

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

**February 8, 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 Nicole Harris to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called on Council Member Marion Porterfield 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.

At this point, Mr. Mootooveren asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item ten out of order. There were no objections.

**Resolution No. 2021-019 A Resolution Recognizing February as Black History Month.**

The resolution was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Dr. Odo Butler, President of the NAACP – Schenectady Chapter, and Pastor Nicole Harris, incoming President of the NAACP – Schenectady Chapter. They thanked the Mayor and City Council for the resolution recognizing Black History Month. Dr. Butler then stated that the Nation has come a long way moving towards equity for all Americans, but there is still much work to be done. Pastor Harris reiterated that there is much work to be done but believes we can do it together; we are making black history and pushing it forward.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. The Redirection of South Church Street (State Street to Fuller Street) from a Two-Way Street to a One-Way Street as a Part of the Reconstruction of South Church Street**

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

**Ray Gillen** – Chairman of the Schenectady County Metroplex Development Authority and Schenectady County Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning, spoke in strong support of this legislation. He stated that the change would allow access to all the developments in the downtown area and is an important infrastructure change.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Public Hearing Number One, to be closed.

## **2. The Redirection of Barrett & Huron Streets (Between South Avenue to Park Place) from a One-Way Street to a Two-Way Street**

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

**Ray Gillen** – Chairman of the Schenectady County Metroplex Development Authority and Schenectady County Commissioner of Economic Development and Planning, spoke in strong support of this legislation. There are many developments on Barrett Street and this legislation would benefit many of the homes and properties in the little Italy neighborhood.

Seeing no speakers to come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Public Hearing Number Two, to be closed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 25, 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 Dawn D'Arcangelo, an email requesting assistance in preventing the mandatory vaccination of the COVID-19 vaccine.

From P.D. Voorhis, an email requesting an environmental study of the impact of salt for snow maintenance and suggestions for other product use. She also suggested that voters decide on the two vacant Council seats. She then questioned if dirt bikes, snow mobiles, and tough terrain vehicles will be on the agenda; she would like to see the background information, evaluation analysis, and recommendations on the legislation request forms.

From James A. Wilson of the 27<sup>th</sup> Division American Legion Post 1002, a letter dated January 29, 2021, thanking the Mayor and City Council for the funds received to rent rooms for their meetings as prescribed by law.

From Nils Hedlund of the American Legion Post 1485, a letter dated January 31, 2021, thanking the City of Schenectady for the funds that help run Post 1485.

From Paul S. Zonderman of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Schenectady Post 106, a letter dated February 1, 2021, thanking the City of Schenectady for their generous contribution that will be used to help with the expense of renting space for meetings and support of their organization.

From Robert S. Albee of the Schenectady Veterans of WWII, Inc., a letter dated February 1, 2021, thanking the City of Schenectady for the funds that help maintain the home of the Schenectady Veterans of WWII, Inc.

**Petitions:**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**City Development & Planning** – Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas thanked the Corporation Council for his tireless work closing on the numerous properties sold in the month of January; Mr. Koldin has done a fabulous job. She also thanked the entire team within City Hall. She then announced that many of the City properties are being sold in a very short period.

**Government Operations** – Ms. Porterfield stated that she has been in attendance of the Health Disparities meetings. There is concern about having enough vaccines in underserved neighborhoods and would like Council to support an increase of the vaccines.

**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. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2021-019 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-020 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-021 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-022 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-023 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-024 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-025 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-026 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-027 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-028 .....Adopted Unanimously

### **PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

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

**Chris White** – Resident of Union Street, spoke about parking violations that were not enforced in over a decade, worn out signs, inconsistent information relating to snow, and outdated designations on Union Street. Living in this City should not be so challenging, the lack of communication and consistency leads to cycles of apathy and over-corrections. The residents of the area would like to work together toward solutions.

**Robyn Stewart** – Snow removal used to be better organized. The Police were involved in bringing attention to residents about moving their cars so the plows can clear the snow; everyone was informed.

**Suzanne Unger** – President of the Stockade Neighborhood Association, reported that on February 5, 2021 many residents awoke to parking tickets on their windshields. This was done to enforce an alternate side parking regulation that was not consistently enforced in many years. They understand that the City is looking to improve snow plowing and removal during the winter months but removing half of the parking spaces on Union Street year-round creates many more problems than it solves. Parking is very limited in the Stockade. The Stockade Neighborhood Association does try to remind the residents of the rules and suggested that the rules are enforced for snow emergencies and that very old signs regarding alternate side parking and two-hour limits are removed.

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

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

**Ms. Porterfield** – Thanked everyone who spoke about the parking situation; many of the Council have received emails and phone calls about that matter. She concurred, it is time to speak about possible solutions and address the signage. She then announced that the Hamilton Hill Arts Center has ongoing virtual events throughout the month for Black History; information can be found on their website. She also said that February is Heart Health Month and encouraged women to see their doctors; heart attacks are the leading cause of death for women. She also announced that the Schenectady Chapter of the NAACP will have a swearing in ceremony on Thursday, February 11, 2021 at 6:30 p.m. for new officers. Dr. Odo Butler will be leaving, and Pastor Nicole Harris will be the new president; this ceremony will be open virtually to the public. She then announced that Council will be back at the Greenmarket on Sundays.

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** – Thanked Ray Gillen for attending the meeting and explaining the need for the redirection of the two streets on tonight's public hearing. She announced that she is working with Corporation Counsel on creating legislation that will address ATV vehicles on the streets. She then thanked the Mayor and City staff for the phenomenal job that was done during the recent snowstorm.

**Ms. Patrick** – Thanked Ms. Porterfield for bringing forth the Black History Month resolution. She also thanked Dr. Odo Butler for all he has done for Schenectady as the President of the NAACP and congratulated Pastor Nicole Harris for her upcoming leadership role as President of the NAACP. She then recognized Ron Gardner, the Affirmative Action Officer for the City, for all he has done to support minority and women owned businesses in the community; the work that he is doing stimulates economic development for that population. She also thanked Ray

Gillen for speaking at tonight's meeting and the team at Metroplex to keep the economic development going in the City.

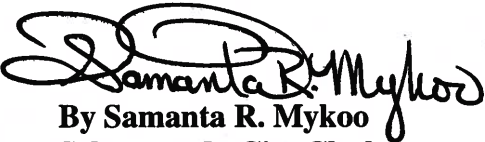
**Mayor McCarthy** – Thanked Dr. Butler for all that he has done for the community and congratulated Pastor Nicole Harris in assuming her new role; looks forward to working with her. He then addressed the parking issue on Union Street; it was not coordinated or done in the best manner, but the process will be reviewed. He then said that there is much interest in City real estate; Council continues to line up sales and move forward during this pandemic environment. We look forward to going back to the level that we were doing before and continue to attract new homeowners to the community and create homeownership.

**Mr. Mootoveren** – Thanked everyone who spoke during tonight's meeting. He then thanked Mayor McCarthy for addressing the parking situation on lower Union Street, hopefully a positive outcome is achieved that benefits the neighborhood and its residents.

**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. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

**A true record**

  
By Samantha R. Mykoo  
Schenectady City Clerk

## Samanta R. Mykoo

---

**From:** John Mootooveren  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 8:25 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** FW: Please do everything you can to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine is purely voluntary

John Mootooveren  
Schenectady City Council

---

**From:** Dawn D'Arcangelo [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 26, 2021 6:08 PM  
**To:** John Mootooveren  
**Subject:** Please do everything you can to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine is purely voluntary

Re: Please do everything you can to make sure the COVID-19 vaccine is purely voluntary

Dear Council Member Mootooveren,

As pharmaceutical companies around the world rush to bring a coronavirus vaccine to market, I strongly object to being forced to receive the vaccine when it becomes available. No pharmaceutical product or procedure should ever be forced or coerced as a condition of employment or participation in community events, particularly a fast-tracked, experimental vaccine that is free from liability for any harm it might cause — be it a reaction, injury or death.

Most people are unaware that under the PREP Act of 2005, the COVID-19 vaccine will have near blanket immunity. That means if I or a family member is injured or killed, no one will bear responsibility — not the vaccine manufacturer, not the doctor administering the vaccine, nor the government body or employer who decided to mandate the vaccine. It is I and I alone who will be left with the consequences and the medical bills.

That is exceptionally alarming given the fact there are major safety concerns with the COVID-19 vaccine. Very simply, vaccine manufacturers cannot ensure the long-term safety of any COVID vaccine since the products have had months of clinical experience at best. First-generation pharmaceutical products are also notorious for unintended side effects such as birth defects seen with the drug thalidomide or antibody dependent enhancement as seen with the dengue vaccine. This is a phenomenon where subjects who receive a vaccine for a virus become significantly more ill when they're exposed to that virus in the wild. (In other words, they are NOT protected from the vaccine; the vaccine actually causes them to become sick or die.) Additionally, the mRNA technology being used in several of the vaccine front-runners is unproven and has never before been approved for commercial use. There is much that is not understood about mRNA vaccines, including what their long term effects might be and how they could change a person's own DNA.

Under current U.S. Supreme Court law, in order to mandate a medical intervention there must be an epidemic that imperils the entire population. According to the CDC's own data, most people have more than a 97 percent chance of surviving COVID-19. In fact, for people under 70, the survivability rate after infection ranges from 99.5 percent to 99.9 percent. Furthermore, the COVID-19 vaccine is not shown to prevent transmission; it's merely shown to lessen symptoms. Given the above — and the fact that there are a variety of preventative measures for coronavirus as well as treatments that have been successfully used by healthcare clinicians around the world — there is simply no basis upon which to require the vaccine.

When the nation's top vaccine proponents sound alarms about the consequences of a rushed COVID-19 vaccine, that causes me to feel alarmed too. Vaccination is just one approach to dealing with a virus such as COVID-19. It is not THE only approach. It is up to each person to decide how to care for their body based on their own individual judgment and unique physiology. Individuals should not be asked to cast aside their own convictions (be it personal, ethical or religious) to follow the recommendations of public servants who don't even know them — especially when the policies those officials are pushing are influenced by the multibillion-dollar pharmaceutical industry.

That's right: the pharmaceutical industry stands to make unprecedented profit from the COVID-19 vaccine. I will not participate in a mandate that will create enormous revenues for drug companies that bear absolutely no responsibility for the products they produce — or for my welfare. In fact, some of these companies are convicted serial felons that have been charged with billions in civil and criminal fines for fraud and other misconduct.

Do you want to be forced to take an experimental, risky vaccine from a company with such an appalling track record? I surely don't.

Personal choice, not public pressure or coercion, must be the only factor in getting the COVID-19 vaccine. I urge you to make sure that public policy paves the way for me and others like me everywhere to make responsible choices about what precautions we take and the best way to care for our health.

Thank you in advance.

Sincerely,  
Dawn D'Arcangelo

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

Prepared by OneClickPolitics (tm) at [www.oneclickpolitics.com](http://www.oneclickpolitics.com). OneClickPolitics provides online communications tools for supporters of a cause, issue, organization or association to contact their elected officials. For more information regarding our policies and services, please contact [info@oneclickpolitics.com](mailto:info@oneclickpolitics.com)

## Samanta R. Mykoo

---

**From:** PD Ironclad <[REDACTED]>  
**Sent:** Monday, February 01, 2021 10:15 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Issues for February 1, 2021

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

Relative to the issue of street maintenance: using salt for snow maintenance and its impact on the environment, has the city considered using a product like sno-melt. It is lighter, has a ph level of 6.6. Please have OGS supply CBA and environmental impact on streets, sidewalks and vehicles. This is a huge concern to the public and we should be informed. Treat it like you do the 'historic district' issues.

Regarding vacancies in the council, once again politics as usual has prevailed and the voters are going to be stiffed if you do not go back to the candidates who participated in the voter at large system in the charter. Voter participatory government will be kicked in the shins as long as you "CAN" those who diminish their concern for the government we must live with.

Are 'dirt bikes', snow mobiles, and tough terrain vehicles really on the agenda?

I would also like to see items on the agenda sheets completed, meaning: background information; evaluation analysis and recommendations. I am reminded of another council woman's an.gst on the wasted use of paper  
p.d.voorhis @ 10:15 a.m.



27th DIVISION POST 1002  
AMERICAN LEGION



*For God and Country*



Mr. James A. Wilson  
356 Twelfth St.  
Schenectady, NY 12306

29 January 2021

Samanta Mykoo, City Clerk  
City of Schenectady  
City Hall, Jay Street  
Sch'ny, N.Y. 12305

Dear Ms. Mykoo:

On behalf of the membership of American Legion Post 1002 Schenectady, please notify the Mayor, and the City Council that we appreciate the check for \$500.00 that we recently received for the rental of rooms to hold our meetings as prescribed by laws.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely

*James A. Wilson*  
James A. Wilson, Adjutant

By Order of

David Nowak, Commander



AMERICAN LEGION POST 1485

01/31/2021

The American Legion  
Post 1485  
123 Odell St  
Schenectady, N.Y.  
12304-2607

TO. SAMANTA MYKOO, City Clerk

The members of American Legion Post 1485 want to  
thank the City of Schenectady for the check of \$50,000

This check helps run the Post for the year.

Sincerely yours.  
Nils Hedlund  
Post Adj.



## **The Jewish War Veterans of the United States**

**Schenectady Post No. 106  
960 Northumberland Dr.  
Schenectady, NY 12309**

### **POST 106 OFFICERS**

**COMMANDER  
Paul Zonderman  
518-370-4909**

**SR. VICE COMMANDER  
Harlan Harrison  
518-374-8366**

**JR. VICE COMMANDER  
Gene Altman  
518-393-6713**

**QUARTERMASTER  
Gary Hoffmann  
518-374-0224**

**JUDGE ADVOCATE  
Alan Gebell  
518-377-9643**

**ADJUTANT  
William Jaffe  
518-280-4075**

**Samanta R. Mykoo, City Clerk  
City Hall, Jay Street  
Schenectady, NY 12305**

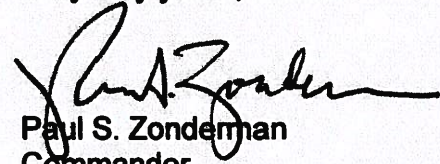
**February 1, 2021**

**On behalf of Schenectady Post 106 of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, we wish to thank the City of Schenectady for its generous contribution to help defray the expense of renting space to hold meetings.**

**Your support of our organization is greatly appreciated.**

**PSZ/o  
cc: Jim Wilson  
cc: Gary Hoffmann w/enc**

**Very truly yours,**

  
**Paul S. Zonderman  
Commander  
Jewish War Veterans  
Schenectady Post 106**

**SCHENECTADY VETERANS OF WWII INC.  
718 UNION STREET  
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK 12305**

February 1, 2021

Samanta Mykoo, City Clerk  
City Hall, Jay Street  
Schenectady, New York 12305

Thank you for the support of our organization with the funds for us to continue to maintain the home of the Schenectady Veterans of WWII, Inc.

Your generosity is greatly appreciated, especially during the difficult crisis of the pandemic.

Sincerely,

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

Robert S. Albee  
Member, Board of Directors