

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

March 9, 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 Reverend Peter Carman of the Emmanuel Friedens Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootooveren then called 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, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, and John Mootooveren.

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

Absent – Leesa Perazzo.

At this point, Mr. Mootooveren asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda items number 24 and 25 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2020-033 A Resolution Recognizing Certified Nurses Day.

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

The resolution was accepted by Nicole Krause, Director of Nursing Practice at Ellis Medicine and Kaila Lampmon. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition honoring Ellis Medicine's hardworking, dedicated, professional nurses.

Resolution No. 2020-034 A Resolution Honoring the John F. Kennedy Division 1 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians together with the John F. Kennedy Division 1 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians and All Immigrants from Ireland and their Descendants throughout the City of Schenectady on the Occasion of the Feast of Saint Patrick, March 17th.

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

The resolution was accepted by Kim Depeaux, President of the John F. Kennedy Division 1 of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their recognition. She then called upon the dancers of the Farrell School of Irish Dance for a short program.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 24, 2020 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

None.

Petitions:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance – Mr. Polimeni stated that the funds for the Police Contract for 2018-2019 and 2020 were approved for \$2.64 - 2.65 million dollars coming out of the General Fund. It is a substantial amount and he wanted everyone to be aware of it. Then he spoke about the City’s Procurement Policy being taken off the agenda because Council did not receive information that needed to be heard which will be provided at the next Committee Meeting.

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. Kosiur and seconded by Ms. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2020 – 04.....Adopted Unanimously
- Ordinance No. 2020 – 05.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-035.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-036.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-037.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-038.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2020-039.....Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2020-040.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-041.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-042.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-043.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-044.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-045.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-046.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-047.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-048.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-049.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-050.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-051.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-052.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-053.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-054.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2020-055.....	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Mootooveren 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 Carota, III – Stated that the City receives grants and disagrees with the use of these funds. He stated that the implementation of larger docks at the casino is unnecessary and asked that a parking garage be placed on the land of where the Citizens Bank was located. He also suggests using the funds to invest into the community.

Bonita Cade – Stated that she hears noise being emitted from the parking lot next door and is unable to rest.

Mary McClaine – I said it before and I will say it again. This legislative body chases new toys and overlooks the issues that are already here and need attention. This picture that was in the gazette on February 29, 2020 is a perfect example. The caption with the picture reads “plastic bags and other litter are strewn along Interstate 890 in Schenectady in this 2019 image.” Isn’t 2019 the same year Council tried to ban straws from restaurants to save the environment? Isn’t Interstate 890 part of our environment? Why was the highway allowed to get so bad? How long did it take for this much litter to accumulate? And who is responsible for cleaning Schenectady streets? The sanitation workers who spoke at the Council meetings last year did not list street cleaning as a contract item. Furthermore, 2019 was an election year. This picture shows what was happening in Schenectady when the candidates ran for office. Pictures like this were not in your political literature but these conditions happened under your watch and the retreads came back. I have a 5 point plan to combat litter in Schenectady but I will not share it with you because you gave the vacant Council seat to the “Leader of Men” so let her figure it out. For me, conditions like those in the Gazette picture are unacceptable. This legislative body needs to prioritize its decision making and a clean city belongs on top.

Patricia Smith – President of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association announced that the signs commemorating the Little League World Series were taken off the Michigan Avenue building. The signs should not have been removed and found it to be disrespectful. They belong

on the property as for everyone and the people of Mt. Pleasant. No one or league should have ownership of these items.

Robert Young – Owner of Young Construction Company spoke about the City’s procurement policy and how difficult it is for a minority contractor to grow. He agrees with the changes to increase the dollar value on contracts.

Diablo – Stated that this is part 7 of how difficult it is to make a living selling art and friends helping friends in the City of Schenectady. He disagreed with the opinions of two speakers that commented on art. The City Council should use their power for economic development.

Rockie Mann – Thanked Ron Gardner for his help in creating the legislation regarding procurement. There are many contractors in our community who if given the opportunity, can become successful. He urged the Council to increase the Certified Apprenticeship Program (CAP).

Henry Paul – Thanked Council for work done on the procurement policy and stated that if given the opportunity there are many minority contractors that will be able to grow.

Maureen Gilmore – Stated that she was upset that the agenda was changed. She hopes to see that the policy is brought back and passed.

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

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Ms. Patrick – Reported that there at 14 capital region municipalities that have signed on with Municipal Electric & Gas Alliance (MEGA) for Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) of electricity. Residents who would like to opt out can do so at any time. She then narrated the steps for proper precautions against contracting and spreading the Coronavirus such as washing your hands frequently and stays home if you experience flu like symptoms.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Stated that the previous week was “Restaurant Week” and it was very successful. She looks forward to many of the upcoming events. She then stated that the 2020 Census invitations will begin to arrive between March 12th - 20th and asked that everyone be counted including those 5 and under. There will also be several reminders sent out, if no response then the census takers will come in May – July.

Ms. Porterfield – Thanked everyone who came out to speak and congratulated the Irish dancers. Then spoke about the procurement policy being a work in progress since 2019. She asked that the Council give consideration to the work the Affirmative Action Officer, Mr. Ron Gardner, who has been working on this for 18 month and that consideration also be given to all members in the community to take advantage of this economic revitalization. She then reported about the Census 2020 that was held recently. There were 8 churches that participated and members of the NAACP visited the churches and spoke to the parishioners about the importance of being counted.

Mr. Polimeni – Spoke about the agreements that were just passed with National Grid and NYSEERDA for the electric charging stations that will be placed on Liberty Street, between Clinton and Lafayette Streets. He stated that this is important for a variety of reasons but especially for combatting climate change which is the largest issue we will face as a world.

Mayor McCarthy – Thanked everyone that came out to speak and thanked his colleagues for raising the awareness of the Coronavirus. We are monitoring it daily from the CDC and Governor’s Office. He advised everyone to wash their hands regularly and maintain a social distance, stay home if you are sick and to use this common sense approach in their daily routine. He then spoke about the Census and asked everyone to raise awareness around them – at work, out shopping or calling a friend and asking them if they heard about the Census. He then spoke about addressing the Empire State Rail Passengers Association at their 48th Annual Meeting here in Schenectady, which is actually the 50th Anniversary of the creation of Amtrak. There has been a lot of rail advocacy in terms of green energy and high speed rail; the largest increase in New York State for activity is the one located here in Schenectady that increased 22% in ridership. If people are thinking of going someplace, they should think about using the train.

Mr. Mootoveren – Announced that the next Committee Meeting will be at 4:30 p.m. to accommodate the Youth Advisory Board. He then encouraged parents to contact the Schenectady Youth Baseball Leagues to register their kids. He then spoke about a resolution that was passed this evening that will equip our Police Officers with special software that will give them real-time information and make them more efficient.

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 Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Zaleski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha R. Mykoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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