

THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, March 21, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Common Council Chambers

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 March 21, 2022, and the time is 6:31 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: (8 present, 1 absent: Councilmember Cherry absent)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting – March 14, 2022

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

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

NONE

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

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- 1. Ken Stickle, Catharine St.**
- 2. Gus (submitted in writing)**

mayor rolison

i am writing to you today to congratulate the city and congratulate you on the naming of natalie quinn as development director.

as you said, development director quinn "has helped to shape the city administration's vision for the city and continues to carry out those duties" so i am wondering, as the head of the city administration, if you would be able to comment on a decision made by the zoning board of appeals that is in violation of the city charter, specifically a violation of the code of ordinances.

the decision in question relates to 198-204 hooker avenue. the owner applied to the zoning board requesting three variances of the city's zoning land and use regulations to be able to change the second floor of the building from offices to apartments. the zoning board denied his application for lack of required parking.

on appeal, the zoning board of appeals approved the variances.

it is this approval where the zoning board of appeals acted outside of their power enumerated in the city charter and violated the zoning regulations set forth in the charter.

specifically, they granted a parking variance for which they had no authority to grant. the change from offices to apartments requires 34 parking spaces while the property only provides 10 parking spaces. the zoning board of appeals granted this variance but the city zoning regulations only allow them to grant a variance of up to 25% of the required spaces.

in the application to the zoning board, it is indicated that the section 19-4.3(11) parking requirements in total for the commercial and residential are 34 spaces. 10 spaces are provided, leaving a shortage of 24 spaces.

the property in question is in a c-1 zone and according to section 19-3.22(5) "Parking and loading. Off-street parking and loading spaces shall be provided, subject to the requirements of Section 19-4.3 of this chapter."

according to 19.4.3(13) the planning board only has authority to "grant a partial deferral of the parking requirements otherwise imposed by any section of this Chapter of not more than 25% of such requirement"

25% of 34 spaces is 8.5 spaces. 8.5 spaces would be the limit for a variance. that would make the required spaces 25.5 which is more than twice the amount of parking spaces the property provides.

19.4.3(9) does allow that "All or portions of the off-street parking requirement may be waived by the Planning Board" but the zoning board of appeals approved the waiver, not the planning board. the planning board also cannot waive the parking requirements because the property does

not meet any of the provision outlined by 19.43(9). there are no municipally or privately-owned parking facilities within 600 feet of the building.

this property is also deficient in off-street loading facilities. according to 19.4.3(12)(a) there is an off street loading requirement of 1 berth of at least 15 feet wide, 45 feet long and 14 feet high. also this berth is not permitted to be within 50 feet of any intersection. currently the retail spaces utilize the handicapped and no parking portion of Mildred Avenue as well as the sidewalks next to the fire hydrant for loading. if the loading zone requirement is enforced, the loading zone will need to be incorporated into the parking lot, which will further reduce the available parking.

i have attached a few photos showing the daily violations of parking laws due to on-street loading.

if there is a change in permitted use, every regulation must be adhered to, but the zoning board of appeals and planning board are both ignoring the off-street loading requirement.

i am not sure how this project can continue with the parking requirements being so deficient and the zoning and planning decisions being made in direct violation of the city codes.

i have attached the letter i sent to the then acting development director, planning board and zoning board of appeals members that highlight other problems with this proposed change that have not been addressed.

it is my hope that the zoning board of appeals reverses its decision and that the city does not allow this permitted use change to take place.

thank you

jeff Gregory

9 mildred avenue

3. Laurie Sandow, S. Grand Ave. (submitted in writing)

I am glad to see these Council meetings finally resumed in person. It is also important to note that the Governor's recent Executive Orders have allowed, but NOT mandated, virtual meetings—that's been a choice made by this Council and its Chair, who love the wall of separation between themselves and the public, far more than they love transparency and contact with the public they serve.

The latest version of this wall, is the Council's "Consent Agenda" format, whereby Councilmembers hold closed-door caucus meetings, where their agendas are never publicly posted, and their delays, debates, attendance, conversations, and alleged consent is never recorded for public viewing. In 1992, the Erie County Supreme Court held that a closed meeting of a quorum of a council comprised of only one political party violated Open Meetings Law. I quote: "When dealing with a Legislature comprised of only one political party, it must be left to the sound discretion of honorable and honest legislators to clearly announce the intent and purpose of future meetings and open the same accordingly consistent with the overall intent of Public Officers Law Article 7" [more commonly known as Open Meetings Law].

Of course, that ruling begs the question of what constitutes an honorable and honest legislator:

—When I have raised questions at previous Council meetings about the Redistricting and Informational Meeting Charter violations, every Councilmember responds—if you can call it a response—with dishonorable and dishonest dead silence;

—When I have raised questions at previous Council meetings about Councilmember non-responsiveness to Freedom of Information (FOIL) requests, nearly all Councilmembers respond yet again—if you can call it a response—with dishonorable and dishonest dead silence;

—At the Council's January 18th meeting, the last Council meeting before introduction of the "consent agenda" format, the meeting transcript was riddled

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with “no comments” by Councilmembers. But with the consent agenda format, the same uninformed, under-informed or plain old disinterested, uninvolved and unconcerned Councilmembers can pick up a paycheck at the same time they are spared the embarrassment of having their “no comment” entered into the permanent record.

During the March 21 meeting, Councilmember Yvonne Flowers proved that uninformed, under-informed and/or plain old disinterested to be exactly the case, when she asked that

R-22-26 be moved from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda because there had not been sufficient time to study or discuss the Resolution. R-22-26 was moved from Consent Agenda to Action Agenda, and once again, when called on to comment, remaining Councilmembers responded with a flood of “no comment”. [R-22-26—the Resolution Authorizing the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance to Amend the Existing Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Beacon and the County of Dutchess and to Execute a New Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Beacon and the County of Dutchess].

I’d like to turn next to Councilmember Lorraine Johnson’s comments at the last meeting, attacking Stofa’s Auto with reckless disregard for the truth of her statement. For those who don’t remember, Lorraine Johnson and Chris Petsas colluded to sell one-third of the city-owned Clinton and Arterial corner lot to an individual, private landlord, with known unsafe conditions, for a piddling sum in the range of \$2,250 dollars. And despite the Planning Board having given Stofa’s Auto a guarantee for use of that same lot before he ever agreed to build, Stofa’s Auto—one of the City’s more outstanding and community-minded tradesmen and local employers—still entered into a payment agreement with the City. Yet, time and again, Lorraine Johnson continues to regenerate her false and slanderous narrative. And at the same time, not once has Ms. Johnson nor this Council ever turned their attention to examine the Family Partnership’s sweetheart deal and

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payment plan for use of the gigantic city-owned parking lot across the street from the Partnership's building.

Why is that, I wonder?

Lastly, in the vanishingly small amount of time I have left, I'd like to speak to both the Council's and Administration's pervasive hostility against public knowledge and public comments. Sarah Salem drove that hostility home at the March 21 meeting when—even though the agenda lists the public comment period as lasting up to 45 minutes long, and even though there were only three speakers at three minutes each—Salem insisted that each speaker cease their comments at three minutes.

At-Large Council Chair Salem's hostility to the public has also manifested in more than one willful violation of the City of Poughkeepsie Charter, occurring more than once during Salem's two terms as Council Chair. Speaking to just one for the time being—rather than schedule the Charter-mandated 2x yearly Informational Meetings during the months of March and September, this year Salem has scheduled them to take place in April and October. Salem has posted a schedule with time limitations evidencing Salem's intent to short-circuit public comments at the upcoming meeting, too. (It's worth noting that the City Charter specifies the at-large member as answering to all City voters, not just those of a single ward.)

In addition, at the March 14 Council meeting, one Councilmember talked about being left out of the loop regarding notification about Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) agenda items and applications. As it happens, the public is even more deprived of information than the Council. The public's only alternative is to hunt and peck through the City website and postings, day after day, over and over, until we finally find an agenda and agenda packet short days before any meeting. Even then, finding an agenda is no guarantee of actually being allowed to speak even if we happen to be a neighboring tenant, a concerned

City resident, or an adjacent business owner. Both these committees notify “the public”—which literally, not figuratively, translates to property owners only within a certain distance, and not the public at all—about applications near their properties. Property owners are under no obligation to inform their tenants. An agenda and packet can be posted to the City website on one day, and vanish the next, leaving no trace of the previous documents. On a consistent and regular basis, the public is deprived of transparency about the vanishing and secretly revised meeting postings, posts without timestamps, the rules surrounding public notification, as well as the rules (assuming any rules exist) guaranteeing whether or not public comments will even be allowed at a given meeting.

4. Jeffrey M. Gregory, 9 Mildred Ave. (submitted in writing)

Jeffrey M. Gregory
9 Mildred Avenue
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

December 6, 2021

City of Poughkeepsie Planning Board
62 Civic Center Plaza
Poughkeepsie, NY 12601

To Whom It May Concern,

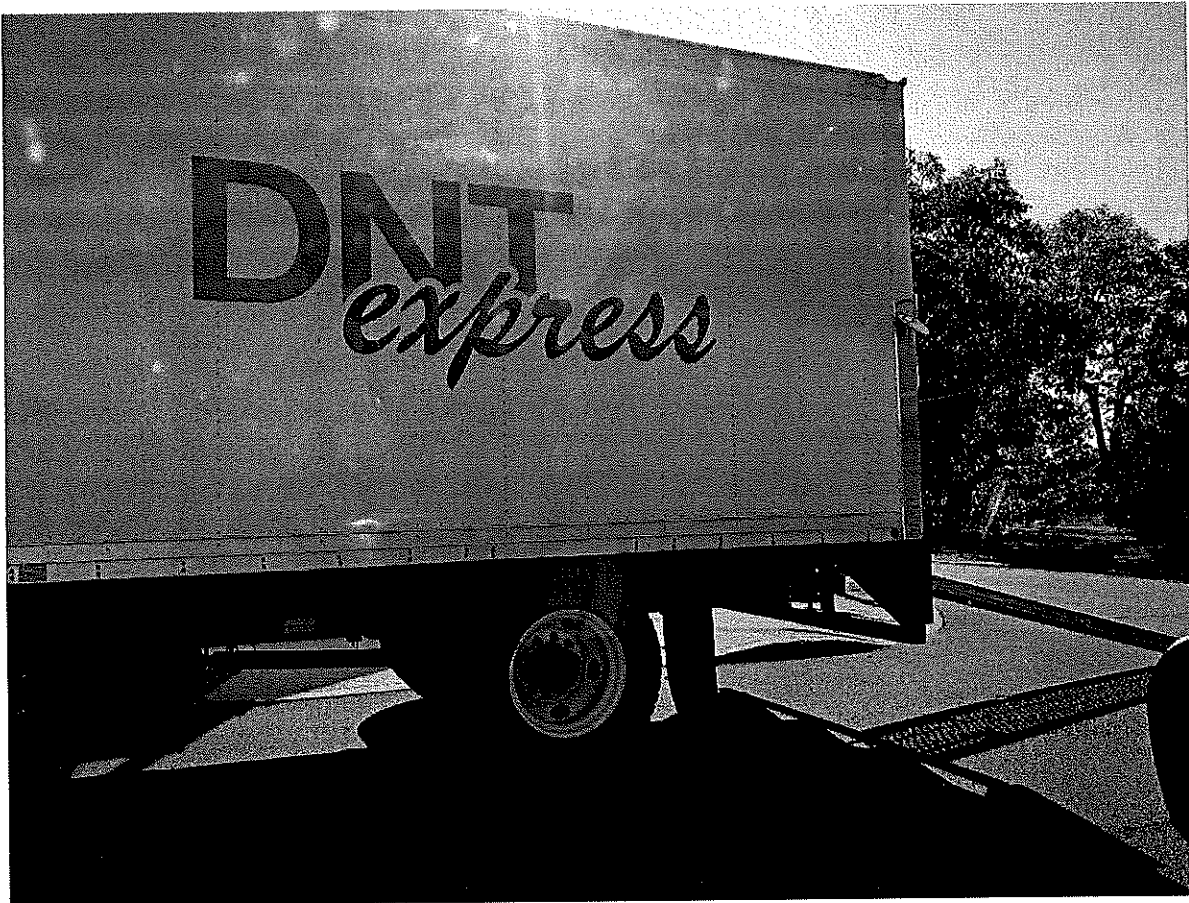
I am writing to you today to bring to your attention a potential issue with the Zoning Board of Appeals decision to approve variances for the property at 198-204 Hooker Avenue. During the Zoning Board of Appeals meeting on July 13, 2021, it was stated that the parking lot at this property would accommodate ten cars. This small number of parking spaces is non-conforming for the existing property and will also be non-conforming for the proposed number of apartments planned. In the appeal, it was stated that the parking lot would have space for ten cars. What was not revealed to the board is that there are eight parking spaces and two handicapped spaces. This parking situation is inadequate for the changes they are proposing.



In addition, the florist has a delivery van which will take up one space, leaving only seven parking spaces. This is woefully deficient in meeting the requirements of twenty four spaces and is even deficient in the Zoning Board of Appeals variance for ten spaces. Also the current tenant in the existing apartment does not work. His personal vehicle will take up a space permanently just like the florist's delivery van. This leaves only six spaces. This will mean that the majority of tenants, employees and customers will have to park on the surrounding streets. This would not ordinarily be a concern if the surrounding streets were also in non-residential or mixed zoning areas, but in fact the surrounding areas are all R2 residential zones. As you can see in the photo below, the current tenant's vehicle and florist delivery van park on the side of 198-204 Hooker Avenue. Once that area is landscaped as per zoning requirements, those vehicles will need to park in the lot, reducing the number of available spaces.



The businesses often have deliveries in which the delivery vehicles park illegally at the corner of Mildred and Hooker Avenues. This creates a single lane at the intersection which is extremely dangerous for vehicles and pedestrians alike. The photo below shows a delivery vehicle which impeded traffic at the intersection and created a dangerous situation to pedestrians and vehicles alike. The ramp almost extends into Hooker Avenue while the truck is parked illegally.



Another aspect of the change in use of 198-204 Hooker Avenue is the misconception that parking will not be an issue due to the business employees and patrons using the lot during business hours and the tenants using the parking lot outside of business hours. This is not even close to being true. The businesses are open well beyond normal business hours, so in the evening while tenants are returning home from work, the businesses will still be open and operating. In addition, the businesses are open on the weekends. Assuming the tenants will not be working on weekends you can imagine how much parking and traffic issues will arise. Please see below for the business operating hours:

Southside Wine and Liquors

Monday – Saturday: 10:00 AM - 7:00 PM

Sunday: 12:00 PM - 6:00 PM

Newman's Nosh Deli

Mon – Wed: 7:00 am - 3:00 pm

Thu – Fri: 6:00 am - 5:00 pm

Saturday 8:00 am - 3:00 pm

Sunday Closed

Millenium Hair Design

Tue - Wed: 9:00 am - 5:00 pm

Thu: 9:00 am - 8:00 pm

Fri: 9:00 am - 6:00 pm

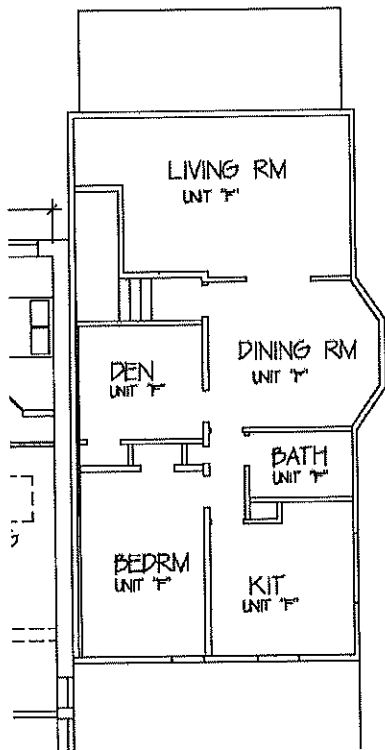
Sat: 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

Maryanne's Floral Garden

Monday – Friday: 9:00am – 4:00pm

Saturday: 9:00am – 3:00pm

One other point I would like to make is that the current apartment at 198-204 Hooker Avenue was presented to the Zoning Board of Appeals as a one bedroom apartment. While the Dutchess County Parcel Access Property Card has no number for bedrooms, in the supplied blueprints, you can clearly see that the existing apartment has two bedrooms, with one being referred to as a "den". The "den" clearly has a closet which would classify it as a bedroom. By identifying it as a "den" instead of a "bedroom" it reduces the parking requirement. Correcting for this oversight, the parking requirements will increase, a fact which the Zoning Board of Appeals has not taken into consideration.



Site Number: 1				
Use Number: 3				
Used As: (E02) Walk-up off				
Unit Code: Total Rent Area:		Area 1 Bdrms	Area 2 Bdrms	Area 3 Bdrms
()	0	Apts	Apts	Apts
		0	0	0
Total	No. 1 Bdrms	No. 2 Bdrms Apts	No. 3 Bdrms Apts	
Units:	Apts			
0	0	0	0	

In addition to the lack of parking, there will certainly be an issue with sanitation and recycling. Rather than use a dumpster as they had in the past, the occupants of 198-204 Hooker Avenue now use Royal Carting for curbside pickup. This is another tactic to influence the Zoning Board to appear to increase parking spaces in the parking lot as a dumpster would take up one or two spaces. Also, a dumpster will decrease the available space for snow removal. This would certainly decrease the amount of spaces as snow is plowed from the parking lot. The photo below is what the pickup looks like currently. Adding more apartments will increase this substantially. This will be the same issue the city had with garbage and recycling on the arterial highways; unsightly, unsanitary and dangerous for the trash collection workers.



Lastly I would like to point out my disappointment with the Zoning Board of Appeals in granting this variance. Parking issues aside, changing from offices to apartments introduces two other areas of non-conformance; landscaping and useable space. During the July 13, 2021 Zoning Board of Appeals meeting, one of the board members had this to say:

"So, yeah, well, while I'm struggling with this, it's substantial, I think I'm particularly swayed by the fact that this is actually reducing the nonconforming use."

This statement is not true. In reality the property at 198-204 Hooker Avenue will go from non-conforming in one area, parking, to non-conforming in three areas, parking, landscaping and useable space.

In presenting these issues, it is my hope that the Zoning Board and Planning Board will reconsider their approvals in regard to 198-204 Hooker Avenue.

If you have any questions or would like to speak with me in person, I would be happy to do so.

Thank you,

Jeffrey M. Gregory

9 Mildred Ave

Poughkeepsie, NY

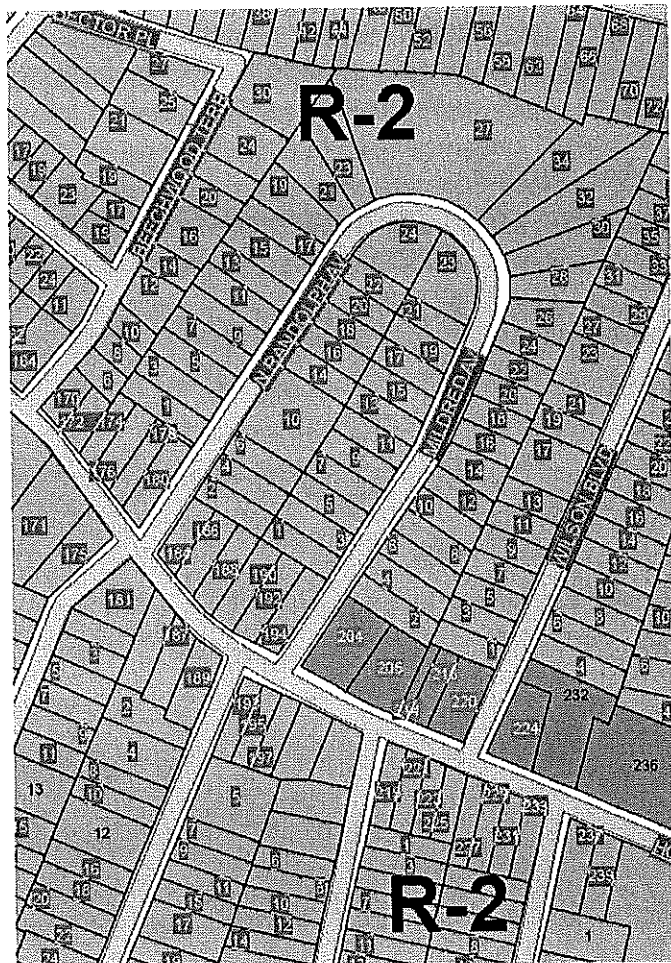
As you can see from the below images, Mildred Avenue is entirely in an R2 zone. The property at 198-204 Hooker Avenue is in a C1 Zone. The Planning Board should be concerned about forcing C1 parking into R2 districts. Parking is already at a premium on Mildred Avenue and the surrounding streets due to the businesses along Hooker Avenue as well as the alternate side parking rules. In addition, the R2 streets have young families with a considerable number of children at play; walking, riding bikes and skateboards on the sidewalks and other front yard activities. Filling up the R2 streets with parked cars due to the lack of adequate parking at 198-204 Hooker Avenue will present many safety concerns. Most patrons of the flower shop, liquor store, salon and deli drive down Mildred Ave and turn around in resident's driveways. This is especially dangerous when visibility is reduced due to cars parked on the street.



