

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

February 11, 2019

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Ed Kosiur at 7:20 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Kosiur asked for Council Woman Marion Porterfield to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Councilmember Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 11 and 12 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-022 A Resolution Recognizing February as Black History Month

The resolution was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Leesa Perazzo. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Shaune-Anthony Sundown, who was dressed in a Union Army uniform; he stressed the involvement of Blacks in the Civil War.

Resolution No. 2019-023 A Resolution Recognizing the Work of Quest for Grace

The resolution was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Mr. Polimeni. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by founders Michele and Louis Ianniello. Mr. Ianniello thanked the Council for the recognition and credited his wife, Michele, for the success of the organization.

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

Present – Council Members: John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, and Ed Kosiur.

Absent - John Mootoveren

Also Present – City Clerk Chuck Thorne, Administrative Assistant to the Mayor, Carissa Vazzana, and Corporation Counsel Carl Falotico.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Regarding the Creation of a Youth Advisory Board

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

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

2. Regarding the Sidewalk Replacement Program

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

Anthony Carota - Spoke in favor of the program, saying, sidewalks in the City are cracked and uneven. They are dangerous in the winter. Repair will improve the quality of life in the city.

Susan Unger - Spoke in favor of the sidewalk program, saying it is one strategy to improve sidewalks, the next best thing to the City paying for the replacement. She also thanked the supporters of the Stockade Streetscape Committee.

Gloria Kishton - Spoke in favor of the Sidewalk Replacement Program, saying it is an important tool for everyone, saying how expensive sidewalk replacement is.

Richard Unger - Stated he is a certified city planner and a member of the Streetscape Committee and spoke in favor of the sidewalk replacement program. He said it is only fair that the Council offer a Special Assessment District. However, he was critical of 75 percent of owners needing to sign a petition. He said nothing would be accomplished if we needed 75 percent, referring to laws and elections. He said there are a number of models out there.

Carol DeLaMarter - Said the replacement program will improve the walk-ability of the city, which improves the quality of life. She said the resolution is long overdue and it will make sidewalk replacement more affordable.

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

3. Regarding the Proposed CDTA Taxi Ordinance

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

Anthony Carota - Stated that Uber and Lyft are hurting the cab companies in Schenectady.

Tom O'Connor, Capital District Chamber of Commerce - Spoke in favor of the CDTA regional ordinance, saying it puts the safety of the public first.

Phil Gibbs - Taxi Operator - Suggested changes to the rate structure, which would take raises in the minimum wage into consideration. He also said increased rates should not require a public hearing and the "new car" requirement should be phased in. He said Uber and Lyft are not regulated and they are taking business from licensed taxi companies.

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the January 28, 2019, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion and Ms. Porterfield seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated February 11, 2019

General:

A letter from the Polish American Veterans, thanking the City for the rent check.

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance - Mr. Polimeni announced that our New York State Senate and Assembly representatives will be attending the February 19, Committee Meeting.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

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

Seeing no speakers to come forward, Mr. Kosiur declared the privilege of the floor, regarding the legislative agenda, to be closed.

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

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

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019 – 024Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 025Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 026Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 027Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 028Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 029Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 030Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 031Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 032Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 033Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - CITY BUSINESS:

Mr. Kosiur 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 - Spoke regarding the unsafe and dangerous conditions at the corner of Albany Street and Veeder Avenue. Stating there is no crosswalk and cars speed through the area.

Ramah Naraini - Stated his property is being foreclosed on for \$99 in back taxes and he had not received any prior notice. *Mr. Kosiur suggested he stay after the meeting and Corporation Counsel would take his information and look into the case.*

Joy Hall - Said the sidewalks are unsafe and not cleared. Cars are speeding through downtown and turning left when the turn-arrow is not on. She said someone is going to get hurt.

Tony Buonome - Asked what is going on with Lady Liberty. He said it needs to be returned to Liberty Park and it is the gateway to the City.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

Ms. Perazzo - Announced that a "Walk-out Ceremony" will be held on Friday, February 15, for Assistant Fire Chief Gillespie, in honor of his retirement.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas - Commended Assistant Corporation Counsel, Andrew Koldin, on the good job he does overseeing the property sales.

Mr. Riggi - In anticipation of the forecasted storm, reminded people to find off-street parking if possible and not to throw snow back into the road.

Ms. Porterfield - Stated that besides being Black History Month, it is also American Heart Month. She reminded people of the signs of a heart attack and stressed the importance of early intervention.

