



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 1, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is April 1, 2025, and the time is 6:30pm**

I. ROLL CALL

8 Present, 1 Absent (Chairman Wilson)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 6th Ward Council Member Grant.

Approve Public Hearing & Common Council Meeting Minutes of 3-18-2025 - 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, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Councilmember-At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Public Hearing- Nomination of 10 N. Clinton St as a Local Historic Landmark
2. Common Council Public Hearing- Establishing City of Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District
3. Common Council Meeting of March 18, 2025

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 KEVIN FITZPATRICK**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on December 22, 2024
- 2. FROM CAROL CROTTY**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on January 20, 2025
- 3. FROM CHRISTAL SPRENGER**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on January 20, 2025
- 4. FROM REGINA LEWIS**, a notice of claim for discrimination and denial of due process

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Erin Covan - 94 Academy St
Laurie Sandow - South Grand Ave*
Daniel Atonna - College Ave
Warren Jones - N. Clover St

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, April 1, 2025

One year ago, at the Common Council's April 16, 2024, meeting, I noted that "an old line advises that 'power corrupts'; while a companion adage says that 'power doesn't corrupt, it reveals'." And I also noted that "a new Administration brings an opportunity to shine a light on, and upend this City's love of silos and backroom deals."

That light and breath of fresh air has, most certainly, not come to the City of Poughkeepsie. Instead, to its shame, this Council has abruptly adjourned meetings, manufactured rules limiting public participation and knowledge, and turned to the same tactics used in the 60s and 70s by white segregationists and others, and that Trump uses today, to silence and thwart free speech and movements for social justice. Yvonne Flowers, this City's mayor, breaks the law by blocking people, myself included, from the public forum of her social media—blocking me for no reason other than citing the very laws she is breaking while misleading the public about her actions, including that people were blocked for offensive language. One wonders whether this City's Corporation Counsel has ever reviewed those laws with the Mayor. And for the benefit of the public, perhaps this City's Corporation Counsel will also go on record with a description of the remedies that exist for members of the public when this City's own Mayor takes offense to citations of the caselaw that she is consciously, willfully violating.

One year ago, I also said, "This city has only one guaranteed venue for public comments and input, and that's Council meetings. It could introduce a requirement for public comments at all City board and committee meetings, but it doesn't", and it still hasn't. In fact, it's moved in the opposite direction with Common Council Chair Da'Ron Wilson opening the Council's March 18 meetings with an additional note of intimidation, saying (quote): "Please be advised that the rules of conduct and procedure must be followed at all times. Failure to do so may result in removal and suspension from the council meetings." Yet, when Wilson himself has violated decorum, he hasn't been censured or removed from meetings. When Yvonne Flowers and Sakima McClinton violated decorum with constant talking to each other during the recent IDA meeting, they weren't chastised, silenced or made to leave the room. Neither were Chris Grant and Terriciens Brown for doing the same at the recent Planning Board meeting. And when Chris Grant initiated a Q&A with the Planning Board, he got answers rather than a scolding about protocol.

BUT, when I stood up at that same Planning Board meeting to protest the muzzling of public comments in response to yet more alterations submitted by a developer after the Planning Board closed public comments in November 2024, Planning Board Chair Ann Saylor shouted from her seat in an attempt to drown me out, and Yvonne Flowers came racing into the room to threaten me with arrest.

Now I'll tell you more about that South Hamilton application where Flowers has jumped into bed with the O'Neill Group Hamilton LLC. Before the Planning Board even got to the agenda item, City Administrator Joe Donat was shaking the developer's hand. Chris Grant shook the developer's hand after the vote. This is the owner and developer as "The O'Neill Group-Dutton LLC" who sued the city and won a 2023 settlement regarding their One Dutchess project.

Are you wondering why "Dutton" rings a bell? Yes, this is the same developer and his company—executive Finbar O'Neill, principal owner of Onekey, LLC—who did jail time for violating federal regulations leading to the death of one worker and injury to a second. I'll read just one tiny excerpt of the court proceedings. O'Neill's superintendent Robert Tedone "testified that he told Finbar O'Neill the following: "You're going to have 15 Mexicans working directly under this wall and someone's going to get killed." (Tr. 466.) According to Tedone, Finbar O'Neill replied, "Fuck that, it will be fine." (Tr. 466.)" Press coverage in more than one source reported that these were not the first criminal accusations O'Neill has faced in New York, citing money laundering in one case against O'Neill, and corruption charges in another.

Strange bedfellows, anyone? Or just the slippery slope of this City's Administration, Corporation Counsel, assorted Common Council members and appointees on various City boards. Is it any wonder that neighbors are concerned about this development and developer who, from the very beginning, has made threats against those who've voiced genuine concerns about this project—people who continue to need the opportunity to speak and have their concerns definitively addressed in writing?

And of course, as usual, the three-minute time limit doesn't give me time to comment and respond to the lies and half-truths perpetrated by various Councilmembers at the last meeting, only after the public comment period was closed.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-25-32**, Resolution of the City of Poughkeepsie Designating 10 South Clinton Street as a Local Historic Landmark

**A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE DESIGNATING
10 SOUTH CLINTON STREET AS A LOCAL HISTORIC LANDMARK**

(R-25-32)

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

WHEREAS, 10 South Clinton Street, City of Poughkeepsie is owned by Judith Green, who has applied for and is desirous of securing a designation of 10 South Clinton Street as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission (hereinafter "HDLPC") held a public hearing on January 9, 2025 regarding the nomination of 10 South Clinton Street as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, the HDLPC voted in favor of the proposed nomination and approved the application on January 9, 2025; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 19-4.5(4)(f) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Poughkeepsie, the HDLPC's approved application was forwarded to the Common Council for consideration; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council held a public hearing on March 18, 2025 regarding the nomination as a local historic landmark; and

WHEREAS, this action is SEQRA Type II pursuant to 6 NYCRR §617.5(26); and

WHEREAS, after duly considering the factors specified in Section 19-4.5(4) of the Code of Ordinances of the City of Poughkeepsie, the Common Council hereby finds that 10 South Clinton Street possesses special character, historic and aesthetic value as part of the cultural, economic and social history of the City of Poughkeepsie and embodies distinguishing characteristics of an architectural style.

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council hereby designates 10 South Clinton St, City of Poughkeepsie, owned by Judith Green, as a local historic landmark. The City Chamberlain is authorized and directed to forward notice of the designation of 10 South Clinton Street, City of Poughkeepsie as a local historic landmark to the Dutchess County Clerk for recordation.

2. **R-25-33**, Resolution Appointing Blair Fahey, Thomas Klug and Brian Hooper to the Board of Assessment Review

R E S O L U T I O N
(R-25-33)

INTRODUCED BY SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON AND MENIST:

WHEREAS, the members of the Board of Assessment Review are appointed by the Common Council pursuant to the City of Poughkeepsie Administrative Code §5.02(1) and the Section 523 of the New York Real Property Tax Law; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has deemed applicants Thomas Klug, Brian Hooper and Blair Fahey are qualified and the Common Council is desirous of appointing the to the Board of Assessment Review.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie does hereby appoint the following individuals to the Board of Assessment Review to fill a term of five (5) years commencing immediately and expiring as set forth below:

1. Blair Fahey with a term expiring on September 30, 2030
2. Thomas Klug with a term expiring on September 30, 2027
3. Brian Hooper with a term expiring on September 30, 2026

A motion to Approve the Resolutions on the Consent Agenda was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

RESOLUTIONS R-25-32 & R-25-33- 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, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Councilmember-At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **LL-25-03**, Local Law to Amend the City’s Administrative Code, Sections 15.02 and 15.03 Regarding the Requirement of Prior Written Notice of an Alleged Defect

(LL 25-03)

**A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE CITY’S ADMINISTRATIVE CODE,
SECTIONS 15.02 AND 15.03 REGARDING THE REQUIREMENT OF PRIOR
WRITTEN NOTICE OF AN ALLEGED DEFECT**

**SPONSOR: COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY,
MENIST, BROWN, JAMES, GRANT AND MCCLINTON:**

WHEREAS, a public hearing as held on the following proposed local law on February 4, 2025;
and

WHEREAS, this local law is a Type II action pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) pursuant to 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(26).

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: Administrative Code Section 15.02 is amended as follows:

Section 15.02. Action against city due to defective condition of streets, sidewalks; notice

required.

~~No action shall be brought against the city because of injuries resulting from defective or slippery streets or sidewalks, or because of any obstruction upon any street or sidewalk, unless the party so injured, or someone in his or her behalf shall first within five days after the date of said injury, said date inclusive, file with the commissioner of public works of said city a notice of such injury specifying in a general way the kind of injury, together with the exact date thereof, and designating the street and the precise location of the defect, obstruction or other cause which produced the injury, and all actions on such claims shall be commenced within thirty days after the rejection thereof by the common council.~~

~~**No civil action may be maintained against the city for damages or injuries to person or property sustained in consequence of any street, highway, bridge, culvert, sidewalk or crosswalk being defective, out of repair, unsafe, dangerous, or obstructed unless, before the occurrence resulting in such damages or injury, (a) notice of the defective, unsafe, dangerous or obstructed condition was delivered to the Commissioner of Public Works at 26 Howard Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 in the form of a written physical hard copy or emailed to notification@cityofpoughkeepsie.com and (b) the city failed or neglected to repair or remove the defect, danger or obstruction within a reasonable time after being given such notice. No action may be maintained for damages or injuries to person or property sustained solely in consequence of the existence of snow or ice upon any sidewalk, crosswalk, or street unless notice thereof relating to the particular place was delivered to the Commissioner of Public Works at 26 Howard Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601 in the form of a written physical hard copy or emailed to notification@cityofpoughkeepsie.com and (b) the city failed or neglected to cause such snow or ice to be removed or to otherwise reasonably make safe the place within a reasonable time after receiving the notice. Notice of a defect submitted via any email other than the "notification@cityofpoughkeepsie.com" email, the city's website, any service, website, or application the city uses to allow the public to submit reports or service requests to the city, comments on social media page maintained by the city, or any other electronic means does not satisfy the process and procedure for submitting written notices of defect required by this section.**~~

~~**Section 2:**~~ Administrative Code Section 15.03 is deleted:

~~**Section 15.03. Liability of city for defective streets, sidewalks, etc.; notice required.**~~

~~The city shall not be liable for the damage or injury sustained by any person in consequence of any street, highway, bridge, culvert, sidewalk or crosswalk in said city being out of repair, unsafe, dangerous, or obstructed by snow, ice or otherwise, in any way or manner, unless written notice of the defective, unsafe, dangerous or obstructed condition of said street, highway, bridge, culvert, sidewalk or crosswalk shall have been given to the commissioner of public works of said city at least twenty-four hours previous to such damage or injury. **RESERVED**~~

~~**Section 3:**~~ This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon its adoption by the Common Council.

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.

2. LL-25-04, Local Law to Establish the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District

(LL 25-04)

**A LOCAL LAW TO ESTABLISH THE
DOWNTOWN POUGHKEEPSIE BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT**

**SPONSOR: 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: Administrative Code Section 14.42 is amended as follows:

Section 14.42. Taxes – ~~economic development zones~~ **Business Improvement Districts**; ~~state law applicable~~

A. The provisions of article 19-A of the General Municipal Law are hereby determined to be applicable to the establishment or extension of business improvement districts in the ~~city~~**City**.

B. Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District

1. **The Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District shall be and is hereby established in the City of Poughkeepsie, the City Council having found by resolution dated January 7, 2025 that the establishment of the Business Improvement District is in the public interest; that all notice, mailing and public hearing requirements have been complied with; that, except as otherwise provided GML §980-a, all the real property within the boundaries of the proposed district will benefit from the establishment of the district; and that all**

- real property benefited is included within the limits of the district.
2. The boundaries of the district are set forth in the District Plan of the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District and are set forth as follows:
 - a. NORTHERN BOUNDARY: Where Market St. reaches Mansion St. to Garden St. south to Mill St. where it reaches Hamilton St. The BID includes only properties on the west side of Garden St. The BID includes properties on both the north and south side of Mill St.
 - b. EASTERN BOUNDARY: Hamilton Street between Mill St. and Church St. The BID includes on properties on the west side of Hamilton St.
 - c. SOUTHERN BOUNDARY: Northernmost side of Church St. from the intersection of the westbound Rt. 44/55 arterial to Hamilton St.
 - d. WESTERN BOUNDARY : Mill St. and the westbound Rt. 44/55 arterial behind the Civic Center and County office buildings to its intersection with Church St.
 - e.
 3. The provision of services within the district shall be pursuant the District Plan of the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District. All services shall be in addition to, and not a substitution for, required municipal services provided by the City of Poughkeepsie on a citywide basis.
 4. Any amendments to the Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District or the district plan shall be made in accordance with the provisions of article 19-A of the General Municipal Law.

SECTION 2: If any clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision or part of this Local Law or the application thereof to any person, firm or corporation, or circumstance, shall be adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, such order or judgment shall not affect, impair or invalidate the remainder thereof, but shall be confined in its operation to the clause, sentence, paragraph, subdivision, or part of this Local Law.

SECTION 3: This Local Law shall become effective only upon compliance with General Municipal Law §980-g requiring review and approval of the New York State Comptroller of the proposed Downtown Poughkeepsie Business Improvement District.

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 the Local Laws on the Consent Agendawas made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by 1st Ward Councilmember Henry

LOCAL LAWS LL-25-03 and LL-25-04 - 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, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Councilmember-At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **Second Read: O-25-01**, Ordinance Amending §13-184 of Chapter 13 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic”- Parking Prohibited Between 7:00 A.M. and 6:00 P.M. Except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays on Hooker Avenue, South Side, from South Randolph Avenue to Whittier Blvd.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-184
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”
(O-25-01)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER McCLINTON:

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

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

SECTION 1: §13-184 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-184 Parking prohibited between 7:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.

~~Hooker Avenue, south side, from South Randolph Avenue to Grand Avenue~~

Hooker Avenue, South Side, from South Randolph Avenue to Whittier Blvd.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

2. ***Second Read: O-25-02***, Ordinance Amending §13-191.5 Of Chapter 13 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic"- Two-Hour Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Hooker Avenue, South Side, from Whittier Blvd to South Grand Ave.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-191.5
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”
(O-25-02)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER McCLINTON:

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

SECTION 1: §13-191.5 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-191.5 ~~Two-Hour Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.~~

Upon the installation of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as part of the Two-Hour Parking, 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m area.

Hooker Avenue, South Side, from Whittier Blvd to South Grand Ave.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

3. **Second Read: O-25-03**, Ordinance Amending §13-269 of Chapter 13 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled “Motor Vehicles and Traffic”-

Handicapped Parking Areas Designated on Hooker Avenue, South Side, 40 Feet East of Whittier Blvd, Continuing 22 Feet for One Space.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-269
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”
(O-25-03)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER McCLINTON:

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

SECTION 1: §13-269 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-269 ~~Handicapped parking areas designated.~~

Upon the installation of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as part of the Handicapped parking area.

Hooker Avenue, South Side, 40 feet east of Whittier Blvd, continuing 22 feet for one space.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

A motion to Approve was made by None and seconded by None.

ORDINANCES O-25-01, O-25-02 AND O-25-03 - 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, 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Councilmember-At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Okay, thank you Vice Chair.

One, about the veterans' banners. Thank you, Councilmember McClinton for following up on that and helping with that. It did come before the Council to do a presentation, so they told us about what it would look like for us to participate in that, but we do have to get a resolution stating that we are, you know, in support of that. And then we're also having conversations about where to put them and they're stating that each person buys their own banner, they'll provide the brackets, our DPW staff would just be hanging them. And we also need to talk about whether they're going to be year round or if they will come down at a certain time for the winter or so, some places they keep them up all year round, some of them take them down. So, there's some details, once you can discuss that through your meeting that will help a lot to move forward with it because we would like to see that happen very soon. And there's people ready to buy their banners so they can go up. So, thank you for following through on that.

As far as the Spratt renovations, we did discuss that. And it's going to be renovated this summer. But the last conversation that we had, the pool will close one week earlier than normal so that we can start those renovations and make sure that they're done by the time we go through the change of the weather. So we're hoping to have that done and completed during next summer and into the fall.

Also, it came up about Main Street. So, we have our monthly meetings with the stakeholders group. I think I know Council Member Grant and James, you were both doing the Main Street Task Force so, would you be starting that back up again? Because for that, some of those agencies can come to some of these meetings to assist and talk with the business owners.

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Because that's pretty much what the task force was put forward to do, to talk with business owners, and so the stakeholders group is these organizations that meet monthly. So, if you'd like to come to those meetings, it's the first Tuesday of the month, and it's with the organizations and agencies. And we've been doing it for the past, probably about eight months now. So, it's been helping a lot.

It came up about Academy Street, so Christ Church was doing "code blue" and so you would see more people that were over there because of that, but now "code blue" is pretty much over so we were told. We had a meeting today and I believe it officially ends, I think, maybe sometime next week, but it's going to be ending and at that point they're going to have a summer camp coming here with the kids, so they can't have any individuals hanging in that area there, so you'll see the change there. But Christ Church did step up to help because there were no places for anyone to go when it was below 32 degrees. So, unfortunately, it kind of brought some other activity as well. But we're actually addressing that. So, you will see less of that activity. So, thank you for coming to the meeting and expressing your concerns on that.

Also, yes, the recycle letter did go out. Because of the fact that we have to do more enforcement for recycling because there's a lot of dirty trash being commingled with our recycle items. So, letters went out to let people know what they can do what they can't do. I mean, I didn't know that you couldn't put pizza boxes in the recycling, so it was very enlightening for me as well because I would have gotten a violation. So, we're doing this effort now and also we have our Code Enforcer, that's where the sanitation department is going to the schools to talk with the kids about the benefits of recycling and also going to events, you know, letting people know what they have to do as far as recycling, the right way of doing it, so that way we're not just giving violations, but we're here educating individuals the proper way of doing it as well. Especially if we're deciding to go in the direction of doing composting at some point, we have to at least be able to get to the point where people can separate their garbage from the recyclables and then we go to the next step, you know, as far as the food waste is concerned. So, I appreciate all the efforts that they're putting into that to really help individuals understand what they need to do.

There was also a comment that was made about the Exempt Firemen's Association. That is still a firefighter's members association, an organization, but they do allow social members at this point. It's been going on for - I know I joined in 2008 - so it was before then because of the fact that if you notice, a lot of membership clubs that are around here a lot of them are dying out and so what they did is they made a decision to allow social members as well. So that's what's going on there so I just want to put that on record.

Also too there is a paving.. they're working on a paving list. Please note that the paving list is more like what is expected or what they're anticipating. Sometimes things happen where there might be an issue that happens on another street that now takes priority. So sometimes a street can be on a list several times. There is a lot of streets in the City of Poughkeepsie that need repaving due to a lot of other work that's been done in the City of Poughkeepsie. So not all of these streets are going to be addressed at once. So a list will go out and it will be throughout the city. So it'll be on the north side, south side, all throughout the city. Sometimes it's always like on one side of the city and then maybe on the other side, but there'll be a mixture based on a priority and based on issues that might be having on those particular streets. So, just because

you might ride down the street, and you feel like it's not a smooth ride, doesn't mean it constitutes that it would get repaved when you have another street that might be having water sewer issue and that needs to be addressed and repaved. We are working on that. Unfortunately, we don't have enough money to do all the streets. I wish we would. We also have to coordinate an effort with Central Hudson and others that are doing projects so that way, you know we're not paving the roads because that has happened several times and then they have to turn around and dig up the streets and now we have patchwork and we're back to square one again. So that's what we're trying to do too is making sure we're coordinating these efforts with Central Hudson and anyone else that's doing any kind of projects on our roads.

So, we are hiring. We hired a grant coordinator, which is Choice Words, and that's as a consultant, and that they will be assisting us. So a lot of our priorities that we have in place that we need to address soon, and we have a lot infrastructure things that we needed to address that they will be looking for those separate grant opportunities out there, including the sidewalks and with paving, and especially the fact that we have to dig even deeper, because we really don't know what's going on on other levels of funding that addresses infrastructure projects. So they're going to be assisting us with that effort.

Also, the Easter Egg Hunt is April 19th at Waryas Park from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m., so please bring out the kids and it's all free.

And then there was one other thing that was brought up, just want to make sure I'm hitting everything.

One more thing that was brought up about what happened at the Planning Board meeting. Just to let everybody know, I wasn't actually attending that meeting. I was actually in the office in which I do very often. I'm here late in the evening because things are quiet at that time.

So I was sitting in the meeting and I heard yelling, um, and it was a lot of yelling.

So I came in here to see Ms. Sandow sitting in the back like she does in this Council meeting sometimes, yelling at the Chair. And the Chair was telling her to please sit down and calm down, but she still was doing what she does. So, I asked her to sit down, and told her that she cannot continue with that behavior in this room, just like it was expected for the Council chambers.

And she did, you know, that was it.

But I guess, you know, she wanted to take it another step further. So either way..

To Ms. Sandow: That is not, that is not.... because you started arguing with me stating that you were not so you told me to go walk off. So I didn't want to put all that out there, but you were very rude and disrespectful to me when I was trying to calm you down and you had no right disrespecting the Chair and yelling and screaming at her.

You had no right to do that whatsoever. It was inappropriate. You didn't want to sit down. And so I told you, just like in the Council Chambers, that if you don't sit down and be quiet, that you're going to get escorted out here just like you do in the Council Chambers. That's exactly

what I told you. And you sat down, so we didn't have to do that, so, we were good.

So moving forward, we're not going to continue to have that. And if I'm sitting in there and I hear that kind of yelling at volunteers that are serving on these Boards. They do not need to be disrespected and yelled at in the way that they did. And if you have an opinion about anything, and if anyone in this audience has opinion about anything, you have the right to come here and you make your comments, just like you had the right for the Planning Board. If you did not like the project, that's on you, but there was no right to....

[Inaudible yelling from audience]

So the other thing is, too, is it also comes down because it was a comment made here. Unfortunately, she used her three minutes to put things out there that are not completely true. And there were no backroom deals. I'm not making any deals with O'Neill or my administration. Just because someone shakes someone's hand, doesn't mean that you had made some backroom deal somewhere. So, the way this administration operates, we work with everyone. And as far as this project is concerned, that it was approved based on the zoning of what that was passed by this Council and that was agreed to that people came out to speak about it, changes could have been made, but that's what happened. So it was approved and if people don't like it, then there's other resources that you can do. And we put that out there. But I mean, we're not going to have in any of the meetings - Zoning, Planning or any other meeting that happens here, we are not going to have people sitting there screaming and yelling at our volunteers when they're doing their job. And the thing is we don't want to feel like we have to have a police officer here at every one of those meetings. So while I'm here in the evening and if I continue to hear that, yes, I'm going to come out here. Yes, I'm going to say something. And if I have to get an officer to come up to get decorum in this room, I will do that regardless of who you are.

That's it. Thank you Chair.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:20 pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown.

Dated: April 4, 2025

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, April 1, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain