

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

**May 23, 2016**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Leesa Perazzo at 7:07 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Perazzo asked Rev. Carlos Caraballo to provide the invocation.

Ms. Perazzo then called on the Schenectady High School ROTC to lead the colors and Charles Miriam 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, Edward Kosiur, John Ferrari , John Mootooveren, Leesa Perazzo, Marion Porterfield, and Vincent Riggi

Excused - John Polimeni

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

At this point, Ms. Perazzo asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item number 15, 16 & 17 out of order. There were no objections.

**Resolution No. 2016-120 – A Resolution Celebrating the First Women's Honor Flight in New York.** Female representatives from the U.S. Armed Services were on hand and they extended their gratitude for the recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

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

**Resolution No. 2016-121 – A Resolution Recognizing Schenectady County Senior Citizens of the Year.** Representatives from the Schenectady County Senior Citizen Awards were on hand and they extended their gratitude for the recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Mootooveren and seconded by Mr. Riggi. The resolution passed unanimously.

**Resolution No. 2016-122 – A Resolution Recognizing May as Motorcycle Safety & Awareness Month.** Motorcycle enthusiasts including the Patriot Guard were on hand and they extended their gratitude for the resolution presented by the Mayor and City Council.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The resolution passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

Ms. Perazzo invited all who wished to address the City Council regarding the following public hearing to come forward:

**1. Regarding a Moratorium on Taxi Licenses.**

**Gary DeRosiers**, Schenectady - Noted he is with Electric City Taxi and that he is joined by other owners of cab companies in the city. He extended his gratitude to the City Council for considering an increase on the rates cab companies can charge for services and consideration regarding a moratorium on new licenses. He noted other municipalities have established caps. He added the other owners in attendance with him tonight would like to see a cap on the number of medallions issued by the

city. He closed by noting he has been in the city of Schenectady for 50 years, that he loves the city, but is concerned without changes the city will push him out.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Perazzo declared the public hearing to be closed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 9, 2016 Council meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk; Mr. Kosiur made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Mootoovern seconded the motion.

**Communications Presented to the City Council for Monday, May 23, 2016**

**Official:**

From the Mayor a list of appointments dated May 23, 2016

A letter from Chris Wallin dated May 23, 2016 recommending the contract for the “Annual Street Improvement Program” be awarded to Callanan Industries, Inc.

A letter from Chris Wallin dated May 23, 2016 recommending the contract for the “Hot-In-Place Asphalt Recycling be awarded to Highway Rehabilitation Corporation.

**General:**

None

**Petitions:**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Mr. Kosiur**, City Development & Planning - Spoke on the call for a public hearing related to dog fees. He noted the Council is looking to extend the renewal process to match with the expiration of the rabies certificate. He noted the annual fee would remain the same however extending the licensing period would help alleviate some of the annual processing. He added the city would not experience any loss of revenue and the resident would have a license that expires on the same date as the rabies vaccination.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)**

Ms. Perazzo invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward:

None

Seeing no speakers come forward, Ms. Perazzo declared the Privilege of the Floor on the Legislative Agenda 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 seconded by Mr. Ferrari.

**Consent Agenda –**

- Resolution No. 2016 – 122 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 123 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 124 .....Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2016 – 125 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 126 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 127 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 128 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 129 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 130 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 131 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 132 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 133 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 134 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 135 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 136 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – CS - 11 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – CS - 12 .....	Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Ms. Perazzo then 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:

**Robert Becker**, Schenectady – Noted a number of events taking place in recognition of Memorial Day. Noted the Polish American Veterans will host an event at the Hamburg Street Cemetery. On May 25 the town of Scotia will host a Memorial Day parade and Rotterdam's parade will be on May 26. He added Niskayuna will host a service on May 27 and then on May 28 veterans will place 12,000 American flags at the nation cemetery. On Memorial Day, May 30 Vale Cemetery will host a service at 10:30 a.m. followed by an 11:00 a.m. service in Schenectady's Veterans Park. Two other services will take place in Glenville and also in Rotterdam.

**Anthony Carota**, Schenectady – Extended praise to the Schenectady Fire Department related to a response on May 16 to Center City with regards to a fire alarm. He also wished the injured fire personnel a speedy recovery. With regards to the rehabilitation of buildings in the city he noted that he recognizes the need to knock down unsafe building. He added that he has noticed many building that can be rehabilitated. He noted residents are able to take pride in rehabbed buildings vs. tearing them down. He added there is a ripple effect for other residents to also take pride in the neighborhood. He noted this then leads to less criminal activity and negative behaviors in the neighborhoods. He encouraged the city to work with city engineers to rehab buildings. He closed by noting this would help reshape the city.

**Marva Isaacs**, Schenectady – Noted concerns related to garbage day in Hamilton Hill where some residents are putting garbage out on Friday when it is not collected until Monday. She said dogs and animals get into the garbage and make a mess. She noted she would like to see Code Enforcement ticket residents for putting garbage out early. She also noted there is a lot of garbage on Albany Street and people are leaving a mess despite efforts to keep the area clean. She closed by noting the Hamilton Hill neighborhood block party will take place on June 25.

**Mary McClaine**, Schenectady – "I moved to Schenectady 38 years ago this month. It was a good move. Geographically, Schenectady is a great place. How many cities have a beautiful river running through it? Academically, the learning is here for the taking. Historically, it has a uniqueness with bragging rights. Culturally, the community constantly offers stimulating and fund events. Legislatively, it gets a failing grade. How do I know? One of the very first things I did when I moved to Schenectady was to attend a City Council meeting. I have been an observer and listener of the process since that first day. Over the past four years the decisions made in this chamber have been the worse in my experience. People who use profanity are conversational cripples. People who lie are cheaters.

Taxpayers got cheated when council passed waivers for building permits. That legislation means a financial loss to the city's treasury. Several years ago, a contractor was lying about the footage he claimed for his projects. He wanted to save money on the building permits. He was dragged into court. What council did two weeks ago legislatively was give away the entire permit. At the same meeting, council voted to sell one house to three people with the same last name. Can they individually request a waived building permit for the same house? And what about the council man who proposed the initial legislation, voted for the legislation and made sure the package included waivers for apartments? He owns eight apartments in the city of Schenectady. You certainly took care of your buddy at taxpayers expense. You are the ones who should be in handcuffs."

Seeing no other speakers come before the City Council, Ms. Perazzo declared the Privilege of the floor closed regarding City Business.

### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Mr. Riggi** – Announced Bellevue Preservation Inc. will host its monthly meeting on June 9 at 7:30 p.m. at St. Paul's Church. He also noted on June 4 and 5 the neighborhood association will host its annual community garage sale from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. He noted a list of participants will be available at the Bellevue Reform Church.

**Ms. Porterfield** - Noted the ground breaking for the Joe Allen Apartment complex took place on May 5 with lots of community support. She added if you drive by the corner of Albany and Hulett Street you can see the vacant lot where construction will begin. She then noted the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee met and hosted Mary Cheeks, General Manager of the Rivers Casino. She noted that Ms. Cheeks spoke about MWBE participation related to vendor services for the new casino along with plans for a community meeting related to other employment opportunities.

**Mr. Kosiur** - Thanked the City Council for supporting the increase in funding for the summer youth employment program during the last City Council cycle. He noted the county has received more than 400 applications from area youth and the program is looking for additional work sites. He noted many of the youth have interviewed for the first time as part of the programs job interview process. He noted the program is in need of more sites for program participants. He added if you have a small business and need additional summer employees the county takes full responsibility for workers compensation and provides job coaching. He noted the youth work 20 hours per week from June 5 to August 15. He encouraged interested parties to contact Jen at SJTA for more information. He then thanked the more than 100 participants involved with the Woodlawn neighborhood garage sale. He added Woodlawn Park Redevelopment Committee hosted a garage sale and raised nearly \$5,000. He then thanked everyone who voted on the recent school budget and school board election. He added the school budget and capital project passed with 75 percent support. He congratulated Cathy Lewis and Ann Riley who won re-election to the Schenectady school board. He also congratulated William Rives on his first run for elected office, noted although he lost, he suspects he will run again in the future.

**Mr. Ferrari** - Noted the Schenectady Police Department hosted their annual Valor Day Ceremony. He thanked Commissioner Bennett for his speech in which he thanked members of the Schenectady Police Department for their continued service. He then reminded residents to remember those who have served during the Memorial Day weekend.

**Mr. Mootooveren** - Reminded residents that Grievance Day with the City Assessor's office is on May 21. He noted if residents believe their property assessments are too high, this is an opportunity to submit a grievance application. He added that he expects city hall to be busy and reiterated this is your chance to act.

**Mayor McCarthy** - Extended his compliments to tonight's ceremonial resolution awardees.

**Ms. Perazzo** – Noted the Human Rights Commission hosted their annual awards breakfast and recognized 40 different individuals and groups at the event. She added the breakfast included inspiring stories from young people. She then reiterated the schedule of Memorial day services happening in the city. She encouraged residents to think about the service and sacrifice of service members while spending time with family over the Memorial Day weekend. She noted the Vale Park committee will be hosting a hot dog fundraiser on June 3 and proceeds will benefit park improvements. She also noted the Hometown Hero banners will again be displayed in downtown Schenectady following an event hosted by the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation at the Armory on June 1 at 11:00 a.m. She noted she recently represented the mayor related to a pledge to have 80 percent of residents complete a colorectal cancer screening. She added colorectal cancer is controllable with early screening and as she turned 50 this year she plans to attend her own screening appointment.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Kosiur and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Charles W. Thorne".

**By Charles Thorne**

**Schenectady City Clerk**