

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
October 24, 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 asked Pastor Dennis Graham-Parker of Liberty Church to offer the invocation. Ms. Porterfield then called on Councilmember Carl Williams to lead the pledge of allegiance.

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

Present - Councilmembers: John Mootooveren, Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield.

Also Present - Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, Deputy City Clerk Ekram J. Phanisnaraine, and Corporation Counsel Andrew B. Koldin, Esq.

Absent: None.

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

**Resolution No. 2022-236 A Resolution Recognizing Rotary International World Polio Day.**

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

The resolution was accepted by the District Governor of Rotary District 7190 Denise DiNoto, District 7190 Polio Chair Doug Ford, Schenectady Rotary Club Polio Chair Judy Nocera, as well as other members of various Rotary clubs throughout Schenectady County. The District Governor thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and urged the importance of vaccinations in order to ensure the eradication of polio.

**Resolution No. 2022- 237 A Resolution Recognizing Pede Bros. for 55 Years of Business.**

The resolution was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by the Pede family. They thanked the Mayor and Council for recognizing their family.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 11, 2022 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Mootooveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

## COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### Official:

None.

### General:

From David Giacalone, an email requesting the amendment to the resolution regarding the appointment of Hayden Engert to the Planning Commission. There should be further discussion on this unique appointment.

### 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:

**Mary Ann Ruscitto** - Expressed her support of the appointment of Hayden Engert to the City of Schenectady Planning Commission. As knowing Engert for several years, she vouched for his passion to serve his community and willingness to learn. He is a kind, intelligent young man. She then thanked the Mayor for making the right decision.

**P.D. Voorhis** – Shared her opinions about the candidates for the planning commission and questioned who the new members will be replacing. Also noted some of her concerns regarding the stability of the planning commission as a whole.

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. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Farley.

#### Consent Agenda

Resolution No. 2022-236.....Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2022-237.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-238.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-239.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-240.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-241.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-242.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-243.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2022-244.....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.

**Claudia Cavanagh** - Stated that City Hall is the only seat of City government, and all discussions involving City business should only be conducted here. She urged the Council to cease plans of any town hall meetings that take place in an alternate location and suggested that a bus should be chartered to transport residents that are unable to find their own means of transportation to City meetings. Also expressed disagreement with any plans of mandatory diversity training for members of the Council, suggesting that it be optional instead.

**Wayne Harper** - Suggested that Council repeal requirement that speakers of the Privilege of the Floor address the Council chair directly. Also expressed concerns of social distancing practices during council meetings and reminded everyone that COVID-19 is still prevalent in the community. Harper then advised the Mayor that he treat every promotion within the City with the same importance and celebration as ones in departments such as Fire.

**Fran Lehman** - Expressed frustrations with his landlord raising his rent by 27%. Says he is one of many in the City struggling with rent increases, and urges the Council to enact change.

**Aubrey Corrigan** - Requested that rent stabilization regulations be set in place to protect current residents of the City, and recommended that Schenectady follow suit with neighboring towns that have already put these laws into place.

**Agnes John** - Voiced dissatisfaction with the police department and code enforcement with experiences attempting to remove a past tenant from her property, and expressed grievances with a current sewer issue that will not be covered by her existing homeowner

insurance. Asked the Mayor and Council for assistance from the City to have laborers assess the problem.

**Marva Isaacs** - Invited the Mayor and members of the Council to an awards dinner by the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association on November 12, 2022.

**Tom Kennedy** - Shed light on a recent school shooting that took place in St. Louis. Expressed gratitude for community engagement officers that have been placed in schools in the City's school district and thanked the Mayor and Council for allowing the program to be passed.

**Alfred Tompkins** – Expressed appreciation for the challenges that the Council faces. Also spoke of his experience obtaining a building permit through code enforcement and gave kudos to Councilmember Farley for helping make the process easier for him.

**P.D. Voorhis** – Raised questions she had about residency requirements for the City IDA. Also voiced concerns about the amount of property tax owed on an abandoned home in the City.

**Frank Ralbovsky** – Spoke about a trash issue behind his home, in an alley, that is affecting his quality of life. Pleaded that he is unable to find assistance, and code enforcement or the police department are unable to help. Asks the council to help him find a solution.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**Carmel Patrick** - Thanked the Mayor, Mr. Mootoveren, and the Hindu society for the Diwali celebration at City Hall. Also thanked everyone who helped put together the Aladdin performance at Proctors, and expressed her love for the Arts.

**Mayor McCarthy** - Thanked everyone for coming out and extended congratulations to Hayden Engert for his appointment to the City's planning commission, and for being the youngest person to ever be appointed. Also reminded everyone of the Police department's "Scare-nectady" event, and informed everyone of the times and locations the event will take place. Ended by mentioning that this week is lead poisoning prevention week, urging everyone to be mindful that it is a problem in our community due to the age of

many buildings in the City, and encouraged everyone to make sure they have a building permit whenever having repairs done in their home.

**Marion Porterfield** - Thanked everyone for coming and wished a happy Diwali to our Hindu community. Mentioned the importance of encouraging young people to be involved with the city, as it is needed for a proper line of succession as current members get older.

**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 7:57 p.m.

**A true record**



**By Ekram J. Phanisnaraine**  
**Schenectady Deputy City Clerk**