

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

August 22, 2016

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Leesa Perazzo at 7:02 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Perazzo asked for a moment of silence in lieu of the invocation.

Ms. Perazzo then called on Marva Isaacs 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 Ferrari, Edward Kosiur, John Mootoveren , Leesa Perazzo, John Polimeni and Marion Porterfield

Excused - Vince Riggi

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

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 8, 2016 Council meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk; Mr. Kosiur made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Polimeni seconded the motion.

Communications Presented to the City Council for Monday, August 22, 2016

Official:

From the Mayor a list of appointments dated August 22, 2016

From Christopher Wallin, City Engineer a letter dated August 8, 2016 recommending the award of the "Removal and Installation of Holding Cell Toilets" to Collett Mechanical, Inc.

From Richard McIlravy-Ackert, Purchasing Supervisor a letter dated August 22, 2016 recommending the award of the "Installation of Aftermath Equipment for Schenectady Police Department Vehicles" to Niskayuna Tire & Service.

General:

None

Petitions:

Central Park Estates for the paving of streets.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Ms. Porterfield, Health & Recreation - Noted City crews removed Central Park playground equipment which was deemed unsafe and an insurance liability. She added safe playground equipment is a priority and ongoing playground installation are planned for six City parks. She added Vale Park

playground equipment has been moved to the front of the park for safety reasons and better access for youth. She noted the Recreation Advisory Commission is helping to move the process forward.

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 – 199Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 200Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 201Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 202Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 203Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – CS - 15Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – CS - 16Adopted 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:

Anthony Carota, Schenectady – Noted that he is a member of Schenectady Neighborhood Watch. He noted earlier this month he was watching the news which reported the City was approved for \$5 million to fix city roads and infrastructure. He said he noticed State Street from MVP to railroad bridge was recently paved. He added our roads and bridges are over a hundred years old. He noted the money will go to the Mayor and behind close door business deals and not to the intended purpose. He noted as a concerned citizen he is ashamed to say he lives in the City of Schenectady which he said is falling apart. He added we know what's going on. He closed by stating the money needs to go to the intended use and not to the Mayors agenda.

Tony Buonome, Schenectady – Noted back in June there was a letter from Bill Hollister, part of Amtrak's senior management and the office of Government Affairs. He questioned what's the hold up on ironing out contract details on the Oak Street Bridge repair. He asked if the City can get together with Amtrak, adding it's been a month and a half since the letter from Mr. Hollister. He noted if we can't do that he suggested the Council go back to the prior proposal to passing a resolution calling on the Amtrak to take action on bridge repairs. He then highlighted an ATV accident that occurred recently. He noted the ATV was on the road illegally and the driver was injured after going through a stop sign. He added these incidents have a greater impact on automobile drivers and the cost of their insurance.

William Rivas, Schenectady - Noted he is the founder #SaveOurStreets. He added the group will be hosting a back-to-school basketball tournament and school supply give-away event on August 20th and 21st. He noted many of the community partners supporting and participating in the event. He added the two day event will take place from 2:00 p.m. to 8 p.m. giving out 500 book bags, free haircuts and

free food for youth participants. He noted there will be 16 teams in the basketball tournament over three age brackets. He added the tournament is an opportunity to unite communities across greater Schenectady. He noted that as a kid he use to participate in Tuesdays in the Park and that he looked forward to it. He noted the Save Our Streets event will host vendors, special guests and guest speakers. He closed by noting the event has received donations from residents and agencies but added there is still time to make donations and share in the fun. He encouraged residents to come out and play in the All-star game taking place on Sunday.

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. Polimeni - Noted the Fraternal Order of the Police had recently hosted a local benefit softball game. He added the group donated t-shirts to City Council members. He also noted the Music Haven season ended with a bang at Proctors Theatre with the best performance of the summer. He added the Music Haven series is a great benefit to the City and Central Park.

Mr. Kosiur - Announced the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association cookout will take place at Woodlawn Park on August 24 starting at 5:30 p.m. He noted food and beverages will be provided and he asked residents to bring a dish to pass. He noted this will be an opportunity to meet with neighbors and community leaders along with checking out new development in the park. He added there will be live music and the forecast is looking good. He then reminded residents the school year starts back up on September 7th. He added elementary classes start at 8:00 a.m. and high school classes start at 8:30 a.m. He encouraged residents and drivers to watch for children and added the City will be re-stripping many of the cross walks. He noted renovations continue at area schools. He then noted the City pools are closed for the season with the exception of Central Park which remains open until Saturday at 5:00 p.m. He then thanked the Schenectady Boys and Girls Club of Schenectady for their work this summer. This includes recreation leaders that enabled thousands of City youth to benefit from the City pools and parks over the summer. He also thanked Jeremy Howard and his staff for their work in the parks and cleaning up after the summer storm. He also thanked local non-profits who sponsored summer programs. He added his Score Camp welcomed 160 kids a day and included representatives from the Schenectady Gazette who offered writing camps. He then reminded residents to participate in the Community Needs Assessment survey. He added completed surveys allow for community input and help inform priorities related to allocating funding. He noted there will be surveys available in the City Clerk's office along with youth surveys for residents age 14-21. He closed by adding that City representatives will be in attendance at the Schenectady Greenmarket with surveys over the next couple weeks until 1:00 p.m.

Ms. Porterfield – Noted there will be a Community Needs Assessment meeting on September 8 at Mt. Olivet Church at 1068 Park Avenue. She noted the faith based community has come together to make sure the community is engaged. She added the event will take place from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and will be hosted by Rev. H. Sanders. She noted conversations will focus on access and the quality of community resources, economic development, public safety and other issues. She also noted the contractor responsible for the construction of the Joseph Allen Apartment will host a meet and greet on September 1 at the Phyllis Bornt Library to recruit construction applicants. She added that she has received calls from residents related to concerns and decided she will spend more time in the community to interact with the public. She closed by asking residents to look for her and stop by and talk with her.

Mr. Mootoveren - Noted Schenectady's Guyana community will host the 12th annual Guyana Celebration in Grout Park on September 4, which is open to public and runs 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. He added the event will include food, live music and games for kids. He encouraged residents to attend and support Guyana Day.

Mayor McCarthy - Encouraged everyone to enjoy the last days of summer and the holiday weekend.

Ms. Perazzo – Wished everyone a happy Labor Day and added the next Committee meeting will be on Tuesday, September 6 at 5:30 pm. She closed by wishing her parents a happy 64th anniversary.

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 Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Ferrari. The meeting was adjourned at 7:26 p.m.

A true record

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

By Charles Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk