



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 6, 2023, 6:30 p.m. Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is Monday, March 6, 2023, and the time is 7:50 pm.

I. ROLL CALL: 9 present

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Public Hearing Meeting – February 21, 2023
Common Council Meeting – February 21, 2023**

**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.

-YES-

REMOVE:

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. R-23-25, Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Policy**
- 2. R-23-26, Resolution Regarding Investment Policy**

3. **R-23-27**, Resolution Authorizing Investment in the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement

ADD:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-23-25**, Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Policy
2. **R-23-26**, Resolution Regarding Investment Policy
3. **R-23-27**, Resolution Authorizing Investment in the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Naomi Brooks – Grand Ave. *submitted written comments***
- **Brian Hooper – 128 Academy St. *submitted written comments***
- **Doug Nobiletti – 145 Academy St.**
- **Laurie Sandow, S. Grand Ave. – *submitted written comments***
- **Bob Gorman – 102 N. Clinton St.**
- **Holly Wahlberg – 35 Garfield Pl.**
- **Ken Stier – Verrazano Blvd.**
- **Jamar Cummings – 5th Ward resident**

March 6, 2023 Common Council meeting
Naomi Brooks, S. Grand Avenue

I want to clarify my public comments of February 21, 2023 at the Common Council meeting referencing HDLPC membership, and to respond to Mayor Nelson's public comments about the same later in the meeting.

I was asking that both the public and the Common Council know the qualifications of commission members, as they are listed as requirements to hold such positions in section 19-4.5 of our code. I did not impugn any of the commission members; I was asking that we have this information so we can be assured that the commission is comprised of the correct mix of member backgrounds, experience, and interest. Contrary to impugning commission members, I am asking that we share this information in an easily accessible way to instill pride and confidence in the often-underappreciated work our volunteer boards do.

The mayor referenced Tim McQueen's stating of his qualifications at his first meeting as commissioner, but did not elaborate what those qualifications were, as he did later in his comments with two other appointees. I was hoping to fill in that information gap. Mr. McQueen's first meeting as HDLPC commissioner was held Sept 9, 2021 but the minutes and webcast of the meeting are missing from the city website, so the public has no record of his qualifications. Through Internet searching, I was able to find some outstanding work he's done within our city in *other* areas, but still have not been able to find any information about his qualifications to be on the HDLPC.

I also searched the Internet for the appropriate qualifications of the other 4 members whose names are listed on the HDLPC's city website page. Elisa Li has an architecture degree and lives in a landmarked district. Anthony LaRocca has a Master's degree in history and teaches government at Lourdes. John Bartlestone is a registered architect and lives in a landmarked district. I could not find any public information for Da'Ron Wilson that met any of the criteria for HDLPC appointees.

The qualifications of members of boards and commissions are important facts to share with the public and the Common Council. Members are expected to carry out tasks that require a level of education, experience, and interest that ensures the work is done with the best levels of professionalism.

Our charter section 2.02 says that the Common Council shall have oversight of the management of the city by the Executive Branch. I again urge the Council to amend the code of ordinances to fully benefit from the power of a shared government model. You should exercise that charter's requirement for oversight by requiring your approval for the mayor's appointees.

-Naomi Brooks

Supporting documentation:

Section 3.01 Mayor; Election; Term; Qualifications; Compensation

There shall be **a mayor, who shall be elected** from the city at large at an odd-numbered year general election **for a term of four years** commencing the first day of January next following his or her election. The mayor shall be directly responsible to all the people of the city. At the time of his or her nomination and election, and throughout his or her term of office, the mayor shall be and remain a qualified elector of the city. The mayor shall receive such compensation as shall be fixed by the common council, with due consideration given to such recommendations as may be made by the salary review commission, but in no event shall such compensation be less than \$72,000 annually, nor shall such compensation be increased or 12 04 - 01 - 2018 CHARTER diminished during a term in which the mayor shall then be serving. The Mayor's position is full-time and in accord therewith the mayor shall devote substantially all his or her time to the duties of the office.

Section 6.01 Committees, Commissions and Boards; Appointment; Termination; Terms; Membership Limitation

The mayor may appoint and terminate respectively such executive and administrative committees, commissions and boards, and the common council may appoint and terminate such legislative committees, commissions and boards, as respectively they may deem appropriate from time to time, or as may be required by state or federal law, this charter or the code. Except as otherwise provided in this charter or required by state law, members of each such committee, commission or board shall serve for a term or terms to be fixed by their appointing authority, but in no event shall any member serve beyond the thirty-first day of January next following his or her **appointing authority's own term of office** unless reappointed by his or her appointing authority's successor in office. Except as otherwise provided in this charter, no employee of the city shall be appointed as a voting member of any such committee, commission or board.

Section 6.07 Sunset Provision

Unless otherwise provided in this charter or required by state law, each committee, commission or board shall have ceased to exist as of the first day of February next **following the termination of its appointing authority's own term of office** unless theretofore reappointed by its appointing authority's **successor in office**.

I had not originally planned to comment on this, but since it's been brought up tonight: I FOILED (i.e., submitted a Freedom of Information request) for Tim McQueen's resume and application for a seat on the HDLPC (Historic District and Landmarks Preservation). It does not exist. If it ever existed, then its destruction would be a violation of Records Retention Law by the Records Access officer, the City Chamberlain. I also watched the most recent HDLPC meeting where Corporation Counsel Valk had to talk him through the chairing obligations of a very simple agenda, further demonstrating Tim McQueen's lack of qualifications as chair.

Now to my prepared comments:

Currently, there's a bill moving through the Florida courts that attempts to undermine and limit free speech. But we don't have to look to Florida when free speech is under attack right here in the City of Poughkeepsie. Oddly the perpetrators—City electeds, unelecteds, certain staff and employees among them—paint themselves as victims, rather than perpetrators.

As columnist Naomi Ishisaka wrote recently: "When do the privileged feel like victims? When others seek equality." She continued, "It seems whenever I write about structural power and privilege, people who benefit most from those systems respond that they are now victims of an unfairly stacked deck."

In the bizarro world of Poughkeepsie, councilmembers spread fake news, rumors, and their own personal attacks. They make decisions behind closed doors, violate the City Charter, won't reply to FOIL requests, ignore constituent Emails, illegally block or hide comments on their social media, and reduce public input and interactions to only three minutes per Council meeting. The Council Chair makes a mockery of good government by allowing certain councilmembers to disrupt decorum at will and without sanction. More mockery is made by the claim that it's "equitable" for councilmembers to launch one-way attacks on members of the public, only after that member of the public has returned to their seat and would be called out for a violation of decorum if they responded.

Every year, the Council adds more rules limiting and intimidating public participation, while failing to impose rules and penalties on Councilmembers regarding attendance, lateness, early meeting departure, absences, failure to serve their constituents, and their own violations of decorum, rules of ethics, and the City Charter itself.

Imagine the contempt in which these electeds hold the public, when they deem three minutes' comments every two weeks as three minutes too much, and when the only meaning they take from public comments and criticism is to portray and reject them as personal attacks rather than as an urgent need for reflection on how poorly councilmembers are serving both constituents and the City as a whole.

Three whole minutes at only 26 meetings a year—what does that add up to? Let me do the math: 78 minutes total. Or less than 1-1/2 hours total per speaker assuming that speaker showed up and spoke at every single Council meeting.

Imagine the contempt of these electeds who themselves never spoke up at, or attended Council meetings prior to election, never subjected themselves to a 3-minute time limit, don't hold Ward meetings or inform their constituents about Council issues and votes, yet use and abuse their privileged seats to limit and scorn public interest, participation and involvement.

Which one of them would last through the apprenticeship period of a blue collar worker, putting in the necessary time to learn and advance in a trade. However, here in Poughkeepsie there's no need for that. Councilmembers and their lobbyists run deceptive campaigns that, for example, misrepresent a white collar executive as understanding and living the struggles of working people. Electeds grab their Council seats of power, paychecks and premium healthcare, whether they know, care, or are trained and informed about the City's issues. Everything's kept secret, including whether they even show up for the backroom caucuses where—instead of conducting the public's business in public—they defy the public's interest by determining voting outcomes via misused consent agendas. Unless and until one or more councilmembers stand up for actual transparency and accountability, this current council is nothing more than a testament to what a poor choice this city makes when it puts untested, uninformed people without track records into office.

I reserve my right, when submitting these comments for inclusion in the minutes of this hearing, to restore edits and the unspoken remainder of comments that have been limited by the three-minute time constraint on public comments.

V. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

I'm going to go right in the chairwoman comments. And I'm not going to have many because I want you to talk so myself, Councilmember Long, Councilmember Shook, and via phone Councilmember Johnson had an opportunity to visit a resident at the Grand, thanks to you.

And I just want to apologize to my colleagues because we had to have a limit with how many people we would be a quorum. So it was just the leadership, and because it's in the First ward, Councilmember Long. But there's a resolution tonight that I want to add all of your names to once we get to it. But I wanted Jamar to talk a little bit about because he's the one who actually approached me and let me know about this fabulous Miss Erna, who is a spitfire and just fantastic and wonderful. But I won't steal your thunder, but I would like you to take some time and talk a little bit about Miss Erna and, you know, and I want to and also commend you for even thinking about doing this, because a lot of times people, you know, this is like this is the fun part of our job. You know, up here, when we say here, we here say, that's not the fun part. That's the fun part.

Jamar Cummings: Well, let me first say, Mayor Nelson, Councilmember Long, Council chairperson- chairwoman sorry, Chairwoman Brown and Councilmember Shook, we really appreciate you guys taking the time out to come and celebrate Miss Erna Rogers 102nd birthday. So I work locally here at the Grande River Valley. I was approached by our activities director, thinking about things that we could do to celebrate Miss Erna. And she just threw out some things. Maybe getting a proclamation from the city. And I was like, Oh, I don't know if you people on city council, so let me reach out. So I would like to thank Natasha sent her a text. Her immediate response was, "Yes, we will do this". So we do appreciate it. Ms. Erna has been at River Valley for a while. She doesn't have any family, so we, the residents and staff at the facility, are her family. She has been talking about her birthday since last week. She has been smiling. She has we just showed her the news article yesterday and she has been smiling and she's been happy. Her only wish was to make it to see 102. She made it to see 102. And the city of Poughkeepsie was there to celebrate with her. So from the bottom of my heart, from the Grande River Valley, we do really appreciate and also just know that our doors are always open. We do serve a pretty underserved part of the community. We have a lot of residents who don't have families, who don't have people to come visit. So not just you, but the community, anyone out there who's listening to me just, you know, take a few minutes out of your day, maybe to stop by a nursing home, stop by River Valley, if you want. And just see who doesn't have family, who look who's looking to, you know, talk to someone. We have a ton of residents who would love to just have a conversation with people. So I once again, I appreciate the city of Poughkeepsie. You guys rocked and we really do appreciate it.

Chairwoman Brown: Really seeing people smile and making their day so perfect. So since you're going to show her this part, I'm actually going to read into the record the resolution because we're voting on it and consent so won't get read.

But this is going to be from the entire council and supported by Mayor Nelson.

Whereas Erna Rogers was born on March 2nd, 1921, in the city of Poughkeepsie, grew up with her brother and sister on Brenner Mill Company Farm in Clinton Corners.

And. WHEREAS, Miss Rogers graduated from the city of Poughkeepsie School District in 1938 and continue her education, at wood parenting school for typing in secretarial studies and worked as a junior accountant for various companies in Poughkeepsie.

And where Erna's first full time job was with Central Hudson and later she enjoyed a career IBM that spanned over 20 years.

And. WHEREAS, Erna's life was enriched by her involvement in her community and her lifelong membership at Saint John's Lutheran Church in Poughkeepsie.

And. WHEREAS, Erna states that her secret to a long life has been keeping God in her thoughts daily and thanking Him for all the good that He has done for her in her life. And now, therefore, be it resolved that the Common Council hereby hereby dedicates March 2nd, 2023, as Erna Rogers Day in the City of Poughkeepsie, and we're going to edit it in Add this forever March 2nd.

