



The City of Poughkeepsie New York

Common Council Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 1, 2026

6:30 PM

Common Council Chambers

**Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie
Common Council the date is September 1, 2026, and the time is 6:30pm**

I. ROLL CALL

8 Present, 1 Absent (3rd Ward Council Member Terriciena Brown)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES

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

Approve Common Council Minutes of 8-18-2026 and Public Hearing Minutes of 8-25-2026- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown
Result:	Passed

1. Common Council Meeting Minutes of August 18, 2026
2. Common Council Public Hearing Minutes of August 25, 2026 - Capital Improvement Plan

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 #1 to Corporation Counsel was made by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson and was seconded by 6th Ward Councilmember Grant

1. **FROM JAMES MCPADDEN**, a notification of adult-use retail dispensary license application

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION:

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

David Henningsen- 137 Academy St

Mary Reynolds- 137 Academy St

Suprina Troche- 3 Delafield St

Paola Bari- 5 Barnard Ave

Nikki Hung- Poughkeepsie Open Studios

Warren Jones- N Clover

Laurie Sandow- S Grand Ave*

***Submitted written comments**

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS & ANNOUNCEMENTS:

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. CONSENT AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion to move Resolution R-26-55 to the Action Agenda was made by 6th Ward Councilmember Grant and seconded by 7th Ward Councilmember Patterson Thompson

1. **R-26-55**, Resolution Honoring City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Michael Barbagallo as the 2026 "Hero of the Year"
MOVED TO ACTION AGENDA
2. **R-26-58**, Resolution Appointing John Bradley to the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank Board of Directors as a Joint County Executive and Mayor Appointment

A motion to Approve was made by 2nd Ward Council member Menist and seconded by 1st Ward Council Member Henry.

Resolution R-26-58- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown
Result:	Passed

RESOLUTION

(R-26-58)

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

WHEREAS, pursuant to the by-laws of the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank, one member of the Board of Directors "shall be appointed jointly by the County Executive of Dutchess County and the Mayor of the City of Poughkeepsie, subject to confirmation by the Dutchess County Legislature and the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council" [Article II, Section 2,(a)(5)]

WHEREAS, the Mayor and County Executive have selected John Bradley for appointment to this position.

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby confirms the Mayor's appointment of John Bradley to the Dutchess County-Poughkeepsie Land Bank.

IX. CONSENT AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. ACTION AGENDA: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

Motion to Approve Resolution R-26-55- VOICE VOTE	
Yes/Aye:	1st Ward Council Member Henry, 2nd Ward Councilmember Menist, 5th Ward Council Member James, 6th Ward Council Member Grant, 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson, 4th Ward Council Member Shook, Council Member At-Large Wilson, 8th Ward Councilmember Atonna
No/Nay:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	3rd Ward Council Member Brown
Result:	Passed

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

RESOLUTION

(R-26-55)

**A RESOLUTION HONORING CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE POLICE OFFICER
MICHAEL BARBAGALLO AS THE 2026 “HERO OF THE YEAR”**

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

WHEREAS, on February 17, 2026, emergency personnel were dispatched to a structure fire in the City of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, less than one minute after the emergency call was received, City of Poughkeepsie Police Officer Michael Barbagallo (now retired) arrived at the scene and, without the protection of firefighting gear and without hesitation, entered the smoke-filled building; and

WHEREAS, despite the intense heat, toxic smoke, and grave danger to his own safety, Officer Barbagallo courageously searched the building, located multiple residents, and helped evacuate them to safety; and

WHEREAS, because of Officer Barbagallo's swift and decisive actions, the building's tenants were evacuated before the arrival of the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department, allowing firefighters to immediately focus their efforts on suppressing the fire; and

WHEREAS, Officer Barbagallo's courage, sound judgment, and selfless commitment to protecting others helped multiple residents escape and prevented what could have resulted in serious injury or loss of life; and

WHEREAS, his actions represent the highest standards of courage, public service, and devotion to duty and reflect the humble spirit of service demonstrated every day by the men and women of the City of Poughkeepsie Police Department, who remain prepared to step forward for their neighbors at any moment; and

WHEREAS, Officer Barbagallo's extraordinary actions deserve the recognition and gratitude of the Common Council and the entire City of Poughkeepsie community;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby recognizes and honors Officer Michael Barbagallo as the City of Poughkeepsie's 2026 "Hero of the Year" for his courage, heroism, and selfless actions in protecting and rescuing residents during the structure fire of February 17, 2026.

XI. ACTION AGENDA: ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Thank you, Chair.

Just to let everybody know, this Friday is *First Friday* on Main Street at 5:30pm so please come out.

Earlier, the issue of a cooling center in the City of Poughkeepsie was raised. The year before last, we operated a cooling center at 505 Main Street, as had been done during previous administrations. We advertised the center and placed a sign outside, but unfortunately, no one attended.

This year, we opened fire hydrants for the second consecutive year so people walking through the city who had nowhere else to go could cool off. Residents, including children, used the water and enjoyed it. The library also designated itself as a cooling center after coordinating with the county, which identifies cooling and warming centers throughout the county.

We had planned to use 505 Main Street as a cooling center, and our police and fire departments worked together to organize it. If the facility is going to be used, we will consider continuing the program for next year. However, I want to clarify that the city did take action; it is not accurate to say that we did nothing.

It was mentioned that crime is down in the City of Poughkeepsie, and that is correct. This progress is the result of the efforts of our police department, council members, community organizations, and residents who continue to organize events, especially during the summer. These activities help create a stronger sense of community and make people feel good about living in the city.

The many events and programs organized by community partners help keep residents active and engaged. As a result, we are not seeing the same level of violence that we have experienced in the past. Although other crimes still occur, violent crime has decreased significantly compared with what many longtime residents have witnessed.

I remember how difficult things were during the pandemic, when shootings were happening almost every other week. That is not happening now, and I am very grateful. It has been devastating to hear about people I went to school with or knew being killed by gun violence. I am thankful for the efforts everyone is making to help keep crime under control.

The Board of Ethics was also mentioned during public participation and, unfortunately, it has been a challenge to get individuals to serve on certain boards and committees. We have been putting it out there in *The Buzz* and on our social media platforms, but people just don't want to serve long term on boards like they used to. However, we will still continue with that effort.

A group of 8th Ward residents were interested in a pilot program for composting when Councilmember McClinton had her last ward meeting. So, if Councilmember Atonna wants to spearhead the program along with those residents, we can work with DPW to try a pilot program and see how that works. Right now, the city is still trying to deal with recycling, so we don't have the resources to manage that kind of pilot program. Once we get the recycling under control, then we can move on to composting. And then we'd love to see what it will look like because there's been other municipalities that have been doing it and have been successful with it.

School starts on September 8th. We want people to be mindful of the fact that there will be kids walking through the streets, even though some of them will be on busses. The city speed limit has been reduced to 25mph and school zones are 15mph. Our police department will be out in school zones during the first couple of weeks of school just to make sure the kids are going to and from school safely, but if everybody can do what they can to keep an eye on our kids that would be very helpful.

XIII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

And just to continue with that sentiment, there will be bussing if you have just moved to

this area and if you might be new to the area, there is bussing.

So, if you have to commute to work, just know to leave a little bit earlier now because you will see more buses than usual throughout the City of Poughkeepsie. And just like the mayor said, you'll see students walking, and you'll see students getting off those buses.

Please do not violate the rules and try to go around them. Just give yourself some extra time now, especially if you work in the vicinity of the schools. Again, the first day will be the 8th and that first week there will be a lot of families, students, and children still trying to get it together. So be patient or leave a little early. I would just suggest you leave a bit early.

I also want to give a shout-out to a fellow pioneer, Chief Parise, for his promotion and a shout-out to the flag football team. They took two busloads of students down to the Giants versus Jets games. Some students actually got to run through the tunnel before the team came out. And if you saw the joy in their faces, it was an amazing sight to see. They had a great time and some of them actually got to see the players. So, kudos to the flag football teams, and the staff at flag football.

Also, a personal plug, I want to shout out to my niece who got married this weekend. So shout out to her and her new husband. Welcome to the family and we wish them many, many years of love and happiness.

And I think that is it.

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

At 7:55pm a motion to adjourn the meeting was made by 7th Ward Council Member Patterson Thompson and seconded by 6th Ward Council Member Grant.

Dated: September 9, 2026

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, September 1, 2026.

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