

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL
August 14, 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.

Ms. Porterfield called on Pastor Mark Thompson to lead the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Councilmember Carmel Patrick 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: Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, and Marion Porterfield

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

Excused – Councilmembers: John Mootooveren, John Polimeni (without notification).

At this point, Ms. Porterfield asked if there were no obligations, she would like to take agenda item six out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution 2023-143 Recognizing 2023 Black Business Month

The Resolution was moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Farley. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by various black business owners who do business in the city of Schenectady. They thanked the Council and Mayor for their recognition and support.

PUBLIC HEARING:

- 1. Establishing a Six (6) Month Moratorium on the Submission and Processing of Building Permits, Certificates of Occupancy, Certificates of Use, and Land Use Approvals for “Smoke Shops, Vape Shops, and Tobacco or Vape Consumption Businesses” within the City of Schenectady**

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding the Public Hearing to come forward.

Jeanie Orr – A member of Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities, spoke about the purpose of her organization, and listed facts about the health effects of smoking tobacco

as well as community input she gathered. Orr asked that council consider these risks and concerns when making their decision.

Genevieve Hart - A member of Capital District Tobacco-Free Communities, shared her first hand experiences being a high school student witnessing how targeted vape advertisements and marketing affect high school and middle school children.

Rivquah Caldwell – Recounted her struggles growing up in a home of tobacco smokers, and how it resulted in her becoming addicted as well at a young age, leaving her with health complications. Said she hopes her story can help convince others to not make the same mistakes.

P.D. Voorhis – Claimed she is aware of the popularity of flavored nicotine products and says the proposed changes will upset many people.

Seeing no speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Public Hearing closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the July 24, 2023 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Patrick seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

An email from Emily Traiforos in opposition to a proposed bill in Congress to raise the federal weight limit of heavy trucks on the Nation's roads.

Petitions:

A Petition of 22 signature for sidewalk improvements and special assessment district on McClellan Street.

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:

Neil Golub – Spoke about funding for the Capital Region Aquatic Center, he recommended the City of Schenectady use the ARPA funding despite their location in the Town of Rotterdam. Stating that he thinks it is a good idea and would stimulate economic growth in the City of Schenectady by attracting visitors.

P.D. Voorhis – Discussed her concerns from a previous zoning committee meeting in the city.

Justin Chaires – Thanked the Mayor and City Council for passing the resolution that secures grant funding for the Schenectady Police Department community hire panel.

Seeing no other 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. Farley.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2023-144.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-145.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-146.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-147.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-148.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-CS-17.....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. – Shared his frustration with the Mayor and Council for not taking action against certain Schenectady City Court Judges, after he alerted them about the issues he’s been having with his previous court rulings.

P.D. Voorhis – Discussed her recent experiences being evicted from her home and dealing with trauma from her vehicle being shot at by a suspected assault weapon.

Wayne Harper – Detailed his frustrations with a fellow homeowner in his neighborhood of Bellevue, citing the many complaints made to Code Enforcement.

Daniel Castillo – Requested the removal of executive order made by the Mayor which prohibits any video and/or audio recording inside of Schenectady City Hall, claiming it is unconstitutional. Also recounted previous experiences dealing with City Hall security.

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:

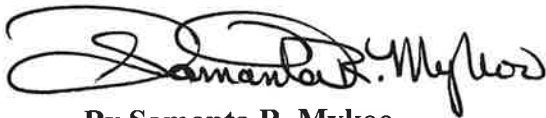
Doreen Ditoro – Thanked Councilmember John Polimeni for his work in Washington D.C. on the Inflation Reduction Act.

Marion Porterfield – Thanked everyone for coming and stating their opinions and concerns. Encourages all to continue to do so.

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 Ms. Patrick and seconded by Mr. Williams. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

A true record

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name being the most prominent.

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

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: Emily Traiforos [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, July 28, 2023 10:58 AM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Letter Opposing Heavier Trucks

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.

Dear City Clerk Mykoo,

I work on transportation policy issues in New York for [GoRail](#), a national non-profit that advances smart transportation policy.

I'm reaching out to you about a bill proposed in Congress to raise the federal weight limit of heavy trucks on our nation's roads. [H.R 3372](#) would establish a 10-year "pilot program" for states to test 91,000-pound trucks, a 14% weight increase over the current limit of 80,000 pounds. **We're asking for your help to stop this before it's imposed on your local roads.**

There is already a wealth of data showing this is bad policy, starting with the impact to local roads and bridges and the taxpayers who fund them. An [analysis](#) earlier this year looked specifically at local infrastructure—trucks don't just travel on the Interstate after all—and found that the overall cost of 91,000-pound trucks would be \$60.8 billion.

For example, in New York:

- Number of local bridges at risk with 91,000-pound trucks: **945**
- Cost of replacing at-risk local bridges: **\$1,387,888,250**

We're working with the [Coalition Against Bigger Trucks](#) on a group letter from state and local government officials like yourself to be sent to Congress **before H.R. 3372 potentially comes up for a floor vote as early as September**. A similar letter in 2019 had over 1,000 signers from communities across the country and we're hoping this effort will send a powerful message to Congress that local roads and bridges simply cannot handle heavier trucks.

Please click this link to learn more and let us know if we can add your name to the letter. You can also simply respond "add my name" to this email if you wish to sign.

Please reach out if I can answer any questions.

Thank you,
Emily

[GORAIL](#)
(224) 220-1560 | etraiforos@gorail.org

[See our Issue Brief on Truck Size and Weight for a deeper dive.](#)

RECEIVED AUG 08 2023

RECEIVED

Petition for Improvement and Special Assessment District

AUG 08 2023
City Clerk's Office
Schenectady, New York

We, the undersigned, record owners of the respective properties identified below, petition the City Council of the City of Schenectady, Schenectady, New York to cause an improvement to be made to the sidewalks and to defray the cost of such improvement, in whole, by special assessment against the property especially benefitted by the improvement, in accordance with C3-6 of the Schenectady City Charter

| | Printed Name | Signature | Address | Date |
|----|-------------------|-------------|--------------|---------|
| 1 | ALEX PERCIVAL | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/29/23 |
| 2 | Denise Lynn | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 3 | [Signature] | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 4 | Michelle Robinson | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 5 | Nimrod Bony | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 6 | IMRAN KATIEF | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 7 | JUDITH ALPHEUSIN | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 8 | SS Sira Zaiden | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 9 | Robert Fritin | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 10 | David Ellis | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 11 | Christine D'Gonno | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 12 | Robert Kato | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 13 | SARAH BAKER | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 14 | Yvonne Beckell | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/29/23 |
| 15 | Rebecca D'Agostis | [Signature] | McClellan St | 7/30/23 |
| 16 | Adam Higgins | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/6/23 |
| 17 | Marie Verdona | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/6/23 |
| 18 | Tavia Poolton | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/6/23 |
| 19 | [Signature] | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/6/23 |
| 20 | [Signature] | [Signature] | McClellan St | 8/6/23 |

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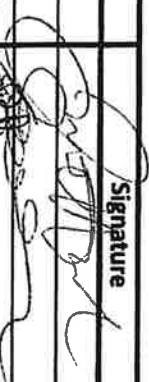
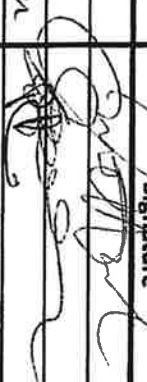
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RECEIVED AUG 08 2023

| | Printed Name | Signature | Address | Date |
|----|------------------|---|----------------------|-----------|
| 1 | John Howard |  | ██████ Mc Clellan St | 8/10/2023 |
| 2 | Robert Magnanoni |  | ██████ Mc Clellan St | 8/10/2023 |
| 3 | | | ██████ Mc Clellan St | 8/18/2023 |
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