



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, October 1, 2024 6:30 p.m. Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is October1, 2024, and the time is 6:32pm

I. ROLL CALL: ALL PRESENT

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Public Hearing of September 17, 2024 on Adopting a New Zoning Code
Common Council Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2024**

A motion to accept the minutes was made by Vice Chair Shook and seconded by Councilmember Brown.

Minutes of September 17 th Public Hearing and Common Council Meeting– 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	☒	☐	☐	☐

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 CASPER CREAMPUFF MILQUETOAST LLC, a 30-day advance notice of a NYS Liquor License application**

2. FROM REFINERY 51, a 30-day advance notice of NYS Liquor License application

A motion to defer the above notices to Corporation Counsel was made by Councilmember Menist and Seconded by Councilmember Grant

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

- **Lanette Cunningham – Rinaldi Blvd**
- **Ken Stickle – Catharine St**
- **Laurie Sandow – S. Grand Ave***
- **Daniel Atonna – College Ave/For the Many**
- **Holly Wahlberg – Garfield Pl**

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow comments, Common Council meeting, October 1, 2024

Tonight, the public arrives at yet another Common Council meeting that's devoid of content, other than a single consent agenda item—a resolution to accept a HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant whose substance has never once been publicly conveyed prior to tonight's meeting. Is this grant already reflected in proposed zoning changes? If yes, in what way and on what page of the document? Can a single Councilmember speak knowledgeably about its purpose and why this City rushed partner resolutions through at meetings with both the Dutchess County-City of Poughkeepsie Land Bank and the Poughkeepsie Housing Authority—meetings that did not meet the standards of Open Meetings Law?

The answer, as usual, is no. We have a city that's dominated by electeds who operate like a den of thieves, collecting their paychecks and benefits, regardless of whether they inform, involve, or screw the public.

Early this year, at the January 16 Council meeting, Da'Ron Wilson changed Council meeting dates from Mondays to Tuesdays. He falsely claimed that this change was being made to avoid conflict with County Legislature meetings, something clearly untrue based on the County calendar that had been publicly posted and made available well in advance of Wilson's self-serving changes. On Tuesday, October 15th, his chickens will come home to roost when the Council's next meeting takes place on the very same night as the County Legislature's Full Board meeting, and when dedicated, civic-minded residents have to choose between which meeting to attend. Not that it matters for our councilmembers, and especially not for the Council Chair, who rarely or never attends or speaks at Legislature meetings.

On September 3, Council Chair Da'Ron Wilson abruptly ended the twice-yearly Informational Meeting by storming out of the room. He dismissed and refused to answer my questions, and his interruptions and meltdown during my comments also prevented the Chamberlain from answering my questions. When those questions, as well as the questions I

was not able to ask, were submitted to both the Chamberlain and to Joe Donat, our new City Administrator, Donat responded (quote):

“The City provided those who were unable to receive their five minute allotment of time the opportunity to submit questions in writing after the meeting was adjourned. Due to you being provided the appropriate amount of time to speak, we will not be responding to additional questions or comments at this time.”

Seated in front of me is a Council and Administration that wallows in this City’s favorite practice of operating behind closed doors, and covering their rear ends. At the Zoning public hearing on September 17, it was brought to light that the text governing the City’s Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission had been secretly altered. What was Yvonne Flowers’ response? She tried to blow off that change as “other people” having an agenda. But who has a greater agenda than a Mayor who is hostile to preservation? Who has a greater agenda than a Mayor who recently violated existing code by reinstating a committee member with excessive absences, icing the reinstatement by thanking him for his “invaluable service”? One wonders: what, exactly, was invaluable about those absences? Who has a greater agenda than a Mayor who is now defending the new self-dealing language that will give her even greater power; language that was inserted into the latest draft zoning document under cover of darkness? (Section 19-5.21, page 111, Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission)

Whose agenda was more secretive, yet more intentional, than Mayor Flowers running a slate stacked with her fellow friends, members and officers from the Exempt Firemen’s Association and Community Matters 2, without ever publicly revealing those associations and alliances during her campaign? Who has a greater agenda than a Mayor who deletes an entirely fact-based comment from her social media under the pretense that her Facebook page is a “personal page”, despite the “personal page” content including posts about City business. Flowers frames all the public comments and the reason for her deletions as “negative comments on my page that I don’t feel my grandkids or any other children who are attached to that page should be witnessing”. If she’s worried about family members needing protection from seeing and reading public responses that shed light on her “personal

page” pretense, I suggest that the better remedy is that she act in compliance with the standards of an elected official and cease false representations about her “personal page”.

For the record, Yvonne Flowers’ post read:

“Please note: This is my personal Facebook page and my posts are to let family and friends know what I'm doing and how I am doing as Mayor or in my personal life. If you need to reach me in regards to city business, please do not send messages through Facebook messenger. I do not have access to messenger. Please see below to contact me by email or phone. I will be happy to help in any way I can. If you don't like what I post, don't leave a negative comment on my page. I will delete it. If you are frustrated by what is happening in Pok, please feel free to contact me by email or phone. If you want to post your frustration on Facebook, feel free to do it on your own page. Thank you!”

Also for the record, my comment on that thread (which thread Flowers deleted in entirety) read as follows:

“As Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, once you post about “how I am doing as Mayor” you would be breaking the law by deleting the comments and criticisms of others.

—In March 2024, a unanimous Supreme Court defined when the personal social media account of a public official is a government action, and whether constituents can be blocked from commenting or from following accounts.

—In 2019, a three-judge panel on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit in New York ruled unanimously that because Donald Trump used Twitter to conduct government business, he cannot exclude some Americans from reading or engaging in conversations and replies to his post, just because he does not like their views.

—Also in 2019, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez apologized to a former elected leader from Brooklyn who sued her for blocking him on Twitter. She reconsidered her decision and acknowledged the former elected’s First Amendment right to express his views without being blocked.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

First, I'd like to thank everyone who came out to speak for the public participation. I would also like to thank the mayor and the city administration for their support over the last few months. I'd also like to thank my fellow councilmembers as well for their support.

I would like to give kudos to the past and current council members, along with the current administration, for all the work they did to improve the city's fiscal rating as noted in a recent article from the Comptroller's Office.

I would also like to give a shout out to all the new officers who recently been hired or transferred into the city for the City Police Department. The task force, as if you haven't been paying attention, they've been taken down a lot of these drug operations, especially with the rise of fentanyl in the city. So I wanted to give definite shout outs to the task force and, of course, attorney for District - Attorney General Letitia James for being a part of that and helping us mitigate that through our city and the county.

I definitely commend the efforts for tackling the unhoused issues, as mentioned earlier, on Main Streets and the parks to the best of their ability with taking away the shrubbery moving as long as possible. But as we all know, unhoused individuals are unhoused.

Definitely want to shout out DPW and city administrator for the astounding work seen throughout the city, cleaning up trees, patching up the streets. All the events, I see them there. They're there early. Our 911 event and all the events there, they're early, they're setting up and taking stuff down, so please let them know it's definitely noticed.

The fire department. I see their trucks out almost every single day, all the time. I see the firemen, especially over there on Hooker Avenue, you know, always out in front of the firehouse as well as people walk by talking and greeting people. So, I want to give them a shout out.

Securing - Congrats on securing the planning grant for the North Side with the purpose built national assistance to help fully read the purpose and redefine our Northside community. That was a very competitive grant, so I commend the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance and the City Administrator as well for moving in a rapid so that the north side and of course those council members on the north side for gathering together to people in a rush fashion so that we wouldn't be held back in trying to redevelop our one of our most areas in the City of Poughkeepsie who that really needs a lot of help and definitely successful.

Shout out to all the summer park concerts and summer park events. I know Councilmember Menist has a lot of events that went down this summer in his ward and Councilmember Henry as well, and that's great. A lot of the other events that took place and there are still be coming up some events. So, make sure you go out and support and be safe.

We are now 34 days into- 35- 34 ½ days into our presidential election is very momentous, monumental election.

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So, like, as I mentioned, make sure you go out to vote. Our local elections are equally as important. So, make sure that you go out and vote for all of those things, not just because of the president, but make sure you're going out to vote for our local elections, because we are at a time where we're seeing history being changed right before our eyes. We are now in an age where facts don't matter, but as long as it's said enough times, then it becomes one's truth.