So, Miss Erna, I'm going to say a special message to Miss Erna. Miss Erna, I know you're going to watch this. March 2nd is always going to be your day here in the city of Poughkeepsie. Thank you.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Thank you Chair Woman Brown Just a few quick things.

In the interest of time, I have three. And actually I want to thank all the department heads for participating in our semiannual informational meeting. And thank you to all the members of the public that got so many questions done in such a short period of time.

I want to just set the record straight back for a moment to the HDLPC. I did not appoint Mr. McQueen, Mayor Rolison appointed Mr. McQueen. What I am going to do is I've been reviewing some of my notes is and this was a recommendation of a member of the public with which I agree. I think Mr. Brooks brought this up. We will, with the consent of commissioners for all boards and commissions that the mayor appoints.

I can't speak for the Council. We will post those resumes on the website, but we need the permission of the individual volunteer because to the extent that they have personal information or cell phone numbers or something there, I do believe in transparent government. The decisions that I made to appoint the two individuals, I stand by.

I and I also believe I had the authority to make Mr. McQueen chair. So I did hear something tonight. It didn't go in one ear and out the other. And with the consent of folks in this goes to all boards and commissions. And I'll be sending a memo out this week to their respective chairs to bring this up in front of the ZBA, the planning board, the

HDLPC, the Shade Tree Commission. I think it's a good idea, but again, it's up to the individual volunteers whether they want their and what information they want put on the website. So I don't want the public to think that, you know, I'm sitting up here so entrenched in my own views that I can't hear the comment.

And I will say too, that we were really impressed with the community's engagement in this zoning public hearing on the 21st. I want to thank my colleagues on the council. You know, we acted together. The mayor extended the comment period, know just the 23rd. The council voted by resolution to set a special public hearing on zoning, which was held on February 21st.

We heard the public I think there was a statement published from myself and a couple of the council members, the chair and the vice chair, relative to at least one issue, which is that external advice. And I want to quote Chairwoman Brown, because her quote actually was right to the point. She said that this is, I think get this right, "This is how good government is supposed to work" or something like that.

The public came. We heard the public. We pulled this section. The debate is going to continue. I believe I heard tonight, Chairwoman Brown indicating with our development director Quinn that there was going to be another public hearing held specifically up on the north side.

And, you know, speaking for myself as mayor, you know, it's been, I don't know, 20, 30, 40 years since we've done the rezoning. You think another 40 days is going to really hurt the city of Poughkeepsie? I see some people agreeing with me in the audience. We're not going to rush this. We want to hear from everybody.

Chairwoman Brown: So can I just expand on that, please? What I neglected to mention is we also instructed the development director Ms. Quinn to provide abstracts of the changes for our hearings. It's not fair to ask members of the public to read 300 page document.

So that will also be available because it's really important for members of the public to understand what it is that's changing.

If we didn't sit up here in and had resources to understand some of these acronyms, we wouldn't know what they are either. So this process is going to be very transparent.

People can have fun trying to demonize me as the chair, but I'm really, really trying to do what I can do to make sure that we're developing all of our decisions based on public feedback and those changes that we made as a council, even though we're the only ones that are quoted, did not was not just a result of the speakers in the fourth in the Eighth Ward.

I have to be very clear. Councilmember Thompson had ward meetings and she provided feedback. Councilmember Flowers provided feedback.

So I just want to be very clear that this was not in response to just that meeting, that public hearing that was held. You know, there's there was a pretty strong consensus that the detached ADU's were not desirable at this time. But as I said in my comments, you know, we still you know, as far as expanding existing structures and such like that, we're going to explore because there's pretty much mixed opinions, you know, and there are a lot of on traditional homes. Right now, there are parents who are aging in living with their children, and they want to be independent. We want them to be independent. Grandma should not be in an extra spare room. If she's fully functional, she should be able to have her own apartment. Right. Don't we agree on that? You know, a college kid coming home trying to find a job, He may need a little independence as well, you know, so we are making and I want to thank Councilmember Menist because. And he was on that committee. And now that he's seeing the tenor of the public, he's actually, you know, willing to make those changes that are going to be in agreement with, you know, the majority. So I just want to be very clear that anytime you hear me speak in quoted in an article is the consensus of my colleagues, because I don't want anyone to think I'm acting independently. I'm just speaking as the leader in this. Do you have something to say council member Flowers?

Councilmember Flowers: Oh, is it my turn?

Chairwoman Brown: Oh, no, no. You were just looking. Oh, okay. You know, I when I when it's my turn to speak. At the U.N., they said to me, okay, so I just wanted to say that. So thank you, Mayor Nelson.

Mayor Nelson: Thank you. Continuing, almost done. So, the removal of the external ADU's from the draft zoning code wasn't the only change that was made. There was one other quick, real easy edit As part of the public comment, it was brought to our attention that the consultants had inadvertently left the old HDLPC historic code in there, so we just fixed that mistake. Put the new one in. Just want to be clear with everybody, there wasn't anything nefarious going on. It was just a straight mistake. So just want to give you my assurance of that. So those are the two changes that were made. And I believe it may be a draft.

You may already be up on our website. I did directed it, be placed on the website as soon as possible, but I haven't had a chance to check that it was turned to the substantive comments for tonight. I want to take a minute and thank the Finance Committee of the Common Council, led by Councilmember Flowers.

The Finance Committee met with myself, our Finance commissioner, Dr. Martinez, last week in a marathon session. On the agenda tonight are a number of policy documents that represent the most significant additions to policy on the fiscal front in this city's history. This is for the first time, as far as I know, a council will be passing with support tonight a general fund balance policy that commits this city to fiscal health for forever moving forward.

Some years ago, with council support, we passed a debt management policy that limited our borrowing, sort of a self-imposed limitation that was stricter than the constitutional debt limits. And we've abided by that policy. We borrowed very little money. Tonight, we're asking the council to adopt a number of policies. I'm not going to get into them because they've been moved from consent to off the consent calendar. I suspect that's because council members want to have a discussion about it, and I'll leave that to the chair of the Finance Committee.

But I just want to commend those members on Councilmember Grant and Councilmember Thompson and also Councilmember Shook from the Fourth Ward, and again, Chair the Chair of the Finance Committee, Yvonne Flowers.

In conclusion, the City expects a visit from our bond rating agencies this week. That will be Moody's and Standard Poor's. The good news is that we've come a long way since the city was downgraded in 2016. Our investment bond rating right now is below investment grade, has been below investment grade since that time. We hope that the passage of these policies tonight will help the fine work that's been going on across all city departments and this council to get the city's fiscal shop in order. And that's reducing our general fund deficit by over \$10 million, stabilizing the sanitation fund that was running a deficit and going back some years.

The consolidation of our transit with Dutchess County, which has saved millions of dollars for taxpayers since that was done back in 17.

Madam Chair, just a point of personal privilege. This was the first meeting of the Finance Committee this year. It was, as I said, a marathon session. But I really want the public to know that this is this is a big deal. We heard a lot of things tonight and a lot of questions.

And, you know, it's the hour is late. But what this council is about to do in the next hour matters to every single resident, every single taxpayer, every single employee of the city of Poughkeepsie. So thank you, Madam Chair.

VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

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

CONSENT AGENDA:

IX. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to accept the Consent Agenda was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Shook.

- 1. R-23-23, Resolution Amending the IMA with PCSD regarding SABP**

RESOLUTION
(R-23-23)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLOWERS:

WHEREAS, Poughkeepsie City School District (PCSD) owns and maintains gymnasiums and related facilities at its High School, Middle School, and five elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of utilizing PCSD's gymnasiums for the Student Athletic Basketball Program (SABP); and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie and governing boards of PCSD have determined that it is in their mutual interests to enter into an Agreement for the purpose of allowing the Student Athletic Basketball Program to use the gymnasiums for the 2022-2025 program years; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie and governing boards of PCSD have determined that it is in their mutual interests to share the costs of running such program which operates for the benefit of youth in the City of Poughkeepsie who are students of the Poughkeepsie City School District; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has allocated \$5,000 in its 2023 operating budget for the SABP; and

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law specifically authorizes and encourages municipal corporations to enter into an agreement with each other in order to provide cooperatively, jointly and by contract any facility, service, activity or undertaking which each participating municipal corporation has the power to provide separately; and

WHEREAS, this resolution shall supersede Resolution R-23-20.

**NOW,
THEREFORE,**

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to

execute the attached Inter-municipal Agreement in form and substance as attached hereto.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

R-23-23- VOICE VOTE			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

2. R-23-24, Resolution Appointing Members to the Salary Review Commission

RESOLUTION (R-23-24)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER BROWN:

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 4.02 of the Charter the Common Council is required to appoint three members to the Salary Review Commission no later than May 31 in the year proceeding a Mayoral election; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council's former leadership failed to move this important item forward just as it failed to move to name a redistricting commission in a timely manner; and

WHEREAS, there will be city wide elections for Mayor as well as Councilmembers for each of the city's current eight wards, and also for the At-Large position of Council Chair, in November of this year; and

WHEREAS, The Mayor has named his three selections and provided the City Chamberlain with an appointment letter dated February 9, 2023, a copy of which is attached to this Resolution and made a part of this record;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby appoints the following individuals to the Salary Review Commission which shall serve for a period of ninety days or until such time as its charge is complete and it has reported its recommendations to the Common Council, whichever shall first occur:

1. Laura Foreman
2. Tamoya Norwood
3. Jasmine Clay

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK: _____

R-23-24- VOICE VOTE						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

3. **R-23-28**, Resolution Declaring March 2, 2023 “Erna Rogers Day” in the City of Poughkeepsie

**A RESOLUTION DECLARING MARCH 2, 2023 “ERNA ROGERS DAY”
IN THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE**

(R-23-28)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRWOMAN BROWN, VICE CHAIR SHOOK, MAJORITY LEADER MENIST, MAJORITY WHIP JOHNSON, COUNCILMEMBER FLOWERS, COUNCILMEMBER LONG, COUNCILMEMBER GRANT, COUNCILMEMBER DEICHLER, COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON AND SUPPORTED BY MAYOR MARC NELSON:

WHEREAS, Erna Rogers was born on March 2, 1921 in the City of Poughkeepsie. She grew up with a brother and sister on Brenner Mill Company farm in Clinton Corners.; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Rogers graduated from The City of Poughkeepsie School District in 1938 and continued her education at Wood-Purinton School for Typing and Secretarial Studies and worked

as a junior accountant for various companies in Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, Erna's first full time job was with Central Hudson and later she enjoyed a career at IBM that spanned over 20 years; and

WHEREAS, Erna's life was enriched by her involvement in her community and her lifelong membership at St. John's Lutheran Church of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, Erna states that her secret to a long life has been keeping God in her thoughts daily and thanking Him for all of the good that he has done for her in her life; and

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Common Council hereby dedicates March 2 as "Erna Rogers Day" in the City of Poughkeepsie.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

R-23-28- VOICE VOTE						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

XI. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

ACTION AGENDA:

X. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to accept the Action Agenda was made by Chairwoman Brown and seconded by Councilmember Long.

1. R-23-25, Resolution Regarding Fund Balance Policy

RESOLUTION R-23-25

INTRODUCED BY Yvonne Flowers, Chris Grant, Nedra Patterson Thompson, Nathan Shook:

WHEREAS, the City has generated General Fund operating surpluses in every year since 2016 except 2020 due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City has reduced its General Fund balance deficit from negative \$19,065,181 in 2015 to negative \$2,361,220 (unaudited) as of December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to produce its first positive General Fund balance by the end of 2023; and

WHEREAS, negative fund balances contribute to the City's below investment grade credit rating of "Ba1" with a "Stable Outlook," assigned by Moody's Investors Service; and

WHEREAS, below investment grade ratings contribute to higher costs of borrowing; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration and the Common Council are committed to improving economic stability in the City to provide taxpayers and stakeholders assurances that unforeseen and extraordinary events are not likely to adversely impact them; and

WHEREAS, the City recognizes the importance of maintaining an appropriate level of undesignated fund balance to withstand short-term financial emergencies; and.

