



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, February 20, 6:30 p.m.

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is February 20, 2024, and the time is 6:30 pm.

I. ROLL CALL: ALL PRESENT

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting – February 6, 2024

No motion was made to accept the minutes of February 6, 2024. They will be placed on the next meeting's agenda for approval.

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

- NONE -

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. FROM TILLIE'S COUNTRY KITCHEN, LLC / GENEVA'S BLUES HOUSE, a 30-Day Advance Notice of Intent to apply for a NYS Liquor License**
- 2. FROM BLACK MARKET CANNA CO. LLC, notification of a provisional license issued by NYS Cannabis Control Board and Notice of Intent to file an application for full licensure to open a retail dispensary.**

Defer Petitions & Communications to Corporation Council – ROLL CALL VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☐	☐	☒	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Bob Wallace –Main St**
- **Naima Saini –Mill St**
- **Daniel Atonna – College Ave/For the Many**
- **Karen Hochhauser – Homer Place/Jewish Federation of D.C.**
- **Sam Finnerman**
- **Naomi Brooks – S. Grand Ave***
- **Imad Aluhlafam – Cottage St**
- **Laurie Sandow – S. Grand Ave***
- **Marta Knapp – S. Clinton St**
- **Jamar Cummings – Main St**
- **Mark Klein**
- **Michael Dolan – Dwight St**
- **Kyle Corkins – Kingston Ave**
- **Stephen Pampinella – SUNY New Paltz**
- **Colton Thorn**
- **Andrew Hiller – Rosendale**
- **Leen Almadani – Channingville Rd***
- **Warren Jones – N. Clover St**

The 45 minute time period allowed for public comment was reached and the remaining speakers on the list were encouraged by Vice-Chair Shook to submit their comments to the City Chamberlain for inclusion in the official minutes.

- **Frances Knapp – 4th Ward Resident***

***Submitted written comments**

City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, February 20, 2024
Naomi Brooks, S. Grand Avenue

Good evening. As I know some of you are new to the Council, I would like to remind you of a few pieces of unfinished business that have been languishing for quite some time.

The first is that there has been a lot of discussion about attracting and retaining renters, but there is another group that is also struggling with housing costs. There are older residents here, homeowners who raised their families and worked here for many decades. They are living on limited incomes, and their property tax bills largely contribute to them being priced out of their city. Raising the income threshold for tax exemptions for low-income seniors could mean a tremendous amount to those eligible for such a break. A public hearing on this matter was held in **January of 2023**, and the council has been waiting since then for the finance commissioner to provide an analysis of how an increased threshold would impact the budget. His delay is unconscionable. As it stands now, any action you take on this issue in the coming months will not be able to impact tax bills until **2026**.

The second, with implications for **everyone** in the city: in **2022**, the council began to discuss a resolution that would require Common Council approval of the mayor's appointments to boards and commissions. This sensible approach aligns with our city's shared government model. It would provide checks and balances between the administrative and legislative duties of our city. Some recent appointments have proved problematic, and additional eyes on the appointment process could have avoided these difficulties. I urge you to revisit the idea as soon as possible so our boards and commissions can be filled with resident volunteers having the most appropriate mix of education, experience, and interest in moving our city forward.

The third, related to the issue of boards and commissions, is that as of today, the city website still shows a Historic Commission member listed who has forfeited the position due to attendance problems. That commission therefore has two openings, yet there is nothing on the city website that encourages applications for those positions. There is a meeting of that commission scheduled in two days, and not having a full roster puts commission business in jeopardy with the possibility of a lack of quorum.

The last that I have time for tonight is the issue of the city-owned Delaval property on the waterfront. A task force created a comprehensive report with long and short term recommendations for this property in **2021**. Not one of the short-term recommendations has been implemented. A request for development proposals was issued at the beginning of 2023, and the previous mayor put evaluation of those submissions on hold. Spring is approaching and our residents still do not have access to this piece of the waterfront, nor is there any development plan in motion. Please move forward with the task force's recommendations.

Laurie Sandow comments, c/PK Common Council meeting, February 20, 2024

Open Meetings Law begins by saying: “It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that the public business be performed in an open and public manner”...* But not in the City of Poughkeepsie, where the Council intentionally uses the loophole of caucus meetings to conduct the public’s business behind closed doors, and where Corporation Counsel Rebecca Valk—a person appointed by the Mayor and not elected by the people—has illegally inserted herself into secretive decision-making. Less than two weeks into office, Valk and Da’Ron Wilson were already collaborating on the lie behind the change in Council meeting dates. *[This is where Da’Ron Wilson illegally interrupted me, the public microphone silenced, and the Sgts-at-Arms signaled.]* In an Email between them, not shared with any other councilmember, Valk wrote (quote): “Do we want to make the change to Tuesday meetings in this amendment as well?” Words and actions have consequences, including for people who put their hands on a Bible to swear lawful behavior; then proceed to violate the laws and oaths they’ve sworn to uphold. *[Document redaction by the City.]*

From: [Rebecca A. Valk](#) on behalf of [Rebecca A. Valk <RValk@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>](#)
To: [Donna DeLuca](#); [Da’Ron Wilson](#)
Subject: Re: Update
Date: Monday, January 15, 2024 8:58:13 AM
Attachments: [Resolution updating ruiles of procedure.docx](#)

Donna - the rules of procedure heading needs to be updated for the year 2024. I neglected to bring my city laptop home before long weekend and on this computer the formatting messes up (so pretty please make that change - Thank you).

Da’Ron - a couple thoughts:

1. Do we want to make the change to Tuesday meetings in this amendment as well? I know the Joe Donat is working with the WAC to move from the 4th Tuesday to another day so the Planning Board can take that spot.

2. [REDACTED]

Thank you.

At the Council's January 16 meeting, Valk sat stone cold silent while Wilson lied to the public about the reason behind the Council's meeting date change from Mondays to Tuesdays. Valk pounced when I responded to Wilson's fraud by saying "baloney" from the audience. Of course, "baloney" could and should have been a common response, not only from Valk, but from any and all of Wilson's fellow councilmembers as well. Valk's proclamation in response to "baloney"? "That's the second out of order from Miss Sandow this evening. One more and you can ask the police officer to arrange for her removal." Anyone who thinks backroom conniving, and an elected lying to the public is an act of decorum and civility, needs to check their moral compass. Since that meeting, certain elected and/or employed City of Poughkeepsie schemers have sought orders issued not for arrest of the liars and lawbreakers on the Council, or of the self-interested Corporation Counsel herself, but specifically for my arrest.

Valk's obsessive campaign to accuse, silence and disenfranchise members of the public is nothing new. She is also crafty enough to frame and camouflage her efforts as a matter of safety rather than censorship, painting herself a victim rather than a perpetrator. As part of this campaign, Valk has relied on hearsay; as well as publicly spoken words of scorn towards community members during a city webcast and broadcast.

In September 2023, Valk made her phony case to the Office on Open Government, secretly phoning and writing:

"While I have your attention, I had telephoned your office to discuss how the City can best protect its employees from public harassment during meetings. The concern we have is that a particular member of the public will confront employees to argue after public meetings, causing fear for safety. I had hoped to receive a response on this matter of concern of safety for our employees. Please advise your thoughts on limiting members to certain locations in the room, in order to support our employees."

From: Rebecca A. Valk <RValk@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 6, 2023 2:52 PM
To: Oneill, Kristin (DOS) <Kristin.ONeill@dos.ny.gov>
Cc: Denise Biery <DBiery@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>; Brian Martinez <BMartinez@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>; Marc Nelson <MNelson@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>; yflowers@cityofpoughkeepsie.com
Subject: RE: FOI #POK-2023-127

ATTENTION: This email came from an external source. Do not open attachments or click on links from unknown senders or unexpected emails.

Ms. O'Neill:

I am happy to communicate with your office and I will provide you a list of committee members which I have confirmed does not "consist[s] entirely or primarily of 'members of such public body'" as advised in your earlier email.

While I have your attention, I had telephoned your office shortly before this exchange to discuss how the City can best protect its employees from public harassment during meetings. The concern we have is that a particular member of the public will confront employees to argue after public meetings, causing fear for safety. I had hoped to receive a response on this matter of concern of safety for our employees. Please advise your thoughts on limiting members to certain locations in the room, in order to support our employees.

Thank you for your time.

Valk has a record of failing this Council by violating the Bar Association's model rules; and other times being a silent observer and, effectively, an accomplice to Council lawbreaking. In addition to the previous Council's multiple Charter violations, including their self-serving Voting Rights Act violation, this year we have Nedra Thompson, Terriciana Brown, Yvonne Flowers and Da'Ron Wilson already violating the City's code of ethics; Da'Ron and other councilmembers violating and ignorant of their own Council rules; Da'Ron using a selective extract from a document that I supplied titled "Misuse of Consent Agendas" <<https://www.cityethics.org/content/misuse-consent-agendas>>, to willfully misrepresent that document, as if it supported his actions and this Council's refusal to adopt and make public a written Consent Agenda policy.

Section 2.04(d) of the City of Poughkeepsie Charter not only guarantees that each regular or special meeting of the common council shall include a period during which any member of the public in attendance may comment upon any aspect of city governance, it also provides the opportunity for rules to be suspended in order to enable public comment before a vote on each resolution. Imagine the day when a Council Chair exercises that level of civility and respect for constituent opinion and input, suspending the rules to invite comment, rather than sweeping resolutions through under cover of consent agenda darkness—resolutions whose numbers and purpose are not even read out loud into the meeting record.

(d) All meetings of the common council and its committees shall be open to the public except those that are closed pursuant to the provisions of the public officers law of the state of New York. Prior to submitting any proposed legislation to a vote of the common council at any regular or special meeting, the person serving as chairperson shall suspend the rules of the meeting upon such conditions as he or she may determine to permit comment upon such proposed legislation by any member of the public in attendance who wishes to be heard. In addition, each regular or special meeting of the common council shall include a period during which any member of the public in attendance may comment upon any aspect of city governance.

Six electeds (Ernest Henry, Terriciana Brown, Ondie James, Nedra Thompson, Da’Ron Wilson, Yvonne Flowers) recently attended a conference in Albany at taxpayer expense, with Da’Ron returning from that conference to announce how he learned that Open Meetings Law does not require public comment at meetings. They could have saved the public hundreds if not thousands of dollars by staying home and reading this City’s Charter, which does guarantee public comment. Shameful that a school employee—in theory a role model to our city’s youth, and by law accountable to residents of all eight wards—uses taxpayer dollars to violate law, remain ignorant of Charter, Council, City Ordinance, and NY State rules, and seek ways to abuse power, disenfranchise and silence the public.

*OPEN MEETINGS LAW, PUBLIC OFFICERS LAW, ARTICLE 7.

§100. Legislative declaration. It is essential to the maintenance of a democratic society that the public business be performed in an open and public manner and that the citizens of this state be fully aware of and able to observe the performance of public officials and attend and listen to the deliberations and decisions that go into the making of public policy. The people must be able to remain informed if they are to retain control over those who are their public servants. It is the only climate under which the commonwealth will prosper and enable the governmental process to operate for the benefit of those who created it.

<https://opengovernment.ny.gov/system/files/documents/2023/05/oml-text-05052023.pdf>

Tuesday 2/20 Council City Meeting - Comment

Leen Almadani <almadanileen.almadani@gmail.com>

Tue 2/20/2024 7:56 PM

To: Donna DeLuca <DDeLuca@cityofpoughkeepsie.com>

CAUTION: This email originated from outside the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi,

Thank you for listening to me tonight. Here is my speech.

"I'm Palestinian I'm an Engineer and I work in Poughkeepsie.

When I was in highschool I discovered that my classmate since first grade, who had the same last name as mine was my relative.

I've never set foot in Palestine. In fact, I found myself in a different Arab country that had a different dialect.

My classmate's dialect was not Palestinian, people always asked us if we were related.

One day my dad's cousin and her family came to visit for the first time, she had three young girls, and they also had a different dialect, we exchanged social media.

When I looked at their profile I found my classmate in their photos.

That is what displacement did to our families. To be sitting in a class with my second or third cousin in the same room completely unbeknownst to each other.

That prompted my dad to look into our lineage.

I learned about one of my ancestors abdallah al fahoum, he was a well known imam at the white mosque and was a judge in nazareth, later when the British came abadallah was exiled to Egypt, because he was great leader and they wanted to curb any uprisings.

He used this opportunity to educate himself at the Azhar university.

Afterwards he still wasn't able to go home and he wrote his family expressing his longing to reunite with his wife and kids one day.

That is a true Palestinian struggle, knowing that my ancestors felt the pain I feel today was very profound.

The term you keep hearing "open air prison" is not a new term, Francesca Albanese U.N. rapporteur said at a briefing for journalists in July 2023 "There is no other way to define the regime that Israel has imposed on the Palestinians - which is apartheid by default --other than an open-air prison,"

Another U.N. rapporteur Michael Lynk in March of 2022 said " Israel had flagrantly violated its obligations under international law, depriving the Palestinian people from enjoying their inalienable rights, including the right to self-determination and the right of return. Israel was committing the crime of apartheid in the Palestinian territory"

If you notice both of these resources were before October 7th. This has been a century old struggle that the US continues to fund.

I know a lot of people like to say the Israel is the only democracy in the middle east, I thought it would be obvious that having two sets of laws would give it away. If looking at the crimes isn't enough, then look at me, I was raised in the middle east and here I am. My mom's a dentist she wanted to follow her aunt's footsteps, my grandmother was a chemistry professor, and both could drive before I was born. My sisters and all cousins are very well educated.

These photos I am showing you, I grew up watching,

My first memory at 6 years old was watching a father Jamal trying to shield his 12 years old son Mohammad Aldurra from the rain of bullets but he was still martyred in his arms, and from that moment on I knew no one cared about me as a Palestinian.

Because Palestinians are still being massacred today. Because as if losing one child wasn't enough, even Jamal lost two more of his kids in the past four months and we are still here arguing if it's antisemitic to call for an end to this Nazi regime.

Ceasefire now. Palestine will be free. "

I urge you all to self-educate as Karen said in her statement tonight.
More resources:

[REDACTED] <https://uscpr.org/activist-resource/palestine-101/>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <https://www.palestinediasporamovement.com/palestine-101>

[REDACTED] <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLucJw258kRZ9WzR68fvJ5Gzw3r4Xgff3H%26si=DANhjMRkr2VUMPqr>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <https://www.hrw.org/report/2021/04/27/threshold-crossed/israeli-authorities-and-crimes-apartheid-and-persecution>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <https://www.amnesty.org/en/latest/campaigns/2022/02/israels-system-of-apartheid/>

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] <https://hrp.law.harvard.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/03/IHRC-Addameer-Submission-to-HRC->

COI-Apartheid-in-WB.pdf

<https://link-edge01.lor.com/6/7/62--a5/Ed4Y-Ma6DUGa1-mB3Gw%3D=https://s3-eu-west-1.amazonaws.com/files.yesh-din.org/Apartheid%2B2020/Apartheid%2BENG.pdf>

My name is Frances Knapp and I am the property manager of Maplewood Apartments, serving low-income seniors and handicapped adults

I would like to comment on and support Resolution R-24-15 Requesting DC Reconsider the Planned Changes to the M bus line

Many of the residents went to the informational meeting and spoke about their concerns and objections to the reduction in services but could not be here tonight so I am speaking on their behalf.

First, I would like to thank Councilwoman Thompson for drafting and sponsoring this resolution and for her strong advocacy on behalf of the senior citizens at Maplewood and Corlies Manor who also use the M bus Line.

The M bus line has always included a bus stop inside Maplewood property due to the distance it takes a senior to walk up to the westbound arterial. When the county took over the city buses, the county promised the services would remain the same. This proposed cut in service will require seniors to stand out on the arterial with walkers or cross the highway to go to the Main Street bus line. The arterial can be extremely dangerous with cars traveling 50 to 60 miles an hour. Also, the proposed reduction in bus service in the middle of the day impacts residents who work for the Poughkeepsie School District.

At the informational meeting, officials suggested seniors use the Flex Line. However, the cost to use that service is much higher than the .75 bus fare. So, the flex line service is not an option.

In closing, as a city resident of the 4th Ward and Maplewood Manager, I strongly urge the council and mayor to pass Councilwoman Thompson's resolution and to work with our County Legislators representing the City of Poughkeepsie to stop any reduction in bus service for city residents.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

No Chairman's Comments.

Chairman Wilson had to attend to a city matter outside of the chambers leaving Vice-Chair Shook to preside over the meeting.

VII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

All right, well, I have a couple of things, here.

One, as many of you know that we were one of 20 cities that were designated as pro-housing communities. Which means, we submitted information that was to the governor's office. It was something that she put in place, in 2023. And that was to see whether, if we are working towards extending our housing and dealing with the housing crisis and based on information that was sent, as you see, in the last five years, we have expanded our housing units. And so, we were eligible to be designated to the pro-housing communities. That means that we would have the opportunity to be eligible for certain grant funding. So, right now, we are working with individuals looking at different projects of how we're going to continue to expand the housing units in the City of Poughkeepsie. And now, looking into how the state actually can help with some of the funding when it comes down to infrastructure. And if we would be eligible for other programs that she's putting forward to kind of incentivize dealing with the housing crisis. So, I'm very proud of the work that the Council and administration has done in the last 5 or 6 years. And also, the present Council and this administration of what we're doing moving forward to dealing with the housing crisis. We have an issue with people who are working.. the working families in the City of Poughkeepsie, they are struggling. They're struggling to find affordable housing and many families now have to leave their homes because they can't afford the high rents. So, we are looking more into, housing projects that focus on workforce housing.

And, another initiative that I have and I'm looking more towards home ownership as well. So, this opens us up to opportunities to seek funding for that. So, I really do appreciate that we were designated that.

Also too, I know people talked about the mental health, dealing with drug addiction and things that happened in on Main Street. I'm working with Hudson River housing along with the administration and some of the council members. We talked about it last year. And now we're able to, because some funding has come forward that we can work together on an outreach resource center that's going to be on Main Street, at 488 Main Street. So, we've been working with the county because we don't have the social services, but Dutchess County does. So, they will be assisting along with Hudson River Housing recovery coaches and also mental health caseworkers to help individuals that are right on Main Street corridor.

You know, once our zoning is passed, we're going to have a lot of development coming forward

in order to do that. For people who want to invest in our city, we have to find a way of cleaning up that corridor which means providing the services for people who are occupying the streets in that area. And it's causing a big problem.

So, we're doing everything that we can to try to provide the services we can. I know Councilmember Grant has been working with our City Administrator along with other individuals with the Main Street focus group and that was something that I wanted - attention to that corridor of Main Street. And I know they've been meeting in regards to it. So, I'm looking forward to some of the things that come out of [it] and once [we have] a meeting with business owners and people in that area.

Also, too, if anyone's asking about... a couple people asked about the Ice House. We are - we do have a committee that actually came with the top three people. That was.. that were.. seemed like.. they seemed to be a fit for the Ice House. And now we narrowed it down to one particular vendor that we think is stable to the community. And so, the administration will be going through negotiations with those individuals to find out whether it's something you want to move forward with, with the Ice House, so that we can have a restaurant down there when spring and summertime come. Families can actually sit down and have a meal. And it will be meals that people can afford, and it won't be high dining, but some families are going to want to grab something to eat while they're enjoying our park, they'll be able to do so.

So that's the direction that we're moving on that.

Also, too, if you noticed over our Smith Street, there is the Champion Walk at the Corey Ingram circle. And if you notice the bollards recognizing five people in the community that have done extraordinary work in our community and is something that they've been working on for a while. On February 29th at 11:00 it's going to be a completion celebration of what's going on right there at the Corey Ingram Circle. So, I'm hoping that people can come and attend. And, again, it's at 11:00 and it's free. And because I want to come out and celebrate the completion of that.

There was.. this came up about the Beacon housing study, that is being done. And right now, the person, you know, the company that is dealing with it, was having a little difficulty getting some responses back. So, our administration is working with them to try to assist them with that. We do want them to come forward in March to give a presentation of what the results are. And at that point, we'll make a decision on which direction we'll go. We do want to ensure that we can try to stabilize the rents in the City of Poughkeepsie. We're looking at different options. And what not, so we are moving in the direction of working with a particular company that's working with us. So, we're not just sitting on it. We are working towards that. So just to be mindful in that, also to what came up - sorry Chair - it also came up regards to the boards and commissions. We are finalizing what are the vacancies on those boards and committees and commissions. The Chair and I will be going through and figuring out which ones are our appointments, and you will see that on the website - the vacancies and then calling out for resumés. We had noticed that when we went through the list of the boards

and commissions and committees there were people that were serving that had expired terms. So, we had to reach out for those individuals to find out if they still want to serve and figure out exactly where our vacancies are. So, it's not like we're not.... we're sitting on..... we're actually working on trying to, I guess, improve that process because there's a lot of boards and committees and commissions, and we love the fact that people want to volunteer for, but there wasn't a way that somebody was monitoring it as well as it should. So, we're putting up... putting process in place so and that way that's been done a lot better.

One last thing too. I do have to mention that, it came up regarding the exemption for our seniors. And I just want to let you know that Dr. Martinez did provide a fiscal impact statement. He did do that last year. And I know - I was on the Council - and we talked about it because we also had to see the impact that this was having on the rest of the taxpayers as well. Because the exemption that has gone for our seniors, gets shifted to the rest of the taxpayers.

So, that was something that we had a discussion in regards to. It wasn't like the Council was just sitting on it, because I know Council member Menist has been really pushing for that. So, I know we've been going back and forth on that now that I took on administration, you know, it's still coming up and you did another fiscal impact statement. So, the Council has to decide about what range or I guess the maximum amount for this exemption. And then we will also make sure that it's, it's implemented into our next budget.

So it's not like, hey, we're ignoring it.

It's just the fact that they were looking at it to find out how it's going to affect, you know, the city as a whole, because we were already dealing with an increased tax, you know, tax increase for our last budget. So I just wanted to put that out there that, you know, our Commissioner of Finance was working on it. He wasn't ignoring it.

So, thank you Chair.

VIII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

-NONE-

CONSENT AGENDA:

X. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. R-24-15, Resolution Requesting Dutchess County Reconsider the Planned Changes to the “M Line – Poughkeepsie Eastbound Westbound (M-F)”

**RESOLUTION
R-24-15**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON AND BROWN

WHEREAS, Dutchess County operates a bus line referred to as the “M Line – Poughkeepsie Eastbound Westbound (M-F);” and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County made changes to the M Line – Poughkeepsie Eastbound Westbound (M-F)” to be effective March 30, 2024 where evening and mid-day runs are being eliminated;¹ and

WHEREAS, the City has received an outpouring of telephone calls from residents at Maplewood Apartments and Corlies Manor Apartments requesting assistance in advocating to the County that these changes will be detrimental to City residents;

WHEREAS, Residents expressed their concern that if they have to walk to/across the highway to catch the bus it will put them in an unsafe situation. Residence also states that their appointments are scattered so this will also put them in dire straits; and

WHEREAS, these opinions were express in the information meetings held by the County, but the County has indicated it will proceed with the planned route changes.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council hereby formally requests that Dutchess County reconsider the planned changes to the M Line based upon the feedback of impacted residents. In a city where there has been an increase in population, we are asking for the County to expand the service instead of cutting service to our elder population.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON THOMPSON

¹ <https://www.dutchessny.gov/Departments/County-Executive/DCPT-Route-Modifications-Effective-March-30-2024.htm>

R-24-15 - VOICE VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

2. R-24-16, Resolution Adopting the “Pro Housing Communities Pledge”

RESOLUTION R-24-16

INTRODUCED BY CHAIR WILSON, COUNCILMEMBERS MENIST, DEICHLER AND HENRY

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie believes that the lack of housing for New York residents of all ages and income levels negatively impacts the future of New York State’s economic growth and community well-being;

WHEREAS, as the housing crisis has negative effects at regional and local levels, every community must do their part to contribute to housing growth and benefit from the positive impacts a healthy housing market brings to communities;

WHEREAS, supporting housing production of all kinds in our community will bring multiple benefits, including increasing housing access and choices for current and future residents, providing integrated accessible housing options that meet the needs of people with sensory and mobility disabilities, bringing economic opportunities and vitality to our communities, and allowing workers at all levels to improve their quality of life through living closer to their employment opportunities;

WHEREAS, evidence shows that infill development that reduces sprawl and supports walkable communities has significant environmental and public health benefits; and

WHEREAS, affirmatively furthering fair housing and reducing segregation is not only required by law, but is essential for keeping our community strong and vibrant;

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED that the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council, in order to take positive steps to alleviate the housing crisis, adopts the ProHousing Communities pledge, which will have the City endeavor to take the following important steps:

1. Streamlining permitting for multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.
2. Adopting policies that affirmatively further fair housing.
3. Incorporating regional housing needs into planning decisions.
4. Increasing development capacity for residential uses.
5. Enacting policies that encourage a broad range of housing development, including multifamily housing, affordable housing, accessible housing, accessory dwelling units, and supportive housing.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER: PATTERSON THOMPSON

R-24-16 - VOICE VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

3. **R-24-17**, Resolution Authorizing the Mayor to accept and execute a Public Access Easement Agreement on Smith Street

**RESOLUTION
R-24-17**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY AND JAMES:

WHEREAS, Scenic Hudson had asked the City of Poughkeepsie to consider accepting a Public Access Easement Agreement over certain Property located on Smith Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York (Tax Parcel Id.: 131300-6162-72-461234-0000); and

WHEREAS, the Agreement, annexed hereto at Exhibit A, provides that the City may, but is not obligated to, install public access infrastructure improvements ("Public Access Facilities") for use in conjunction with such passive recreational activities such as, but not limited to, biking, walking and hiking; and

WHEREAS, the Public Access Easement Agreement, if constructed, will allow the general public to enjoy the open space values of portions of the Property for recreational use and will provide pedestrian connections from Smith Street to the Fall Kill Creek and with future pedestrian trail networks.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the attached easement and all other documents necessary to record same with the Dutchess County Clerk.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT

THIS PUBLIC ACCESS EASEMENT AGREEMENT ("Agreement") is made and entered into this day of _____, 2024 by and between

Phi-Tan, LLC

with its primary place of business located at 165 Smith Street, Poughkeepsie NY 12601 ("Grantor"), and

THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

a having its principal place of business at 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 ("Grantee").

WHEREAS:

- A. Grantor is the sole owner in fee simple of certain real property ("the Property") consisting of 7.762 acres of land and improvements thereon located on Smith Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York (Tax Parcel Id.: 131300-6162-72-461234-0000).
- B. Grantor has agreed to allow public access upon a portion of the Property pursuant to the terms of this Public Access Easement Agreement. Public access shall be permitted within the Public Access Easement Area (the "Public Access Easement Area"), which shall be located upon a particular portion of the Property within a 25 foot wide area, depicted as the "Public Access Easement Area" on the Survey Map attached hereto as Exhibit A and more particularly described in Exhibit B attached hereto.
- C. Grantor has agreed that Grantee may, but is not obligated to, install public access infrastructure improvements ("Public Access Facilities") for use in conjunction with such passive recreational activities such as, but not limited to, biking, walking and hiking.
- D. This Public Access Easement Agreement will allow the general public to enjoy the open space values of portions of the Property for recreational use, and will provide pedestrian connections from Smith Street to the Fall Kill Creek and with future pedestrian trail networks.
- E. Grantee is a Public Body within the meaning of Article 49, Title 3, of the Environmental Conservation Law of the State of New York (such statute, as amended, the regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended, and any successor to such statute and/or regulations, hereinafter "the Conservation Law"), a permissible grantee of a conservation easement as defined in the Conservation Law, and has the power to acquire public access easements.

NOW, THEREFORE, Grantor, for and in consideration of the foregoing and the mutual covenants contained herein, and other good and valuable consideration, the receipt and sufficiency of which are hereby acknowledged, and as an absolute and unconditional

conveyance, does hereby grant, convey, and give unto Grantee, its successors and assigns forever, a perpetual public access easement over the Public Access Easement Area as set forth below, and the parties further agree as follows:

- 1. Grant of Easement; Subject Property:** Grantor hereby grants, transfers and conveys to Grantee, for the benefit of the public, a non-exclusive perpetual easement and right-of-way, an immediately vested interest in real property as defined in the Conservation Law, over the "Public Access Easement Area" described on the map attached hereto as **Exhibit A** and more particularly described as the attached **Exhibit B**, which easement shall run with the land and bind the Public Access Easement Area in perpetuity. Within the Public Access Easement Area, the public shall be permitted a non-exclusive right of recreational travel over the Trail described herein for the allowed uses described herein. This perpetual easement and right-of-way provides Grantee with the right, but not the obligation, to create, maintain, use, and invite members of the public to use a trail area (the "Trail") to be located within the Public Access Easement Area, all at Grantee's sole option and expense. The exact location of the Trail shall be determined at a future date by Grantee, its agents and assigns, and routings shall not be fixed in place, as more particularly described in Section 2 of this Agreement. Said grant by Grantor is subject to all the terms of and conditions of this instrument. The Trail may be paved or unpaved and shall not exceed the Public Access Easement Area in width.
- 2. Trail Location, Construction and Re-Routing of the Trail:**
 - a. Grantee may, but is not obligated to, construct the Trail for public access anywhere within the Public Access Easement Area. Grantee shall determine the initial and future routings of the Trail at its sole discretion. After the initial determination of the route of the Trail, Grantee may, at its sole discretion, elect to re-route the Trail as it may become desirable due to factors including but not limited to changing site conditions and trail linkages. Grantee may not construct any portion of the Trail outside the Public Access Easement Area.
 - b. Grantee, its agents, assigns and invitees shall have the right to enter the Public Access Easement Area to survey, construct, reconstruct, inspect, manage, maintain and relocate the Trail. Grantee, its agents, assigns and invitees shall have the right to install the Trail, paved or unpaved, and associated culverts, boardwalks, view platforms, bridges, water bars, stream bank stabilization infrastructure, and similar improvements within the Public Access Easement Area.
- 3. Trail Use:**
 - a. The Trail may be used by Grantee and Grantee's invitees, including members of the public who are traveling along the Trail.
 - b. The allowed public uses of said Trail shall be non-motorized recreational uses, including but not limited to: walking, hiking, bicycling, as well as for motorized personal mobility devices designated principally for routine locomotion of persons with ambulatory disabilities, subject to such rules and regulations as Grantee may impose.
 - c. Subject to the provisions of this section, Grantor and Grantor's guests and invitees may at their own risk utilize the Trail for uses consistent with this section, provided that such use does not interfere with the public use and enjoyment of the Trail authorized by Grantee and with Grantee's rights to construct, maintain and reroute the Trail.

4. Maintenance:

- a. Grantee shall be responsible for maintaining any Trail actually constructed by Grantee in good condition and repair at its sole cost and expense, or at the cost and expense of its successors and assigns. Grantee, its agents and assigns shall have the right to enter the Public Access Easement Area at their sole discretion and by foot and vehicle to survey, construct, manage and maintain the public access infrastructure improvements of the Trail. This right of access shall not be interpreted as allowing for members of the public to utilize any portion of the Property outside of the Trail.
- b. The Grantee shall have no responsibility for maintenance unless and until the Trail is built and open for public use. In addition, Grantee reserves the right to suspend or close the Trail, and during the times that same are closed to public use, Grantee shall have no responsibility for maintenance. Maintenance will include snow removal only to the extent determined by Grantee in its sole discretion.
- c. Without limiting the foregoing, this Public Access Easement Agreement includes the right of the Grantee, within the Public Access Easement Area, to prune and/or remove trees, shrubs and other vegetation and to remove snow, as well as the right to move soil and stones and to install footbridges, boardwalks, erosion control implements and trail surface material, all as may be reasonably necessary to create and maintain the Trail.
- d. Grantee may determine in its discretion to suspend maintenance of the Trail, and in the event such suspension continues for a period of more than three years, Grantee shall thereafter within nine months remove any related signage, but reserves the right to re-establish the Trail at any future time.

5. **Signage:** Grantee may, at its sole expense, place wayfinding and interpretation signs and such signs within the Public Access Easement Area as Grantee deems reasonably necessary to guide and inform persons using the Trail. Grantee shall install and maintain any signage within the Public Access Easement Area which Grantee determines is reasonably required to comply with such requirements as may now or hereafter be imposed by the City of Poughkeepsie or the County of Dutchess in connection with access to and use of the Trail.

6. Grantor's Rights and Restrictions:

- a. Grantor reserves customary rights of ownership, possession and use of the Property which are not expressly restricted or prohibited herein and that are not inconsistent with the Public Access Easement Agreement and that are consistent with applicable federal, state and local laws and regulations.
- b. Within the Public Access Easement Area, Grantor will not install or remove improvements, install or store personal property, regrade or remove or disturb any soil cap or pavement, or remove or clear vegetation, without Grantee's prior written consent. Grantor will not remove or disturb any improvements, signage, or personal property installed by Grantee pursuant to this Easement.
- c. After commencement of Trail construction, vehicular access including parking will not be permitted.
- d. Excavation and Removal of Materials; Mining. Excavating, dredging, ditching, filling, draining, diking, mining, drilling, removal of topsoil, sand, gravel, rock, minerals or other materials, are prohibited. Exploration for, or development, storage and extraction of, minerals and hydrocarbons on, under, or from the Public Access Easement Area by any

method is prohibited.

e. Dumping. The placing, filling, storing, dumping, or accumulation of trash, garbage, sawdust, ashes, hazardous substances, toxic waste, chemical waste, petroleum products, vehicle bodies or parts, metals, scrap, recyclable materials, rubbish, debris, junk, waste, or environmentally harmful materials, is prohibited.

e. Pollutants. The release, generation, treatment, disposal or abandonment of any substances defined, listed, or otherwise classified pursuant to any federal, state, or local law, regulation or requirement as hazardous, toxic, polluting or otherwise contaminating to the air, water, soil, or in any way harmful or threatening to human health or the environment, on the Public Access Easement Area is prohibited.

7. **Enforcement:** Grantee may enforce this Public Access Easement Agreement at law or in equity against any or all persons responsible for any violation thereof. Failure to enforce any restriction or covenant herein contained shall in no event be deemed a waiver of a right to do so thereafter as to the same violation, or as to one occurring prior to or subsequent thereto.

8. **Modification:** This Public Access Easement Agreement may only be modified or amended by written instrument executed by the parties (or their successors in interest) and recorded in the land records of Dutchess County, New York and only to the extent permitted by the Conservation Law.

9. **Term; Successors and Assigns:**

a. This Public Access Easement Agreement shall bind and run with title to the Grantor's lands in perpetuity and shall inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their heirs, successors and assigns. Grantee shall only assign this Public Access Easement Agreement to an entity permitted to hold such easement subject to the Conservation Law.

b. Any subsequent conveyance, including without limitation, transfer, lease, or mortgage of the Property, shall be subject to this Public Access Easement Agreement, and any deed or other instrument evidencing or effecting such conveyance shall contain language substantially as follows: "This [conveyance, lease, mortgage, easement, etc.] is subject to a Public Access Easement which runs with the land and which was granted to [The City of Poughkeepsie by instrument dated ____ , 2024 and recorded in the office of the Clerk of Dutchess County as Document #_____]." The failure to include such language in any deed or instrument shall not affect the validity or applicability of this Public Access Easement Agreement to such Property. No merger of title, estate or interest shall be deemed effected by any previous, contemporaneous, or subsequent deed, grant, or assignment of an interest or estate in the Property, or any portion thereof, to Grantee, it being the express intent of the parties that this easement not be extinguished by, or merged into, any other interest or estate in the Property now or hereafter held by Grantee.

10. **Liability:**

a. Grantee shall secure and maintain during the pendency of this Public Access Easement Agreement, liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1 million for each occurrence and \$2 million in the aggregate, which amounts may be modified by mutual written agreement, and shall name Grantor as an additional insured in its policies. Proof of the additional insured coverage shall be provided by an endorsement or by written confirmation of coverage from the insurance carrier and not merely by the insurance agent. In addition, Grantee agrees that

it shall defend, indemnify and hold harmless Grantor for its use of the Public Access Easement Area pursuant to this Public Access Easement Agreement, including, in the event of personal injury or property damage arising out of the negligent acts and/or omissions of Grantee or its contractors, agents, guests, invitees and employees, any all claims asserted by third parties, except that Grantee shall not be obligated to indemnify Grantor or any party for any claims due to the negligent acts or omissions of Grantor or such party.

b. Grantor and Grantee hereby expressly declare that in creating the Trail they each are relying on the protections against liability contained in section 9-103 of the New York General Obligations Law, as the same may be amended from time to time, and that for such purposes, Grantee shall be considered an "occupant" of the Grantor's lands.

c. Grantor represents that they have no knowledge of environmental contamination with the Public Access Easement Area. In the event that contamination is found within the Public Access Easement Area, the Grantor will defend, indemnify and hold harmless Grantee from any and all remediations costs.

11. Taxes and Assessments: The owner of the Property shall pay all taxes and assessments lawfully assessed against the Property, and shall provide receipted tax bills to Grantee upon request.

TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said easement privileges to the Grantee, and its permitted successors and assigns pursuant to the terms of this instrument forever.

In Witness Whereof, Seller and Purchaser have signed this Public Access Easement Agreement as of the date at the top of the first page.

GRANTOR:	GRANTEE:
PHI-TAN, LLC	THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE.
By:_____	By: _____
Title:_____	Yvonne D. Flowers, Mayor

STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF DUTCHESS SS.:

On_____, 2024, before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for said State, personally appeared _____ personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/s he/t hey executed the same in his/her/t heir capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed the instrument.

Notary Public

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS SS.:

On _____, 2024, before me, the undersigned, a notary public in and for said State, personally appeared Yvonne D. Flowers personally known to me or proved to me on the basis of satisfactory evidence to be the individual(s) whose name(s) is (are) subscribed to the within instrument and acknowledged to me that he/s he/t hey executed the same in his/her/t heir capacity(ies), and that by his/her/their signature(s) on the instrument, the individual(s), or the person upon behalf of which the individual(s) acted, executed the instrument.

Notary Public

Record and Return to:
The City of Poughkeepsie
Office of Corporation Counsel
62 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

EXHIBIT A

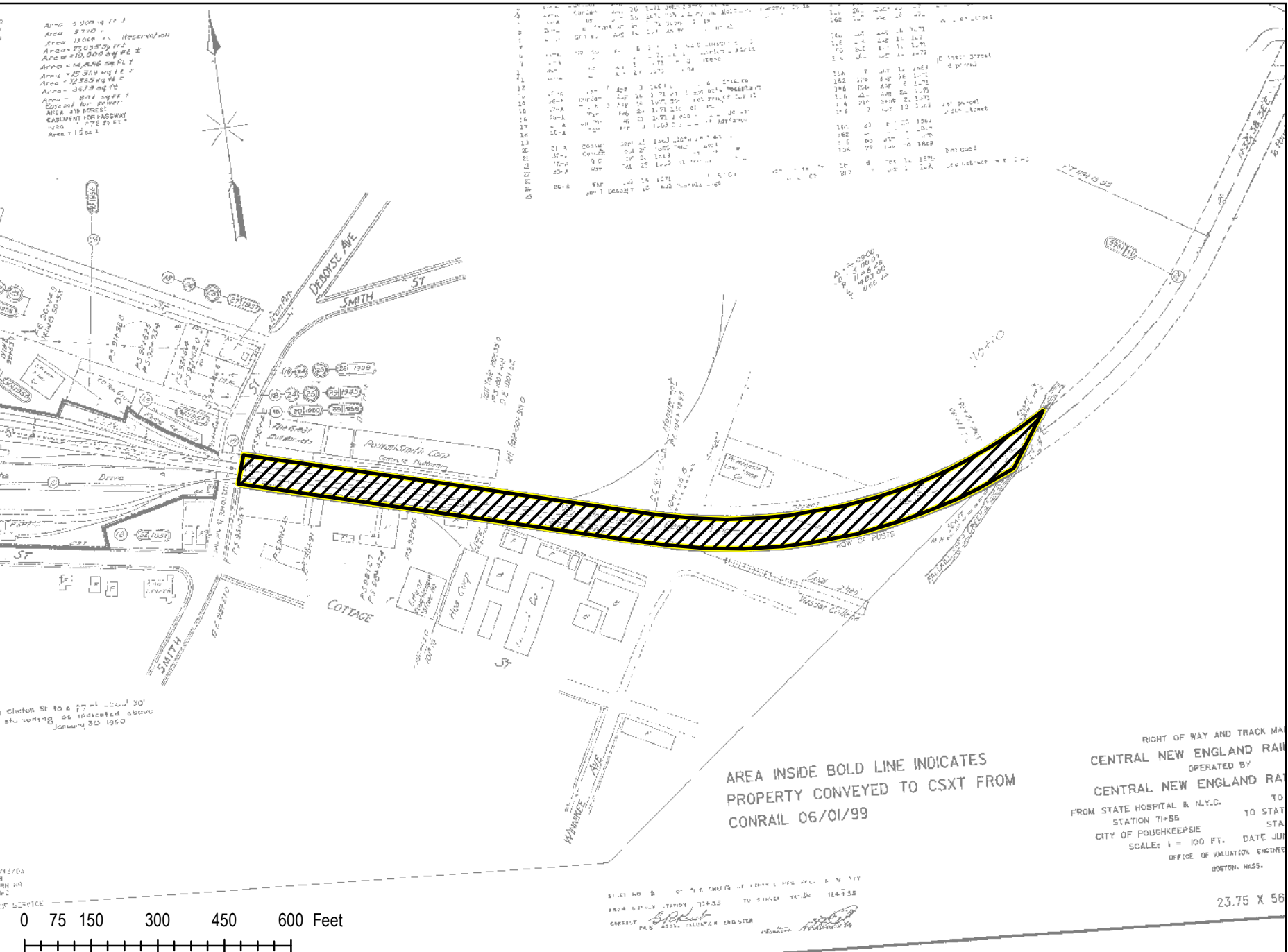
GIS #
72366-001

INTEL #
V8083/3

PIN #
36027 0015



1" = 300'



CSX TRANSPORTATION, INC.
SMITH ST PARCEL
SITE: NY-027-1086841
DUTCHESS COUNTY - POUGHKEEPSIE, NY
MILEPOST: QCO 0.01 - QCO 0.32

DIVISION: ALBANY
SUBDIVISION: HUDSON
DATE: 02/25/2019
REVISED: 02/25/2019
DRAWN BY: V5180

- Engineering Milepost
-  Premises - 2.81 ± Acres
-  CSX Real Estate

THIS RAILROAD MAP EXHIBIT GRAPHICALLY REPRESENTS A PROPOSED REAL ESTATE TRANSACTION. IT MAY NOT REFLECT CURRENT "ON THE GROUND" CONDITIONS AND/OR ACTUAL LOCATIONS OF FEATURES. ALL DIMENSIONS, OFFSET DISTANCES, AREA CALCULATIONS AND MEASUREMENT NOTATIONS SHOWN ON THIS EXHIBIT ARE APPROXIMATE.

EXHIBIT B

Legal Description of the Public Access Easement Area

TO BE ADDED ONCE SURVEY IS COMPLETED

R-24-17 - VOICE VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

4. R-24-18, Resolution Documenting the Common Council’s Desire to Obtain the Mayor’s proposed Capital Projects Program by June 1, 2024

**RESOLUTION
R-24-18**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, GRANT, BROWN AND HENRY

WHEREAS, the City’s Charter provides that the Mayor shall submit to the Common Council by no later than July 1st of each year, a proposed city wide capital projects program (the “Capital Projects Program”), for the ensuing five fiscal years (Section 5.02); and

WHEREAS, the Charter requires the Capital Projects Program be adopted no later than August 31st of each other. A failure of the Council to adopt the Capital Projects Program results in default adopt of the Mayor’s proposed Capital Projects Program.

WHEREAS, this timeline is not ideal as the Council members, like many others, take time off in July and August for personal vacations; and

WHEREAS, the Mayor, in consultation with the Commissioner of Finance, has indicated that the Capital Projects Program could be submitted to the Council as early as June 1st in order to give more time for the council’s review before the August 31st deadline; and

WHEREAS, the Council wishes to memorialize this by adopting this resolution documenting that it wishes to obtain the Mayor’s proposed Capital Projects Program by June 1, 2024.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby agrees that the Mayor shall submit her proposed Capital Projects Program no later than June 1, 2024.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER: PATTERSON THOMPSON

R-24-18 - VOICE VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

5. **R-24-19**, Resolution Introducing and Setting a Public Hearing on Proposed Local Law Amending the Permitted Uses in the C-2 Zoning District to allow Restaurants on the First Floor of New Structures

**RESOLUTION
(R 24-19)**

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING A LOCAL LAW
AMENDING THE PERMITTED USES IN THE C-2 ZONING DISTRICT TO ALLOW
RESTAURANTS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF NEW MIXED -USE STRUCTURES**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER HENRY:

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law amending the permitted uses in the C-2 Zoning district to allow restaurants on the first floor of new mixed-use structures be and hereby is introduced before the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess and State of New York; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council shall hold a public hearing on said proposed local law to receive comment from the public on Tuesday, March 19, 2024 at 6:15 pm in the Common Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York;

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER: PATTERSON THOMPSON

(LL 24-XX)

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE PERMITTED USES IN THE C-2 ZONING DISTRICT TO ALLOW RESTAURANTS ON THE FIRST FLOOR OF NEW STRUCTURES

SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER HENRY:

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

~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ INDICATES DELETION
BOLD and UNDERLINE INDICATES ADDED LANGUAGE

SECTION 1: Section 19-3.23(2)(a), outlining permitted uses in the C-2 Zoning District, is amended as follows:

14. Multiple dwellings in new structures at urban density (R-6), provided that the first floor is devoted to retail, ~~or service~~ **or restaurant** use; and further provided that the usable open space requirements of Section 19-3.15(4)(i) are satisfied.

SECTION 2. This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of the aforesaid proposed Local Law be laid upon the desk of each council member; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council shall hold a public hearing on said proposed Local Law and that the City Clerk shall publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the City of Poughkeepsie of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ :

R-24-19 - VOICE VOTE						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Henry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brown	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember James	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Grant	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Majority Leader Patterson Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Vice Chair Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chairman Wilson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

XI. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

ACTION AGENDA:

XII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **First Read: O-24- XX**, Ordinance Amending § 17 ½ -6 of Chapter 17 ½ of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances entitled “Trees”

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §17 ½-6
OF CHAPTER 17 ½ OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “TREES”**

(O-24-XX)

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, GRANT, PATTERSON THOMPSON
AND JAMES**

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

SECTION 1: §17 ½-4 is hereby amended as follows:

Section 17 ½-4 Shade Tree Commission, creation.

There is hereby created and established a Shade Tree Commission consisting of ~~nine~~**seven** members to be appointed by the Mayor, at least one of whom shall be either professionally trained or experienced in the field of municipal arboriculture; one of whom shall be a member of the Common Council; one of whom shall be a member of the ~~Planning Department~~ **Planning Division of the Development Department** or **a member of the Tree or Parks Divisions within the Department of Public Works** ~~other appropriate city department~~. All lay members of the Commission shall be citizens and actual residents of the City of Poughkeepsie. The professionally trained advisor, the member of the Common Council and the member of the Planning Department or other appropriate city department shall be ex officio members of the Commission and shall have no vote on matters before the Board. All members of the Commission shall serve without pay.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____:

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

First read only, no action taken.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Grant to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 PM.

Dated: February 26, 2024

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain