



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 20, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is May 20, 2025, and the time is 6:30pm

I. ROLL CALL

9 Present, 0 Absent ()

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve minutes was made by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown
and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

APPROVE MINUTES OF MAY 6, 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

1. Common Council Meeting of May 6, 2025

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 item #2 to Corporation Counsel was made by 3rd Ward Council

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of May 20, 2025

Member Brown and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

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

1. **FROM COMMISSIONER GENT**, a presentation regarding City of Poughkeepsie 5-year street paving plan
2. **FROM MYVAN BEEHLER**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on or about April 3, 2025

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Laurie Sandow - South Grand Ave*
Carmen McGill - Glenwood Ave
Daniel Atonna - College Ave
Joe Troche' - Delafield St
Suprina Troche' - Delafield St
Dennis Pavelock - Hyde Park
Doug Nobiletti - Liberty St
Angel & Michelle Ayala - Spruce St
Liz O'Rafferty - Mill St
Barrington Atkins - County Legislator

***Submitted written comments**

Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, May 20, 2025

I'll begin at the place where my comments were terminated by Da'Ron Wilson at the last Council meeting. Why? Because in a City that is now rightly condemning the County for their lack of transparency, accountability and unilateral action regarding 26 Oakley <<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/NYDUTCHESS/bulletins/3df5b4f?reqfrom=share>>, we are dealing with an equal lack of transparency and accountability by the Flowers Administration, her appointees and the Council electeds. We have Flowers making claims and pointing fingers at other people's so-called agendas while creating and holding anonymous, closed-to-the-public meetings of anonymous selected (quote) "stakeholders", appointing or even reappointing unqualified members to various boards, attempting to sneak anti-preservation text into the zoning code, plus more.

At the last Council meeting, before my public comments were terminated, I was reading my verbatim reply to a Facebook post by Yvonne Flowers—a post and reply she deleted. By virtue of that deletion, and despite all caselaw to the contrary, she continues to falsely claim that her Facebook page remains a personal page, rather than a public forum, even though by talking on that page about her position and function as Mayor, she converted that page to a public forum through her own posts.

On April 15, on Facebook, Yvonne Flowers wrote: "Please note: This is my personal Facebook page and my posts are to let family and friends know what I'm doing and how I am doing as Mayor or in my personal life. If you need to reach me in regards to city business, please do not send messages through Facebook messenger. I do not have access to messenger. Please see below to contact me by email or phone. I will be happy to help in any way I can. If you don't like what I post, don't leave a negative comment on my page. I will delete it. If you are frustrated by what is happening in Pok, please feel free to contact me by email or phone. If you want to post your frustration on Facebook, feel free to do it on your own page. Thank you!"

My verbatim response to her post was:

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

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

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

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

Flowers responded to this comment by “unfriending” and blocking me from her Facebook page. She deleted the entire thread so that no-one could ever read it and judge for themselves. She continues to make false public claims that she took that action because I was trolling her page, and making comments unfit for the eyes of her grandchildren. As I said at the last meeting, my comment was a statement of fact and law. And if she deems that comment unfit for the eyes of her grandchildren, she has a simple cure: stop lying and stop breaking the law.

When called before the House Un-American Activities Committee, Pete Seeger testified: “I love my country very dearly, and I greatly resent the implication that some of the places that I have sung and some of the people that I have known, and some of my opinions, whether they are religious or philosophical, make me less of an American.”

My comments and opinions, whether supportive or critical, religious or philosophical, do not make me any less of a concerned member of the Poughkeepsie community. On the contrary, time and again, by both word and deed, I have shown my deep involvement and concern for the life, welfare and future of this city.

Diversity of thought and opinion makes a city—as well as a nation—stronger, not weaker. While the public remains limited to only three minutes every two weeks, the Administration, its appointeds and Councilmembers use and abuse their liberty to speak at length; to pocket taxpayer-funded five- and six-figure salaries, benefits, stipends and ward funds; to protect themselves against the public with secret closed door meetings; to impose self-protective and self-dealing rules, and to surround themselves with yes-men and pocket votes, including by councilmembers who don't communicate with their constituents, and certain committee and board chairs who unreasonably limit or entirely delete public comments from their meeting agendas. One example is this response to an Informational Meeting question posed to Da'Ron Wilson about why he has never held an 8-Ward meeting and when he plans to do so. His reply: **“Once again, your personal preference of what you think or like is not the law. There has not been any other chair to do this. As per the charter please indicate where it states that any councilmember has to have a ward meeting.”** The lack of transparency, accountability and overall conduct by the Mayor, her appointeds, and Council electeds (including, but not limited to, the Council majority of Flowers' fellow Firemen's Exempt social club members) leaves no confusion about who reaps the privilege and benefits of their position, versus who gets the shaft by being cut out of knowledge, information and inclusion in this city.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

MOTION TO APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS & RESOLUTIONS - 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

1. **R-25-45**, Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of a Request for Quotation to Produce a Comprehensive Drinking Water Facilities Plan for the Poughkeepsie Joint Water Plant

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-45)**

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

WHEREAS, the Joint Water Board of the Town and City of Poughkeepsie have authorized the issuance of a Request for Quotation (RFQ) for expertise in planning and water treatment engineering to produce a comprehensive Drinking Water Facilities Plan for the Poughkeepsie Joint Water Plant as shown on Exhibit A annexed hereto; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Water Board has designated \$500,000 for Engineering

with the City's share being 55.2% or \$276,165.80.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby authorizes the City's payment of its 55.2% share of Engineering costs, in the amount of \$276,165.80.

2. **R-25-46**, Resolution Accepting \$40,000 National Grant from the National Fitness Campaign (NFC)

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-46)**

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

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie has submitted a Grant Application to National Fitness Campaign (NFC) for participation in their 2025 initiative to install and activate outdoor Fitness Courts® in over 1000 municipalities and schools across the country, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie will accept a \$40,000.00 National Grant from the NFC Grant Committee and Statewide Partners, and endeavor to provide the remaining project funds, estimated to be \$260,000, from budgeted or internal funds within fiscal year 2025 to promote and implement a free-to-the-public outdoor Fitness Court®, and;

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie will endeavor to provide a local funding confirmation in the amount designated on the quote detailing the remaining funds for participation, provided by the National Fitness Campaign no later than August as identified on the official Grant Program Requirement document.

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie believes joining the National Fitness Campaign is an important step in building a healthier community, commits to funding/fundraising to participate in NFC's 2025 Campaign, and will earn local and regional recognition as a leader in providing accessible health and wellness infrastructure and programs.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby accepts the Grant award in the amount of \$40,000 and will collaborate with NFC to join the National Fitness Campaign, implement the outdoor Fitness Court® program, and make fitness free for community residents and visitors; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this resolution shall be deemed non-binding and shall only go into effect once the City has raised the necessary local match.

3. **R-25-47**, Resolution Accepting and Signing Payment Agreement for Permanent Easement at 50 Cannon Street

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-47)**

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

WHEREAS, the State of New York Department of Transportation has extended an offer of just compensation pursuant the Eminent Domain Procedure Law (EDPL) for a permanent easement of 57 square feet as shown on the agreement annexed hereto as Exhibit A located at 50 Cannon Street (parking lot at corner of eastbound 44/55 and Academy Street).

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and/or City Administrator to accept the offer of \$450 and execute the Agreement annexed hereto as Exhibit A, as well as any subsequent papers necessary to complete filing of the easement map and payment of the claim.

4. **R-25-48**, Resolution Authorizing Settlement of Basora v. City of Poughkeepsie et. al

**R E S O L U T I O N
(R-25-48)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, PATTERSON-THOMPSON AND BROWN

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby authorizes the Corporation Counsel to settle litigation currently pending entitled *Basora v. City of Poughkeepsie et.al* in the amount of \$550,000.00 and that \$500,000.00 of said amount shall be paid from the 2025 budget for judgment/claims (the City maintains a \$500,000.00 deductible and the remaining \$50,000.00 will be paid by NYMIR); and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City does not admit liability in making this settlement; this Settlement Agreement reflects the Parties' compromise and Settlement of disputed claims; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2025 Budget adopted by the Common Council as Resolution R-24- 89 is amended as shown on Schedule A, annexed hereto and made a part hereof, which will allow the settlement to be paid in full from GL 01-20-1910 7490; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor and or Corporation Counsel are authorized to do all things necessary to give effect to this resolution including but not limited to executing a stipulation of settlement and a stipulation of discontinuance.

5. **R-25-49**, Resolution Approving Honorary Street Signage "Frederick Douglas Way" and "Bolin Oval" at College Hill Park

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-49)**

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

WHEREAS, Revive College Hill Park, Celebrating the African Spirit and MASS Design have requested that honorary street signage be placed in College Hill park as set forth below.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby approves the following honorary signs to be placed in College Hill Park:

1. The entrance road shall be known as "Frederick Douglas Way" to recognize that Frederick Douglass delivered a speech in Poughkeepsie, New York, on August 2, 1858 celebrating the 24th anniversary of the British emancipation of slavery in the West Indies. The event was attended by an estimated 3,000 to 4,000 people. Douglass arrived in Poughkeepsie by steamboat, was greeted by cheering crowds, and then taken to College Hill in a carriage. He spoke for two hours at College Hill, captivating the audience.
2. The oval shall be known as "Bolin Oval" in honor of Jane Bolin and the Bolin Family. Jane Bolin, once a Poughkeepsie resident, was the first African American female judge in the U.S. and the first African American female to graduate from Yale Law School. Judge Bolin's family had deep roots in Poughkeepsie and broader Dutchess County, a history stretching back to the earliest African-American presence in the region. Her grandfather was born in Dover Plains. Gaius, her father, was the first African-American graduate of Williams College, and practiced law in

Dutchess County for more than 50 years, becoming the first African-American president of the Dutchess County Bar Association at 80 years old. Jane Bolin's mother, Matilda, was a newcomer to the county — a Protestant immigrant from Northern Island

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

A motion to Approve was made by 4th Ward Council Member Shook and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

MOTION TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA:ORDINANCES & LOCAL LAWS- 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

1. **Second Read: O-25-04**, Ordinance Amending §13-186 Of Chapter 13 Of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" Parking prohibited between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays on South Avenue, West Side, from Reade Place, continuing for 100 feet North.

ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-186
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC"
(O-25-04)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK:

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

SECTION 1: §13-186 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-186. Parking prohibited between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays.

Upon the erection of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as part of the Parking prohibited between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. except Saturdays, Sundays, and Holidays area.

South Avenue, West Side, from Reade Place, continuing for 100 feet North.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

I just want to reiterate, thanking everyone that came out today to speak as well. As a support, thank you, of course, County Legislator Atkins for all your support and your fight in this struggle as well. Once again, also to the Chamberlain for his lead on the stakeholders group. Shout out to our unified Poughkeepsie High School unified basketball team. They had their senior night and finished their season very well. Shout out to Celebrating the African Spirit, of course, always fighting the fight to make sure historical preference is made in the African American experience and for the College Hill naming. And [I] also want to shout out to those that work behind the scenes. A lot of people that work behind the scenes don't always want to be acknowledged or stay behind the scenes for a reason, especially even here in our own city government and city hall. I want to thank all those people behind the things that work here. Also, I want to say a shout out to Mr. Bill Duke for coming and accepting his street and of course all his contributions that he's done to the film industry. And, last but not least, please everybody, make sure you go out to vote if you have not vote for the school board.

And that is it for myself.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of May 20, 2025

At 7:32pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 6th Ward Council Member Grant.

Dated: May 27, 2025

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 20, 2025.

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