

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

**February 25, 2019**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Ed Kosiur at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Kosiur asked for Councilmember John Polimeni to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Councilmember John Mootoveren 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: John Polimeni, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, John Mootoveren and Ed Kosiur.

Absent – Marion Porterfield

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy and Corporation Counsel Carl G. Falotico.

Prior to the formal start of the meeting a promotion ceremony was held by the City's Police.

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

**Resolution No. 2019-034 A Resolution Honoring the Peters Family for 100 Years of Service to the Schenectady Police Department.**

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

Captain Joseph A. Peters, III accepted the resolution and thanked the City Council, Mayor, Chief Clifford and former Deputy Corporation Counsel, Rachael Ward, for their acknowledgment to the Peters family.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 11, 2019 Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Riggi made a motion and Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas seconded the motion.

## COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

### Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated February 25, 2019.

### General:

From the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, a letter dated February 7, 2019, thanking the City for contributions toward rent.

From the Schenectady Veterans WWII – Korea & Vietnam, a letter dated February 7, 2019, thanking the City for contributions toward facility maintenance.

From Broderick – Fuller – Nekola American Legion Post 1005, a letter dated February 8, 2019, thanking the City for the donation.

From the American Legion Post 1485, a letter dated February 19, 2019, thanking the City for funds that will help maintain their post.

### Petitions:

None

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Finance** – Mr. Polimeni stated that our State Representatives were in attendance at the last Committee Meeting to listen and discuss the state budget funding. Currently the City of Schenectady is underfunded by approximately \$6,000,000.00 in NYS Aid and Incentive for Municipalities (AIM) funding. Optimistically meeting with our Representatives will have a positive impact on these figures.

## PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

Mr. Kosiur invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward:

**David Giacalone** – Thanked City Council members for asking questions about the Sidewalk Program and the possible consequence to trees. He stated that signing up for this program may condemn every single tree on a block and suggested that we have a tree preservation policy.

**Tony Buonome** – Inquired on the charges for the Sidewalk Program to residents. He also wanted to know if someone has sidewalks in good condition and does not need the sidewalk replaced would they have to get the sidewalks done. Then inquired the type of cement that will be used for the sidewalk.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Mr. Kosiur declared the Privilege of the Floor, regarding the Legislative Agenda, to be closed.

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

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was moved by Mr. Mootooveren and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

**Consent Agenda**

Resolution No. 2019 – 035 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010 – 036 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 037 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 038 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 039 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 040 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 041 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 042 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 043 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019 – 044 .....	Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - CITY BUSINESS:**

Mr. Kosiur invited all who wished to address the City Council on any matter of City Business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

**Anthony Peter Carota III** – Stated that he has the Constitutional right and duty to question the City’s leader. He then said that he disagrees with the Mayor’s State of the City presentation about crime diminishing in the City.

**Mark Ruddiman** – A County employee with the Public Defender’s Office, stated that he is troubled with the way the City of Schenectady, through their Corporation Council’s Office, handles their dog bite cases. He does not know if the cases are tried under the City Code or the Agriculture and Markets Law. Typically the City charges \$40/ day to shelter and feed a dog, and the dog has to be quarantined for at least 10 days. Then it is mandated that the dog be micro-chipped and spayed/neutered by the City’s contracted veterinarian clinic. It is difficult for many of the owners to obtain a \$50,000 insurance rider or put up at six foot fence around their yard. The cost becomes a burdensome to the dog owners who are typically low–moderate income. The City has become egregious and heavy handed with the dog bite cases.

**Marva Isaacs** – Stated that the proposed liquor store for Albany Street across from the food pantry is not needed. The area has improved and a liquor store will only cause deterioration.

**Sr. Ann Christi Brink** – She ministers at St. Joseph’s Place at 837 Albany Street. They have been open for four years and have met many people in the Hamilton Hill neighborhood. Many of these people deal with various addictions including alcoholism. There are a few in recovery that have a tenuous hold on sobriety. She strongly and respectfully urges the City Council to prevent a liquor store opening at 844 Albany Street. She then said that a food market or Laundromat would be beneficial to the neighborhood.

**Rev. Phil Grigsby** – Director of Schenectady Community Ministries, formerly known as SICM, spoke about his opposition to a proposed liquor store at 844 Albany Street. Then suggested that a change in zoning for that area be implemented.

**Phil Gibbs** – Stated a few concerns regarding the new Taxicab Ordinance that is being passed. The surcharge for weekends was not included, the stop request was added but the additional

charge for waiting time was not, and the rate for the first mile is currently \$4.00 and requested that it be changed to \$5.00 to offset the minimum wage increase and vehicle upgrades.

**Nicky Di Gregorio** – City employee in the Street Department for six years stated his concerns for the workers of Union 1037 AFSCME that plow and fill potholes. The work force has been cut and their pay is little more than someone at McDonalds. Currently there are ten people in the Street Department, there used to be twenty-five. You can't do more work with less people.

**Jeanne Orr** – Community Engagement Coordinator of the Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities and Smoke Free Housing NY spoke about the impact of the tobacco retail environment and the health of the community in which it is located.

**David Giacalone** – Stated that he enjoys having a walk-able downtown. This winter it was difficult because intersections were not cleared of snow. He then suggested with all the events downtown, it should be stressed that everyone have a designated driver.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. Kosiur declared the Privilege of the Floor, regarding general City Business, to be closed.

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

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** – Announced that on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association will be having their meeting and invited the community to attend.

**Mr. Mootoveren** – Reminded the community that the last day for filing for the Disability, Veterans, or Enhanced STAR exemption is on March 1, 2019. Also, for any new homeowners the Basic STAR exemption can be filed at [www.tax.ny.gov](http://www.tax.ny.gov).

**Ms. Perazzo** – Commended Ron Gardner for his Quarterly Report presentation at the Committee Meeting and his work with the Affirmative Action Program. The first class of the Workforce Development Program recently graduated and through him great partnerships have been created. She then announced that Jack's Place will be holding their famous Cavatelli Dinner on Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> at St. Anthony's Church from 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Also, SICM will be having their "Empty Bowls" Fundraiser on Sunday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Double Tree Hotel from 2:00 – 4:30 p.m. She and Ms. Porterfield will be soup judges at the event.

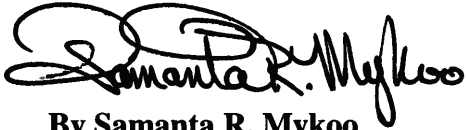
**Mayor McCarthy** – Thanked everyone who came out and encouraged everyone to be cautious going out tonight with the wind storm. There may be power outages and downed lines, please don't touch it and call National Grid or the 911 central dispatch.

**Mr. Kosiur** – Reminded everyone that the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association will have their meeting this Wednesday at the Ancient Order of Hibernians at 7:00 p.m. There will be two special guests, Mayor McCarthy and the City Engineer, to speak about the replacement of the Kings Road Bridge. Then announced that CDBG has two upcoming public hearings for their Consolidated Plan, the first on March 5<sup>th</sup> at the Phyllis Bornt Branch Library, 948 State Street, from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. and the second will be held at the Bridge Christian Church, 735 Crane Street, from 6:00 – 8:00 p.m. He also reminded everyone that Schenectady Restaurant week begins March 4<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup>. There are twenty-four restaurants participating that will be serving a three course dinners for \$25.00, further information can be found at [www.downtownschenectady.org](http://www.downtownschenectady.org).

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Perazzo and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren. The meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

**By Samanta R. Mykoo**

**Deputy Schenectady City Clerk**