



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, August 31, 2020 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

The Council Meeting was conducted using videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Welcome to the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is Monday, August 31, 2020, and the time is 6:30 pm.

Effective immediately and based upon notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State, and Local officials related to the Coronavirus, the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council will not hold in-person meetings. Until further notice, all future City Council meetings (including public hearings) will be held via videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend at the remote locations where the City Council members will be situated. The public, however, will be able to fully observe the video conference meeting by using the registration link that was posted with our meeting notice and the meeting will be available for viewing at a later date and available on our website.

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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL-All Present

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of August 31, 2020

CCM 8/24/2020						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McNamara	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

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

NONE

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

Amelia Miller- 7 South White Street

Eli King- North Hamilton Street

Kris Pisciotto-19 Glenwood Avenue

Larry Trepel- 15 S. Bridge St. Apt 310

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Laurie Sandow-South Grand Avenue

Laurie Sandow comments, Common Council meeting, August 31, 2020 — Pg. 1 of 2

Last week, the public finally got some long overdue transparency into the dishonesty, dysfunction, double-dealing and sausage-making of various Councilmembers. The public was gratified to have the veil of secrecy lifted, even for a short moment. The councilmembers themselves were mortified.

We saw the Council Chair scrap the Mayor's comments until the end of the meeting. We saw arguments among councilmembers in real time, on tape, revealing alliances within a Council that is split, dismissive, and even withholding information from other members, regardless of party affiliation. We saw councilmembers refuse to recuse themselves despite clear and obvious conflicts of interest, and Council Chair Salem deliver a line of hooey about why the efforts of the Ethics Committee came to a screeching halt. We saw councilmembers more concerned about the ego-gratification of resolution sponsorship, than about the purpose and principles alleged to be driving the resolution.

There's more fun and games on tonight's agenda. The same Councilmembers who hurt the DPW by undermining the City's purchase of the Italian Center now want to curry favor with DPW employees through a one-time hazard pay. This from the very same Councilmembers who published a press release under the byline "Evan Menist, neighbor", while pretending it was a real news story. Where will the funds come from? Not from the Council's slush fund—comprised of taxpayer money looted from the City's contingency fund—but instead from the recent sale of, and 40-year PILOT (Payment in Lieu of Taxes) to Catharine St. developer Kearney and partner Hudson River Housing, effectively reducing the questionable value of that sale even further.

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Laurie Sandow comments, Common Council meeting, August 31, 2020 — Pg. 2 of 2

In just two days, there'll be a special Council meeting regarding 36 N. Clover, Wheaton Park. In apparent violation of the City Charter, the City website posting of that meeting denies the public's opportunity to speak, so I am stating here:

It is crystal clear that Chris Petsas must recuse himself from ALL involvement in those hearings, and that all other councilmembers are obliged to enforce his recusal. Petsas established his bias as a member of the RFP selection committee. Petsas, as then-chair of the Council, advocated for and expedited a contract favoring the developer at the City's expense. On more than one occasion, Petsas has willfully and falsely attacked the City's Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission (HDLPC), trying to tar them with the very contract defects and failures that Petsas himself championed as Council Chair.

First Ward Councilmember Chris Petsas' conflict of interest regarding Wheaton Park/36 N. Clover, is on record and well-documented. When the vote on the appeal takes place, fair warning to any councilmember giving thought to surrendering their vote and their judgment by saying it's tradition to follow the lead of the Ward representative. Wheaton Park and Pelton mansion are CITYWIDE, PUBLIC, HISTORIC assets, not solo First Ward assets. The residents of your Ward have not authorized you to abdicate responsibility for public assets—not in your Ward or any other Ward. Not one person in this City would vote a representative into office if they ran on a platform allowing developers to purchase Bartlett, College Hill, Earline Patrice, Eastman, Kaal Rock, King Street, Pulaski, Spratt, Waryas, and others. Chris Petsas must recuse himself from the proceedings, and any councilmember who fails to see that happen opens the door to questions of complicity and collusion with Councilmember Petsas' conflict of interest.

Brian Robinson- 143 Montgomery Street

Matthew Carroll- 29 Taylor Avenue, Apt 2

Nickeya Allen –141 North Hamilton Street

Andrew Schaffer- CPPD

Robert Pemberton- Lake George (Stop the Violence)

Karen Zirbel-CPPD

V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Rolison I wanted to just give you an update on a few items since I last saw you all. It's good to be back here with you tonight.

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The Memorandum of Understanding that the county exec and I signed a reference to 35 Montgomery was sent out. I know now that we're going to start to have discussions on an IMA, an Inter-Municipal Agreement on the framework of the partnership with the county. I wanted to let you know, and since I haven't spoken to him a little over a week, that we will be, putting that together between our law department and the county attorney's office. And we will be including the chairperson on that information as it starts to develop. It has not started yet, but now our expectation is after Labor Day, when everybody is essentially back and full staff will be able to start those conversations. If not before that. But that's our expectation there.

Also, as you know, announced that the City's Procedural Justice Committee will be the group tasked with the review and recommendations to the council on the governor's executive order. Also to, what we want to do. And we're just started discussions with our I.T. Department. We're going to have a separate link on the city's website to keep the public abreast on work that's being done within that committee, but also as it relates to the executive order. And many of the things that the executive order spelled out that the department has already done and has been doing as a Detective Zirbel just said. And also one of the one of the things that I'm just so proud and excited about. And I don't know any other department in the area that has this particular program. I hope others may model after it with our partnership now, with MHA Mental Health, America actually having a full time case manager from MHA in our station, being able to do not only responding to calls, following up on calls to help people in crisis.

And I want to really give a big shout out to the City Administrator who came up with this idea in a meeting with myself, and the Chief, Captain Pape several weeks ago when we were talking about how we will be able to better respond to the needs of individuals in the City of Poughkeepsie, who not only live here, but people who come in to do work here, to do business here, people who can find themselves in crisis and having a better coordinated response. And for people who we're dealing with on sometimes on a continual basis, and where we can maybe make a larger difference in that person's life, because there's going to be follow up. You know, these things take time as we know we were and still are successful with BEAT. But those are long term discussions that we have with people in crisis on the street and having a relationship with which really one person, you know, to have a case manager, to have someone you can talk to when you want to, it's not going to change out. You know, it's going to be different people. It's one person. It's a consistent faces a consistent message. And that's how you build trust within any type of government service.

And again, I want to thank Andrew O'Grady, obviously the Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health America, who said as soon as it was brought to his attention to do what he said.

We want to do an end to just one other thing. Chair, I wanted to just take a minute to be with Mr. Trepel that was talking about the speeding on Main Street, the loud exhausts the motorcycles. I just got some information. And so this year, so far, our officers have issued 1314 traffic tickets. That's down from last year because there was a period of time in the midst of the pandemic when we were not we were not doing that. And we are redoubling our efforts to crack down on aggressive and unsafe driving, which also includes those types of noises that you're hearing and we are hearing throughout the entire city.

I wish I had a better answer to that, but our officers are, you know, actively enforcing vehicle and traffic our traffic unit, is as aggressive in going after unsafe drivers.

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And we're partnering with the state police for traffic enforcement along the arterial highways, which is going to be freeing up our officers to concentrate in the neighborhoods, which obviously have also seen a large increase in unsafe and aggressive driving. And I know all of us on the school have just been have been, you know, unfortunately, victims of these types of situations.

So that's my report tonight.

VI. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chair Salem: The first of two special Zoom meetings to hear an appeal from AIA Tinkelman Architecture (the Applicant) on the decision of the Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission (HDLPC) denial of a Certificate of Appropriateness for 36 North Clover Street will occur this Wednesday, September 2, 2020, at 6:30 PM.

This first session will be an opportunity for the Common Council to hear from representatives of the HDLPC and the Applicant regarding their respective positions. After hearing from both sides, the Common Council will be provided an opportunity to ask questions. Again, these deliberations will be limited to the information contained in the Record of Appeal.

More information and registration links are available on www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/common-council/36northclover

While coronavirus cases in New York State and here in our local community are more under control than they were a few months ago, we still have to wear masks and maintain social distance while around others and in public to continue to see our numbers behave in this way. This is especially important if you are in an enclosed space with a number of other people. I'm happy to say that I see masks being worn everyone so I know we're all still taking this seriously.

Election Day is approaching fast. There are three ways to exercise your right to vote in New York, By Mail, during the early voting period from Oct. 24 to November 1 at any of the 5 polling sites in Dutchess County, or in-person on November 3. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is October 27 so if you're planning to use this avenue don't wait on. Whatever you choose to vote, make a plan, and make it happen.

The 2020 census is still accepting responses. Don't get left out of the count- it literally takes 5 min to get it done. It's important to capture an accurate snapshot of our community for future aid, development, and in order to respond better to future emergency situations. 2020census.gov tells you how to get it done by phone, mail, or online.

Congratulations to residents of the RIP Van Winkle and Sabrina Floyd, social service coordinator at Rip Van Winkle, on the ribbon cutting of their new community garden. It's such a happy, helpful, healthful, and critical development for those residents and it represents a step toward improved food security, yes, but most importantly food sovereignty and health equity. Such good work. The more community gardens, the stronger a community.

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

NONE

VIII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.**

**RESOLUTION
R20-74**

**2020 BUDGET AMENDMENT TO PROVIDE COVID-19 HAZARD PAY TO
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS EMPLOYEES**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCIL MEMBER LORRAINE JOHNSON

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie community has endured illness and risk of illness due to the COVID-19 crisis; and

WHEREAS, the essential workers of the Department of Public Works selflessly placed themselves and their families at risk of illness to report to work and ensure sanitation, facilities maintenance and other vital services were done to support the health and safety of the residents of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council is grateful to the employees of the Department of Public Works for their dedication and service; and

WHEREAS, the adopted 2020 budget for the City of Poughkeepsie indicates there are 70 employees within the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council desires to provide a one-time hazard pay bonus of \$500 to each employee of the Department of Public Works; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has determined that this resolution constitutes a Type II action as defined by the New York State Environmental Quality review Act and 6 NYCRR Part 617; and

Now, Therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Budget for the City of Poughkeepsie is hereby amended as follows:

Action	Budget Line	Description	Amount
Increase	01-03 2660	Sale of Real Property	\$37,695
Increase	01-08 7103	Salaries - CSEA	\$35,000
Increase	01-08 7803	FICA	2187.50
Increase	01-08 7803.M	Medicare	507.50

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRANNEN

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of August 31, 2020

R20-68						
☐ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☒ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McNamara	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Flowers to receive and print.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-192.2
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”**

(O20-10)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLOWERS:

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

SECTION 1: §13-192.2 is hereby amended by the following addition:

Section 13-192.2 Thirty-minute parking, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sunday and holidays.

Upon the erection of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as Thirty-minute parking, 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., except Sunday and holidays.

Parker Ave., North Side, 20 feet east of Fairview Ave. continuing for 30 feet

Fairview Ave., East side, 20 feet north of Parker Ave. continuing for 30 feet

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRANNEN

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

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O-20-10						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McNamara	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

X. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

1. **FROM MAURICE FRYE**, a notice of personal injury sustained on June 20, 2020.
Referred to Corporation Counsel
2. **FROM LORENZO ANGELINO**, a notice of intent for El Guacamole Senorita's, LLC, located at 206 Main Street to obtain a liquor license. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**
3. **FROM MICHAEL RIECKHOFF**, a notice of property damage sustained on August 4, 2020. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**

XI. OLD BUSINESS:

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Cherry to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m.

Dated: September 15, 2020

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, August 31, 2020.

Respectfully submitted,

Deanne L. Flynn
City Chamberlain