

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

May 13, 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 Pastor George Carstensen of Zion Lutheran Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Councilman John Polimeni to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council Members: John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, and Edward Kosiur.

Absent – none

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy and Assistant Corporation Counsel Andrew Koldin.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda items number 18 and 19 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-104 A Resolution Recognizing Motorcycle Safety & Awareness

The resolution was moved by Vincent Riggi and seconded by John Mootoveren. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Andrew W. Liuzzi. He thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

Resolution No. 2019-105 A Resolution Recognizing the 100th Anniversary of the Schenectady Kiwanis Club

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

The resolution was accepted by Michael DellaRoco. He thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Proposed 2019-2020 Action Plan and CDBG Funding

See comments on file in the Office of Development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 22, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Perazzo seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments dated May 13, 2019.

From the City Engineer, a letter recommending the award of the “Electrical Improvements at City Hall” to Lacorte Companies, Inc. of Troy New York.

From the City Engineer, a letter recommending the award of the “City of Schenectady Annual Street Improvement Program – 2019” to Empire Paving of Schenectady, Inc. of Duaneburg, New York.

General:

None

Petitions:

From the residents the Division Street, a sidewalk petition of 48 signatures.

From the residents of Ardsley Road, a sidewalk petition of 17 Signatures.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Public Service & Utilities, Ms. Porterfield – Announced that if there is a pothole on the highway it can be reported by calling 1-800 –POTHOLE (1-800-463-6848). Any local city potholes are reported to the City.

Claims, Mr. Riggi – Stated that we need to address dying trees in our City, it is expensive and we have no forestry crew, but it is our responsibility. One of the claims that are on tonight’s agenda is because of a tree falling and damaging someone’s property. He then thanked the Law Department for their work on the settlement of this claim.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Gerald Plante – Stated that plastics are what litter our community, not just the straws. Some our disabled community rely on flexible straws for nourishment, we should to let them decide.

David Giacalone – Stated that our City Council has not received enough information on the Bike Share Program. There is a lack of enthusiasm in this community for this program and suggested that for the cost of the contract we could fund a community group that will find people who would want to use the bike and use it to reduce congestion.

Gina Gould – Stated that she is an evolutionary biologist and is for the “#stopsucking” campaign, which is a global initiative that many states and countries have adopted. She then said that banning plastic straws does not hurt businesses and does not make a big dent in the environment, but overall reducing the use of plastic products would be beneficial. Plastic breaks down into micro beads then gets into our water system, soil then eventually in our bodies. It may be part of the cause for autoimmune disease and spectral disorders. Plastic is not completely recycled, even if plastic was used to make a fleece jacket, eventually that jacket is discarded and

ends up in the environment. Banning straws makes a statement that we are making an effort to stop pollution.

Having no one else signed up to speak, 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 made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Riggi.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019-106.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-107.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-108.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-109.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-110.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-111.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-112.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-113.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-114.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-115.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-116.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-117.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-118.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-119.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-120.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-121.....Adopted Unanimously

2019-122A Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to Execute a Memorandum of Understanding with CDTA Regarding the Bike Sharing Program

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

6:1:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Polimeni, Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Ms. Perazzo, Mr. Mootoveren, and Mr. Kosiur

Voting Nay: Mr. Riggi

Abstain: None

2019-123 A Resolution Appointing Samanta Mykoo as City Clerk of the City of Schenectady

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

7:0:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Polimeni, Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Ms. Perazzo, Mr. Riggi, Mr. Mootoveren, and Mr. Kosiur

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

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 enacting a straw ban will hurt the local businesses.

Edward Varno – Spoke about the poor conditions of the former Bellevue Little League field. The clubhouse and concession stand are disgusting and full of mold and then submitted a letter* addressing the dead trees adjacent to his property.

** See documents submitted.*

Jeanie Orr – Stated that smoking rates and the density of tobacco retailers are highest in lower income neighborhoods. They've also found that tobacco products are more available, accessible and acceptable in lower income neighborhoods.

David Giacalone – Spoke about government entities having partnerships with businesses but not having a partnership with its residents.

Frank Wick – Stated that he usually rides a bicycle and when he visits other cities he looks for bicycles in order to ride around and look at statues. He then spoke about the upcoming unveiling of the Harriet Tubman and William Seward statue that will be located at the Hon. Karen B. Johnson Schenectady County Public Library on Friday, May 17, 2019 at noon.

Seeing no other speakers 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-Wildzunus – Announced the unveiling of the Harriet Tubman and William Seward statue will be on Friday, May 17, 2019, program at 11 a.m. and ceremony at 12 p.m. She then made known that the Woodlawn Neighborhood will be holding their garage sale in the coming weekend also.

Ms. Porterfield – Acknowledged the passing of former Mayor Frank Ducci and gave her condolences to his family. She also urged the importance of Motorcycle Awareness. She then responded to the editorial she read by Mary McClaine and said that there were four groups that were part of the Thriving Neighborhood Challenge and the funding was through Schenectady Foundation and the City then encouraged residents to join the challenge.

Ms. Perazzo – Announced that the Greenmarket is now officially outside on Sundays around City Hall from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. Then stated that there will be many tributes to veterans occurring on Memorial Day for those that have served our Country and fought for our freedom. Vale cemetery at 10:30 a.m. and Veteran's Park after that on May 27th.

Mr. Riggi – Gave his condolences to the family of former Mayor Frank Ducci. Then spoke about the Little League and the Michigan Avenue fields that are in disrepair and asked to discuss this matter further. He also said that Motorcycle Awareness is for everyone, not just motorcyclists. It is dangerous for people walking and crossing the street and asked everyone to be safe.

Mr. Polimeni – Reminded everyone that next Tuesday, May 21st is the School Board election from Noon to 9 p.m. Over half of the property taxes paid are from the School District and it is an important election in regards to the education of our children and the property taxes.

Mr. Mootoveren – Reminded homeowners that permits are required for paving or concrete work. He encouraged homeowners to contact the Zoning and Code Enforcement Offices in order to learn about permit requirements.

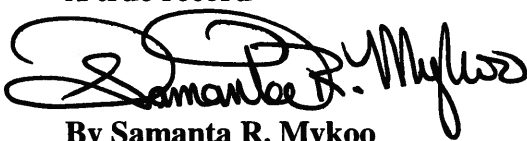
Mayor McCarthy – Offered his condolences to the family and friends of former Mayor Frank Ducci. He served the City with a level of enthusiasm that set the standards for many that followed him. He then congratulated Deputy City Clerk Samanta Mykoo on her appointment to the City Clerk position and said that she started at the City in the City Clerk's Office, then was in the Mayor's Office, the Development Office, Corporation Council's Office and now back to the City Clerk's Office. She brings with her a broad base of knowledge and is uniquely qualified for the position then complimented the Council on their choice. He also thanked the Council for passing the resolution that allows the demolition of the worse of the worst properties. We are putting in place plans in place for the properties, such as 1706 Carrie Street will be used as a Habitat for Humanities site. The Strong Street and Backus Street properties will be purchased by the adjacent property owners to expand their yards and the 410 & 412 Schenectady Street properties will make way for "Phoenix Walks" which is part of the Thriving Neighborhood Challenge Initiative with support from the Schenectady Foundation. This will create an art walk through the Hamilton Hill Community in partnership with the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. There will be street murals, sculptures and flower gardens. We continue to work with the Capital Region Land Bank on 34 additional properties where we are looking at possible demolitions or rehabs to create homeownership and value within this community.

Mr. Kosiur – Announced that's the next City Council meeting will be on Wednesday, May 29th due to the Memorial Day holiday on Monday and the Grievance Day on Tuesday. Then announced that the incoming County Manager, Rory Fluman, will be in attendance at the Senior Center on Wednesday from 12 -1 p.m.

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 Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 8:36 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

May 13, 2019

To Whom it may Concern,

This letter is to make aware of a safety issue on Schenectady City property located at the former Bellevue Little League field which is adjacent to my property at 1837 Campbell Ave. 12306. I want to make the city aware of my concern with the dead trees on the adjacent property. I feel if nothing is done, damage may occur to my property as well as possible physical injury to anyone on my property if these trees fall. I know nothing has happened yet, but I'm being proactive so prevent any possible problems if the city doesn't maintain the property listed above.

I am looking forward to hearing from the appropriate department to speak about my concerns.

Thank you,



Edward J. Varno Sr.