

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

March 11, 2019

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

Mr. Kosiur asked for Reverend Brad Jones to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Chief Jayne Thompson to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kosiur then invited to Irish Dancers, from the Ancient Order of Hibernians to perform.

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. 2019-045 A Resolution Recognizing the Celebration of St. Patrick's Day

The resolution was moved by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Leesa Perazzo. The resolution passed unanimously.

Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians thanked the City for the recognition, saying they were celebrating their 25th Anniversary and invited all to the St. Patrick's Day Celebration.

Resolution No. 2019-046 A Resolution Congratulating the Schenectady Jr. ROTC

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

Members of the Jr. ROTC Program thanked the Council and Mayor for the recognition.

ROLL CALL

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, John Mootooveren, and Ed Kosiur.

Absent -

Also Present – City Clerk Chuck Thorne, Mayor Gary McCarthy, and Corporation Counsel Carl Falotico.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the February 25, 2019, Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion and Mr. Mootooveren seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None

General:

From the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the United States - Post 357, a thank you card for donation received on February 25,2019.

From the American Legion - Post 21, a thank you card for funds to maintain meeting location received March 5,2019.

From Laurie J. Bacheldor, President of the Schenectady United Neighborhoods (SUN), a letter dated March 9,2019 with questions and concerns regarding the sidewalk repair program and a request for a meeting to clarify the issues.

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR - LEGISLATIVE ITEMS

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

Robert Sanders - Asked where the money for Agenda Item 4, Amendments to the Consolidated Plan, is coming from. He also spoke in support of keeping the fourth City Court Judge, asking "What will happen if the seat is vacant?"

Mary McClaine - Agenda Item 12 regarding the Sidewalk Replacement Program. I like this idea. I wish the City had a program like it when my street was paved three years ago. It does not make any sense for the City to fix a street and let the homeowners hire individual contractors to pave the shoulders on the same street. The City's contractor is already on the street. Do all the necessary work at the same time. A completed project goes a long way to beautify the neighborhood. To my memory, the last 2 streets in Goosehill that had a paved street, curb and sidewalk done at the same time were Foster Avenue and Oneida Street. I use Oneida Street a lot. It's a pleasure to drive on it. From my observation a completed project provides an incentive for homeowners to keep their properties litter free. And while Council is working on the Sidewalk Replacement Program please find some money in the budget to replace the broken linoleum floor in the elevator. The old floor looks unsightly against the recently painted City Hall building.

John Simms - Said he and his wife have lived on Decamp Avenue for 20 years. He said the sidewalks are abominable and the street is disintegrating. The sidewalk program is a good plan, with some flaws.

Bob Harvey - Spoke regarding the sidewalk program, saying he liked the program, with some caveats. He asked how the poor and disabled would be handled.

Laurie Bacheldor - Asked that the implementation of the sidewalk program be delayed. There were many questions and not enough detail. People don't understand the program . SUN will be meeting on March 19 and will be discussing the program.

She also said she asked for a paving schedule three years ago and has not received one.

Mr. Islam - WIN w/Washington Irving Educational Center - Described his program as educational, teaching adults construction skills and assisting in GED . He is asking for a home from the City or the Land Bank, to be restored by his students.

David Giacalone - Said that the sidewalk program description document raised more questions than it answered. He also said that Rochester has a 40 year replacement program.

Bette Salisbury - Presented a petition for additional signage and street and sidewalk repair on Decamp Avenue. She said that the sidewalks need to be rebuilt when the streets are paved.

Patricia Smith - Agreed with what has been said regarding unanswered questions regarding the sidewalk program.

Marva Isaacs - Asked why the sidewalks can't be rebuilt as before. She gave examples of streets that were paved and sidewalks were replaced.

Ray Faught - Believed that most of the Bellevue Neighborhood would not be in favor of the sidewalk program. He said other neighborhoods have been repaired and asked for further study.

Richard Unger -Spoke in support of the sidewalk program as an option. He said as each assessment district is completed we would learn.

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 – 047Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 048Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 049Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 050Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 051Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 052Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 053Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 059Adopted Unanimously

Roll Call Votes

Resolution No. 2019-054 - Affirming the City of Schenectady’s Need for Four City Court Judges and Opposing any Legislative Efforts to Eliminate a Judge Position

Passed - 6-1

- Mr. PolimeniNay
- Ms. Porterfield Yes
- Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas Yes
- Ms. Perazzo..... Yes
- Mr. Riggi..... Yes
- Mr. Mootoveren..... Yes
- Mr. Kosiur..... Yes

Resolution No. 2019-055 - To Override the Veto of Resolution 2019-021

Passed 5-2

Mr. PolimeniNay
Ms. Porterfield Yes
Ms. Zalewski-WildzunasNay
Ms. Perazzo..... Yes
Mr. Riggi..... Yes
Mr. Mootoveren Yes
Mr. Kosiur..... Yes

Resolution No. 2019-056 - Recommending Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas for Appointment to the Metroplex Board

Passed 6-0-1

Mr. Polimeni Yes
Ms. Porterfield Yes
Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas Present
Ms. Perazzo..... Yes
Mr. Riggi..... Yes
Mr. Mootoveren Yes
Mr. Kosiur..... Yes

Resolution No. 2019-057 - Appointing Imran Khan Mohamed to the Board of Assessment Review

Passed 4-3

Mr. Polimeni Yes
Ms. PorterfieldNo
Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas Yes
Ms. Perazzo.....No
Mr. Riggi.....No
Mr. Mootoveren Yes
Mr. Kosiur..... Yes

Resolution No. 2019-058 - Encouraging Residents to Utilize the Sidewalk Replacement Program

Passed 4-3

Mr. Polimeni Yes
Ms. PorterfieldNo
Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas Yes
Ms. Perazzo.....No
Mr. Riggi.....No
Mr. Mootoveren Yes
Mr. Kosiur..... Yes

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:

Mary McClaine - My statements are in response to the comments made during the December 17, 2018 Council Meeting. The Mayor's approach for fixing pot holes is a flawed one. Taxpayers don't pay taxes by neighborhood. They pay in a timely manner or get fined. Pot holes should be fixed when they happen not when someone is ready to send a truck to a specific neighborhood. When the City stopped paying the Boy Scouts to tape the City Council Meetings you destroyed a system that was not broken. The Boy Scouts were mentored by a skilled, educated professional. They were the many hands needed to run a T. V. program. You left the community with a one-man operation and a piece of stick. That tripod is inoperable without a technician. There is nothing efficient about Open Stage Media. It's a bad product. And you pay for it every month.

Robert Sanders - Spoke in support of diversity in government and objected to the "bashing " that was going on.

David Giacalone - Stated that it has been a year and no action has been taken on returning "Lady Liberty" to Liberty Park. The reason given is the statue was not contemporary enough. He said the Mayor and Mary Moore Wallinger are saying the other is responsible and the architect should be able to figure it out.

Nicky DiGregorio - Talked about the contract with water sewer employees, displaying pictures of equipment being operated by employees being paid \$16-\$17 an hour. He said town employees start at \$20. He requested a meeting with the Mayor, the Council and, Commissioner LaFond.

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

Mayor McCarthy - Said if the Council wants sidewalks repaired along with street paving, they have the authority to put it in the budget. He added that the sidewalk program is one option and we would learn from it as we move forward.

Ms. Porterfield - Expressed her condolences to the family of Joseph Jackson, a city employee, upon his death. Thanked the Irish Dancers for their performance and said the sidewalk program still has issues that need to be addressed, including options for low-income and people who own multiple properties. She also objected to the way Mr. Hitlall was not reappointed to the Board of Assessment Review, saying it was not based on his performance.

Ms. Perazzo - Welcomed Beekman 1802 company Headquarters to Mohawk Harbor. Women's Community Leadership Network to meet on Friday, March 15 at the Proctors.

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. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas The meeting was adjourned at 8:57 p.m.

A true record



By Chuck Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk