



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, December 9, 2019 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL- 8 Present 1 Absent (S. Brannen)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

CCM 11/4/19 and 11/18/19						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McNamara	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Finney	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

III. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any resolutions not listed on the printed agenda.

NONE

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda items.

**Ken Stickle-118 Catherine Street
Shelia Drew-66 Washington Street
Laura Foreman-66 Washington Street
Constantine Kazolias-47 Noxon Street
Andrew San Mien-9-12 Vassar Street
Ken Stier-31 Verrazano Blvd
Albert Maxi-188 Catherine**

V. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairwoman Finney- I would like to echo the expressions of gratitude my fellow Councilmembers have given to the Department Heads and the budget team for their work.

And also, I'd like to take this occasion to thank all of the volunteers I've met in my time here. Those who are serving on boards, those who are active in community groups, they represent a real strength of the community that I'd like to see more publicly recognized and supported. The government, no matter how good the government is, we can't do it all. And it's one of the good, good things I've learned about the city is the strength of the volunteer networks here in Poughkeepsie. I wanted to make that comment. And Mr. Mayor, I turn it over to you now.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Rolison- Well, thank you, Madam Chair, and I echo what you just said when it comes to our volunteers who serve on a variety of boards and commissions, not only here in city government, but throughout the city.

I know that there has been some discussion, and there should be on the recent storms. I wanted to give everybody just a little bit of a kind of a brief synopsis on that. I mean. That was our first storm. It was essentially a three day storm. Our Department of Public Works crews were working in shifts around the clock, for up to three days. And they are still cleaning up. There are still areas of the city that that need to be addressed. And I'm certainly not one to say everything is always rosy. We had some hiccups in that storm. We had some communication challenges. We had some equipment breakdowns. But we did have a meeting, with all the relative department heads and individuals to talk about this a storm response on. On Monday, actually. While we were still in the midst of doing what needed to be done So I can say that I think we know we corrected some of the things that we didn't have some of those issues last year. So this was a storm that presented some of those problems. And I can I can say that we'll be we'll be better in operational posture next time.

One of the things that we wanted to do in this storm, which is something that happens in every storm, is we struggle with properties being properly cleaned, sidewalks and such. So what we did was, we committed several members of DPW and sanitation inspection to go out and inspected, especially the downtown quarter and the areas where we have heavy foot traffic with our students. So we inspected and these are these are their preliminary numbers. About thirty 39 commercial properties on the 5th and on the 6th. All of them had some level of violation for snow and ice removal. All of the properties that we inspected were made aware of the violations, either in person by the inspector, or by a phone call. And then were re-inspected the next day and most of them had complied. The ones that had not was reinforced that there are legal action that can be taken, and there are fines that can be imposed. Two summonses were issued. In addition, we inspected our own properties. We have several properties within the downtown corridor and outside the city, and we were in violation ourselves of some of making sure that the sidewalks weren't cleaned around those properties, and they were immediately addressed. And that also shows you that how we get stretched. But we also have to make sure that we're taking care of the city own properties as well.

One of the things that we made a decision and I want to explain this, because I don't we don't think we've really talked about this before. And I think it was actually the year before last. The sidewalks along the arterial highway are problematic for all of us. They are not the responsibility of the City of Poughkeepsie to take the snow off those sidewalks. It's the responsibility of the building owners. We also know that with the state DOT, and how they plow the arterial is that the majority of the snow is coming up on the sidewalk, and onto people at people's front yards and into their driveways. They, for the most part, don't always have the opportunity or the ability to clean those sidewalks, in a timely manner. And then what happens in the case of like this storm, it was wet and then froze. And then no one can do anything with the normal snow shovel or maybe a snow blower, which is not going to work on snow that is completely frozen solid. And those are, again, quarters for children to get to school.

So year before last I had instructed the Department of Public Works as we got some new equipment. That was going to be a priority that we were going to make every effort that we could to clean those arterials in a timely manner, depending on what else was going on. But what's happened since that time is that many of our own sidewalks don't get done as quickly as we'd like to like. Especially in some of our parks. The city owned properties. So we were getting ready to have a meeting to address that. And it may entail a couple of things. It may entail. Well it's going to entail talking to the state, obviously. But we may need to buy some specialized equipment if we're going to continue to try to do that, because we are very sensitive in the city and especially the Department of Public Works as it relates to a walking school district. And that not only do you have. Sidewalks that aren't being properly cleared quick enough, when schools can get back. Children still having issues of getting traveling to and from school, and intersections. So we're in this you know, this is definitely a work in progress. But also at the same time, we're not going to stop until we can continue to make a measurable difference in helping the school district and helping the children get to school. Because if we don't clean those arterial highways, the state is not the state's responsibility. Their responsibility is to get the snow off the street. And as it is citywide, the snow goes from the street to the area between the sidewalk and the curb. And when you have a lot of snow, that snow is going way over that. And then we also, to throw another wrinkle into it. We have garbage challenges, people putting their garbage cans on the tops of these snow banks falling into the middle of the arterial highway, and other streets, too. And as Mr. Stickle said, you know, with some of the streets that he talked about, Gifford Avenue, you know, Conklin, we are writing tickets, probably not as many as we'd like if we had more manpower, but the double parked cars certainly are challenging in times of snow, and also in times we're trying to do street cleaning.

I wanted to just follow up real quickly on the celebration of lights. So to further complicate the snow operations, we had a parade to put together for Friday, and we had to make sure that the areas in around downtown corridor and down Main Street, to Clover Street, Donegan to Mill were clean. So the several thousand people that came into the City of Poughkeepsie on Friday night to be present for all of that had a safe experience, too. So you can just imagine how the Department of Public Works was stretched to limits that we haven't seen in a while, because we haven't had a storm like that in a while near a Celebration of Lights parade. But it

went off really without a hitch. And between the Department of Public Works, the Parking Department and the Police Department, coordinating all those activities, it was just it really was. It was a great night. Both trees were beautiful. And we thank the families for us who donated the tree at mural and Councilperson Flowers was also there. Council person McNamara and Councilperson Salem was on a lit bike. And it really it was really a wonderful evening. And it's something, it was the 26th annual Celebration of Lights Parade, and thank you to the Bardavon, and the River District Business Association, who helped coordinate this whole thing, along with what we can do here in the city. It was a special night. And I'm sure that's my report for this evening. Thank you very much.

VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

IX. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **FROM COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE BRADY**, a communication regarding the tax lien sale.
2. **FROM CHERYL BRADY**, a notice or property damage sustained on August 28, 2019.
Referred to Corporation Counsel.
3. **FROM LORENZO L. ANGELINE**, a notice of intent for DK Eat & Drink, Inc. Amici's, located at 35 Main Street to renew its Liquor License. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**

X. NEW BUSINESS:

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember R. Johnson and Councilmember L. Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m.

Dated: December 16, 2019

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on December 9, 2019

Respectfully submitted,

**Deanne L. Flynn
City Chamberlain**