

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

**January 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.

At this point, Ms. Porterfield held a moment of silence for the 4 year old, Alana Lynn Segó, who recently died in a fire in the Mont Pleasant neighborhood and for the sudden death of Joe Trioano's father.

Ms. Porterfield asked Pastor Dennis Graham-Parker of Liberty Church to offer the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Council Member 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 – Council Members: Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, Carl E. Williams, and Marion Porterfield.

Also Present – Finance Commissioner Anthony Ferrari, City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo and Corporation Counsel Andrew Koldin.

Absent – John Mootooveren.

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

**Resolution No. 2022-008 A Resolution Recognizing Black History Month 2022**

The resolution was moved by Mr. Farley and seconded by Mr. Williams. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Dr. Patrick Jean Pierre MD, Ms. Donna Stevens RN, Ms. Nancy Gary RN, Ms. Lois Mitchell RN, and Dr. Keara Sease MD. They all thanked the Mayor and City Council, for the recognition.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 1, 2022 and January 10, 2022 Council Meetings as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From Gordon Fulani, Chairman of the Schenectady Municipal Golf Advisory Committee, a letter requesting the Council to approve their application for a new irrigation system.

**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:

**P. D. Voorhis** –Asked who is the Building Inspector. Would like to speak to whomever oversees the ethics office. She then said that Barrett Street has changed and it is very interesting.

Seeing no speakers to 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, and the motion was moved by Ms, Patrick and seconded by Mr. Williams.

**Consent Agenda**

- Ordinance No. 2022-01 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-009.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-010.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-011.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-012.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-013.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-014.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-015.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-016.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-017.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-018.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-019.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-020.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-021.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-022.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-023.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-024.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-025.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-026.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-027.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-028.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-029.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-030.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-031.....Adopted Unanimously

**2022-010 A Resolution Creating an Advisory Committee to Review Community Proposals and Provide Recommendations to the City Council Related to the Use of ARPA Funds**

The motion was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Farley.

5:1:0

Voting AYE: Ms. Ditoro, Mr. Farley, Mr. Williams, Ms. Patrick, Ms. Porterfield

Voting Nay: Mr. Polimeni

Abstain: None

**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.

**Diablo** – He stated the twenty years ago, the county museum stopped showing contemporary art. Ray Gillen asked to change the name of the street because of low attendance. Dave Buicko wants to change the name of the City. They are saying that the past is the past and Schenectady is not as it was. Then He then spoke about different ethnic groups coming to Schenectady. At this point, Council President stopped him and told him to refrain from negative speech about different ethnic groups. He then continued and asked that a museum is built for art using the ARPA Funds.

**William Rivas** – Spoke on behalf of a youth coalition; an alliance of 17 different organizations. Their mission is to ensure that the youths in their care receive the most diverse, dynamic, and effective support regardless of which organization brings that help. The pandemic has ravaged our children and the community. They realize that when the state educational statistics come out, it will show that our youths will have lost about two years of learning which would create a negative impact in years to come for each individual as well as the community. He asked for the resources to continue with this work.

**Ebony Belmar** – Spoke on behalf of the Working Group on Girls and the services that they provide is broad.

**Kenneth Brooks** – He understands the importance of positive roll models for girls and boys. It is important for the kids to have a place to feel safe and have someone they can trust. Through the coalition there is no corner where anyone can't find assistance.

**Elizabeth Zahdan** – Education is the solution to a lot of problems in the world. They offer tutoring service and have had kids graduate at age 14 and 15 years old. They would like to offer this kind of opportunity to more kids.

**Heather Hutchinson** – CREATE Studios support the ARPA application for the youth coalition. CREATE's roll in the youth coalition is to bring strength-based trauma informed services to the youths through art.

**Jenny Hudman** – Representing Safe House and works with the youth coalition. They provide shelter for youths in Schenectady.

**P. D. Voorhis** – Stated that the City's website is not up to date and not very informative. It still has John J. Woodward as the County Clerk and show that the State Senator is Hugh Farley. This website is not helpful and the technical department is not listed.

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 speaking; using your voice is a powerful tool. He thanked the collective efforts that helped find the missing girl. He then announced an upcoming production from the Schenectady Light Opera Company called Songs for a New World, please look on their website for further details. He then announced a Civil Service exam for entry level Firefighters in Schenectady and encouraged anyone interested in becoming a firefighter to reach out and apply.

**John Polimeni** – Stated that he was contacted by many people regarding lowering standards for the Schenectady Fire Department. Our Fire Department is a model and envy throughout the state and we should not lower standards; lives are literally at risk. He then announced that the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has been scheduled and announced. He then proposed that the Mayor and the Police Department set aside some funding using CDBG funds for compassion cards to be used by Police Officers for members of the community. This will help further community outreach efforts.

**Carmel Patrick** – Announced that our Building Department currently has some positions available. Anyone who is interested in these positions should contact our Human Resources Department.

**Damoni Farley** – Thanked everyone for coming out and speaking and encouraged everyone to come out and share their thoughts with us; we welcome thought partners. Then for a point of clarity regarding the Schenectady Fire Department, he agrees with Councilman Polimeni. We should never lower our expectations from our brave men and women firefighters in Schenectady.

**Anthony Ferrari** – Stated that last week Schenectady’s global rating has been upgraded to a bond rating of an “A” and the city is moving in a positive direction financially.

**Marion Porterfield** – Thanked everyone for the information that they’ve brought forward. She thanked Councilwoman Patrick for announcing the job openings and said there are other openings, and anyone interested should look on our website. Then said that the CDBG applications are available on our website and the Development department is available for assistance.

**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 Ms. Patrick and seconded by Mr. Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

**A true record**



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