

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

October 11, 2016

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Leesa Perazzo at 7:04 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Perazzo asked Rev. Peter Carmen with the Emmanuel-Friedens Church to provide the invocation.

Ms. Perazzo then called on Walter Simpkins 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 Edward Kosiur, John Mootooveren , Leesa Perazzo, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, and Vincent Riggi

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

At this point, Ms. Perazzo invited D.C. Dunkel to the front of the chamber to present his art piece featuring thousands of newspaper clippings of the word "Schenectady".

At this point, Ms. Perazzo asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item number 13, 14, 15, & 16 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2016-238 – A Resolution Recognizing the First Annual Back to School Classic and Community Day. William Rivas was on hand and he extended his gratitude for the resolution and recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

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

Resolution No. 2016-239 – A Resolution Recognizing October as Italian Heritage and Culture Month. Representatives from the Italian heritage community were on hand and they extended their gratitude for the resolution and recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

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

Resolution No. 2016-240 – A Resolution Recognizing October as American Pharmacists Month. The President of the Albany School of Pharmacy was on hand and he extended his gratitude for the resolution and recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

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

Resolution No. 2016-241 – A Resolution Recognizing the Community-Police Basketball League. Organizers including Rosa Rivera with the basketball league were on hand and they extended their gratitude for the resolution and recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

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

PUBLIC HEARING:

Ms. Perazzo invited all who wished to address the City Council on regarding the Proposed 2017 Budget for the City of Schenectady. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Gerald Plante, Schenectady – Noted the Mayor campaigned on a ten percent tax reduction and his 2017 proposed budget offers a 3.5 percent tax cut. He noted it's important for the Mayor to keep his promise and start the budget process with a ten percent tax cut. He noted residents put up with a lot in the 1990's and 2000's and a ten percent tax cut, is a ten percent tax cut.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – "If I didn't know better, I would think that a sommelier drafted this budget. A 3.25% tax reduction is proposed for the troops and the rest is for the generals. citizens know about the windfall from the casino fees and they hear the braggadocios on the City's house sales. The results are fat for the unions and lean for City residents. The majority of union members be they policemen, firemen or school personnel do not live in the city. Therefore they are not your constituents but they have your priority. Furthermore, before Council members vote on this budget, I am asking you to tell this community how much is in this budget for you namely; (a) salaries for part time work (b) medical insurance coverage for part time work (c) low income housing benefits. The taxpayers in Schenectady have waited a long time for a tax reduction. The time has come. This taxpayer wants a 10% tax reduction. If you believe in your own legislation that the casino is the end all for the City then the windfall will keep coming to fatten the tax base to pay for it."

Kanema Hayes, Schenectady – Was joined by two members of the Affirmative Action Advisory Committee. She noted the committee presented their annual report in March which highlighted deficiencies. She added the committee has been waiting patiently for the City to move on some of the committee recommendations. She noted the proposed budget does not include funding for an Affirmative Action Officer for the City. She noted the position is a priority in helping to ensure opportunity for all. She questioned whether the lack of an Affirmative Action Officer in the budget is evidence of politics as usual. She added the majority of the minority residents that live in Schenectady County live in the City of Schenectady and continuing to share an Affirmative Action Officer doesn't make sense. She noted a City Affirmative Action Officer would be available to advocate on policy related activities and offer more resources to the City. She then noted Council member Porterfield plans to add the Affirmative Action Committee to the City Council Committee agenda on October 17. She also noted the committee appreciates the Mayor and others treating the board recommendations as a priority.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the September 26, 2016 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk; Ms. Porterfield made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Kosiur seconded the motion.

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

Official:

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

General:

None

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

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

Mary McClaine, Schenectady - Noted there are often requests for grants on the agenda. She asked the Council directly if there is money for maintenance in these grants, more specifically maintenance for the new Gateway Park project. She noted the Gateway Park project has been littered with cigarettes and questioned if that was going to continue. If so she asked if there will be money for maintenance in this grant. She added if there is no maintenance money then she thinks it's time the city gets some. She noted it's not smart if we are dealing with litter every day.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Mr. Riggi made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Polimeni.

