



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is May 5, 2026, and the time is 6:33pm

I. ROLL CALL

8 Present, 1 Absent (4th Ward Council Member Nathan Shook)

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 AND COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES OF APRIL 21, 2026- 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, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Council Member Shook
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Public Hearing Minutes of April 21, 2026 - *Vacancy Reporting Requirements*
2. Common Council Meeting Minutes of April 21, 2026

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of May 5, 2026

A motion to Defer Items 2 through 5 to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown.

MOTION TO DEFER ITEMS 2 THROUGH 5 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, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Council Member Shook
Result:	Passed

1. **FROM CHRIS GENT**, a presentation from Commissioner of Public Work regarding city-wide speed limit reduction
2. **FROM KRYSTLE SMALLS**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on January 26, 2026
3. **FROM HECTOR RIVERA**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on January 30, 2026
4. **FROM NANCY FEDORESHENKO**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on or about February 10, 2026.
5. **FROM DAVID OLLIVIERRE**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on March 25, 2026

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

David Gordan- 96c Gerald Dr
Rosemary Fritz Grabowska- Innis Ave
Warren Jones- N Clover
Vincent McCabe- 6 Parkwood Blvd
Rob Cerrato- 32 Lindbergh
Laurie Sandow- S Grand Ave*

*Submitted written comments for the official record

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

APPROVE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS R-26-37, R-26-38 and R-26-39- 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, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Council Member Shook
Result:	Passed

1. **R-26-37**, Resolution Renaming Rose Street in the City of Poughkeepsie to Grace Boulevard

RESOLUTION

(R-26-37)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRMAN WILSON; COUNCILMEMBERS PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY, BROWN, JAMES AND GRANT

WHEREAS, Unity in the Community, with the support of other community partnerships, makes a special request to rename Rose Street in the City of Poughkeepsie to **Grace Boulevard**; and

WHEREAS, Dutchess County 911 requires that name changes to any roadways be identified, numbered and clearly marked for emergency response purposes; and

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie has petitioned Dutchess County 911 to reserve and utilize the name "Grace Boulevard" and they have determined that no conflicts exist and the proposed name is available; and,

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie Emergency 911 center has reviewed the name and concurs with same; and

WHEREAS, the local municipality must accept or deny the proposed street name; and,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby approves the renaming of Rose Street for its full length to Grace Boulevard.

2. R-26-38, Resolution Approving City of Poughkeepsie 2026 Fee Schedule

RESOLUTION

(R-26-38)

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

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie 2026 Fee Schedule is attached hereto as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the attached makes corrections to fees collected by the Development Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the attached Fee Schedule is hereby adopted by the Common Council and that posted copy of the fee schedule shall note that it is "Approved – May 5, 2026";

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Finance	
Utility Billing	
Water Turn Off	\$75.00
Water Turn On	\$75.00
Water Reconnect	\$75.00
Sewer Connection	\$1,500.00
Final Read/ Closing Statement (Out Of Cycle)	\$125.00
Final Read/ Move-Out Statement (Out Of Cycle)	\$75.00
Negative Read Meter Fee	\$150.00
Replacement Bin Fee (Garbage)	\$150.00
Replacement Bin Fee (Recycle)	\$150.00
Non-Compliant Meter Fee - Meters Up To 1"	\$100.00
Non-Compliant Meter Fee - Meters Over 1"	\$500.00
Meter Functionality Test (Upon Request By Owner)	\$300.00
Tax Collection	
In-Rem Process Fees	
Delinquency Filing Fee to County	\$5.50
Full Title Search (Nationwide Court Services, Inc.)	\$135.00
Contin/Updated Title Search (Nationwide Court Services, Inc.)	\$50.00
Bankruptcy Search/Update (Nationwide Court Services, Inc.)	\$3.50
Expense of Publication	\$25.00
Certified Mail Expense	\$9.68
Legal Posting at Property (Absolute Auctions & Realty)	\$100.00
Online Auction Buyer's Premium (Absolute Auctions & Realty)	10%
Interest	
Sanitation	10%
Water/Sewer	10%
Property Taxes - Per Month	1%
School Taxes	
After January 1st **Administrative Fee**	5%
Per Month **Interest/Late Fee**	1%
Installment Plan	
Down Payment	10%
Interest on Plan	12%
Late Fee (Payment from 15th-last day of Month)	5%
Tax Search Fee	\$50.00
Returned Check Fee	\$25.00
Duplicate Redemption Certificate	\$10.00
Development	
Planning Board	
Site Review Plan - Application Fee	\$500.00
Per 1000 Sq Feet	\$200
Per Required Parking Space	\$35.00
Special Permit Review	\$500.00
Subdivision Review - Lot Line Adjustment	\$250.00
2-4 Lots	\$500+\$100/lot
5 or more Lots	\$1000+\$150/lot
Façade Review	\$350.00
Site Plan Amendments	\$500
Site Plan Extension	\$500
Review of Expired Site Plan	\$500
Violation Referral Surcharge - Added fee for review of site plans reflecting work done outside of approved site plan	\$200
Zoning Applications	
Area Variance	\$500.00
Use Variance	\$1,000.00
Interpretation	\$500.00
Zoning Amendment Request	\$1,000.00

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Code 19-6.2(7)(e) Parking waiver per space fee in lieu of space	Up to \$5,000 per space
SEQRA	
Long Form	\$500.00
Building	
Residential (One and Two Family)	
Non Refundable Application Fee Residential	\$50
New Const, Reconst, Reconfiguration, Additions, Decks	\$0.50 per square foot
Alterations, Renovations & Repairs	\$0.30 per square foot
Demolition	\$0.10 per square foot
Windows and Doors	\$25
Roofing	\$25
Siding	\$25
Parking Area	\$25
Fence	\$25
Pools - above or in-ground	\$125
Electrical	\$25
Plan Review per hour	\$125 per hour
Renewal of active Building Permit (expired permits require new application)	50% of original fee but not less than \$50
Temporary Certificate of Occupancy	\$100
Certificate of Occupancy	\$100
Request for or Re-inspection	\$50
C.O. & Violation Search, Municipal Search	\$150
Zoning Letters - including but not limited to liquor, auto, change of use, flood plain etc.	\$100
Water/Sewer Service - NEW	\$50
Water/Service/Sewer - Disconnect, Repair/Replacement	\$25
Sprinkler or Standpipe Service up to 2 inch	\$50
Sprinkler or Standpipe Service 3 inches or greater	\$75
Plumbing Fixture Schedule - water closet, urinal, lavatory, bathtub, shower stall, kitchen sink, dishwasher, clothes washer, service sink, drinking fountain, sewage injector, indirect waste, sewer drain, floor drain, roof drain, backflow preventer, water heater installation/connection & other	\$10 per fixture
Heating Schedule - gas piping, oil piping, backflow preventer, indirect water heater, boiler water feed connection, gas/oil/electric hot water heater	\$10 per fixture
HVAC - furnace gas/oil, boiler gas/oil, indirect water heater	\$10 per fixture
Misc - fireplace, space heater, chimney, air conditioning, hydro air, duct work extension, generator etc	\$25 Each
Tank Installation, Replacement or Abandonment - gas, diesel, oil & propane	\$25
Alarm Systems (Fire, security etc), and Fire Sprinklers	\$25
Change of Use Application	\$100
Solar Array Installation (PLUS ELECTRIC)	\$250 Plus Electric
Cellular Equipment Installation/switch out *Plus Electric	\$500 Plus Electric
Work started before the issuance of a permit	Add Residential \$250 plus fees or double the fees whichever is larger
Commercial/Multi-Family	
Non Refundable Application Fee Commercial	\$100
New Const, Reconst, Reconfiguration, Additions	\$0.75 per square foot
Alterations, Renovations & Repairs	\$0.55 per square foot
Demolition	\$0.25per square foot
Windows and Doors	\$50
Roofing	\$0.10 per square foot
Siding	\$50
Parking Area	\$50
Fence	\$50
Pools - above or in-ground	\$250
Electrical	\$50
Plan Review	\$125 per hour
Renewal of active Building Permit (expired permits require new application)	50% of original fee but not less that \$100 for Commercial
Temporary Certificate of Occupancy	\$250
Certificate of Occupancy	\$250
Request for or Re-inspection	\$100
C.O. & Violation Search, Municipal Search	\$300

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Zoning Letters - including but not limited to liquor, auto, change of use, flood plain etc.	\$250
Water/Sewer Service - NEW	\$75
Water/Service/Sewer - Disconnect, Repair/Replacement	\$50
Sprinkler or Standpipe Service up to 2 inch	\$50
Sprinkler or Standpipe Service 3 inches or greater	\$75
Plumbing Fixture Schedule - water closet, urinal, lavatory, bathtub, shower stall, kitchen sink, dishwasher, clothes washer, service sink, drinking fountain, sewage injector, indirect waste, sewer drain, floor drain, roof drain, backflow preventer, water heater installation/connection & other	\$20 per fixture
Heating Schedule - gas piping, oil piping, backflow preventer, indirect water heater, boiler water feed connection, gas/oil/electric hot water heater	\$20 per fixture
HVAC - furnace gas/oil, boiler gas/oil, indirect water heater	\$20 per fixture
Misc - fireplace, space heater, chimney, air conditioning, hydro air, duct work extension, generator etc	\$50 Each
Tank Installation, Replacement or Abandonment - gas, diesel, oil & propane	\$50
Alarm Systems (Fire, security etc), and Fire Sprinklers	\$50
Change of Use Application	\$250
Solar Array Installation (PLUS ELECTRIC)	\$500 Plus Electric
Cellular Equipment Installation/switch out *Plus Electric	\$500 Plus Electric
Work started before the issuance of a permit	Add Commercial \$500 plus fees or double the fees whichever is larger
Other Fees	
Student Residence Application	\$150
Keeping of Bees Yearly Permit Fee	\$50 per year
Keeping of Chickens - Triannual - Every Three Years Permit Fee	\$50 every three years
Sign Permit Fee	\$50
Zoning Review	\$50
Hydrant Use Fees	\$300/ Month for use of hydrant that includes 10 units: after initial 10 units, \$10/unit
Short Term Rental - Non Refundable Application Fee (for VACATION and HOME SHARING)	\$100
Short Term Rental Permit Fee - VACATION	\$500
Short Term Rental Permit Fee - HOME SHARING	\$200
License Fees	
Electrical License Issuance / Renewal	\$350.00
Electrical Test	\$250.00
Plumbing License Issuance / Renewal	\$350.00
Plumbing Test	\$250.00
Infrastructure License Application	\$500.00
Infrastructure License Renewal	\$250.00
Heating License Issuance / Renewal - Gas	\$150.00
Heating License Issuance / Renewal - Oil	\$150.00
Water Connection Issuance/Renewal	\$150.00
Heating License Test - Gas	\$150.00
Heating License Test - Oil	\$150.00
Water Connection Test	\$150.00
Homeowner Plumbing Test	\$50.00
Special Plumbing License	\$350.00 per job
Electrical License Letter of Good Standing	\$75.00
Special Temporary Electrical License	\$250 per job up to \$10,000, \$650 per job from \$10,000 to \$100,000, and \$1,500 per job in excess of \$100,000.
Special Electric Test (licensed Plumbing & Heating Contractors)	\$150.00
Re Test	\$100.00
Special Electric Permit Issuance / Renewal	\$25.00
Shelving Plumbing License	\$75.00
Re instatement of Shelved Plumbing License	\$75.00 + License fee
Shelving Electrical License	\$75.00
Re instatement of Shelved Electrical License	\$75.00 + License fee
Shelving Gas, Oil or Water Connection License	\$75.00
Re instatement of Shelved Gas, Oil or Water Connection License	\$75.00 + License fee
Licenses Not Renewed on Time	Double the Fee

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Chamberlain	
Birth Certificate	\$10.00
Clerk Administrative	\$20.00
Marriage Officer - Daytime Ceremony	\$100.00
Marriage Officer - Licenses Issued Outside COP	\$150.00
Code of Ordinances	\$200.00
Code Supplements	\$75.00
Copies of Records	\$0.25
Dog License - Spayed / Neutered	\$12.00
Dog License Unspayed / Unneutered	\$25.00
Death Certificate	\$10.00
Dog Judgement	Varies
Dog Redemption	\$150.00
Dual Taxi/Livery License	\$75.00
DC Upgrade Endorsement - Livery	\$300.00
DC Upgrade Endorsement - Taxi	\$400.00
Event Application	\$50.00
Handicap Replacement	No Fee
Livery Application	\$25.00
Livery Half Year	\$150.00
Livery Inspection	\$100.00
Livery License - City	\$50.00
Livery License - Town of Pok	\$50.00
Livery Vehicle - City	\$300.00
Livery Vehicle - Town	\$300.00
Marriage Transcripts	\$10.00
Municipal ID - New	\$15.00
Municipal ID - Child	\$7.00
Municipal ID - Senior	\$7.00
Municipal ID - Replacement	\$7.00
Postage Residential	Actual Cost
Renewal - Livery	\$75.00
Renewal - Taxi	\$50.00
Search / Genealogy Records	\$22.00
Taxi Cab License 1 Yr	\$250.00
Taxi Cab License 6 Mo	\$125.00
Taxi DL Process Fee	\$10.00
Taxi Driver Permanent License	\$30.00
Taxi Inspection	\$50.00
Town - Dual Livery	\$75.00
Town of Pok Hack	\$50.00
Vehicle for Hire - Town of Pok	\$250.00
Zoning Book	\$30.00
Zoning Book/Map	\$35.00
Zoning Ordinance Draft	\$15.00
After Hours Inspection	\$50.00
After Hours Permit - Civil Penalty	\$2,000.00
After Hours Permit	\$2,000.00
Auction	\$150.00
Auction Permit Day	\$75.00
Auctioneer	\$100.00
Block Sale	\$25.00
Coin Machine	\$100.00
Exhibitor	\$35.00
Flea Market	\$35.00
Garage / Yard Sale	\$10.00
Going Out of Business	\$500.00
Pawn Broker	\$125.00

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Private Event	\$25.00
Public Assembly	\$50.00
Tow Truck - Yearly	\$350.00
Vendor Community Event	\$100.00
Vendor - 1 yr (Hawking & Peddling)	\$225.00
Vendor - 6 Mo (Hawking & Peddling)	\$150.00
Vendor - Lost	\$25.00
Food Trucks - Per Event	\$100.00
Food Trucks w/Hawking & Peddling Lic Per Event	\$25.00
Artisans (crafts/jewelry) per event	\$35.00
Bell Jar	\$25.00
Bingo	\$18.75
Games of Chance	Varies
Marriage	\$40.00
Special Events (i.e. Film Shoot, Carnival, etc.) Non Resident & For-Profit - Actual fee determined on use	\$300/per day
Special Events (i.e. Film Shoot, Carnival, etc.) Resident & Not For-Profit - Actual fee determined on use	\$200/per day
Police	
Dog Impound Fee	\$100.00
FOIL Request from Records Window	\$0.25
Accident Reports accessed via CarFax for Individual	\$2.00
Accident Reports accessed via CarFax for 3rd party req	\$15.00
Public Works	
Dumpster Placement Fee	100/Week
Street / Sidewalk Closure	200/Week
ROW/Excavation/Utility	\$200.00
First Curb Cut	\$100.00
Second Curb Cut	\$100.00
Third Curb Cut	\$100.00
Winter Surcharge	\$100.00
Pavement 0-1 Year	50/SF
Pavement 1-5 Year	30/SF
Pavement 5-10 Year	20/SF
Water Tap 3/4" to 1"	\$150.00
Water Tap 1 1/4" to 2"	\$275.00
Water Tap 3" to 19"	\$750.00
Water Tap 20" or Greater	\$950.00
Overhead Utility Pole - Up to 3 Poles	\$125.00
Overhead Utility Pole - More than 3	\$200.00
New Overhead Lines	.50/LF
Field Use - Day	\$45.00
Field Use - Day Non Resident	\$60.00
Field Use - Night lights	\$75.00
Field Use - Season	\$2,500.00
Pool Non-Res 3-17	2/Day 80/Season
Pool Non-Res 18-61	4/Day 160/Season
Pool Non Res 62 and Up	2/Day 80/Season
Pool Resident 3-17	1/Day 35/Season
Pool Resident 18-61	2/Day 70/Season
Pool Resident 62 and Up	1/Day 35/Season
Boat Docking	\$100.00
Transfer Station - Bulk	5/ Bag
Transfer Station - Bulk	2/ 20 Pounds
Transfer Station - Construction	2/ 20 Pounds
Transfer Station - Recycle	\$0.00
Transfer Station - Electronics	\$0.00
Transfer - Metal	\$0.00

2026 Fee Schedule By Department

Department/Division Fee Description	Fee Amount
Transfer Tire 14" and Under	\$10.00
Transfer Tire 15" to 17"	\$15.00
Transfer Tire 18" to 23"	\$30.00
Transfer Tire 23" and Larger	\$35.00
Residential Municipal parking Permit -1 month	\$45.00
Non-Residential Municipal Parking Permit - 1 month	\$85.00
Residential Parking Permit-1 Year (over and above free permit)	\$475.00
On-Street Parking Rate -Hourly	\$3.00
Off-Street parking Rate - Hourly	\$2.00
Fire	
Multiple Residence Inspections	
3 units	\$150.00
4-9 units	\$300.00
10 to 24 units	\$600 Previously "10 units or more" at this fee
25 or more units	\$1,500.00
Elevator Inspection	
1 to 3	\$65.00
4 to 10	\$100.00
11 +	\$250.00
Commercial Business Inspection	
Tenant space up to 10,000 sf.	\$150.00
Tenant space from 10,001 sf to 50,000 sf	\$250.00
Tenant space over 50,000 sf	\$500.00
Temporary use of LPG for Heat	\$250.00
Storage of Explosives	\$500.00
Propane Exchange	\$150.00
Public Assembly	
Annual License	\$250.00
599-998 Occupancy	\$350.00
999 & Over Occupancy	\$350.00
Tent	\$25.00
LPG or Hazardous Material Permit	\$25.00
Mobile Food Preparation Vehicle - Inspection	\$125.00

3. R-26-39, Resolution Proclaiming August 18, 2026, Never Give Up Day in the City of Poughkeepsie

RESOLUTION

(R-26-39)

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

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie proudly joins community members in celebrating Never Give Up Day on August 18, 2026, and recognizes its positive influence in inspiring perseverance, resilience, and hope among people across our community; and

WHEREAS, Never Give Up Day honors the strength of individuals who continue forward despite personal, professional, or health challenges, often facing these struggles with quiet courage and determination; and

WHEREAS, perseverance is a fundamental value that strengthens individuals, families, and communities, encouraging unity, compassion, and mutual support during difficult times; and

WHEREAS, this observance serves as a meaningful reminder to uplift one another, to stand beside those who are struggling, and to recognize that even the smallest encouragement can have a profound impact; and

WHEREAS, communities that promote resilience and a “never give up” spirit foster stronger, more connected, and more hopeful environments for all residents, especially youth and future generations; and

WHEREAS, initiatives such as the Walk of Perseverance provide an opportunity for individuals to actively express their commitment to perseverance, joining others locally and globally in a shared message of strength and determination;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie does hereby recognize and proclaim August 18, 2026, as **Never Give Up Day**, and call upon all citizens of the City of Poughkeepsie to make this day a springboard for awareness, encouragement, and acts of perseverance that uplift individuals and strengthen our community.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

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

APPROVE ACTION AGENDA ITEM LL-26-04- 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, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	4th Ward Council Member Shook
Result:	Passed

1. **LL-26-04**, Local Law to Amend the City Of Poughkeepsie Building and Utility Codes To Include Additional Requirements for Owners and Managers of Residential Rental Properties

(LL-26-04)

A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE BUILDING AND UTILITY CODES TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS FOR OWNERS AND MANAGERS OF RESIDENTIAL RENTAL PROPERTIES

SPONSOR: CHAIRMAN WILSON; COUNCILMEMBER PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY, BROWN, JAMES AND GRANT

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

SECTION 1: Administrative Code Chapter 6 is Amended as follows:

Section 6-15: Residential Rental Property Reporting

- a. *Legislative purpose.* The Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby finds and determines that reliable information regarding the vacancy rate of residential units is essential to protecting the safety, security and well-being of the residents of the City of Poughkeepsie and that the reporting requirements set forth herein are the least restrictive means to further this compelling governmental interest.
- b. *Applicability.* This section shall apply to rental properties that contain four (4) or more residential units of any size.
- c. The property owner, or property manager, as applicable, who has been

identified as the responsible party and/or contact pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 6-14, shall, on or before the 20th day of February every year, file with the Building Department, on a form to be provided by the Building Department, a written statement sworn under the penalties of perjury, providing the following information which shall use as a baseline date the 1st day of February:

1. The total number of residential units in the property
2. The size of each residential unit
3. The number of individuals residing in each residential unit
4. The total number of residential units that are vacant but available for immediate rent and occupancy
5. The size of each residential unit that is vacant but available for immediate rent and occupancy
6. The total number of residential units that are vacant and are unavailable for immediate rent and occupancy
7. The size of each residential unit that is vacant but is not available for immediate rent and occupancy
8. The reason any residential unit is vacant but is not available for immediate rent and occupancy

d. Within thirty (30) days of the filing of any updated statement required to be filed under Section 16-14(c)(2), the property owner, or property manager, who has been identified as the responsible party and/or contact pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 6-14, shall file an updated statement containing the information required under subdivision (c) of this section, which shall be accurate as of the 1st day of the month in which the updated statement is filed.

e. Where an inspection conducted by the building department or fire department for any reason, including, but not limited to, the tri-annual inspection conducted by the fire department pursuant to Section 8-23, reveals any discrepancy between the vacancy information as reported pursuant to subsection (c) or (d) above, the property owner, or property manager, who has been identified as the responsible party and/or contact pursuant to the requirements set forth in Section 6-14, shall, within fifteen (15) business days, file a statement, sworn under the penalties of perjury, providing an adequate explanation as to why the vacancy information on file remains accurate or shall file an updated statement containing the information required under subdivision (c) of this section, which shall be accurate as to 1st date of the month in which the inspection was conducted.

f. Failure to file the form required by subdivision (c) of this section shall result in a fine of no less than five hundred dollars and no more than two thousand dollars per unit for which information was required to be submitted. Each calendar month that the form remains unfiled after February 20th of each year shall constitute a separate violation of this section.

g. In addition to possible referral to the Dutchess County District Attorney's Office for possible perjury charges, the provision of false information in the form required by subdivision (c) of this section shall result in a fine of no less than five hundred dollars and no more than two thousand dollars for each unit for which false information was submitted.

h. The fines set forth in subdivisions (f) and (g) of this section shall constitute a special corporate fine for purposes of New York Penal Law § 80.10.

SECTION 2: This Local Law shall take effect immediately upon filing with the New York State Secretary of State.

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you, Chair.

I'm just going to address a couple of comments that were made today.

One, was a comment made about RIP that nothing is really being done. The owners of RIP have invested \$35 million for renovations. Every unit will be renovated, heating and cooling systems will be upgraded for efficiency, and elevator issues will be addressed. They are coordinating closely with the building department and are staying in contact with Council Member Henry and myself about any renovation issues.

Also, there was the mention of a lack of effort regarding housing. I want to note that housing efforts are ongoing but modest. Several developments are underway: about 187 units at the Wallace campus, roughly 120–140 units across the street, and another ~120 units on Cannon Street.

We're continuing to build in the city of Poughkeepsie, and new residents are coming—especially when units are affordable. While there's a limit to how much we can develop, meaningful progress is happening now.

Also, the homeless population in the City of Poughkeepsie was brought up. I want to note that we have a stakeholders group that meets monthly in the council chambers with outreach workers and organizations to address our homeless population. Lately, we've seen some progress as we connect individuals to needed services while also

working to prevent people from feeling it's acceptable to camp on our streets.

We have many resources and services operating in Poughkeepsie, and we make sure those services are being utilized.

Also, the topic of Milton Street came up. I want to provide background on the Milton Street project: when I was a council member the developers initially proposed 120 units, but the site couldn't handle that density or the traffic, so residents on Fitchett and West Arnold and I met with the developers to find a compromise. The plan was reduced to 60 units under a PRD zoning with many restrictions, and the developer repeatedly sought extensions as circumstances and zoning changed over the years.

We told the developer to notify us as they approached completion so we could reevaluate, since the project's original approvals and zoning no longer fit the site; if it were under a different zoning it wouldn't require rezoning. I want it on the record that residents were involved in shaping the site plan and this has been an ongoing, multi-year process—not a sudden rezoning request by the developer.

I also want to bring up the fact that there is a piece of legislation that came before you today proclaiming a "Never Give Up Day" in the City of Poughkeepsie. I supported passing it because, regardless of its origin, the language felt appropriate given the struggles many people are facing — it offers encouragement and a reminder not to give up.

I saw nothing wrong with moving it forward, and I appreciated the added language and your willingness to support it. Presenting it to the council and being straightforward about it sends an important message: we are thinking of people in tough times and want to encourage them to keep going. Thank you for helping make that happen.

I wanted to follow up on the piece of legislation you held a public hearing on regarding residency requirements and ask that we have a conversation about next steps. We're struggling to recruit qualified candidates—few are willing to move to the city, and our recent search produced no applicants who live in Poughkeepsie. Because of that, the proposal allows a waiver: we would prefer a city resident but require only Dutchess County residency if no suitable city candidates can be found. The original draft proposed a radius, but we revised the language after council feedback and worked with our corporation counsel to finalize it.

Hiring a Commissioner of Finance has been especially difficult—local applicants either didn't apply or were judged not qualified by the search committee, and we need someone experienced to address ongoing fiscal challenges. Many other municipalities already use waivers for this reason, so I'm asking you to consider this approach and discuss any concerns with the administration. I thought a majority of council members were comfortable with the proposal, but I need clearer feedback so we can refine the measure into something everyone can support; we're not forcing an immediate vote, just seeking the conversation.

Councilmember Atonna posed a question to Mayor Flowers about whether there was someone or multiple people who were found to be qualified and who were interested in the job, but weren't willing to move to the city due to the residency restriction.

Corporation Counsel Valk responded that, to date, the applicants have not met the municipal qualification requirements.

Mayor Flowers added that she's heard from HR that several qualified candidates decided not to apply because of the requirement to live in the City of Poughkeepsie. We need a waiver to widen the applicant pool — we'd still ask hires to eventually move to the city, but many strong candidates live in nearby areas (Wappingers, Hyde Park, or outskirts) and can't or won't relocate due to housing costs or personal reasons. Other municipalities have already relaxed similar requirements, and this restriction is becoming a real obstacle.

Councilmember Atonna then asked if the council could be provided with a list of municipalities that have similar waiver language to compare the city's to.

Mayor Flowers responded that we've been working on this for a year, and we've made changes, but we need to decide what the council can realistically support. I suggested options like a sunset clause, so the requirement could be revisited later, but right now it's become very difficult to find the financial talent we need who are willing to live in the City of Poughkeepsie.

I don't want to lower standards just to meet a residency rule—councilmembers who were part of the search can tell you whether relocation was raised—but we need qualified municipal finance professionals, not just anyone who checks a box. We've seen the consequences when the wrong person fills that role, and we must avoid repeating those mistakes.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Thanks to everyone who came out — and Happy Mother's Day to all the mothers. Mental health awareness: there will be a series of school-based workshops in partnership with NAMI, ASTER, and MHA; please check the district website or ParentSquare for details and help spread the word. Finally, I want to note a quote that resonated with me: "Beware of perpetrators in disguise — some people set fires wherever they go and have mastered the art of playing the burn victim."

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:04 pm 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 11, 2026

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, May 5, 2026.

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