



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 17, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is October 17, 2022, and the time is 6:30 pm.

I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered, wherever we are, on the traditional territory of the Lenape people and this territory was a critical resting place along a popular trade route for people of the Lenape Nation and other cultures as is evidenced in the earliest derivation of the name 'Poughkeepsie' with an indigenous string of words, U-puku-ipi-sing, that, when translated, means 'reed-covered lodge by the little water place' or resting place.

Let's all recite the pledge of allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL: 7 present, 1 absent (Councilmember Johnson late arrival)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Special Informational Meeting – October 3, 2022
Common Council Meeting – October 3, 2022**

**Motion to accept the minutes: Councilmember Long
2nd: Councilmember Thompson**

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

-NONE-

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- 1. Justin Newmon – 147 Union St. (For the Many)**
- 2. Nick Kalogris – 14 Maryland Ave.**
- 3. Ezra Weissman, 167 Union St. (For the Many)**
- 4. Nanette Koch, 127 S. Hamilton St.**
- 5. Gus Kazolias, 47 Noxon St.**
- 6. Laurie Sandow, S. Grand Ave. - submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, October 17, 2022, Page 1 of 2

Well, I'll start by saying that we're back to the nonsense, which you can see by the signatures on the sign-up sheet, where a person from an organization—in this case "For the Many"—comes in and signs a bunch of names to the speaker's list, including the addition of some people who weren't even in the room at the time that their names were added. As far as the resolution they're discussing, no one in the public has seen that resolution, and I'm not even sure whether all the council members have seen that resolution.

I'll begin tonight's comments by saying that this Council, at its September 6 meeting, approved a Comprehensive Plan that not only lacked in specifics but also approved an absurd citywide SEQRA Environmental Neg Dec [NY State Environmental Quality Review Act Negative Declaration]. In that same meeting, Natalie Quinn said she was aiming to have the zoning code done by the end of the year; that she expected to start getting draft revisions to the Council in October; that she'd formed an unnamed zoning committee—which she falsely claimed to be a subsection of the PK4Keeps steering committee; and that she'd try to have one-on-one conversations with council members to see what issues were coming up with them and their wards.

Taking a closer look at Quinn's statements:

—Does this Council intend to require Quinn to take part in one or more taped and webcast meeting(s) held in front of the public, where Quinn explains zoning revisions on the record and answers the public's questions about those plans?

—Has Quinn held any one-on-one sessions with councilmembers and which, if any, members have communicated those zoning plans to their constituents?

—Is this Council aware of the recent, magically adjourned ZBA and Planning Board applications, and whether insider information about revised zoning might be playing a part in the applicant's requests for adjournments?

—Why, on September 6, did not a single councilmember ask Quinn to name the members of her so-called ad hoc committee?

—After I asked their names at the October 3, 2022, Informational Meeting, it turned out that three of the five were never PK4Keeps Steering Committee members. How do Natalie Quinn; two Dutchess County Planning staff members Paul Hesse and Heather LaVarnway; Councilmember Evan Menist; and Hudson River Housing Director of Real Estate Development Mary Linge—every one of them white and self-interested—qualify as ad hoc committee members?

Mary Linge’s conflict of interest on the zoning committee speaks for itself. So let’s turn to another committee member: the County’s senior planner Heather LaVarnway. In a June Times Union article about the Wallace Campus, LaVarnway declared the pushback against the Wallace Campus as an example of “not in my backyard” NIMBYism.

[<https://www.timesunion.com/hudsonvalley/news/article/wallace-campus-poughkeepsie-17241185.php>]

“It’s a common dichotomy,” she said, “people can usually understand the need for affordable housing in the abstract, but often react negatively when such a project is proposed in their community.” Underlining the audacity of LaVarnway’s finger-pointing is that she doesn’t live in Poughkeepsie, she lives in Millbrook, where the 2000 Census reported Millbrook’s racial makeup as 95.9% white, 2.7% African American, 0.2% Asian, 0.3% from other races, and 1% from two or more races.

What does this Council intend to do about Quinn’s self-serving subcommittee?

Short on time, I’ll conclude by saying that the level of lies, distortion, cover-ups and backroom deals in this City is endlessly mindboggling. Eighth Ward Councilmember Megan Deichler, who has zero relationship with her constituents, denies a pay-to-play connection with the organization “For the Many”, yet posts a Facebook link for candidates seeking that organization’s support. The Mayor skips the Informational Meeting, which he’s legally obligated to attend; Natalie Quinn claims she posted a Bonura walk-on when she didn’t; and Corporation Counsel Rebecca Valk defends violations of Open Meetings Law by advising the public that their legal remedy is to file an Article 78 paid from their own pockets. Given enough time during public comments, this list would continue much longer.

7. Laura Forman, 66 Washington St.

8. Daniel Atona – College Ave. (For the Many)

V. CHAIRPERSON’S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Chairwoman Cherry: Since we do have quite a few members of the public present in lieu of my comments tonight, I’m going to move up the presentation from the redistricting commission.

So can I call up Tom Lawrence and members of the commission? So this this commission

was required by charter. It's supposed to be in line with the census data that we received the most recent 2020 census. So tonight, they will be giving their report and recommendations. And immediately after that, we will schedule a public hearing for the members of the public to provide feedback. But at this time, the council members will be the only ones asking questions.

1. PRESENTATION FROM THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, Report and Recommendations of the 2022 Redistricting Commission

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Rolison: As you know, we released the 2023 budget proposal to the council on Friday. And we look forward, of course, to working with all of you to review and ultimately, I hope for your approval on the budget. I want to thank Dr. Martinez and the finance team, along with the department heads and our employees for working together on this budget. They're never easy. However, we believe this is a good budget for the city. We're proud of it. And we will continue to, you know, try to put additional resources into programs and initiatives that the city wants and you all want. And also, at the same time, looking at the bottom line, running at the cap with lowering tax rates because we have to stay under the cap.

We're also including the American rescue plan funds in the budget next year, as we did this year. Some of the key areas that we have tried to concentrate on is obviously new technology for the city as a whole of vehicles, for the police department and department of public works equipment purchases also wards specific initiatives for you and the council as we did in the 2022 budget. And one of the biggest things and I had mentioned it is the modernization of rates for the city's I.T. infrastructure, which is which has been needed, and we hope to accomplish that over the next year. Four new firefighter positions, which represents the growth in the city and also anticipating retirements from the department next year. Also replacement upgrades to all of the fire gear and the turnout gear for all the members of the fire department and. Also looking at again the continued improvements to the park system youth grant program and also additional funding in support of the arts and other things as well. We had a really exciting opportunity that we were able to put together very quickly with the county and the United States National Soccer Foundation and Tyler Adams, a Roy C Ketcham graduate who is a professional soccer player.

We were approached just a few months back about unused tennis court space at Pulaski for what you call a mini pitch arena with the county, county and the foundation and the city, along with Tyler Adams and Target contributing to a facility down there, approximately 250 to \$300000. It was dedicated last week. If you haven't had a chance, at some point, you should check it out. It is really it is breathtaking what we've been able to do down there with the help of so many others. And we've upgraded the

tennis court next to the mini pitch arena for pickle ball. It's changed the dynamics and the landscape of the back end of a Pulaski Park down in the first ward. I really want to thank the Department of Public Works because they did so much to get that site prepped for this facility to be placed on the court. And then also the renovation of the remaining two tennis courts for both tennis and pickle ball. So that was a great event, students from high school there or in others that really showed up there and were very just absolutely blown away by how this looks and everybody's been playing down there.

So it's really it's really been good. And also, you know, we had the Latino outreach event with Julie Molina, who was our new bilingual PIO with the school district. A change point the other night, I guess that went really well. Paving talked about it. We have contractors back in the city. They just did part of Street. The rest of is going to be done. They're going to go around the park. So mention will be continually done from essentially by the post office all the way out to Corlies Avenue. Also to be finished this year, North Clinton from College Hill to the arterial will be done. South Avenue is to be done. A Barnard Avenue is to be done. And then the parking lot at Spratt Park. These are the 2223 initiatives. And we'll be obviously looking again in 23 to continue maybe a project or two that will go in over to 23. But that is the list as of today and it's going to be completed.

