



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 2, 4:30 p.m.

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is January 2, 2024, and the time is 4:30 pm.

I. ROLL CALL: ALL PRESENT

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Public Hearing – December 18, 2023

Common Council Meeting – December 18, 2023

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Councilmember Shook and seconded by Councilmember Grant

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

-NONE-

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Grace Gibbons – 6207 Merlot / Save Our Deer**
- **Regina Lewis – 187 Main St**
- **Jamar Cummings – 5th Ward Resident**
- **Ken Stickle – 118 Catharine St**
- **Larry Trepel -15 S. Bridge St**
- **Daniel Atonna –116 College Ave/For the Many**
- **Marcy Schwartz**

V. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

I'd just like to thank everyone that came out today to [be] present at the first organizational meeting at the first Common Council meeting. Also want to thank everyone that took part in our inauguration ceremony.

As you heard on various people talk today during that ceremony, we are looking to improve and work to make sure that Poughkeepsie becomes a better place and working collaboratively together is not a just an "us" thing.

We need our city. We need our community to be a part of this as well so that we can make the strides to make this city - like you said, Mr. Stickle - a once great thing to live in the city of the kids and now have a name for ourselves so that everyone knows this is a great place to come, move to live in and feel safe.

And as our new mayor elect, of course, made history, we are going to make sure that we continue with that history as we move forward throughout the year with our common council and our legislative body and working together with the city administration.

That is it for my comments.

Now, Mayor comments.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

I just want to say thank you to all the council members that are here that joined us today, swearing in together. It was a great united front and I really appreciate you all doing that. I'm looking forward to working with you all moving forward.

And we have a lot of challenges that are ahead of us but I know together we can get through this and be able to make the difference that we planned to make in the city of Poughkeepsie, so I'm looking forward to that.

There were a couple of comments that were made in regards to 135 Main Street about the senior complex.

For those seniors that are in the complex, there is a pantry that is around the corner from them on Wednesdays. And there were several organizations that went down there to let individuals know so they have been utilizing that. Also, Dutchess Outreach is also.. can be involved.

I know a few seniors have been there, so there are some resources that are surrounding in that area. And we also would love to work with you on whatever services that you can provide, you

know, for our seniors.

Also, too, I plan on working closely with the Dutchess County Office of Aging because we also want to bring some resources to the individual complexes. So I have talked to the person who runs the Office of Aging there and your staff.

And so we want to do more things by going right to their community room and be able to engage in some activities and also with some resources that they may need moving forward.

So it is something that we are looking at as far as providing more resources for our seniors and letting them know that, you know, they are part of our community as well.

Also, to thank you for coming up and bringing up about the Vassar, the slaughter of the deer. I know I got a couple of phone calls in regards to that. It is something that we will look at if you look at the legality behind it. I know this is happening very soon. I guess within the next day or so. I'm not sure what we can do to stop it at this point now.

But moving forward, we will have conversation. At least I will have conversations with Vassar and also with our corporate counsel to find out, you know, if there's anything that we can do or to find out in more detail about why this is happening. So, thank you for reaching out and giving us that information. A lot of people are new that are on here, and I think Councilmember Deichler might know a little bit more about it being that it's in her ward. So, we'll have more conversations in regards to that and see how we move forward with that. So, thank you.

As far as the housing study, that is for my understanding, is being done. They are conducting that. And so with my administration, we will be continue to work with them moving forward on to see what that outcome would be and take the necessary steps of what we need to do, you know, with that outcome, as is me.

I also want to let the council members know, because I know it was a not on here about our city administrator at this point, we know I had appointed an interim City Administrator, Ron Knapp. He'll be joining the team so he will be at our next meetings. So he will be participating.

And until we can find a permanent city administrator which will be starting the search very soon. Working with H.R. and working with a firm who will start the nationwide search. And then at that point, I will have a search committee that would also help assist with that. So, I want to welcome him.

I also, too, you will be reached out from Stacey Bottoms. She will be my assistant. So I appreciate her wanting to come back and welcome you on board as well. You've helped out a lot.

And for those who attended the ceremony, I thank you for coming. But Stacey, along with a few

others, were involved in ensuring that that was a beautiful ceremony. So I thank you for your work.

And also, too, as you noticed, our city Chamberlain Donna DeLuca is here with us now. And she is also going to be the interim City Chamberlain until I find a permanent person. So, I thank you for stepping up and assisting in that area.

And also to Damien Powell, who was in the mayor's office, is now going down to the City Chamberlain to assist as well.

And so we start making some final appointments to these positions. So, it's been a great transition.

I want to thank our former mayor Marc Nelson, for all the work that he has done and his staff. And now we have our Commissioner of Finance here.

Many of the other department heads have been doing very well in helping me transition into this role. So, for the last few weeks, I've been spending a lot of time in City Hall in looking at what challenges that we need to deal with and also some successes that we've been going through. So, I'm looking forward to working with you all and Happy New Year and that's it.

Thank you.

VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

-NONE-

CONSENT AGENDA:

IX. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

X. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

ACTION AGENDA:

XI. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XIII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Chairman Wilson deferred the petitions and communications listed below to Corporation Counsel.

- 1. FROM CASPER CREAMPUFF MILQUETOAST, LLC**, a 30 Day Advance Notice of intent to apply for a NYS Liquor License
- 2. FROM ADRIAN BILLS AND MICHAEL SWEETING**, a notice of personal injury sustained on October 25, 2023

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Brown and seconded by Councilmember Grant to adjourn the meeting at 5:13 PM.

Dated: January 8, 2024

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, January 2, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain

