



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 18, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Virtual

The Council Meeting was conducted using videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is January 18, 2022, and the time is 6:32 pm.

I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered, wherever we are, on the traditional territory of the Lenape people and this territory was a critical resting place along a popular trade route for people of the Lenape Nation and other cultures as is evidenced in the earliest derivation of the name 'Poughkeepsie' with an indigenous string of words, U-puku-ipi-sing, that, when translated, means 'reed-covered lodge by the little water place' or resting place.

Let's all recite the pledge of allegiance.

I. ROLL CALL

II. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any items not listed on the printed agenda.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Naomi Brooks – submitted written comments

Tonight's comments are concerning the grant recently awarded for sewer system repair and replacement along the Falkill Creek. Although these comments should be addressed to administrators in the city who write and submit grant applications, and then determine the distribution of grant funds, I wanted a place to make them publicly so here we are.

The press release on our city website says that approximately 3.5 million dollars will be spent on the chief goal of making sure the sewers are in good working order, and repaired where needed.

Mayor Rolison is quoted in this press release as saying “We will continue modernizing our system, in order to provide better environmental protections and use the latest technologies to foster green infrastructure.”

Our city has recently been certified as a climate-smart community, which means we are implementing policies and programs that, among other things, enhance resilience in the face of changes in our climate.

Making sure the sewer systems are in good operational order is certainly a worthy endeavor, and that is the press release’s stated chief goal of this grant. But taking strong steps to decrease the amount of inflow TO both sanitary and storm sewers would value the commitment we made to be climate-smart and foster green infrastructure. I was unable to find out how much of this grant money will be spent in such steps.

Identifying building and landscaping features that reduce the amount of storm water that enters any of our sewer systems would also be a good use of some of this grant money. Implementing changes to our building codes that reduce the volume of sewage into our sanitary sewer systems would also be a good use of some of this grant money. Implementing changes to our zoning codes that protect and maintain the porous surfaces left in our city, and enhance the ability to capture storm water with increased landscaping so it doesn’t need to be removed through a storm sewer, would also be a good use of some of this grant money.

I hate to think our city is using this extraordinary grant to finally make the repairs left unattended for far too long, but forgetting to also examine how to lessen the strain on those systems in the future.

2. Laurie Sandow – submitted written comments

Two weeks ago, this council got off to a bad start. Tonight, two weeks later, this council has gone from bad to worse, now violating its own Rules as well as City Charter mandates. This Council’s first Resolution of the year—its own Rules of Conduct and Procedure—is violated by tonight’s agenda, altered by one or more rogue parties without public discussion or vote. The City’s Charter is also violated on several fronts:

One—The deletion of minutes as a line item on tonight’s agenda—with the January 3, 2022 meeting minutes not only missing from tonight’s Council packet; but also non-existent in the files at City Hall, despite the Charter requirement;

Two—An illegal rescheduling of Special Informational Meetings away from the Charter mandated months of March and September;

Three—Still no redistricting committee, which was required to be appointed no later than the first day of March 2021. (For the math-challenged, that’s LAST year.) Three-and-a-half—Still no appointments to the Council’s standing committee on finance, required within 60 days of the body’s organization.

When it comes to bad starts, the Administration is hardly better. No public posting about the departure of Asst. Corporation Counsel Sarah Wilson. A buried, now-vanished, two-week only posting for Development Director, in the grand tradition of cover-your-rear-end postings. Continuing secrecy of the PK4Keeps process. Secret settlement discussions with Tinkelman at Wheaton, and Bonura at the southern waterfront. A website that continues to obstruct and undermine public engagement. Documents posted without time stamps, without a clue of file size, or whether they've been altered and are replacements for previous versions. I wish I had time to continue...

Returning to tonight's illegally altered agenda, we find: Restoration of Mayor's comments, which would be an upside, if only it were done legally; Also illegal, and definitely not an improvement, is the shift of "New and Unfinished Business" to follow the Mayor's comments. Really? A line item with pretensions of importance, yet so bogus that the contents of New and Unfinished Business aren't disclosed in writing? Or could it be another excuse for grandstanding, gotcha, and a new way for councilmembers to add agenda items without public notice, create chaos, avoid Ward meetings and constituent contact, knowledge and involvement, and/or duck out early?

Speaking of the irrational, incomprehensible, and illegal, the Council couldn't wait two seconds to violate the Charter, delete minutes from the Council meeting agenda, and mis-apply an Open Meetings Law amendment, using a webcast transcript to replace printed minutes. Let me read from that substitute. Keep in mind that I am quoting directly, word for word: "Can you call the roll? Along, yes, I council member menaced. All right. Council member Lorraine Johnson. There are reports the announced no sugar. All right. 20 twenty jump of no flowers. All right. Oh, council member cherry pie. Councilmember Thompson, I. Councilmember Dipolar, I chair Salem, I approve nine zero." * On tonight's agenda, more than two years after the secretive process began, the public will finally get a presentation about PK4Keeps. But what the public can see in tonight's Council packet—for the few who can actually navigate the City website to download the packet—is a world apart from what the Steering Committee receives from Natalie Quinn and the consultants. The City and the consultants manipulate the public's participation, and have reduced the public's voice to a bunch of colored dots and confirmation bias surveys. PK4Keeps pretends to be an Inclusive Process, while excluding the public from their meetings, refusing to videotape and webcast, or to disclose attendance and meeting minutes.

* <https://totalwebcasting.com/view/?func=VIEW&id=cop&date=2022-01-03&seq=1> † From Charter Section 2.04(a): "...The city chamberlain, or his or her deputy, shall serve as recording secretary at all meetings of the common council and shall record, transcribe and maintain all minutes of its proceedings, which minutes shall be and remain available for public inspection during all regular business hours of the city chamberlain.

3. Andres San Millan

4. Doug Nobiletti – submitted written comments

To the Common Council, I have studied a document submitted and prepared by Former 4th ward Council member Sarah Brannen and wish to highlight and comment on what I believe is the most critical issue our city is faced with: competitive development surrounding the city, rather than complimentary development. Our central business district has been under assault by the numerous new developments mostly located in the Town of Poughkeepsie. Developments such as Eastdale boast 37 NEW businesses committed, and Hudson Heritage, which touts a substantial new grocery store among its many , serve to cannibalize business opportunities for our failing Central Business District. Approximately 7 years ago, as president of the highly respected Downtown Poughkeepsie Partnership, (DPP) I was taken to lunch by George Carfagno, the Hudson Heritage project manager at the time. During our meeting he told me how the highly publicized crime in the downtown area, specifically our “Main Street’s reputation” was killing their financing opportunities. Lenders around the country make no distinction between “Town” and “City” when doing their research on the security and wisdom of making nearly a half billion dollar investment to such a project. And yes he specifically said “Main Street’s reputation”. Now we can see how undesirable Main Street is, especially since one of the key businesses at Eastdale, refused to come down from Rhinebeck, one which I’d been courting for years to come to Main St. The owner, a friend, stated they would “only consider it if space was available at a fully developed waterfront”. Eastdale made an offer he couldn’t refuse, and still we sit with lots of vacant spaces, or a few businesses which can classify as “less than desirable”. These highlighted problems support the need for “UNIQUE” business development at our extensive waterfront, development which complements our business district, development that offers residents and visitors a unique experience and will eventually lead to creating desirability of our already existing business spaces in our downtown districts. I fear we will continue to see an influx of repetitive business types, the continued attrition of existing businesses, and fear we will gain another “Dollar” type store in the newest planned development on Main Street, The Wallace Campus. How about setting a GOAL as a River-Centric aquarium? That will surely bring visitors.

Thank you,
Doug Nobiletti

Sarah Brannes Comments: Economic goals 4) Create quality jobs for city residents. 5) Increase tourism, small retail development, and open air markets/vendors. 6) Increase adaptive reuse of underutilized and vacant properties. 7) Site density of development along Main St. and Mt. Carmel and other already developed areas, i.e. “infill” development. Environmental goals 1) Improve water quality, habitat, and natural resource protection. 2) Climate change adaptation, energy efficiency, and green building. 3) Preserve public scenic views. Social/cultural goals 8) Protect and celebrate the unique character of the City of

Poughkeepsie, particularly our cultural diversity. 9) Protect the city's historic resources. 10) Improve public access to waterfront and better connectivity and accessibility throughout the WRA. 11) Increase water dependent uses and recreation. Legal/ procedural goals 12) Ensure consistency with state and federal regulations

IV. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

I want to thank DPW for the recent storm cleanup, and just as a reminder to building and homeowners and landlords. Remember that, you know, the sidewalk in front of your property is your responsibility to plow. So if you could just please, please, please do your part. Otherwise, following the storm that we just had, following a really frigid and low temps, you know, if you're not clearing the sidewalk, it's really dangerous for pedestrians, for, you know, kids, elderly, pets, folks just walking up and down on the sidewalks. It's almost in parts not you're not able to navigate parts of them. So if you can please remember as soon as you're able to get out there and plow and salt, do what you got to do to clear away that ice.

I want to mention, you know, home test kit distribution. It was reported to go extremely well and test kits went out very, very swiftly. So I would just ask for an update from the mayor in his comments if he's able to give that. I know that it's up to whatever kits are administered to us by the state and the county. So really, as soon as we're able to receive them, it looks like we're getting them out.

We did talk about in leadership finding different methods of distribution of those kits to make them more accessible to people. So doing them in different locations, maybe doing them at schools or housing complexes, just thinking of creative ways to ensure that folks who can't get out to the pharmacy and can't, you know, shop online and afford the tests themselves have access to those free tests and have access to those N95 masks, which the CDC is saying are the only effective masks against the coronavirus pandemic, whether you're vaccinated or not. So it's important that folks have access to them, to those two things. And, you know, are able to get them for free. The federal government did open COVID tests dot gov, for people to order up to four at home rapid test for free. It was supposed to, the website was supposed to go live tomorrow, but it actually went live today. So if you're at home and you want to jump on over to that website, again, that's COVID tests plural, dot gov. It sends you to the USPS website and you can actually put in your home address, and the test will ship out at the end of January. So one person per household can go on to that site. Fill it out. I did it today, it was super simple and be assured that you will get four free at home COVID tests sent to your door. So that's pretty exciting.

Again, it's really important to use the same precautions that we've been using. It looks like the curve is headed down. It's sloping down.

We're almost at that point where maybe we're over this this hump of Omicron and

the increased number of cases and hospitalizations. But in order to really flatten it, we're going to have to continue to get vaccinated if you can, get boosted if you can and you haven't been yet, and continue to wear your masks if you're inside in public places around other people.

And as always, if you're sick, stay home, take a test if you have it and try and do the thing that makes the most sense to help keep you safe, your family safe and everyone else around you healthy.

I do want to mention that this past Saturday, the eviction moratorium in New York did expire, and so that left millions of tenants across the state of New York at risk for eviction. In the city of Poughkeepsie, we did recently pass good cause eviction legislation, which offers added protections to the state law that already exists. So what it does is just empower tenants to ensure that the reason they're being evicted is actually, you know, it's a good cause.

So, you know, besides not paying your rent, there are other kinds of reasons that landlords or predatory landlords, I should say bad landlords, not good landlords use to try and kick tenants out of their homes. Good cause prevents you from being evicted if that is the case. Regardless of whether or not city of Poughkeepsie has good cause or another community has good cause, you should not self evict. You need an order from a court in order to be removed from your home.

So unless you're at that stage, you actually went through a proceeding, there's an order for your eviction, you should not leave your home. You should not self evict. You should stick your home. If you have questions about that, legal services of the Hudson Valley is a great resource. They offer advocacy and support for tenants that believe their rights are being violated. And if you if you have a question as to whether or not an eviction is just or you, you know, you got a note from the landlord saying you should leave and you're wondering if you should leave. I'm telling you don't leave unless there's an actual order. But if you have questions about that, please reach out to legal services of the Hudson Valley. I know community voices heard is a good advocate, for the many formerly known as noble reason Hudson. They're advocating for tenants rights, and I'm sure many of the common council members on this call could also direct you in the way of figuring out whether or not your where, where to go if you believe your rights are being violated.

LWRP, Local Waterfront Revitalization Program Plan. Yes, we had a hearing tonight.

We are, we had to adjourn that hearing to February 22nd, which is a Tuesday at five forty five p.m. and that's prior to our council meeting that we have on Tuesday because we had a large list of folks who were interested in making a comment. Regardless of that, and once we hear from the rest of the public on that document, on that project that we've been working on, we're now further than we were before. And so we will take all of those comments. We'll continue to

take internal comments from common council members and work with the WAC, work with the administration and, you know, get the LWRP ready to be sent up to the state for its final approval in a timely fashion.

I think it's important that we have and we are continuing to go through this public process of participation and evaluation, understanding, tonight we heard the myriad of reasons why this is incredibly important for the city, especially as we face the threat of climate change, especially knowing that there are parts of the document that need to be updated because it's been over, you know, a couple of years since a number of projects have come through, and it would be a loss not to include them in that document.

So I'm looking forward to continuing to hear from the public, working with the new members of the common council, working with our returning members, working with the administration, WAC, again to really get the draft ready to go so that we can see it approved by the state. That's the key right there, so we can send up whatever we have at whatever point we have it.

It's a matter of whether or not the Department of State is going to like what they see. And you know, if we're going to have a document that we're actually going to be able to put to use, our waterfront advisory committee wants a document that they can put to use and protect our coastal zones.

And then so council meetings, we're adjusting the processing flow for our council meeting. You may have noticed on this week's agenda if you took a look that mayor's comment is popped back under chair's comments. And that was done after we met in leadership and we met in caucus and we all decided, it was a unanimous decision that we want to ensure that we're not taking, you know, we're using our time wisely at council meetings.

So the initial change of putting mayor's comments down on the bottom of the agenda, wasn't to put the mayor down on the bottom of the agenda in a malicious way. It was to see if we could try and adjust the meeting to save time and, you know, improve the flow. And so I thought, and you know, the caucus thought that by putting the mayor's comments down by new and unfinished business, we could continue to hear from council members and have council members directly address the mayor following his comments.

After more thought, and you know, the order of business isn't unchangeable. And I'm actually well when I'm done with this statement, I'm going to ask Corporation Counsel Valk to kind of clarify the chair's authority as far as setting the order of business and meetings when I'm done, and I'll call on you for that. Thank you, Ms Valk for being here.

However, you know, we now you'll notice on the agenda that we pop mayor's comments back up under chair's comments and we move new and unfinished business under mayor's comments. So this puts up front your opportunity to hear from me.

Well, first, the most important part, our opportunity to hear from you, to hear from the public during public participation and your opportunity to hear from me and your opportunity then to hear from the mayor and then your opportunity to hear from members of the Common Council earlier in the meeting and to give the opportunity to council members to address the public following public participation, to address the mayor following mayor's comments, to address me following my comments. So we're going to give it a try. We're going to see if this makes the meeting flow a little better.

If this helps us save a little bit of time, maybe we'll shave some time off the agenda. And then we'll save some time at the end of the meeting for announcements. So that's when you'll hear about upcoming events or exciting things that are happening in each of the council member's ward or in the city on a whole.

Another change that we're going to make at upcoming meetings, probably as soon as the 7th, is creating, you know, a split agenda, kind of similar to how our county legislature conducts business, how our state legislature conducts business and other levels of government end up conducting business.

So we'll have, you know, an agenda that has items for action and items that require more discussion, as we move through, you know, business that we have on the agenda and as we continue to caucus together, as we continue to have leadership meetings with the mayor and the city administrator.

We didn't make that change for this agenda.

However, we all decided in caucus and in leadership that this change will save us time and to the benefit of the public will offer us more opportunity to see more business that's important and get it up front in order to get it done for the benefit of the city of Poughkeepsie.

So with that, I want to clarify with corporation counsel Valk how what process we would need to go to in order to codify any changes of, you know, how business appears on the agenda.

Corporation Counsel Valk: So right now, the charter puts the power with the common council to adopt rules and procedures, which you did at your organization meeting. And among those items you have in and this is the custom and practice of the city of Poughkeepsie, to lay out the order of business for your standard meeting.

The charter also vests with the chair the authority to set the agenda.

The question that was posed to me today was whether or not a new item could be added to the agenda or if that required a vote of the full common council.

And I advised the chair that I believe it's her authority to control the agenda because in addition to leading these meetings, it's also her job to make sure business is getting in front of the common council.

So it was my opinion that she does not need to be held in by necessarily those categories that are in your rules of procedure, that she can add something to the agenda, even if it doesn't quite fit within one of those items.

I did recommend that since you have it in your rules and procedures, if there's going to be a long term change that perhaps you'd want to discuss that as a council, but the chair does have the authority as far as the agenda goes.

Chair Salem: Great. Thank you so much for that clarification, I really appreciate it.

Corporation Counsel Valk: Welcome.

Chair Salem: So now I'd like to address too something that I heard in public comment about the meeting minutes. Our City Chamberlain was down members of the team in the last week and could not get the meetings up for this agenda, however, has assured us that those meetings will be up and ready at the first meeting of, those minutes will be up and ready for the first meeting in February.

So we had folks who were sick, namely the city chamberlain, I'm glad you're not sick anymore. Hi, Jasmin. And you know, as it happens, working as hard as they can to get the minutes off in a timely way. So we'll get those minutes up in the first meeting in February.

And I do want to congratulate the new appointed chair of the Finance Committee that I appointed this past Friday. Council member Debra Long, congratulations. I'm happy to have you as the chair of the Finance Committee. I know you're going to do good work. You have a good crew with you as finance committee members. And I, you know, I can't wait to see the meetings up and running. We'll get all of your names up on the Finance Committee landing page on City of Poughkeepsie website.

Thank you, Jasmin, for that and thanks to Al who will get that done. And I just want to offer my congratulations to you. And that concludes my comments.

So now we will move to Mayor's comments.

V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Thank you, Chair.

You had talked about our meeting, our leadership meeting. I want to thank you for

that. It was a really good meeting to get together with the leadership team of the council to talk about some of the very things that you spoke about this evening on some of the changes that you're anticipating. And obviously, we will support you with what you need to make that work. But it really was. It was really a good meeting and we look forward to the additional meetings and there's actually a schedule being set. So that's a good thing. Thanks. Thanks for that, Chair.

You talked about the eviction moratorium expiring. One of the things that just went and I know we've talked about this in the past, but it's important to note that we did contract with legal services of the Hudson Valley for an attorney to be in our city court to handle all of those legal issues and navigating the system. Also now with good cause eviction being in place, the legal services of the Hudson Valley will be there. I was looking on my paperwork here and then I saw something in the chat and I appreciate that for who posted that. The phone number for legal services of the Hudson Valley is four seven one zero zero five eight.

So if anyone has any questions about that and about what their service will be and how they will be there and how you can contact and interact with them, I would strongly suggest that, you know, you give them a call if you can, you know, prior to being possibly in court or having to worry about something that may or may not be coming your way, as it may have to do with some of the challenges that individuals have had in paying rent.

As far as the testing and the home kits that was brought up, I want to let you know that as of today on our one o'clock County call, COVID call, we did anticipate getting some kits this week, but I think it's going to be next week. But what I can tell you is that the county will be distributing kits this week. I do know that at least three organizations within the city of Poughkeepsie have been slated to receive kits and then they will distribute them. Dutchess Outreach, Community Action Partnership, and Hudson River Housing, which is good because they're getting now to different places that they have not really been in larger numbers previously. When we do receive additional home testing kits, as we spoke about in the leadership meeting, we're going to look at different options to get these out to our residents in ways that we haven't done so far.

We've had two really good home test kit giveaways where we've distributed close to 1900 kits, I believe is the number. But we're going to do some things differently to give individuals who may not have been in a position to grab them during the day based on scheduling and timing as far as that is concerned. So we will obviously make sure everyone knows as soon as we know when kits will become available and then how they're going to be distributed. But I don't have specifics on when those three organizations will be receiving them, but I do know that most likely those three organizations will be letting people know that they have them and how they can, they can get them.

You did mention, which was great, that the U.S. Postal Service site, looked at that today, that's up and running. Also too, J.C. Penny has is now just some

individuals have asked about did we see the state has been established on some different sites in the Hudson Valley. J.C. Penny, my understanding was as of on our call today is also a state site. So there are additional resources that are being put into the J.C. Penny site, both for testing and vaccinations.

The best thing to do is to go on the county website at Dutchess NY dot gov to get that information on what the proper times to go there is and to be able to sign up for either a testing, but specifically the vaccinations.

Snow removal. We had an event, obviously we're all aware of that started on Sunday night and went through yesterday. So just a bit of reference about how that worked. We brought crews in at eight o'clock on Sunday evening and they started to pre-treat the roads. They worked two, three, four shifts. They worked for 24 hours. They came in at eight o'clock and our last crews went home eight o'clock last night. We rotate crews in and out, so they're well-rested.

Snow Team A, Snow Team B, one of the things that has been particularly challenging with this storm, even though we did not get and we're very lucky we didn't get the accumulation that other parts of the region that the Hudson Valley and especially the Northeast got, because the ground is so cold because we had those frigid temperatures, the salt and the pre-treating doesn't work as well as it does if the ground wasn't as cold as it was.

And so therefore, now we're in a situation where you know, we're doing the pushback. We're hoping tomorrow I believe the temperature is going to get up to around 40 but even the high 30s or mid 30s is good is that we can additionally drop salt down and be able to push back. But this this is just one of these things that because also too, because of the wetness and the rain that took place, which started about 5:30, quarter to 6:00 in the morning, which complicated matters too, if we if we if it stayed cold, we would've been able to push that snow without it freezing. And that's just one of the things that goes into the Department of Public Works and how they address each storm. And each one can be a little different based on size and duration and temperatures.

Happy to report that we were able to continue, all of our equipment was up and running. I think we had one truck that went down but went into the garage and was repaired and was back out on the street.

Last week was Friday was the last day for now retired Fire Chief Mark Johnson, Deputy Chief Joe Franco is now the acting fire chief for the department.

There was an announcement made last week and some information the week before about two grants that the Poughkeepsie City School District and the city of Poughkeepsie received for school safety. These are both Department of Justice federal grants that the school district and their grant team and the city and our grant team specifically Ashley Raneri in the police department worked on two grants.

One is for seventy five thousand dollars, which will go towards helping establish a school resource officer within the middle school. And the other grant is a \$500,000 grant, which will help the school district in safety and security measures in their school buildings, being able to modernize equipment and update many of the things that will go to help create a safer environment within the school buildings and outside the school buildings. And when we get more information, some of the specifics, we'll let the council know, you know, Natasha Cherry, Councilperson Cherry and Councilperson Flowers, our liaisons for the city to the school district, and we'll work with those two individuals to make sure that information gets out to all of you. CDBG, the 2022 allocation is now, and the grant applications are available on our website.

Jackie Greenwald, who is our CDBG coordinator, can also be reached for information on that at J Greenwald at City of Poughkeepsie dot com, and also too, any other questions related to that, you can also call anyone here up on the third floor, specifically Stacy Bottoms, who works in my office.

We were notified today in a New York Conference of Mayors Executive Committee meeting, which I'm a part of, that the governor has released her budget to the state legislature. Two hundred and sixteen billion dollar operating plan. There are some really great additions and also some really great things that stayed in the budget and if, Chair, if you can give me a minute, I'll just highlight some of them which are really particular to what we benefited from here in the city and what we will see additional benefits from. In funding stayed flat. We the conference has made that a priority. It's not obviously a done deal until the Legislature passes the budget. We will continue to lobby now with the state legislature for an increase in in funding. My understanding is school aid went up by about two point one billion dollars.

A couple of things that are specific to the city, which is important, is that the monies that we saw last year, which helped us with our paving program, and they were additional monies for the first time outside of the standard chips and Pave New York, which has kind of come in and out, have been included again in the budget. So chips is at five hundred and thirty six million, the extreme winter recovery is at one hundred million, the touring routes money which we received, I think approximately \$400,00 last year is back in the budget again, that's one hundred million. Pave New York is 150.

There are two new programs that we're being made aware of, and this is all kind of preliminary because a lot of the budget bills have not been, they have not been printed yet. But Bridge New York is increased to 200 million from one hundred million, and there's a new program called POP, Pave Our Potholes, and that's \$100 million, which we certainly hopefully we will be getting some of that because we, as many other communities, we have, we have potholes. Water infrastructure was increased by 500 million.

Restore New York, which has been absent for a bit, was restored. That is to help blighted properties specific to rehabilitation. That's two hundred and fifty

million over three years, which is really good because in the past, the city and individuals who have invested in the city have been able to get Restore New York grants.

Some of the buildings on Academy Street were awarded Restore New York grants prior to me coming here. Unfortunately, not all of them were able to be accessed because of situations with projects.

The Environmental Protection Fund was increased to 400 million. And then just I'll end with this because there's lots of other things. But when we get the NYCOM, you know, the version that NYCOM will put together, we will distribute that out to the council. But the governor has been very, very vocal in her concern as it relates to gun violence, and she has declared that a public health emergency. And so the GIVE program gets refunded at eighteen point two million. Twenty five million is going to the community based programs, such as snug. Ten million for pretrial services, that for probation and other diversion programs. We're using our community based providers. And then this, I believe, is a new program, 25 million for securing communities against hate crimes. And then there is a \$50 million grant program for capital investments in communities most impacted by gun violence and then another 20 million for more operational and programming investments.

Obviously, as this becomes clearer, we will we will compete for these monies because certainly we have been impacted by the increased gun violence.

And also one other item, Chair, and then I'll add two items which are important, broadband funding, which we certainly saw was very important for communities that were struggling with broadband. And that is one point six billion dollars. And then there's a small business assistance fund of a billion. So, Chair, thank you again.

Appreciate the opportunity to speak to you, the council and the public tonight.

VI. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.

- 1. R-22-10, Resolution approving the Inter-Municipal Agreement with Poughkeepsie City School District and the City of Poughkeepsie on the Student Athletic Basketball Program**

**RESOLUTION
(R-22-10)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS FLOWERS & MENIST

WHEREAS, Poughkeepsie City School District (PCSD) owns and maintains gymnasiums and related facilities at its High School, Middle School, and five elementary schools; and

WHEREAS, the City is desirous of utilizing PCSD's gymnasiums for the Student Athletic Basketball Program (SABP); and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie and governing boards of PCSD have determined that it is in their mutual interests to enter into an Agreement for the purpose of allowing the Student Athletic Basketball Program to use the gymnasiums for the 2021-2022 program year; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie and governing boards of PCSD have determined that it is in their mutual interests to share the costs of running such program which operates for the benefit of youth in the City of Poughkeepsie who are students of the Poughkeepsie City School District; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie has allocated \$5,000 in its 2022 operating budget for the SABP; and

WHEREAS, Article 5-G of the General Municipal Law specifically authorizes and encourages municipal corporations to enter into an agreement with each other in order to provide cooperatively, jointly and by contract any facility, service, activity or undertaking which each participating municipal corporation has the power to provide separately; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor to execute the attached Inter-municipal Agreement in form and substance as attached hereto.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

R-22-10						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

2. R-22-11, Resolution Approving Appointment to the Joint Water Board

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.

**R E S O L U T I O N
(R-22-11)**

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRPERSON SALEM **:**

WHEREAS, in accordance with the Inter-Municipal Agreement between the City of Poughkeepsie and the Town of Poughkeepsie dated August 3, 1995, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie is authorized to make appointments of City residents to serve on the Joint Water Board; and

WHEREAS, by resolution of the Common Council dated May 2, 1996, two (2) members of the Joint Water Board shall be appointed by the Common Council with one (1) member being a member of the legislative branch and (1) member shall be appointed by the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, there is currently a council appointment vacancy which the council is desirous of filling; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Poughkeepsie and its citizens that the Joint Water Board should have a full complement of members in order to properly conduct the business required of the Board; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby appoints the following individual to the Joint Water Board for the term as indicated below:

Councilmember Megan Deichler (Expires: 12/31/2024)

SECONDED BY _____.

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of January 18, 2022

R-22-11						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and seconded by Councilmember Long to receive and print.

3. **R-22-12, Resolution Adopting Proposed Amendments to the Natural Resources Inventory (NRI)**

**RESOLUTION
(R-22-12)**

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL ADOPTING PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE NATURAL RESOURCES INVENTORY (“NRI”)

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRPERSON SALEM AND COUNCILMEMBER MENIST:

WHEREAS, the Common Council adopted Local Law No. 2 of 2019 on September 9, 2019, thereby amending Chapter 19, Article VI of the Code of the City of Poughkeepsie by adding section 19-6.4 entitled “Natural Resources” and the attached Natural Resource Inventory (“NRI”) which can be found on the City’s website at <https://www.cityofpoughkeepsie.com/DocumentCenter/View/180/Natural-Resource-Inventory-2019-PDF?bidId=> ; and

WHEREAS, section 19-6.4(2) acknowledges that the NRI as adopted by the Common Council may be amended from time to time; and

WHEREAS, on December 6, 2021 the Common Council introduced the attached “List of Addendums” that details the proposed amendments to the NRI; and

WHEREAS, the proposed resolution is a Type II action exempt from environmental review under the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA).

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie that the attached “List of Addendums” that details the proposed amendments to the NRI is hereby adopted.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

R-22-12						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.

4. R-22-13, Resolution Appointing Jeff Kosmacher to the Public Arts Commission

**R E S O L U T I O N
(R-22-13)**

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRPERSON SALEM:

WHEREAS, by Executive Order EO-16-1 the Mayor established the City of Poughkeepsie Public Arts Commission (the, “Arts Commission”); and

WHEREAS, pursuant to the executive order, the Common Council has authority to appoint three members to the Arts Commission; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy on the Public Arts Commission has been created by the resignation of member Elizabeth Dahmen who was appointed by the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, it is in the best interest of the City of Poughkeepsie and its citizens that the Public Arts Commission should have a full complement of members in order to properly conduct the business required of the Commission; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council now wishes to appoint a member to fill the unexpired term of Elizabeth Dahmen; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby makes the following appointment with a term to expire as indicated below:

Jeff Kosmacher

Term Expires: 7/31/22

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

R-22-13						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.

5. R-22-14, Resolution Setting a Public Hearing for The C-PACE Law

**RESOLUTION INTRODUCING LOCAL LAW
AND PROVIDING FOR PUBLIC
NOTICE AND HEARING
(R-22-14)**

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRPERSON SALEM AND COUNCILMEMBER MENIST :

BE IT RESOLVED, that an introductory Local Law, entitled “Energize NY Open C-PACE Financing Program” be and it 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 at six o'clock P.M., on February 7, 2022 and such hearing will be held via videoconferencing (as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law); and

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.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

R-22-14						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

A motion was made by Councilmember Long and seconded by Councilmember Menist to receive and print.

6. R-22-15, Resolution Extending Governor Hochul's Executive Order Number 11.1

**RESOLUTION
(R -22-15)**

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRPERSON SALEM

WHEREAS, on December 26, 2021, Governor Kathy Hochul issued Executive Order No 11, declaring a State disaster emergency for the entire State of New York due to the COVID-19 pandemic; and

WHEREAS, in recognition of the difficulties caused by the pandemic, Governor Hochul issued Executive Order No 11.1 on December 26, 2021, thereby extending Executive Order No 11. This extension of the Governor's Executive Order modifies subdivisions 7, 7-a and 8 of section 459-c of the RPTL and subdivisions 5, 5-a, 5-b, 5-c and 6 of section 467 of RPTL, the effect of which permits the governing body of an assessing unit to adopt a Resolution directing the Assessor to

grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all property owners who received such exemptions of the 2021 assessment roll, thereby dispensing with the need for such persons to file renewal applications to request such exemptions.

WHEREAS, Executive Order 11.1 further allows the governing body of said assessing unit, in any such Resolution, at its option, to include procedures by which its Assessor may require a renewal application to be filed if there is reason to believe that an owner who qualified for the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred the property to a new owner or died; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to said Executive Order, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie wishes to adopt such Resolution directing the Assessor to grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all eligible senior citizens and individuals with disabilities with limited income, and granting the Assessor the authority to require renewal applications for due cause, as discussed above, utilizing procedure outlined below;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, pursuant to the authority granted by Executive Order 11.1, issued by the Governor of the State of New York, that the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby directs the Assessor to:

- 1) Grant exemptions on the 2022 assessment roll to all individuals who received the senior exemption on the 2021 assessment roll and all individuals who received the exemption on the 2021 assessment roll because they were recognized as a person with disabilities and limited income, thereby dispensing with the need for any such individuals to file renewal applications for such exemptions, except that;
- 2) The Assessor may, at their sole discretion, require a renewal application to be timely filed with his office if he has reason to believe that such individual, who qualified for the aforementioned exemption on the 2021 assessment roll, may have since changed their primary residence, added another owner to the deed, transferred such property to a new owner or died.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____

R-22-15						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Long	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Thompson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Shook	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Deichler	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of January 18, 2022

1. **A PRESENTATION FROM ACTING DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR QUINN & CZB, INC.,** regarding PK4Keeps: Comprehensive Plan and Zoning Code Update (www.pk4keeps.org)
2. **A PRESENTATION FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL REBECCA VALK,** regarding a Memorandum of Understanding between the City of Poughkeepsie and Vassar Brothers Medical Center.
3. **A COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON,** regarding hiring a full time Engineer

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:07pm.

Dated: Monday January 31, 2022.

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Organizational Meeting held on Tuesday, January 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain

