



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, April 17, 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, April 17, 2023, and the time is 6:30 pm.

I. ROLL CALL: 9 Present

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting – April 3, 2023

Motion to accept the minutes: Councilmember Shook, Seconded by Councilmember Johnson.

CCM Minutes of April 17, 2023 - 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	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

-NONE-

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Marta Knapp – 10 S. Clinton St.**
- **Jasmaine Clay – Saving Our Tomorrow, Inc.**
- **Rhonda Green-Phillips – 8 N. Cherry St., Hudson River Housing**
- **Laura Strait – Mill St. ***
- **Naomi Brooks – S. Grand Ave. ***
- **Laurie Sandow – S. Grand Ave. ***
- **Mr. Yeung – 2 North Cherry Street**
- **Kane Bowers - For the Many**
- **Laura Forman**
- **Jamar Cummings, Fifth Ward Resident**
- **Chris Petsas**
- **Ken Stenger**
- **Rachel Plotkin - For the Many**

April 17, 2023 Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting
Laura Strait, Mill Street

I'm here to speak about the April 13 Historic Commission meeting and the Pelton Mansion agenda item.

Every part of this agenda item was astonishingly inappropriate.

-The commission had limited time to review an 11-page settlement with 68 pages of background drawings and descriptive attachments.

-An additional 11 pages was added to this website packet *after* the April 13 meeting.

-The commission had a new member, never introduced at the meeting, whose name continues not to appear on the website when I checked this morning, and with no transparency about his application date, credentials, and swearing in.

-The commission did not have its full 7 members even though the mayor is overdue in the legal time he has to fill positions, and even though he has received quite a few applications from *qualified* candidates, some of who applied many months ago.

-The dismissal and possible reinstatement of one commissioner is pending.

New members, *missing* members, members whose *qualifications* are unknown, a *huge* amount of data to digest to correctly analyze this situation, much of which was not made readily available to commissioners in a timely way.

That's just the information about the commissioners and the background. The second travesty was the *content* of the settlement agreement and the rush to vote on it. Pelton Partners' previous application was withdrawn last year. *This* settlement agreement included details on new revisions constituting a *new* application, which by law should have gone through a standard application process. But rush they did – with a commission membership full of unanswered questions. Commissioners voted – without pausing the litigation for 90 days, which would have been allowed – the vote that both settled the litigation *and* issued a certificate of appropriateness for a *new application*.

Included in the background part of the stipulation of settlement was this whopper on page 3: "WHEREAS, as a consequence of the action of the HDLPC, the Pelton Mansion and the grounds upon which it is located, remain in a continuing state of disuse and disrepair which has worsened in that condition over time". The settlement repeats the claim of the decay being someone else's fault on page 10, this time blaming *anyone* who opposed this *particular* proposal. **The property owner - whether the city or Pelton Partners - was responsible for the maintenance of their property and buildings.** Maintenance of what *exists* is not contingent on certificates of appropriateness for what is *proposed*.

There are new projects coming up throughout Poughkeepsie, and you need to have resolutions in place so you can oversee the process and make sure *your laws* are being followed properly.

Thank you.

April 17, 2023 Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting
Naomi Brooks, S Grand Avenue

I'd like to thank the Council members who attended the April 13 Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission meeting. On the agenda was a stipulation of settlement about the Pelton Partners project at Pelton Mansion property.

Included in the settlement – and listed as Exhibit E but *not* included in the city website's packet of documents until *after* the meeting – was the actual certificate of appropriateness. It declares that public hearings, held on the previous application, count toward *this* revised and resubmitted one. It also declares this application meets the criteria for issuance of the certificate of appropriates (spelling error) as set forth in Section 19-4.5(6) of the Zoning Ordinance.

The Zoning ordinance you passed. The zoning ordinance under which the almost-identical application *failed* to meet criteria and was *denied* three times by previous members of the HDLPC.

Before *this* current vote, the members of the commission had a chance to voice their assessments of the new application for a certificate of appropriateness included in the settlement agreement. Only two commissioners chose to comment using the criteria in the law that governs their actions. The law does not allow Commissioners to consider anything outside those criteria. Yet on April 13, the other commissioners chose to discuss their personal feelings about the site, their connection to the community in other areas, and the value of settling litigation to the financial health of the city. These comments, by the law *you* passed governing the HDLPC, should not have been allowed nor used in the consideration of a vote to grant a certificate of appropriateness. Yet they voted to accept it all.

I'm going to describe this scenario using everyday life. Imagine you, Common Council, are parents. You work multiple jobs, you have pressing money and health needs, you're in the grocery store with the two youngest. Your toddler starts throwing a tantrum because you won't let him fill the cart with cookies. He stomps on the one box of cookies that *IS* in the cart, effectively destroying them. He then picks up the baby, who wasn't strapped in, and dangles her over the side of the cart. He threatens to drop her, saying it's your fault because you won't let him have the cookies.

A group of adults approach the cart. You don't know which of them have kids, or which knows how to help. The one in the front tells you he was hurt as a child. Another starts talking about your *money* and *health* issues. A third says we have to give the toddler what he wants or he will hurt the baby. A fourth talks about how he's shopped here forever, and if the baby is hurt, you have other children. **None of them protect the baby.** Two last adults *DO* have children or know how to work with children but they can't reach the baby to protect her because the other adults are blocking them, throwing extra cookies in the cart.

Common Council parents, we need you to make the rules, and enforce the rules for this toddler. We need you to use the restraint, built into the cart that keeps the baby safe.

Laurie Sandow public comments at the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council meeting of April 17, 2023:

The Gospels of Matthew, Mark and Luke all ask:

For what shall it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul?

Well, at the April 13th HDLPC (Historic Districts & Landmarks Preservation Commission) meeting this past Thursday, unelected Mayor Marc Nelson, his unqualified HDLPC appointees, Corporation Counsel Rebecca Valk, Pelton developers Steve Tinkelman, Wayne Nussbickel and their attorney Kenneth Stenger, all gave us a master class in forfeiting and selling one's soul.

In acts of collusion and conniving, Attorneys Stenger and Valk manufactured a so-called "stain" on the judicial process in order to create a path for unqualified HDLPC commissioners to vote on a Stipulation riddled with fabrication and falsehoods, approving the Pelton Partners' landgrab and development at Wheaton Park. Not only was their faux outrage the product of Valk using and abusing a Freedom of Information (FOIL) request that I submitted, delivering information to Tinkelman's attorney Stenger before ever delivering the documents I'd FOILED to me. The manufactured stain that Stenger filed with the court was based on an alleged violation of ex parte communications for which Valk herself confesses that no written directive has ever been issued by any member of the Corporation Counsel's office. She wrote: *"Ms. Sandow: 1. As to your first request, this office has not issued anything in writing regarding ex parte communications. However, please note that any writing would be covered by the attorney-client privilege unless waived by the respective client...."*

Perpetrating unelected Mayor Marc Nelson's malignant agenda even further, why did mystery man Joe Donat participate in the HDLPC's Executive Session? In what capacity?—especially considering that Donat's never been formally or informally introduced to the public, his title and position remain unknown, and the date and purpose of his hiring remain unknown. Is it possible that other unknown and unqualified parties were also in attendance at that HDLPC Executive Session?

Tim McQueen, Da’Ron Wilson and certain other current HDLPC commissioners clearly lack the credentials to hold their seats and positions—including one, Tom Parise, whose very first attendance at an HDLPC meeting was the night of April 13, and whose name still does not appear on the City website as an HDLPC member. Far worse is that neither McQueen nor Wilson recused themselves from the vote, despite their conflicts of interest. Da’Ron Wilson was, or perhaps even remains, a member of Marc Nelson’s transition team. Tim McQueen sits on the Board of Hudson River Housing, a co-owner and co-developer at 135 Main St. (“Admiral Halsey 2”) where Tinkelman is the applicant.

Further staining the HDLPC’s April 13 agenda was the absence of a line item for public comments. When attendees demanded the right to speak, McQueen declared 10 minutes total comments; one minute per person. In a vitriolic, delusional smear document filed with the court, Stenger wrote to Valk, labelling members of the public as part of a “cabal” of “wealthy gentry” exercising a “pernicious practice” of “surreptitious influence”. What a perfect, nefarious Catch-22 they’ve fabricated, eliminating, villainizing and/or severely limiting public comment at public meetings, while depicting any other form of outreach and communication as surreptitious influence. And no surprise: we heard zero Stenger outrage at the City’s surreptitious padding of the HDLPC meeting packet made after the meeting took place. Where were City notifications to CivicPlus subscribers each time an alteration was made to the HDLPC meeting and packet? Nowhere. To this day, never sent.

Unqualified Commissioner Da’Ron Wilson used Thursday’s meeting for a self-serving lecture about showing up. Did Wilson forget that unelected-Mayor Marc didn’t show up at the April 3rd Council meeting? That Wilson himself didn’t show up at the February 9th HDLPC meeting. That the March HDLPC meeting was cancelled, supposedly because Tim McQueen couldn’t show up. Wilson chided the crowd about not showing up at the PCSD Superintendent’s Fireside Chats—I attended the Superintendent’s chat on February 11 and many others; Wilson has not. I’ve been to several County Legislature meetings about 26 Oakley; Wilson has not been. The list is very long and three minutes is exceedingly short.

Icing the cake, Marc Nelson continues to bully his way through City staff and boards, to post fake news and phony history to social media, and to propagandize select audiences in hopes they will enable his Best Little Autocracy That Money Can Buy.

V. CHAIRWOMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairwoman Brown: My first comment is on the agenda. You will see us adopting a resolution to set a public hearing for May 1st around homelessness. This was done in collaboration with the county legislators; Barrington Atkins, Randy Johnson and Craig Brendl, also one of the speakers.

Mr. Cummings mentioned that there will be also a public forum at Beulah Baptist Church. This was done in concert because a lot of people don't like coming to these council meetings and I don't blame them. And a lot of the conduct that has happened lately, I would not want to come here if I didn't have to myself. But we want to give as many opportunities as possible to have the public way out.

The county legislature is expected to vote to move ARPA funding, to revamp the old jail and turn it into the site for the homeless shelter that was proposed with 26 Oakley. We just received this information as the council and acted immediately by putting this public hearing on the agenda. So I want to put that disclaimer out there because I know some of you criticize us sometimes for having things on the agenda with no conversation. There was no time for conversation. This vote is expected to happen on May 4th.

I don't want to talk too much at this point about what I witnessed at the HDLPC meeting. I'm sure a lot of my colleagues will, but I just want to say that I'm like, I'm like, so, so disappointed on a number of fronts. But mainly and I know Council member Deichler well, we had our children here, first of all, these meetings. They said people should be able to bring their children. We had to leave because people were cursing and acting like they didn't have good sense. And we had small children here. That's unfortunate. My child's four years old. I shouldn't have to pay for a babysitter to come here. She should be able to sit in the back and go on her iPad. But I can't bring her because I don't want her to misinterpret some of the aggression that's happening here.

Violence is violence on all different levels. And I'm not attacking the members of the public because a lot of your viewpoint I agree with is the delivery that needs to change. I personally don't hear you if I feel like you're attacking me. You know, they're just saying, you know, is the message that the messenger. But it has to be the message because when the messenger comes incorrect, a lot of us are going to shut down.

And I'm going to reframe my comment because I do want to talk to my colleagues about a number of things that happened during that meeting. And it wasn't just the members of the public there was wrong all the way around, in my personal opinion. But I want to refrain from utilizing my personal opinion until I talk more about this with my colleagues and with legal counsel. But I do have grave concerns, and I appreciate those of you who did take the time to sit through that marathon meeting that got over almost 10:00 at night.

I know Councilmember Flowers was there, Councilmember Deichler, Councilman Member Thompson was there in spirit online. Myself, Councilmember Menist and Councilmember Long. So, you know, there's just so, so many things that we need to talk about because that that should have never happened that way. But again, I'm going to wait until we talk and I talk to legal counsel because I don't want to say anything that's inappropriate or speculation. But I just

know that's not the way a meeting is supposed to go all the way around. And that's my opinion and from listening to the public comments, my whole list of items that I had kind of just went off in my brain because my brain went in a different direction. But I do want the mayor to talk a little bit about that middle main area. And I'm no longer a six ward councilmember right now, Councilmember Grant, but that area has been an Achilles heel and for a long time in for seven years I was the six Ward Council member. I think we had the most issues in that area. And I want to publicly invite Hudson River housing. They can do a presentation on both of those properties and it a factor and Fallkill commons are governed are operated by them. I know three years ago I had a meeting in the underwear factory where security was discussed and I think it would be good if they could come in and discuss what measures are taking place.

I want to yield the rest of my comments and allow the mayor to speak, because I do know we are taking some strides in this whole opioid epidemic. So if you want to talk a little bit about that, because the needles, you know, I feel for you that you can't bring your grandson outside because of needles. And, you know, I also live on South Cherry, but I live Upper South Cherry. But it seems like they're moving up now because my neighbors knocked on my door on Saturday, said, "Did you have someone on your porch last night? Because we had someone." I did not, but they had a drug addict come like this, she was high just sitting on her front porch and they had to call the police to remove her.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Nelson: Thank you, Chairwoman Brown, and good evening, members of the council and the public here. So obviously, I'll start on the Rose Street Main Street corridor. I do have some prepared comments, which I'll save.

But on that issue, just to put this in perspective, I met last week with Councilmember Grant and Hudson River housing staff and did a walk through there. This followed a similar walk through and in-depth conversation that we had where we were joined by Councilmember Flowers as well. There's been a lot of attention paid to this. I, one of the first things I did when I took over the mayor's responsibilities was to meet with police command, increase patrols, boost community policing and pay. Ask our teams throughout city hall. Not just policing, but public works. Our building inspector, our fire department, everybody in city government to make to pay more attention to the issues in that core center of this city. I'm not going to spend a lot of time tonight on what the bigger problems are. I think we all know what they are.

What I want to focus on as your mayor is, what are the solutions? And I'm willing to work with anybody either up here or in the audience or at home who wants to work with us in our administration in working together to solve this problem.

What the chairwoman mentioned and I had a good conversation with Mrs. Brown about this recently she was one of the first to know is that the City of Poughkeepsie is close to settling litigation related to the opioid crisis. And this is going to generate some money which is not general fund money. This is money that we can count on for about the next decade or two. And we are close to working out what to do with that and how to

maximize the use of that opioid settlement for the betterment of this community. I can tell you that I had a conversation with Oasis and folks at the state about this today. The approximate amount is about \$168,000 a year for about 16 years, and that may be just one of maybe two or three settlements. And we have a period of time. I wasn't given a specific deadline, but I'm going to say at least a couple of weeks to get a plan of action back up to the state in terms of what we're going to do.

I also had a conversation with leadership at the Dutchess County Department of Behavioral Health about what the county is going to do with their money. Obviously, the county is also a recipient of these opioid settlements. I'm not sure of the amount. I had a similar conversation with my colleague, town Supervisor Baisley at the town of Poughkeepsie.

It's my belief that the county, the town and the city and maybe others should get together with council leadership and come up with a plan where we are able to leverage each other's opioid instead of us, each operating in a vacuum independently of one another where we could inadvertently duplicate services or essentially flush good money after bad. It's my own opinion that there are a good number of services available in the city of Poughkeepsie that could help that are just not being utilized.

I think one of the problems that I hear and I know Chairwoman Brown shares this view is the challenge for us and others to put the people who need the services in touch with the services and to convince folks to accept the help that is clearly out there in the City of Poughkeepsie and throughout the state in New York. That is our challenge as a community. It's not just about police in Main Street or Rose Street, it's about helping people accept help that is out there. Is the help there? It is there. How do we get them that help in a willing way? We can move folks along.

