

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
November 14, 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 Reverend Ronald Hunt to offer the invocation. Ms. Porterfield then called on Councilmember 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 - Councilmembers: John Mootooveren, Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, and John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield.

Also Present - City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo and Corporation Counsel Andrew B. Koldin, Esq.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Regarding The Abandonment of 0.15 Acre Paper Street Behind 588 Broadway Not Being Used by the city**

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

**Ray Gillen** - Thanked Council for calling the public hearing, and stated F.W. Webb is interested in purchasing the parcel for the purchase price of \$25,000.00, which he says is above the current market rate. Informed Council that it will be used for additional parking.

**Tom O'Connor** - A member of The Chamber of Schenectady County; spoke in favor of F.W. Webbs proposal to purchase the property. Stated the purchase price is fair, and that allowing the sale would generate sales tax revenue and encourage growth in jobs. Also highlighted the value of the property's location in the City.

**Charles Craft** - Introduced himself as the owner of Chas. G. Burch Kitchen, Bath, and Plumbing Supply. Strongly urged Council to consider the many other HVAC/Plumbing businesses that are already in Schenectady when making their decision. Warned that the market in the area may become oversaturated, which will hurt existing businesses.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 24, October 26, and October 30, 2022 council meetings as submitted by the City Clerk and Deputy City Clerk. Mr. Mootooveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From Abigail Adderton, an email regarding the Planning Commission appointment of Hayden Engert.

**Petitions:**

A petition of approximately 40 signatures requesting a 4-way stop sign the corner of Gerling Street and Avenue A.

**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 Mr. Mootooveren and seconded by Mr. Farley.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2022-245.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-246.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-247.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-248.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-249.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-250.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-251.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-252.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-CS-21.....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.

**Alexis Glindmeyer** - Spoke about a request she made to Council to have a 4-way stop sign installed on her street, Cleveland Avenue. There are many children, animals, and elderly residents who are on the street and the constant amount of cars that go down her

road at speeds well over the set speed limit is a tremendous danger to the community. Says she has already had the Traffic and Safety division conduct a test to record the average speed that drivers on the street travel at and found many instances of people going at least 20 miles over the limit.

**Marva Isaacs** - Thanked everyone who was able to make it to the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association awards dinner on November 12, 2022.

**Michael Zepieri** - Recognized 2 of his relatives that worked for the City's police department who are now retired, and also thanked the Council for approving the addition of Community Engagement Officers into Schenectady City Schools, relaying it to his experience with similar programs that were in place when he worked for the Troy City School District. Closed statement by recognizing the Council and other employees of the City for their efforts putting the City's budget together.

**Rev. Nicole John Simone** - Thanked Council for working together to approve the police department's budget, noting that it is the largest one in the City's history. Expressed displeasure with comments that were made by Councilmember Patrick about fellow Councilmembers regarding defunding the police and explained how comments such as these can be divisive when the Council's members are as diversely split as Schenectady's. Words have power, and apologies for racist remarks without changed behavior is manipulation.

**Karen Lewis McMillan** - Spoke about accusations of nefarious intentions of certain members of the Council regarding the postponed town hall meeting originally set to take place in September, 2022. Cautioned members of the Council to be mindful of their words and narratives, as they can be dangerous.

**Cynthia Farmer** - Began by praising the Council's diversity and effectiveness when it comes to getting legislation and budgets approved, but expresses frustration she has with members when it comes to their actions with anything involving race. States she is tired of racist behaviors and she will continue to call them out if they do not stop.

**Wayne Harper** - Spoke on the City's past Halloween event, which was hosted by the Police department, stating that the City should not be wasting money on candy when there is an obesity epidemic among us. He then commented on an article he read in the newspaper regarding the past budget meetings, and affirms that he does not care what race Councilmembers are, as long as they are effective in passing legislation that best serves City residents.

**Nyla Fulton** - Denounced Council for behavior displayed during past Council meetings. She understands disagreements are bound to happen with a Council as diverse as ours, however, the remarks made by members in past meetings are unacceptable. She urges members of the Council to start confronting their biases.

**Janice Rouse** - Enough is enough, with the current state of the world, and we do not have time to waste discussing race. Council needs to learn how to better deal with differences among themselves.

**Tom Kennedy** - Criticized comments made by certain members of the Council regarding the effectiveness of Police in the City. No elected official should make such disrespectful remarks. Police officers take an oath to protect and serve the City, and at very least, elected officials should have some respect for them.

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 for their feedback. Assured everyone that their voices have been heard. Announced that the previously postponed town hall meeting has been rescheduled to December 1st, 2022. He then extended congratulations to Kate McGuirl for being elected for Schenectady City Court Judge, and he looks forward to building a relationship with her in the future. Also thanked William Rivas for his charitable efforts in the City.

**Damoni Farley** - Regardless of racial tensions amongst members of the Council, it has not affected their ability to work together when it comes to making decisions for the City. People of color must deal with racial tensions in the workplace in all aspects, acknowledge that is important. As leaders, we must be able to reflect on our actions.

**John Polimeni** - Insisted that the race of his fellow Councilmembers has zero effect on his decision making process, and that the outcomes would be the exact same if all black and brown members were Caucasian instead. We should be able to have differences on ideas and policies without race being a factor. He then spoke about the senior meal program that will be taking place in the City, noting its importance.

**John Mootoveren** - States that we have focused so much time and attention to the Police departments budget, however they are not the only department in the City. We had also reduced the requested budget for the garbage, sewer and water departments, but no one is saying we are defunding them. As Councilmembers, we need to be mindful that all departments are important to the survival of the City, and our main goal should be to make decisions that best support the interest of residents in the City.

**Marion Porterfield** - Thanked everyone for coming out and reaffirmed that she serves all residents of the City regardless of political party. Talked about debates over the Police budget and expressed frustration over disrespectful remarks made. We should be able to peacefully debate without the name calling and dangerous narrative, as it serves no benefit. She also stressed that there are no members of the Council who are in favor of defunding the Police. She then voiced her appreciation to all veterans in recognition of Veterans day which was on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

**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 Ms. Patrick. The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 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 Samanta R. Mykoo  
Schenectady City Clerk**

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** Abigail Adderton [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, October 24, 2022 6:29 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Planning Commission Appointments

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.

Members of the Schenectady City Council:

While I often strive to stay silent on matters of local politics, a task much more suited to my late husband, I find that the events of the last few years compel me to be heard.

I write to express my concern at the appointment of Hayden Engert to the Planning Commission for the City of Schenectady. While I am most certain Mr. Engert is a well-mannered young man, he clearly lacks the requisite experience necessary to serve on the City's Planning Commission. A review of his resume on the City's website shows he has only just graduated from high school, began college this fall, and has limited work experience not relevant to the field of planning. An internet search revealed Mr. Engert is some relation to the current fire chief for the City of Schenectady.

While, perhaps, an expected type of appointment for Mayor McCarthy, what is of most concern is not a single question was raised by this council of elected representatives to inquire as to whether Mr. Hayden was an appropriate fit for such an important commission. It does not need to be said that the Planning Commission has a considerable impact on the ongoing development activities in the City. Appointing qualified candidates with backgrounds in planning, architecture, law, business and real estate is of the utmost importance to maintenance of the delicate balance such a commission provides between your constituents, and unchecked real estate development. There are numerous qualified candidates who maintain residence in this City. As a long retired educator, it may best for Mr. Engert to focus on his studies and come back to us when he has more experience. Freshman year is often an enormously challenging time for young students.

A. Adderton  
Schenectady, New York

## Stop Sign Petition

NOV 10 2022

A four way stop sign is needed at the corner of Gerling St and Ave A in Schenectady, NY 12308 for the safety of all pedestrian, especially the students attending Yates Magnet Elementary School which is one block away. Daily vehicles coming from Van Vranken Ave are speeding, forcing many to run for safety!

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<del>M. Ram</del>	<del>12308</del>	<del>2014 AVE A</del>	<del></del>
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AZIMUDDIN	12308		Azimuddin
AMANDA			Amanda
Miriam Bacchus			Miriam Bacchus
JERRY SOOKRAM	12308		Jerry Soakram
Maria Turrelli	12308		Maria Turrelli
Justi Curran	12308		Justi Curran
Atty Soakram	12308		Atty Soakram
A.R. Majid	12308		A.R. Majid
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