



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, October 18, 2021 6:30 p.m.

Virtual / Zoom

Welcome to the regularly scheduled meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is October 18, 2021, 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. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL – Five present, two absent at time of roll call (Absent: Councilmembers Cherry, R. Johnson; Late arrival: Councilmember L. Johnson)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Special Informational Meeting September 27, 2021
Common Council Meeting September 27, 2021**

**Motion to accept the minutes: Councilmember Brannen
2nd: Councilmember Menist**

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

REMOVE:

X. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

2. A PRESENTATION FROM ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL WILSON, addressing Blight Through Updated Codes and Code Enforcement.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda items.

1. Laurie Sandow, S. Grand Ave.

First, I'd like to speak briefly about the recent City website post and news articles regarding the preliminary 2022 budget—a 287-page, 12.5MB document only linked on October 15th, obviously not enough time for public or careful review. However, I will address one aspect of the news coverage, which seems to contradict my understanding of the current status of the City of Poughkeepsie Fire Department contract. As I understand it, the c/PK Fire Department contract expired effective January 1, 2021, and until today, so many months later, that contract is still in arbitration, and still not finalized. Somehow, the Poughkeepsie Journal article indicated positions that were added. I'd appreciate clarification about whether those positions are actually new, or only have the appearance of additions when a worker is shifted from one job title to another? Have positions been newly created but never filled? Are the positions being referenced additions, or just shifting positions and titles? How can it be that this City is okay with firefighters working and risking their lives without a signed contract?

In the brief time allotted, I also feel compelled to speak again about the City's website redesign: It's one thing to make the design more colorful, but entirely different to claim that the design is more user friendly. I understand that the new design works well for many people who only want to reach a certain department, and are not in the habit of attending various city meetings. For others, though, the new site does not work so well, even for a well-placed, tech-savvy city employee who called me this week to ask how to find a certain page. Yes, the revised website is more visually attractive. But, the website redesign is absolutely NOT more user friendly. It has destroyed the past history, accessibility and function of nearly every prior bookmark used by involved and concerned citizens. Form and style over function is the opposite of good service to the public. How many Emails a day can I or others send to the City about every link that no longer works? How many Emails must I send in reply to organizations, giving them the heads-up that

their correspondence circulates old, worthless, non-working links. I recommend that the City and the Council convene a citizen's committee or meeting to explore, critique and further improve the usability of the City's primary information and communication tool.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

I want to announce that early voting starts this Saturday, October 23rd. It runs until Sunday, the 31st of October. The early voting site in the city of Poughkeepsie is different than it has been. It's now located at the Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium at 103 Market Street in Poughkeepsie. So just make a note of that.

I know a lot of folks take advantage of early voting. I have myself, it's very easy to get out there and vote. And there are a number of times available on the weekend, which makes it a lot more convenient. So again, that starts this Saturday and it runs until Sunday, October 31 and in Poughkeepsie. Your location is the Mid-Hudson Library Auditorium. If you're out of the city of Poughkeepsie, you can vote at the other locations if you so choose or if you want to take advantage of site right here in the city. Please make sure to do that.

And as was mentioned, the 2022 draft budget has been released by the mayor and the administration. I want to thank the mayor, city administrator, commissioner of finance department heads for getting together that budget and submitting it and releasing it on time to the Common Council. It's under review at this point, I'm going through it myself and I'm sure my colleagues are doing the same, and as we go through it, we'll have to caucus and we'll have to meet to discuss ways that we would like to make changes, amendments or things that we would like to uphold in the mayor's draft and we'll have to pass a budget for the next fiscal year by the end of this year. So I know that there's a lot of new initiatives through and new funds coming in through the American Rescue Plan funds. And so we're going to have to comb over those cost centers with a fine tooth comb. And again, I want to thank city staff for getting the budget out, and I'm looking forward to going through it with my colleagues on the council, and that's all I have for tonight.

And so we'll move to mayor's comments.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Thank you, chair, for the opportunity. Talking about the budget, it was released on Friday, we were able to get it out on time. I can tell you, this year was probably the most difficult of all of the budgets that we have prepared because of the uncertainty on revenues. We did come under the cap and we believe that making some additional

investments next year is good fiscal policy and look forward to having discussions with the council in the next couple of months.

We have until really December to come to you finalizing and we're coming to agreement on some of the items, items that we're all interested in. We did make obviously significant investments and asks in the parks initiatives and pool house upgrades and youth services. We also did maintain city staffing and services at we believe a responsible level. There are some things that we were challenged with and one was the additional million dollars and pension costs to the police and retirement system.

One of the other things that was spoken about earlier was the fire contract. I just wanted to say that we're not in arbitration with the fire department as it relates to the contract. We are in arbitration on a contractual disagreement that we have on overtime. But the contract itself, which we're continuing to negotiate with the firefighters, is ongoing.

I recently and I mentioned this that sent a letter to the County Executive on the sales tax agreement, which expires in 2023. Both myself and the mayor of the City of Beacon Lee Kyriacou advise the county. We are ready, willing to sit down and talk about the terms of the agreement, and they acknowledge that and we look to be setting sometime in the very near future on that sales tax agreement, which obviously will be impacting future budgets moving forward. Long after I leave office and a new mayor will take over in 2024. We did include the ARP funding in the budget. I know that was certainly something that had been discussed amongst many of us here.

And in getting further guidance from the Government Finances Officers Association and The OSC there was a meeting literally about a week before the budget or 10 days before the budget was finalized that talked about ARP and that that money is included in there, including an unprecedented amount of discretionary spending that the common council will be able to utilize in next year. And as you see fit and looking at the guidelines that the Treasury Department has put forth and also OSC and other related regulatory agencies, we designed the budget using ARP money to help with the financial gap that we anticipate again next year, much like we have done this year and the ARP money is helping us close that gap in the 2021 fiscal year. We, we believe, will be in a very similar place next year in 2022 also for and we've talked about this here within the council and within the community about ways that the community can look at ARP funding and all the things that go along with it, how it can be utilized, what the Treasury Department says, and all the things that will go into the council making appropriations to it.

We're in the process right now of developing on our new website a spot where people can go and look at all of those things. Finance is working on some user friendly graphs and other visuals that folks can go to take a look at ARP better understand and

then communicate with all of you and including us on that. On Friday, we had the just a wonderful opportunity to be visited by the Harlem Children's Zone, and Geoffrey Canada, who is been the founder and president of the Harlem Children's Zone, came to Poughkeepsie with his team. Also, our Harvard team with the Education Redesign Lab was here as well to tour parts of Poughkeepsie to talk about how the children's zone can be helpful as we move into new areas of providing opportunities and assistance to the youth of the city and the families. And that was done as a because of the collaborative effort that we started back literally in 2019 when we created the children's cabinet.

And Dr. Rosser, the county executive myself, council person Flowers were there with a whole other host of individuals from the community to have. This was a full day going to different spots within the city of Poughkeepsie and a two hour working meeting on seeing if we are the right fit for the Children's Zone to assist not only with youth programs moving forward, but also how the Children's Zone can help with the further development of the former YMCA site, which is a new would be the new home of the Youth Opportunities Union. It was a it was a really good recognition for all of us and all of us that are on the meeting tonight and others that may be listening of the work that we're doing collectively and collaboratively to be recognized and having an organization like the Children's Zone, which existed in Harlem for 20 years to come to Poughkeepsie to see what we are we're doing.

And I think we all can be proud of that and we have done a lot, but obviously a lot more work needs to be done and we'll continue to do that. We are continuing to get feedback on our housing needs assessment, which is being obviously undertaken by Patterns for progress and the comp plan and zoning endeavor. And there is a pattern for progress sort of a listing event to have more conversations on the housing study, which is going to happen on two to five at 85 Smith Street in conjunction with Hudson River Housing. I believe that they will be having a ribbon cutting ribbon cutting later in the day at a house at that spot. But pattern will be there for that part of the day two to five to listen to others who are interested in weighing in and giving their thoughts on housing.

Also, to anybody who was seeking to provide any written public comments on the study can go to the website and do that. Also, we are looking continually for information on the PK 4 Keeps effort, and that is also at PK 4 Keeps dot org, and we look forward to sharing that information with everyone as we receive it.

And tonight, chair, I'm going to keep my remarks brief as well. Thank you for the opportunity to have a conversation with you.

VII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

VIII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Flowers to receive and print.

1. Resolution R-21-75, Appointment of Jeff Kosmacher to the Public Arts Commission

**R E S O L U T I O N
(R-21-75)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____:

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-21-75						
☐ Accepted ☒ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☐	☒	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

2. Resolution R-21-76, Approving MOA with CSEA Restoring 2% Raise for Remainder of 2021

**RESOLUTION
(R-21-76)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS L. JOHNSON AND PETSAS:

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie (the “City”) and CSEA, Local 1000 AFSCME (“CSEA”) are parties to a Collective Bargaining Agreement for the period January 1, 2021 to December 31, 2025; and

WHEREAS, representatives of the City and the CSEA have negotiated on and settled upon certain financial terms and conditions to modify said Collective Bargaining Agreement which are set forth in the Memorandum of Agreement annexed hereto and made a part hereof, and

WHEREAS, it is the desire of the Common Council to authorize and approve the financial terms of the settlement; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council 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 Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie hereby approves a Memorandum of Agreement between the City of Poughkeepsie and the City of Poughkeepsie CSEA in form and substance as attached hereto; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Mayor is authorized to execute and give effect to the Memorandum of Agreement and that the terms contained in the Memorandum of Agreement shall supersede any inconsistent provisions in the Collective Bargaining Agreement currently in effect between the City of Poughkeepsie and the City of Poughkeepsie CSEA to the extent that there is a conflict.

SECONDED BY _____.

R-21-76						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

3. Resolution R-21-77, Setting a Public Hearing regarding the Garden Street Bridge Over the Fallkill Creek Reconstruction Project

**RESOLUTION
(R-21-77)**

**GARDEN STREET BRIDGE OVER FALLKILL CREEK RECONSTRUCTION PROJECT:
P.I.N. 8761.96**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CHAIR SALEM **:**

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie (“City”) is proposing to generally reconstruct the Garden Street Bridge over Fallkill Creek and the adjacent intersection of Garden Street with Brookside Avenue in the City of Poughkeepsie, County of Dutchess, State of New York (P.I.N. 8761.96) (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Project is to help address safety and structural deficiencies identified on the existing Garden Street bridge as well as traffic and pedestrian

safety concerns for the adjacent roadways and signalized intersection in the City of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a Locally Administered Federal Aid Transportation Project administered by the City; and

WHEREAS, the Project is being progressed by the City of Poughkeepsie Office of the City Engineer, with oversight by the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) and in close coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”), in accordance with Federal and State laws, regulations, rules and policies; and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT has determined that in order to progress to the Project through the project design phase and right-of-way acquisition phase, it will be necessary for the City to conduct a public hearing on notice to the general public and affected landowners as provided for in the New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing must be conducted at a convenient location for the purpose of affording the general public and affected landowners an opportunity to express any objections they may have to the proposed location of the Project; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, the City must outline the purpose, proposed location or alternate locations of the Project and provide any other information that the City considers pertinent, including maps and property descriptions of the property interests that may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and

WHEREAS, persons who attend or participate in the public hearing must be given a reasonable opportunity to present oral or written statements and submit other documents concerning the Project; and

WHEREAS, a record of the public hearing must be kept, including written statements submitted at and following the public hearing, with such hearing record to be made available to the public for examination without cost during normal business hours at the City’s principal offices and at the office of the City of Poughkeepsie Engineer and, also, to be reproduced upon written request and payment of the cost thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Engineer is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a public hearing related to the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that such public hearing will be conducted at a convenient location for the purpose of affording the general public and affected landowners an opportunity to express any objections they may have to the proposed location of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that notice of such public hearing shall be published at least ten (10) but not more than thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing in at least five (5) successive issues of the City's official daily newspaper, which is a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Poughkeepsie; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at least ten (10) but not more than thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing, the City Engineer shall cause to be served, either by personal service or certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice of the purpose, time, date, and location of such public hearing to each assessment record billing owner, or his or her attorney of record, from whom real property interests may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that notice of such public hearing shall include the purpose, time and location of such public hearing, setting forth the proposed location of the Project including any proposed alternate locations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at the public hearing, the City Engineer and/or his designee(s) shall outline the purpose, proposed location or alternate locations of the Project and provide any other information that may be pertinent to the Project, including maps and property descriptions of the property interests that may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that persons who attend or participate in the public hearing shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present oral or written statements and submit other documents concerning the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a record of the public hearing shall be kept, including written statements submitted at and following the public hearing, with such hearing record to be made available to the public for examination without cost during normal business hours at the City's principal offices and at the office of the City Engineer and, also, to be reproduced upon written request and payment of the cost thereof.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

Chair Salem motioned to make an amendment to add “Chair Salem” as the sponsor on Resolution R-21-77. Councilmember Brannen seconded.

Amendment to add “Chair Salem” as sponsor of R-21-77						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

R-21-77						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

4. Resolution R-21-78, Setting a Public Hearing regarding the Washington Street Bridge Over the Fallkill Creek Reconstruction Project

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

**RESOLUTION
(R-21-78)**

**WASHINGTON STREET BRIDGE OVER FALLKILL CREEK RECONSTRUCTION
PROJECT: P.I.N. 8759.83**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CHAIR SALEM :

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie (“City”) is proposing to generally reconstruct the Washington Street Bridge over Fallkill Creek and the adjacent intersection of Washington Street

with Brookside Avenue and Verazzano Boulevard in the City of Poughkeepsie, County of Dutchess, State of New York (P.I.N. 8759.83) (the “Project”); and

WHEREAS, the purpose of the Project is to help address safety and structural deficiencies identified on the existing Washington Street bridge as well as traffic and pedestrian safety concerns for the adjacent roadways and signalized intersection in the City of Poughkeepsie; and

WHEREAS, the Project is a Locally Administered Federal Aid Transportation Project administered by the City; and

WHEREAS, the Project is being progressed by the City of Poughkeepsie Office of the City Engineer, with oversight by the New York State Department of Transportation (“NYSDOT”) and in close coordination with the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”), in accordance with Federal and State laws, regulations, rules and policies; and

WHEREAS, NYSDOT has determined that in order to progress to the Project through the project design phase and right-of-way acquisition phase, it will be necessary for the City to conduct a public hearing on notice to the general public and affected landowners as provided for in the New York Eminent Domain Procedure Law; and

WHEREAS, the public hearing must be conducted at a convenient location for the purpose of affording the general public and affected landowners an opportunity to express any objections they may have to the proposed location of the Project; and

WHEREAS, at the public hearing, the City must outline the purpose, proposed location or alternate locations of the Project and provide any other information that the City considers pertinent, including maps and property descriptions of the property interests that may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and

WHEREAS, persons who attend or participate in the public hearing must be given a reasonable opportunity to present oral or written statements and submit other documents concerning the Project; and

WHEREAS, a record of the public hearing must be kept, including written statements submitted at and following the public hearing, with such hearing record to be made available to the public for examination without cost during normal business hours at the City’s principal offices and at the office of the City of Poughkeepsie Engineer and, also, to be reproduced upon written request and payment of the cost thereof.

NOW, THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Engineer is hereby authorized and directed to conduct a public hearing related to the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that such public hearing will be conducted at a convenient location for the purpose of affording the general public and affected landowners an opportunity to express any objections they may have to the proposed location of the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that notice of such public hearing shall be published at least ten (10) but not more than thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing in at least five (5) successive issues of the City's official daily newspaper, which is a newspaper of general circulation within the City of Poughkeepsie; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at least ten (10) but not more than thirty (30) days prior to such public hearing, the City Engineer shall cause to be served, either by personal service or certified mail, return receipt requested, a notice of the purpose, time, date, and location of such public hearing to each assessment record billing owner, or his or her attorney of record, from whom real property interests may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and be it further

RESOLVED, that notice of such public hearing shall include the purpose, time and location of such public hearing, setting forth the proposed location of the Project including any proposed alternate locations; and be it further

RESOLVED, that at the public hearing, the City Engineer and/or his designee(s) shall outline the purpose, proposed location or alternate locations of the Project and provide any other information that may be pertinent to the Project, including maps and property descriptions of the property interests that may be acquired in order to accomplish the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that persons who attend or participate in the public hearing shall be given a reasonable opportunity to present oral or written statements and submit other documents concerning the Project; and it is further

RESOLVED, that a record of the public hearing shall be kept, including written statements submitted at and following the public hearing, with such hearing record to be made available to the public for examination without cost during normal business hours at the City's principal offices and at the office of the City Engineer and, also, to be reproduced upon written request and payment of the cost thereof.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____.

Chair Salem motioned to make an amendment to add “Chair Salem” as the sponsor on Resolution R-21-78. Councilmember Brannen seconded.

Amendment to add “Chair Salem” as sponsor of R-21-77						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

R-21-78						
☒ Accepted ☐ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember McClinton to receive and print.

- 1. LL-21-03, Amending Section 14.35 of the Administrative Code Entitled “Taxes-Partial Exemption Granted; Conditions”**

LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 14.35 OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE ENTITLED TAXES – PARTIAL EXEMPTION GRANTED; CONDITIONS
(LL-21-03)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER MCCLINTON :

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED, by the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie, a local law amending Chapter 14.35 of the Administrative Code of the City of Poughkeepsie entitled Taxes – Partial Exemption Granted; Conditions, to provide as follows:

Section 14.35 Taxes — **partial exemption granted; conditions.**
[L.L. No. 1-1996, § 1; L.L. No. 1-2001, § 2, L.L. No. 3-2006, § 1]

Real property owned by persons sixty-five (65) years of age or over shall be exempt from city taxes up to the maximum amount of fifty (50) per centum of the assessed valuation subject to the following conditions and pursuant to Subsection (f) hereof:

- (a) The owner or all of the owners must file an application annually in the assessor's office on or before the appropriate taxable status date or such other time as may be hereafter fixed by law. At least sixty (60) days prior to the appropriate taxable status date, the assessing authority shall mail to each person who was granted an exemption pursuant to this section on the latest completed assessment roll an application form and a notice that such application must be filed on or before taxable status date and be approved in order for the exemption to be granted. Failure to mail any such application form and notice or the failure of such person to receive the same shall not prevent the levy, collection and enforcement of the payment of the taxes on property owned by such person.
- (b) In the event the owner, or all of the owners, of property which has received an exemption pursuant to this section on the preceding assessment roll fail to file the application required pursuant to this section on or before the taxable status date, such owner or owners may file the application, executed as if such application had been filed on or before the taxable status date, with the Assessor on or before the date for the hearing of complaints. The Assessor shall approve or deny such application as if it had been filed on or before the taxable status date.
- (c) The income of the owner or the combined income of the owners of the property must not exceed twenty nine ~~seven~~ thousand dollars (\$29~~7~~,000) for the income tax year immediately preceding the date of making application for exemption. Where the title is vested in either the husband or wife, their combined income must not exceed the sum of twenty nine ~~seven~~ thousand dollars (\$29~~7~~,000.).
- (d) Title to the property must be vested in the owner or, if more than one (1), in all the owners for at least twenty-four (24) consecutive months prior to the date of making application for exemption.

- (e) The property must be used exclusively for residential purposes, be occupied in whole or in part by the owners, and constitute the legal residence of the owners.
- (f) The amount of the partial exemption shall be computed as follows:

Annual Income	Percentage of Assessed Valuation Exempt From Taxation
\$20,600 or less	50
More than \$20,600 but less than \$21,600	45
\$21,600 or more but less than \$22,600	40
\$22,600 or more but less than \$23,600	35
\$23,600 or more but less than \$24,500	30
\$24,500 or more but less than \$25,400	25
\$25,400 or more but less than \$26,300	20
\$26,300 or more but less than \$27,200	15
\$27,200 or more but less than \$28,100	10
<u>\$28,100 or more but less than \$29,000</u>	<u>5</u>

- (g) **Unreimbursed medical expenses shall be subtracted from the senior's income calculation.**

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

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ :

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of October 18, 2021

LL-21-03						
☐ Accepted ☒ Defeated ☐ Tabled			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember McClinton	Votes	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	☐	☐	☐	☒
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐
	Chair Salem	Voter	☒	☐	☐	☐

X. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. A PRESENTATION FROM THE VASSAR ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATIVE**, on Proposed Updates to the Natural Resources Inventory.
- 2. A PRESENTATION FROM ASSISTANT CORPORATION COUNSEL WILSON**, addressing Blight Through Updated Codes and Code Enforcement.
- 3. A COMMUNICATION FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**, regarding Lowering the Speed Limit on Gifford Avenue.
- 4. FROM KENDRA SMITH**, a notice of personal injury sustained on December 23, 2020.
- 5. FROM BEATRICE TISSIERA**, a notice of personal injury sustained on June 30, 2021.

XI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XII. NEW BUSINESS

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember L. Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 9:13pm.

Dated: October 29, 2021

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, October 18, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain

