

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

July 22, 2019

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Member John Polimeni at 7:00 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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

Mr. Polimeni then called on the Ole Timers Baseball Club 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: John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, and John Mootoveren.

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

Absent – Ed Kosiur and Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas.

At this point, Mr. Polimeni asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 6 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-169 A Resolution Recognizing the Schenectady Ole Timers Baseball Club

The resolution was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

The resolution was accepted by the President of the Schenectady Ole Timers Club, Don Blaha. He thanked the Council and Mayor for their support and recognition.

The Mayor also expressed his gratitude to them for the time and effort they've taken to invest in our youth and thanked them on behalf of the City.

At this point, Mr. Polimeni asked if there were no objections, he would like to take agenda item number 7 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2019-170 A Resolution Recognizing the Film Cradle by Prince Sprauve and Told By Us Productions

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

The resolution was accepted by the Price Sprauve. He thanked the Council for their support and recognition. Then thanked the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association, the City of Schenectady, twenty-five organizations that were involved including Bellevue Women's Hospital and Planned Parenthood and the people that were involved in the movie.

PUBLIC HEARING:

1. Regarding the Sidewalk Improvement Petitions Funded by a Special Assessment in a Certain District

Mr. Polimeni invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing Number One to come forward:

Sharon Furbert – Stated that she signed the petition for DeCamp Avenue because she would like to have beautiful sidewalks and streets but would like more details on the cost and if it would increase her assessment.

Beverly Kehoe Shea – Expressed her unhappiness with the special assessment but would like to see the improvements. She has seen that Utica is repairing their street and we should be doing the same and doing it expeditiously.

Bill Leonard – Explained that there are many details about the sidewalk program that need to be clarified such as would the City provide curbing and why would the residents have to pay? Is there an order for street, sidewalk and curbs? Will the assessment remain on the taxes or will it be removed once it is paid?

Afred Lotano – Communicated the need for two signs to be placed on DeCamp Avenue about children playing and a slow down.

Laurie Bacheldor – Read a statement from Nicole Sims, a resident of DeCamp Avenue, who has ALS and finds it challenging to navigate the potholes with her wheelchair. She then stated that curbs will also be needed and asked for the overall cost and timeframe of the whole process.

Bette Salisbury – Expressed the need and importance of having the street and sidewalk done. It is dangerous having streets and sidewalks that are pitted, she had an aunt that came to visit who fell while taking a walk.

David Tobey – Expressed his support for the sidewalk program. He knows that they are paying a special assessment but believes that it is worth it to have the streets, sidewalks and curbs done. It will increase the property value and hopes this job can be completed by September before their block party and then invited the Mayor and Council to attend.

Marjorie Adams – Noted that there isn't enough data and facts about the program since DeCamp Avenue will be the first, but she knows that it is important for the streets to get done.

Henry Hughes – Has been a resident of DeCamp Avenue for 52 years and during all that time the streets have been smooth and bumpy, but currently it is at its all time low for bumpiness. Stated that approximately 5 years ago he paid to have the corner of his sidewalk repaired and the following winter the snow plow drove through and busted off the corner of the sidewalk, he has since then been disincentivized to repair it. DeCamp Avenue flows into Central Park and that is an incentive to repair it. It all should get done since the property owners are paying for it.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Mr. Polimeni declared the public hearing number one, to be closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Polimeni asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 8, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Perazzo made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mootooveren seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

From the Mayor, a list of appointments, dated July 22, 2019.

General:

None

Petitions:

From the residents of Emmett Street a sidewalk petition turned in on July 11, 2019.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Claims, Mr. Riggi – Stated that on tonight’s agenda we are designating our Corporation Counsel the authority to settle the Kearse claim and clarified that it will not be any more than the \$100,000.00 insurance deductible.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

Having no one else signed up to speak, Mr. Polimeni 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. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Perazzo.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019-171Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-172.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-173.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-174.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-175.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-176.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-CS-07.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-CS-08.....Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Polimeni 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:

Edward Varno – Stated that he made his concerns known at a Council meeting in May regarding the building and field by his home. Recently city officials came to assess his concerns about the building and wanted to say thank you but is waiting until it has all been taken care of.

Diablo – Explained that it is difficult to make a living selling art and has attended several meetings speaking about that topic. He then remarked that the Lady Liberty Statue at Gateway Park is too ugly and terrifying to be the face of Schenectady. He does not believe in the destruction of art or culture but that statue should be melted and repurposed.

Anthony Peter Carota III – Communicated his belief regarding the Kearsse claim as being a baseless lawsuit. Then stated that everyone's life matters and that the money used to settle the claim should be used to help the youth and residents of the City.

Marva Isaacs – Reported that the people of the Hamilton Hill neighborhood are pleased with the Police Department and Sheriffs working together and hopes their presence continues. People are now comfortable in the neighborhood. She then remarked that there were some Council members that had not signed the letter preventing the establishment of a liquor store in their neighborhood and the negative influence that a liquor store will create.

Gertrude Joseph – Stated that she felt raped by the City when her home was taken away. Her spouse passed away in 2017 due to cancer and then five months later her daughter called her to tell her she had stage 3 cancer. She had to go away to take care of her. Then her family who was living with her called to inform her that the City was there because the house was foreclosed for unpaid taxes. She then stated that she went to the tax office, she knew that she owed taxes and wanted to start payment, and was not treated well and told that a little black woman should not own a house and that the City wanted to take away the house since 2015. She said that she asked for help and no one was able to help.

Patricia Smith – President of the Mt. Pleasant Neighborhood Association stated that she would like to see a public hearing held for the Craig-Main Connection after the open house on Thursday, August 1, 2019.

Robert Dobbs Jr. – Introduced his proposal for a revival for the Bellevue Little League Field*.
** See document submitted.*

Kelly Dobbs – Stated that her son Robbie held an event at Bellevue Little League and the kids were happy. Everyone had a great time and there were no fights. Bellevue and Schenectady needs this park.

Mary McClaine – There is something very wrong going on in the City. Projects are not being done in a thoughtful and careful manner. Projects are approached in a hodge-podge way. It's a "slap it down and get it done" attitude with total indifference added-in. It also means good money is being spent with poor results. Consequently, the completed projects are distasteful, imperfect and they make the City look foolish. Furthermore, the projects are not coordinated and lack appeal. Whoever is signing off on these projects is in the wrong line of work. He or they do not know what they are doing wrong. For instance, I do business with Citizens Bank, lower Broadway has been under construction for several months every time I went there. The square corner project where Citizen's Bank is located was recently completed. Three cut-away corners

have dark grey metal plates, the fourth corner has a red plate. Why was a red plate introduced for the same square? Should not all the corners contain the same colored plates? Whose decision was it to mix-up the colors? Wouldn't it have made more sense to use all red plates to match the red brick sidewalk just a few feet away? This taxpayer objects to the way City Council is spending our money. That corner is a mistake. Go back and fix it please.

Seeing no other speakers come before the City Council, Mr. Polimeni declared the privilege of the floor, regarding general City business, to be closed.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Mr. Riggi – Thanked everyone for coming down and speaking tonight. There were some questions about the sidewalk programs that were answered before, but perhaps it should be explained again. Then said that the Bellevue field is being assessed and we need to have the evaluations done before we can begin to look at proposals. Anyone looking to submit a proposal should know that proper permits will have to be taken and insurance provided to the City to hold the City harmless. This is not a new requirement; it is always been in place. He then asked for a remembrance for a long time city employee, Mark Campolieto Sr., who passed while still in service and offered his thoughts and prayers to his family and friends.

Ms. Porterfield – Congratulated Price Sprauve and Told By Us Productions for their film. He was trying to address issues in the City. Then thanked Paul Lafond his staff in OGS for giving their input and feedback on the trash cans for their Thriving Neighborhood Challenge. Then addressed the liquor store that is being proposed for the Hamilton Hill neighborhood and stated that all council members passed the resolution challenging the establishment but not everyone was willing to sign the letter going to the State Liquor Authority. The neighborhood needs the support of all elected officials, not just a few.

Mayor McCarthy – Congratulated Prince Sprauve and Told By Us Production, it was approximately a 6 year endeavor and a lot of time and talent went into the making of the film. It showed his inner perseverance to make the project happen. He then offered his sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Mark Compolieto, Sr. His death was untimely and sad. He then thanked everyone for coming out and speaking tonight. Then stated that the City Engineer, Chris Wallin, who runs and manages the paving program, is a resident of DeCamp Avenue and expects that these bumps and questions will be answered in a timely manner and resolved to the satisfaction of the neighbors.

Mr. Polimeni – Stated that Mr. Wallin will be able to answer the questions to the sidewalk program. To answer the questions about the special assessment, once the sidewalk is paid off it will be removed off of your taxes, it is not continuous. The project has been out to bid and once it has been received Mr. Wallin will be able to give you the exact cost. The curbs will be discussed with Mr. Wallin also. He then congratulated the Goose Hill Neighborhood Association on their family fun day; they did a fantastic job despite the heat. Lastly, in regards to the ongoing straw ban, the important issue is our environment and how we handle it. We've seen climate change in Schenectady first had with the hurricane damage we've seen a few years ago. Plastics leave micro-beads in our environment and pollutes our water.

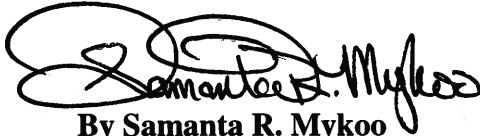
Mr. Riggi – Stated that one of the speakers asked a questions about the picture that used to hang up in the back of the chambers, The Four Freedoms. Mr. Riggi donated that picture 15 years ago

and asked the Mayor if he could find out what happened to the picture, was it archived or disposed of? Perhaps it can be hung elsewhere, it is about public speaking and is important.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Polimeni asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Riggi. The meeting was adjourned at 8:21 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is stylized with large, overlapping loops.

By Samanta R. Mykoo

Schenectady City Clerk

Forever Broke Bellevue Field Revival Project Proposal

Objective: Obtain permission and funding to complete renovations at Bellevue Field in order to organize and facilitate using the field as a year round outdoor venue to host community oriented events. Focus on leveraging community contacts to make the necessary connections to revive the field into the once lively gathering place it was in my childhood. Utilize internet platforms to generate community awareness and interest. Generate revenue through sponsorship, sales, concessions and event fees to sustain park maintenance and create jobs and a sense of community involvement.

Park Cleanup Project

Demolish Existing Structure- Obtain project quote from Focus Construction

Trash Removal

Dugout Cleanup, Painting etc

Landscaping & Field Work (get quotes from landscapers/ see how much volunteer work can be accomplished)

Create vending area for food, beverages, gear (what level we talking here? I'd love to talk about a structure that could accommodate an actual kitchen all restaurant friends, caterers etc can use for whatever events)

Bathrooms need to obtain portable toilet service (get monthly quote cost)

Basketball Court?

Field Lines

Sports

All sports teams sponsored and coached by local business owners. Adult, Teen & Junior Leagues.

Uniforms created each season. (Need supplies and applicable equipment. Lotta BALLS!)

Kick Ball

Flag Football

Dodgeball

Field Hockey

Soft Ball

Lacrosse

Basketball (if court can happen)

Events

Water Balloon Fight

Volleyball

Become a free lunch location using donations from businesses and/or local program

Hair Day

Guest Speakers and Special Guests

Back to School Giveaways

Biggest Snowman Challenge