



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 7, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is January 7, 2025, and the time is 6:31pm**

I. ROLL CALL:

8 Present, 0 Absent ()

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

A motion to Approve minutes was made by Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown and seconded by Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson.

CCM Minutes of January 7, 2025 - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	Council Member- 1st Ward Henry, Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist, Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown, Council Member- 5th Ward James, Council Member- 6th Ward Grant, Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson, Council Member- 4th Ward Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Public Hearing Minutes of December 17, 2024 - "Hawkers, Peddlers and Transient Vendors"
2. Common Council Meeting of December 17, 2024

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A motion to Defer to Corporation Counsel was made by Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist and seconded by Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown.

Motion to Defer Items to Corporation Counsel - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	Council Member- 1st Ward Henry, Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist, Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown, Council Member- 5th Ward James, Council Member- 6th Ward Grant, Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson, Council Member- 4th Ward Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

1. **THOMAS A MYERS AND BARRY F PAUST**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on December 11, 2024
2. **REFINERY 51**, a 30-day advance notice of New York State liquor license application
3. **J&P CATERING SERVICES LLC**, a 30-day advance notice of New York State liquor license application
4. **ZZZ SMOKE SHOP INC.**, a notice of adult-use retail cannabis dispensary license application

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Daniel Atonna- College Ave

Ryan D- PORPA

Laurie Sandow- S. Grand Ave*

Ken Levinson- Garfield Place

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow public comments, Common Council Meeting, January 7, 2025

This Council begins the new year in much the same way it ended 2024, with an agenda listing only two consent items. If it wasn't for public comments—the public speaking on the record—there'd be practically no record at all about any matter coming before, and sailing through this Council. If it wasn't for the public paying attention to details, this Administration's covert, malicious revises of the zoning document would never have been revealed. The Council continues to extend their backroom arrogance, illegality and/or restrictions further with their 11th-hour posting, alterations and insertions into the Council's new 2025 Rules of Conduct and Procedure, passed at an Organizational meeting with just enough Councilmembers present to achieve a quorum (Present: Da'Ron Wilson, Terricena Brown, Nathan Shook, Ondie James, Christopher Grant, Nedra Patterson-Thompson; Absent: Ernest Henry, Evan Menist; Vacant Seat: 8th Ward). In the meantime, they have yet to post the 8th Ward vacancy, and seem likely to assert a right to appoint someone that suits THEIR own good-old-boys-and-girls purposes rather than the interests of 8th Ward residents. For the record, in the absence of a vacancy posting, I submitted a Letter of Interest and received absolutely no acknowledgment, no reply.

At Dan Aymar-Blair's January 4, 2025, swearing-in ceremony as the new Dutchess County Comptroller, Yvonne Flowers said, and I quote: "transparency and accountability IS good government". But not for the Flowers Administration, nor for this Common Council, who conduct their business in the fashion of "do as I say, not as I do." It is amazing how they've turned public service on its head, using taxpayer money to make the public into servants and themselves into masters.

At the Council's last meeting of 2024, I asked Megan Deichler for a direct, honest, on-the-record reply as to whether she actually still lived in the 8th Ward, and not just owned an unsold home. No surprise, she ignored my request. So let me provide a quick timeline exposing the lack of diligence by certain City departments to certify legal residence, and the willful silence and/or collusion about Deichler's relocation by certain people in this room, as well as some watching at home.

Megan Deichler first put her 12 Cedar Avenue house on the market on October 4, 2024. Five days later, on October 9, she and her husband closed on a house in Pleasant Valley/LaGrange. Two days after that, on October 11, Deichler submitted a so-called “formal” resignation letter that did not show any address at all. (In what world is that acceptable? Megan Deichler, Executive Director, Catskill-Hudson Area Health Education Center (CHAHEC) submits a “formal” letter sans letterhead and personal address.) As the result of correspondence with Corporation Council Valk, Deichler withdrew her resignation. On November 27, she took her 12 Cedar Avenue, Poughkeepsie, house off the market. On December 3, Deichler submitted a second so-called “formal” resignation letter, again without an address. Right after submitting her December 3 second resignation, extending her term to December 31, Deichler skipped the Council meeting on the very same night. On December 29, her Cedar Avenue house reappeared on the market with a new MLS number and rooms that were very clearly vacated.

What does that mean? It means that no later than the evidence shown in that December 29 MLS listing, and almost certainly earlier—the very instant she was no longer living in the ward from which she was elected—her seat was rendered vacant under the terms of both the City Charter as well as New York State Public Officers Law. Neither the City Charter, nor NYS Law provide for Deichler’s twice-stated (October 11 and December 3) resignation hooley of, quote: “upon completion of this transition”, nor for her to submit an effective date of convenience that lets her collect a taxpayer-funded salary, insurance coverage or buyout, or any other benefits for a seat she has vacated.

When I submitted a Freedom of Information request for a dated and time-stamped change of address form submitted by Megan Deichler to the City of Poughkeepsie; a change of address form submitted by Megan Deichler to the United States Postal Service; and a sworn statement by Megan Deichler, verifying that she has only been living at, and would continue to live and maintain residence only at 12 Cedar Avenue through the effective date of her so-called “formal” resignation, I got a reply that there were no documents responsive to my request.

Attached: Megan Deichler’s resignation letter dated December 3, 2024

December 3, 2024

Jamar Cummings

Poughkeepsie City Chamberlain

62 Civic Center Plaza

Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Dear Mr. Cummings,

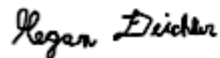
I am writing to formally resign from my position as a member of the Poughkeepsie Common Council, effective December 31, 2024.

This decision was not made lightly, as serving the community of the City of Poughkeepsie has been one of the greatest honors of my life. However, due to my family relocating outside of the City of Poughkeepsie, I find it necessary to step down upon completion of this transition, which should be complete by the end of the year.

I am grateful for the opportunity to work alongside dedicated colleagues and to serve our constituents. I appreciate the support and collaboration we have shared, and I remain committed to the vision of a better Poughkeepsie.

Thank you for your understanding.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Megan Deichler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Megan Deichler

Common Council Member, Ward 8

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-25-09**, Resolution to Establish the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District

RESOLUTION

(R-25-10)

RESOLUTION TO ESTABLISH THE DOWNTOWN POUGHKEEPSIE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT

SPONSORED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON, COUNCILMEMBERS PATTERSON-THOMPSON, HENRY, MENIST, BROWN, JAMES AND GRANT

WHEREAS, by resolution R-24-50, the Common Council authorized the preparation of a District Plan for the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District; and

WHEREAS, by resolution R-24-81, the Common Council scheduled a public hearing on the proposed Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District and directed publication and mailing in compliance with General Municipal Law; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing was held on November 19, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the City only received one objection to the proposed Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District and the property owned by that objector is less than the 51% required to object to formation of the District pursuant to GML §980-e;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council as follows:

1. The notice of public hearing was published and mailed as required by law and is otherwise sufficient;
 - (2) That, except as otherwise provided GML §980-a, all the real property within the boundaries of the proposed district will benefit from the establishment or extension of the district;
 - (3) That all the real property benefited is included within the limits of the proposed district; and

(4) the establishment of the district is in the public interest.

A motion to Approve was made by Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist and seconded by Council Member- 6th Ward Grant.

R-25-09- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	Council Member- 1st Ward Henry, Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist, Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown, Council Member- 5th Ward James, Council Member- 6th Ward Grant, Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson, Council Member- 4th Ward Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **LL-25-01**, Local Law to Amend Chapter 10 “Hawkers, Peddlers and Transient Vendors,” to Revise Section 10-4 “Veterans,” the Sections Governing Restrictions on Prior Criminal Convictions and to Amend Section 10-20 “Penalties”

A Motion to to move Local Law 25-01 to Action Agenda was made by Council Member- 1st Ward Henry and seconded by Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist.

Motion to Move LL-25-01 to Action Agenda - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	Council Member- 1st Ward Henry, Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist, Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown, Council Member- 5th Ward James, Council Member- 6th Ward Grant, Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson, Council Member- 4th Ward Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **LL-25-01**, Local Law to Amend Chapter 10 “Hawkers, Peddlers and Transient Vendors,” to Revise Section 10-4 “Veterans,” the Sections Governing Restrictions on Prior Criminal Convictions and to Amend Section 10-20 “Penalties”

(LL 25-01)

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND CHAPTER 10 “HAWKERS, PEDDLERS AND TRANSIENT VENDORS,” TO REVISE SECTION 10-4 “VETERANS,” THE SECTIONS GOVERNING RESTRICTIONS ON PRIOR CRIMINAL CONVICTIONS AND TO AMEND SECTION 10-20 “PENALTIES”

SPONSORED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON, COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY, MENIST, BROWN, JAMES AND GRANT :

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 10-4 is amended as follows:

10-4 Veterans

1. Any honorably discharged veteran of the armed services of the United States who has obtained a veteran's license from the Dutchess County Clerk, under § 32 of the General Business Law, to hawk, peddle, vend or solicit trade on the streets and highways within the County of Dutchess shall be exempt from the provisions of Section [10-7](#) of this article. Upon approval of the veteran's application, the City Chamberlain will issue the license to said veteran to ply his or her trade in the City of Poughkeepsie, subject to all provisions of this article.
2. **Any honorably discharged veteran of the armed services of the United States who seeks a license from the City only shall be entitled to a 50% discount on the fee set forth in Section 10-7(a)(1).**

Section 2: Section 10-5(a)(6) is amended as follows:

(6) Whether or not the applicant has ever been convicted of a felony **(disclosure shall only be required if the felony has not been sealed pursuant to Criminal Procedure Law §160.57 or by other statute or court order)**, misdemeanor or violation of any municipal ordinance, except traffic violations, and, if so, the date, court, ordinance-**statute** violated and sentence of the court.

SECTION 3: Section 10-6(c) is amended as follows:

(c) If such investigation shall prove the applicant to have been convicted of any felony **which has not been sealed pursuant Criminal Procedure Law §160.57 or by other statute or court order**, or any misdemeanor, except a misdemeanor defined in Articles 156, 158 or 275 of the Penal Law, the Environmental Conservation Law, or the Vehicle and Traffic Law, the conviction would disqualify the applicant from obtaining a license unless such a disability has been removed as provided in the Correction Law. **the applicant may still qualify for a peddling license after the Police Department has considered the factors listed below. Such determination shall be on a form prepared by the Police Department and forwarded to the Chamberlain:**

1. **The public policy of the State of New York, to encourage employment and business activities of persons previously convicted of one or more criminal offenses; and**
2. **The time which has elapsed since the occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses; and**
3. **The age of the person at the time of occurrence of the criminal offense or offenses; and**
4. **The seriousness of the offense or offenses; and**
5. **Any information produced by the person, or produced on his behalf, in regard to his rehabilitation and good conduct; and**
6. **The legitimate interest of the public agency or private employer in protecting property, and the safety and welfare of specific individuals or the general public.**

SECTION 4: Section 10-6(e) is deleted and subsection (f) is amended as follows:

(e) The City Chamberlain may refuse to issue the license if, in the judgment of the City Chamberlain, either the convictions render the applicant unfit or undesirable to carry on the trade or occupation involved, or the applicant shall be an undesirable person or incapable of properly conducting the trade or occupation involved.

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(f) Any applicant who has been denied a license under Subsection (e) shall be notified by mail of

such rejection. Such notification shall be mailed within five business days of such rejection. The applicant shall then have 10 business days from the date of such mailing to appeal such rejection by the City Chamberlain to the Common Council. The Common Council, upon hearing the appeal by the applicant, shall approve or deny the issuance of the license.

SECTION 5. Section 10-20 of the City Code shall be amended as follows:

Section 10-20 PENALTIES.

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1. **In addition to the remedy provided in subsection 10-19, any person violating any provision of this article shall be guilty of a violation and shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$250 or by imprisonment not exceeding 15 days, or by both such fine and imprisonment. The continuance of an offense for each twenty-four-hour period shall be deemed a distinct and separate violation. Enforcement shall be by appearance ticket returnable in Poughkeepsie City Court. Said ticket may be issued by the Building Inspector, Code Enforcement Officer, Fire Inspector, Sanitation Inspector, or any officer of the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department in his or her own discretion or based upon a signed complaint.**

SECTION 6. 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.

A motion to Approve was made by Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist and seconded by Council Member- 6th Ward Grant.

LL-25-01 - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	Council Member- 1st Ward Henry, Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist, Council Member- 3rd Ward Brown, Council Member- 5th Ward James, Council Member- 6th Ward Grant, Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson, Council Member- 4th Ward Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS, NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

NONE

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

And I just want to wish everybody once again that were not at the organizational meeting, you know, a Happy 2025.

And we're going to continue to strive here in the City of Poughkeepsie. Thank you all for coming out for your public comments and concerns.

And we will definitely... the city administrator and the appropriate people will address your concerns.

And with that being said, can I have a motion to adjourn?

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:17pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Council Member- 7th Ward Patterson Thompson and seconded by Councilmember - 2nd Ward Menist.

Dated: January 10, 2025

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Public Hearing held on Tuesday, January 7, 2025.

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