

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

August 12, 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 Council Member John Polimeni to offer the invocation.

Mr. Kosiur then called on Council Member Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas 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, Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Leesa Perazzo, Vincent Riggi, John Mootooveren and Edward Kosiur.

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

Absent – none.

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. 2019-177 A Resolution Recognizing YouthBuild, Operated by SEAT Center

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

The resolution was accepted by the students and program director of YouthBuild. They thanked the Council for their support and recognition.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Kosiur asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 22, 2019 Council meeting as submitted by the 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 August 12, 2019.

General:

From David Giacalone, an email regarding the Lady Liberty Statue.

Petitions:

From the residents of Lenox Road, a petition of 17 signatures regarding the cat business at 1769 Lenox Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Government Operations, Ms. Perazzo – Municipalities have the option of participating in the Paid Family Leave program and this resolution allows us to offer it to our managerial employees. This is a great first step towards better benefits for our employees. Through her employers at Proctors she has firsthand knowledge of the Paid Family Leave, sees it to be a tremendous benefit to the Proctors employees and knows it will be a great benefit to the City employees.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

David Giacolone – Spoke about the legislative item regarding pedestrian safety. Stated that he is certain that the Planning Department has not looked into or evaluated digital signs that quickly change near intersections or heavy traffic areas because they are a hazard. He then suggested that we look into what other municipalities have already established regarding digital signs.

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 Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Riggi.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2019-178.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-179.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-180.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-181.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-182.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-183.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-184.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-185.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-186.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-187.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-188.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2019-189.....Adopted 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 he had the opportunity to speak to Congressman Tonko at Friday evening’s prayer vigil and was disappointed to learn that the Congressman would like to pass gun legislation which would impede his constitutional rights.

Latchman Haripersaud – Stated that his neighbor has 20 - 80 cats and during the summer months and the stench is unbearable. Last year he contacted the City and the owner of the

neighboring property, who lives in Pennsylvania, and nothing was done. This neighbor tends to move the cats around to another neighbor's house when inspectors are around then brings them back to her property.*

* *See submitted pictures.*

David Giacalone – Asked the City Council to assert themselves and says that they had approved the implementation plan that states that Lady Liberty would be brought back to Gateway Park. He stated that he would like to see better leadership where the legislative and planning process is protected. Bring the Lady back.

P. D. Voorhis – Stated that she recently visited Gateway Park and found that there was a new sign placed there and she did not see or hear anything about it. Then spoke about a bill that is being introduced in the assembly regarding motorized bicycles and she has not heard or seen any coverage in the newspaper of this bill either.

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. Perazzo – Thanked Marva Isaacs, the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association and the Clergy Against Hate for organizing the prayer vigil on Friday in response to the recent gun violence in our country. She then invited all to attend the Family Movie Night in Vale Park on Wednesday, August 14th they will be showing *Fox & the Hound*. Then thanked the many volunteers for planting and clean-up efforts.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Remarked on a ribbon cutting for the new concession stand at the park which was made possible by a partnership with the City, County and Habitat for Humanity. She then reminded everyone that on Friday, August 23rd at 1 p.m. there will be a ribbon cutting for the new Woodlawn Park Splash Pad and the Schenectady Foundation will be announcing the second round for the Thriving Neighborhoods Challenge.

Ms. Porterfield – Acknowledged the prayer vigil and how important it is to remember the people who have lost their lives, the tragedy that we've seen in our country and the impact in our local community. She then thanked the Engineering Department for repairing the part of Craig Street that was crumbling and having it done expediently. Then thanked SEAT for their part in the Thriving Neighborhood Challenge; they've helped build the enclosures for all the refurbished trash cans. She then invited everyone to the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association block party on Saturday, August 24th at 11 a.m. at the parking lot of the Living Word North Church, 134 Duane Avenue.

Mr. Riggi – Congratulated the Schenectady Ole Timers baseball skill camp on their kick-off earlier in the morning. The A Diamond looked great and many kids had access to one-on-one coaching. Then he offered his condolences to the Pallotolo family on the passing of a retired City employee, Carmine Pallotolo. Then wished his wife, Donna Riggi, all the best and his love on her retirement as a crossing guard for the City of Schenectady.

Mr. Polimeni – Stated that the recycling program has seen an uptick in the amount that we receive but there are many that do not recycle. There should be a system in place to track those that do not recycle; this could potentially reduce the amount of waste. It may cost more, but the impact on the environment far outweighs the costs. He then stated that there has been a lot of activity in our parks. There have been many overlapping and competing interests for grants and

suggested a strategic plan under a supervisor is necessary and hopes to see a position added to the budget.

Mr. Mootooveren – Reminded homeowners that the exterior permit fee waiver continues on until September 30th and encouraged everyone to utilize this program.

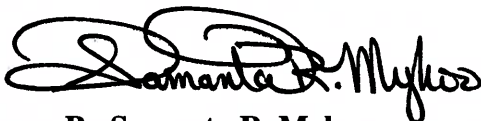
Mayor McCarthy – Gave his best to Donna Riggi and thanked her for her many years of service. He then noted that recycling has been an ongoing issue that has been evaluated numerous times but looks forward to a dialogue with Council during the budget process and with our partners in the state and national level. He then apologized for missing the ribbon cutting in Central Park that was in partnership with Music Haven, Habitat for Humanity, the County and the City. Then stated that the A Diamond, the Rose Garden, the Pavilion, the Swimming Pool, Music Haven and the Golf Course are all in great shape and it is due to the time and effort of the professional staff of the City and the budgetary support of the Council. He welcomed the Whistling Kettle on Jay Street; they had their ribbon cutting earlier in the day. He stated that this shows the dynamic interest in Schenectady, businesses are opening and people are looking at Schenectady differently, they are making investment and moving here.

Mr. Kosiur – Thank you to Marva Isaacs and the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association and Rev. Grigsby and SICM for organizing the prayer meeting on Friday and offered our continued prayer and support throughout the entire United States. I want to thank my colleagues on the Council who have offered their support for the New York State Paid Family Leave Act for our management confidential employees. I am proud to state that we are the first municipality in the Capital Region to offer this insurance/benefit to our valued City Employees. As in any insurance, you hope you never have to use it, however, with our vote tonight we, as a Council are providing this as a means to show our support and appreciation to our valued city employees. I also want to thank the folks from the NYS Workers Compensation Board, Quinn Hubbell, for their assistance with our employee informational meetings that we held. Our next step is to meet with our CSEA employees to continue talks on how we can offer the Paid Family Leave to their brothers and sisters of the unionized workforce. This will require membership approval in order to participate. I am confident we can work closely with them to come to an agreement. Again, I am very proud of this resolution, and thank you to my fellow Council Members and Mayor for your support.

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. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Perazzo. The meeting was adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

A true record



By Samanta R. Mykoo

Schenectady City Clerk