



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 22, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is July 22, 2026, and the time is 6:30pm

I. ROLL CALL

9 Present, 0 Absent ()

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Jeff Aman- 5 Barnard Ave
Nicholas Kalogris- 14 Maryland Ave
Carmen McGill- Pok City
Mary Reynolds- 137 Academy St
Steve Efron- 130 Smith St
Laurie Sandow- S Grand ave
Katherine Hite- Water Street

III. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-26-49**, Resolution Amending Agreement between City of Poughkeepsie and Dutchess County Regarding Proposed Homeless Shelter at 26 Oakley Street

A motion to Approve was made by 4th Ward Council Member Shook and seconded by 5th Ward Council Member James.

Approve Resolution R-26-49 -Roll Call Vote	
Yes/Aye:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 5th Ward Council Member James, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, Council Member At-Large Wilson
Abstain:	None
Absent:	
Result:	Passed

**RESOLUTION
(R-26-49)**

SPONSORED BY: COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie commenced an action, along with two city residents, against the County of Dutchess regarding the placement of a proposed homeless shelter at 26 Oakley Street, City of Poughkeepsie, *City of Poughkeepsie et. al v. County of Dutchess and County Executive Sue Serino*, 25 Civ. 7668 (KMK)(VR); and

WHEREAS, after mediation sessions with Magistrate Reznik, the Mayor and the County Executive agreed to the terms of an amended settlement agreement, dated July 22, 2026, subject to approval by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie and the Dutchess County Legislature; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the amended settlement agreement, dated July 22, 2026, is attached hereto as Exhibit A.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council recognizes that the attached amended settlement agreement does not represent the desired result; however, in balancing the risks of continued litigation against the benefit of having some certainty as to the outcome of this matter, the Common Council finds that approving the amended settlement agreement is in the best interest of the residents of the City of Poughkeepsie.

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

-----X
CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, GLADYS LYLES,
and LISA CUMMINGS,

Case No. 25 Civ. 7668 (KMK) (VR)

Plaintiffs,

-against-

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS and
COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUE SERINO,

Defendants.
-----X

AMENDED STIPULATION

This Amended Stipulation (the “Stipulation”) is made and entered into on this ____ day of July, 2026 between the City of Poughkeepsie (the “City”), Gladys Lyles (“Lyles”), and Lisa Cummings (“Cummings”) (collectively, “Plaintiffs”), and the County of Dutchess (the “County”) and County Executive Sue Serino (“Serino”) (collectively, “Defendants”). Plaintiffs and Defendants shall be referred to herein collectively as the “Parties.”

WHEREAS, this action was commenced on or about September 16, 2025; and

WHEREAS, in the Complaint (ECF No. 1), Plaintiffs allege that Defendants’ proposal to place an emergency shelter for single adults at 26 Oakley Street in the City of Poughkeepsie would violate federal and state fair housing laws as well as City zoning laws; and

WHEREAS, Defendants deny any and all liability arising out of the allegations set forth in the Complaint; and

WHEREAS, the Parties have engaged in extensive settlement negotiations with the assistance of Magistrate Judge Victoria Reznik; and

WHEREAS, the Parties seek to avoid protracted litigation and therefore agree to the entry of this Stipulation to resolve all issues that were raised in this action by Plaintiffs; and

WHEREAS, the Parties executed a stipulation dated June 18, 2026, and

WHEREAS, the Parties intend for this Amended Stipulation to fully supersede the stipulation dated June 18, 2026,

NOW, THEREFORE, the Parties hereby STIPULATE AND AGREE as follows:

DEFINITIONS

1. “Effective Date” shall mean the date that this Stipulation is fully executed, the date this Stipulation is formally approved by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie, or the date this Stipulation is formally approved by the Dutchess County Legislature, each of which is required and whichever is latest.
2. “26 Oakley” shall mean the property located at 26 Oakley Street in the City of Poughkeepsie, more particularly described as Tax Map No. 131300-6162-63-341286-000, which is +/- 1.423 acres. “Emergency Shelter” shall mean “any building with overnight sleeping accommodations, the primary purpose of which is to provide temporary shelter for the homeless in general or for specific populations of the homeless, including residential programs for victims of domestic violence and runaway and homeless youth programs certified by the office of children and family services.” See N.Y. Soc. Serv. Law § 17(j)(1)(iv).
3. “Warming Center” shall mean any building that is used for the purpose of providing a safe, warm place for people to temporarily stay during “inclement winter weather,” as defined in 18 NYCRR § 304.1(a).
4. “Existing Shelters” shall mean the shelters expressly identified in Exhibit A to this Stipulation.

5. “OTDA” shall mean the New York State Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance.

6. “Sunset Period” shall mean the time period beginning on January 1, 2027 and ending five (5) years after that date.

7. “Enforcement Period” shall mean the time period beginning on the Effective Date and ending thirty-five (35) years after that date.

TERMS REGARDING SHELTERS

8. During the Sunset Period, the County may use 26 Oakley for any valid and lawful County purpose, including a shelter for single adults, provided that if the County operates an Emergency Shelter at 26 Oakley, such shelter must be certified by OTDA and must comply with the other applicable requirements set forth in this Stipulation.

9. After the Sunset Period, the County shall not house single males at 26 Oakley, nor shall the County directly or indirectly construct, operate, fund, or otherwise assist any other person or entity in operating an Emergency Shelter for single males at 26 Oakley. If the County operates an Emergency Shelter at 26 Oakley after the Sunset Period, it shall only be an Emergency Shelter certified by OTDA as an 18 NYCRR Part 491 shelter for single women and/or a certified Part 900 family shelter.

10. During the Sunset Period, the County shall work in good faith and make best efforts to arrange for an alternative location(s) outside the City for shelter(s) for single males in order to ensure that the County complies with the preceding paragraph. In no circumstance shall the County be permitted to house single males at 26 Oakley after the Sunset Period, nor shall the County directly or indirectly construct, operate, fund, or otherwise assist any other person or entity in operating an Emergency Shelter for single males at 26 Oakley after the Sunset Period.

11. If the County operates an Emergency Shelter at 26 Oakley at any time, the County shall implement a security plan in conformance with 18 NYCRR 491 et. seq. that includes adequate personnel, operational security procedures, and security equipment on the 26 Oakley parcel (Tax Map No. 131300-6162-63-341286-000). This security shall include, at the County's expense, without limitation: 24-hour patrols by security personnel at the 26 Oakley parcel, lighting on the 26 Oakley parcel such that there is a reasonable level of light throughout the parcel and placement of security cameras at strategic locations at the 26 Oakley parcel. Additionally, the County's security plan shall provide for, at the County's expense: regular patrols by security personnel in the vicinity of 26 Oakley which are tailored to shelter and community needs; at the County's expense, lighting in the vicinity of 26 Oakley Street which mimics existing street lighting in areas of the City that have adequate levels of lighting; at the City's request, placement of at least five cameras at locations in surrounding streets as designated by the City; and, if reasonably necessary to ensure security, the use of drone cameras in the surrounding areas of the City.

12. If the County operates an Emergency Shelter for single men at 26 Oakley at any time, the County shall ensure that a curfew is enforced such that individuals housed at the shelter are required to remain in the shelter between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. Nothing herein shall prevent shelter residents from entering or exiting the shelter between the hours of 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM for a required or lawful purpose, such as reporting to and from their outside employment. The County shall ensure that individuals who commit serious violations or repeated violations of the curfew or of other shelter rules or policies are not permitted to reside in the shelter. Subject to any limitations of state law, the County shall make all reasonable efforts to

ensure that individuals who present a danger to people in the area surrounding 26 Oakley do not reside at the shelter.

13. During the Enforcement Period, the County shall not, directly or indirectly, construct, operate, or fund any Emergency Shelter within the City with the sole exceptions of (1) Warming Centers and (2) the Existing Shelters that are expressly identified in Exhibit A. The Temporary Housing Pods (the “PODS”) located at 150 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, New York may only remain in operation until 26 Oakley Street begins operation as a certified shelter for single adults, after which time the PODS shall no longer be considered an Existing Shelter and shall not be operated.

REPORTING / STAKEHOLDER GROUP

14. Throughout the Sunset Period and until the County is in full compliance with paragraph 10 above, the County shall regularly provide detailed updates to the City regarding the County’s efforts to arrange for shelter(s) for single males outside the City and to ensure that the County complies with the provisions of this Stipulation, including, without limitation, the status of the County’s efforts to arrange for shelter(s) for single males outside the City, factors the County is considering in choosing a site, the status of funding, and potential pros, cons, or obstacles regarding designating a site. At a minimum, the County shall provide the City with written updates on those subjects every six (6) months during the first three (3) years of the Sunset Period and, every four (4) months during the fourth (4th) year of the Sunset Period, and every two (2) months during the fifth (5th) year of the Sunset Period.

15. The County and the City shall work together in good faith to establish, within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date, a Stakeholder Group to ensure meaningful community input into the County’s use of 26 Oakley. The members of the Stakeholder Group shall be

selected and appointed pursuant to the terms set forth in Exhibit B hereto. The Stakeholder Group shall operate until the end of the Sunset Period or until the City and County jointly stipulate in writing that the Stakeholder Group can cease operation, whichever is earlier.

16. Throughout the operation of the Stakeholder Group, the County shall regularly provide updates to the Stakeholder Group and to the City regarding the operations at 26 Oakley, including measures being taken to ensure security and address safety and quality of life concerns at the 26 Oakley parcel and in the surrounding area insofar as it is impacted by the 26 Oakley shelter.

17. Throughout the operation of the Stakeholder Group, the County shall provide adequate mechanisms for communication between the County and the Stakeholder Group regarding the operations at 26 Oakley and related issues, including security, safety, and quality of life issues at the 26 Oakley parcel and in the surrounding area insofar as it is impacted by the 26 Oakley shelter.

18. The County shall promptly provide additional information to the Stakeholder Group in response to requests or inquiries.

19. Throughout the operation of the Stakeholder Group, the County shall work in good faith with the Stakeholder Group in making decisions regarding the operations at 26 Oakley and related issues, including security, safety, and quality of life issues at the 26 Oakley parcel and in the surrounding area insofar as it is impacted by the 26 Oakley shelter.

20. The Stakeholder Group shall develop a mechanism for members of the community to directly communicate with the Stakeholder Group regarding immediate concerns and suggestions so they can be addressed immediately via both short- and long-term solutions.

21. The frequency of engagements will be determined, reviewed, and adjusted by the Stakeholder Group. Options for communication include, but are not limited to:

- Quarterly meetings with neighbors and the wider community;
- Regular informal gatherings with neighbors, such as picnics in local parks; and
- Direct contact information provided to neighbors, suggestion box and other methods identified by the Stakeholder Group.

35 MONTGOMERY STREET

22. Within ninety (90) days of the Effective Date, the County shall transfer to the City ownership of the real property parcel located at 35 Montgomery Street in the City for the purposes of the City's development of a youth and/or community center at 35 Montgomery Street without cost to the City.

23. In the event that the City incurs costs associated with construction of a building(s) or structure(s) dedicated to youth or community center at 35 Montgomery Street, the County shall reimburse the City \$3,905,534.79 of such costs. The County shall transmit such payment(s) to the City within sixty (60) days of the City providing acceptable documentation of the construction costs incurred. For the avoidance of doubt, the City may obtain reimbursement from the County on multiple occasions in smaller amounts, provided that the total amount does not exceed \$3,905,534.79. Payment of the above consideration shall be made to the City upon submission of statements in a form satisfactory to the County. No payment shall be made prior to audit and approval by the County, which shall be undertaken without undue delay.

24. The City agrees that the County Youth Bureau may maintain an office at the property located at 35 Montgomery Street without paying rent to the City for a period up to thirteen (13) years after the City's construction of a youth or community center at 35 Montgomery Street. After that point in time, the County Youth Bureau may only maintain an

office at 35 Montgomery Street if it enters into a lease with the City. Nothing in this paragraph shall be interpreted to require the City to enter into such a lease or to limit the terms of such a lease.

RELEASE OF CLAIMS

25. Upon the Effective Date, in consideration for the agreement to the terms set forth in this Stipulation, Plaintiffs release any and all claims that they may have against Defendants or their officials, officers, employees, or agents relating to the claims made in the Complaint in this action, up to the date of execution of this Stipulation. For the avoidance of doubt, this release does not apply to claims that are not related to the claims made in the Complaint or for any action concerning a breach of this Stipulation or to enforce its terms.

26. Upon the Effective Date, in consideration for the agreement to the terms set forth in this Stipulation, Defendants release any and all claims that they may have against Plaintiffs or their officials, officers, employees, or agents arising from the allegations set forth in the complaint up to the date of execution of this stipulation. For the avoidance of doubt, this release does not apply to claims that do not arise from the allegations set forth in the complaint.

27. Within five (5) business days of the Effective Date, Plaintiffs' counsel shall file a Stipulation of Dismissal with Prejudice, annexed hereto as Exhibit C, providing for the dismissal with prejudice and without costs or disbursements of all claims asserted in this action. The Parties agree that this Court shall retain jurisdiction for enforcement purposes.

ENFORCEMENT

28. During the Enforcement Period, the Parties agree that Magistrate Judge Victoria Reznik, or in the event she is no longer available, another Magistrate Judge on this Court (the "Magistrate Judge"), shall have the authority to issue binding rulings on any issues regarding

compliance with this Stipulation that may arise. The Parties consent and agree that such rulings of the Magistrate Judge shall be final and binding at the district court level. A Concerned Party may seek appellate review of any such ruling by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit or the Supreme Court of the United States; provided, however, that such ruling shall remain binding unless and until a court order is issued staying, enjoining, or vacating such ruling.

29. In the event that either the City or County (“Concerned Party”) have a concern regarding the other’s compliance with this Stipulation (“Responding Party”), the Concerned Party shall notify the Responding Party in writing, and the Responding Party shall have thirty (30) days to address the issues raised by the Concerned Party. In the event that the dispute is not resolved, the Concerned Party may present the dispute to the Magistrate Judge, who shall issue a binding ruling regarding compliance.

30. Notwithstanding the previous paragraph, in the event that a Concerned Party has a concern regarding the Responding Party’s compliance with this Stipulation and the Concerned Party believes in good faith that the time-sensitive or emergency nature of the concern requires a faster resolution, the Concerned Party may notify the Responding Party in writing and immediately present the dispute to the Magistrate Judge, who shall issue a binding ruling regarding compliance.

31. Any ruling by the Magistrate Judge regarding compliance shall immediately be binding on the Parties and shall be immediately enforceable in the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. The Magistrate Judge and the District Court shall have authority to issue such relief as they deem appropriate, including without limitation injunctive relief, contempt orders, and/or daily fines.

32. During the Enforcement Period, the City agrees to defend and indemnify the County 50% of the associated costs, expenses, attorney fees, settlement and/or judgment related to claims filed against the County by any third party directly arising from the County's compliance with the terms of this Settlement Agreement.

MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS

33. Nothing in this Stipulation shall be read to affect, impair, invalidate or in any way diminish the terms of the Dutchess County Charter, Dutchess County Administrative Code, or City of Poughkeepsie Charter, or any valid State or Federal Law.

34. This Stipulation shall not be effective or binding on any of the Parties unless and until it is approved by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie (the "Common Council") and the Dutchess County Legislature (the "County Legislature"). Provided, however, that, for a period of ninety (90) days after this Stipulation is fully executed, the Parties shall remain bound by their executions of this Stipulation and may not withdraw from this Stipulation until either the Common Council or the County Legislature rejects the Stipulation at a duly constituted and convened meeting of the body within such period or unless all Parties stipulate in writing that they may do so. In the event that the Common Council and the County Legislature have not both approved the Stipulation in full within ninety (90) days after it has been fully executed, the Parties shall no longer remain bound by their executions of this Stipulation.

35. The City shall request that the Common Council agendaize approval of this Stipulation at its next public meeting.

36. The County shall request that the County Legislature agendaize approval of this Stipulation at its next public meeting.

37. This Stipulation constitutes the entire agreement between and among the Parties hereto with respect to the matters covered hereby and supersedes any prior or contemporaneous agreement, understanding, or undertaking, written or oral, by or between or among the Parties.

38. This Amended Stipulation shall fully supersede the stipulation that the Parties executed dated June 18, 2026. The Parties expressly agree that the stipulation dated June 18, 2026 shall be considered null and void. In any instance in which the terms of the two stipulations differ, including without limitation with respect to the length of the Sunset Period set forth in Paragraph 6, the terms of this Amended Stipulation shall apply.

39. The signatories to this Stipulation represent that they are fully authorized to enter into this Stipulation and to bind the Parties to the terms and conditions hereof, subject to approval by the Common Council and the County Legislature as described above.

40. No term or provision of this Stipulation may be varied, changed, modified, waived, discharged, or terminated orally, but only by an instrument in writing signed by the party or parties against whom the enforcement of the variation, change, modification, waiver, discharge, or termination is sought with the same formalities afforded this settlement agreement.

41. If any clause, sentence, paragraph, or part of this agreement shall be adjudicated by any court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional such order or judgment shall not affect impair or invalidate the remainder thereof.

42. This Stipulation may be executed simultaneously in one or more counterparts, each of which shall be deemed an original and all of which together shall constitute one and the same instrument. Copies of this Stipulation shall have the same force and effect as an original, and each of the Parties hereby expressly waives any right to assert that such copies fail to comply with the "Best Evidence Rule" of the Federal Rules of Evidence or any equivalent rule of law or

evidence of any other jurisdiction. Signatures by facsimile, .pdf, or other electronic imaging shall be deemed to constitute original signatures.

For Plaintiff City of Poughkeepsie

By:  Dated: 7/22, 2026
(Signature)
Yvonne Flowers - Mayor
(Print Name and Title)

By Plaintiff Lisa Cummings:

_____ Dated: _____, 2026

By Plaintiff Gladys Lyles:

_____ Dated: _____, 2026

For Defendant County of Dutchess

By: _____ Dated: _____, 2026
(Signature)

(Print Name and Title)

By Defendant Sue Serino:

_____ Dated: _____, 2026

evidence of any other jurisdiction. Signatures by facsimile, .pdf, or other electronic imaging shall be deemed to constitute original signatures.

For Plaintiff City of Poughkeepsie

By: _____ Dated: _____, 2026
(Signature)

(Print Name and Title)

By Plaintiff Lisa Cummings:

_____ Dated: _____, 2026

By Plaintiff Gladys Lyles:

_____ Dated: _____, 2026

For Defendant County of Dutchess

By: Sue Serino Dated: 7-22-, 2026
(Signature)

Sue Serino, County Executive
(Print Name and Title)

By Defendant Sue Serino:

Sue Serino Dated: 7-22-, 2026

AS TO FORM OF AGREEMENT ONLY:

WANG HECKER LLP

By: _____

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

COOK, KURTZ & MURPHY, P.C.

By:  _____

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Attorneys for Defendants

AS TO FORM OF AGREEMENT ONLY:

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By:  _____

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Attorneys for Plaintiffs

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Attorneys for Defendants

EXHIBIT A

List of Existing Shelters

Community Housing Innovations - Rose Street (16 beds), 8 Rose Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

North Hamilton Shelter (7 beds), 213 North Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, New York 12601

Grace Smith House, Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

River Haven, 99 Thompson Street, Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

Temporary Housing Pods ("The PODS"), 150 N. Hamilton Street, Poughkeepsie, New York, expressly and only to permit its operations until it is permanently closed, which shall be no later than commencement of the Sunset Period (i.e. 26 Oakley is operating).

EXHIBIT B

Stakeholder Group Membership

The Stakeholder Group shall be comprised of up to eleven (11) members as follows:

- County Legislator representing the community where 26 Oakley is located;
- Councilperson representing the community where 26 Oakley is located;
- A representative from any school in the proximity of 26 Oakley recommended by the school district;
- A representative of the City, chosen by the City;
- A person with lived experience with homelessness; and
- Up to six (6) representatives (three (3) appointed by the City and three (3) by the County) from the following categories:
 - A maximum of three (3) neighbors who live near 26 Oakley as outlined in the “Proximity Chart” below (there is a preference for neighbors within ¼ mile);
 - A maximum of two (2) business owners who operate businesses near 26 Oakley as outlined in the “Proximity Chart” below (there is a preference for one business that services shelter guests); and
 - A representative from the faith-based community near 26 Oakley as outlined in the “Proximity Chart” below.

***Proximity Chart:**

Location Type	Residents	Business Owners	Faith-Based
Urban	1/2 mile	3/4 mile	3/4 mile
Non-Urban/Suburban	1 mile	2 miles	5 miles

No person employed by an agency that provides or seeks to provide paid services at 26 Oakley may serve on the Stakeholder Group.

The Stakeholder Group shall also include as non-voting members a DCFS and DMH designated employee that is familiar with shelter operations, The DCFS Commissioner or his/her designee shall be an ad hoc member as well.

In the event of a future vacancy in the Stakeholder Group, the City and the County may modify the proximity chart in order to make an appointment to the vacancy if they deem such appointment necessary, after taking into consideration the recommendation of the Stakeholder Group.

In the event of any dispute regarding the membership of the Stakeholder Group, the City or the County may raise such dispute with the Magistrate Judge, who shall have the power to resolve such dispute.

EXHIBIT C

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK

CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE, GLADYS LYLES,
and LISA CUMMINGS,

Plaintiffs,

-against-

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS and
COUNTY EXECUTIVE SUE SERINO,

Defendants.

Case No. 25 Civ. 7668 (KMK) (VR)

**STIPULATION OF DISMISSAL
WITH PREJUDICE**

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED, by and between the attorneys for Plaintiffs City of Poughkeepsie, Gladys Lyles, and Lisa Cummings (“Plaintiffs”) and the attorneys for Defendants County of Dutchess and County Executive Sue Serino (“Defendants”), that the above-captioned action be and is hereby dismissed and discontinued in its entirety as against Defendants with prejudice, and with no award of attorneys’ fees or costs by the Court.

IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND AGREED that the Court shall retain jurisdiction for enforcement purposes pursuant to the terms of the Stipulation entered into by Plaintiffs and Defendants.

IT IS FURTHER STIPULATED AND AGREED that this Stipulation may be executed in counterparts and by scanned signatures, which shall have the same force and effect as original signatures.

WANG HECKER LLP

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By: _____
Daniel Mullkoff
Attorneys for Plaintiffs

By: _____
Michael T. Cook
Attorneys for Defendants

IV. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

I want to thank the council for coming together for this special meeting, even though I know you're on vacation. I appreciate the time you're giving, but this isn't the outcome we all wanted.

I've been fighting this since 2020—so it's been six years—with negotiations and back-and-forth throughout. I've been talking with county legislators, the county executive, and my council members.

Councilmember Menist understands what happened early on: when we first negotiated, things weren't working in our favor, the county went quiet, and then we had to restart the process again. For a year, we negotiated back and forth until we reached a plan for a family shelter, but that effort failed too. Since then, everything has kept changing.

During mediation, I realized our chances of winning the case were getting slimmer than when we first started. One key issue that came up was that a shelter has been operating in the City of Poughkeepsie for the past six years, and that has provided additional justification for why a shelter is needed there.

I started to realize where this was headed, and that's when I began focusing on what we could do to gain some control over the situation. It went on for a very long time, even stretching to eight years. Then, suddenly, it was reduced to five years within just a few hours, and that shift made everything feel even more out of our hands.

I want to thank Council Member Shook for all the work you were doing while I was away, and I also appreciate Council Member James for her effort to gather every possible piece of information. This decision wasn't easy—especially for someone who's been saying I'm fighting against the shelter and didn't want to have to turn around and do more just to get through it. I felt beaten down by how hard it was, but we still ended up with something better than what we had before.

I also recognize that not everyone understands what it's like in the neighborhood when you have no control. When you walk outside and everything is falling apart, there's no one there to help you. We talked with county legislators about what could be done, but even with the majority they have, they still couldn't help us in the way we needed.

So we reached a point where we were fighting alone—and when you're in that room, making decisions with lawyers who know these cases and you realize it isn't going to go in your favor, that's when we had to change strategy. That's why I moved in the direction I did and discussed it with the council members to see how they felt. It wasn't an easy decision at all.

Am I happy with it? No. Can I live with it? Yes. Considering what we were up against, absolutely. So, again, I appreciate the five councilmembers who did agree with it. I respect those who didn't agree with it, I understand where you're coming from, but at the same time when you find out that you're about to lose something and now you have no control whatsoever, I'm afraid of what that looks like for us who have to live in that neighborhood.

So is this gonna be the right decision? I don't know, but I tell you one thing, we have some oversight over some of this versus if we didn't at all. So, I feel comfortable with the decision that I made. And I hope everyone else feels comfortable with the decision that they made as well, but as long as I'm sitting in this seat, I'm going to continue to fight with this county and fight with anybody I have to to help to make sure that whatever they do they have to do it correctly because if not it would continue to be a fight.

Thank you Chair.

V. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS:

G am k k c l b w m s * K _ w m p * w m s p c d d m p r q * K p , B m l _ r * w m s p c d d m p r * A m s l a g j k _ l H _ k c q * w m s p c d d m p r q T g a c A f _ g p Q f m m i * A m s l a g j k c l N _ r r c p q m l * K _ h m p g r w J c _ b c p N _ r r c p q m l m l w m s p c d d m p r q r m r _ i c r f g q r m r f c d g e f r , W m s b g b l _ r f c _ p _ j m r m d a m k k c l r q d p m k k c m t c p r f c a m s p q c m d r f g q ` c a \_ s q c k w q r \_ l a c f \_ q \_ j u \_ w q ` c c l l m ,

G s l b c p q r _ l b c t c p w r f g l e c j q c r f _ r u _ q e m g l e m l , ? l b G s l b c p q r _ l b g r * ` s r G l c t c p u \_ q u \_ t c p g l e d p m k r f \_ r , Q m r f \_ r ' q u f w G b g b l \_ r l c c b r m k \_ i c a m k k c l r q \_ ` m s r g r * ` c a \_ s q c G l c t c p u \_ q t m r g l e d m p g r \* l m k \_ r r c p u f \_ r g r u \_ q , G h s q r b g b l \_ r ` c j g c t c r f _ r _ q f c j r c p l c c b c b r m ` c g l r f _ r j m a _ r g m l ,

@ s r f _ r g q l m r r m q _ w r f _ r r f c d g e f r _ l b r f c q r p s e e j c r f _ r r f c w u c p c e m g l e r f p m s e f u _ q l m r p c _ j * j g i c r f c w q _ g b * a m s l r j c q q _ l b a m s l r j c q q r g k c q , ? l b u c u c p c s n _ e _ g l q r _ p m a i _ l b _ f _ p b n j _ a c ,

And this wouldn't even got to this point, just so everybody knows, we wouldn't have even got it to this point if it wasn't for the efforts of the mayor, city administration, Councilwoman James, and the other council members who fought as much as possible. And like we just said, and like I said earlier, the fight isn't over. The pressure needs to go right to the county legislators, needs to go right to county executive to say enough is enough.

You know, this needs to discuss, this might be the first of this incidence with the shelter, but we want to stop all of these things from happening and that's only going to be able to happen if the same energy that is given here is given consistently at our legislators office and consistently to those legislators because we only have a couple that represent us, but we have to let the other legislators that know that we have family, friends and people out in their areas and where they live at too. That can affect those votes as well because that's where the fight really is and we and I would like to say it again they they did their best and then all factors had to be taken into account.

I just was voting no from the beginning Councilmember Menist was voting No from the beginning but with that being said this is what we have this is where we are and we all know you know what we need to do to continue the fight don't let this because this past The stop fighting, the noise should be more uproar now, the accountability should be more now that is here and that should be directed, like I said and others have said, at the county, for real.

So thank you all for coming out, thank you for tuning in, those that did. Thank you for people that came for the public comments and have a good night. Be safe, enjoy the rest of your summer.

VI. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:40pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and seconded by 3rd Ward Councilmember Brown

Dated: August 3, 2026

I hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Wednesday, July 22, 2026

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