



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 4, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is February 4, 2025, and the time is 7:08pm**

I. ROLL CALL:

9 Present, 0 Absent ()

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES: Common Council Meeting of January 21, 2025

A motion to Approve was made by 6th Ward Council Member Grant and seconded by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson.

CCM Minutes of January 21, 2025 - VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. FROM JOULE COMMUNITY POWER**, a presentation regarding selections in the Memorandum of Understanding

2025 CCA Electricity Supply Renewal

MOU Discussion
February 4, 2025
Poughkeepsie City Hall



Joule Community Power

Joule has served as energy consultant and program manager for the City since 2018

Municipal Clients - NYS	60
Customers Represented	800,000+
Total MWh/year	~2,000,000



**Joule programs
have helped
avoid more than
150,000 metric
tons of
greenhouse gas
emissions**



What is Community Choice Aggregation?

Policy enabling municipalities to determine default energy offerings on behalf of residents and small businesses

Why NY State is Promoting CCA



Creates opportunities to save consumers money



Supports renewable generation in NYS



Increases consumer protection



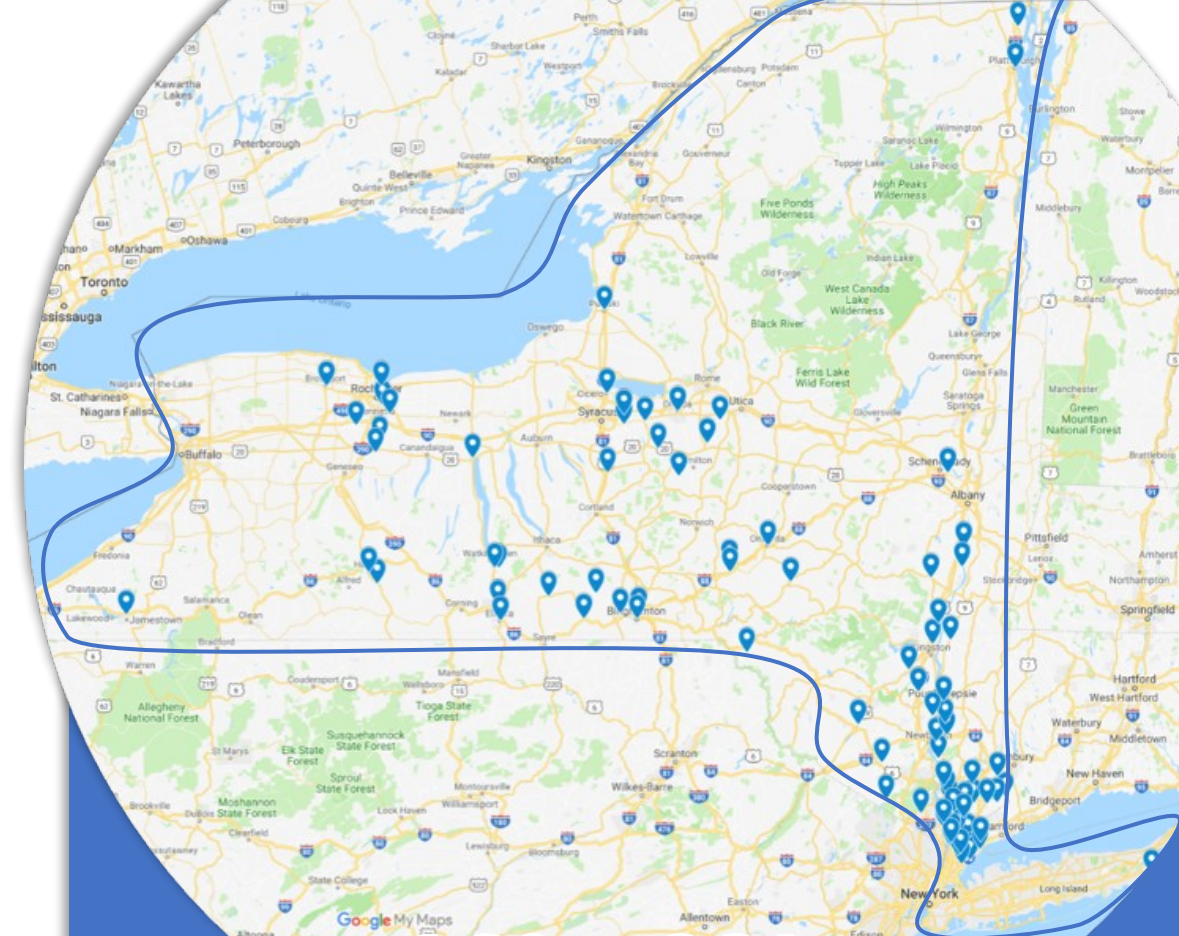
CCA was authorized by the Public Service Commission in April 2016.

CCA Growth in NYS

CCA municipalities	At launch	2025
Hudson Valley	6	16
Westchester	20	31
Orange & Rockland	6	10

NY State 2019 Climate Law

- 70% renewable electricity by 2030
- 100% carbon free by 2040
- CCA key policy driver



160+ CCA-enabled communities in NY



CCAs are purchasing more than **30%** of all competitive NY renewables

RFP Specs

focus on flexibility

Issued 1/23/2025 to pre-qualified suppliers

Multiple term lengths (12-60 months)

Multiple product types:

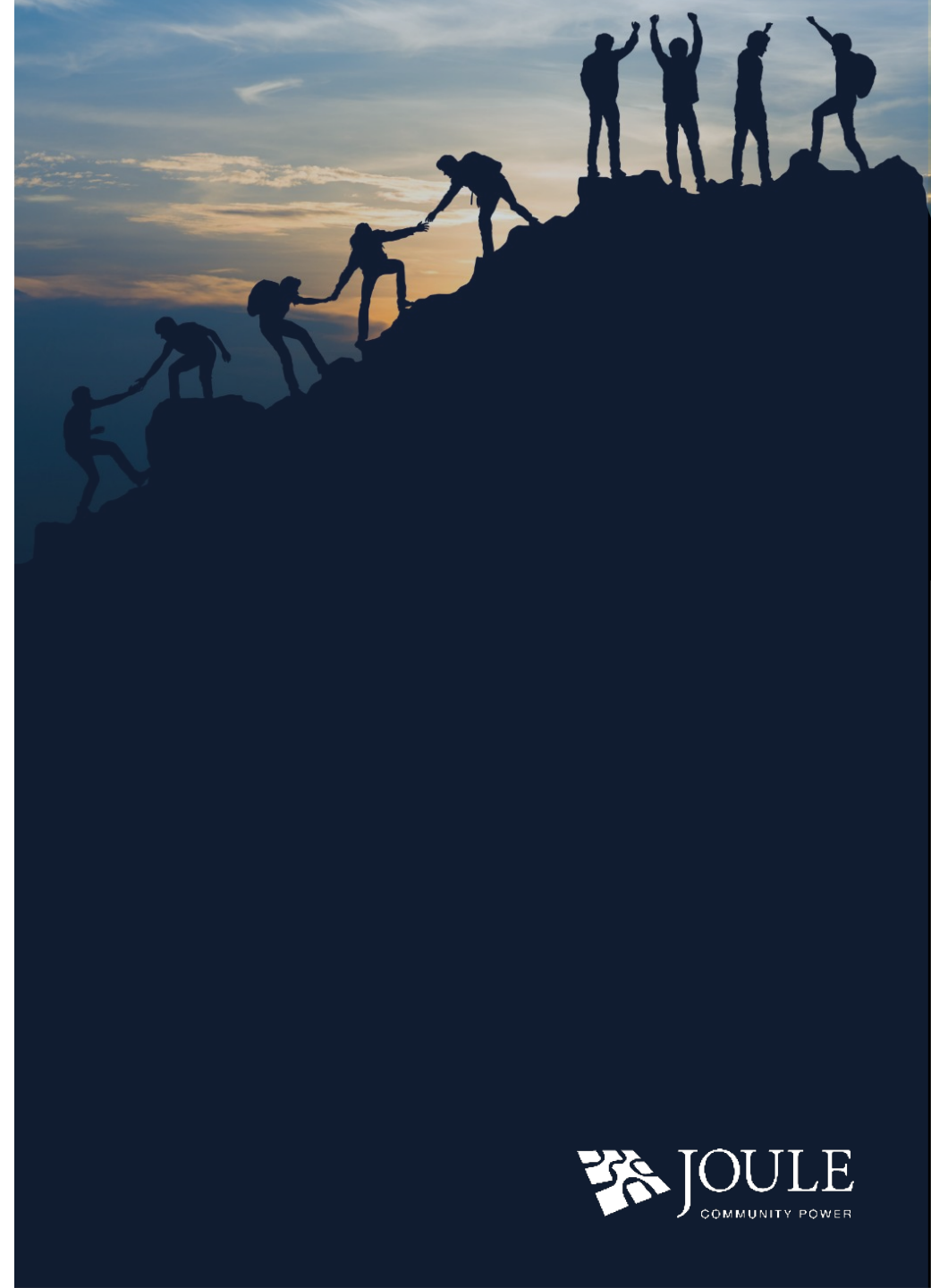
- 100% NYS Renewable
- Blended (50% NYS Renewable)
- Conventional Supply (10% renewable)

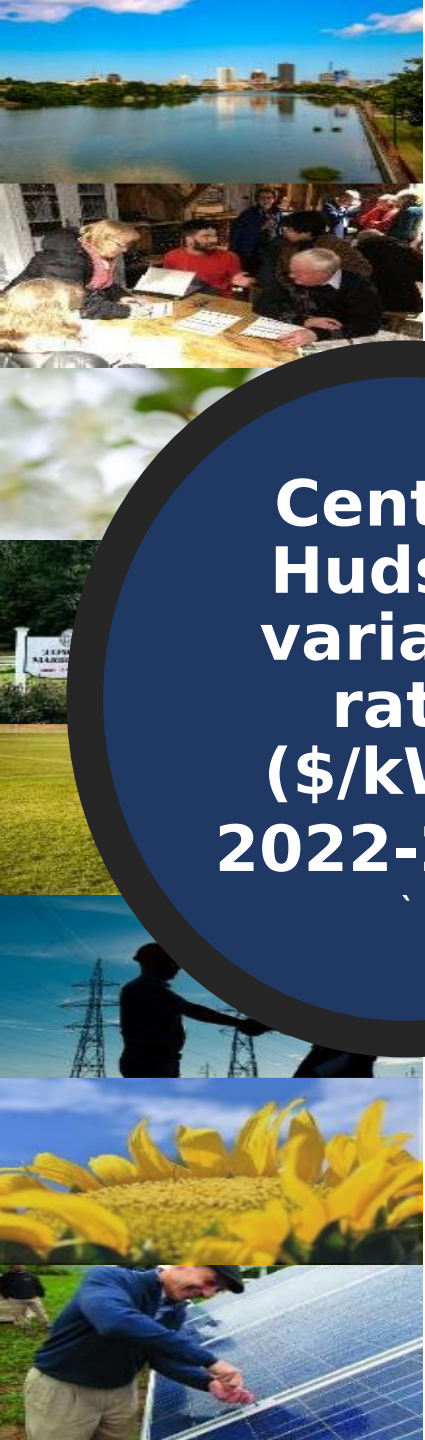
Multiple rate types (fixed and variable)

July 2025 renewal date

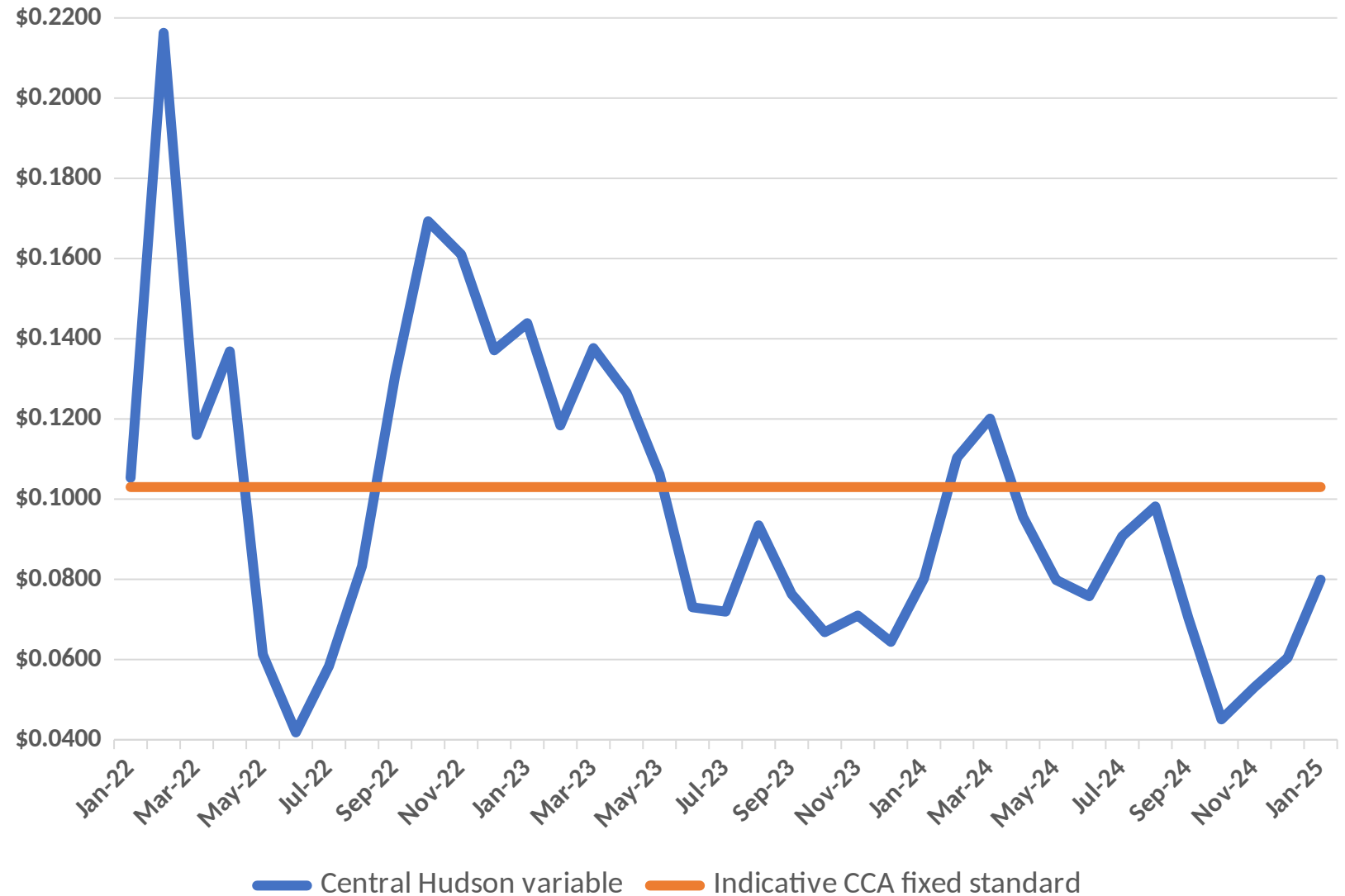
Launch Timeline

Jan 23	Issue RFP
Feb 13	MOU due
Feb 19	Bids submitted
Feb 20	Pricing webinar
Feb 20	Deadline to award RFP
May	Opt-out period
July	Contract start



A vertical collage of five images on the left side of the slide: a city skyline across a body of water, a group of people at a community meeting, a close-up of white flowers, a grassy field with a sign, and a person working on solar panels.

Central Hudson variable rate (\$/kWh) 2022-2025





Memorandum of Understanding

Pre-approval of supply agreement (ESA), pricing benchmarks

- Municipality indicates preference for default renewable offering (100% Renewable, Blended (50%))
- Pricing benchmarks derived from Central Hudson trailing 12 month average (Conventional), comparable renewable ESCO offers (renewable products)
- **Only binding upon final written approval by Municipality after executable pricing received (Feb 19)**



Electricity Supply Agreement

Supply agreement for CCA program

Tri-party structure (Municipality, Joule, Supplier)

- Supplier obligations for service of customers- reliable delivery, price, product, legal/regulatory compliance, billing, responsibility for errors
- Program Administrator (Joule) responsibilities inc. regulatory compliance
- Municipal authority to establish program, rights, approvals
- Customer protections, choice, communications, enrollment options, marketing rights
- Proper handling, use of customer data
- Indemnifications, reps, warranties, termination rights, dispute resolution, insurance, etc.

