

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

July 8, 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 Council Member Vince Riggi to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Council Member Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas 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, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, John Mootooveren and Edward Kosiur.

Also Present – City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy and Assistant Corporation Counsel Meaghan Fitzpatrick.

Absent – none.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 12 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-157 A Resolution to Celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Central Park Rose Garden

The resolution was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Mr. Riggi.

The resolution was accepted by Matt Cuevas. He thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 24, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Riggi 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 July 8, 2019.

General:

None

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Operations, Ms. Perazzo – Stated that she has firsthand knowledge of the Paid Family Leave from her day job at Proctors. There is no cost to employers other than cost of time. Paid Family Leave is limited compared to Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) and the paperwork that the employee has to complete is rigorous. Elected Officials do not benefit from this program.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Mary McClaine – Item #14, a contract to Improve public meeting broadcasts. The resolution states that Open Stage Media is responsible to make sure the citizens of Schenectady can view public meetings. I can view the meetings. I don't get sound. The resolution does not identify the problems. Shouldn't the deficiencies be itemized? Wouldn't city officials prefer to know how our tax dollars will be used? If this resolution doesn't spell out the specifics, how does one know what is going to be fixed? Unless Council has more information than me. I think this resolution is incomplete. Fix it right, please!

Robert Sanders – The Paid Family Leave is very important, it would be beneficial to the members who work for the City. This legislation was passed by New York State. Also, the sidewalk program is good, but there are some people that want it and some that do not. It is a lot of work, but it would make the City look nicer.

Having no one else signed up to speak, Mr. Kosiur declared the privilege of the floor, regarding the legislative agenda, to be closed.

At this point Mr. Kosiur recessed the meeting at 7:15 p.m. to confer with Assistant Corporation Counsel, Meaghan Fitzpatrick. He then called the meeting back to order at 7:18 p.m. and stated that item #2 A Resolution Amending the Benefits Package for Managerial Employees of the City of Schenectady to Include New York State Paid Family Leave, will be pulled off the agenda and revisited in two weeks for further communication between the Council Members.

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 Ms.Perazzo and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019-158.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-159.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-160.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-161.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-162.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-163.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-164.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-165.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-166.....Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2019-167Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-168.....Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-CS-05.....Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-CS-06.....Adopted Unanimously

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 he has difficulty hearing and suggested that the use of a sign language interpreter be used during the Council Meetings since the sound has not been working well. He also said that he is grateful to the first responders, they keep everyone safe.

P. D. Voorhis – Stated that there were posters promoting the election of Mayor McCarthy in the newspaper. It is a misleading picture that would make you think the paper is supporting his reelection. She also recently got a DVD called Woodlawn, but it wasn't Schenectady, it was Alabama. She also found out there is a Woodlawn, Chicago.

Diablo – Stated that repetition is a good learning process. Proctors is getting \$1.5 million dollars and they are giving it away to profit and non-profits, which is an example of friends helping friends. They are giving money to friends with big pockets. How is it allowed that they can move Schenectady tax dollars and resources out of the City? He suggested that the Mayor and the City of Schenectady take a look at the fair game agreement and create a formula that gives money to the people.

Patricia Smith – President of the Mount Pleasant Neighborhood Association, acknowledged the foot patrol police on Crane Street. Then announced the meeting date and discussion plan for the neighborhood association meeting.

Mary McClaine – Does this legislative body really understand what is happening in the City? It's beauty is under assault. 4,500 orange colored light bulbs are planned for the City's light poles. Some poles already have them. After all the orange bulbs are in, the Mayor wants to add dimmers. It is going to be so dark at night on the city streets if a pedestrian is accosted, the victim will not be able to identify the assailant. The city will not be safe. That isn't smart! As if orange light bulbs aren't bad enough, the recent renovation project for Goose Hill included red colored metal plates for the curb cuts. Picture this – orange light bulbs, red metal plates. Next came your vote for bicycle to keep us healthy. Slabs of green and purple bicycles bolted to the ground. If you want to exercise, do what I do – pick up 20 cigarette butts at a time off the city streets. You get exercise and the city gets cleaned. Furthermore, did anyone give some thought to the placement of these bike racks? What would the neighbors say if a rack of green and purple bicycles was bolted on Londonderry Court? I got one in my neighborhood and I don't like it. So did the main library. What was done to its architectural design is horrific. Speaking about placing items - across the street from the library is an electric vehicle charging station on the sidewalk with our historic City Hall. What City would mix something like that next to a historic structure? The Mayor featured the dagging pumps in his political literature. The latest boon doggle is the tar graffiti on the city streets. Ugly, ugly, ugly! Why wasn't a steam roller used to put down that tar? With all due respect Mayor, this administration is a chronic good-up.

Briana Slurff – Requested garbage cans for her organization, Community Clean, to clean up the surrounding neighborhoods.

Lenora Moore – Resident of Hillside View Apartments requested assistance with neighborhood vandals. Stated that these kids throw rocks and break windows, they curse at the residents and loiter in the building.

Alice Hilts – Stated that 602 Craig Street is a senior building where they are supposed to feel safe. There have been 15-20 kids smoking, drinking, wrestling and running throughout the building and threatening the residents. They have called the police and waited for them to show up, but to her knowledge the police did not come and the residents eventually retired to their apartments. They also use Craig Street for racing up and down the street.

Robert Sanders – There are illegal people driving in our streets. We are kicking kids out of school for missing 1 vaccine. His Silver Star father fought for our freedom and would be disappointed if he was alive today.

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:

Mr. Perazzo – Thanked everyone for coming down and speaking tonight. She congratulated Prince Sprauve and Told By Us Production for completing their film *Cradle*. The world premier will be held at Proctors on Saturday, July 13th at 7 p.m. Then announced that the Goose Hill Family day will be held on Saturday, July 20th during the day at Stienmetz Park.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Announced that Schenectady County Summer Nights is on Friday, July 12th and reminded everyone that the Harbor Music season has begun along with Music Haven and will continue now through August.

Ms. Porterfield – Clarified that the standoff earlier in the day took place at Union Street. Then addressed the resident who wanted additional garbage cans and stated that there is a program already in place through the Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge and there will be additional garbage cans in the neighborhoods, she is welcome to join. She then thanked the council members for their support with passing the resolution regarding the liquor store. Then spoke about the building at 602 Craig Street, it is one of the newer buildings and security should be a feature among all the other amenities. She then announced that the Hamilton Hill Arts Center is beginning Culture Fest on July 20th at Jerry Burrell Park at 1 p.m. there will be two other dates, one in August and the Other in September. She then wished her mother a happy 86th birthday.

Mr. Riggi - Wished Ms. Porterfield's mother a happy birthday. Then he asked the Mayor to please help the people on Craig Street with their quality of life issues and suggested that the police force add extra protection. He then announced that Mt. Carmel Festa begins this weekend on Friday, July 12th from 5-10 p.m., Saturday, July 13th from 5-10 p.m. and Sunday, July 14th from 3-9 p.m. and encouraged everyone to attend.


Mayor McCarthy – Stated that he will review what is going on at Craig Street and follow up.

Mr. Kosiur – Reminded everyone that Coffee with the Council will be on Sunday, July 14th from 10-12:30 p.m. at the Schenectady Greenmarket and encouraged all to attend.

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. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Riggi. The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is stylized with large, flowing loops.

By Samanta R. Mykoo

Schenectady City Clerk