



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, July 7, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is July 7, 2026, and the time is 6:32pm**

I. ROLL CALL

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

Common Council Meeting Minutes of June 16, 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, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Council Member At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Meeting of June 16, 2026

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 Items 2 and 3 under Presentations of Petitions and Communications to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Council Member Brown.

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of July 7, 2026

Motion to Defer Items 2 and 3 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, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Council Member At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

1. **FROM SUPRINA TROCHE**, a presentation regarding the Pollinator Festival in the City of Poughkeepsie
2. **FROM MARIAN MCRAE**, a notice of claim for personal injury sustained on April 15, 2026
3. **FROM NELLY LATIN RESTAURANT**, a 30-Day advance notice of New York State Liquor license

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Kenneth Stickle - Catharine St
Christopher Lo Giudice - Glenwood Ave
Laurie Sandow - S. Grand Ave *
Warren Jones - N. Clover St
Suprina Troche - Delafield St
Nicholas Jackson - S. Hamilton St
Joseph Troche - Delafield St.
Laura Belfiore - Main St

***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 Consent Agenda Resolutions 44 and 45 was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna.

Approve Consent Agenda Items R-26-44 and R-26-46- 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 Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Council Member At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

1. **R-26-44**, Resolution Appointing Natalie Quinn and Reappointing Angela DeFelice to the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank

R E S O L U T I O N

(R-26-44)

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the by-laws of the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank (the DCP Land Bank), two members of the Board of Directors are appointed by the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council; and

WHEREAS, there is a vacancy on the DCP Land Bank and an upcoming reappointment to be filled by the Common Council.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby makes the following appointments to the Dutchess County - Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board of Directors:

1. Natalie Quinn to immediately fulfill a vacant term on the Board that will end on August 30, 2026; and
2. Natalie Quinn to an initial full three-year term that begins on August 31, 2026 and ends on August 30, 2029; and
3. Angela DeFelice shall be reappointed to a second full three-year term that begins on August 31, 2026 and ends on August 30, 2029.

2. **R-26-45**, Resolution Approving Certificates of Base Percentages, Current Percentage, Base Proportions and Certificate of Adjusted Base Proportions for the Levy of Taxes on 2026 Assessment Roll

REMOVED - PLACED ON NEXT AGENDA

3. **R-26-46**, Resolution Authorizing the Issuance of Serial Bonds of the City of Poughkeepsie for the Albany Street Combined Sewer Overflow Rehabilitation Project

SEE ATTACHED BOND RESOLUTION

**EXTRACT OF MINUTES
(Albany Street CSO Long Term Control Plan Project)
R-26-46**

**SPONSORS: Councilmember Menist, Councilmember Brown, Councilmember Shook, and
Councilmember Grant**

A regular meeting of the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York was convened in public session at the Council Chambers, City Hall, Poughkeepsie, New York on July 7, 2026, at 6:30 o'clock p.m., local time.

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Shook, and, upon roll being called, the following members were:

PRESENT:

Councilmember Ernest Henry
Councilmember Evan Menist
Councilmember Terricena Brown
Councilmember Nathan Shook
Councilmember Ondie James
Councilmember Christopher Grant
Councilmember Nedra Patterson Thompson
Councilmember Daniel Atonna

ABSENT:

Councilmember at Large Da’Ron Wilson

The following persons were ALSO PRESENT:

Deputy Commissioner of Finance Karen Sorrell

The following resolution was offered by Councilmember Patterson Thompson, seconded by Councilmember Atonna, to wit;

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JULY 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALBANY STREET COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW REHABILITATION PROJECT, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,818,685 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York (the "City") (by the favorable vote of not less than two-thirds of all of the members of the Common Council) as follows:

SECTION 1. A project for sanitary sewer and storm sewer rehabilitation as part of a plan to address combined sewer overflow, including construction of a separate storm sewer on Albany Street

between Hoffman Street and NYS Rt. 9, and including original furnishings, equipment, machinery and apparatus, is hereby authorized at an estimated maximum cost of \$2,818,685, and said amount is hereby appropriated therefor. It is hereby determined that said purpose is an object or purpose described in subdivision 4 of paragraph a of Section 11 of the Local Finance Law, and that the period of probable usefulness of said purpose is forty years.

SECTION 2. It is hereby determined that the aforesaid purpose described above constitutes a Type II Action as defined under the State Environmental Quality Review Regulations, 6 NYCRR Part 617, which are determined in accordance with SEQR not to have a significant impact on the environment.

SECTION 3. The City plans to finance the total cost of said purpose by the issuance of serial bonds of the City in an amount not to exceed \$2,818,685, hereby authorized to be issued therefor pursuant to the Local Finance Law.

SECTION 4. Current funds are not required to be provided prior to the issuance of the bonds authorized by this resolution or any notes issued in anticipation of said bonds.

SECTION 5. The proceeds of the bonds herein authorized and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds shall be applied to reimburse the City for expenditures made after the effective date of this resolution for the purpose for which said bonds are authorized. This resolution shall constitute a statement of official intent for purposes of Section 1.150-2 of the Treasury Regulations.

SECTION 6. Each of the bonds authorized by this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of said bonds, shall contain the recital of validity prescribed by Section 52.00 of the Local Finance Law. The faith and credit of the City are hereby irrevocably pledged for the payment of the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same respectively become due and payable. An annual appropriation shall be made in each year sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds becoming due and payable in such year. There shall annually be levied on all the taxable real property of the City a tax sufficient to pay the principal of and interest on said bonds as the same become due and payable.

SECTION 7. Subject to the terms and contents of this resolution and the Local Finance Law, and pursuant to the provisions of Sections 30.00, 50.00 and 56.00 to 63.00, inclusive, of said Law, the power to authorize bond anticipation notes in anticipation of the issuance of the serial bonds authorized by this resolution and the renewals of said notes and the power to prescribe the terms, form and contents of said serial bonds and said bond anticipation notes (including without limitation the date, denominations, maturities, interest payment dates, consolidation with other issues, and redemption rights), the power to determine to issue said bonds providing for substantially level or declining debt service, and the power to sell and deliver said serial bonds and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of such bonds, is hereby delegated to the Commissioner of Finance, the Chief Fiscal Officer of the City. The Commissioner of Finance is hereby authorized to sign any serial bonds issued pursuant to this resolution and any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the issuance of said serial bonds, and the Chamberlain is hereby authorized to affix the corporate seal of the City to any of said serial bonds or any bond anticipation notes and to attest such seal.

SECTION 8. The Commissioner of Finance is further authorized to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to ensure the continued status of the interest on the bonds authorized by this resolution, and any notes issued in anticipation thereof, as excludable from gross income for federal income tax purposes pursuant to Section 103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code") and, to the extent applicable, to designate the bonds authorized by this resolution and any notes issued in anticipation thereof as "qualified tax-exempt bonds" for purposes of Section 265(b)(3)(B)(i) of the Code.

SECTION 9. The Commissioner of Finance is further authorized, in his or her discretion, to execute a project financing and loan agreement and any other agreements with the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation and/or the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation and/or the New York State Department of Health, and amendments thereto, and to take such actions and execute such documents as may be necessary to provide for the financing or refinancing of the specific object or purpose set forth herein, or a portion thereof, by one or more notes or bond issues of the City and the sale of such issues to the New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation or its designee pursuant to the New York State Revolving Fund Program.

SECTION 10. The validity of said serial bonds or of any bond anticipation notes issued in anticipation of the sale of said serial bonds may be contested only if:

(1) Such obligations are authorized for an object or purpose for which the City is not authorized to expend money; or

(2) The provisions of law which should be complied with at the date of the publication of this resolution are not substantially complied with; and an action, suit or proceeding contesting such validity is commenced within twenty days after the date of such publication; or

(3) Such obligations are authorized in violation of the provisions of the Constitution of New York.

SECTION 11. The Chamberlain is hereby authorized and directed to publish this resolution, or a summary thereof, together with a notice in substantially the form provided by Section 81.00 of the Local Finance Law, in the Poughkeepsie Journal, being a newspaper having a general circulation in the City and hereby designated as the official newspaper of the City for such publication.

SECTION 12. This resolution shall take effect immediately.

The question of the adoption of the foregoing resolution was duly put to vote on a roll call, which resulted as follows:

Councilmember at Large Da’Ron Wilson	VOTING	ABSENT
Councilmember Ernest Henry	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Evan Menist	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Terriciensa Brown	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Nathan Shook	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Ondie James	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Christopher Grant	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Nedra Patterson Thompson	VOTING	YES
Councilmember Daniel Atonna	VOTING	YES

The foregoing resolution was thereupon declared duly adopted.

Submitted to Council: July 7, 2026 Council Action: Approved Roll call vote taken: Yes <u>X</u> No ____ Ayes <u>8</u> Nays ____ Abstain ____ Absent <u>1</u> Approved by Mayor on _____ Mayor’s Signature _____ _____ Yvonne Flowers	I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of a Resolution duly adopted at a regular meeting of the Common Council held July 7, 2026. _____ City Chamberlain
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CERTIFICATE OF RECORDING OFFICER

The undersigned hereby certifies that:

(1) He is the duly qualified and acting Chamberlain of the City of Poughkeepsie, Dutchess County, New York (hereinafter called the "City") and the custodian of the records of the City, including the minutes of the proceedings of the Common Council, and is duly authorized to execute this certificate.

(2) Attached hereto is a true and correct copy of a resolution duly adopted at a meeting of the Common Council held on the 7th day of July, 2026 and entitled:

BOND RESOLUTION DATED JULY 7, 2026

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING ALBANY STREET COMBINED SEWER OVERFLOW REHABILITATION PROJECT, AUTHORIZING THE ISSUANCE OF SERIAL BONDS OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, DUTCHESS COUNTY, NEW YORK IN AN AGGREGATE PRINCIPAL AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,818,685 PURSUANT TO THE LOCAL FINANCE LAW TO FINANCE THE COST THEREOF, AND DELEGATING CERTAIN POWERS IN CONNECTION THEREWITH TO THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE

(3) Said meeting was duly convened and held and said resolution was duly adopted in all respects in accordance with law and the regulations of the City. To the extent required by law or said regulations, due and proper notice of said meeting was given. A legal quorum of members of the Common Council was present throughout said meeting, and a legally sufficient number of members (two-thirds of the Common Council) voted in the proper manner for the adoption of the resolution. All other requirements and proceedings under law, said regulations or otherwise incident to said meeting and the adoption of the resolution, including any publication, if required by law, have been duly fulfilled, carried out and otherwise observed.

(4) The seal appearing below constitutes the official seal of the City and was duly affixed by the undersigned at the time this certificate was signed.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has hereunto set his hand this 8th day of July, 2026

-SEAL-

Jamar Cummings
City Chamberlain

IX. **CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

X. **ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

XI. **ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

1. **LL-26-07**, Local Law to Reduce the Citywide Speed Limit from 30 Mph to 25 Mph

(LL-26-07)

**A LOCAL LAW TO REDUCE
THE CITYWIDE SPEED LIMIT FROM 30 MPH TO 25 MPH**

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

WHEREAS, the following Local Law is a Type II action under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) at 6 NYCRR 617.5(c)(26)(33) requiring no environmental review under SEQRA.

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. Legislative History and Intent: This local law is adopted pursuant to authority set forth in Vehicle & Traffic Law §1643, which permits the City to adopt a city-wide speed limit of 25 miles per hour. The City takes notice of the vehicular safety findings and studies supporting this authorization as set forth in Chapter 496 of the New York Laws of 2022, and the City has reviewed the City of Poughkeepsie Speed Limit Reduction Assessment; Methodology and Results prepared by Creighton Manning, December 5, 2024. The licensed engineers of Creighton Manning took into account the engineering considerations and factors for speed limits set forth in the manual and specifications for a uniform system of traffic control devices maintained by the Commissioner of Transportation pursuant to Section 1680 of the Transportation Law.

Section 2. Section 13-90 “Maximum Speed Limits Established,” subsections (d) and (e) are amended as follows:

(d) *Twenty-five miles an hour.*

(1) All motor vehicles, except those restricted by this section to lower

maximum speeds, when operated on any street in the City.

(2) All motor trucks when operated on any street in the city.

~~(1) All motor vehicles, except those restricted by this section to lower maximum speeds, when approaching an intersection which is not controlled by a traffic officer or traffic control signal.~~

~~(e) Thirty miles an hour.~~

~~(1) All motor vehicles, except those restricted by this section to lower maximum speeds, when operated on any street in the City.~~

~~(2) All motor trucks when operated on any street in the city.~~

Section 3. This local law shall be filed with the Secretary of State and shall be effective as of September 1, 2026.

