

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

July 11, 2016

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Leesa Perazzo at 7:03 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Perazzo asked Lynn Gilgore of the Lunn Resource Center to provide the invocation.

Ms. Perazzo then called on the Boy Scout Troup in attendance to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council members, John Ferrari, Edward Kosiur, John Mootoveren , Leesa Perazzo, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, and Vincent Riggi

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Chad Putman, Corporation Counsel Carl Falotico and Mayor Gary R. McCarthy

At this point, there were no item to be taken out of order.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 27, 2016 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk; Mr. Riggi made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Kosiur seconded the motion.

Communications Presented to the City Council for Monday, July 11, 2016

Official:

From the Mayor a list of appointments dated July 11, 2016

A letter from Chris Wallin, City Engineer dated July 11, 2016 recommending the award of "Schenectady Municipal Golf Course Improvements" contract to Intergolf.

General:

None

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Porterfield, Health & Recreation - Noted that the Recreation Advisory Commission has made recommendations for 2016 spending in the parks: Carrie St. Park - \$27,680, Landon Terrace Park \$22,741.78, South Avenue Park - \$32,534.17, Vale Park \$40,139.10, Wallingford Park \$49,795.96, Webster Park - \$51,299.02, and Benches and Fences \$25,809.97

Mr. Ferrari, Public Services & Utilities - Noted the New York State Department of Service has issued a letter to municipalities informing them of future changes to the area code 518. He noted information and public hearing sessions will be hosted including on July 28 at Colonie Town Hall. He added the Colonie information session will be at noon and the public statement hearing will be at 1 p.m.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

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

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – "Good evening to the Smart City folks. Agenda Item #4 - Authorize the Mayor to apply for NYS funds for a Mohawk Harbor Visitor Center. I can understand why the City would want to apply for funds for anything but I don't think the Mohawk Harbor is the right place for a visitors' center. People who go to gamble in casinos are not interested in other things. When I ran for City Council in 2013 Sara Foss wrote in one of her columns that she had attended the candidates debate in Proctors theater and not one of the candidates had a vision for the City. That was not an accurate statement. I did have a vision for Schenectady. That vision was to turn the weigh station on Broadway into a visitors center and run it like a Colonial Williamsburg mini operation. I lived in that area for 10 years. I was bringing my experience to the City. Secondly, my vision for the Mohawk River was an aquarium. At the last meeting, a Councilman mentioned that Genova is the leading Smart City in Italy. Genova has an aquarium. My relatives live in Genova. I have visited them and the aquarium. What an incredible tourist attraction. This area is going to have its aquarium. Europeans brought it here. Rotterdam will house it. Schenectady got the non-vision Council members. The Mohawk Harbor is no place for a visitors center."

Jason Planck, Schenectady – Spoke on the taxi moratorium and noted the City is in need of an assessment related to the number of taxi medallions needed within the City. He then asked how many taxi cabs are accessible for persons with disabilities and how many cab companies are from outside the City? He noted when taking the cab between the airport and Schenectady he will be charged a flat rate vs. a meter rate. He noted the pricing difference is notable. He then encouraged the City Council to review their responsibility in relation to regulating medicabs. He also encouraged the Council to consider a cost benefit analysis in relation to the proposed visitor's center. He noted in 2009 the NYS Comptroller reported in a Schenectady Gazette article that Mr. Gillen with Metroplex falsified documents.

Carol DeLaMarter, Schenectady - Noted she is the President of the Stockade Neighborhood Association and stated her support of the City Council's efforts to address illegal fireworks in the City. She noted concerns related to fireworks as a fire hazard, potential injury for residents and enforcement against illegal fireworks.

P.D. Voorhis, Schenectady - Noted she does not support the miSci agreement with Vale Park. She noted the cemetery as a barrier and added the park pavilion has experienced fire damage in the past. She then noted she was able to see fireworks going off from different locations in the City including in Hamilton Hill, near Union College and Van Vranken.

Seeing no other 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. Ferrari made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mootoveren.

