

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

June 24, 2019

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Ed Kosiur at 7:13 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Kosiur asked Council Member Marion Porterfield to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Council Member Vince Riggi 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.

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

Absent – John Mootoveren

Prior to the formal start of the meeting Mr. Kosiur turned the floor over to Mayor McCarthy and a check was given to Derek Dobson of the American Red Cross. Matthew Daley, Head Golf Professional, was also in attendance and explained that the funds were raised by a raffle hosted by the City of Schenectady Municipal Golf Course and golf balls were donated by Titleist Golf representative, Jeff Kelly.

After the American Red Cross donation a swearing-in ceremony was held for the new City Clerk, Samanta R. Mykoo.

At this point, Mr. Kosiur asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 11 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-146 A Resolution Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of Music Haven

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

The resolution was accepted by Mona Golub. She thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 10, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk. Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Riggi seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated June 24, 2019

General:

None

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:

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. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

Consent Agenda

Local Law No. 2019-01Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-147Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-148Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-149Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-150Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-151Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-152Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-153Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-154Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-155Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-156Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2019-CS-04Adopted Unanimously

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 news and data reports regarding the arrest of certain individuals in certain communities are more vulnerable to arrest than in other communities is false. He believes that only people who break the laws are arrested and there is no targeting, everyone is held accountable for their actions. He then stated that he was tired of PC, Liberal, Socialist agenda of the community. He feels their agenda is being forced upon him.

Diablo – Stated that repetition is a good learning tool. He then expressed that it's difficult to make a living selling art. The County gave Proctors a quarter of a million dollars for their art program and the Golub Corporation also donated money to them. This is an example of friends helping friends, but he does not like that these donations are not diversified. There are cultural and economical inequalities when it comes to selling art. Proctors is not art, its entertainment.

Bill Macejka – Recapped the baseball games that we've had over the past two weekends. The City of Schenectady hosted Champion Sports event out of Syracuse over the Father's Day weekend. There were 18 teams from all over the United States for the Capital Region Battle at Central Park. Also, we hosted the 20th Annual Albany Baseball Athletics Fest with teams from Rhode Island and Canada attending. There was a close game but the Albany baseball team won. Everyone commented on Central Park being a beautiful place to play baseball. The success of these tournaments is a result of a team effort from Mayor McCarthy, Commissioner Lafond, City Council and the two senior grounds-men who maintain the field. Then he stated that there are always two or three games going on every night and if anyone is available they are welcome to attend and watch a game.

Patricia Smith – Thanked Chief Clifford for sending his Officers and the Officers, Council Members Kosiur and Riggi, for attending the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association Meeting and listening and giving ideas to help the residents in the neighborhood. The Michigan Avenue Little League Park is again forlorn and forgotten; we have some ideas to use this park again and would welcome the discussion. She also said that the Wallingford Park needs to be cared for, the kids in the neighborhood would welcome a neighborhood park and Mr. Kosiur could hire some park attendants from his Summer Youth Employment Program. Also, Orchard Park is taking longer than it needs to.

Bob Harvey – Spoke on behalf of the Eastern Avenue Neighborhood Association and Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association regarding development and zoning issues. There is a proposal for a liquor store on Eastern Avenue and also Albany Street and was told by the Planning Commission that there is nothing that can be done to prevent these liquor stores from being established. He then read a letter* written by Helen Saunders of Plymouth Avenue.

** See document submitted.*

Ron Suriano– Homeowner and business owner in the downtown Schenectady area stated that he is enormously impressed by the growth of downtown Schenectady area and its success. This success has enabled his success at the Moisture Salon where they provide a specialized service for curly hair. People travel from locally and from a distance which contributes to the local growth to other businesses nearby. The City needs to be held more responsible for the cleanliness. The streets are full of garbage and he tries to do his part to clean up the neighborhood especially the trash in the parking lot of the abandoned Citizens Bank next to his

business. The parking lot is a growing problem that has him rethinking his business and home. The activity that takes place in that parking lot includes people being loud, drinking and doing drugs and has seen on his security cameras people breaking into vehicles during the night. Police presence is needed and the City needs to take responsibility or hold the owners of that lot responsible. He would like to have the lot kept open for parking since parking downtown is limited. The rest of downtown also suffers with garbage on the streets. This can easily be remedied by having more trash receptacles available. He has purchased dog waste stations and is convincing other business owners to do the same, thank you for allowing him do to that last year, but one person can only do so much. He then proposed having a task force comprised of community members and business owners to address these issues and come up with solutions.

Don Liebers – Lifelong City resident that has seen all the improvements in the City. He then stated that liquor stores proposal at 837 Eastern Avenue is a real roadblock since liquor stores in urban settings are not a great idea. There is research in Sociology, Public Health and Epidemiology show that liquor stores in urban settings leads to increase crime, the Police Department is busy enough. He urged the City and the Council to reclassify the zoning and continue the positive improvements in our neighborhoods and City.

