



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 25, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is August 25, 2026, and the time is 6:30pm**

I. ROLL CALL

7 Present, 2 Absent (3rd Ward Council Member Terricena Brown, 6th Ward Council Member Christopher Grant)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

A motion to Approve was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist.

Approve Special Meeting Minutes of July 22, 2026 and PH Minutes of August 18, 2026	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 5th Ward Council Member James, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 6th Ward Council Member Grant
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Special Meeting of July 22, 2026 - 26 Oakley St
2. Common Council Public Hearing- 9 Austin Court Rezoning

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

IV. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

A motion to defer item #2 to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and was seconded by 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist

1. **FROM AMERICAN CRUISE LINES**, a presentation regarding proposal to construct a new dock and non-exclusive lease agreement
2. **FROM LAHCEN ELAKKAOU**, a notice of claim for property damage sustained on August 11, 2026

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

Bishop Kenrick McBean - Cannon St
James Chambers - Dean Pl
Minister Junior Selman - Wilson Blvd
Laurie Sandow - S. Grand Ave*
Denise Parmentier - Cannon 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 was made by 4th Ward Council Member Shook and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

Approve the Consent Agenda Resolutions R-26-54, R-26-56, and R-26-57	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 5th Ward Council Member James, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown, 6th Ward Council Member Grant
Result:	Passed

1. **R-26-54**, Resolution Adopting 2027-2031 City of Poughkeepsie Capital Improvement Plan

RESOLUTION

(R-26-54)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY, MENIST, BROWN AND JAMES

WHEREAS, in accordance with Section 5.02 of the Charter of the City of Poughkeepsie, the City Administrator has presented the 2025-2029 Capital Projects Program (a/k/a "Capital Improvement Plan") to the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council held its public hearing concerning the 2027-2031 Capital Projects Program on August 25, 2026; and

WHEREAS, the Capital Projects Program is considered a planning document for the City's anticipated Capital Projects needs for the ensuing five-year period, and as such, the Program may be amended from time to time before a particular Capital Project is implemented and final project approval will be made as sources of funds are identified; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has determined that this resolution constitutes a Type II action as defined by the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and 6 NYCRR Part 617,

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2027-2031 Capital Projects Program budget annexed hereto is hereby approved by the Common Council subject to such amendments as may be deemed necessary and/or advisable, and also subject to such further approvals as may be required by law.

2. **R-26-55**, Resolution Honoring City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Michael Barbagallo as the 2026 “Hero of the Year”

RESOLUTION R-26-55 REMOVED ON THE FLOOR

3. **R-26-56**, Resolution Renaming Perry St. Park To “Bishop James E. Hunt and Mother Leatrice E. Hunt Park at Perry St.”

RESOLUTION

**RENAME PERRY ST. PARK TO
“BISHOP JAMES E. HUNT and MOTHER LEATRICE E. HUNT PARK AT
PERRY ST.”**

(R-26-56)

**SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON,
HENRY, MENIST, BROWN AND JAMES**

WHEREAS, for over 56 years—and for the past 31 years here in the City of Poughkeepsie—Bishop James E. Hunt and Mother Leatrice E. Hunt have devoted their lives to serving others. Through their ministry, they have provided spiritual guidance, mentored young people, strengthened families, and reached countless residents through outreach and community service. I have always believed that the highest calling is service to others, and few people have demonstrated that commitment more faithfully than Bishop and Mother Hunt; and

WHEREAS, the commitment of Bishop and Mother Hunt has been demonstrated through numerous community events and service projects, including:

- Community Park Clean-Up Days
- Community Barbecue – July 2025
- Thanksgiving Giveaway serving local residents and families – November 19, 2025

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of August 25, 2026

- Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 18, 2025
- Community Barbecue – June 13, 2026
- Community Barbecue and Community Outreach Event – July 18, 2026 (scheduled)
- Back-to-School Celebration serving children and families from the Charles Street, Delafield Street, and Rip Van Winkle neighborhoods (scheduled)
- Annual Tree Lighting Ceremony – December 18, 2026 (scheduled)

WHEREAS, the church's work has also included partnerships with local businesses, volunteers, artists, and community organizations to continue improving the park. Planned enhancements include:

- Community murals
- Decorative entrance pillars
- A memorial section honoring community leaders
- A prayer garden
- Additional benches and gathering spaces

WHEREAS, these efforts reflect the vision that Bishop and Mother Hunt established decades ago—a ministry that has always extended beyond the walls of the church and into the heart of the community. Their work has never been limited to preaching; it has always been about lifting people up, bringing neighbors together, and making our city a better place.