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 2016 – 173	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 174	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 175	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 176	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 177	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 178	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 179	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 180	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 181	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 182	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 183	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – 184	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2016 – CS - 13	Adopted Unanimously

A Resolution Requesting Schenectady County Legislators to Repeal the Law Allowing Sale of Fireworks in Schenectady. 2014 - 185

The motion was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Mr. Ferrari.
6:0:1

Voting AYE: Ferrari, Kosiur, Mootooveren, Perazzo, Porterfield and Riggi
Voting NAY: None
ABSTAIN: Polimeni

Mr. Mootooveren – Noted the fireworks are not safe for our neighborhoods and highlighted a recent house fire in Amsterdam due to fireworks. He noted his support of this legislation in hopes to repeal the legislation which permits the sale of fireworks within the county.

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:

Anthony Carota, Schenectady – Noted he applauds the City Council on addressing the quality of life issues related to fireworks. He then held up a sign and noted his support and respect of law enforcement. He noted recent tragedies in New York City, Baltimore and Texas. He noted his concerns related to attack on police and added they respond to calls without knowing what they will be responding to. He added police put their lives on the line 365 days a year. He noted the police are not out to get anyone and that attacks on police need to stop. He closed by noting this war has gone on too long.

Jason Planck, Schenectady – Noted concerns related to the community assessment and added the democrats have had a super majority in the City and County for the last twelve years. He noted leadership is not creating jobs or addressing issues related to affirmative action. He noted the City is using federal money and it's not going toward affordable or accessible housing. He noted it's time for the City leadership to address the needs of the community. He then referenced a recent reported that listed Schenectady as the 12 worst municipality related to crime and added that Albany was worse. He noted the City leadership needs to create more jobs, hire more police officers and increase home-ownership.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – "I went to church on Saturday, lit candles, prayed for the work and meditated on last week's events. I am the oldest of seven siblings. My baby brother is a retired policeman. He was on the police force for 20 years. One day while walking his beat alone, two women

ran out of a bank and told him a robbery was in progress inside the bank. Without waiting for backup, he went inside. Shots were fired both ways. Burglar and officer survived. My brother was cited for bravery. Locally awhile back the City Council woman trampled a crime scene after the police had cordoned it off. What is the answer? Attitude? Maybe. I try to do what I can for the policemen even if it's just a wave, a smile, a hello. The last community act that I performed before I left Virginia was to attend a City Council meeting to ask for a salary increase for the policemen. I didn't need to be there, I was leaving the state, but the policemen were earning peanuts and the City was flushed with money. In 1969, the City finished its fiscal year with a \$5 million dollar surplus. I told the Council they had more money than they had time to spend it and that the policemen were getting crumbs from the heavily laden banquet table. I don't know if the policemen got their raises but I felt I had done my part to say, thank you for what they do for us every day. We all have stories. That is mine."

Charles Miller, Schenectady – Noted concerns related to a property on Wabash Avenue in the City that paved over their front sidewalk with blacktop last August. He noted that he notified the City's Code Enforcement office and was told the property received a citation. He noted contact with Council member Mr. Riggi related to the issue and has since made several calls to the City and Code Enforcement office and has been told personnel are working on it. He noted three weeks ago the homeowner sealed the sidewalk and added his sidewalk is concrete.

Tony Buonome, Schenectady - Reported that parking meters #117 and #119 near City hall are broken. He then asked for an update on the Oak Street Bridge.

Carol DeLaMarter, Schenectady - Noted the Stockade Association will be hosting a Garden Tour this weekend and will feature art and sculptor displays. She noted there was an article in the Schenectady Gazette on Sunday. She added it will be a busy weekend with the bike tour coming through the Stockade as well. She then thanked the City personnel and several volunteers for cleaning up around the neighborhood in preparation for the Garden Tour event. She noted the Stockade Association has been an advocate for the neighborhood by raising issues and securing improvements. She closed by encouraging residents to participate in the event being held on Friday and Saturday and noted there would be a neighborhood association information table.

P.D. Voorhis, Schenectady - Noted the City paid Clough Harbor \$20,000 for contract work on vaults on State Street. She also reference Proctors heating system. She then noted an 18 wheeler attempted to drive under the railroad bridge on Liberty Street and it did not fit. She added the driver took off and then later came back to address the issue. She noted the incident was not reported on in the paper. She closed by noting the City promised to pave and redo the sidewalks on VanVranken Avenue. 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 – Noted the Mt. Carmel Festa is taking place this weekend. He added it's a great event with lots to do. He also noted Bellevue in the Park will take place on August 13. He then thanked the City personnel for cleaning up and addressing repairs in City parks after the recent storm. He noted in Hillhurst Park a structure was damaged and has since been repaired. In Fairview Park he noted there was damage to the fence around the tennis court and in Central Park there were a lot of trees down. He added City staff and the administration did a good job dealing with the aftermath of the storm. He noted City personnel like welders handle important work for the City like repairing snow plows and keeping machinery going.

Ms. Porterfield - Thanked City leadership and staff for their response to the storm related to clean up. She also thanked the Affirmative Action Advisory Board for hosting Rivers Casino recently related to MWBE vendor opportunities. She then announced the Breathing Lights

project will be coming to Schenectady. The install will take place over the next few months, and will include neighborhood surveyors seeking feedback on the project. She encouraged residents to participate in the pre and post survey which will be conducted by Neighborhood Ambassadors. She then announced Summer Night is taking place in downtown Schenectady on July 15 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. She added there will be entertainment and lots of fun for the whole family. She noted a legal fireworks display will end the event which will be facilitated by professionals. Regarding recent national tragedies she noted the impact on families are intertwined as she read the names of seven recent victims. She added there will be a Community Conversation to be held at Mt. Olivet Baptist Church in Schenectady on July 13 regarding the impact on youth and community. She encouraged community participation and for residents to listen and talk with each other.

Mr. Polimeni - Noted fireworks are a serious issue in the City, however he noted the resolution asking the county to restrict the sale of sparklers in the City is not going to address the issue. He added the real issue is the illegal fireworks which are impacting the quality of life of City residents. He noted people who want to purchase sparklers will do so by traveling to a nearby County if the County chose to revoke the sale of sparklers. He reiterated the real issue is the illegal fireworks and the resolution addressed to Schenectady County does not address that problem. He added this is why he abstained from the vote. He continued by noting it's time for a new chapter which is why he introduced a resolution to ask the Governor and other state level officials to enforce the law. He noted he will be contacting urban centers around the state to put pressure on the Governor and others to increase enforcement on illegal fireworks. He then encouraged residents to call the Governor's office at 474-8390 and the Attorney General's office at 776-2000 to share their concerns. He also commended the Mayor and City staff regarding work completed in Central Park and Hillhurst Park, noting the cleanup of downed trees and debris from the storm.

Mayor McCarthy - Noted his compliments to City staff on their response to the storm damage. He thanked police, fire, the Office of General Services and neighbors for helping each other with the clean up. He added tree debris is mostly cleaned up at this time and there was some damage to buildings including the loss of a vending stand in Central Park. He added City personnel are filing an insurance claim and crews are mapping out the logistics of reconstruction. He noted on July 15 the City will host Summer Night which will be an opportunity to see old and new friends while enjoying live music and food. He then thanked the Human Rights Commission's Angelicia Morris for hosting a community forum at the Bridge Christian Church tonight. He added on July 13 Rev. Sanders will host a Community Discussion at the Mt Olivet Church. He noted Schenectady is a leader, looking to build on our strengths, not our differences. He noted the series of tragic events could take place anytime in any place. He noted the Schenectady Police Department has engaged in in-depth background check related to hiring of Police officers. He added the City wants employees to have the skill set necessary to perform on a level that makes residents proud. He closed by noting City personnel's response to the recent storm is a good example and that he is looking forward to making Schenectady stronger and better.

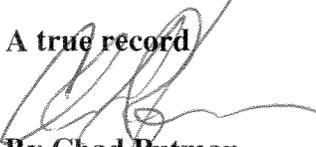
Ms. Perazzo – Noted Governor Cuomo road his motorcycle from Albany to Buffalo recently to increase awareness of legislation passed this cycle related to breast cancer screening. She noted a survey was conducted and found time and money as primary barriers to breast cancer screenings. She added the new legislation will require medical centers to remain open an additional four hours, outside of regular hours in addition to not collecting co-pays for screenings and follow up. She added now there is no excuse not to get screened. She then noted on July 14 Vale Park will host a movie night featuring the Minions movie. She encourage residents to attend. She then announced the Goose Hill Family Fun Day on July 23 at 1:00 p.m. She noted the Oak Street

Bridge hold up is not about money but rather fine tuning the reconstruction plan. She added the design is in its final stages and is moving in a forward direction. She closed by noting a couple serious accidents have occurred on Broadway and reminded residents to pull over for emergency vehicles, especially during rush hour.

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. Ferrari and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Putman', written over the text 'A true record'.

By Chad Putman

Schenectady Deputy City Clerk