

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

May 29, 2019

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

Mr. Kosiur asked Pastor George Carstensen of Zion Lutheran Church to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Boy Scout Troop 72 to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy 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 Edward Kosiur.

Absent – none

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo, Mayor Gary R. 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 number 12 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-124 A Resolution Recognizing the Work of Altamont House

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

The resolution was accepted by William Rivas. He thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 13, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Riggi made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mootoveren seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments dated May 29, 2019.

General:

A letter received on the 17th day of May, 2019 from the First Reformed Church urging the City to develop a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program.

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Finance, Mr. Polimeni – Stated that the numbers on the Audit was very good and thanked the Mayor and his staff for their excellent work controlling the budget.

Public Service & Utilities, Ms. Porterfield – Stated that in response to the hardship created by the new Taxicab legislation that was passed earlier in the year the Council decided to amend the legislation and give an extension to the Taxicab companies for their automobile purchase, the rest of the legislation remains the same.

Claims, Mr. Riggi – Thanked the Law Department and Mr. Bailey for settling the Rite Aid Tax Certiorari for 1035 State Street and 1203 Eastern Avenue. This Tax Certiorari has been going on for a number of years and had the potential of having a higher cost to the City.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Mary D’Alessandro-Gilmore – Chair of Better Neighborhood, Inc. (BNI) stated that there is currently a venture in place aimed at rebuilding neighborhoods that will encompass the whole City. She thanked the Mayor and Council for their support on this venture and for allocating monies to BNI.

Kim Sheppard & Louise O’Leary – representatives of Bethesda House, addressed the proposed funding cuts for the 2019-2020 Consolidated Plan. They’ve stated that the cuts will affect their program and the people they serve.

P. D. Voorhis – Stated there is a property on Barrett Street that she is interested in that is no longer for sale. Previously it held a high assessment value but has recently been reduced.

Having no one else signed up to speak, 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 made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was moved by Ms. Perazzo and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

Consent Agenda

- Ordinance No. 2019-06Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-125.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-126.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-127.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-128.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-129.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-130.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-131.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-132.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-133.....Adopted Unanimously

2019-134 A Resolution Authorizing Adopting the Final 2019-2020 Consolidated Plan-Action Plan

A motion to introduce the legislation as was made by Ms. Perazzo and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

The motion to amend the spending plan was made by Ms. Perazzo and seconded by Ms. Porterfield:

4:2:0

Voting AYE: Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Ms. Perazzo, and Mr. Kosiur

Voting Nay: Mr. Polimeni, Mr. Mootooveren

Abstain: None

A vote on the original motion as amended:

4:2:0

Voting AYE: Ms. Porterfield, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas, Ms. Perazzo, and Mr. Kosiur

Voting Nay: Mr. Polimeni, Mr. Mootooveren

Abstain: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

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:

Anthony Peter Carota III – Stated that the City’s leadership has failed this City. There has been many quality of life issues that were not addressed and tax dollars were used to develop an area that was not needed.

Patricia Smith – President of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association stated that an email was sent to the Chief of Police regarding noise from neighbors. She would like to see a fine implemented after the first warning and the charge to increase after each occurrence on the constant offenders.

** See document submitted.*

Teemeshwari Laitin – Stated that a funeral home is opening next door and finds it to be hazardous to the health and well being of her family. She asks for help in having the operation of this business stopped and for it to be rezoned to an area that is not residential.

David Giacalone – Stated that he would like to see the Lady Liberty statue placed back in Gateway Park. He also intends on having a silhouette of a lady at the park on Tuesday so that everyone who would like Lady Liberty at Gateway Park can take a picture by the silhouette.

P. D. Voorhis – Stated that she does not like the lighting on the poles in the stockade and that the poles serve a multifunction purpose. She also stated that she would like some investigative journaling done on the luxury apartments because it will be found that many remain vacant.

Seeing no other speakers 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:

Mr. Mootooveren – Stated that he intends to introduce the permit fee waiver at the next Committee Meeting. He then announced that the Kids Art Festival is on Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 12:00 – 4:00 p.m. on Jay Street outside of City Hall and encouraged everyone to attend.

Ms. Perazzo – Thanked and recognized all the hard work that the Veteran’s Affair organizers have done for Memorial Day services on Monday. She also thanked the Schenectady Rotary and their partnership with MVP for their help cleaning up the parks this year. Then announced that Schenectady Pride is on Sunday, June 2, 2019 from 2:00 – 6:00 p.m. and the Vale Park Weenie Roast is on Wednesday, June 12, 2019 from 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. and the rain date will be on Friday, June 14, 2019.

Mr. Riggi – Thanked the Boy Scouts for attending tonight’s meeting. He then stated that Lady Liberty should be located at Gateway Park and hoped that the Mayor’s announcement on July 4th will make everyone happy. Then explained that OSM has been having some problems with the audio feed and are looking to resolve the problems, which may take some funding. He spoke about his friend Tony Mancini, owner of a garage in Bellevue, that recently had an accident where he lost his right hand in a Kentucky drag race and asked everyone to keep him in their prayers.

Ms. Porterfield – Thanked everyone that attended tonight’s meeting, then thanked everyone that came out last month to help with the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association, the SEAT Center, Bethel AME Church and some City staff. She then congratulated the Schenectady Softball Cricket team on their game over the weekend. It was the first international tournament and it was held in Grout Park. She said that it went well, there were no incidents and the park remained clean. She then announced that this Saturday is a monster garage sale being held by the Gazette.

Mayor McCarthy – Stated that city staff reported that the park was left in better condition after Schenectady Softball Cricket game than it was on Friday night. He then congratulated Mr. Polimeni on his recent marriage last weekend and wished them many years of happiness. Thanked the Council for their review and passing the CDBG Budget.

Mr. Kosiur – Announced that he received an email from John DeAugustine, President and Publisher of the Daily Gazette, stating that they will no longer be delivering the papers in the blue bag but will mail them like previously done and thanked them for their cooperation.

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 8:09 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is stylized and cursive.

By Samanta R. Mykoo

Deputy Schenectady City Clerk

subject)

① You forwarded this message on Mon 5/27/2019 12:03 PM

SC

Sue Cattieu <sueroscoe69@gmail.com>

Mon 5/27/2019 10:02 AM

You ✉

↶ ↷ → ...

Good morning Pat,

I just would like to fill you in on how our day and night last night was.

My neighbors at 1545 Schuyler Street had a party yesterday that started approximately about 1:30 yesterday. The music and yelling prevented from us to go outside.

I called the police at 9:30 complaining of the noise. Our neighbors moved the party inside the basement around 11:30. Steve saw the police drive past the house a few minutes later and never stopped. Steve then called the police dispatcher again explaining that they have drove past and never stopped. Also explained the music and screaming was still going on in the basement and invited the police to come inside our house to listen. As far as I could tell, the police never came, never saw them and no one stopped to talk to us.

Th next phone call was made by myself approximately 2 a.m. I requested the police stop and talk to me, that nothing was being done about the prior calls. I then went outside and sat on my front stoop until the police showed up at approximately 2:40. (I wanted to sit outside so the dogs wouldn't go ballistic when the police came). Officer Mancino and 2 other officers came, I explained to them this was our 3rd call, and was very frustrated that we weren't getting any sleep. Explained to him about the neighborhood meeting and that Chief of Police Clifford asked us not to take matters into our own hands and keep calling. At that point Rishi came walking out of 1545 Schuyler street, thanking me sarcastically for calling the police. Rishi doesn't even live there, he lives at 1553 Schuyler and was a guest of the party. When Steve heard Rishi say that, Steve came outside. Officer Mancino was very fair and suggested we call the neighbors first 1 - 2 times, before calling the police. If the situation doesn't change at that point we should then call the PD, and they will handle the issue. He then had us exchange phone numbers. I again reiterated that we were told (on numerous occasions) to call continuously until some kind of action is taken. Officer Mancino again repeated to try to settle by calling (and recording) our neighbors and asking them to lower the music. If we still don't receive satisfaction we are to call the police and ask for him personally. Officer Mancino also looked up the record of calls for the evening and said there only showed one other call. I then said "then they aren't getting documented".

Officer Mancino then asked to talk to Steve and personally and asked the neighbors to go inside, which they didn't. Officer Mancino explained to us he knows us and has responded to our calls in the past. Knows that we are not the problem and that there aren't calls made against us. He understands where we are coming from but we all have to live here together so why not try getting along. While talking to us one of the guests of our neighbors seemed to be mouthing off at us. Officer Mancino asked us to go inside and proceeded to address the guest asking Rishi to take them inside. Which they still didn't go inside. The police were probably talking to them for a good 30 minutes more. Then left.

Sorry for the length and if there is any confusion (due to the lack of sleep) let me know. I am a little upset that we are now being asked to call our neighbors ourselves to try to settle the issue. Again this has been going on for years, all the calls made to the police and hearing the explanation of a nuisance properties we are still exactly no closer to closure of the noise issue.

Not sure what you can do, like I said wanted to keep you in the loop, if you choose to push this further, feel free to make it more pretty. I do believe you catch more bees with honey. I am just so exhausted, and not being able to enjoy our holiday weekend.

Oh and Rishi's junk cars are still there.

Any suggestions going forward. I'm not going through this all summer.

Thanks,
Sue