We had an award ceremony for our Poughkeepsie City firefighters. Ten members of the department were cited for life saving, save the lives of ten individuals here in the city. Which shows you a professionalism and dedication, but also to the response time to get our firefighters on scene, along with other first responders to take immediate action to save lives. And they're doing that on a daily basis. Friday, the 28th, from 3 to 6 Pershing Avenue, which will be the dedication of the new park, along with a harvest festival that will be going on in conjunction with all the partners that are part of the Pershing Avenue Restoration Project. Malcolm X restoration is in full swing as determined by their contractors there and making good progress on that. That, I believe, is my report.

VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

~~VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:~~

CONSENT AGENDA:

IX. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

Chairwoman Cherry left the meeting at 8:31pm and Majority Leader Menist conducted the meeting until adjournment.

A motion to move item R-22-75 to the Action Agenda was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Thompson.

1. **R-22-74**, Resolution Appointing Brianna Charter to the Public Arts Commission

R E S O L U T I O N
(R-22-74)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIR CHERRY _____:

WHEREAS, in accordance with New York General Municipal Law, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie is authorized to make appointments of City residents to serve on the board of the City of Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Public Arts Commission serve at the pleasure of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Poughkeepsie and its citizens that the Public Arts Commission have a full complement of members in order to properly conduct the business required of the Public Arts Commission; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby appoints the following individuals to the City of Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission, to serve at the pleasure of the Common Council for a term ending **7/31/2025**:

Brianna Charter

SECONDED BY _____.

R-22-74						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒

2. ~~R-22-75, Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for the Proposed Adoption of the City of Poughkeepsie Redistricting Plan Pursuant to section 2.10 of the City Charter~~

X. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

ACTION AGENDA:

XI. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Long to table R-22-76 date specific to November 7th and seconded by Councilmember Johnson.

1. **R-22-76, Resolution Accepting a Grant from New York State Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for Reconstruction of Pulaski Park Pool House and Facilities**

R-22-76						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒

A motion was made to receive and print by Councilmember Long by Councilmember Flowers.

2. **R-22-77, Resolution Setting a Public Hearing Resolution Introducing Local Law Amending Section 9-68 Of The City Of Poughkeepsie Code Entitled “Solid Waste Collection Fees”**

**RESOLUTION
(R-22-77)**

RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 9-68 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE ENTITLED “SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEES”

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER MENIST:

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled, “LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION 9-68 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE ENTITLED “SOLID WASTE COLLECTION FEES” be and hereby is introduced before the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess and State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law are laid upon the desk of each member of the Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council shall hold a public hearing on said proposed local law to receive comment from the public on Monday, November 21st at 6pm in the Common Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the City of Poughkeepsie of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ .

R-22-77						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled		Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐
		Chairwoman Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☒

A motion was made to pull agenda item R-22-75 by Councilmember Shook and was seconded by Councilmember Long.

R-22-75, Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for the Proposed Adoption of the City of Poughkeepsie Redistricting Plan Pursuant to section 2.10 of the City Charter

XII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XIII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. ~~PRESENTATION FROM THE REDISTRICTING COMMISSION, Report and Recommendations of the 2022 Redistricting Commission~~**
- 2. COMMUNICATION FROM COUNCILMEBERS MENIST AND LONG**
Regarding Handicapped Parking spaces on Franklin Ave. and Whinfield Ave.
- 3. COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE COMMISSIONER DR. MARTINEZ,** Regarding Joint Water Board & Capital Planning
- 4. COMMUNICATION FROM FINANCE COMMISSIONER DR. MARTINEZ,** Regarding ARPA-funded façade improvement program
- 5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**
Approving the amendment of the lease agreement with Scenic Hudson at Pershing Park to remove 0.2 Acres

A motion was made to defer the below communications/petitions to Corporation Counsel by Councilmember Thompson and was seconded by Councilmember Long.

- 6. FROM THE TOWN OF POUGHKEEPSIE,** a notice of property damage sustained on August 12, 2022.
- 7. FROM GINO'S PIZZA & RESTAURANT INC.,** a notice of intent to renew a NYS liquor license.
- 8. FROM POUGHKEEPSIE ICE HOUSE INC.,** a notice of claim sustained on August 9, 2022.
- 1. FROM KATHERINE A. LOJA,** a notice of personal injury sustained on September 12, 2022.

XIV. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:44pm.

Dated: October 28, 2022

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, October 17, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain**

