

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

**April 26, 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 Pastor Delray Agnes of Liberty Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called on Council Member John Polimeni 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.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 12, 2021 Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Polimeni made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From Betty Johnson, a letter requesting Councilman Butterfield not run for election. Her cousin lost his house for not paying taxes and the house was later demolished.

From P. D. Voorhis, four emails dated April 16, April 19, and April 26, 2021. The first email stating that it was unfair for the City Clerk to edit her remarks and remember the fires across the street and the fire that almost took the life of Safyre Terry. Her second email asking what Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas meant by “quid pro quo” and other comments directed to Ms. Porterfield. Her third email with questions directed to the Public Safety and City Development and Planning Committees regarding items that were on the April 19<sup>th</sup> agenda and her fourth email asking for details on the Young Parents United.

**Petitions:**

None.

**Petitions:**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**City Development & Planning** – Ms. Porterfield announced that Schenectady was named one of the top ten Cities for first time homebuyers by Realtor.com. This was due to the H.O.M.E.S. program that the Mayor implemented during his first term. The City has a first-time homebuyer’s program and other resources which provides financial assistance for housing opportunities. She then acknowledged the staff that are an integral part of the whole homeownership process, including Mr. Brown in the Development Office, Corporation Counsel Koldin, and the Housing Committee.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):**

Mr. Mootoveren 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. Mootoveren declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

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

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

**Consent Agenda**

- Ordinance No. 2021-08 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-082.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-083.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-084.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-085.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-086.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-087.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-088.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-089.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-090.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-091.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-092.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-093.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-094.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-095.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-CS-06.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-CS-07.....Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

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

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

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**Ms. Porterfield** – Congratulated the Greenmarket on their outdoor venue that began on April 11<sup>th</sup> and stated that it had a good turnout; it was great to see people and their pets out with them. She then congratulated the collaborative that works with youth employment. The Community Fathers held a tree planting in front of Martin Luther King school; it was great seeing young people engaging and caring about the Earth. She then announced that there were numerous Neighborhood Associations, organizations, and City Staff that helped with Clean-up Day.

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** – Stated that it was good seeing people who did not mind getting their hands dirty throughout the County helping with Clean-up Day. She then spoke about being removed then later reinstated on the Finance Committee and removed as the Chair of the City Development and Planning Committee. She then made a motion to have the President of City Council removed with a vote of No Confidence. Mr. Mootooveren then asked Mr. Koldin on the process of this vote. Ms. Porterfield then asked Mr. Koldin what number of votes were needed to pass the motion. Mr. Koldin responded that four votes were needed to pass the motion.

**A motion to take a Vote of No Confidence on Council President John Mootooveren**

The motion was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Patrick

3:2:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Polimeni, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Ms. Patrick

Voting Nay: Ms. Porterfield and Mr. Mootooveren

Abstain: None.

**Ms. Patrick** – Announced that the Neighborhood clean-up Day in Goose-Hill was attended by kids from Zoller and Yates Elementary. It was great seeing the kids with their teachers and principals. They spoke about the importance of being part of a neighborhood and what it meant to be a thriving neighborhood.

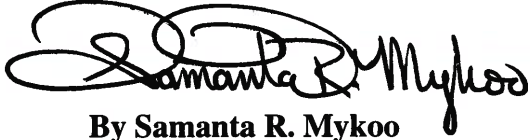
**Mayor McCarthy** – Thanked everyone who came out for the Neighborhood Clean-up Day; it showed the great spirit we have within the City. He then encouraged everyone to get the Covid vaccine. Many venues are beginning to open up and there will be more activities and shows with the onset of good weather. He also announced that the recent sales tax numbers have showed a dramatic increase in Schenectady County in the month of March, a momentum we'd like to maintain. He also asked that everyone also practice common sense and wash your hands, wear a mask, and practice social distancing.

**Mr. Mootooveren** – Spoke about the permit application fee waiver for exterior building repairs that was passed this evening and encouraged residents to take advantage of this opportunity when applying for exterior permits. This resolution was passed to show our commitment to neighborhood revitalization.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Mootoveren asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Ms. Patrick. The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

A true record

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

By Samanta R. Mykoo  
Schenectady City Clerk

April 11, 2021

Mr. Mootoveren  
Council Leader  
City Hall  
Schenectady, NY 12305

Dear Sir:

They showed me a newspaper article where Councilman Marian Butterfield is running for election again. Do not let her run. When Councilman Butterfield ran last time she told me she would help my cousin fix his house but she never did anything. He needed help but never got any and the County demolished his house for not paying the taxes. If you get your house demolished it is very hard to start over and get a new house. Ms. Butterfield could help people get a new house but she will not do that so do not let her get elected again.

Thank you for helping and making my statement part of the official people's record of the Councilman's notes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Betty Johnson

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:33 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Corruption of Communications

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.

April 15, 2021:

The rereading of my communications by email to members of City of Schenectady officials for the public record should be noted. I think it is not proper and unfair for the City Clerk to critique and edit my remarks. I don't think there was anything threatening nor uncivil about these remarks, and, therefore a violation of open meetings laws. I can only guess what enhancements have been added to this administration's irregularities that have caused further violations of my rights. This Mayor targeted me before he became mayor, and engineered appointments to his staff for his 'happy family'..

The alliances in this community may not be UL approved enough to stop anymore devastation for those that never learn. Have you already forgotten the fire that took down the two buildings on Jay Street, and the April 30 - May 1 fire that almost took the life of Safire Terry - the only survivor in her family.

From now on, please read all of my communications without editing.

P. D. Voorhis  
P. D. Voorhis

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** John Mootooveren  
**Sent:** Friday, April 16, 2021 11:27 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo

John Mootooveren  
Schenectady City Council

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Thursday, April 15, 2021 8:58 PM  
**To:** John Mootooveren <JMootooveren@schenectadyny.gov>  
**Cc:** Carmel Patrick <CPatrick@schenectadyny.gov>; John Polimeni <JPolimeni@schenectadyny.gov>; Marion Porterfield <MPorterfield@schenectadyny.gov>; Karen ZalewskiWildzunas <kzalewskiwildzunas@schenectadyny.gov>; Andrew Koldin <AKoldin@schenectadyny.gov>  
**Subject:**

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Privilege of the Floor, City Business, April 19, 2021

Regarding issue of council assignments not recorded in minutes of caucus held April 12, 2021 in which Karen Zalewski Wilzunas stated she had been removed as chairman of City Planning and Development by Council President, I would like to know what the 'quid pro quo' is. Latin should not be used as a cover for what is known in our vernacular as deal swapping. What is the swap for as Councilwoman KZW perceives it?  
Councilwoman Porterfield's remarks regarding 'racism' are probably right as she is also unrestrained by employment, enhancing her ability to enhance current programs of SEEC, their lease with 140 Erie Street, LLC,,flood mitigation issues in the Stockade involving Director of SEEC and owner of 140 Erie Street, LLC.  
Ms. Porterfield's absolute articulation skills and her ability to perform from OJT is established. However, I have asked for a resume from her and been refused as having nothing to do with her ability to serve 'her constituency'. Obviously, I am not. She did serve the City one year at \$40,000 seemingly serving us all.

P.D. Voorhis, resident taxpayer of Schenectady for over 20 years.  
April 15, 2021

**Samanta R. Mykoo**

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 19, 2021 9:52 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** April 19, 2021 City Council Committee Agenda

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Public Safety - Who writes grant requests for the Police Department? Does the City still retain a 'grant writer', FT/PT, shared or otherwise?

Is dirt bike and ATV legislation non-existent in the City? If that be the case why use Albany and not Chicago for a more inclusive scope of experience and responses?

City Development and Planning - If HUD is granting City \$619,061 for Covid 19 stimulus and only \$75G is being used for small business PPE, where do they plan to use remaining \$544,061? Will any of this go to City Mission instead of them operating as their own entity?

Does M/E Engineering have an existing sign on their building that would be removed before the addition of a blade sign be added. NBT is using double signage.

P. D. Voorhis  
April 19, 2019 @ 9:50 am.



## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** John Mootooveren  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 12:36 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Fw: Young Parents United

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

John Mootooveren  
Schenectady City Council

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**From:** PD Ironclad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 26, 2021 9:58 AM  
**To:** John Mootooveren <JMootooveren@schenectadyny.gov>  
**Subject:** Young Parents United

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.

April 26, 2021

Because I am not sure of whom was chairing the City Development and Planning Committee at the time, I'm addressing my concern to you about the fact that I am not aware that the establishment of Young Parents United, seemingly under the tuteledge of CDBG was ever discussed in an open meeting.

I believe it was scheduled to be heard first at the last Committee Meeting but was overlooked. If there is any way it can be discussed in Committee it would be helpful to know what this extraneous program is about before passing on it.

P. D. Voorhisl