

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
April 10, 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 Reverend Nicolle Jean-Simone of Duryee Memorial AME Zion Church to lead the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Councilmember Carl Williams 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 Mootooveren, Damonni Farley, Carl Williams, Carmel Patrick, John Polimeni, and Marion Porterfield

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

Absent – Councilmembers Doreen Ditoro

At this point, Ms. Porterfield asked if Council Member Polimeni would present the St. Adalbert's resolution.

**Resolution 2023-065 A Resolution Recognizing St. Adalbert's 120<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

The resolution was accepted by the members of St. Adalbert's Church. They thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Regarding 2023-2024 Proposed HUD Annual Action Plan**

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing #1 to come forward.

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

**2. Regarding Amending the Schenectady City Code to Add Provisions Relating to The Use of School Bus Stop Arm Cameras**

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing #2 to come forward.

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 March 27, 2023 council meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk. Mr. Mootoveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Farley seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From members of American Legion Post #21, a thank you note for the much-needed donation.

**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:

**Rev. Nicolle Jean-Simone** – Brought forward concerns that have been voiced to her by members of the community regarding the use of the Board of Ethics, questioning whether its use is being only to target City officials of color.

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. Mootoveren and seconded by Mr. Williams.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2023-07..... Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-067.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-068.....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2023-069.....Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2023-070.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2023-071.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2023-072.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2023-073.....Adopted Unanimously  
Resolution No. 2023-CS-07.....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.

**Bailey Gardiner** – Introduced herself as a representative of Schenectady County Connects, and thanked the City for their support and partnership with Schenectady County and the Schenectady City School District for the Summer Youth Employment Program.

**Reynaldo Guerrero** – A youth member of the Summer Youth Employment Program; Thanked the city for their support of the program, which was able to assist him in landing his first job.

**Mariah Jacobs** – A youth member of the Summer Youth Employment Program who is currently interning as a media specialist for the Schenectady City School District through the Program; Spoke of her positive experiences during the internship and recommends other kids apply to the program.

**Brian Hernandez** - A youth member of the Summer Youth Employment Program; Spoke about his positive experiences working at a local boxing club in the city, and expressed gratitude to the city and program leaders for the opportunity.

**Ed Laven, Jr.** – Requested to speak with the Mayor regarding issues he’s had with City Court Judges that have handled his prior court cases.

**Mariah Lopez** – Introduced herself as a prominent figure in the trans rights community who now resides in the city of Schenectady. Stated that she has moved from New York City and is well known there for her many victorious court cases against the City regarding trans rights. Pointed out some issues that she has taken with the local government so far, and advises that the Council be reactive to her concerns in the future.

**Wayne Harper** – Voiced opinions on the current political climate in the city pertaining to discussions about race, and about the new pool to be built in Central Park. Also voiced concerns over work being done in the city by National Grid.

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:**

**Carl Williams** – Thanked youth for coming out and expressed excitement over the City’s partnership in the Summer Youth Employment Program. Thanked agencies that hosted a recent housing reform event, and then addressed allegations that have been made against Councilmember Farley. He stated that he respects Mr. Farley and the contributions he has made on City Council and the work he continues to do for the Schenectady City School District.

**Damoni Farley** – Addressed allegations made against him regarding unpaid taxes and gave his perspective on the issue. He stated that he understands that politics is all about optics, something he is not well versed in, and that he tends to take strong positions on certain things. He tends to point out when he sees bias discrimination and systemic racism, and knows it creates enemies, but he is not here to make friends, but to make change.

**John Polimeni** – Stated that there is a systemic pattern with racism charges. He stated that the School District covers up for themselves. There are unpaid taxes for 2016-2017 that are unknown, and suggested the District Attorney, Attorney General, or Comptroller look at it and determine if everything is okay. Hundreds of people have asked him about the status and he will continue to try to do right and call out individuals.

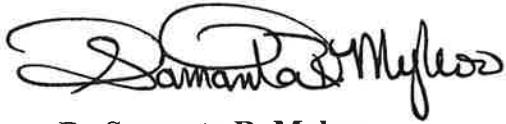
**Mayor McCarthy** – Hopeful for nicer weather in the coming days and encouraged people to report potholes when found. Ended his statement by reminding everyone of opening of the city golf course on Saturday.

**Marion Porterfield** – Praised Council for being able to fund Summer Youth Employment Program and addressed discussion regarding the reconvening of the Ethics Board. She stated that the Ethics Board reviews allegations of employees or officers; these allegations about Mr. Farley are prior to his position with the City of Schenectady. It is a fact that the last time the Ethics Board was convened was against an African American, it’s not racism, it’s a fact but in the climate that we are in, there is a possibility that it is racism.

**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 7:50 p.m.

**A true record**

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

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

To: City of Greenway

From: American Legion Post #21

Thank you for the generous check, we are getting Swales and Swales and try to help Veterans and their families as well as children in our community. There is so much need out there.

Thank you again the members of Post 21

Hallmark

