

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

**April 25, 2022**

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 asked Reverend James Konicki of the Holy Name of Jesus Catholic Church to offer the invocation.

Ms. Porterfield then called on the Executive Director of Habitat for Humanities of Schenectady County, Madelyn Thorne, 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 – Council Members: John Mootoveren, Doreen Ditoro, Damonni Farley, John Polimeni, Carl Williams, and Marion Porterfield.

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

Absent – Carmel Patrick

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

**Resolution No. 2022-106 A Resolution Recognizing Friday, April 29, 2022, as Arbor Day in the City of Schenectady.**

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

The resolution was accepted by the Executive Director of Community Fathers, Walter Simpkins, Program Manager, Kenneth Brooks, young members of Community Fathers, and members of ReTree Schenectady. They thanked the Mayor and Council for the recognition and were excited about the collaboration of ReTree and Community Fathers.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

**1. Proposed 2022-2023 HUD Annual Action Plan**

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

See comments on file in the Office of Development.

## **2. CDBG-CV Funding to Prevent, Prepare for, and Respond to Corona Virus through Increased WiFi Connectivity in Underserved Areas, Creation of a Community Information Portal Using Public WiFi, and Launching a “Stay Well” Telehealth Monitoring Pilot**

Ms. Porterfield invited all who wished to address the Council regarding Public Hearing Number Two to come forward. She announced that we will continue to accept comments until 7:00 p.m. on April 27, 2022:

**Jamaica Miles** – Stated that currently there are connectivity issues with the current WiFi; what is the duration of use? Many have been logged off and must reconnect. Will this expansion address this issue? What is the plan for outreach and educational support around adding to this WiFi program? Many residents already complain that they get kicked-off their server or are interrupted with the City’s WiFi – they need to know that there are simple buttons that must be clicked. She is pleased that we are prioritizing underserved neighborhoods and looking at equity. The community information portal is a bit confusing because it seems that we are duplicating the City’s website. The “Stay Well” program is an excellent idea. She questioned the outreach and educational training for this program; how are we going to implement it in an equitable way? Is there a strategic plan for identifying individuals in a specific community to be part of the program? There are people that fall into different categories, including those over 65 and members of the LGBTQIA community; would we have to worry about the partnership with Ellis Hospital and the impact of marginalized communities regarding healthcare and conversations. There needs to be a plan for educational support and outreach otherwise it would not have the impact that it should.

**P. D. Voorhis** – The funds do not seem like it is much; it’s comical. There is an affirmative action program that is being funded with \$300,000.00 and the committee has not met in several years. The Parks are being taken care of and the housing cost burden affects many families including herself. She is told that her lease will not be renewed and does not know the new owners of the property.

Seeing no other speakers to come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Public Hearing Number Two, to be closed.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Porterfield asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the April 11, 2022 Council Meeting as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Mootooveren made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Williams seconded the motion.

### **COMMUNICATIONS PRESENTED TO THE CITY COUNCIL**

#### **Official:**

None.

#### **General:**

From P. D. Voorhis, an email sent on April 18, 2022 commenting on a video bicycle tour of Schenectady that she found online. She also stated that she doesn’t recall the November – January City Council meetings. Added that the Council Meetings were staged and believes that

the meetings that were done during the pandemic were in violation of the Open Meeting Law because the public did not have access to enter the building.

**Petitions:**

A sidewalk petition of 23 signatures from the residents of Linden Street.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**Finance** - Mr. Mootooveren announced the second public hearing regarding the City of Schenectady CDBG-CV, the amount requested has been increased to \$2,615,853.00 and the public has until 7:00 pm on April 27<sup>th</sup> to submit comments on the application. He urged the public to submit their comments.

**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:

**P. D. Voorhis** – Stated that the County and School Board meeting used the same exact rules of decorum that were created by City Council for public meetings. She then said that Schenectady’s Mayor is the mayor of all the mayors because he is the Mayor for the Council of Mayors. He has former staff in other municipalities acting as his agents.

Seeing no other speakers to 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. Mootooveren and seconded by Mr. Williams.

**Consent Agenda**

- Resolution No. 2022-107 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-108 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-109 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-110 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-111 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-112 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-113 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-114 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2022-CS-12 .....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.

**Anthony Carota** – Stated that he was attacked by the Gazette for sharing his opinions and thinks that we live in one of the most dangerous cities in the State of New York. He said that this Council violates the Bill of Rights, the U. S. Constitution, and their Oath of Office. He continues to say that according to a ruling from the U.S. Supreme Court, that any form of speech, including hate speech, is protected under the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment. This Council rather address what a person can and can not say rather than deal with quality-of-life issues.

**Matt Nelligan** – Chair of the City Republican Committee commented on Public Safety. He said that the Sienna Poll release demonstrated that crime is the most important issues to voters across New York State and the dissatisfaction with the State Government and our Governor. He spoke in support of the School Resource Officers and stated that we need to do what is best for all of us, not what is best for outside groups that don't like how we wish to manage our affairs. Help our kids, help our administrators, and help our City.

**Diablo Montelongo** – Stated that it is difficult to make a living selling art. Questioned the effectiveness of creating a committee to review the fifty-three million dollars that are part of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). Then said that there should be a vote of no confidence on Madame Porterfield for creating an advisory committee to review ARPA applications.

**Kevin M. Hammer** – Spoke in favor of School Resource Officers in the schools and stated that children should not be used as tools to push political agendas. He asked that Council vote with the safety of the children in mind and not for their friends.

**Jamaica Miles** – Stated that in Executive Order 203, there was specific language about equity and marginalized communities taking priority within the gathering of information, which she does not believe happened. There was a proposal that was presented to the City Council at that time that included Community Engagement Officers in the community, in the public – not in the schools. This would mean additional officers and additional funding which was not part of the original plan that was agreed upon. What are the answers coming out of Hamilton Hill and Mont Pleasant neighborhoods, which has the most policing in our City? What are these communities saying about what it means to feel safe in Schenectady? She said move forward or change your minds, but please be mindful.

**Tom Kennedy** – Spoke in favor of having Community Engagement Officers in our Schools and said that it would be a disservice to all the students, faculty, and the community if this item fails to pass because of politics.

**P.D. Voorhis** – Remarked on a newspaper article dated July 16, 2020 that reported that the City spent money on demolition on vacant properties and created brownfields.

**Leonard DeMasi** – Asked that Council allow a trash barrel for yard waste. He then said that the street sweeper performed his job well after the storm.

**Giselle Figueroa** – Expressed the need for people to feel invested in their community in order to make it safer. They need to invest in schools, properties, and outreach from the City back into the community.

Seeing no other speakers come forward, Ms. Porterfield declared the Privilege of the Floor to be closed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL:**

**Doreen Ditoro** – Thanked everyone for attending, including the Development Department, Amari Tanar from SICM and Madely Thorne from Habitat for Humanity. She spoke about April being Save the Planet Month and several events including neighborhood clean-ups and rallies for climate control.

**Carl Williams** – Thanked everyone for attending and exercising their voice in a productive and concise way to help Councilmembers advocate for their needs. He said that we are all here for the betterment of this community and with your interest and vested partnership we will be able to make something beautiful for this city.

**John Polimeni** – Communicated that Senator Schumer was in town to speak about the transportation hub. Then stated federal reserve is going to raise interest rates to adjust for the inflation that is occurring. He urged everyone to get themselves in financial order to adjust for these expenses. He then asked everyone to be considerate of their neighbors and keep their music turned down. He added that he would like to see compassion cards from the Police Department added to the CDBG funds and was disappointed that it wasn't included. He also addressed the Community Engagement Officers, there were some questions asked of Chief Clifford and he had not received any communication.

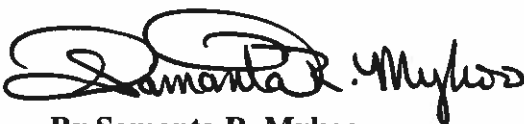
**Mayor McCarthy** – Communicated that the Police Chief did respond and will make sure that the information is disseminated to the full Council. He thanked everyone that came out for the Goose Hill neighborhood clean-up and asked that everyone take the time to clean-up in their own property. He then spoke about the Gateway Mobility Hub which CDTA is planning to implement with e-scooters, the CDPHP bike-share program, a new car-share program and bus lines which would all be environmentally friendly.

**Marion Porterfield** – Thanked everyone for attending and participating in this forum. Thanked Development for coordinating the HUD plans. She then explained that constituents from our community asked for the ability to participate in how the American Rescue Plan Act funding will be utilized. Participatory budgeting happens in many communities. She then addressed policing in schools and stated that this Council has never spoke about defunding the police. There was a lot of discussion at the last Committee meeting about Community Engagement Officers and there were many questions that were raised. The item was tabled, it does not mean it was voted down. She also explained that hate speech will not be tolerated, there are new guidelines that were passed and it is at the bottom of all the sign-in sheets.

**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 8:33 p.m.

A true record



By Samanta R. Mykoo  
Schenectady City Clerk

## Samanta R. Mykoo

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**From:** PD Ironclad [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, April 18, 2022 8:57 AM  
**To:** Samanta R. Mykoo  
**Subject:** Agenda for April 18, 2022

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 18, 2022 @ 8:40 am

I just did the u-tube tour of Schenectady Central Park on bicycle with two spanish speaking guys. It was 'in the rough' to say the least.

I don't remember when the council approved the November - January meetings. Where were they held? Were the meetings only for those without gainful employment? That leads to the question of who and how many of our council members are gainfully employed.

I have addressed the staged council meetings with Police Chief Clifford and Officer Whipple told me he was a graduate of Union College and there were more in the department. Needless to say, much of this was done during the pandemic in which the public had no access to the building which is a violation of public access laws. Adding Union College and the public school system to the mix does not obfuscate 'authoritarian' rule.

The school budget before the pandemic was over \$22M, perhaps more than city and county taxes. How much of tonight's meeting is being held in executive session?

## Petition for Sidewalk Improvements

Printed Name of Owner	Signature of Owner	Address of Property in the District	Phone Number	Date
1. Dinesh Ragoobee	Dinesh Ragoobee	51 Linden Street Schenectady NY 12304	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
2. Prakash	Prakash	43 LINDEN ST	[REDACTED]	4/22-22
3. Reshma Ragoobee	Reshma Ragoobee	58 Linden St Schenectady, NY 12304	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
4. W. H. Cook II	W. H. Cook II	50 Linden St. Schenady	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
5. Santri Angad	S. Angad	59 Linden St Schenectady	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
6. Rishikumar Sankar	R. Sankar	74. LINDEN ST Schenectady	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
7. Ganase Saha	G. Saha	88 Linden. St Schenectady	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
8. Swinika Robert	S. Robert	93 Linden St Schenectady	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
9. DEODOT GARDI	D Gardi	47 Linden St Schenectady	[REDACTED]	04/22/22
10. NITHENDRA SAHU	N. Sahu	36 Linden St Sch.	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
11. LUZ OCHART	Luz Ochart	46 Linden St.	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
12. Robin Younes	Robin Younes	23 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
13. ROSEMARY	Rosemary	18 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4/22/22
14. RAJIB SAHA	Rajib Saha	53 Linden St Schenectady	[REDACTED]	4/22/22

# Petition for Sidewalk Improvements

Printed Name of Owner	Signature of Owner	Address of Property in the District	Phone Number	Date
15. RICHARD TINSLEY	<i>[Signature]</i>	79 WILSON	[REDACTED]	4/22/20
16. Simon O. Howda	<i>[Signature]</i>	62 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4.22.20
17. Chrastie Indara	<i>[Signature]</i>	21/13 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4/22/20
18. SHARON PATRICK THOMPSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	90 LINDEN ST	[REDACTED]	4/22/20
19. Roy M. Jiro	<i>[Signature]</i>	71 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4.22.20
20. CREOLA BARR	<i>[Signature]</i>	35 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4.22.20
21. DAVE ROBERTSON	<i>[Signature]</i>	46 Linden St	[REDACTED]	4.22.20
22. Charmaine Brown	<i>[Signature]</i>	37 Linden Street	[REDACTED]	4/22/20
23. GABRIEL CHATMAN	<i>[Signature]</i>	63-65 Linden Street	[REDACTED]	4/22/20

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK  
 Room 107, City Hall  
 Jay Street  
 Schenectady, New York 12305