Renaming North Perry Street Park in their honor would recognize two people whose lives have positively impacted generations of Poughkeepsie residents. It would celebrate not only their spiritual leadership but also their lasting contributions to neighborhood revitalization, community development, and public service.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that Perry St. Park shall now be renamed to be the **“BISHOP JAMES E. HUNT and MOTHER LEATRICE E. HUNT PARK AT PERRY ST.”**

4. **R-26-57**, Resolution Introducing a Local Law to Amend Section 15-18(B) of the City Code to Correct the List of Parks and Setting a Public Hearing

RESOLUTION

(R-26-57)

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING
A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 15-18(b)
OF THE CITY CODE TO CORRECT THE LIST OF PARKS**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON,
HENRY, MENIST, BROWN AND JAMES**

BE IT RESOLVED that an introductory Local Law entitled, “**A A LOCAL LAW TO AMEND SECTION 15-18(b) OF THE CITY CODE TO CORRECT THE LIST OF PARKS**” be and hereby is introduced before the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie in the County of Dutchess and State of New York; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of the aforesaid proposed local law are laid upon the desk of each member of the Council; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council shall hold a public hearing on said proposed local law to receive comment from the public on Tuesday, September 15, 2026 at 6:00 pm in the Common Council Chambers, Third Floor, City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk publish or cause to be published a public notice in the official newspaper of the City of Poughkeepsie of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **Second Read: O-26-08**, Ordinance Amending §13-269 Of Chapter 13 Of The City Of Poughkeepsie Code Of Ordinances Entitled “Motor Vehicles And Traffic” Handicapped Parking Areas Designated. Talmadge St., East Side, Starting 102 Feet From Its Intersection With Duane Street; For 25 Feet (1 Space).

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-269
OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED “MOTOR VEHICLES
AND TRAFFIC”**

(O-25-08)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER HENRY:

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

SECTION 1: §13-269 is hereby amended by the following modification:

Section 13-158 -Handicapped parking areas designated.

Upon the erection of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as part of the Handicapped parking areas.

Talmadge St., east side, starting 102 feet from its intersection with Duane Street; for 25 feet (1 Space).

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

2. **LL-26-09, Local Law Amending the Zoning Map of the City of Poughkeepsie
(9 Austin Court, Known by Tax Grid #6161-67-790286)**

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE ZONING MAP OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE

(9 Austin Court, known by tax grid #6161-67-790286)

(LL-26-09)

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, PATTERSON THOMPSON, HENRY,
MENIST, BROWN AND JAMES**

WHEREAS, PK Cedar Dev LLC has made application to the City of Poughkeepsie to rezone a certain 1.3-acre vacant parcel of land at 9 Austin Court, known by tax grid #6161-67-790286 from RNA to RC3; and

WHEREAS, the Planning Board served as lead agency for this application pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) and a negative declaration of environmental significance was adopted on June 23, 2026.

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED, by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie, a local law amending the City of Poughkeepsie Zoning Map to change the zoning of the following parcel from Residential Neighborhood A (RNA) to Residential Community (RC3): **9 Austin Ct, known by tax grid #6161-67-790286, comprising approximately 1.3 acres**, subject to the following conditions:

- 1.) the rezoning does not imply any further land use approvals at the site regarding site plan approval and the property owner and/or the Applicant and/or any successor in interest is advised that further application, review and approval by the Planning Board is required; and
- 2.) The property owner and/or the Applicant and/or any successor in interest may not make application for any variances from the zoning code for the subject parcel (9 Austin Court) or any future parcel containing what is now 9 Austin Court. The property owner and/or the Applicant and/or any successor in interest shall prepare a project that complies in all respects with the RC3 zoning.
- 3.) If the property owner and/or the Applicant and/or any successor in interest has not obtained final site plan approval for a multi-family project within 5 years from the date this local law is adopted by the Common Council, the property shall revert to the RNA zoning classification. This 5 year term may not be tolled for any reason.

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

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

I want to thank Bethel Church and its members for the work they have been doing in this community, including in the park on Perry Street. This is not something that has happened over just the past couple of years; it has been an ongoing effort. I also want to acknowledge the renaming of the park in honor of Bishop Hunt and Mother Hunt.

This recognition is not based solely on what they have done recently. It reflects the church's years of service and the many ways its members have contributed throughout the community. This is something they have been working toward for years and that should have happened a long time ago.

I know there have been comments about work that still needs to be done in the park, and I have received complaints about a cat colony and other issues that had been occurring there. However, we came together to clean up the park, make it more active, and organize various events. Unfortunately, not everyone will be satisfied, but I want to thank Council Member Ernest Henry and everyone else involved for continuing to improve and activate the park so that residents in the area can enjoy it.

We will also be working with DPW which has already been doing a great deal of work there. If you look closely, you will see a stone structure that once functioned almost like a waterfall. We are trying to preserve it and determine how we can incorporate it into the park in the future. I want to thank you for your efforts, and I hope they continue. The city will work with you to keep improving the park.

I want to address the many complaints we received about Cannon Street, and I appreciate everyone who came forward. We have been working on this challenge for several years. When I was on the City Council, the problem was happening in our own neighborhood, so we worked with the police and were able to reduce it for a time.

Unfortunately, after I became mayor, similar issues arose in front of Dollar General, on Pershing and on White Street. At one point, there were far more people there than there are now. We also had to break up encampments near the Kennedy's lot. When I drove through around midnight or 1 a.m., it looked like a block party was taking place in the middle of Main Street. The next morning, we would find needles, human waste, discarded diapers, and other trash on the property. It was horrific, and I understand your frustration.

We worked with the police and the property owners to address the problem, and we were able to improve the situation to some extent. Some people entered treatment, while others moved elsewhere. We have also been visiting these sites with community partners who provide drug-addiction treatment and mental-health services. We stress to the individuals that we are here to provide services and to help you, but if you are not going to receive that help or be open to engage in those services, then you must find somewhere else to go. We are not going to make it comfortable for people to be on the street.

We have been addressing this issue throughout the City of Poughkeepsie, but it has become increasingly challenging as more people come into the city. Our police officers have been engaging with individuals and issuing tickets for violations such as having an open container or trespassing. However, some cases are dismissed when they go to court, so we have been meeting with the District Attorney's Office and our Police Department to discuss how to handle these violations more effectively. Our goal is not to impose criminal charges, but to connect people with diversion programs that can provide treatment instead of jail or repeated court appearances. Some individuals have accepted that help, while others have declined it. We are working to find additional ways

to hold people accountable because the current approach is not working well enough. Police have also posted loitering and no trespassing signs and continue to respond when assistance is needed.

But we need more assistance from the county as well. So go to their meetings like you come to ours and express your concerns and frustrations there. We need more people to advocate for our city. Our police cannot do it alone. This is not a 9 to 5 problem - it's an around the clock problem - and we need more help.

We will be having a 9-11 ceremony at City Hall on Friday, September 11th at 10 am. I encourage everyone to attend.

This summer has been great, and I'm sorry to see it ending. The warm weather and continuous events have kept our parks, streets, and neighborhoods active, while also helping reduce challenges such as gun violence by giving young people positive activities to participate in. I'm looking forward to more events taking place throughout the winter so that this momentum continues beyond the summer.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Thank you, Mayor. Thank you, once again, for answering the call. We know we've heard from Cannon Street individuals, had multiple meetings so to address that, I want to thank you for making sure that that is being taken care of.

Thank you to everyone who came out tonight. And, like we said, I want to just ditto the mayor to make sure that you put pressure on the county to also make some of these changes.

As you may or may not know, the county oversees the city, of course, and the federal government oversees the county so the pressure has to be put on the county for a lot of these changes. As you know, a lot of the unhoused in our area are not from Poughkeepsie. We all see it. I ride by Cannon Street all the time and it's ridiculous. But, together we're going to have to work to make it happen.

And just like you came out collectively tonight, mobilize and storm that county meeting on September 14th. Those are the first steps in making sure that the people understand that Poughkeepsie residents are here to be heard.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At **7:42pm** a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

Dated: September 2, 2026

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, August 25, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,
Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain



Poughkeepsie
American Cruise Lines Partnership





Company History

American Cruise Lines



-
- ★ Ship operating and shipbuilding since the 1970s
 - ★ Founded by Charles A. Robertson
 - ★ Second generation family business, still owned by the Robertson family
 - ★ Executive leadership all have more than 20 years of history with the companies
 - ★ Hands-on operations-oriented leadership teams



Company Overview

Cruise Close To Home® with American Cruise Lines, the leader in U.S. River and Coastal cruising and the largest domestic cruise line in the country. The company offers a growing fleet of new riverboats and small cruise ships, each accommodating just 90 to 180 guests. All ships are built in the U.S.A., and all itineraries are fully domestic. American is the only cruise line in the world with a fleet of 100% U.S.-flagged small ships and riverboats.

Sailing year-round, the company's ships visit only U.S. ports of call while cruising the country's great rivers, lakes, and coastal waterways from Alaska to Florida. American offers 50+ itineraries that range from 7 to 55-days in length and explore over 35 states. The company has 50+ years of experience exclusively cruising the U.S.A., and specializes in personalized service and well-curated destination-focused cruises.

28 SMALL SHIPS ★ 50+ ITINERARIES



AMERICAN RIVERBOATS

COASTAL CATS

CONSTELLATION CLASS

INDEPENDENCE CLASS

PADDLEWHEELERS

PATRIOT CLASS





Hudson River *Number of Cruises Each Year*

2026

34 cruises

2027

42 cruises

2028

46 cruises





Poughkeepsie *Excursions*



*Frances Lehman Loeb Art Center
Vassar College*



Walkway Over the Hudson



Locust Grove Estate



Downtown Walking Tour



FDR Mansion



Vanderbilt



Culinary Institute of America



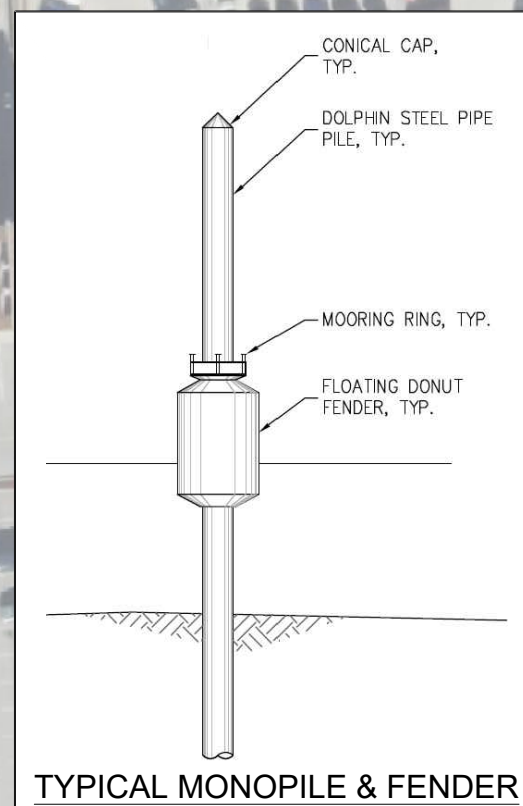
Partnerships *Examples*





Proposed Plans
Poughkeepsie, NY





AMERICAN CRUISE LINES
POUGHKEEPSIE DOCK IMPROVEMENTS



DRAWN BY:
OKC

CHECKED BY:
JFM

DATE:
03/23/2026

PROJECT NO.
ACL

SCALE:
1" = 60'

SHEET

2.0