Mr. Polimeni - Announced the Bellevue Neighborhood Meeting has been canceled due to the weather. He also thanked the speakers who spoke tonight. He announced that Connie Hall, from the Police Department is retiring and wished her well.

Ms. Vazzana - Stated that the Mayor is attending a NYCOM Conference and reminded everyone of the forecasted snow storm, off street parking on emergency roads and clearing the areas near fire hydrants.

Mr. Kosiur - Reminded everyone that the deadline for filing for Enhanced STAR is March 1 and is based on 2017 income.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Polimeni. The meeting was adjourned at 8:09 p.m.

A true record



By Chuck Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk

**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL –
7:00 P.M. – FEBRUARY 11, 2019 – ROOM 209, CITY HALL**

CALL TO ORDER: 7:00 p.m.

City Clerk Charles Thorne

ROLL CALL:

Present: Ed Kosiur, , Leesa Perazzo, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas and, Vincent Riggi

Absent: John Mootooveren

City Clerk Charles Thorne

Reading of the Notice of the Meeting and Proof of Service.

Transaction of the Business Specified in Notice.

INTRODUCTION AND ACTION UPON RESOLUTIONS:

**1. The Resolution was moved by Ms. Perazzo
and seconded by Mr. Riggi.**

Mr. Polimeni - Nay

Ms. Porterfield - Aye

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas - Nay

Ms. Perazzo - Aye

Mr. Riggi - Aye

Mr. Kosiur - Aye

A RESOLUTION Affirming the
City of Schenectady's Need for Four
City Court Judges and Opposing any
Legislative Efforts to Eliminate a
Judge Position

4 Votes

2019-021


AYE - 4

NAY - 2

ABSENT - 1

ADJOURNMENT: 7:16 p.m.

A true record



By Chuck Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk

Chuck Thorne

From: Chuck Thorne
Sent: Thursday, February 07, 2019 4:13 PM
To: Ed Kosiur; jm.polimeni@verizon.net; John Mootooveren; 'John Polimeni'; Karen ZalewskiWildzunas; Leesa Perazzo; Leesa Perazzo (Leesap@nycap.rr.com); Marion Porterfield (marion.porterfield@gmail.com); Marion Porterfield (MPorterfield@schenectadyny.gov); mootoo1@yahoo.com; Vincent Riggi; Vincent Riggi
Cc: Carl G. Falotico
Subject: Special Council Meeting

Tracking:	Recipient	Delivery	Read
	Ed Kosiur	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	Read: 2/7/2019 5:19 PM
	jm.polimeni@verizon.net		
	John Mootooveren	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	
	'John Polimeni'	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	
	Karen ZalewskiWildzunas	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	Read: 2/7/2019 4:22 PM
	Leesa Perazzo	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	Read: 2/7/2019 4:22 PM
	Leesa Perazzo (Leesap@nycap.rr.com)		
	Marion Porterfield (marion.porterfield@gmail.com)		
	Marion Porterfield (MPorterfield@schenectadyny.gov)	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	
	mootoo1@yahoo.com		
	Vincent Riggi	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	
	Vincent Riggi		Read: 2/7/2019 8:15 PM
	Carl G. Falotico	Delivered: 2/7/2019 4:14 PM	Read: 2/7/2019 4:25 PM
	John Polimeni		Read: 2/7/2019 4:35 PM

Schenectady City Council Members,

Council President Ed Kosiur, has called a Special Meeting of the Schenectady City Council, for Monday, February 11, 2019, at 7 p.m.. The meeting will be held in Schenectady City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Room 209, for the purpose of considering "A Resolution Affirming the City of Schenectady's Need for Four City Court Judges and Opposing any Legislative Efforts to Eliminate a Judge Position."

Chuck Thorne
City Clerk
Room 107, City Hall
Schenectady, New York 12305
(518) 382-5195

Contact: Chuck Thome
Schenectady City Council
Phone 518 382-5195

Schenectady City Clerk
Schenectady, NY 12305
Phone 518-382-5195



Press Release

Schenectady City Council Special Meeting

Council Meeting Called for Supporting a Fourth Judge in Schenectady City Court

Schenectady, February 7, 2019: Council President Ed Kosiur has called a Special Meeting of the Schenectady City Council for Monday, February 11, 2019, at 7 p.m.. The meeting will be held in Schenectady City Hall, 105 Jay Street, Room 209, for the purpose of considering "A Resolution Affirming the City of Schenectady's Need for Four City Court Judges and Opposing any Legislative Efforts to Eliminate a Judge Position."

-30-

For Immediate Release, February 7, 2019