

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL  
April 24, 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 James Konicki of Holy Name of the Holy Name of Jesus National Catholic Church to lead the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on Gregory Hoffman, Schenectady Municipal Housing Authority Counsel, 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, 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.

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

**Resolution 2023-074 Recognizing Honorable Robert Hoffman and his Service as City Court Judge**

The resolution was presented and moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Ms. Patrick. The resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Mr. Hoffman, accompanied by members of his family. He spoke of what a pleasure it has been to serve the city, and thanked the City Council for the recognition.

**Resolution 2023-075 Recognizing Justin R. Chaires**

Presented and moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren, the resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Justin R. Chaires. He spoke about some of the charitable efforts he has been working on in the community and thanked the City Council for the recognition.

**Resolution 2023-076 Recognizing Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month**

Presented and moved by Mr. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren, the resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by members of the AAPI community. They thanked the City Council for the recognition.

**Resolution 2023-077 Recognizing Jahyae Brown**

Presented and moved by Mr. Farley and seconded by Ms. Patrick, the resolution passed unanimously.

The resolution was accepted by Jahyae Brown, accompanied by his friends and family. He thanked the City Council for the recognition.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Regarding Abandonment of a Portion of Amelia Street**

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

**Robert Kwiatkowski** – Stated he grew up on Amelia Street and has had a hand maintaining his family home on the street, as well as the vacant lot that is owned by the city. He read a letter to the city written by his mother, Charlene Peak, who he says has been living on Amelia Street since 1953 and has been maintaining the city owned yard ever since. While they have gotten enjoyment out of the yard, the paper street has been a struggle during the winter as snowplows from Schenectady and Rotterdam leave large piles of snow in front of the driveway. Also stated that neighbors have not been considerate of the yard and have begun to damage it by driving their vehicles across its surface, leaving ruts. He asks the Council to close the paper street and allow the neighbors to purchase the parcels.

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

**2. Regarding Abandonment of a Portion of Larch Street**

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.

**3. Regarding Amending Section 248-18 of the Schenectady City Code to Designate Fuller Street, from South Church Street to South Ferry Street, a One-Way Street**

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing #3 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 the April 10, 2023 council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Williams made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Farley seconded the motion.

**COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

**Official:**

None.

**General:**

From PD. Voorhis, an email addressing the difficulties she's faced with a court decision to evict her from her apartment.

**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 the Council approves the Consent Agenda, the motion was moved by Ms. Patrick and seconded by Mr. Mootoveren.

**Consent Agenda**

Ordinance No. 2023-08..... Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2023-074.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-075.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-076.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-077.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-078.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-079.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-080.....Adopted Unanimously  
 Resolution No. 2023-CS-08.....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.** – Apologized to Ms. Porterfield for how he spoke to her at the previous City Council Meeting and stated that he has yet to get in contact with the mayor despite his attempts contacting the mayors office. Claims he was deprived of rights to due process and a fair court hearing by City Court Judges.

**Mary McClaine** – *See attached comments.*

**Tracy Collins** – Voiced concerns of speeding vehicles near his home on Queen Philomena Boulevard and Kings Road, claiming his house has suffered extensive damage caused by speeding vehicles. Asked the Council to consider adding stop signs to the road in an effort to slow traffic.

**Kevin Brown** – A neighbor to previous speaker, Tracy Collins, shared similar concerns about speeding vehicles on the road. Stated that his son and granddaughter were almost ran over a few weeks ago and explained that the Police have been unable to resolve the issue. Asking for the Council’s assistance in having stop signs installed.

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 everyone for coming out and voicing their concerns. Forwarded an announcement from the Office of Cannabis Management and notified everyone of open positions at the Schenectady County Sheriff’s Department as well as

the upcoming correctional officer exam. Lastly, asked that we be considerate of others in our city's parks and not smoke or vape in them.

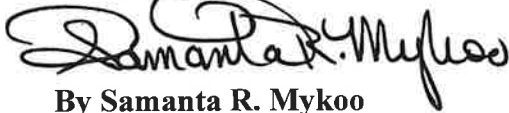
**Carmel Patrick** – Thanked volunteers that assisted in the Sunday Earth Day cleanups and expressed excitement over the 62 new electric golf carts at the city's golf course. Congratulated honorees of the Schenectady City School District's Educational Foundation Dinner. Also announced that the Friends of the Schenectady County Public Library will be having their Spring Book sale on May 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, thanked folks that put together the Fair Housing luncheon on April 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Marion Porterfield** – Thanked everyone for coming out and for voicing their concerns. Congratulated the YWCA and Palette for the opening of their STRIVE program.

**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. Williams and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren. The meeting was adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

A true record

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

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

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, April 23, 2023 1:11 PM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Councils CR for Magistrate Judge Robert Hoffman

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

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.

April 23, 2023

November 2022, two months before Judge Hoffman's retirement, he ordered eviction of my [apartment.at](#) 110 Jackson Ave., Schenectady.. My rent was paid in full up to December 2022 and in good standing. A new owner I had never met, was represented by two Sheriff deputies, who gave me 30 minutes to evacuate while someone was also changing the locks. They kept all my belongings, which I am told, have been auctioned .

I left my apartment with one suit of clothing, lived in that throughout the winter months and up to this very moment. I had nothing left except my automobile which I lived in until Code Blue. Not many 81 year old self supporting adults find themselves in this situation. Where did Judge Hoffman, Sheriff's Dept. and a new owner with First New York Federal Credit Union get their assumptions from?

I had been in Ellis Hospital four days in January for a surgery that was cancelled and then plagued by social services because I was homeless. How could Schenectady allow this to go on for four months? City Hall knew all about it. I have been forced into a domestic situation 700 miles away of less than 2,000 people, 0 feet above sea level, 12 miles from the nearest drugstore and 20 miles to a hospital and now a theft of more than 50% of my SSI retirement benefits for Medicare. I am not disabled and do not require custodial care.

There is a connection somewhere and Judge Hoffman knows about it.

I believe he should be held in some sort of abeyance until he provides answers to me and authorities. Having only SSI income makes me unable to get proper legal help. You know my story and you are the venue.

P. D. Voorhis  
[REDACTED]

1. Good evening. My name is Mary (1)  
McClaine
2. Tonight I want to address an issue  
that I have mentioned on many
3. occasions while attending council  
meetings over the past 40 years.
4. The issue is as relevant today as  
it was in the past
5. And the issue is LITTER.
6. Schenectady is a dirty city
7. Neither the mayor or previous city  
officials made cleanliness a priority

8. To my knowledge sweeping litter (2  
from the city streets
9. isn't even a line item in the  
sanitation workers union contract
10. Furthermore businesses are encouraged  
to open shop in the city
11. but the owners are not required  
to keep their properties clean.
12. On April 1, a friend drove me to  
church for the 4 o'clock Mass at
14. St John the Evangelist.



15. We went by way of Albany Street (3
16. The street was filthy.
17. It was filthy last year.
18. It was filthy in 2011 when the  
present council president
19. won her first city council seat.
20. From what I have been reading  
in the Gazette
21. a litter free city isn't a priority  
for the new council members either.
22. They ran for office with a chip  
on their shoulders

31. <sup>with a dirty face.</sup> ~~Tell~~ you can't go to the Ball (4)
23. and a personal agenda
24. If you can't stand the heat
25. get out of the kitchen
26. I also read that there was a  
renaissance in Schenectady, how so?
27. ~~And~~ something about a new Schenectady!  
where?
28. I suggest council members bend  
over to pick up cigarette butts
29. from the city streets like I did.
30. Its good for the waist line and  
good for the city.
- over