WHEREAS, both the Office of the New York State Comptroller and the Government Finance Officers Association ("GFOA") recommend that local governments establish a policy to maintain reasonable levels of unexpended surplus funds in their General Fund and other principal funds to hedge against unanticipated expenditures and/or revenue shortfalls; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has developed the attached Fund Balance Policy (Exhibit A) for the City in an effort to define and provide guidelines to achieve and to maintain a prudent level of fund balance; and

WHEREAS, after review, the Common Council wishes to adopt the attached Fund Balance Policy and that such policy shall be reviewed annually for potential amendments at the Common Council's annual reorganization meeting.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby adopts the Fund Balance Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ .

			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

2. R-23-26, Resolution Regarding Investment Policy

RESOLUTION R-23-26

INTRODUCED BY Yvonne Flowers, Chris Grant, Nedra Patterson Thompson, Nathan Shook:

WHEREAS, The City of Poughkeepsie has maintained fund balance deficits since 2009; and

WHEREAS, the City has generated General Fund operating surpluses in every year since 2016 except 2020 due to the pandemic; and

WHEREAS, the City has reduced its General Fund balance deficit from negative \$19,065,181 in 2015 to negative \$2,361,220 (unaudited) as of December 31, 2022; and

WHEREAS, the City intends to produce its first positive General Fund balance in 2023; and

WHEREAS, ongoing demonstrations of fiscal responsibility shall be guided by the primary objectives of the City of Poughkeepsie's investment activities; specifically, legality, safety, liquidity and yield; and

WHEREAS, to achieve these objectives the City will conform with all applicable federal, state and other legal requirements, adequately safeguard principal, provide sufficient liquidity to meet all operating requirements and, obtain a reasonable rate of return; and

WHEREAS, Section 39 of the General Municipal Law requires the City to adopt by resolution a comprehensive investment policy which details the City's operative policy and instructions to officers and staff regarding the investing, monitoring and reporting of funds of the City; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner of Finance has developed the attached Investment Policy (Exhibit A) for the City satisfying the requirements of General Municipal Law Section 39(3)(a)-(g); and

WHEREAS, after review, the Common Council wishes to adopt the attached Investment Policy and that such policy shall be reviewed annually for potential amendments at the Common Council's annual reorganization meeting.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby adopts the Investment Policy attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall supersede Resolution R-23-05 approving banks for deposit, as the same topic is addressed within the attached Investment Policy.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ .

R-23-26- VOICE VOTE			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

3. R-23-27, Resolution Authorizing Investment in the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING INVESTMENT IN THE NYCLASS MUNICIPAL COOPERATION AGREEMENT AMENDED AND RESTATED AS OF MARCH 28, 2019 (R-23-27)

INTRODUCED BY Yvonne Flowers, Chris Grant, Nedra Patterson Thompson, Nathan Shook:

WHEREAS, New York General Municipal Law, Article 5-G, Section 119-o ("Section 119-o") empowers municipal corporations, such as the City of Poughkeepsie, to enter into agreements for the performance of their respective functions, powers and duties on a cooperative or contract basis, with other municipal corporations; and

WHEREAS, the CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE wishes to invest portions of its available investment funds in cooperation with other corporations and/or districts pursuant to the NYCLASS Municipal Cooperation Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019;

WHEREAS, the CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE wishes to assure the safety and liquidity needs of their funds;

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance of the CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE is hereby authorized to participate in the NYCLASS program under the terms of the NYCLASS Municipal Agreement Amended and Restated as of March 28, 2019.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

R-23-27- VOICE VOTE						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairwoman Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

XII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A motion was made to defer the below communication/petition to Corporation Counsel by Chairwoman Brown and was seconded by Councilmember Long.

- 1. FROM LORI A. KIERNAN**, a notice of property damage sustained on or around February 24, 2023.

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:50 PM.

Dated: March 10, 2023

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, March 6, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmin Nicole Davis

City Chamberlain