

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

October 28, 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 Jim Wilson, a local veteran, 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 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 06 and 07 out of order. There were no objections. Item number 17 from the October 15th meeting was also presented.

Resolution No. 2019-237 A Resolution Recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month

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

The resolution was accepted by a representative of Susan G. Komen Upstate New York and the Schenectady Fire Department. They thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition.

Resolution No. 2019-238 A Resolution Honoring All Veterans and Men & Women Currently Serving in the Armed Forces

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

Veteran advocate, Jim Wilson, accepted the resolution on behalf of all the Veterans and thanked the Mayor and Council. He then invited the community to attend the Annual Veteran's Day Ceremony on Monday, November 11th at 10:30 a.m. at Veteran's Park.

Resolution No. 2019-236 A Resolution Recognizing the Daily Gazette on their 125 Years of Publication

The resolution was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren.

The resolution was accepted by Betsie Hume Lind and John DeAugustine from the Gazette. They thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding an Ordinance Amending Chapter 264 to Change the Zoning of 1075 Strong Street

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

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

2. Regarding an Ordinance to Abandon a Section of Pine Street

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

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

3. Regarding an Ordinance to Abandon a Section of Ulster Street

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the October 15, 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 October 15, 2019.

General:

From Vicki Michela, a letter in favor of the Community Choice Aggregation.

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Mr. Polimeni – Stated that the 2020 budget is being voted on at tonight’s meeting. The tax levy has been decreased 1.10% since 2017 and this year we are looking at a tax decrease of 1.54% - that is 8% in a five year period. We may be the only municipality that has decreased their taxes. He then thanked the Finance Department and his colleagues on the Finance Committee for their hard work in creating a sustainable budget.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Rev. Phillip Grigsby – Spoke about reviewing the 2020 budget and was surprised to see the elimination of the Fair Housing position. He expressed his displeasure on that decision because of the current state of the nation where people of color are being attacked; this is an important and needed position in the City, he exclaimed. He then remarked about the Civilian Police Review Board getting funding and hopes they can have staffing in the future.

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. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2019-13Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-239.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-240.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-241Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-242.....Adopted Unanimously

2019-13 An Ordinance Pursuant to Section 36 of the Second Class Cities Law and Article VI of the Charter of the City of Schenectady, Approving and Adopting the Proposed Operating Budget for 2020, and Authorizing the Appropriations therein Enumerated

A motion to amend the Operating Budget by reinstating the Fair Housing position along with the funding for the position was made by Mr. Mootooveren and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

7:0:0

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

Voting Nay: None

Abstain: None

A vote on the motion as amended moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren:

6:1:0

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

Voting Nay: Mr. Riggi

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:

Bill Zagata – Stated that there are trash bins that were put out just before Halloween and asked if it would be possible to have them out after Halloween since it is a safety issue for Trick-or-Treaters; it obstructs drivers view. He also stated that there is a large cottonwood tree at the end of his backyard that loses limbs every year. His backyard is adjacent to Central Park. He asked that something be done before anyone is injured.

Marva Isaacs – Announced that the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association Awards dinner will be on November 9th at the Hibernian Hall from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Mary McClaine – The smart City Initiative never should have happened in Schenectady. There were too many basic quality of life issues that needed to be funded rather than spend money on technology. I have sat in many committee meetings and heard the Mayor say there was no money for maintenance but he can find \$7 million for new toys that are targets for cyber attacks. This administration is making light of the possibility for a cyber space attack but the nation is not. Major networks are doing programs about it. The subject is on radio talk shows, even national surveys have questions about the dangers of cyber attacks. Your rationale for this technology flies in the face of logic. How can a police car go faster after the sound of gun shots heard if the pot holes in the streets are not filled in a timely manner? Doesn't the City already have enough law suits from fender benders from the City cars driven by its employees? Furthermore, one condition that lends itself to criminal behavior is poor lighting and the Mayor wants to dim the lights on the light poles for the sake of efficiency. What am I missing here. Having a City of beautiful neighborhoods is more important than spending money to gather data for idling snow trucks or for the study of traffic flow on Erie Boulevard. \$7 million would have made Schenectady a national leader in cleanliness instead we have messy main streets like the lower portion of Eastern Avenue. This summer the weeds on their lots were as tall as a 5 year old child. Who owns those lots? This body is a poor excuse for legislators.

Joy Hall – There are people crossing the streets without pushing the buttons. Trees are falling down on Albany and Millard Street; this is a safety issue. There are pot holes everywhere.

Portia Alston – Stated that she is happy that there were funds designated to the Civilian Police Review Board and would like to see them have more power. She is the first Vice President of the NAACP and they are currently trying to reorganize and wanted everyone to know this organization is active in Schenectady once again.

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 – Announced that the Winter Market begins on Sunday, November 3rd from 10 a.m. - 2 p.m. inside of Proctors. She then reminded everyone that Daylight Savings Time begins this Sunday. The Schenectady Greenmarket will be holding their Harvest Dinner fundraiser on November 7th at Riverstone Manner.

Ms. Porterfield – Announced that the application for the liquor store at 844 Albany Street was denied by the State Liquor Authority because of the community response. She then thanked the Mayor and the Council Members Kosiur, Perazzo and Riggi for their support.

Mr. Riggi – Announced that the Veterans Day Service will be on November 11th at Veteran's Park at 10:30 a.m. Today is National First Responders Day and thank them for their service.

Mr. Polimeni – Announced that on November 11th at 11:00 a.m. there will be a Veterans Day Memorial Service at Stienmetz Park.

Mayor Gary R. McCarthy – Stated that acquisitions and purchases are done according to policy that is passed by the Council but looks forward to any further discussions. He then commented on the Smart City Report that received national recognition that was done two years ago. He then thanked the Council for their support on passing the budget.

Mr. Kosiur – Announced that early voting has begun and will continue on until November 3rd. The four polling sites are the Hon. Karen B. Jonson Library, Niskayuna Town Hall, Glenville Senior Center and VIA Port Rotterdam. Further details on time can be found on the Schenectady County Board of Elections website.

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. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

A true record

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

**By Samanta R. Mykoo
Schenectady City Clerk**