

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

April 22, 2019

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Ed Kosiur at 7:03 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Kosiur asked for a moment of silence to honor the passing of Ms. Jane Golub. He then asked Pastor Brad Jones to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Ms. Porterfield to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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, and Ed Kosiur.

Absent - Mr. Mootoveren

Also Present – City Clerk Chuck Thorne, Mayor Gary McCarthy, and Assistant Corporation Counsel Meaghan Fitzpatrick.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item numbers 15, 16 and 17 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-087 - A Resolution Recognizing National Muslim Soup Kitchen Day

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

Members of the Muslim Soup Kitchen Project thanked the Mayor and the Council for recognition of their project.

Resolution No. 2019-088 - A Resolution Honoring Greater Faith Christian Center Church for their Tenth Anniversary.

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

Pastor Saretha West Sr. thanked the Mayor and the Council for recognition of their Church anniversary.

Resolution No. 2019-089 - A Resolution Designating Friday, April 26, 2019, as Arbor Day in the City of Schenectady.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Perazzo. The resolution passed unanimously.

Members of ReTree, Schenectady thanked the Mayor and the Council for recognition of their work.

PUBLIC HEARING

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 8, 2019, Council Meeting as submitted by the Deputy 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 April 22, 2019

From the Commissioner of General Services a letter recommending the award of the "Furnishing of Pipe for the North Ferry Street Force Main Project" to the lowest responsible bidder.

From the Commissioner of General Services a letter recommending the award of the "North Ferry Street Force Main Installation Project" to the lowest responsible bidder.

From the City Engineer a letter recommending the award of the "Crack Sealing of the City Streets" to the lowest responsible bidder.

From the City Engineer a letter recommending the award of the "Repair of Rose Garden Steps" to the lowest responsible bidder.

General:

From a resident, Joanne Bedell, a letter requesting the rejection of the application for a liquor store located at 844 Albany Street.

Petitions:

From the residents the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association, a petition of 156 signatures received on April 11, 2019 opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street.

From the staff at the Boys & Girls Club, a petition of 16 signatures received on April 11, 2019 opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street.

From the Duryee AME Zion Church, a petition of 24 signatures received on April 12, 2019 opposing a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany Street.

From Emmanuel Friedens Church, a petition of 17 signatures received on April 18, 2019 asking to reject the application of a wine and liquor store at 844 Albany

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None

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. Riggi.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019 – 090Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 091Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 092Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 093Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 094Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 095Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 096Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 097Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 098Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 099Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 100Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 101Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 102Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019 – 103Adopted 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:

Joy Hall - Objected to the proposed ban on plastic straws in the City, stating that handicapped people need the straws for drinking. She also spoke on unsafe traffic conditions in downtown Schenectady.

Patricia Smith - Complained about the slow response, when police are called regarding "quality of life" complaints, such as loud noise and unruly behavior. She said these problems go on all day and night in areas of Mont Pleasant and much is centered on Crane Street. She also spoke about intimidating and threatening reaction toward people who complain about the behavior. (Members of the Mont Pleasant neighborhood stood in support, while Ms. Smith spoke.)

Marva Isaacs - Spoke regarding a SUV fire on Craig Street and Duane Avenue. Firefighters pulled a child from the burning vehicle and she stated that the work of the firefighters deserves more attention.

Bonita Wade- Stated humming noises, heard in her house, keep her from getting a night's sleep. She asked for someone in the city to investigate the noise and help determine the source. (Mr. Kosiur stated that the Mayor would meet with her after the meeting.)

Mary McClaine - I don't like what I am reading in the paper these days. Since this administration took office the zombie properties have more than quadrupled. The litter on the street has reached epidemic proportions and it all has to do with decision making. You are not affected by your legislation, others are. A case in point is the liquor store planned for Hamilton Hill. The people have spoken. They don't want it there. Don't put it there, period. It is not an asset for the City. Another issue that is causing problems for the City is official's obstinacy about residency. How many fireman on the City's payroll live here? That's one group. 90% of the school staff lives elsewhere. Schenectady taxpayers are their banks, benefactors and fairy godmothers. We provide accrued sick time benefits, vacation time benefits, and medical coverage and lifetime pension benefits. All those people leave the City everyday and spend their tax dollars on outside properties and Schenectady is left with a bloated housing stock. The same situation holds true with the Police personnel. It is in their PBA contract that employers can continue to work in the City but move away after 6 years of employment. All these good salaries going to some other place because City officials allow the money to get away then they tell us there is no money for maintenance. Speaking of maintenance, what about the sanitation workers. Don't they pass those zombie properties on their routes every week? Why don't they take the time to do a few city property clean-ups as they go by? Because it isn't in their contract. Some of the workers stood at this microphone last year and listed their duties. Duties did not include a broom, rake or dust pan thanks to the decision makers, and the retreads want to keep coming back every 4 years. Get rid of the City cars and there will be money for maintenance. The goose has come home to roost folks. Snap out of it. Do your jobs right. Stop bluffing through life.

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. Zalewski-Wildzunas - Announced the start of a prescription drug disposal program, started at the Police Department, today. Residents are able to dispose of unused prescription drugs in a secured container in the lobby of the Police Department. Also, the contents of the used cigarette containers in downtown are recycled. It adds up to approximately 20 pounds of cigarette butts a month.

Ms. Porterfield - Several neighborhoods will be holding cleanups on the coming Saturday. Hamilton Hill will hold a clean-up beginning at 9 a.m. in Jerry Burrell Park, Goosehill will also be holding a cleanup meeting at Marty's Hardware, on Van Vranken Street, at 8 a.m. and the Woodlawn neighborhood cleanup will begin in Woodlawn Park at 9 a.m.

Ms. Perazzo - An Arbor Day ceremony will be held in Vale Park, hosted by the Vale Park Task Force, on Friday, April 26 at 9 a.m. Fred Breglia, Executive Director of the Landis Arboretum, will be the guest speaker. The Schenectady Greenmarket will be returning to its outdoor location, at City hall on Sunday, May 5.

Mayor McCarthy - Extended his condolences to the Golub family on the passing of Jane Golub, commenting on what outstanding community leader she was and the City Hall Clock tower will be lit in the red and blue colors of the Golub Corporation, in her honor.

Mr. Kosiur - The Woodlawn Neighborhood Association will be hosting the candidates for Board of Education election. The Woodlawn Park cleanup will be held this weekend and Vale Farm will hold a groundbreaking for their new orchard and build a children's garden on Sunday.

The Tuesday, May 28, Council Meeting has been rescheduled to Wednesday, May 29.

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 Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Riggi. The meeting was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles W. Thorne". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C".

By Chuck Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk