

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

January 27, 2020

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council Majority Leader John Polimeni at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Polimeni asked Pastor James Bookhout of the Bridge Christian Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Polimeni then called on Cameron Bouck, David Bouck, Declan Golen, and Trey Trumble of the Schenectady Blue Jays 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, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, and Leesa Perazzo.

Also Present – City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, Corporation Council Andrew Koldin.

Absent – John Mootooveren.

At this point, Mr. Polimeni asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 7 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2020-008 A Resolution Recognizing Jack Falvo, Jr. for his 40 Years of Service to the City of Schenectady.

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

The resolution was accepted by Jack Falvo, Jr. He thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition and spoke about his longtime service to the City of Schenectady.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding Amending an Ordinance Creating a Special Assessment District on a Portion of Ardsley Road

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

Rosaline Horowitz – Spoke about her frustrations regarding unanswered questions about warranties on the labor and material and overall lack of communication from the City regarding the cost to homeowners.*

Laurie Ives – Stated that at the corner of Union Street and Ardsley Road and across the street was charged an additional twenty linear feet for sidewalks to tie into the ADA ramp on the corner. There were never any discussions regarding sidewalks on Union Street, only the sidewalk on Ardsley Road.*

Robert Sanders – Communicated his belief that the Sidewalk Program is a good idea but it was rushed and not planned well.

David Giacalone – Explained his concerns regarding the sidewalk program.*

Tom Trouwborst – Expressed his thoughts on the lack of communication regarding the sidewalk program on Ardsley Road. He felt the residents on Ardsley were in the dark regarding the costs and believes that many of the homeowners would have withdrawn their application for the installation of the sidewalk had they been aware of the expense.

** See documents submitted.*

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Polimeni asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 13, 2020 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Kosiur made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated January 27, 2020.

General:

From Mr. Giacalone, a letter regarding the Ardsley Road sidewalk assessment issues.

From Ms. Horowitz, a letter regarding the Ardsley Road sidewalk assessment program.

Petitions:

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Patricia Smith – Supports the agreement for the Schenectady Babe Ruth to use the Michigan Avenue Baseball Field Agreement.

Having no one signed up to speak, Mr. Polimeni declared the privilege of the floor, regarding the legislative agenda, to be closed.

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

Mr. Polimeni made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

Consent Agenda

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|------------------------------|---------------------|
| Resolution No. 2020-008..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-009..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-010..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-011..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-012..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-013..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-014..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-015..... | Adopted Unanimously |
| Resolution No. 2020-016..... | Adopted Unanimously |

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Polimeni 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 Sanders – Stated that there is a conflict of interest when campaign funds are used to support each other and all persons are in the same political party. He received a Zoning letter and asked why are certain person’s parts of the Zoning Board?

Mary McClaine – My name is Mary McClaine I have lived in Schenectady for 40 years. Thank you Ms. Perazzo and welcome to the Decency Club. In 2011, I was an endorsed Republican Candidate for City Council. As such I listened to all the other candidates as they spoke at the various neighborhood meetings where we were invited for Candidates’ Night. There was one candidate who stood before the voters of Schenectady and always told them that he was a successful businessman. Three days after he won the election the voters learned that he didn’t even have a job. Today, that deceptive person is president of Schenectady’s City Council. In light of my personal experiences to the above mentioned public events, I call for the resignation of John Mootoveren as President of City Council. The sooner the better. Send him back to his bogus business. Put Ms. Porterfield in that seat. Lastly, Councilman Kosiur should save his verbal spital for his mama. She was the one who weaned the bundle of joy!

Dean Mirabito – Spoke about white privilege and Councilman Polimeni’s use of the term colored people and his lack of culpability during the last Council meeting. He then stated that during the January 21st Committee Meeting there was a lack of discussion regarding the many complaints brought up regarding the term but there was a lengthy conversation regarding the Michigan Avenue Baseball Field. Making use of the abandoned field is a good idea and hopes it comes to pass.

Seeing no other speakers come before the City Council, Mr. Polimeni declared the privilege of the floor, regarding general City business, to be closed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Ms. Patrick – Spoke about the Women’s March that occurred over the weekend and congratulated the organizers. She also congratulated the Martin Luther King Commission for the wonderful event that they organized. She congratulated the Downtown Schenectady Improvement Corporation for another wonderful Soup Stroll and the winners of that event. She then spoke about a STEM educational program for middle and high school students. She then announced the public education sessions that the City will be holding for the Community Choice Aggregation program.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Announced that on Wednesday at the City Center in Saratoga Springs the Mayor and other municipal leaders will be discussing the MWBE requirements. She also spoke about the Rivers Casino and Resort and that their story of promise has been kept. They promised to invest three hundred million dollars in Schenectady and they have invested three hundred and thirty million dollars. Another two hundred and twenty million dollars invested in Mohawk Harbor. They said that they will create a thousand jobs and they have over a thousand jobs in the gaming and hospitality fields with more than forty three million dollars in wages to the region. They pay four million in property taxes and are the only casino in the region paying full property taxes.

Ms. Perazzo – Reminded everyone that Jack’s place is hosting their annual all you can eat pancake breakfast on Super bowl Sunday. She then thanked the residents of Ardsley for coming in to speak and agreed that this sidewalk pilot program was moved too quickly and that there was not enough communication. The burden of the costs falls upon all the taxpayers.

Ms. Porterfield – Thanked everyone who came out to voice their opinion on the Sidewalk Program. It was well intended but implantation was lacking proper considerations. She stated that moving forward homeowners should receive the correct facts and figures. She also congratulated Jack Falvo, Jr. and wished him well. She then reminded everyone about the tax preparation program called CASH. Then asked everyone to participate in the 2020 Census and be counted.

Mayor Gary R. McCarthy – Thanked everyone for coming out and speaking tonight. He then spoke about the Soup Stroll, the Dr. King Celebration and the Union – RPI Mayor’s Cup match in which the women’s team won.

Mr. Polimeni – Spoke about the sidewalk program and the implementation of safeguards to ensure better communication.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Polimeni asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.

A true record



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