Consent Agenda –

- Resolution No. 2016 – 242Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 243Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 244Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 245Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 246Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 247Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 248Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 249Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 250Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2016 – 251Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ms. Perazzo 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 stepped down from Neighborhood Watch and that he attended the last Council meeting with other residents from Hamilton Hill. He noted contacting National Grid as advised by the Mayor related to street lights that were out. He added running into barriers when trying to contact National Grid and was troubled by how much time it took. He then noted it's important for City staff to make sure that the sewer systems are working correctly and that the abandoned buildings are addressed on Hamilton Hill. He noted the Breathing Lights program does not address the problem of abandoned property. He noted he attended a recent vigil on Schenectady Street and there are three abandoned building across the street from the Art Center. He added these properties are drug dens and in need of rehabilitation. He closed by noting he was glad to see other neighbors in attendance tonight.

Marva Isaacs, Schenectady - Noted she had raised the concern and the City has addressed the street lights and the sewer smell on Schenectady Street. She then commended the Schenectady Police Department for their quick response to a stolen car incident involving a local teen.

Kanema Haynes, Schenectady – Noted concerns related to CDBG funds being allocated to pay for Code Enforcement in the City. She noted there are abandoned buildings in the City which need to be addressed along with taking on issues with absentee landlords. She also noted the Craig Street Miracle needs help. She added the center would provide activities for area youth. She noted her frustration about the planned closing of the Boys & Girls Club in Hamilton Hill. She added the Boys & Girls Clubs in Rotterdam or Niskayuna are not closing. She questions what the Democratic party, which has been in leadership position for several decades, has done on behalf of the residents of Hamilton Hill.

Denzel Morris, Schenectady - Was joined by representatives affiliated with the Miracle on Craig Street. He noted the group is visible in the City and the needs of the neighborhood are huge. He added a robust community center is needed and he wants the City leadership to be on the right side of this issue. He noted CDBG funds can go along ways to assist with the project. He added the group has letters of support, invested stakeholders and a growing partnership.

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

Ms. Porterfield – Noted the Boys & Girls Club in Hamilton Hill is planning to move to Mont Pleasant following new construction. She then noted the Hillside View Apartment contracts are coming through and they will be looking for minority owned and Section 3 contractors. She added there will be information sessions on October 18 and 21st at the business center on Albany Street. Information will be provided about how to become a certified contractor and interested parties can RSVP by contacting the Community Loan Fund at 436-8586.

Mr. Riggi - Noted his appreciation of tonight's speakers. He then noted Bellevue will host its monthly neighborhood association meeting and will feature a "Meet the Candidate" forum. He added the forum will include candidates for the Schenectady City Council, NYS Assembly and NYS Senate. He also noted that the Bellevue neighborhood will host a Fall Foliage Festival on October 15 which will include food, music and activities for the kids.

Mr. Polimeni - Noted Home Furnishings will be partnering with Habitat Restore offering deals on Christmas Shopping on November 4 through December 15th. He then promoted the Mits for Kids program and added donations can be left at City Hall in the Clerk's office and the Mayor's office. He then congratulated the Mayor on his work related to Smart City Initiatives which have been embraced by other global communities. He added the Mayor's vision is on the right track.

Commissioner Bennett - Noted the Mayor needed to leave for an obligation and he is stepping in to fill his absence. He then echoed Council member Polimeni's comments related to the City's Smart City's initiative. He added the initiative includes really smart people from around the country. He noted it's a huge undertaking which will be a great accomplishment that will bring the City a great deal of notoriety.

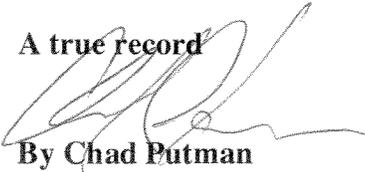
Ms. Perazzo – Noted her appreciation to those who spoke on the proposed budget and added the City Council is in the midst of several weeks of meetings reviewing the budget. She noted if other residents have suggestions or feedback they can contact a City Council member or the Clerk's office by phone or email. She then highlighted the new reflection area which recently opened in Riverside Park and congratulated the Glenn Eddie following their recent celebration for their work in the community. She then encouraged residents to register to vote with the

deadline approaching on October 14th. She then noted that St. Adelbert's will host their annual Polish Festival on October 16th. She noted the YWCA will host their annual rally to fight domestic violence on October 20th and added this is the 40th anniversary of the rally. She noted the event will start at 5:30 p.m. and feature guest speakers and a march.

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. Polimeni and seconded by Mr. Kosiur. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Chad Putman", written over the printed name.

By Chad Putman

Schenectady Deputy City Clerk