

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

August 23, 2021

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council Majority Leader John Polimeni at 7:00 p.m. in Room 110 at City Hall.

Mr. Polimeni asked Reverend Ronald Hunt to offer the invocation.

Mr. Polimeni then called on Council Member Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas 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: Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, and Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas.

Absent – John Mootooveren.

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Mariëlle Schmidt, Corporation Counsel Andrew Koldin, and Mayor Gary R. McCarthy.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Polimeni asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 9, 2021 Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Patrick made a motion to approve the minutes and Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL

Official:

None.

General:

From Schenectady Premier League Incorporated regarding the proposal in which the Schenectady Softball Cricket Association is requesting long-term lease for use of Grout Park.

From Mark Foss, an email concerning excessively loud music at a church located at 2020 Broadway.

From Alice Dorian, an email requesting more funding for the Police Department to investigate drug dealing in her neighborhood.

Petitions:

None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

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

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

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

Mr. Polimeni made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda, and the motion was moved by Ms. Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Porterfield.

Consent Agenda

- Resolution No. 2021-182.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-183.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-184.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-185.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-186.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-187.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-188.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-189.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-190.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-191.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2021-CS-10.....Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Polimeni invited all who wished to address any items for City Business to come forward or otherwise submit their comments to the City Clerk:

Anthony Carota – Would like to respond to a news interview Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas gave concerning gun violence. He believes that harsher sentencing is not the solution, as it does not consider those who suffer from mental illness or substance abuse disorder.

Marva Isaacs – Announced that everyone is invited to attend the Hamilton Hill Neighborhood Association’s Back-To-School Block Party. The event will take place on August 28, from 12-6 p.m. She thanked the Mayor and City Council Members for donating towards this event. She also shared that, while assisting at the Food Pantry last week, someone took pictures of police officers and those picking up their food packages. She believes this is harassment and that something should be done about it.

P.D. Voorhis – She has been vocal about issues that arise, ever since she moved to Schenectady in 1997, and would like for it to be known that she will continue to do so.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:

Ms. Porterfield – Announced that the Common Unity Block Party will be held on Tuesday, August 31, as part of the Craig-Main Street Connection Project. The event will be held from 4-7 p.m. and will take place on the bridge between Mt. Pleasant and Hamilton Hill. There will be various local artists, a book-bag giveaway, and free food and drinks.

Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas – Stated that Schenectady Little League and Schenectady Cal Ripken have merged to make baseball affordable and accessible to any child in Schenectady who wants to play. The Schenectady Oldtimers hosted a 2-day event at the A-Diamond where over 70 children attended. She would like to thank all volunteers who worked countless hours to make baseball available to all the children in Schenectady. This coming Sunday the Music Haven will, weather permitting, be hosting its last concert of the year.

Mayor Gary R. McCarthy – Would like for every to get the vaccine. It helps you on an indivial level and the community on a whole. He is looking forward to the last concert in Music Haven.

Mr. Polimeni – Reminding everyone that the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, September 7. There will be no meeting next Monday, as it will be fifth Monday of the month. He also took the opportunity to speak on the fact that this will be the 20th anniversary of 9/11. He would like for all to remember the innocent lives lost and affected at the hands of terrorists. He is pleased with the grant for the firefighters that passed this evening. The heat guns will save lives.

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 Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas and seconded by Ms. Patrick. The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 p.m.

A true record



By Mariëlle Schmidt
Schenectady Deputy City Clerk

Schenectady Premier League (SPL)
Uniting Communities Through Sports
Outdoors and indoors games for the
entire family, including softball,
volleyball, chess, and dominoes.



Mailing Address:
945 Francis Avenue
Schenectady, NY 12303
Tel: O (518) 227 9295
M (518) 231 4658

August 19, 2021

John Mootoveren
Council President
City of Schenectady

Subject: Schenectady Premier League (SPL)

Dear President Mootoveren,

Greetings and I trust this letter find you well and in good stead. With reference to the above subject, the Schenectady Premier League Incorporated (SPL) wishes to bring to your attention the following: (1) an introduction to the SPL, (2) SPL's visions and plans, and (3) SPL views on an issue that is currently before the Council.

- (1) The Schenectady Premier League Incorporated is founded in the County of Schenectady, State of New York as a domestic not-for-profit organization and is currently finalizing its 501(c)3 status with the IRS. The founding officers of SPL are individuals who consider the City of Schenectady home and have contributed to the life and experiences of the City for many years. More importantly, our officers are all experienced in multiple outdoor and indoor games including softball cricket, volleyball, and dominoes and are determined to develop these sports locally and make our City home to the best quality of sporting events – events that will attract new dollars to the City and serve to stimulate its recovery.

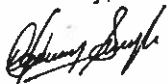
SPL is distinct from other sporting groups, leagues, and associations in the sense that its core vision and mission are to promote inclusiveness, social cohesion, and a quality lifestyle for all the residents of the City of Schenectady. Its guiding principles are transparency, accountability, and inclusiveness. In this regard, SPL has developed and adopted several internal policies to ensure its activities and operations are not only in compliance with all federal, state, and local laws, but also consistent with good social, moral, and ethical standards. SPL looks forward to working with City Council and officials in pursuing our shared vision of improving the quality of life of all City residents.

- (2) In light of the foregoing, SPL intends to file the necessary applications with the relevant City agencies and or departments to secure access to relevant facilities for its inaugural softball tournament during 2022. In the coming weeks and months as the League undertakes all necessary coordinating, mobilizing, and planning activities, it will be reaching out to relevant city agencies and departments. SPL look forward to working with the Council and City agencies in this regard to secure access to such facilities to ensure it can provide its members, affiliates, teams, families, and communities with high-quality softball (cricket) events and experiences.

- (3) Finally, SPL is aware via the Daily Gazette newspaper (May 3, 2021) edition, that a proposal for the use of Grout part is before the City Council and the proposal includes a request for a long-term lease by the Schenectady Softball Cricket Association. SPL expressly opposes this proposal on the grounds that granting of a long-term lease will limit access to the said facility by all other entities and leagues including the SPL and indirectly impede their ability to provide the kind and quality of experiences they endeavor to provide their players, teams, affiliates, teams, families and communities. SPL also opposes this proposal on the ground that it will limit diversity and competition in the local sporting industry and would effectively create a monopoly of access to the said facility. SPL is kindly asking the City Council to stay any deliberation on the said proposal to allow the SPL to make all necessary formal written and or oral submissions to the Council to ensure its objection and concerns are included for consideration and in the public records on the said matter.

SPL is extremely excited to kick start its activities in the City and looks forward to working with the City to not only promote sporting activities and uniting communities but to generate needed economic activities to spur the City's recovery and bounce forward from economic pains of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. SPL envisages future in which all of the residents of the City of Schenectady can enjoy high quality outdoor and indoor gaming activities for a healthy, balanced and quality lifestyle.

Sincerely,



Dhanraj Singh, President
Schenectady Premier League Incorporated

Cc. Gary R McCarthy, Mayor, City of Schenectady *via Email*
Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas, Councilwoman, City of Schenectady *via Email*
John Polimeni, Councilman, City of Schenectady *via Email*
Marion Porterfield, Councilwoman, City of Schenectady *via Email*
Carmel Patrick, Councilwoman, City of Schenectady *via Email*

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: John Mootooveren
Sent: Friday, August 20, 2021 6:32 PM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Fwd: 2020 Broadway

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From: Mark Foss <[REDACTED]>
Sent: Tuesday, August 17, 2021 7:37 PM
To: John Mootooveren
Subject: 2020 Broadway

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.

This is Mark Foss on Hegeman st. . There's a church at 2020 Broadway that has live music on Sundays , it's far louder than it needs to be for them to have a good time but I guess that's what Sunday's are for . However they had a concert on Monday night and again on Tuesday , I have to close my windows so I don't have to hear it , it's ridiculous . Like I said it's far louder than it needs to be , it's excessively loud . I'm sure they have the permits or whatever but perhaps I'm not the only one that doesn't want to put up with it . Maybe you can consider this at one of your meetings . Thank you .

Samanta R. Mykoo

From: Marielle Schmidt
Sent: Monday, August 23, 2021 2:24 PM
To: Samanta R. Mykoo
Subject: Message for City Council

Hi Sam,

We received the following message for City Council:

Caller Alison Dorian
Address [REDACTED]
Schenectady, NY 12303
Telephone # [REDACTED]

Message Alison Dorian would like to request more funding for the Police Department to investigate drug dealing in her neighborhood.

Ms. Dorian believes that these people are abusing government funds to purchase drugs and says that she has seen a 2-yr old and older kids on bikes to deliver drugs.

She is concerned about this, as it affects their quality of life.



Mariëlle Schmidt
Deputy City Clerk
City Hall
105 Jay Street, Room 107
Schenectady, NY 12305
Telephone: 518-382-5089
Fax: 518-382-0030
Email: mschmidt@schenectadyny.gov

For further information: www.cityofschenectady.com