The definition of politics and democracy are becoming accustomed to the individual groups of individuals who want to make it. Being a history teacher, it is really interesting to see how these things are now being depicted in which people will choose not to believe a live event as it is real and something that hasn't occurred as real.

We have super hyper focused individuals that come before us and say things. It's also make sure that it kind of changes the narrative. And, you know, everybody up here has their own story to tell.

A lot of us share, some of us don't.

I myself always been a closed book, but I would like to say, you know, thank you to those people that reached out that know what's going on. I say that because I realize myself as well that I'm not immune to recognizing sometimes when you're in the fire and you're fighting a fire, you don't even know you're on fire.

Mental health doesn't have a label on it, Stress doesn't have a label on it. I myself always have struggled with being vulnerable to let people know what's going on through to my training and discipline from various things. But I will speak about myself briefly real quick.

So for myself, back on February 19th, I was given a diagnosis that people, a lot of people even up here might not know from Sloan-Kettering that I had cancer. And at the same day there was a Monday, the same day my sister- my father's sister my aunt had died that same day.

Tuesday was the next day. I showed up to the council meeting.

Then I had a surgery in mid-July for my cancer and I was recovering still through that surgery. No one knew, I didn't share with the people up here, but still attended the August meeting, still tried to make myself available to many of the events going through the city. Still, some people saw me walking with a cane. Some people didn't. I attended the meetings.

Then Monday, August 19th, my father passed away. And then Tuesday I showed up to the meeting. Once again trying to push forward, trying to make sure to stay on top of the things, but not until a friend of mine who watched the meeting, called me and said, "Hey, are you okay? I saw you at the previous meeting and now I saw you again at this one and you didn't look like yourself. You weren't even sitting right, you were sitting hunched over", as I am now. Yeah. Then another person came to me and said the same thing. And I had to realize once again that in life, we have to realize that we can't take on everything.

Sometimes we have to take a break. Sometimes we have to allow those around us to support us.

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Sometimes we have to take a step back, even though we are elected and even though we are hired to do certain things, like my friend said and gave me some good advice, take some time to yourself. You can't help nobody if you can't help yourself. Now, I'm not going to say I'm over the hill yet. But I'm getting close to it so I don't recover and things that I used to I thought I was in my 30s.

But the recognition and recognizing sometimes is the first step. In order to do a great job or the best of my ability, I want to make sure I'm at my tip top shape. So yes, there might be some times where things happen and people might not know and people might not need to know.

People might not even care.

But one thing I know for sure that I realized this summer and spending that time, because when you recovering, you spend a lot of times with yourself. And it's been in that time myself and actually not shared with the vice chair. I don't usually watch TV and stuff because I'm always on the go working and things like that.

I actually sit and watch TV and see what's going on in the news and seeing all the different perspectives, and it gave me a bigger perspective and I think my vice chair too as well, because he said, you got to realize there's 30,000 over 30,000 people here in the city, Poughkeepsie, and we're elected to serve all of them. And we have to keep that in perspective and not get focused on some of the hyper focused individuals that try to come and destroy us.

And I want to say, you know, thank you to all those that reached out that not even on this dais some people reached out and emails as well that were privy to that information and show support and told me to take a step back and relax and make sure because stress, we know, is the number one killer.

And I just wanted to say thank you once again. And to those people that think that this council isn't concerned.

We live here. We live in the city of Poughkeepsie. I eat at Kennedy's, I eat at Crown, I eat on Main Street, I get my haircut on Main Street. So I walk, I walk, I talk.

We are concerned. We see - there's no way in the world you can't be from Poughkeepsie and not see the changes and does not have an issue with it. Not just for ourselves, but for our children and for people that want to come and visit our city.

And the city administration, I will say, is doing the best they can and working hard to make sure that they're making it better. Nothing didn't come this way overnight, and it's not going to get changed overnight. And I want to commend the mayor for making sure she's been boots on the ground. She's been every - I don't even know how she does it- and our city administration as well. And our common councilmembers. You guys are everywhere, everywhere that you can be when you can be doing things, answering the calls, you know, making it a better place for

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your constituents and the entire city. And I know a lot of times that gets overlooked because we don't wear a t-shirt or a flag or a banner that says all the accomplishments. But if you look and see within this few months, you talk about the negatives. When we look within the few months that have been accomplished with this city council and administration work together, I would say we're moving in the right direction.

We're on the national- once again, I want to say national, *national* radar.

National radar.

And I have been here for 48 years and I don't remember a time where it was that much focus on people trying to help and support the city of city. But, like I said, none of these things happen overnight and none of these things are going to get changed overnight. But what the mayor and the city administrator and this common council's vision working in unison is now we don't have to agree on every single step.

We're working in unison for the betterment of our city and the citizens of our city.

I want to say thank you once again and thank you all once again for being who you are and doing what you do.

And that is it for my comments.

VII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

That kind of left me speechless. Well said chairman.

And the thing is, is only the only thing that you didn't bring out. You put your dedication and commitment on helping our city in many ways and did not know that you were going through what you were going through. And even after all of that, you were still there for our kids as well. You were there, you know, during the games and helping out in any way that you possibly can. You have a have a dedication and commitment to this community beyond, you know, that you can measure, put it that way.

And I commend you for that, you know, and the fact that you came out to say something like this and I know that was not easy for you. But the fact that you did that, I commend you and I appreciate you of all the things that you have been battling with personally, but also giving the amount of effort to the community in the way that you have.

You know, and I know you had some death in your family, but not knowing that you were going through personal things like you were. So, I'll keep you in prayer and here to help you in any way I can. But please take the advice because I know it's been told to me several times. Take care of yourself, you know? And sometimes we can give over 100% of our time to do what we need to do for this community because we love this community. We have we have family that's here. And, you know, we'll do anything we can to make it better.

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And I've seen it in every one of the council members here. And that's why it's truly an honor to be able to serve with you, because we're doing this together. You know, people see it. They see it in our meetings. They see it in the work that we do out there. I mean, in the events you see every councilmember out there supporting in any way that they can. And I this is the first I've really seen it in a very long time. So I've said it before that I really commend the work of everyone. So, the work that's being done in the city of Poughkeepsie to improve is because of the effort of the administration and everyone that you have mentioned, the staff and also this council. So, thank you all for putting the effort that you're doing to make things better.

There was a comment that was made in regards to being a member of the Exempt. And also to the fact of individuals that were on my, I guess, campaign team that we kind of campaigned together. It wasn't about being a member of the Exempt it's actually about individuals that I worked in this community for decades. You know, people that, you know, a group with family members. We all got together and realized that we need to make a change in the City of Poughkeepsie, and we're going to do that for our hometown. So that's what that was all about. Whether we, most of us are part of the Exempts, because Exempt is also an organization that is community driven and my dad was part of the Exempts and showed me and the Exempts was there for each one of us, their members there that went through hard times. We came together as a family to help each other. They went through some bad times too. Everybody does. But I still stand here as a proud member. And regardless of that, the person continues to throw that out there as if that was a bad thing. And it is an honor to serve with you all and campaign with you all. And thank you for your dedication to this community. And I'm not going to let anybody put any kind of, you know, black mark on it. You know, I just felt like I had to put that out there.

But either way.

Back to you. Mr. Stickle, I totally understand what you're going through, seeing some of the stuff going on at Malcolm X Park. Just to let you know that we did have a meeting over at Pershing Park with the staff and the police. We also talked to the individuals that were there at the park. We've been having now - this is our second meeting today - where we are meeting with the county and with different organizations about outreach out into the community.

We're also looking at ways of how we're going to get these individuals in a more different approach to get them into services. Right now, they they're declining services. They don't want it, but we can't allow them to still continue to be in our parks and be out on the street. So, there are some legislation that you're going to see come forward with some changes that we're talking about with the council about being a little more strict as far as sleeping in and on the streets, sleeping in the parks, dealing with public urination, dealing with open container laws. Well, we're, you know, looking at that more so that way when these individuals, unfortunately, are going to be getting tickets, getting these violations, once they get into the system, we have organizations that are going to come in and basically show them an alternative route and get in services instead of going through incarceration.

Right now, that's our only approach. Many other municipalities are doing the same thing because of the fact that you can't force a person into any kind of recovery. But if they're in

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a position where they have to make a choice and we're hoping they make a choice to get the help. This has been an ongoing problem. We are still having a problem down at the pavilion at the river. So, we're noticing we're getting the phone calls and we're addressing it as we see it. If anyone else has any other, you know, ideas, please share that with us, because right now I am meeting with other mayors, meeting with other municipalities, they're all having the same problem, but not to this magnitude. So, they're basically saying, when you figure that out, let us know and then we can deal with this small number that they have.

So we are addressing it the best that we can, and we are going to stay on top of it. It's just when we moved them from Main Street, they started going into different parks. So, there is going to be in two weeks there will be...there'll be a group of individuals had to go in in two weeks. The agencies are going to go in and talk to individuals. They already all know we were there. They explained it to everyone. So, they're going to be talking to them about services out of the park. We want the individuals to grab their personal belongings because some of them will keep their belongings in the park. It's the only thing they have. So we have them talk with them and let them know that in two weeks that all gets removed.

And there's a couple of other things that are going to be removed in Pershing Park as well that been causing a problem. So, you know, we're trying to find it and deal with the approach in a dignified way. But, you know, some of the individuals have become very irate and have become dangerous. So, we are dealing with that basically on a daily basis. So, every council member kind of has a challenge in their ward.

So we've been trying to address that the best way we can within with the law allowing us to do.

[From the audience] the panhandling is being very aggressive.

[Mayor Flowers] We're going to...

[From the audience] If you don't give money to them they turn around and they pound on your vehicle, so on and so forth. So, I mean, that just stops me from wanting to go to any store to buy something on Main Street.

[Mayor Flowers] Yeah. And we're addressing that as well. I mean, the police can only do so much because of the fact that it's just it's happening throughout the city. We are seeing some improvement. But now we also have a message out there and people understand at this point that we're not tolerating certain things that were allowed before. So, it's going to take time.

Like the Chair mentioned, this didn't happen overnight. You know, we were dealing with this even before the pandemic in some of our neighborhoods. But now people are seeing it more because it's spreading out to the Main Street corridor. But we were dealing with this on some of and some of our streets and neighborhoods like on Lent and Harrison.

And it was going on for a while. So now it's becoming more evident out there in the public. So, we are addressing to the best that we can. So, little by little we'll see improvements and

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hopefully by this time when the springtime comes again, we won't see the explosion like we did this year. Because when it gets cold, people start to disappear and they go in different places. Some will go in to get services because they don't want to be out in the cold. But, you know, our county has changed the way they do things as far as the pods. So, you can't just walk in. So, there's no walk-in center anywhere in the city because at this point right now if they do not want the services and they do not want to fill out an application and say that they are going to work with a case manager, they're not allowed in the pods. So, right now, individuals are sleeping more on the street. So, we've had a conversation today to have more to have more of a dialogue about how we're going to handle those individuals that just want a place to sleep for the day. And right now, there is - there's not a place right now.

So we are talking with some of the faith-based organizations that are also... that want to get involved to help. So, again, this is something that we are working on. So, just ask people to try to be patient. And our police is doing a fantastic job out there just helping to deal with the situation. But they're only one entity. You know, this is going to be an approach that, you know, many others are going to have to be involved to address this. So, we'll be there. And I was at Malcolm X had to clear out one time before. So, but the individuals also help me to clean up. But we also have to make sure let them know that that's not a hangout spot. Our kids do use that park very often. So, we want to make sure they feel safe.

We will talk with Central Hudson over on North Hamilton. It is not just Central Hudson, but the county has also been doing some renovations, you know, with the new Justice Center - Jail. So, now that they're getting close to the point of completion, we're going to have a conversation in regards to them, because there have been many contractors that have been on our street. That road, if you remember, a few years ago, was repaved. And now it looks like it was never touched. So, you know, we can't put money into repaving roads and then all of a sudden now we have other contractors come behind it and then now it's back to the state it was before. It's a waste of money. A waste of taxpayers' money. So, we need to have more of a coordinated effort when it comes down to road work. And so that's something that we're trying to do at this point. But yes, we will be reaching out to who's going to take care of North Hamilton Street because it should not be the City of Poughkeepsie taxpayers.

What else? The other thing is, too, is I want to congratulate the Empire Training Center. That's at The Chance they opened. And so if you know of anyone who might be interested in going into any kind of vocational training in regards to the arts, they will be taking applications soon. So, just look out for that. They're going to be putting more information out there, but they're in The Chance Theater. They did a wonderful job in renovating that. And so they have a lot more work that they're going to do. And I'm looking forward to them really bringing some different type of energy and life to that corner of Main and Crannel Square.

Also, I want to congratulate Vassar College with their Heartwood Hotel and the Salt Line restaurant that's right there. It's on College and that corner there. Yeah, it is in the Town of Poughkeepsie, but it's - I've been at the restaurant. It's very good. And the facilities that are there are open to the community. So, it is a place that if people have conferences and they want to utilize the space, they can contact Vassar. But it's a beautiful place.

So I really appreciate the work that they put into that.

As far as the neighborhood, the Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant that is on the agenda for the council to accept. I know it was mentioned the fact that this is done behind closed doors or whatever it may be on that is not the case whatsoever. It's been out there in the public.

We did a press release on it. It's been out there. People have found out about it, has contacted our office to see what they can do to help with the planning process.

So I thank the council members that were involved with that and looking forward to working with the council as we go through the 20 month planning process to actually implement a plan or create a plan that will help revitalize that Northside area, that would include the Thurgood Marshall, which is the Delafield Complex and also the Martin Luther King Complex. And a planning grant is made to be used to help revitalize those two complexes along with the surrounding neighborhood and bringing in amenities and also some vocational and, you know, educational training and employment opportunities.

I'm very excited about it because it's a consortium of so many agencies and organizations and the Poughkeepsie Housing Authority to work together of how we're going to improve the low income housing complexes that are in that area.

So I'm looking forward to that.

So thank you, Chair.

VIII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

IX. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

CONSENT AGENDA:

X. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. R-24-71, Resolution Accepting HUD Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant

**RESOLUTION
ACCEPTING HUD CHOICE NEIGHBORHOODS PLANNING GRANT
(R-24-71)**

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON AND COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, DEICHLER, MENIST, GRANT, BROWN, HENRY AND JAMES.

WHEREAS, The City of Poughkeepsie has been awarded the Choice Neighborhoods Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) in the amount of \$500,000 to support the development of a comprehensive neighborhood Transformation Plan for the Northside neighborhood; and

WHEREAS, The City of Poughkeepsie is 1 of 13 awardees of 42 applications nationwide; and

WHEREAS, The Choice Neighborhoods program is focused on three core goals, specifically, replacing severely distressed public housing that is responsive to the needs of residents, improves outcomes related to health, employment, education and income for the people living in the target neighborhood, and creates conditions for long term public and private reinvestment which will promote economic development and result in benefits for residents,

WHEREAS, The Choice Neighborhood Planning Grant agreement runs 30 months from grant award date of September 6, 2024 to the Period of Performance end date of March 31, 2027; and

WHEREAS, The assistance that is the subject of this Grant Agreement is authorized by, and required to be used in accordance with, Section 24 of the U.S. Housing Act of 1937 and the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2024 (Public Law 118-42, approved March 9, 2024) (“FY2024 Appropriations”), (collectively the “Choice Neighborhoods Authorization”), and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council accepts the restricted-use Choice Neighborhoods grant from HUD in the amount of \$500,000; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that Mayor Yvonne Flowers is authorized to sign form HUD-1044 and to execute any and all other contracts, documents and instruments necessary to bring about the Transformation Planning project and to fulfill the City of Poughkeepsie’s obligations under the Choice Neighborhoods Grant Agreement as required by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

SECONDED BY VICE CHAIR SHOOK

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RESOLUTION R-24-71						
☒ 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	☒	☐	☐	☐

At 7:36 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Brown.

Dated: October 7, 2024

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, October 1, 2024

**Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain**