

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
January 9, 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 point, Mayor Gary R. McCarthy Presented the State of the City Address, which concluded at 7:43 P.M. The City Council meeting resumed at 7:55 P.M.

Ms. Porterfield asked Pastor Amaury Tanon-Santos of Schenectady Community Ministries to offer the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Reverend Nicolle Jean-Simone 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 - City Clerk Samanta R. Mykoo and Corporation Counsel Andrew B. Koldin, Esq.

Absent - Mayor Gary R. McCarthy.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. HOME-ARP Allocation Plan for the HOME Consortium**

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

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

**2. Amending Chapter 183, Article II of the City Code Regarding Business Certificate of Use**

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

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

**3. Amendments to the Zoning Code Regarding Banquet Facilities and Private Clubs or Lodges**

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

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

**4. Applying the “OH” Overlay Historic District Zoning to 308 State Street**

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

**Gloria Kishton** - Thanked Council for the opportunity to speak on the subject. Expressed support for the proposed changes and hopes that Council will adopt them.

**Richard Unger** - Spoke on behalf of his wife and himself. Believes proposed changes help the preservation of the City’s historic structures. Say it is an excellent opportunity to make 308 State Street the 40th historic structure in the City.

**David Giacalone** - Expressed the importance of preserving the City’s historic buildings and referenced a firehouse that was demolished on S College Street that did not have historic protections. Also provided photo examples with his statement.

Seeing no further speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared Public Hearing Number Four closed.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2022 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Ms. Patrick motioned to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

An email from Ann Thomas in support of the OH zoning for 308 State Street.

An email from Zakhar Berkovich expressing support for the historic overlay for 308 State Street.

**Petitions:**

None.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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 Council approves the Consent Agenda, the motion was moved by Mr. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Williams.

**Consent Agenda**

Resolution No. 2023-001.....	.Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-002.....	.Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-003.....	.Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-004.....	.Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-005.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-006.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-CS-01.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-CS-02.....	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2023-CS-03.....	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.

**David Giacalone** - Voiced opinions on the Van Gogh Immersive Experience that has been happening in the Schenectady Armory Center, and notes that their marketing and advertising claims the event is happening in Albany. States that Schenectady is not a second-rate suburb of Albany and marketers of the event should acknowledge that and publicize our City.

**Rev. Nicolle Jean-Simone** - Extended a formal invitation to all for the Dr. Martin Luther King celebration at Duryee Memorial AME Zion Church.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**Carmel Patrick** - Invited all to participate in the new volunteer initiative called *Schenectady Shares*, a food and personal hygiene products drive. She then informed everyone of collection bin locations around the City and surrounding areas.

**Carl Williams** - Shared his experience as being a member of the City Council in 2022. He spoke about relying heavily on his military core values to make the best informed decisions for he and his family before contemplating running for office. Since taking office, he fully embraces partnering with staff and city residents to further transparency and inclusion to see Schenectady reach greater heights. He remains optimistic that his faith, commitment to service before self, and his love for this community fuels his desire to do what is right by the City despite obstacles such as receiving hate mail.

**Damoni Farley** – Reflected on the positive changes the Council has worked to make happen in the past year, and touched on some of the divisive behavior councilmembers sometimes have to endure from the public.

**Marion Porterfield** – Thanked everyone for coming out and wished a Happy New Year to all. Thanked the Mayor for his State of the City Address and notes the many accomplishments made. Reflected on the year ahead and addressed discriminatory letters that were mailed to a fellow councilmembers home. She stated that diversity is our strength and we need to decide what type of leadership we would like to show. We need to focus on policy and not personalities, to show mutual respect because we are in this together. We are here for all Schenectadians; we need to work together to do the job we were elected to do.

**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. Farley and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren. The meeting was adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

**A true record**

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samanta R. Mykoo". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'S'.

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

**Samanta R. Mykoo**

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**From:** Thomas, Ann [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, January 02, 2023 10:55 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** OH Zoning

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.

I support OH zoning for 308 State Street.

Ann M Thomas  
[REDACTED]

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** Zakhar Berkovich [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, January 03, 2023 5:28 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Preserving Masonic Temple

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.

Good afternoon,

I am writing to express my support for the historic overlay for 308 State Street. I am delighted that we would preserve this important building for Schenectady's History of life and architecture.

Sincerely,

--  
**Zakhar Berkovich**

[REDACTED]