But as I talked to with Councilmember Flowers about this and also Councilmember Grant, you know, you start to feel like you're playing a game of whack a mole. You're moving people along from one block to the other. How does that help our community? We could maybe solve the problem that Rose and Main Street, and it shows up two weeks later, two blocks away. We can do better than that. As a community, we must do better than that. So I'm going to invite members of this council to join me in discussions with other parties over the next couple of weeks to come up with a plan of action for that money. It could be spent on police overtime if they want. It could be spent in partnership with Mental Health America, although I know we already spend some money in partnership with them. It could be spent in partnership with Hudson River housing to help give them some leverage in terms of what they could do.

Councilmember Grant and others suggested that we need to do other things too, like infrastructure repair. We need more lighting, for example. I want to give credit to Associate Director of Hudson River Housing Christa Hines, who mentioned to me and to Chris Grant this week that they might want to actually construct a building on that corner lot where there could be some further services provided to the community and maybe residential upstairs or something there. This is just in the conceptual stage. But the

point I'm making as your Mayor tonight is, good ideas, bad ideas. We'll take all ideas. But we do have the financial resources to take some action. And that wasn't the case just a few years ago. We actually have some resources to do something about this, and I think we need to work together to do it. I hope that answers that.

Chairwoman Brown: It does. And then Councilmember Flowers had a response. But I just I want to point this out. There's a lot of brilliant members of the public.

Please utilize the opportunity for this public hearing on the first in a public meeting on the 25th to bring your ideas because it's not enough just for the county to provide a homeless shelter. We need additional supports and services because we're not just dealing with a homeless population.

We're dealing with a high population of homeless who have meant suffered from mental illness, who are suffering from addiction, who need support and assistance. So I think, you know, collectively we can come up with some concrete attainable things for the county to incorporate along with the building of this homeless shelter.

And I want to give Councilmember Flowers. I have to speak because she has been working since 26 Oakley, and she was I represent incentive for the council when it came to 26 Oakley, so this is something near and dear to her heart. So I know you wanted to add something to this.

Councilmember Flowers: Thank you, Chairwoman. I'm just going back to the situation that's happening on Rose. Of course, Rose is in the fifth ward and across the street is a sixth ward. So it's always been a problem for us, the two Councilmembers.

I'm dealing with that situation, and I did take Mayor Nelson up in that area there because of the fact that I don't think enough attention is being made in that in that corridor there as far as Hudson River housing is concerned. There are some things that has to be done down at the building itself as far as when certain people are engaging in certain activities to ensure that people are held accountable in that building.

That was one issue as far as lighting is concerned. I talked with the mayor also not really sure whether that's going to really work because the activity that's happening right now is happening in broad daylight. So we have an extra light up there. It is, you know, just saying, you know, they're just going to continue doing that kind of activity.

The other situation was, is that, you know, it is getting worse up there. People are not only are they actually getting high and shooting up right there in broad daylight, right on the streets, But now individuals who are taking opportunities are now selling right next to them. So every little congregated little group that you see that are using, you see another group next to them who are selling.

Also, there's also some buildings that are up there that are taking advantage of the situation and opening up their basement to the point where now there's individuals going in the basement and conducting their activities also. So it is getting a little bit out of hand

and police are aware of it. There's only so much they can do. The thing is, is that and I talked to Mayor Nelson about this and also we talked about the council. We put in the budget, have some money in there for recovery coaches. And I know we did it for two and we thought maybe we can work with leave for Poughkeepsie because that was one of their initiatives that they wanted to move forward with. Well, right now they're not ready for that part, but we might want to look into as far as additional funding going towards that initiative of being able to fund for recovery coaches.

I know Councilmember Long had mentioned that, you know, she has trained several individuals that will be certified to be able to fit in that position. So that's something that we can think about because the thing is the police can move people and they can move them, even some of them that are homeless to the pods where they say they're supposed to be services there. But the thing is, is that you got to meet the people where they are. And so if they're not going to actually be able - because the police can only do so much. Put it that way.

But if they do the recovery coaches and also work along with some of these services that are getting money, they're getting grant money, you know, in our in our city from the state and also from the county, then now they need to be held accountable and make sure that their services are hitting our streets.

So that is the conversation that we need to be having with them. And also to the point that Saint Joseph now had took over Catharine Street Center. Now they're taking over a Catharine Street Center. And it's my understanding, because we're always hearing this through the grapevine, is that the county gave them \$1.5 million and that was supposed to be deployed into the camp, into the city of how they were going to deal with this opiate problem.

Well, I haven't heard anything from them or from even for the county, to be honest with you. So I'm looking forward to have those conversations, because right now, you know, Poughkeepsie is became a place that everyone is now coming here because they feel that the services are here. But instead we're dealing with a lot of the problems.

So it's now time to bring everybody to the table, have those discussions and to make sure that people are accountable. If you're going to take the dollars, you need to be using them usefully and effectively and not to the point where people are just their salaries are being paid. So that's something that we have to continue to discuss and hopefully we can do that with the money that we're getting to make sure that those services are going in that area and helping people not only dealing with their addiction, but also giving them the services that cause them to get to move to that direction in the first place. So I'm hoping that we do that instead of just continue talking about.

Chairwoman Brown: Absolutely.

Councilmember Long: Can I just ask a question?

Chairwoman Brown: Well, its mayor's comments right now, then we're going to go around. You can ask them.

Councilmember Long: Do we know what the county - I know the county hired some recovery coaches, but I know we have been on the streets and we haven't seen them. And just for the record, we were able to get 2 people into rehabs that were on the streets. I mean, it was with consistency. But, you know, that's a great accomplishment. So they're on the road to a different pathway.

Councilmember Flowers: We just need more because it's not just happening on Rose and Main. I know it's happened in many other areas of the city, you know, to the point where it's getting a little overwhelming and it's something we got to. Yeah. What we have to do is and we have to move on this because of the fact that, as I explained, even to the mayor and to other people, that Rose Street is a gas station there and there's a lot of activity that should not be happening there and it's just growing because it's not being dealt with effectively.

Now, I know this will not be allowed over on Hooker Avenue in front of the 7-Eleven. So the thing is, is that whatever, you know, when we have these kind of issues and what, we need to be jumping on it right away and not wait to the point that it becomes very overwhelming.

So this is something that all of us are responsible for that we need to be working harder on. So, you know, hopefully we'll have these meaningful conversations very soon. Thank you.

Chairwoman Brown: Mayor's comments.

Mayor Nelson: Thank you for that. I'm going to move quickly through this in the interest of time.

Number one, I want to address a comment that was made public comment by Ms. Forman that I think the comment was that the mayor told the press not to talk to Councilmember Long. That's totally false. What happened was Mr. Bender reported that he had been told by Councilmember Long to never contact him again. The mayor was not involved in that. I never had any conversation with it. And clearly we all know that the press wouldn't do what I asked them to do.

Number two, a question was raised about liquor licenses that are inactive. I did not capture the name, but I will get in touch with the Chamberlain and reach out to that commenter to have a conversation about exactly what, if anything, the mayor's office could do about that.

And number three on Pelton and while there were a number of comments made about Pelton that I feel a need to reply to, I think in the interest of time, I just do two or three very quickly. Number one, as the new mayor of the city of Poughkeepsie, I

appointed three commissioners to fill vacancies on that commission. One Ms. Elisa Li is an architect. Another, Mr. Tom Parisi was in fact, a former councilperson - eight years representing that ward where the Pelton property is the First Ward. Mr. Parisi, I'm not a member of my own party, by the way, a Republican lives there ,grew up there. I think he said at that meeting that he's lived there for some 50 years and was elected, I guess, four times by people in that ward. I fail to understand how he wouldn't be qualified as a member of our community to sit on that board.

And lastly, Mr. Anthony LaRocca. LaRocca is a teacher of history at Lourdes. He teaches history. So and of the three people that I put in, voted in favor of settling the litigation, and one did not. There was no bias. Everybody had an opportunity to be heard.

The second thing I'd like to say is that there were two comments made about it. One was that there wasn't enough time for the commission to make their decision. And the second I put these both together. The second was that there was a, quote, "rush to judgment", a rush to judgment and not enough time. Seven years. If anybody wants to tell me that seven years isn't enough time for this city to figure out what it wants to do and please make an appointment and come see me, because there was plenty of time.

This property could have become a beautiful landmark. I wanted to do it. Somebody could have raised money. I know there were a couple of artists that wanted to put a bridge up there. They could have raised money. They've had all the time in the world to create a land trust. FDR has got a very nice land trust up in Hyde Park. If you've got an endowment, you've got a lot of money. You could have done a lot of things with that property. But this is the poorest, one of the poorest, according to the New York state comptroller. I didn't make this up. The New York state comptroller says this city is still one of the poorest cities.

We still have a zero fund balance. We still have a bond rating that's below investment grade. If anybody thinks that this city could put millions of dollars into saving the mansion, it wasn't possible. It wasn't realistic. It's like building the Mystic Aquarium on the southern waterfront.

Chairwoman Brown: Mayor Nelson, can you talk to your agenda, please? Because –

Mayor Nelson: I will. I just want more comment back to the Oasis again. I'm serious. When I ask all of you in the public and I echo the comments of Chairwoman Brown, if you've got ideas about how we can work with our colleagues on the Council about all of the quality of life issues that challenge this city. Well, my ears are open, my door is open. I'll work with anybody in the community to do it. I've got some really good people sitting up here with me. Please give us an opportunity to do that. Thank you.

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 Deichler and seconded by Councilmember Long.

1. **R-23-38**, Resolution setting a joint public hearing with the three County Legislators representing the City of Poughkeepsie to hear from members of the public on the topic of homelessness

RESOLUTION

(R-23-38)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRWOMAN BROWN AND COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON:

WHEREAS, the Common Council wishes to have a joint public hearing with the three County Legislators representing the City of Poughkeepsie to hear from members of the public on the topic of homelessness so that the City and County, in assistance with the community, can consider how to address these issues.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie shall hold, jointly with the three County Legislators representing the City of Poughkeepsie, a public hearing to receive comments from the public concerning homelessness in the City of Poughkeepsie on **Monday, May 1, 2023 at 5:30pm** in the Common Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York and the Chamberlain is hereby directed to publish proper notice of the above hearing.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER: _____.

R-23-38- VOICE VOTE						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒	Accepted	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐
☐	Defeated	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐
☐	Tabled	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:

XI. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. O-23-XX, ORDINANCE Amending §§13-126 OF CHAPTER 13 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” *First Read*

ORDINANCE AMENDING §§13-126 OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC” (O-23-XX)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____:

BE IT ORDAINED, by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie as follows:

SECTION 1: Section 13-126 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances entitled “**Residential parking permit areas**” is hereby amended by the addition of the following to the portion thereof labeled “**District 2: Mount Carmel District**”:

Street	Side	Description	Parking Regulations	Time Regulations
<u>Spruce Street</u>	<u>Both</u>	<u>Entirety</u>	<u>Permit parking only subject to §13-189.8 & §13-181.3</u>	<u>None</u>

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

Underlining denotes ADDITION.

XII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. FROM COUNCILMEMBER MENIST**, a communication regarding draft legislation regulating Short Term Rentals in the City of Poughkeepsie

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

- 2. FROM COREY PETTEWAY**, a notice of personal injury sustained on or around February 20, 2023
- 3. FROM LUIS O. MENENDEZ DAVILA**, a notice of property damage sustained on or around March 25, 2023

XIII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 8:34 PM.

Dated: April 24, 2023

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, April 17, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain**