

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

September 23, 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 Reverend Bill Levering of the First Reformed Church 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 Mootoveren, and Edward Kosiur.

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

Absent – none.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda items number 11 and 12 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-211 A Resolution Recognizing the 2nd Annual No Greater Love Fraternal Order of Police 18 Charity Golf Memorial

The resolution was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

No one was present to accept the resolution.

Resolution No. 2019-212 A Resolution Recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month

The resolution was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

The resolution was accepted by Reverend Carlos Caraballo and members of his church. They thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding Local Law Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) of Electricity

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

Jeff Corbin – Stated that he was in favor of Community Choice Aggregation because it combats climate change and brings in clean energy. It also brings energy at a lower price to the community. The easiest company to join would be MEGA.

Pam Buono – Stated that joining a Community Choice Aggregation saves money for the residents and ultimately reduces the carbon emissions in the atmosphere.

Mike Tracy-Ireland – Explained that the City should consider joining Community Choice Aggregation for the potential positive impact on the local economy and it addresses climate change in a comprehensive way. He also suggested that MEGA be used as the administrator.

Liz Mastrianni – Spoke in favor of Community Choice Aggregation. Stated that she has solar panels on her house but it was pricey and she resides in a neighborhood with many renters who are not able to make adjustments or modifications to their homes. She then suggested that a smart choice should be made for a smart city.

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

2. Regarding the 2018 Consolidated Annual Performance and Evaluation Report (CAPER)

Mr. Kosiur invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing Number Two to come forward: *Speaker comments available from the Department of Development.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 26, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Porterfield seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments dated September 23, 2019.

From the Commissioner of General Services, a letter recommending the award of the “North Ferry Street Force Pump Station Project” to Jersen Construction Group, LLC of Waterford, New York for 1G (General), Schenectady Hardware & Electric, Inc. of Schenectady, New York for 1E (Electrical), Collett Mechanical, Inc. of Latham, New York for 1P (Plumbing) and 1H (HVAC).

General:

None

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Pat Smith – Announced that there is a partnership agreement for the back lot that was made in 1946. This agreement was made because sewer, water and gas enters in through one house and then is transferred to three others. The back lot is a separate entity and does not come with the house and parking does not come with the house. These are extra expenses.

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. Mootooveren and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2019-10Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-212.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-213.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-214.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-215.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-216.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-217.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-218.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-219.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-220.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-221.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-CS-09.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-CS-10.....Adopted Unanimously

2019-220 A Resolution Authorizing the Sale of 415 Pennsylvania Avenue

6:1:0

Voting AYE: Mr. Polimeni, Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Mr. Mootooveren, Mr. Riggi, Mr. Kosiur

Voting Nay: Ms. Perazzo

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:

Pat Smith – Stated that she has received phone calls from several people regarding noise problems. She asked if it is legal to make a police report from a recording on a phone. She also asked if it is possible to assign a police officer to the area on the weekends to deal with the calls or create an ordinance to deal with the noise.

Mary McClaine – There is no good reason for Schenectady to be at the forefront of the Smart City Initiative. It is not safe. Recent programs on the major T.V. Networks indicate that Smart Cities are subject to cyber-space attacks. Suck attacks would paralyze entire smart cities. Not even the traffic lights would be operable. Furthermore, the cost is staggering. Seven Million Dollars for Schenectady’s program and that doesn’t include insurance to safeguard the material that would be lost. That kind of money would go a long way to maintain a good quality of life for Schenectady’s dwellers, rather than used to collect data on idling snow trucks. There is no way the City can recoup the millions of dollars spent on the smart city initiative in order to be more efficient. It’s a pipe dream. A dirty city is meaningless. Someone in this city needs to get serious about the filth on the city streets. Every week is worse than the week before. What I saw over the last 4 weeks has been horrible. I don’t go looking for filth but there is so much of it all over the city, it’s obvious like patches of white snow everywhere. On September 16, I went to DeMarco Stone for a funeral service. Broadway was the pits. On September 18th, I went to the DMV building on State Street. To go home, I turned at the corner of State and McClellan Streets. The entire 1st block of McClellan Streets was a sorry site. It was no different on the corner of Brandywine Avenue and State Street on August 24th. The litter is allowed to accumulate from day to day. Technology cannot replace old-fashioned elbow grease. Get your priorities right. Clean the filth in Schenectady.

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. Perazzo– Stated that Empire State Development division of Travel and Tourism released their annual report that reflected a significant increase of travelers spending in Schenectady County. Then reported that 2,000 tickets were sold for the Wing Walk and it is now sold out and thanked the DSIC for organizing it. She then announced that the Schenectady Foundation is beginning their 2nd round for the “Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge”, ideas gathering sessions are beginning and meeting dates can be found on their website. She also announced that the Habitat for Humanity “Build-A-Bash” will be on Thursday, September 26 at the Armory, the “Stockade Walk-About” is on Saturday, September 28th, and the SEAT Center will be holding their “Bites and Brews – 3rd Annual Fall Fest” on Friday, October 4th at Rivers Casino & Resort. She then thanked everyone that came out to speak at the public hearing.

Mr. Riggi – Communicated his understanding on the noise complaint issues because he has also received numerous phone calls relating to it. He stated that we do have decibel meters and we should have the police use it when responding to noise complaints. He then stated that he has spoken to a few people regarding the CCA of Electricity and was informed that many people do not want to have to opt out to but rather opt in if they would like to be a part of the program.

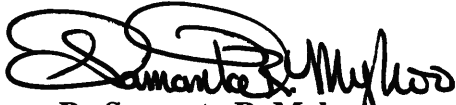
Mayor Gary R. McCarthy – Stated that he is working on the 2020 Budget Proposal and will be presenting it to Council on Monday, September 30th.

Ed Kosiur – Reminded everyone that the next Council Meeting will be on October 7th. Then announced that “Coffee with the Council” will be on Sunday, October 13th from 10:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. and the League of Women Voters will be holding their candidate forum on Wednesday, October 2nd at the Karen B. Johnson Library. He then divulged the menu selection at the Senior Center for Tuesday and Thursday.

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. Perazzo. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 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