

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

**February 24, 2020**

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

Mr. Mootooveren asked Father Robert Longobuoco of St. Kateri Tekakwitha Parish to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called on Council Member John Polimeni 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, Leesa Perazzo, and John Mootooveren.

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

Absent – Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas.

Prior to the formal start of the meeting a check was presented to the City of Schenectady by National Grid as an incentive for the LED Street Light conversion.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 10, 2020 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Porterfield made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

From the Mayor, an appointment, dated February 24, 2020.

**General:**

From the City Engineer, a letter recommending the “Improvements to Fire Station #3” to the lowest bidders.

**Petitions:**

None.

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):**

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

Having no one signed up to speak, Mr. Mootooveren 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 Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Patrick.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2020-026.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-027.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-028.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-029.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-030.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-031.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-032.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-CS-02.....Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Mootoveren 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 Peter Carata, III** – Stated that too many people are over sensitive and too politically correct. We are all humans and members of a unique diverse human race.

**Patricia Smith** – President of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association announced various events and presentations in the City. She also thanked the City Council for passing legislation that will allow the Schenectady Blue Jays to play at Michigan Avenue Park.

**Mary McClaine** – Two responsibilities for a legislator are to listen and to give service. Any comments I make at this microphone can be backed with education, experience and skill. I attended classes, read books and received validation for my work from my world renowned teacher. My work has been on exhibit throughout the Capital District. It is from such a background that I have tried to address the need for City beautification and spoken about work projects such as the Craig Street – Main Connection project. Any contradictory remarks made about the Craig-Main Connection project during Miscellaneous Business on February 10<sup>th</sup> were taunts coming from the owner of a lentil-size brain. Regarding Open Stage Media programming. It is a bad product. You cannot run a T. V. studio with just one person. The February 10<sup>th</sup> Council Meeting was a comedy of errors. Ever since Mayor McCarthy took away the Council taping from SACC-TV and gave the work to Proctors’ the program has been flawed and lost its previous high standards. Taxpayers’ money is being used for an inferior product. On many occasions I have stood at this microphone and brought the problem to Council’s attention. About 11 months ago, I wanted to look at a replay of a Council meeting. The picture was on the screen but there was no sound. I called Mr. Kosiur at home, told him there was a problem and would he take the time to look at it. The Councilman hung up on me. So much for respect, listening and service.

**Claudia Brown** – Expressed her opinion on the phrase “Colored People” being interchangeable with “People of Color”. She also stated that she is not “African American” she is an American.

**Ellie Pepper** – Communicated the difficulties encountered by Minority and/or Women-owned Business Enterprise (MWBE) concerning the Certified Apprenticeship Program (CAP) and asked why not take the advice of the Affirmative Action Officer for the City regarding the Purchasing Policy.

**Dean Mirabito** – Spoke about the entrances to the City of Schenectady. He stated that there are several entrances that seems to have been forgotten. We need to make all entrances safe for traffic and pedestrians.

**Bonita Cade** – Stated that they may be some problems with the pipes under her house. She cannot sleep during the night, her house and bed shake.

**Diablo** – Part 6 about how difficult it is to make a living selling art and friends helping friends in the City of Schenectady. Stated that at the last meeting two speakers made remarks about how the residents feel about the City's economic development. He also suggested the City use eminent domain to take a property from a developer and used the building for an art museum.

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

#### **MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**Ms. Patrick** – Thanked everyone that came out to the recent public information sessions for the Community Choice Aggregation Program. There is also information on the City's website and on the Mega's website: [www.megacca.org](http://www.megacca.org) and their phone number is 518-533-5399. She then spoke about the Census and asked that everyone be sure to get counted. The 2010 Census only counted for 69% of New York's population which means that we lose money when you are not counted. There are various ways to be counted.

**Ms. Porterfield** – Thanked everyone that came out to speak at the meeting. She then addressed the speaker who spoke about the term "Colored People" and said that she appreciates her views which are based upon her perception. There were many speakers who came to the rail on January 13<sup>th</sup> to speak out against the use of that term and their views should be acknowledged as well since each of us are individuals. She then reminded the public that the plastic bag ban begins this Sunday, March 1<sup>st</sup> and that the free tax preparation service is still available. She then spoke about the 2020 Census and stated that the NAACP will be dispersing their members out into the community on Census Sunday to help with the count.

**Mr. Kosiur** – Announced that County Legislator, Gary Hughes, will be attending the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association meeting on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss the renovation of the Woodlawn Library. He then announced that the Senior Center is open every Tuesday and Thursday at the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

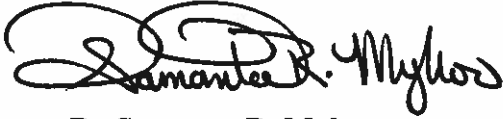
**Mayor Gary R. McCarthy** – Stated that he didn't understand the comment regarding the entrances into Schenectady. The specified areas that were mentioned have had some improvement and there is more that is planned. He then spoke about Census 2020 and the importance of being counted and encouraged everyone to take the time to complete the form, it only needs to be done once every 10 years.

**Mr. Mootoveren** – Spoke about the procurement policy and asked his colleagues to send their suggestions to Corporation Counsel Koldin.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Mootoveren asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Polimeni. The meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "S".

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