



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 3, 2025

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is June 3, 2025, and the time is 6:35pm**

I. ROLL CALL

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

1. Common Council Meeting of May 20, 2025

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

CCM Minutes of MAY 20, 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

NONE

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of June 3, 2025

A motion to defer items 3, 4 and 5 to Corporation Counsel was made by 6th Ward Council Member Grant and seconded by 8th Ward Councilmember McClinton.

MOTION TO DEFER 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 DARCY MCCOURT**, a presentation from Rebuilding Together Hudson Valley regarding program providing free home repairs for income-qualified homeowners
2. **FROM MID-HUDSON ANTISLAVERY HISTORY PROJECT**, a presentation regarding the Harriet Tubman Scenic Byway plans for New York State
3. **FROM DAWN EDWARDS**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on or about February 3, 2025
4. **FROM ZORAYA BOISSARD**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on or about February 10, 2025
5. **FROM HIVE MARKET LLC**, a 30-Day Advance notice of NYS Liquor license application

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Laurie Sandow- S Grand Ave *
Daniel Atonna - 116 College Ave
Marta Knapp - 10 S. Clinton St.
Carlos Wood - 166 Academy St.
Suprina Troche- 3 Delafield St

*Submitted Written Comments

Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, June 3, 2025

When I was called to be first speaker at the Common Council meeting of June 3, rather than as the actual last speaker listed on the sign-up sheet, I noted that it was “amusing” for the Chair to be manipulating the order of speakers, rather than calling people in the order in which they signed up to speak.

I then proceeded as follows:

At the Common Council meeting of June 17, 2019, I was silenced and then arrested thanks to a rule fabricated by then-Chair Ann Finney, who declared that “campaigning” was not allowed. Finney was joined by Councilmembers Sarah Salem and Sarah Brannen. I was not campaigning in the first place, and no such rule existed, either then or now. What I’d actually been talking about was the then-current example of Sarah Salem skipping out of a forum for the position of Councilmember At-Large—in other words, an example of the Common Council’s favorite sport: avoiding civic responsibility. It took 12 court appearances before the court dismissed all charges in furtherance of justice (“...while this Court has never granted a Clayton Motion in the years serving its judicial term, dismissal of the charges in the furtherance of justice is warranted here. Indeed, denial of the motion would be such an abuse of discretion as to shock the conscience....”).

On February 20, 2024, Da’Ron Wilson had barely taken office before he illegally interrupted my public comments, not only manufacturing another non-existent Council rule, but also falsely asserting a selected Open Meetings Law extract in place of the City of Poughkeepsie’s own Charter. Wilson then had me escorted out of that Common Council meeting. In apparent pre-planned collusion with one or more parties, Wilson violated established Council, City Charter and NY State rules and law when he illegally signalled the acting Chamberlain to disable and silence audio from the public microphone. All this was witnessed by the Sergeants-at-Arms, who rejected Wilson’s attempt to press charges.

Why do I remind you of these incidents? Because for meeting after meeting, ad nauseam, Daniel Atonna and Sakima McClinton have used Council meetings to campaign for election

to the 8th Ward seat. The comedy of their campaigns is that they are two peas in a pod—perhaps at different ends of the political spectrum; perhaps not. Each boasts about being a lifelong Poughkeepsie resident, but carefully avoids acknowledging that neither showed up at Council meetings unless and until they got a paycheck to do so. Both want the 8th Ward seat, but during Megan Deichler's tenure in that seat, neither was ever active in calling out her failure to hold Ward meetings; her failure to show up and advocate for restoration of 8th Ward and Spratt Park bus service; both were silent concerning Deichler's fraud in vacating her Council seat; and until very recently, each chose varying shades of silence and/or absence at City and County meetings about 26 Oakley shelter plans.

McClinton was slotted into the 8th Ward vacancy thanks to scheming by members of the City Administration and Common Council who are also members of the Exempt Firemen's; to the illegal votes taken behind closed doors in Council caucus; and to the current Council's habit of undermining constituent and public knowledge, interest and involvement. Now either McClinton or Atonna will wind up taking the seat in the upcoming election. Neither will be a good or even adequate representative of 8th Ward residents. Predictably, neither McClinton nor Atonna—nor, in fact, any Councilmember other than Evan Menist—showed up at last night's Downtown Revitalization meeting, a funding program whose outcome will affect the lives of all Poughkeepsie City residents.

Whichever of the two gains the 8th Ward seat will make a perfect match for an Administration and Council that each do their work behind closed doors, that pick and choose between which laws they'll abide by and which laws they'll ignore, and which City organizations and residents they'll favor and which organizations and residents they'll ignore, all the while making little to no effort at bringing city residents as a whole into more active knowledge and participation in city life.

We live in a City where challenge, opportunity, and possibility abound. But unless and until we ever have a Council and Administration that's dedicated to practicing transparency, accountability and democracy, only the challenge, backroom deals, law-breaking and self-serving abuse of power will continue to rule the day.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA- 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-25-50**, Resolution Accepting Grant Funds from New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation for the Purpose of Funding the 2025 New York Statewide Preservation Conference

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-50)**

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

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie applied for financial assistance from the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation ("OPRHP") under the **Title 9 of the Environmental Protection Act of 1993** for the purpose of funding the 2025 New York Statewide Preservation Conference.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Poughkeepsie is authorized and directed to accept these grant funds in an amount not to exceed \$40,000 for the project described in the grant application; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Poughkeepsie is

authorized and directed to agree to the terms and conditions of the State of New York Contract for Grants ("Contract") with OPRHP for such 2025 New York Statewide Preservation Conference; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie delegates signing authority to the Mayor and/or City Administrator to execute the Contract, attached hereto as Exhibit A, and any amendments thereto, and any other certifications necessary to complete payment of the Grant award.

2. **R-25-51**, Resolution Accepting \$10,000 Payment from St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center Inc to Resolve Outstanding Payments from a 1997 Agreement with the City of Poughkeepsie

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-51)**

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

WHEREAS, by agreement dated July 3, 1997, the City of Poughkeepsie and St. Joseph's Rehabilitation Center Inc. ("St. Joseph's") agreed to an annual voluntary payment for 7 Fallkill Place, City of Poughkeepsie (the "Property") as St. Joseph's use of the Property would be tax exempt under Real Property Tax Law Section 420-a (a copy of the agreement is annexed hereto as Exhibit A); and

WHEREAS, St. Joseph's sold the property in 2025 to Access Supports for Living Inc.; and

WHEREAS, during the process of closing title, the 1997 Agreement was discovered and St. Joseph's has requested that the agreement be terminated given the transfer of title; and

WHEREAS, upon investigation and due to mutual misunderstandings, the last payment under the agreement appears to have been made in 2008; and

WHEREAS, the City would be barred under the statute of limitations for contracts from seeking payments older than six (6) years. However, recovering that amount will require the filing of a legal action to collect time, an exercise that costs time and money;

WHEREAS, the amount outstanding for the last six years is believed to be \$14,612.78; St. Joseph's has offered to pay \$10,000.00 in full resolution of that claim in return to cancellation of the agreement.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby accepts the payment of \$10,000.00 from St. Joseph's to resolve outstanding payments due under the 1997 agreement; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and/or City Administrator are authorized to execute all documents necessary to cancel/terminate the 1997 Agreement as on file with the Dutchess County Clerk's office.

- 3. R-25-52**, Resolution Authorizing the Waiver of Interest, Penalties and Fees Incurred by the Owner of 12 Hooker Ave on the 2025 Property Tax Bill

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-52)**

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to Real Property Tax Law Section 1184(7-a), the Common Council may, by resolution, waive interest, penalties and fees for deployed military members that would otherwise be imposed upon the property provided:

1. The financial hardship was caused in substantial part by the owner's having been ordered to active military duty in the United States armed forces including the reserve components of such armed forces; and
2. The deployment lasted for at least six contiguous months, or the owner was killed in action during such activation; and
3. The owner provides satisfactory written evidence of the above

WHEREAS, the owner of 12 Hooker Avenue has submitted documentation that he was actively deployed from June 2024 through April 2025 and that he did not have access to his mail during that time; and

WHEREAS, the owner of 12 Hooker Avenue did pay the taxes online on April 29, 2025, thereby stopping the accrual of further interest pending the Common Council's review of this request; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Common Council hereby approves the waiver of interest, penalties and fees incurred by the owner of 12 Hooker Avenue, Poughkeepsie, NY (Tax grid #131300-6161-22-160896) on the 2025 Property Tax Bill for the reasons stated herein.

- 4. R-25-53**, Resolution Approving License Agreement to Allow the Nature's Impact LLC to Utilize a Section of Malcolm X Park

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-53)**

**RESOLUTION APPROVING LICENSE AGREEMENT TO ALLOW THE NATURE'S IMPACT
LLC TO UTILIZE A SECTION OF MALCOLM X PARK**

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby finds and determines that it is in the best interest of the City to enter into a License Agreement with Nature's Impact LLC upon the terms and conditions annexed hereto and made a part hereof; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and City Administrator are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the terms of this resolution including but not limited to the execution of the attached License Agreement.

- 5. R-25-54**, Resolution Approving Retainer Agreement with Wang Hecker, LLP for the Purpose of Commencing and Prosecuting an Action Against Dutchess County

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

**RESOLUTION APPROVING RETAINER AGREEMENT WITH WANG HECKER, LLP
(R-25-54)**

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

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has previously indicated its intent to file a lawsuit against Dutchess County regarding the establishment of a homeless shelter (also referred to as a Housing Support Center) at 26 Oakley Street, Poughkeepsie, NY; and

WHEREAS, the Northside of the City of Poughkeepsie has been overburdened by Dutchess County facilities including the recent expansion of the County jail in a residential neighborhood as well as a long history of discriminatory planning decisions; and

WHEREAS, the business community on and around Oakley Street has recently begun flourishing again; and

WHEREAS, during 2024 and 2025, the County and the City spent countless hours negotiating the terms of a letter of intent that would see 26 Oakley Street limited to

families and up to 20 single women as opposed to the original County plan of a facility that would provide up to 120 beds for single men and women; and

WHEREAS, on May 2, 2025, the County Executive advised the Mayor that the majority of the Dutchess County Legislature had indicated it would not support the negotiated letter of intent, and that it had all along intended to proceed with the original plan of a 120-bed shelter for single individuals; and

WHEREAS, by this action, the County has confirmed that it does not view the City of Poughkeepsie as a partner in efforts to address the County wide housing crisis and homelessness but instead sees the City as a politically convenient area to site nearly every social service effort regardless of the burden it places on City residents and businesses; and

WHEREAS, the County has not demonstrated its ability to manage supportive services in the current temporary PODs housing but, yet, plans to create a permanent shelter facility, and

WHEREAS, the County wishes to ignore the discriminatory and detrimental impacts of centralizing these social services in a neighborhood with one of the largest populations of both minorities and the economically disadvantaged within the County, but the City cannot stand by while the County continues to force the City's already overburdened Northside to bear the full weight of serving the area's most vulnerable rather than asking neighboring towns and municipalities to do their fair share.

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council that:

1. The retention of Wang Hecker LLP as outside counsel is hereby authorized for the purpose of commencing and prosecuting an action in a court of appropriate jurisdiction against Dutchess County in accordance with the attached retainer agreement.
2. This Resolution shall be effective immediately upon its adoption.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

MOTION TO APPROVE ACTION AGENDA- 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-25-55** Resolution Supporting the Establishment of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway (HTURB)

**RESOLUTION
(R-25-55)**

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

WHEREAS, the Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State (URCNYS) is working to establish the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Scenic Byway (HTURB) and a portion of the proposed HTURB will pass through the City of Poughkeepsie.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Chair to sign a letter of support on behalf of the Common Council indicating support for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Corridor Management Plan

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

NONE

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

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I just want to thank everyone for coming out for their presentations. All those that came out to also speak [during] public participation.

All those watching now and later. And also just want give a shout-out to bring recognition to also seems that it hasn't came to this area yet.

But those that are following national things, hands off of Africa with Burkina Faso, Mali, and Niger. They're having a lot of issues over there in the country, so I definitely want to say in support of Hands Off Africa. And that is it for my comments

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:58pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

Dated: June 6, 2025

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025.

Respectfully Submitted,

Donna M. DeLuca

Deputy City Chamberlain