

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

**May 24, 2021**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President John Mootoveren at 5:31 p.m. by Webex Teleconference.

Mr. Mootoveren asked Reverend Ronald Hunt to offer the invocation.

Mr. Mootoveren then called on Council Member Carmel Patrick 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: Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Karen Zaleski-Wildzunas, and John Mootoveren.

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

At this point, Mr. Mootoveren asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item nine out of order. There were no objections

**Resolution No. 2021-103 A Resolution Recognizing the Month of May as Motorcycle Safety and Awareness Month**

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

The resolution was accepted by Andrew Liuzzi, State and Albany Chapter President for the American Bikers Aimed Toward Education (ABATE). He thanked the Mayor and Council for the Motorcyclist recognition.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Mr. Mootoveren asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 10, 2021 Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Poliemni made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From Walter Urbanski, an email in favor of the change in the City Code regarding off-road recreational vehicles.

From P. D. Voorhis, an email stating that she was able to access the meeting but could not speak. She has many issues regarding the CDBG spending increase. She also asked for the bid amounts on the intersection improvements at Forest and Francis.

**Petitions:**

None.

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

Mr. Mootooveren invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk:

**Jamaica Miles** – Voiced her concerns about the off-road vehicle legislation being passed to criminalize our youth and negatively impact an already poor community. There should be further community involvement for alternative methods.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

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

Mr. Mootooveren made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda, and the motion was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

**Consent Agenda**

Ordinance No. 2021-09 .....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-103.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-104.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-105.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-106.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-107.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-108.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-109.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-110.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2021-111.....	Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Mr. Mootooveren directed all who wished to discuss any items for City Business to submit their comments to the City Clerk.

**Megan Rose** – a teacher at a local daycare, an online submittal regarding the new requirements to mask children starting at the age of two. She wrote about the discomfort, dangers, and learning issues she foresees for these babies. She asks that Schenectady follow the lead of the County Executive of Dutchess County and put out a formal statement of not following such requirements.

**P.D. Voorhis** – Congratulated the City on the School Board Elections, everything went smoothly. She then spoke about the teachers not going to school during the pandemic, but students were not neglected thanks to Proctors.

**Jamaica Miles** – Stated that there was still access issues with the Webex meeting software, Zoom is preferable, it is secure and easier for the community to access. She then said that there were many issues with the School Board elections. It wasn't smooth, sites were not marked well and some had to go two miles outside of their way in order to vote.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Mr. Mootooveren declared the Privilege of the Floor to be closed.

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

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** – Stated that it was good legislation that was passed tonight; it was supported by ABATE and allows the police the ability to ensure safer streets. She then wished everyone a safe holiday weekend and reminded everyone t not drink and drive.

**Marion Porterfield** – Spoke about the sale od multiple properties to Better Community Neighborhoods, Inc. that was passed this evening. She appreciated that when the project is over, there will be some home ownership and not all rental units. She then asked everyone to be respectful of each other and properly dispose of the trash around their houses; waste receptacles should not be kept in the front yard. Lastly, she recounted the real purpose of Memorial Day as a day to remember those who give their lives for us and the armed services.

**John Polimeni** – Stated that he has been receiving a lot of noise complaints and asked that everyone keep their music to an appropriate level. He then explained that fireworks are illegal in New York State except for sparklers. He then spoke of the real purpose of Memorial Day being a day to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice for the privilege and freedom that we have in our Country that many around the world do not have.

**Mayor McCarthy** – Today the County announced that Schenectady County is the number one in the State with just under 75% of the residents vaccinated with at least the first dose. He urged everyone to stay safe and wash their hands and cover their face when they sneeze.

#### **Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Mootooveren asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Polimeni and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The meeting was adjourned at 5:59 p.m.

**A true record**



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

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** Walter Urbanski [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:21 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Dirt Bikes, ATV's and Other Off-Road Vehicles on City Streets

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

To the Schenectady City Council:

Dirt bikes, ATV's and other off-road recreational vehicles have become a real and growing problem in Schenectady's streets and parks. It is time for the City Council to take positive action toward control and use of the vehicles in public spaces. This is an issue of public safety. We live on Garner Avenue. Each evening at about dinner time we hear and see the dirt bikes start up and run up and down through our neighborhood. The bikes have no lights making them hard to see. The operators are without helmets and operating with little regard to either pedestrians, playing children or traffic. The city police are no where.

Please stand up and do the right thing. Ban use of the vehicles in the city.

Thank you.

Beat regards,

Walter S. Urbanski  
[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPad

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, May 17, 2021 11:16 AM  
**To:** John Mootoveren; Samanta R. Mykoo; Andrew Koldin; Carmel Patrick; John Polimeni; Karen ZalewskiWildzunas  
**Subject:** Schenectady Council Agenda May 10, 2021

**CAUTION:** This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

May 17, 2021

I successfully entered May 10, 2021 to speak on PH#1 using Webex, however, when it came time to speak others were called upon and I was not. I tried to speak but was not called upon and the hearing was closed.

I have many issues regarding CDBG \$2+M spending increases; particularly Better Neighborhoods \$260,000; Affirmative Action \$108,000 increase; Schenectady Ring of Hope \$236,000 budget for something I have never heard of in my 20+ years attending council meetings. Also AOH \$24,000 paid meal increase when the public is asked to pay for their own; Better Community, Inc. \$85,000, (a duplicate service - only bureaucratic).

Still the issue is why was I not allowed to speak!

Regarding Council Committee meeting for May 17, 2021, what are the bid amounts for intersection improvements at Forest and Francis?

P. D. Voorhis

**Samanta R. Mykoo**

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**From:** noreply@civicplus.com  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 23, 2021 8:52 AM  
**To:** John Mootooveren; Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Online Form Submittal: City Council Privilege of the Floor Submission Form

## City Council Privilege of the Floor Submission Form

First Name	Megan
Last Name	Rose
Address	[REDACTED]
City	Schenectady
State	Ny
Zip Code	12304
Phone Number	[REDACTED]
Email Address	[REDACTED]
Privilege of the Floor	CITY BUSINESS
Register to Speak during the Council Meeting	City Business - items not on the Council Agenda
Comments	<p>My name is Megan Rose. I have been a teacher at a local daycare for going on 22 years. As I'm sure you have heard new requirements were put in place last week that make it necessary to mask children in our centers starting at the age of two. This was never required prior to now from the state office of children and family service. Per OCFS "children in care" were excluded from this requirement.</p> <p>The problem is this. These children spend 8-10 hours a day 5 days a week in daycare. That will mean upward of 6 hours a day they will now have to wear a mask. This is not trip to the grocery store this is there whole day. I have been a toddler teacher my entire career and I can tell you this is not good. These babies are just that, they still self sooth with a finger or binky. They do not yet know to acknowledge when they are dripping boogers down their face. The drool buckets because they are still teething. How can this be appropriate for these children? How do teachers appropriately care for their needs when we can no longer see them. What happens when the</p>

sneak something into their mouth under that mask and are choking but we can't tell until it's too late. Not to mention the obvious problems this will cause in social interactions and speech development.

Daycare has been open and taking as many precaution as possible to keep these children safe since the start of this pandemic. We made policies and spent time and money on new procedures and cleaning. All with little guidance from our state. We as a whole have not seen huge clusters of covid rates as stated in a report put out by Governor Cuomo in the end of summer/fall, daycare was at the bottom of the list in infection rates. The county executive of Dutchess county has put out a formal statement that he will not follow such requirements and I am writing you today to ask you to follow that lead. This is dangerous to our youth.

Thank you for your consideration.

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