

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
July 10, 2023**

The City Council meeting was called to order by the City Council President Marion Porterfield at 7:00 P.M. in room 209, City Council chambers at City Hall.

At this time, Ms. Porterfield called on Reverend Ronald Hunt to deliver the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Bob Sanders 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 - Councilmembers: John Mootoveren, Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield

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

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the June 26, 2023 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Farelly seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

An email from Laurie Hoyt, with suggestions for Central Park.

**Petitions:**

None.

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

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

Seeing no speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding Legislative Items, to be closed.

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

Ms. Porterfield made a motion that the Council approves the Consent Agenda, the motion was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2023-11..... Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-12.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-13.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-133.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-134.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-135.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-136.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-137.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-138.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-139..... Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-CS-15.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-CS-16.....Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Ms. Porterfield directed all who wished to discuss any items for City Business to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk.

**Ed Laven, Jr.** – Asks Council why his ethics complaint regarding previous Schenectady City Court rulings has not yet been discussed in the local newspaper, and asks why Mayor McCarthy has not agreed to meet with him. Stated the ethics board was unhelpful in resolving his issue, and that Council is in violation of their oath of office for not helping him further.

**Rev. Nicole D. Jean-Simone** – Raised concerns brought to her over public Facebook comments made by a city hall staff member that spoke of immigrants in a negative tone. Stated that she takes personal offence to the comment as someone married to an immigrant and asks that the Mayor address this issue.

**Joann Perillo-Lasky** - Expressed frustration over a citation she received from the city for putting her garbage out too early. Pleaded that she is a longtime resident of the city who takes pride in being involved in the community and feels that the citation received was an excessively harsh form of punishment for the mistake made. Also mentioned that her garbage was put out early due to her being confused on the actual trash collection day due to the Juneteenth holiday, and that her street also does not show up on the trash collection maps that are issued by the city.

**Robert Sanders** – Mentioned a 3% rent increase in New York City which he states was imposed 5 years after the last increase and compares that to the 2 increases he has recently had imposed by his Schenectady Landlord. Stated that the rate of increase for rent in the city has been exponential and asks Council to take action to get it under control.

**Brian & Emily Templeton** – Stated they have received a citation from the city due to their yard being unkept. The couple claimed their yard is home to plants such as wildflowers which they intentionally let grow. Explained that the citation is usually given out before the flowers have had a chance to bloom, and that keeping them would be an asset to the environment as wildflowers are great pollinators.

**Wayne Harper** – Suggested that a log be kept of complaints made against the police and city hall staff members.

**Art Marotta & David Elmendorf** – Introduced themselves as representatives of Schenectady used car dealership Wedekind Motors. Voiced their concerns over a new bus stop that was proposed by CDTA which would sit directly in front of their business, claiming that it would be detrimental to the business as it would block cars for sale on display and possibly open the area up to littering and vandalism. Suggested the stop be placed farther down the street in front of their body shop, instead.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor regarding City Business to be closed.

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

**Carmel Patrick** – Announced details about upcoming Karen B. Johnson Family Fun Day.

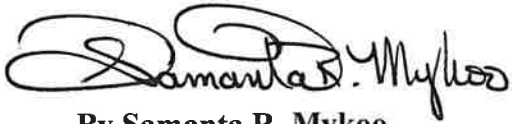
**Mayor McCarthy** – Thanked everyone for coming out to voicing their concerns and directed they be forwarded to his office for further review.

**Marion Porterfield** – Thanked everyone who came out to express their concerns and reminded everyone who may be struggling with addiction, or knows someone that is, that resources for help are available. Also cautioned residents be careful when outside due to excessive heat in the forecast.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren. The meeting was adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samantha R. Mykoo". The signature is written in a cursive style with large, flowing loops.

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

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** Marion Porterfield  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 05, 2023 8:26 PM  
**To:** John Mootooveren; Carl Williams; Carmel Patrick; Damonni Farley; Doreen M. Ditoro; John Polimeni  
**Cc:** Gary McCarthy; Samanta R. Mykoo; Willie Deane; Andrew Koldin; Christopher Marney  
**Subject:** Fw: new pool and Central Park

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up

**Flag Status:** Flagged

Good Evening,

Please see the email below from a concerned Schenectady resident. There are some suggestions that we may be able to implement with regard to the new pool.

**Marion Porterfield**  
**Schenectady City Council President**

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**From:** Laurie Hoyt [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, July 5, 2023 2:10 PM  
**To:** Marion Porterfield <MPorterfield@schenectadyny.gov>  
**Subject:** new pool and Central Park

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.

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Hi City Council and Mayor McCarthy,

*Ms Portfield, sending to you as council president, but please share with other council members and city staff who are connected to the parks. Mr. McCarthy, not able to find an email for you, so printing and sending.*

I am excited about the new pool coming to Central Park.

I am also glad that the city still opened the old pool to allow residents somewhere to swim this summer as the new pool is being constructed.

A couple things related to the pool and Central Park:

1- I think that non-residents should be charged a fee to use the pool to help offset the cost of running the pool. As a Schenectady resident, I am unable to swim at the Nisky town pool, Colonie Town Park pool, or pool at Tawasentha Park in Guilderland unless I go with a resident and I pay a higher fee. Here are some of their fees:

Tawasentha pool in Guilderland - non-resident can come w/a resident. Then the non-resident pays \$7 for an adult. (\$5 for resident). For a non-resident to even go into the park, there is a \$20 fee on weekends.

Nisky town pool- \$10 for an adult to swim as a guest w/a resident (though resident also pays \$10 for individual swim - discounted if resident buys pass for the year.)

Colonie Town Park pool- \$12.00 for an adult non-resident to swim and must come w/a resident of Colonie. Adult resident pays \$7.00. Resident pays \$2 to get car into park, and non-resident pays \$10.

Again, I think City Council (or whoever sets policy), should be charging non-residents entry into the new pool. The way Central Park is set up makes it impossible to charge entry into the park for non-residents a fee (and non-residents heavily use the tennis courts and disc golf course). If you are already checking people into the pool, it makes sense to be adding a charge for non-residents.

2 - I would love funding to be made available or a business to offer free or very reduced life guard training for Schenectady students to become lifeguards. You'll need a lot of guards for the new pool!

3 - It would be great if the city could coordinate with CDTA to have a bus/trolley running routes to the pool for better access.

4 - Back to non-resident use of the park - There is constant use of the park year-round by disc golfers. My guess, is a good percentage do not live in Schenectady. Disc golfers have to pay vehicle entry to places like Saratoga St Park, Thacher Park, Tawasentha Park. I wish there were a way to allow them to make donations to the park towards recreation for the City, or for general upkeep of the parks. Can a QR code be set up at the start of the disc golf for making donations? FYI - Disc golfers have eroded the park where they park by the big tree across from the gravel parking lot near the start of disc golf. A no parking sign could be added there. There's plenty of parking in the gravel lot.

5 - We still need a water fountain put back into the park. Right now, dogs have water access in the dog park, and people have access by using the bathroom sinks.

Thanks for your consideration,

Laurie Hoyt  