A motion to amend the effective date of the local law from August 1, 2026 to September 1, 2026 was made by Councilmember Shook and seconded by Councilmember Grant.

A motion to Approve was made by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist and seconded by 6th Ward Council Member Grant.

LOCAL LAW LL-26-07 - 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 Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	Council Member At-Large Wilson
Result:	Passed

2. **Second Read: O-26-04**, Ordinance Amending §13-191.2 Of Chapter 13 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled "Motor Vehicles and Traffic" Two-hour parking, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. on Dutcher Place on the South Side, beginning at the Easterly Side of the Driveway Entrance to the School and then for a Distance of 100 feet East toward Bement Avenue.

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-191.2
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”**

(O-26-04)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER JAMES:

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

SECTION 1: §13-191.2 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-191.2. **Two-hour parking, 9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

When appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected, parking on the following streets or parts of streets shall be limited to two hours between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.:

Dutcher Place on the south side, beginning at the easterly side of the driveway entrance to the school and then for a distance of 100 feet east toward Bement Avenue.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____:

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

3. **Second Read: 0-26-05**, Ordinance Amending §2-107 "Denial of Access to Amend the Designated Foil Appeal Officer"

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §2-107 "DENIAL OF ACCESS TO RECORDS,
SUBSECTION (C) TO AMEND THE DESIGNATED FOIL APPEAL OFFICER**

(O-26-05)

**INTRODUCED BY CHAIR WILSON; COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON
THOMPSON, HENRY, MENIST, BROWN, JAMES, GRANT AND ATONNA:**

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

STRIKETHROUGH INDICATES DELETION
BOLD and UNDERLINE INDICATES ADDED LANGUAGE

SECTION 1: Section 2-107 (c) is amended as follows:

(c) The following person shall **designated** to determine appeals for denial of access to records under the Freedom of Information Law: Finance Commissioner, Municipal Building, 62 Civic Center Plaza, P.O. Box 300, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602. **shall be set annually by the Mayor. The name of the individual identified shall be set forth in any denial and also be posted on the City's website.**

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you, Chair.

I understand that complaints are being raised throughout the city, and you don't have to attend a council meeting to share your concerns. You can also email your council members or contact the mayor's office, and we're open to complaints, ideas, and suggestions through those channels too.

I also want to address the comments about RIP. I was down there a couple weeks ago to see the apartments, and they're already brand new in many ways—new appliances, fresh exterior paint, updated cooling and heating systems in every unit, and upgrades like new windows and flooring. The residents seem really happy with what they're seeing, because the renovations are happening floor by floor, section by section, so the changes are clearly visible as work progresses.

I've seen that the building owners are keeping everything updated, and our building department is going to the site to make sure the work stays compliant and safe, even though it's a little messy right now because of ongoing construction. The improvements also mean problems like heating or water issues can be limited to a single unit thanks to shutoff valves, rather than shutting down the whole building. While there were concerns raised, I believe that by this time next year, you'll see a totally different building—and I encourage people to go take a look or ask the residents there what the upgrades are like.

I've also heard complaints about Malcolm X Park, and I agree it's been a problem. We've noticed an uptick in people congregating there and doing activities that aren't appropriate for the park. My city administrator has been sitting in the parking lot, I've been in the park a lot as well, and police have been going there every day and making arrests when necessary.

Because it's a public park, we have to follow the law—if we don't see someone doing illegal activity, we can't just tell people they have to leave. There are organizations that are going to be doing some pop-up summer youth programs at Malcolm X Park, so we're activating it to keep kids there and draw appropriate activity into the space. DPW has also been over there cleaning, and we're maintaining police presence to help keep things safe.

I also want to note that we've seen issues later in the evening, around 9:30 at night, when people sometimes hide in the back. Police have been riding through to remind people they can't be in the park after that time, and we're addressing similar concerns at other parks too, not just Malcolm X Park. We're monitoring it closely and doing everything we can within the law to keep the park safe and not violate anyone's civil rights.

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of July 7, 2026

Also, I'd like to mention First Friday. It was great, so I thank everybody for participating. The fire show was great, so I'm looking forward to First Friday on August 7th, where we're going to give our Youth Leadership in Government students their certificates for completing the program. We'll talk a little bit about the program, and then they're gonna have a table set up so they can talk with individuals that are part of the program. And then also to talk about different businesses, hopefully talk to owners about business opportunities and internships and things that they can do, and then recruit other young people to start. Our new cohort is going to start in September. So I appreciate the committee and the Business Improvement District for allowing us to do that during the First Friday event, so thank you.

When the storm hit, it felt like it came out of nowhere, but I was really grateful for everyone who helped shelter the people who were under the pavilion. For about 15 minutes, people just jumped in to help—throwing belongings into cars, getting folks safely into vehicles, and checking on each other—while we also worried about the trees and the other things around us.

I'm glad nobody was hurt, and it was amazing to see how everyone came together to keep people and kids safe. After the storm, a rainbow came out, and things were calm by the time the fireworks happened, so it felt like the community was thanking us for allowing them to continue. Later, we found out there were issues on the other side of town, but overall everything turned out pretty well.

I want to thank our DPW crews for being out there removing trees, limbs, and debris from the streets to help clear the way during the storm. I also want to thank Councilman Atonna for helping as well. And I appreciate the kind words from Council Members Henry along with Council Members James, Brown, and Patterson Thomas. I'm also grateful to the residents who responded to my messages on Facebook, sharing updates and information about what was happening. Throughout this, we kept in communication with the county and with Central Hudson so crews could be directed to the most critical, prioritized areas. We also heard that some people with medical conditions—like those who are bedridden or rely on oxygen—weren't showing up in Central Hudson's lists, so I want to stress that there's a process for those residents to notify Central Hudson so they can be reached first when power restoration is needed.

I want to thank Central Hudson for how quickly they restored power in the areas that I flagged, including places with bedridden residents and key businesses. Within hours, many neighborhoods had electricity back, and even though some people were upset about how things were handled, I saw the coordinated work firsthand—our police and fire departments, Central Hudson crews, and our DPW crews all working together to address serious damage like broken poles and large trees that knocked wires down.

As of the latest update I have, Central Hudson expects at least 95% of Dutchess County to have power restored by 10:00 tonight. When I checked their portal, there were still 200+ addresses without power, but they should be restored by tonight; if anyone in the city still doesn't have electricity by 10:00, I'm asking them to contact our office by tomorrow morning so we can follow up

with Central Hudson, especially in cases where the damage was extensive and required repairs like replacing transformers or carefully removing trees without endangering other wires. Despite the inconvenience for residents, crews had to pause during heavy rain because it was too dangerous to work with live electrical equipment, and the restoration process has gone better than I expected. We also learned we need to do more to ensure seniors and medically vulnerable residents are included in the process, and I appreciate neighbors looking out for each other whether that's sharing information, checking on one another, or helping with necessities.

Thank you, Chair

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

NONE

At 7:49pm, a motion to go into Executive Session was made by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist and seconded by 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna

At 8:53pm, a motion to resume the regular council meeting was made by 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown and seconded by 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 8:54 pm, a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown.

Dated: July 21, 2026

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain

the Pollinator

a multidisciplinary creative hub



MISSION

The Pollinator is a multidisciplinary creative hub in Poughkeepsie connecting visual arts, performing arts, music, crafts, literary arts, horticulture, and cooking under one roof. We create shared space and programming that helps artists and audiences discover what each discipline can offer the others. We strengthen the local creative ecosystem by supporting collaboration, skill-sharing, and public engagement. We believe the arts promote health and healing, and our work is designed to make that impact visible and accessible.

About the Pollinator

The Pollinator is a place where people can pursue serious study in a range of art forms while also being invited into unexpected discovery. Through classes and hands-on participation, members are encouraged to stretch beyond a single discipline, explore new modes of expression, and develop a more expansive creative life.

Grounded in the City of Poughkeepsie and reaching across the Hudson Valley, The Pollinator is shaped by the idea that creative opportunity should be welcoming, affordable, and open to all. Its identity is rooted in exchange rather than hierarchy—an environment where difference is a strength, curiosity is rewarded, and people are energized by learning alongside one another.

Phase 1: Seed

The Pollinator Festival is a microcosm of our vision and offers examples of our programming in Phase 3. Imagine a weekend where anyone can step into a shared creative campus and explore how visual, performing, and literary arts connect with horticulture, cooking, and wellness. Shaped by the theme "The Journey of the Seed," the Pollinator Festival invites people not just to watch, but to make—through mini demos, 20-minute workshops, and short performances designed for all experience levels. With entry points ranging from craft, music, and poetry, to planting, harvesting, cooking, and tasting, the festival welcomes every kind of curiosity. Come as you are, try something new, and leave with both a tangible creation and a renewed sense of possibility.



Phase 2: Growing

The Pollinator launches a one-to-two-year pilot with a partner home, creating a sustainable site for multidisciplinary programming, shared practice, and public participation. This period is designed to strengthen partnerships, expand the rhythm and reach of our offerings, and test the Pollinator's collaborative model in lived practice—building the foundation for a permanent center with clarity, evidence, and momentum.



Phase 3: Full Bloom

In its final stage, the Pollinator becomes a fully realized creative center: home to studio rentals for visual artists, rehearsal space for performing artists, and deeply developed programming in visual arts, literary arts, music, theater, dance, farming, and cooking. Through partnerships with local schools, colleges, and medical professionals, the Pollinator will connect creative practice to education, health, environmental stewardship, and food sovereignty in lasting and visible ways.



learn. thrive. inspire.



For more information **contact:** pollinatorpk@gmail.com
We are always looking for supporters & artists interested being part of programming with our ongoing stages.

the Pollinator Festival

Sept 12–13, 2026

Participating Artists

The **Pollinator** is led by a coalition of HV-based professional artists and arts organizations who are building the long-term Pollinator Artists Hub. For the Phase 1 festival, primary artists represent the core disciplines the **Pollinator** will sustain year-round: visual art/gallery practice; ceramics, fiber, and printmaking; dance, farming, and cooking; interdisciplinary performance; and music & technology. We will be adding more programming to our final stage. **Pollinator** programs include workshops, classes, studio access, performances, artist lectures, and demonstrations.

For over 3 years, **CONVEY/ER/OR Gallery** has been operating on Main St. in the City of PK to expand local visibility for contemporary artists. The director will bring her experience as an artist and community organizer to managing the 'shared' gallery of the Pollinator, which will function as a space of programming across the arts and beyond to offer the broader community rich experiences of what art is and could be. In addition, the director will oversee studio rental spaces for visual artists, in which they can work individually or gather and brainstorm in community.

Fallkill Creative Works offers courses and open studios in pottery, fiber arts, and printing. As one of the only arts organizations in Poughkeepsie that engages children, teens, and adults of all ages, Fallkill Creative Works seeks to foster creativity, community, and self-expression. With a pay-what-you-can approach, we are guided by generosity to share knowledge and resources so that everyone can unlock their creative potential.

theLab cultivates new works, nurtures local talent, and provides a stage for diverse voices in theater, music and interdisciplinary performance. We engage both the local community and wider audiences, bridging the gap between artists and the public.

Pollinator Farm and Kitchen empowers Poughkeepsie through regenerative food production, horticulture education, and agricultural innovation. By transforming underused urban space into a thriving farm and production kitchen, it expands access to fresh food and meals, teaches culinary skills, and promotes health, environmental stewardship, and food sovereignty. Its goal is to nourish youth and families while strengthening local economic and environmental resilience.

PsiFire is creating original choreography inspired by the collective's themes of art, community symbiosis, green growing, the planting of seeds, creative actions and the cultivation of physical and metaphorical blooms; encompassed by the belief of unity within our community.



Festival Featured Artists

Poet Gold is an acclaimed poet, author, and community "artist" who served as the 2017–2018 Dutchess County Poet Laureate. She is now touring her new book "Be the Poem".

Holly McCabe is a fiber artist and educator at Dutchess Community College with a materials-based practice rooted in textiles.

Lala Montoya is an interdisciplinary artist and cultural strategist working across woodblock printing, ceramics, and community-rooted visual storytelling.

Allyson Levy is co-director of Hortus Arboretum in the Hudson Valley. Her garden began as a source of inspiration and raw materials for her seed centric/natural material art.