

THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 5, 2022, 6:30 p.m.

Common Council Chambers

Welcome to the regularly scheduled Meeting of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council the date is July 5, 2022, and the time is 6:30 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: 7 present, 2 absent: (Councilmembers Cherry and Flowers arrived just after roll call was taken)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

**Public Hearing – June 21, 2022
Common Council Meeting – June 21, 2022**

**Motion to accept the minutes: Councilmember Cherry
2nd: Councilmember Johnson**

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

-NO-

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

1. Gus Kazolias – 47 Noxon St (submitted exhibits)



Dutchess County Government ✓

June 30 at 5:30 PM · 🌐

This afternoon, Dutchess County Legislator Randy Johnson joined representatives from Poughkeepsie High School and Yusuf House of the Hudson Valley to present Lindsay Perez-Lopez, a PHS Junior, with a new, full-size violin. The nonprofit Yusuf House purchased the violin with grant funding through the County's Learn, Play, Create fund. Lindsay, who has studied violin since third grade, was chosen to receive the instrument based on her teachers' recommendations of her academic and musical accomplishments.



Yusuf House of the Hudson Valley, Inc.

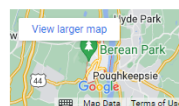
Nonprofits, Family and Other Individual Services

📍 Highland, NY 12528

📞 (845) 337-0446

📠 (845) 883-0892

✉️ Send Email



Hours:

9am- 3pm

About Us

Yusuf House, provides services to families that have been impacted by the criminal justice systems. We strive to rebuild the family unit and positive community interactions by our program services..

2. Diamond Mima – 450 Maple St

- 3. Olivia Mima – 96 S. Hamilton St.**
- 4. Naomi Brooks - S. Grand Ave. (spoke & submitted comments in writing)**

Naomi Brooks
S. Grand Avenue
July 5, 2022 Common Council meeting

Good evening.

Our city has moved into a shared government model, and individual changes to parts of our city code need to be modified to reflect that. On your agenda tonight is the request to set a public hearing to receive input from your constituents about some of those proposed changes. I strongly urge you to set this public hearing date. Public hearings are themselves a form of shared government – a chance for everyday citizens to voice their support or concerns.

The proposed local law includes changes to the appointment procedure for members of the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission. I would like to speak about the HDLPC appointments, because that commission has multiple vacancies, and because our code lists specific criteria about the skills and experience of the people who should serve. I've attached those criteria to the written version of my comments for your convenience.

Adding Common Council approval of such appointment choices to make sure those HDLPC criteria are met is another form of shared government. Allowing Common Council to make HDLPC appointments if the mayor is unable to do so in a reasonable amount of time is another form of shared government. The HDLPC can do its best work for our city if it has the full 7-member commission with the skills listed in our code. We need more eyes on this process to make sure it happens correctly, and in a timely way.

Please vote to open a public hearing so we can speak more about this important change.

Thank you.

[BELOW TAKEN FROM ONLINE ECODE 360, SECTION 19-4.5 OF CITY CODE & SUBMITTED BY NAOMI BROOKS]



Section 19-4.5 Historic District and Landmarks Preservation Commission.

- (a) The Commission shall consist of seven members to be appointed, to the extent available in the community, by the Mayor as follows:
 - 1. At least one shall be an architect experienced in working with historic buildings;
 - 2. At least one shall be an historian;
 - 3. At least three members shall reside in historic districts or historic landmarks;
 - 4. At least one shall have demonstrated significant interest in and commitment to the field of historic preservation evidenced either by involvement in a local historic preservation group, employment or volunteer activity in the field of historic preservation, or other serious interest in the field; and
 - 5. All members shall have a known interest in historic preservation and architectural development within the City of Poughkeepsie.
- (b) Commission members shall serve for a term of four years, with the exception of the initial term of one of the members, which shall be one year, one which shall be two years, and one which shall be three years.
 - 1. The Mayor shall act within 60 days to fill a vacancy, including expired terms. A member whose term has expired shall serve until the Mayor appoints a successor.
 - 2. Any Commission member missing three consecutive meetings shall automatically forfeit his or her appointment, and as such, a vacancy shall automatically be created. Further, any member missing four meetings in a calendar year, except for major illness, shall forfeit his or her appointment, creating a vacancy.

5. Laurie Sandow – S. Grand Ave. (spoke & submitted comments in writing)

[Laurie Sandow comments, City of Poughkeepsie Common Council meeting, July 5, 2022, Page 1 of 2]

You know, it's always interesting to speak during public comments, a virtually foreign experience to most current Councilmembers before they ran or were elected to office, or, like Sarah Brannen and Chris Petsas, after they've left office. So take heed—members of the public, at their own time and expense, come to these meetings, and get only three minutes to put their thoughts on the record, while paid members of the Council show up late, leave early, skip some

meetings altogether, and keep their ignorance and opinions off the record by hiding behind the wall of silence known as the “consent agenda”. In some cases, items don’t even make it past the Council Chair’s blockade, preventing them from appearing on the agenda at all.

It boggles the public’s mind—but apparently not Councilmember minds—how uninvolved and poorly informed most councilmembers choose to be, despite their privileged access to information.

—Have you ever showed up at a Council meeting and realized you had a better attendance record than many councilmembers? I have.

—Have you ever showed up at a Council meeting and realized that, despite limited access, you’re better informed about agenda items than most councilmembers? I have.

—Have you ever spoken during public comments, noticed an agenda item where councilmembers haven’t consulted their constituents, and don’t even want to provide the public an opportunity to voice their opinions at a public hearing? I have. There’s an item like that on tonight’s agenda regarding Board and Committee appointments.

[R-22-46, Resolution of the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council Setting a Public Hearing Regarding the Proposed Local Law Amending Chapters 2 and 19 of the Code of the City of Poughkeepsie to Provide for Common Council Confirmation of Appointments to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Historic District and Landmark Preservation

Commission and, in the Event the Mayor Fails to Fill a Vacancy Within 60 Days, to Permit the Common Council to Fill Such Vacancy y 2/3 Vote.]

And one more thing, specific to Megan Deichler, my own 8th Ward representative. Last Council meeting I mentioned that Deichler willfully excluded me from receiving her Ward newsletter. Brand new to office, she's already practiced in avoidance, hostility, and abuse of power. Most savvy lawmakers, whether sincere or not, would have remedied the newsletter "oversight" the next day. But not Deichler. Already 25% through her term of office, she wants her constituents to wait until the end of July for a joint 8th-and-4th Ward meeting where they'll have to bring their own chairs, sit in the hot summer sun, be unable to hear, spend half the meeting on 4th Ward issues, and where Deichler will hide behind the stump speeches of politicians who bought her Council seat for her. Like every other councilmember, Deichler receives Ward funds. I wonder why the comfort, concerns and an indoor meeting place for her constituents are last, rather than first, on her radar. Adding intrigue to high-handedness, at the July 5th Common Council meeting, Deichler announced a date change for her joint Ward meeting, supposedly based on phone call requests. I look forward to learning exactly who those calls came from and why they'd urge a date change that conflicts with other councilmember Ward meetings.

Let me turn last to a Violation warning I received on June 23rd, when my lawn was already scheduled for mowing just a few hours later. If the City wants to make hay while the sun shines, listen up: my grass is cut every two weeks. Show up early enough and you'll be able to issue another violation. With only 70,000 more notices to me, the City will be able to cure its deficit. In the meantime, I'd like to know: when was the last time a violation was issued for the rank weed that Tinkelman and Nussbickel are letting overrun and damage the stone walls at Wheaton Park, greeting visitors to the city with their own "welcome mat"—a sight to make eyes sore? Why does Baxter get to use 117 N. Hamilton as a staging area before he even has site plan approval? And why do two different squatter businesses continue to operate at the Ice House nearly a year after a termination notice, neither one yet served with a notice of eviction, a contractor fined with only a \$500 slap on the wrists for work done without

permits, Flores profiting from sales of July 4th fireworks special seating on a deck that's supposed to be open to the public, possible illegal use of a liquor license, and hosting a fundraiser for Molinaro later this month? Or does the last part of my question answer all the preceding parts?

- 6. Warren Jones – N. Clover St**
- 7. Jamie Fleishman – 11 Charter Lane**
- 8. Doug Nobiletti – 6 Liberty St.**
- 9. Antonia Mauro - (submitted comments in writing only)**

PUBLIC COMMENT

Submitted by Antonia L. Mauro
July 5th, 2022

I would like to respectfully address your responsibility tonight regarding the line item to vote on whether to set a public hearing to amend the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances i.e. appointments to various committees and boards. Council member Evan Menist made an excellent effort and clearly explained the imminent need to amend this immediately. Several of you wanted "fairness", others were concerned for current litigation over 36 North Clover Street, some saw no need for change or had no comment. However, the most perplexing was the lack of attendance at the time the issue was raised. I am grateful you are raising it again and I conduct my life by the tenet of family first but we have to do better tonight. Does the fact that it's on the "Action Agenda" means that there remains a disagreement among you whether to hold the public hearing or not? There are serious consequences at large in this community if you deny this public hearing or do not vote for these overdue changes to the Code of Ordinances. Our historic resources are at serious risk. An outcome as an elected official I am sure you do not want on your record. Commissioners appointed to the HDLPC must have precise, and vital credentials as cited in the ordinance and supported by SHPO. Adding other boards into the mix such as the planning board and zoning board misrepresents the law. The HDLPC advocates for the architectural heritage and character of the city and for those individuals who own these fragile properties and are indefensible. Therefore, commissioners who apply must meet high standards and must be properly vetted as every decision delivered bears significant consequence towards the longevity of our older architecture. Commissioners are ONLY beholden to the law, the preservation ordinance, and to the protection and preservation of the our local historic landmarks. Reappointments to the HDLPC have been stalled for nearly a year. - Who among you has asked the administration why? - What are the very specific reasons for the hold up for the reappointments? - Have any board reappointments been assured for votes to suit an agenda? - Is this purely arbitrary on behalf of the administration? - Is this the way the volunteers of Poughkeepsie should be managed, folks who offer countless hours of

time, effort, money and devotion? You sit as their representatives. This policy is contemptuous. It speaks volumes of how we treat our citizens who VOLUNTEER on behalf of our city.. If you do not vote this through it reflects on your view of all of us as volunteers. I recently resigned from the HDLPC. There are now TWO open position on the commission. Lay aside the reappointments. There was one opening for a while, now two. Again, there are highly qualified applications before the mayor for several months. PLEASE ASK THE QUESTIONS! Have any of them been sworn in yet? The folks who are seeking to be on the HDLPC are stellar, meet the qualifications and will do the work. Please keep in mind appointees need to be vetted, interviewed by the commissioners, un beholden to anyone in local government or involved with a political agenda as in the embarrassment of the Nelson House debacle.

Thank you

V. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

I'm going to keep it short tonight because we have a lot of communications on the agenda and I want to make sure that we leave enough space for that.

First and foremost, I want to thank all the city departments for ensuring a safe and smooth July 4th celebration this weekend.

You know, hundreds of people came to the city of Poughkeepsie fireworks Monday, which was just yesterday, and it seems like it went off without a hitch.

So thanks to all the folks for making that happen and keeping everybody safe.

And then additionally, I'd like to thank folks for organizing protests throughout the city that gives you this weekend.

Olivia, thank you so much for your organizing in order to protest and advocate for fundamental rights that are apparently being taken away from folks.

So I really appreciate people coming out using the voice that they have, using the energy that they have, and helping to coordinate folks that feel the same way.

And the city of Poughkeepsie is a perfect host for that.

I know that, you know, between your protests, there was another one also advocating for women's rights and other kinds of actions that were recently taken against fundamental rights of people in the fundamental rights of nature.

So thank you for that.

I do also want to put out a reminder.

I did put out a call for resumes and cover letters for folks that are interested in serving on boards and committees.

We have openings currently on the Industrial Development Agency, the Ethics Committee, the Land Bank Board, as well as the Arts Commission. And I have received a number of resumes and cover letters for those, but the deadline has not passed. So if you're interested, you have up until July eight and then we'll start conducting interviews for you to serve on those boards and committees and get more engage with the city to get to it.

And that concludes my comments.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

-NONE-

VII. NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

VIII. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS

NONE

CONSENT AGENDA:

IX. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS

X. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

1. **O-22-05**, Ordinance Entitled "Motor Vehicles And Traffic" – Bement Residential District Parking

ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-126 OF CHAPTER 13 OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE OF ORDINANCES ENTITLED "MOTOR VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC"

(O-22-05)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER FLOWERS:

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

SECTION 1: §13-126 is hereby amended by the following addition:

Section 13-126(C)(2) District 4 - Permits for public parking permit system.

Upon the erection of signs giving due notice thereof, the following areas shall be designated as a public parking permit area and is to be utilized only for the purpose set forth in this Article:

Bement Ave between Cottage St. and Mansion St. Permit Parking Only. No Time Regulation.

SECTION 2: This Ordinance shall take effect immediately.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON:

ADDITIONS denoted by **Underlining and Bold**

O-22-05						
			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:

IX: MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. **R-22-46**, Resolution setting a public hearing regarding a proposed Local Law amending Chapters 2 and 19 of the Code of the City of Poughkeepsie.

R-22-46

RESOLUTION OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE COMMON COUNCIL SETTING A PUBLIC HEARING REGARDING THE PROPOSED LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTERS 2 AND 19 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE TO PROVIDE FOR COMMON COUNCIL CONFIRMATION OF APPOINTMENTS TO THE PLANNING BOARD, ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS AND THE HISTORIC DISTRICT AND LANDMARK PRESERVATION COMMISSION AND, IN THE EVENT THE MAYOR FAILS TO FILL A VACANCY WITHIN 6 MONTHS, TO PERMIT THE COMMON COUNCIL TO FILL SUCH VACANCY BY 2/3 VOTE.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER MENIST:

WHEREAS, the Common Council is considering amendments to Chapters 2 and 19 of the Code of the City of Poughkeepsie to provide for Common Council confirmation of appointments to the Planning Board, Zoning Board of Appeals and the Historic District and Landmark Preservation Commission and, in the event the Mayor fails to fill a vacancy within 6 months, to permit the Common Council to fill such vacancy by 2/3 vote; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council seeks to hold a public hearing in order to gather public input and comment regarding the proposed local law; and

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council shall call a public hearing on the proposed local law at City Hall, 62 Civic Center Plaza, Poughkeepsie, New York, at 6 o'clock P.M., on July 11, 2022; and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the City Chamberlain is authorized and directed to publish or cause to be published a Notice of Public Hearing in the official newspaper of the City of Poughkeepsie of said public hearing at least five (5) days prior thereto.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON

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R-22-46						
☒ 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-22-47, Resolution to Amend the 2022 Budget to Include Certain ARPA-funded Youth Grant Awards Recommended by the ARPA Task Force

RESOLUTION (R-22-47)

Amending the 2022 Budget to Include Certain ARPA-funded Youth Grant Awards Recommended by the ARPA Task Force; and allocating funding for the City’s Redistricting Committee Pursuant to the City Charter.

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBERS CHERRY, SHOOK AND FLOWERS

WHEREAS, The City Task Force overseeing expenditures of funds received pursuant to the American Rescue Plan Act (“ARPA”) met on June 20, 2022, to consider a number of applicants for sub-recipient funding which applications were submitted by organizations providing various services to City you; and

WHEREAS, Prior to adoption of the 2022 budget, the Common Council made an amendment to increase funding for youth services and programs so that ARPA funding could be made available to eligible non-profit entities operating in the City of Poughkeepsie in support of city youth;

WHEREAS, Subsequent to the adoption of the 2022 budget, the Common Council has appointed a Redistricting Commission, pursuant to the City Charter, which Commission is desirous of engaging a consultant to assist it with its duties and responsibilities; and

WHEREAS, The line item changes to the 2022 budget necessary to effectuate these expenditures are more fully described in “SCHEDULE A” attached hereto;

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

NOW THEREFORE

BE IT RESOLVED, that the 2022 budget is hereby amended as provided in Schedule “A”, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Commissioner of Finance be, and he hereby is, authorized to make such technical adjustments and corrections he deems necessary to this resolution to carry out the intent of this Council.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER THOMPSON

R-22-47						
☒ 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. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XII. PRESENTATIONS OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**, a communication regarding Amending the 2022 Budget to Add Certain Full Time Positions.
2. **FROM CITY ASSESSOR TAYLOR**, a communication on Approving the Annual Adjusted Base Proportion
3. **FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**, a communication on the Sale of an Unnumbered Vacant Lot on Holmes Street
4. **FROM CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**, a communication on the Soccer Pitch Installation Project at Pulaski Park
5. **FROM COUNCILMEMBER FLOWERS & CITY ADMINISTRATOR NELSON**, a communication on a proposed License Agreement with the Poughkeepsie Alliance regarding the Champion’s Walk Memorial”

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of July 5, 2022

- 6. FROM DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR QUINN**, a communication regarding a resolution of support for CFA applications made by local not-for-profits

A motion was made by Councilmember Thompson to defer the following communications to Corporation Counsel and it was seconded by Councilmember Long.

- 7. FROM MAUREEN BOOTHE-DAVIS**, A Notice of Claim for property damage that occurred on June 7, 2022
- 8. FROM JESSICA M. LANE**, A Notice of Claim for property damage that occurred on June 13, 2022.

XIII. ANNOUNCEMENTS:

XIV. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Menist and seconded by Councilmember Thompson to adjourn the meeting at 9:43 pm.

Dated: July 11, 2022

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

Respectfully submitted,

Donna M. DeLuca
Deputy City Chamberlain