City of Poughkeepsie Zoning Districts

0-1. NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL	R-1. MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
0-2. CENTRAL COMMERCIAL	R-2A. CENTRAL MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
0-3A. MAIN STREET COMMERCIAL	R-2. MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
0-3. GENERAL COMMERCIAL	R-3. CENTRAL URBAN DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
HA. HOSPITAL MEDICAL	R-4. HIGH DENSITY RESIDENTIAL DISTRICT
LI. LIGHT INDUSTRIAL	R-5. URBAN DENSITY RESIDENTIAL
IG. GENERAL INDUSTRIAL	R-6. RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
OR. OFFICE RESIDENTIAL	RI. WATERFRONT
PR. PLANNED RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT	TR. WATERFRONT TRANSIT ORIENTED DEVELOPMENT
RL. LOW DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	OM. OFFICE MANUFACTURING
RM. MEDIUM DENSITY RESIDENTIAL	GM. MIXED-USE COMMERCIAL
R-2A. CENTRAL LOW DENSITY	GM. MIXED-USE RESIDENTIAL
	HC. HISTORIC CORE
	OC. OFFICE CORPUS
	UL. URBAN VILLAGE
	CE. CREATIVE EDGE

Map Prepared by the City of Poughkeepsie Planning Department
11/22/2017
poughkeepsiecityplanning.com/2017/11/22/



V. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS

I don't have a lot tonight. I have a few points I want to touch on. I know we're back in person and none of us are wearing masks, which is a change. I think the last time we were back in person, we were at Change Point Church because HBO was doing filming their movie here in the county council chambers and we were wearing masks. So this is different for a lot of us, and it's really great to see everyone's faces. We can actually see facial expressions, too, that are not translated over Zoom, and I have to disagree with Gus. I don't think everyone looks the same on television. I wish that were the case.

But, you know, although the executive order was actually extended to April 15th, I thought it was important that we kind of rip the Band-Aid off when we get ourselves in here to the county council chambers. The executive order allowed for us to host virtual public meetings within open meetings law through the coronavirus pandemic, and Governor Hochul did extend the pandemic emergency just a little bit longer. But really, what I want to say as it relates to all this is, you know, once again, there's another variant that, you know, at first scientists were saying there's no cause for concern. And now they're kind of walking back a little bit on whether or not we should be concerned. So it's unclear on, you know, what the concern could be, according to what doctors, the CDC and the scientists say, however. You know, I think we should remain cautious and use all the measures that we learned through the last few years that have been effective and continue to put them into place when we think it's best.

So I think the best thing that we can do is use this period of calm to prepare ourselves to make sure that everybody that hasn't gotten vaccinated gets vaccinated, that everybody who hasn't gotten a booster gets a booster that folks know how to get quick tests. There are plenty available. I know, you know, we have a tiny doctor's outreach in our food pantry and we give them out in the farm stand to make sure that people know where to go if they have to get a test administered by a doctor and just ensuring that people have all the information they need at their fingertips.

While we're in this period of kind of the settling, you know, we know masks work. So if you feel uncomfortable, even if you're here and we're not wearing a mask, please wear a mask. You know, no one's going to ridicule you for being safe. If you feel sick, always. If you feel sick, stay home. Just as simple as that. And, you know, I think that one thing that struck me in an article that I was reading today, New York Times, is that, you know, we have to start to take a more proactive approach instead of a reactive approach because as one scientist remarked, I love this quote. We've been wearing rose covered colored glasses instead of correcting our vision. So we really just need to use caution. And we're already I think one of the things we learned is how to use you right over the past few years.

So if we need to go back to Zoom, I'm not afraid to go back to Zoom. But for right now, we're here in person and it does feel really good to be here with everyone.

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April 4th at six p.m., we have a informational meeting of the common council. This is a meeting where we gather all department heads. So members of the public can address them directly and ask questions. So that meeting is on April 4th. It starts at 6:00 p.m.

And, you know, members of the public, if you have your questions ready, feel free to send them ahead of time. That gives department heads a little bit of heat so that they know what to expect. And you know, also if you have kind of heavy, weighted, complicated questions, just, you know, give us the benefit of the doubt to the department heads that we're going to take your questions with us. And if we can't answer them on the fourth, we'll answer them at sometime in the future. And you know, the informational meetings of the common council have to be held twice a year, and they're purely informational. So there's no legislative action. There's no general discourse.

There's questions from members of the public specifically directed to all department heads at City Hall, to the mayor, city administrator and myself. So I encourage folks to come to that again. That's April 4th at six p.m. Also on April 4th, during our regular common council meeting, we are going to be hearing from Pattern for Progress. The City of Poughkeepsie recently conducted in housing needs assessment. It was conducted on our behalf by Pattern for Progress, and the assessment evaluates the current housing conditions and unmet needs in the city of occupancy. And it includes an analysis of socioeconomic and demographic trends, snapshot of what our housing stock looks like and the housing conditions.

It includes explanations of housing needs, challenges associated with housing, and it gives us as policymakers in the community, a blueprint for where we need to go next to address some of the issues that they brought through with the data and the analysis. And that can help us and give us a basis for revising policies that exist and for implementing new policies that don't exist.

It's a really, really great report. I continue to read it. It's available online if you want to check it out before you hear the presentation on the fourth. You can go to the city of Poughkeepsie dot com to read it.

And yeah, I think the analysis identifies not just issues relating to housing, but the multitude of issues that impact our housing, you know, issue here in the city of Poughkeepsie. And I think that that's worth kind of investigating further. There are many social and environmental factors that negatively impact folks as it relates to what is now exacerbates our housing crisis.

And that brings me to the next point that I want to make. I've been hearing this a lot from folks, and I know folks on the council have brought this up a lot. We heard it tonight from Mr. Stickle. And you know, my colleague and I council member Menist were out petitioning this weekend and collecting signatures and, you know, person after person that we were able to talk with talking about Main Street. They talked about Main Street upkeep and its vibrancy, and it's the critical nature of Main Street and what it means to the city because see what it means to be the county seat in

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Dutchess County. And you know, nobody is kind of trying to tackle a Department of City Hall or a specific person down.

We all understand it's a problem that we have to contribute to the solution together. And while we can yell about the trash and the lack of trash cans and the lack of businesses, I mean, I think we really, really need to focus in and come up with a collaborative approach to improving, you know, specific sections of Main Street. And I think we've all said it before. I know Councilmember Menist has said it several times. That's part of a district that is contained in your ward and in Councilmember Long's ward as well.

I live right on the center of Main around the three hundred block. And you know, actually when I walked out this morning to take my dog for a walk, I noticed it looked very clean, which is great.

So thank you, DPW and folks for cleaning up the trash. But generally what I see is the opposite. And I know that it takes a lot of people power to continually go out and clean up the trash that people throw out on the street. And we can't prevent people from not putting trash in the garbage cans, but we can come up with some solutions. And I think the low hanging fruit that I see here is just at least keeping the trash cleared out.

Really, we need to think about investing. I know I've said this before, I'll say it again in wayfinding signs. I think that that is critical as we make improvements to parking lot, as we see more people coming into the city to explore the new cafes and the new jobs that are opening up.

We can try and encourage people to kind of park on the exterior of Maine so that they can walk in and experience everything that the city because he has to offer because it has a lot to offer. But I think again, the low hanging. From here, and the thing that I think we really need to focus in on in the future, try to budget funds to improve is Main Street, we need to fix that Main Street corridor.

It just pains me to walk out there and see its condition from day to day. And again, it's not any one person or any one departments or any you know, you know, external factors fault. And I'm preaching to the choir here when I say that. Redistricting commission, we conducted interviews from folks who submitted their resumes and their cover letter.

There is still time the deadline is March 25th, so if you're interested in serving on the redistricting commission, please send your resume and your cover letter to me directly. My email address is SSalem at City Poughkeepsie dot com.

And once that deadline passes, we're going to be in touch with folks who had previously applied and folks who have just applied in this new round to get the commission up and running. And that's really exciting because, you know, this is a critical issue that we're also facing. We just got new census data, so we want to make sure that we put it to good use here in the city because see, as it relates to, you

know, the districts in the wards and the way the city is kind of colonial bound.

Great. And that concludes my comments. Thank you so much. And we'll move to mayor's comments.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Thank you. Thank you, Chair. And as you said, it's good to be here. Good to see everyone back in the chambers. I want to thank the IT department and Al Gernhardt, especially. A lot of work went into getting these chambers back together, especially when you were seeing the new technology that we have here. Different screen capabilities so public can have a better experience watching this from wherever they're going to watch from. And as many of you saw, you know, this room was entirely dismantled and became a courtroom for the HBO miniseries White House Plumbers and was put back together.

One of the things to that was a challenge for us was supply chain issues and getting the new technical technology in here. But it actually it worked out OK. And I know there will be probably some things that we'll be working on over the next month or so tweaking this a little bit. But you know, these things are pretty cool and we're going to be able to do some things and you're all going to be able do some things that you couldn't do before.

So tonight on the agenda, I'm sorry, I couldn't make last Monday's meeting. I know Mayor Kyriacou was here, along with the finance commissioner, Dr. Martinez, and talked with you all about the sales tax agreement. This is a good agreement for the city of Poughkeepsie, the city of Beacon and the county and the towns.

These negotiations went through the course of several months. And as you heard, we partnered directly from the beginning with the City of Beacon, with Mayor Kyriacou and City Manager Chris White to try to address the things that we all wanted to be addressed, both from the City of Poughkeepsie standpoint and also the city of Beacon. I think we have gotten to a very good place with these negotiations, which at times certainly were tough, but they were always good discussions with all of our counterparts. And it does, as you know, increases the yearly amount to the city, but also has a deficit reduction side to it, which will be helping the city for years to come outside of the additional monies.

And I think that this is something that will benefit the city for the next 10 years and hopefully the economy will continue to improve, which we believe it is, which will help not only Dutchess County, but, you know, the entire region because when everybody is doing better, the city of Poughkeepsie does better.

I wanted to also let everyone know we have several numerous actually job openings within the ranks of either our city employees, both internally here and in City Hall and the Department of Public Works. Please, if you know someone who is interested in the job, have them go to the city bankruptcy website, take a look. It's

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what's out there because we've been offering a variety of positions right now that will definitely fit for someone, and it definitely helps us with our operations.

As all of you know, we had three new police officers join the ranks last week. They completed their six months, of course, from the 24th session of the Dutchess County Law Enforcement Academy. Officer Heard Officer Christopher Warrick and Officer Gary Behan have been on the street for a week. They started a week ago and they are enjoying it. I have seen them. I have spoken to them and I can tell you that we got three fine officers to join the ranks of the city if it keeps the police department. We are currently now in the interview stages from our new list.

Now, as there was a lot of discussion and there has been an especially was when we were doing our executive order police reform plan, how we would increase. The ranks both in the area of diversity, but also from the city of Poughkeepsie, people who live here to join our police department, and we did a pretty aggressive campaign. We had, I believe, somewhere in the area of 50 individuals from the city of Poughkeepsie signed up for the test, and we also offered a professional police tutorial service course, entry level course for the police exam.

I believe 25 to 30 of the candidates actually took part in that. And we have a list, a really good list of individuals from the city of Poughkeepsie, 30 plus city residents are on this list and we are now looking the police department and are working to go through that list and start the interview process. The physical agility test, I think, is coming up in about a week or so, and we're really excited about the opportunities for additional members from our own community joining the police department.

Speaking of, members of our own community have to acknowledge the great work, collaboration and teamwork of our Poughkeepsie Pioneers basketball team. They made it to the Final Four in Highland's Falls, but they played an extremely good team just as they were Manhasset on Saturday, and they weren't able to prevail. However, what they did along the way was an example of for all of us to look at what we didn't think we could do it, but we did it. They were an unheralded team coming out of the gate. Coach Moffitt again getting them together. They got better as the season went on and I was grateful to be able to spend some time at the playoff games. And you know, it is a big deal to be the class-A regional champ. Not everybody gets to do that. They did it and that really is something to be.

We're very proud of these young men and also too, because sometimes this is said and not that it needs to be always highlighted, but I think nine out of the 14 players were on the honor roll. So not only did they excel as athletes and as teammates, they were also excelling in their schooling, and that's something that we are proud of them for.

I've asked them I spoke to the coach this morning to be present at the state of the city on the 31st so we can probably recognize them as we did the 2019 State Champs. And I'm excited about the opportunity to do that with Dr. Rosser, who will also be there.

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The dog park and skate park both open and being used. The Department of Public Works.

And I'm going to address a couple of the comments of Mr. Stickle in just a minute. Are now working on getting the parks prepped and ready to go. Field usage, garbage, other types of things cutting back brush because this was a brutal winter for many of our parks and also parts of the city which aren't dressed here in a second can. But I want people to know that we are actively right now getting inquiries about field usage.

It's going to be another busy spring, summer and fall in our parks, and we are going to be doing everything we can to make sure that the parks are ready for the members of our community and the individual teams that are playing in so many of them. This winter was especially brutal.

Not in the amount of snow that we got, but in the actual cold weather and the flash freezes that we encountered after many of the storms to Mr. Stickles point about leaves, many areas that had leaves that got out later in the year were frozen. They will be addressed. I can assure you that you will start to see leaf drops back out there again as we're going to be going into the different areas that still have problems with the leaves. I think most people who know me know that I am very focused on garbage, and we did make a lot of progress in the first few years with additional equipment.

Our Department of Public Works works seven days a week picking up garbage. Is it enough? No, it's not. We do have a new street sweeper. Is that enough? No, it's not. We're now going to be utilizing the street sweeper on weekends, which prior we weren't. But one of our Monday through Friday employees is now a supervisor on weekends, and he's a street sweeper operator, so you will start to see that on the weekend. We're hoping that that's going to help a little bit in getting in areas that during the week are tougher to get through. We are going to make the best possible effort we can with the manpower that we have in the corridors that need to be addressed.

The chair spoke about Main Street, no doubt about it. We lost ground during the pandemic. There's no doubt about that either. We can't legislate individuals personal behavior, but we do understand it is our responsibility to do everything that we can to make the city presentable and we will redouble our efforts. And it's not a question of money, it's just a question of hours in the day, especially when we're doing other things.

You know, we're going to have an aggressive paving program again this year. We're looking at spending our money on infrastructure improvements. The chair spoke about certain main street corridors that we're looking at right now. I can tell you that engineering is preparing bid specs for park improvements. So. This is the one thing that that I that I want everyone to understand. We work at this seven days a week. And everyone that is involved in this effort, and this also is from an enforcement aspect as well with our building departments and sanitation inspector,

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we are trying to do everything we possibly can to improve the appearance of the city of Poughkeepsie, but we can't do it alone. We do need the help of the community. There is personal responsibility.

And you know, we're going to get new garbage cans roaring a new garbage truck. We're doing a lot of things that are going to eventually have an effect in a good way. But we share your frustration because we're the ones that see it.

Getting calls on it, and I'm not making excuses for us. And I feel bad when I can't tell somebody we're going to be there tomorrow. But I can tell you that when we hear about things, we address them as quickly as we possibly can and can stay on it. Let us know. And specifically, where there are problem areas that you may know about that we might not know about or I might not know about.

And I'm trying to really stay abreast of it. I got a clipboard, my car. I write these things down. I call DPW seven days a week, and I'm trying to be along with my colleagues here in the council as responsible on the cleanup effort as we can. Steve the city, I spoke about that earlier, that is going to be at 5:30 on March three for March 31st, excuse me, right over here at Change Point and welcome all of you to please attend.

There is a PK for keeps open house on the 24th this coming Thursday from five to seven at the Trolley Barn, which is at four eighty nine Main Street.

You're going to hear tonight a presentation from the Dutchess County Transportation Council. This has been a large undertaking that we were able to get funds through the county and the Metropolitan Planning Association, the MTA to look at the two arterials along with the jug handle. If that's the right term for it right there at the Mid-Hudson Bridge, which we know is one of the highest accident locations in Dutchess County.

So this was a collaboration between the county, the city and the state and professional consultants to come up with ideas and ways to potentially change the dynamics not only of the intersection by the bridge, because that is completely engineered a way that you would not engineer today. And then the arterials that cut through the very heart of the city and have divided neighborhoods, divided individuals and caused barriers for people to move about in a safe manner. They're not. There are not a lot of easy solutions. And but there are solutions and potential ideas which have been looked at and explored.

I'm looking forward to hearing tonight again more of what I have already heard. But I do think that we have an opportunity. This is a time in our city's history, in our state's history to advocate for correcting things that probably again would not be done today as they were back then. There are there are challenges to this, both from the physical structure of the highways, the movement of traffic, also the financial resources that it will be will be needed to make may change. But we are not going to give up if any of these become what we might think is an immovable barrier.

I do know that the state is doing big projects in several large cities throughout our state right now in dismantling these types of highways overpasses because of the barriers they've created for communities. So listen, listen to this from the, I guess, the aspect of we're going to need to advocate for something at some point in time. We as a legislative body, as an administration, as a community are going to say we want to at least try something. And I think that that's where I hope to be with all of you at a certain point down the road. But again, it's good to see you in and chair.

That's my comments.

VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

IX. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

A motion was made by Councilmember Flowers and seconded by Councilmember Menist to move R-22-26 from the Consent Agenda to the Action Agenda.

1. **R-22-26, Resolution Authorizing The Mayor And The Commissioner Of Finance To Amend The Existing Sales Tax Agreement With The City Of Beacon And The County Of Dutchess And To Execute A New Sales Tax Agreement With The City Of Beacon And The County Of Dutchess.**

X. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

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

1. **O-22-02, Ordinance Amending §13-175 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances Entitled "Stop Signs; Locations Designated"**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-175 OF THE
CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE OF ORDINANCES
ENTITLED "STOP SIGNS; LOCATIONS DESIGNATED"
(O-22-02)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER MENIST:

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

SECTION 1: Section13-175 of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances entitled “**Stop Signs; Locations Designated**” is amended by the **ADDITION** of the following language:

On Rinaldi Boulevard, at its intersection with Gerald Drive and Laurel Street, both directions.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER _____ .

BOLD and UNDERLINING INDICATE ADDITION
BRACKETS [] AND ~~STRIKETHROUGH~~ INDICATE DELETION

0-22-2			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
☒ 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	☒	☐	☐	☐

ACTION AGENDA:

R-22-26, Resolution Authorizing The Mayor And The Commissioner Of Finance To Amend The Existing Sales Tax Agreement With The City Of Beacon And The County Of Dutchess And To Execute A New Sales Tax Agreement With The City Of Beacon And The County Of Dutchess.

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

**RESOLUTION
(R-22-26)**

RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR AND THE COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE TO AMEND THE EXISTING SALES TAX AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BEACON AND THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS AND TO EXECUTE A NEW SALES TAX AGREEMENT WITH THE CITY OF BEACON AND THE COUNTY OF DUTCHESS

INTRODUCED BY CHAIR SALEM:

CO-SPONSORED BY COUNCILMEMBERS SHOOK, DEICHLER, FLOWERS & THOMPSON:

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie and the City of Beacon have previously entered into a Sales Tax Agreement with the County of Dutchess and that Agreement will expire in February of 2023; and

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie wishes to amend the existing ten-year agreement and enter into a new ten-year Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Beacon and the County of Dutchess which is deemed to be in the interest of the involved parties; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance to amend the existing 2013 Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Beacon and County of Dutchess in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit A** and incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council hereby authorizes the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance to execute a new Sales Tax Agreement with the City of Beacon and County of Dutchess in the form annexed hereto as **Exhibit B** and incorporated herein by reference; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Mayor and the Commissioner of Finance are hereby authorized to execute any other documents related to the new Sales Tax Agreement and to the Amendment to the 2013 Sales Tax Agreement necessary for their implementation.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER

_____.

R-22-26						
☒ 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	☒	☐	☐	☐

XI. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

XII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**, a presentation on the Rt. 9/44/55 Project.

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to defer the remaining petition to Corporation Counsel.

2. **FROM DUTCHESS COUNTY TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**, a presentation on the Rt. 9/44/55 Project.
3. **FROM ANTAWAN JOHNSON**, a notice of personal injury sustained on December 8, 2021.
4. **FROM DEREK EVANS**, a notice of personal injury sustained on January 18, 2022.
5. **FROM QUEEN CITY LOUNGE**, a notice of intent to file a NYS Liquor License.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by all present Councilmembers and seconded by Councilmember Menist to adjourn the meeting at 8:37pm.

Dated: March 30, 2022.

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, March 21, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain**