

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

July 26, 2021

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

Mr. Mootooveren asked Council Member Marion Porterfield to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called on Council Member John Polimeni 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 and Corporation Counsel Andrew Koldin.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding Amending the 2020-2021 Annual Action Plan

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

Debra Rembert – Requested funds remain allotted to homeowners to repair their properties.

Jenica Hoff & Adam Driscal – Requested that the funds be reallocated to rental housing for senior. It would allow them to rehab the Elmer Avenue school. This adaptive reuse project is high cost and would allow them to apply for additional funding.

David Hogenkamp – Spoke in support of the Elmer Avenue project. This will allow for productive use of the building in the neighborhood and save this historical building.

Tom Carey – Stated that he agrees with Ms. Rembert, there is a need for funding for homeowners and he would like the Council to find additional resources but supports the reallocation to the Elmer Avenue project. This is an important project for the neighborhood.

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

2. Regarding Amending Chapter 18-1 and 87-8 of the Code of the City of Schenectady Relating to Office Hours, Workweek and Working Hours

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

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 July 12, 2021, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From William Mac Sudduth, an email stating that, as a senior citizen, holding Council Meetings at 5:30 p.m. is convenient for him and he believes it would also be beneficial to those who work so they can attend directly after work.

From Jean Zegger, a phone message stating that she would prefer Council Meetings remain at 7:00 p.m.

Petitions:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Health & Recreation – Ms. Patrick commended Commissioner LaFond, Floyd Slater, and city staff for the needed repairs to the parks, especially Jerry Burrell Park.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. Mootooveren invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk:

Tom Carey – Spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding and proposed that Council take lead on the planning and allow for opportunities from the public on suggested uses. This should be an open process and public feedback would be helpful. He suggested the funds be used for our parks and pedestrian and bicycle facilities in the City.

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

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

Mr. Mootooveren 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. 2021-159Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-160Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-161Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-162Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-163Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-164Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-165Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-166Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-167Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-168Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Mootooveren directed all who wished to discuss any items for City Business to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk.

Debra Rembert – Stated that the pavement in certain streets that are deplorable, such as Watt Street and Robinson Street. Patching up these areas only make them worse, especially come winter. These streets are causing damage to vehicles.

P. D. Voorhis – Announced that there is a problem with unscrupulous landlords. They have no requirements to compel them to give tenants copies of agreements and they flip tenants as a recreation. She then spoke about the Elmer Avenue project and that it may be helpful for seniors.

Agnes John Vandeyar – Stated that she needs help with her tenants. They have taken advantage of her and her husband for 11 months. She has spent approximately \$90,000 on the upper flat and passed inspections. These tenants have vandalized the interior and exterior of the property. The police have been called on numerous occasions and could not offer much relief because of Governor Cuomo’s order on evictions. She requested assistance from Council and said that her life is in danger.

Marva Isaacs – Spoke about the carports of Lincoln Avenue and stated that she was still frustrated by the situation. There is a carport by Jerry Burrell Park, she questioned why no tickets were issued?

Carol DelaMarter – Announced that the Stockade Neighborhood Association will be holding their bi-annual “Stockade Garden Tour” on August 7, 2021, and invited everyone to come and enjoy the garden and art.

Molaine Gilmore – She spoke about the proposed Elmer Avenue project and COCOA House allocation of funds. She asked that considerations should be made from where the statistics were originated.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas – Congratulated and thanked the Police Department for their follow-up work on combatting the illegal use of fireworks in our city. She then spoke about the gun violence that has become out of control. A person who carries an illegal gun is not a mistake. There should be a zero-tolerance approach. She asked that her colleagues join her to draft a resolution to the New York State Legislature to increase the mandatory minimum sentence for anyone in possession of an illegal firearm.

Marion Porterfield – Stated that Carl E. Heastie, the Speaker of the New York State Assembly, was here in Schenectady and presented large grants to Ellis Hospital and the Hamilton Hill Arts Center. She thanked everyone who came out to the “Show Love Where “You Live” event over the weekend. She spoke about the Stewarts opening on VanVranken Avenue. She then addressed gun violence and stated that the Governor has also recognized this problem and has allocated funds to address and prevent the problem, not treat the problem.

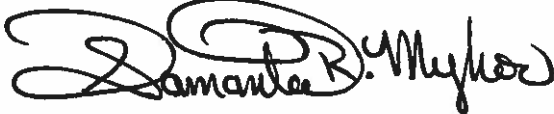
John Polimeni – Thanked Ms. Patrick for her efforts with Jerry Burrell Park, there had been many complaints that were not being addressed. The city staff did a great job with cleaning-up, but unfortunately it was trashed the following day. He announced that the Tennis and the YMCA programs are going well. He then spoke about the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) and the items on the agenda for funds toward the Fire and Police Departments. He has spoken to the Mayor about meetings with the public for use of these funds. He then stated that he supports Council Member Zalewski-Wildzunas’ s proposal regarding gun violence.

John Mootoveren – Thanked everyone for attending and speaking at tonight’s meeting.

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 Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A true record



By Samanta R. Mykoo
Schenectady City Clerk

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: Bhutras Golly [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, July 18, 2021 8:26 PM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: We meet at 5:30 please

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

As a retired senior citizen the 5:30 meeting time for city council is perfect for me. The earlier meeting time helps me not to have to drive both ways in the dark and an earlier ending time makes it possible to get in bed and and asleep at a decent hour.

The 5:30 time also works better for the employed who can go directly to the meeting from work and avoid having to go home and then come backe my letter of support to the later meeting. For those who work in Albany they won't miss matters of substance if they can't make it by 5:30 because the council has opening ceremonies before they get down to discussing business. Please include my letter of support for the 5:30 PM meeting in the official record.

Thank you, William Mac Sudduth
[REDACTED], Schenectady, NY 12308

Sent from my iPhone

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: Marielle Schmidt
Sent: Thursday, July 15, 2021 4:06 PM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Comment for Public Hearing / City Council Meeting Hours

Hi Sam,

We received a comment for the Public Hearing regarding City Council Meeting Hours from:

Name Jean Zegger
Address [REDACTED]
 Schenectady, NY 12305
Telephone Number [REDACTED]

Vote In favor of continuing City Council Meetings at 7PM.



Mariëlle Schmidt
Deputy City Clerk
City Hall
105 Jay Street, Room 107
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For further information: www.cityofschenectady.com