Indicative Pricing

Source	Start Date	Term	Rate Type	Conventional	50% Renewable	100% Renewable
Central Hudson	Jan-Dec '24	12mo avg	Variable	\$.087*	N/A	N/A
CCA bidders	July 2025	12mo	Fixed	\$.103	\$.11	\$.12
Lowest retail offer	Mar 2025	12mo	Fixed	N/A	\$.119	\$.125

* Reflects allowable 5% above CenHud 12mo average. May only be offered if price is below benchmark (NYS rule)

Action Items

1. Return signed MOU on or before Feb 13
2. Mark Feb 19 webinar on your calendar (we will send out an invite as well)

Thank You



Glenn Weinberg
Vice President, Joule
Assets



646.785.7204



gweinberg@jouleassets.com



@JouleCommunityPower



www.joulecommunitypower.com

2. JD'S PUB & BREW INC, 30-day Advance Notice of NYS Liquor License application

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

Motion to Defer Item #2 to Corporation Counsel - Voice Vote	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Trish Santini- Empire Training Center for the Arts
Mike Harmuth- 57 Hooker Ave
Roger Christenfeld- 103 S. Hamilton
Jeremy Rizzi- 121 S Hamilton
Daniel Atonna- 116 College Ave
Diane Pedavellano- 79 Hooker Ave
Ann Harmuth- 57 Hooker Ave
Shirley Adams- 100 S. Hamilton
Laurie Sandow- S Grand Ave*
Jeannie Roberts- Staatsburg
Adam Cruz- Staatsburg
Tina McKenna- 73 Hooker Ave

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow public comments, Common Council Meeting, February 4, 2025

Tonight this City will get a good look at how thoroughly unqualified Sakima McClinton is to sit in the 8th Ward seat, with her race to sponsor a resolution delivering a permanent Wilbur Avenue easement to the reviled Central Hudson in exchange for the mighty sum of \$1 dollar. The same newly-installed McClinton who did not consult constituents prior to this Resolution sponsorship. The same McClinton who was newly installed by Council appointment, despite repeated rejection by the 8th Ward voters. The same McClinton who, since her last appointed and paid position, never cared enough to attend or speak in person at Council meetings, yet was Johnny-on-the-Spot when this vacancy provided another opportunity for a position with paycheck and power.

In the limited time allotted, I quote just a small part of R-25-18's "Exhibit A": "an easement for any use relating to the electric, gas, or communication industry, including, but not limited to, the installation, operation and maintenance of overhead and/or underground electric, gas or communication facilities which easement shall be 30 feet in width throughout its extent, in, upon, under, over and across the lands of the undersigned, including roads and highways thereon and adjacent thereto..." No metes, no bounds, no diagrams, no details anywhere in Exhibit A, although at least some of that information appears to be in the hands of the Administration while being withheld from the public.

McClinton declared, without revealing her source: "This is SEQRA Type II exempt under 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(1), (7), (13) and also arguably under (2)." Every Councilmember received and ignored correspondence they received from a superbly informed City resident, including, "All or most of the proposed easement is located in City parkland, Spratt Park, and triggers a full Type I SEQRA review". No Councilmember sought clarification of the issues raised in the resident's letter, nor read the correspondence into the record.

The City Charter provides that "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.” But the Council Chair has never done that. Instead, the public is forced to jam every bit of knowledge and commentary into three minutes.

Returning to the inappropriate installation of Sakima McClinton into the 8th Ward seat: On January 6, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, announced: “I intend to resign as party leader, as prime minister, after the party selects its next leader through a robust, nationwide, competitive process. This country deserves a real choice in the next election.”

This City’s 8th Ward deserved a robust democratic process and a real choice to fill the vacancy created by Megan Deichler’s resignation. The taxpayers of this City deserve, but still haven’t gotten, Deichler’s and her fellow Councilmembers’ honesty and transparency in the maneuver that put extra money into Deichler’s pocket when she twice sent an oh-so-carefully worded “formal” resignation lacking an address, that talked about “step[ping] down upon completion of this transition [outside of the City of Poughkeepsie]” rather than disclosing the actual date she vacated her City residence prior to December 31st. Deichler also undermined the democratic process when she recommended a paid lobbyist to take her seat.

But it is the Council itself, and especially the Yvonne Flowers loyalists on the Council, that illegally used a caucus meeting to trample democracy with their prejudices and grudges, voting to replace Deichler with their own personal friend rather than a qualified 8th Ward representative with a track record of attendance, involvement and knowledge. Not a peep of consultation from these sorry “True Blue Democrats” in their choice of replacement—except possibly to Rebecca Valk for a strict interpretation of the Charter. If this arrogant procedure had been applied in any other Ward in the City, the same Councilmembers would be up in arms. But that’s what you get from Councilpeople who also violated Census redistricting mandates in order to assure their own individual election. Yvonne Flowers was still a councilmember when the Council rejected the duly-constituted Redistricting Committee’s recommendations — recommendations that came as the direct result of Council’s own feedback. In those newly-redrawn borders, a Hispanic community of interest in one Ward would have been properly recognized; Ondie James and Nedra Patterson-Thompson would have faced off against each other in one ward; and Nathan Shook and Megan Deichler would have done the same in another ward.

Ernest Henry talked about how democratic the selection process was. First of all: Open Meetings Law forbids votes in caucus—so every member of this Council knows, or should know, that they broke the law by voting in caucus. Second, let's be clear: democracy doesn't ever take place behind closed doors. Behind closed doors is the realm of the den of thieves.

New York State Open Meetings Law begins with the following: “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 commonweal will prosper and enable the governmental process to operate for the benefit of those who created it.”

Some Councilmembers have tried to defend their choice by saying that Sakima was the selection the last time there was a vacancy. Which of them was around and familiar with the last time McClinton was selected through a disputed and lawbreaking Council process? Which one even knows the details of that backroom machination?

Yvonne Flowers joined the fray at the last meeting with a snide remark casting aspersions on what she called the “interesting” process of people sending Letters of Interest in the absence of a Council announcement detailing the vacancy process. Yup, Yvonne Flowers thinks it's a bad thing that anyone but her friends and loyalists get to serve this City, which explains a lot about why there are currently so many board openings, and why the Charter Review application deadline keeps being extended. And if no-one had applied for the 8th Ward seat, it's a certainty that Flowers would be gloating about how “interesting” it was that no-one had indicated interest in filling the vacancy. Maybe Flowers will reveal which little Administration birdy urged Sakima to send a resume the day after I sent my own letter of interest.

Though I have much more to say, with that I am out of time.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-25-18**, Resolution Granting Easement to Central Hudson along Easterly Side of Wilbur Boulevard

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-18)**

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

WHEREAS, Central Hudson has requested an easement for a distribution line to run along the easterly side Wilbur Boulevard from pole P49266 to pole P67070 (located within the public right of way); and

WHEREAS, the proposed easement is annexed hereto at Exhibit A.

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.

A motion to Approve Resolution R-25-18 was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

Resolution R-25-18 - Voice Vote	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

2. **R-25-19**, Resolution Granting Easement to Verizon to Relocate Existing Cables Off the Properties Known as 306-316 Main Street

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-19)**

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

WHEREAS, Verizon has requested an easement to relocate existing cables off the properties known as 306-316 Main Mall, thereby allowing the demolition and removal of the buildings without impacting telecommunication services to adjoining properties; and

WHEREAS, the proposed easement is annexed hereto at Exhibit A.

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.

GRANT OF EASEMENT made this ____ day of _____, 2024, between THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, a municipal a corporation having its principal office at City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 (hereinafter referred to as "Grantor") to VERIZON NEW YORK INC. (formerly known as New York Telephone Company), a corporation of the State of New York, having its principal office at 140 West Street, New York, New York 10007 and Charter Communications, Inc. having its principal place of business at 400 Washington Boulevard, Stamford, CT 06902 (hereinafter referred to as "Grantees").

WHEREAS, the Grantor owns in fee a certain parcel of land situated between the rear of buildings fronting on the southerly side of Main Street and northerly of Cannon Street, in the City of Poughkeepsie, in the County of Dutchess, State of New York, and generally as shown on **EXHIBIT "A"**, attached hereto and hereby made part of this Grant.

NOW, THEREFORE, WITNESSETH:

FIRST: That for and in consideration of the sum on One Dollar (\$1.00) in hand paid by the Grantee to Grantor, the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged, the Grantor grants unto the Grantee, its successors and assigns, the right, privilege and authority to construct, place, operate, replace, remove, repair and maintain service lines, including buried cable, pedestals, conduits, manholes, poles and such crossarms, guys, stubs, anchors, cables, wires and fixtures as the Grantee may from time to time deem necessary upon, over, under and along the said land and the highways adjoining or upon said land, approximately as shown on **Exhibit "A"**, **together with the right of ingress and egress** to exercise all of the rights herein granted and with the right to trim any trees and roots along said lines, as reasonably necessary, to keep the said facilities free and clear from interference on said land and said highways.

SECOND: The exclusive and permanent right-of-way and easement above described and herein conveyed is intended to prohibit the longitudinal or parallel occupancy of said easement strip by others, including Grantor and to prohibit surface or subsurface structures or otherwise of others, including Grantor, which might damage or interfere with the operation and maintenance of Grantee's facilities without the prior written consent of Grantee, but is not intended to prohibit crossing of said easement strip so long as such crossings do not interfere with or prohibit the full use of the easement herein granted. Grantor agrees with the Grantee, on behalf of himself, his successors and assigns, and as a covenant running with the land, that the grade existing at the time of execution of this grant of easement will remain undisturbed and unchanged.

THIRD: The Grantor hereby grants unto the Grantee, its successors and assigns the right to permit the attachment of the communication and electric service wires and facilities of other utility companies and to convey to such other companies an interest in the rights granted under this Grant.

FOURTH: It is a condition of this Grant that each corporation receiving this Grant shall pay the cost of guarding adequately all excavations made by that corporation under this Grant and pay the cost to restore or repair any damage done by that corporation to the property of the Grantor while placing, replacing, relocating, operating, repairing, maintaining, renewing or removing its facilities, and shall save harmless and indemnify the Grantor from any injury to its

property, its employees or the public which may at any time occur through the negligence of that corporation.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, Grantor has caused this instrument to be duly executed under seal the day and year first above written.

By _____

—

Witness

STATE OF NEW YORK)

) ss.:

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS)

On the ____ day of _____ in the year 202 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/she/they executed the same in his/her/their capacity, 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

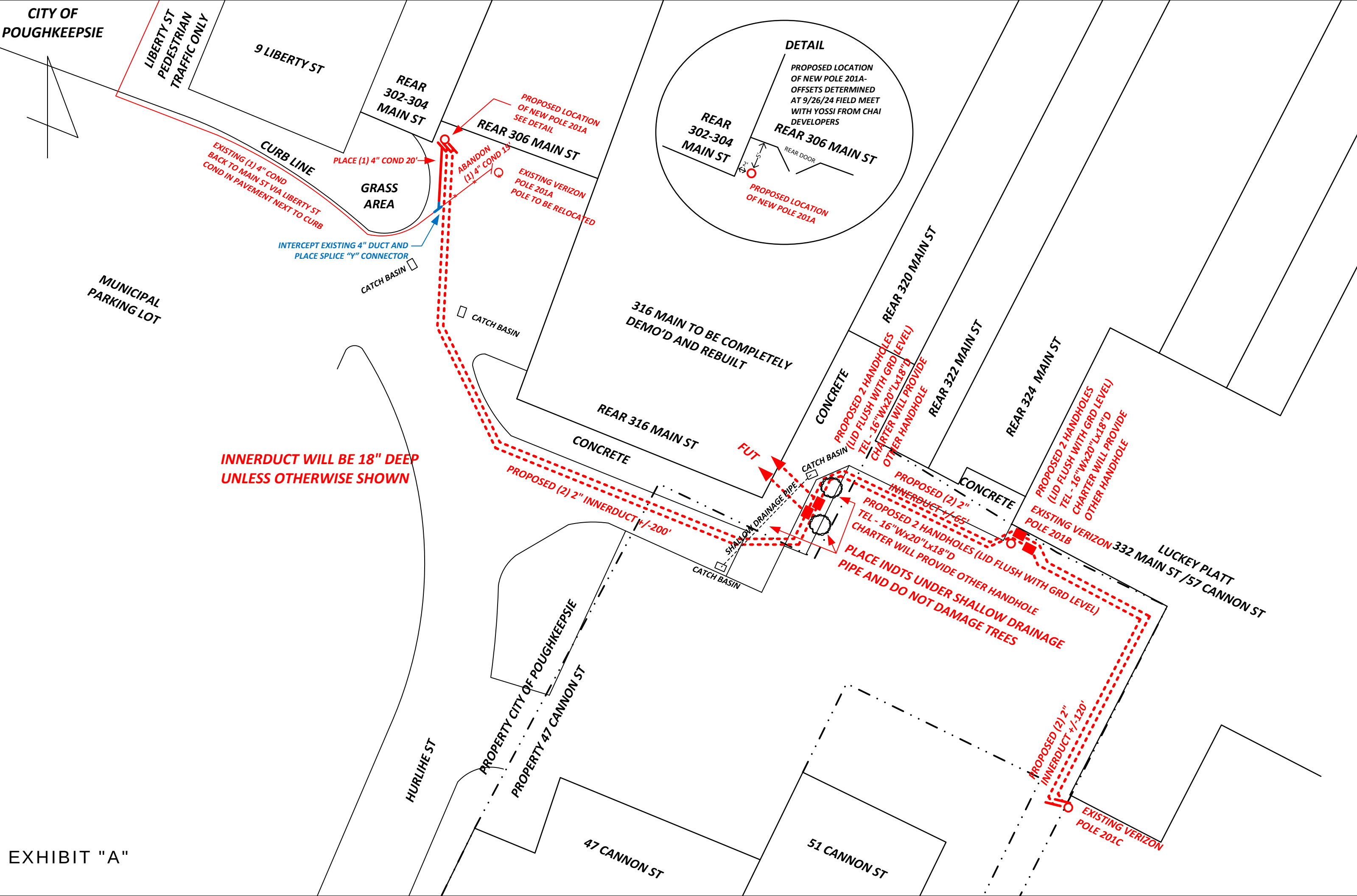


EXHIBIT "A"

A motion to Approve Resolution R-25-19 was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

Resolution R-25-19 - Voice Vote	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

3. **R-25-20**, Resolution Approving Memorandum of Understanding with Conditional Authorization to Execute Electricity Supply Agreement between Joule Assets Inc and the City of Poughkeepsie

A motion to move Resolution R-25-20 to the **Action Agenda** was made by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist and seconded by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson.

Resolution R-25-20 - Motion to Move to Action Agenda	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-25-20**, Resolution approving a Memorandum of Understanding with Conditional Authorization to Execute Electricity Supply Agreement between Joule Assets Inc and the City of Poughkeepsie

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-20)**

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

WHEREAS, Joule Community Power (“Joule”) is currently working to secure another Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) contract; and

WHEREAS, Joule is requesting that the City execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding stating the municipality’s preference for default renewable energy percentage and term length, as well as approving the form Electricity Supply Agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the attached Memorandum of Understanding.

Memorandum of Understanding (“**MOU**”)
(with Conditional Authorization to Execute Electricity Supply Agreement)

To: Joule Assets, Inc.

Glenn Weinberg

gweinberg@jouleassets.com

From: Name of Municipality: City of Poughkeepsie (the “**Municipality**”)
Municipal Signatory: [REDACTED]

Re: Request for Proposal for Electricity Supply dated January 23, 2025 (the “**RFP**”) and execution of the Electricity Supply Agreement attached thereto (the “**ESA**”).

Dated: as of [REDACTED] (the date the Municipality signs the signature page, to be completed by Municipality)

This MOU and the attached signature page of the ESA attached hereto as Exhibit A (the “**Signature Page**”) is provided by the Municipality at Joule’s request:

- (i) To specify Municipality’s Default Product selection for the ESA; and
- (ii) To facilitate execution of a binding ESA provided that certain conditions are met.

Default Product Option: In connection with the ESA, the Municipality chooses the following Default Product **(select one)**:

- ☐ CCA Blended Electricity Product (50% New York State renewable supply).
- ☐ CCA Renewable Electricity Product (100% New York State renewable supply).

By delivering this MOU with the Signature Page signed by the Municipality (attached hereto as Exhibit A), Municipality authorizes Joule to release such signed Signature Page to the selected electricity supplier as part of the ESA, add the applicable execution date, and thereby complete execution of the ESA on behalf of the Municipality, but only upon satisfaction of the following two conditions:

- 1) Joule has received one or more RFP responses from one or more pre-qualified ESCOs that meets one or more of the following pricing benchmarks:
 - For CCA Conventional Electricity Product,
 - (a) a variable price that is guaranteed to be at least \$0.0005 or 1% below the utility residential and small commercial market supply rate in each calendar month; or
 - (b) a fixed price not greater than 5% above the trailing 12-month average utility residential and small commercial variable market supply rate, as published by Central Hudson as of the issuance of the RFP. Such fixed

price must be below the following rate: **\$0.0871/kWh (Residential), \$0.0910/kWh (Small Commercial).**

- For CCA Blended Electricity Product and CCA Renewable Electricity Product, a price not greater than the lowest comparable ESCO offer available to residential customers in Central Hudson utility service territory at the time of RFP issuance. For the purposes of this RFP, comparable offers are defined as: fixed-rate electricity supply, 12 month term length with no exit fee, and NYS renewable supply in the same percentage as the analogous CCA product. Such fixed price must be below the following rate:
 - CCA Renewable Electricity Product: **\$0.1249/kWh; and**
 - CCA Blended Electricity Product: **\$0.1189/kWh**
- 2) The Municipality informs Joule in writing (including by email) that it may award the RFP to a qualified bidder and execute the ESA substantially in the form attached to the RFP.

EXHIBIT A

Signature Page to ESA

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the Parties have caused this ESA to be executed by their duly authorized representatives, as required by the applicable laws of the city, town or municipality and the laws, rules and regulations of the State of New York.

Dated: _____ (to be entered by Competitive Supplier on the date that the last party signs) (the “Effective Date”)

NAME OF COMPETITIVE SUPPLIER:

By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____
Email: _____

CITY OF POUGKEEPSIE:

By: _____
Print Name: _____
Title: _____
Email: _____

JOULE ASSETS INC. (PROGRAM ADMINISTRATOR)

By: _____
Mike Gordon
Chief Executive Officer
mgordon@jouleassets.com

[SIGNATURE PAGE TO ESA - MAY BE EXECUTED IN TRIPLICATE]

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of February 4, 2025

A motion to Amend Resolution R-25-20 to select 50% renewable energy was made by 4th Ward Councilmember Shook and seconded by 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown

Motion to Amend Resolution R-25-20 - Roll Call	
Yes/Aye:	2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown, 5th Ward Councilmember James, 6th Ward Councilmember Grant, 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Councilmember Shook, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	1st Ward Councilmember Henry, 6th Ward Councilmember Grant, Councilmember At-Large Wilson
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

A Motion to approve Resolution R-25-20 was made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown

Motion to Approve Resolution R-25-20 as Amended - Roll Call	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Councilmember Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown, 5th Ward Councilmember James, 6th Ward Councilmember Grant, 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Councilmember Shook, Councilmember At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	6th Ward Councilmember Grant
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

XIII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you chair. One, I do want to thank Trish for coming in from the Empire Training Center.

It does provide a great educational opportunity for the City of Poughkeepsie - something that we haven't seen yet in the city. So if anyone has any individuals that are interested, please, you know, refer them to them so that way they can have that conversation. And hopefully, as they get [*inaudible*], we'll have more and more people. So, I appreciate them coming from New York City and coming up here to provide educational opportunities.

I know Councilmember Terricena Brown mentioned about what happened at Martin Luther King. And, unfortunately, we've had some issues with some of the building complexes where people were losing heat, hot water. It happened at RIP. I know our Councilmember, Ernest Henry, has been working closely with the tenants there. Our building department has been working closely with these buildings, along with them correspondence back and forth with this administration.

So, the situation that happened at Martin Luther King and happened so quickly, you know, where there was, you know, a problem where the basement filled because of a valve that came off a hot water tank and it filled up the basement rapidly.

So I have to say, everyone came together very quickly from the call that the city administrator ended up getting. And he reached out to me. I was on my way to somewhere else, ended up on the scene. Everyone came on the scene. Central Hudson did very well as the fire department was pumping out the water, they were turning off the utilities. You know, housing authority, Sandra Booth was there. And we convened together to figure out how we were getting the residents, the assistance they did. And what was so amazing about it with everyone coming together is that we had two hours to evacuate everyone from the building, which is the first building, which was 24 units, and find them a place to go and get them transportation. So it was two hours because the building was getting dark. And then the fire department was very helpful on not only pumping the water out, but helped us go to each apartment looking for resources that we couldn't account for. So it was a very - it was a collaborative effort.

And, I have to say, Councilwoman Brown, even after we got to the hotel, you got them all into their rooms and how you got lunch, I mean, dinner together for them, you and Dr. Watson. And you were working with our Councilmember Wilson. And then throughout the week, everybody was pitching in. I mean, it was great to see everyone coming together because the residents, it was a very bad situation, but yet they felt like they were supported.

And I know RIP had that at one point, one time, the whole building had to be evacuated. People came together. And we're just hoping that, you know, whenever a council member has an issue in their ward that everyone comes together like they did in that case, because the residents were very grateful. The fact that everyone came together to help them through that situation.

I want to thank Lambert Plumbing because they've been down at RIP and they've been at Martin Luther King. They were able to get the heating back up within just a couple of few days. And I know they've been working really hard down at RIP. So between, you know, the two

complexes, it was like a round-the-clock for some of them. And also for Veith Electric. Because the thing is, is that with some people, they don't put that kind of diligent effort into it but to see what would happen. And when I looked at it, I was overwhelmed to see how much damage was done.

But to see that everyone was able to get that together and the residents were back in their place within a couple of... 3 or 4 days, I think was pretty amazing. So, as we're going forward, we're experiencing cold weather that we haven't experienced before. So, we are getting more people calling in and complaining about not having heat. So, our Building Department has been very busy working with our Department of Health in trying to address those issues. So, if you get any of those phone calls please let us know because, you know, people do need to have their heating. They are required to have heat. But, for some reason, sometimes landlords feel like it's not their problem. And, so, that's something that we've been dealing with for the past few weeks. So, we've been really busy, you know, in this administration. So, I want to thank everybody for their efforts in pulling together and making it happen.

This Thursday, February 6th, Geoffrey Canada, who's part of the Harlem Children's Zone, who has been working with us to the Children's Cabinet, will be at Morse School at 6:00. And there is a link to that on our website. We'll put it there, the school district, we also put it on social media so you can sign up as well. All are welcome. There is a maximum occupancy at this school so if you plan on attending, please register as soon as possible.

But it's going to be a great presentation to hear from Mr. Geoffrey Canada is also a special guest for the government and will also be attending. So that's all I want to say at that point.

Also, too, I want to congratulate Habitat for Humanity. We were invited up to the governor's office for a special announcement. And so they received \$1.6 million to actually work with the City of Poughkeepsie on a housing project we've been talking about for a little while in the Third Ward. So you'll hear more about it as we fine tune some of those details.

But this is a great win for the City of Poughkeepsie

So we've all been working on the housing initiatives and as long as we continue to bring them forward, we were told that we will continue to receive support. So that's what we've been really diligently working on.

So, you know, housing in this housing crisis and we're trying to find creative ways of how we can increase the housing, especially when it comes down to homeownership. So this is great for the City of Poughkeepsie.

It also came up and Councilmember Grant brought this up about Black History Month

Last year, we actually put something out for Black History Month - in celebration of that. Actually, I also put a statement how Black History Month meant to me seeing as I was the first black mayor. Also, too, I have been participating in a lot of black history events that were happening last year and, so, I had asked people to send us Black History events that are happening so we can put it out there so people in the city would know that. We do not - we don't host our own events. For St. Patrick's Day we're not out there putting it out all over the city

We you know, we don't host an event for St Patrick's Day. We're not out there putting out all over the city and we're not doing it for Latino Day as well. But we do put information out. So, we try to make sure that people know that there are celebrations that are out there. I mean, if I had a committee to help with that, that

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of February 4, 2025

would be great. Maybe we could if our council members came together and want to do something like that, we can actually do a little bit more. But I just want to let you know that we are putting - doing the best we can to put out for all celebrations of all cultures out there on our website. And in for moving forward, I mean, if you feel that we should be doing more, just contact me and we'll have that conversation. But I can't do this alone because we have a lot of pressing issues that are happening in the City of Poughkeepsie. We have homelessness that is happening and we're dealing with it on a daily basis. I have people that are out there and Code Blue, which has been happening very often. Then they are out there in the street and we're trying to find places for them to be during the day.

So we have a lot going on.

And, so, I'm not ignoring black history, but right now we have other things that we're trying to focus on and in the meanwhile, trying to acknowledge that is black history and trying to let people know what the events are out there because that wasn't being done before.

So, Dutchess Community College sent us some things, the school districts - some of the schools are going to be doing some events. We'll get it out to you all because last year there wasn't many council member that were at those events and I think it was because some of them didn't know. So we want to make sure that everybody was aware of it. So I just want to make sure you're perfectly aware of the efforts that we are making when it comes down to celebrating Black History Month. And again, that is something too, that the council members can get involved in as well because it's just not on the mayor. We're all leaders.

Councilmember Grant: I don't think it's on the Mayor, I think it's more so whoever handles like the Web pages and communications, that's where that comes from.

Mayor Flowers: That's on all of us. Because I direct him what we're doing. And that's why I told him that we need to gather all the information for Black History Month. And that's why I went out there and tell people, send us your information, because that wasn't happening and what happened was people were calling us. "Do you know if anybody is doing anything for black history?" And I said, we're gathering information now because I don't feel that there's not one platform that really goes out to everybody.

So even with the schools, the kids, every school is doing something. But yet we weren't we weren't notified about it unless at the last minute they're asking me to stop by the school and if I would participate. So, I just wanted to make sure there's things out there ahead of time so that we all can be involved in it because what our kids are doing in the schools for Black History Month is amazing.

And I mean, we saw the museums that they were all doing. So, I just wanted to make sure that we're - that this is a collaborative effort for all of us about celebrating black history and celebrating any culture that is out there. I just wanted to clarify that, because the way it came out was as if there was nothing out there.

But I understand where you're coming from is that **we** were not doing something besides sharing information what everybody else was doing for black history. So, I just want to make sure I clarify what our efforts were and what the intentions were for this year and what we were trying to do.

And that was the last of my comments.

Thank you.

XIV. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

My comments real quick.

I just want to say... I had mentioned before, I just want to check with the City Administrator about the 311 system, because prior to I did ask Mr. Martinez, he had said that was something that we were looking into. I don't know if....

City Administrator Donat: We, yes, we are actively looking into it. There was a few setbacks outside of the city's control, unrelated to the city, namely with the City of Albany as it relates to their program and some legal issues that came up. So that caused a little bit of a pause. But we are re-engaged with the company. The legal issues up in Albany were overcome, and we're going to be moving forward.

Chair Wilson: Okay. Thank you.

And then also for those just to reiterate what Councilwoman McClinton of the 8th Ward said about the Central Hudson thing, it was a Type Two A SEQRA action, so there was nothing to be done because it was already just a replacement. But even in my research, you know, for the constituents out there in the 8th Ward, I think, you know, one of our things that we're going to be definitely looking into this year to help improve that area is the Spratt concession stand. I know Councilman Grant has spoken about that highly. And also, as I was on Kingston Avenue, the roads over there, we definitely have to look at, you know, repaving some of the roads, especially those side streets. I know the constituents over there probably feel neglected and I don't want them to feel that way. I mean, I'm not saying it is an immediate thing. Of course I know it is a process, but if we can definitely look into those side streets over there. And just a reminder to everybody about the Chamberlain's workshops: the Chamberlain's having workshops about Hawking and Peddling and several series. So make sure you check in with that on a board if you come down to city hall.

Thanks again to the fire department for the Martin Luther King. Thank you to the food provider for the people that were at Martin Luther King as well.

And that is it. Thank you for everybody that came out today.

XV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:45pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton.

Dated: February 10, 2025

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, February 4, 2025.

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