Mary McClaine – I want to thank the Gazette for the expose on the zombie properties and to Mr. DeMola for staying on top of the story. The eight City Officials own these properties and are responsible for what happens to them. You spend time discussing straws while your constituents live with the zombies. You have a strange sense of priorities, Smart City. The vacant house on Francis Avenue is not the exception. It is the norm for the City and it started with the first house that was demolished. At the last Council Meeting I mentioned that on Mother's Day the lower portion of Eastern Avenue was covered with litter. What I did not tell you due to time restraints was that the lot on which the first house was demolished looked like a city dump. The debris was visible from the street. That property now looks like the Francis Avenue one because the heavy foliage covers a multitude of sins. From the street no one sees the filth on the property. These things are happening on the zombie properties because the city does not include the removal of vegetation in the demolition contract. The contract reads "tear down the house and take away the debris". It doesn't say anything about vegetation. Vegetation is a big problem on these abandoned properties because flying material sticks to the weeds, litter accumulates and city officials turn a blind eye. Straw people – you were told that Schenectady needs your leadership. Right – like a drunk needs another pint of whiskey. The same bunch wants to come back for another four years. You didn't get the last four right.

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. Riggi – Thanked Mr. Macejka for his report on the ball field and commends the Parks Department crew on their hard work maintain the fields and the park. He then announced that the Schenectady Old Timers Baseball Club will be hosting a two day, free of charge to children between the ages of 7 -12, a skills camp on the 2nd week of August, the Monday and Tuesday. This will help invigorate baseball in the City of Schenectady.

Ms. Perazzo – Officially congratulated the new City Clerk and looks forward to continue to work together.

Ms. Porterfield – Announced that the Hamilton Hill Thriving Neighborhood challenge is moving ahead with *#ShowLoveWhereYouLive* anti-litter campaign and hosting a paint party at Electric City Barn on Tuesday, June 25, 2019, from 5:30 – 7:30. She then announced that the Electric City Barn is hosting a Photo-Voice documentary on June 25 & 27, 2019 about the neighborhood then the opening will be on Saturday, June 29, 2019 from 2-5 p.m. to see the pictures and hear what people think about the neighborhood.

Mr. Polimeni – Announced that on June 15, 2019 the Bellevue Preservation held a Flag Day Ceremony and thanked the Mayor and his staff for preparing the park and getting it ready for them. He then thanked Louis Moshier for setting things up especially when they had the electrical problem. He announced the pool opening, schedule and rules. Then stated that there have been a number of business openings in the community and it shows the hard work of the Mayor and his staff. The community is growing; there is economical development and job creation which leads to income growing throughout our neighborhoods.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Reminded everyone with the 4th of July approaching that fireworks are illegal in the City of Schenectady but the Harbor will have a fireworks display on the 4th of July.

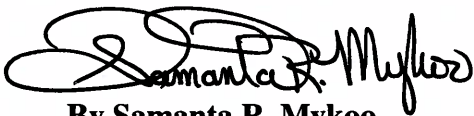
Mayor McCarthy – Congratulated the City Clerk on her appointment and the wise choice that was made by the City Council on her appointment, he looks forward to continuing working with her.

Mr. Kosiur – Congratulated the City Clerk and looks forward to continuing working with her. Congratulations to the local graduates. Announced that school is out for the summer and drivers should be diligent when driving around the area and look out for kids walking or riding their bicycles. He then spoke about the wrap around programs in partnership with the Boys & Girls Club at the Hillhurst, Quackenbush and Steinmetz pools. The Schenectady Summer Youth Employment Program will begin July 2nd and some of the kids will be park attendants. Also, there have been many car thefts in the area and it is mainly due to people not locking their car doors. Please report these crimes to the Schenectady Police Department no matter how minor, some have said there were only loose change or a few items, but this helps the police track the crime.

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 Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

A true record



By Samanta R. Mykoo

Schenectady City Clerk

Fwd: LIQUOR STORE PROPOSED FOR EASTERN AVENUE

robert harvey

Wed 6/19/2019 9:04 PM

To: robert harvey <rharvey44@hotmail.com>

[Get Outlook for Android](#)

From: Helen Saunders <polishshamrock@verizon.net>

Sent: Tuesday, June 18, 2019 6:30:13 PM

To: rharvey44@hotmail.com

Subject: LIQUOR STORE PROPOSED FOR EASTERN AVENUE

I would be opposed to establishing a liquor store at 837 Eastern Avenue, at least until the neighborhood stabilizes. I would assume that beer is available at the bodegas, just footsteps away, anyway, and that the new M ... Ristorante on lower Eastern. serves or will be serving harder beverages.

At one time there WAS a ("McIntyre's") liquor store opposite 849 Eastern (— now a coffee/arts shoppe?? — or soon to be??) But that was in a different era, prior or well prior to 1970, from the best of my recollection. It was after the "nice college bar" (— a total contradiction in terms —) opened there, that the neighborhood began declining, and we sold and moved out of our home in 1973, glad to be rid of living with the occasional loud noises, rumble of motorcycles, drunkenness, and lack of sufficient bathroom facilities there, not to mention the cycle that caught fire (— I remember reporting it)

.And do we want such a store on basically the same block (opposite side) and just a few dozen yards from the new Tribute park? Consider the children and their safety and well-being, especially in the evenings. We adults bear responsibility for them, even if they are not our very own.

Let the stabilization and some physical attractiveness and gentrification begin, first.

— Helen Saunders

723 Plymouth Avenue
Schenectady NY 12308

June 18, 2019