registered Democrat... Angelo and I had a great conversation... **The point is that we believe we're AMERICANS first and foremost --- not polarized political drones doing Yoemen's work for the sake of party bosses and partisan politics.**

My late US military veteran parents were Catholic and Protestant and were married for 39 years — mom, Sheila E. Long, served in Frankfurt, Germany, and dad, David Johnson Long, Sr., served in Sicily, Italy — they NEVER discussed DOGMA ("AM god" backward) or doctrine in our home. **Instead, we were taught to LOVE GOD and EVERYONE equally.** Mom was the director of the City Mission Bible Club in the 1970s and 80s... She and our dad also owned and ran **Little Sprouts Daycare Center** and taught many of today's adults of Schenectady County.

***NOTE: The Lord DOES NOT have "favorite politicians" (Romans 2:11-16) --- and all have sinned and fall short of the Glory of God (Romans 3:20-23; 1 John 1:8-10) — please, please, please Google RULE 62.**

I've read a few articles about Michelle Ostrelch that I felt it necessary to go and research the facts for myself. I did not see "a conflict of interest" in Mrs. Ostrelch's choice of hire... **People, get rid of your evil "HIT LIST"!**

Anyway, before you respond please stop and first Google 1 TIMOTHY 2:8 • New Living Translation (NLT)... For God does not show favoritism... (Romans 2: 11-16) ... 16 And this is the message I proclaim—that the day is coming when God, through Christ Jesus, will judge everyone's secret life. (Romans 2 verse 16).

Jesus Christ NEVER spoke ill of the government and present administration of His time — and I think we ALL (including myself) need to try and do WWJD. The ELECTORATE wants to hear what is your PLATFORM and campaign PROMISES that you hopefully plan to fulfill if you are elected.

Wednesday, September 28, 2022, OUR DAILY BREAD Christian devotion was titled, "OUT OF THE HEART" — and the Holy Scripture was MATTHEW 15:12-20... Here was the theme Scripture verse: **"Out of the heart come evil thoughts—murder, adultery, sexual immorality, theft, false testimony, slander (Matthew 15:19).**

If you believe in God (Good Orderly Direction, or better yet the Creator who teaches us to LOVE OUR ENEMIES in [Matthew 5:43-48](#)), then why not stick to your own campaign platforms --- and let the ELECTORATE know what you plan to do on Day 1, if you and your political Party (left or right) candidates get elected.

THE HOLY BIBLE DOES NOT SAY THE PRESENT WORLD IS GOING TO BECOME "BETTER" OR "MORALLY RIGHT" (if you don't believe me, please read and internalize [Revelation 13:16-18](#); [Revelation 14:9-13](#), cf. [Revelation 20:4](#), [Revelation Chapters 9, 17, 18, 19](#), and [Revelation 20](#)).

JESUS NEVER SPOKE AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT... INSTEAD, CHRIST ONLY SPOKE AGAINST THOSE WHO WERE SELF-RIGHTEOUS WHILE HARBORING ENVY & HATE IN THEIR HEARTS...

Here's Wednesday, September 28, 2022, OUR DAILY BREAD Holy Scriptures for ALL of us to read and heed...

Matthew 15:12-20 • New Living Translation (NLT)

12 Then the disciples came to him and asked, "Do you realize you offended the Pharisees by what you just said?"

13 Jesus replied, "Every plant not planted by my heavenly Father will be uprooted, 14 so ignore them. They are blind guides leading the blind, and if one blind person guides another, they will both fall into a ditch."

15 Then Peter said to Jesus, "Explain to us the parable that says people aren't defiled by what they eat." 16 "Don't you understand yet?" Jesus asked.

17 "Anything you eat passes through the stomach and then goes into the sewer. 18 But the words you speak come from the heart—that's what defiles you.

19 For from the heart come evil thoughts, murder, adultery, all sexual immorality, theft, lying, and slander. 20 These are what defile you. Eating with unwashed hands will never defile you."

<https://odb.org/US/2022/09/28/out-of-the-heart>

Here is a HOLY BIBLE Scripture to consider...

1 John 3:15 • New Living Translation (NLT)

15 Anyone who hates another brother or sister is really a murderer at heart. And you know that murderers don't have eternal life within them.

I shared **The Message** below as a Comment on a **Schenectady Republican Committee** controversial Facebook post that **EXPLOITED** differences between Democrats, but they **DELETED** my comment. So, I reposted it on my main FB Profile here:

https://m.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=pfbid0o97FJ4ae7UkxdNyW7GgSrS2By5JnokCexxzVrYKhYLd3cjxf6RkkUu276zi1cZq8l&id=100010238987320

Therefore, let's come together as Americans, and Eat & Be Merry at least before going to the polls on November 8th. You'll find out the results "soon after", or later (if the election results are contested, LOL).

Finally, let's put aside our differences... Come out to the **NON-PARTISAN Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) Pasta & Pizza Event and Best-Made Pizza Contest on Saturday, October 22, 2022, from 12 Noon to 3:00 pm at 609 Draper Avenue, Rotterdam, NY 12306...**

If you want to BATTLE AND COMPETE join in THE PIZZA GAMES at the VFW Pasta & Pizza Event for a chance to win tons of prizes... Angelo Santabarbara is an Army Reserves veteran, and he and I are looking forward to clean, good fun without partisan politics on Saturday, October 22, 2022, in Rotterdam.

Alexandra Vellela, Schenectady County Legislators Eric Hess and Josh Cuomo, Joe Mastroianni, New York State Assemblyman Angelo Santabarbara, Schenectady County Legislator Richard Ruzzo, Tony Simone, and many other VIPs will be there in a **NON-PARTISAN** compacity to help people have fun --- **100% of the proceeds benefit VETERANS in the surrounding communities.**

* FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT <https://518BESTPIZZA.COM>

--

David J. Long Jr.,


Samanta R. Mykoo

From: noreply@civicplus.com
Sent: Tuesday, October 04, 2022 5:32 PM
To: Marion Porterfield; Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Online Form Submittal: City Council Privilege of the Floor Submission Form

City Council Privilege of the Floor Submission Form

First Name	Rev. Sara
Last Name	Baron
Address	[REDACTED]
City	Schenectady
State	NY
Zip Code	12308
Phone Number	<i>Field not completed.</i>
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Privilege of the Floor	CITY BUSINESS
Register to Speak during the Council Meeting	City Business - items not on the Council Agenda
Comments	<p>Thank you, to the Council, for your work on our behalf, and your continued attention to the needs of the city. The media has been reporting on struggles within the Council, and varied interpretations of what that struggle means. Not being within any of you, I can't speak to what motivates you, what frustrates you, or what intentions you bring to your work and interactions.</p> <p>I can, however, speak to the fact that racism exists. I can note that racism exists in our city. And I can note that studies say that the people most skilled at identifying racism are people of color and the people worst at identifying racism are white people.</p> <p>I'm a white person.</p> <p>So, I have to consciously take a step back when someone tells me there is a racial element to an interaction and I don't see it. I have to start with the assumption I'm missing something, even</p>

when it is in my own behavior. This is really hard. I'm not great at it. I get defensive fast, and I learn slowly. I err, I get ashamed, I want to lash out, and then I have to listen anyway. It is profoundly uncomfortable.

It is also imperative. We live in the United States. Given the history of our country, we know racism has had profound impact, and still does. Our society is awash in bias, biased policies, and mechanisms of harm for people of color. I don't want that to continue to be true. I want to live in a city, a state, a country, and a world where the full humanity of all people is seen and valued, and justice abounds. But the way to get from here to there is to see the problems that exist, talk about them, and change them. Which means we have to talk about racism.

And, for white people, I would recommend bringing a hermeneutics of suspicion to our own assumptions, and a willingness to listen to what people of color are saying.

Thanks for doing hard work. May it move us all towards justice.

Email not displaying correctly? [View it in your browser.](#)