

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING  
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL**

**January 9, 2017**

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Leesa Perazzo at 7:03 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. Perazzo asked Rev. Bill Levering from the First Reformed Church to provide the invocation.

Ms. Perazzo then called on Tony Bounome to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to be present:

Present – Council members Edward Kosiur, John Mootooveren , Leesa Perazzo, John Polimeni, Marion Porterfield, Vincent Riggi and Karen Zalewski-Wildzunas

Also Present – City Clerk Charles Thorne, Corporation Counsel Carl Falotico & Mayor Gary R. McCarthy

At this point, Ms. Perazzo asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item number 12 out of order. There were no objections.

**Resolution No. 2017-01 – A Resolution Recognizing the 30th Anniversary of the Martin Luther King, Jr.** Westoria Poole, Director of the King Choir was on hand with other choir members and they extended their gratitude for the resolution and recognition by the Mayor and City Council.

The resolution was moved by Ms. Porterfield and seconded by Mr. Mootooveren. The resolution passed unanimously.

**PUBLIC HEARING:**

None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the December 27, 2016 Council meeting as submitted by the City Clerk; Ms. Porterfield made a motion to approve the minutes, Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas seconded the motion.

**Communications Presented to the City Council for Monday, January 9, 2017**

**Official:**

From Mayor McCarthy a list of appointments dated January 9, 2017.

**General:**

None

**Petitions:**

None

**COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)**

Ms. Perazzo invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward:

**Mary McClaine**, Schenectady - "Item #2 - A resolution to accept a grant for Steinmetz Park from the New York State office of Parks and Recreation. Once again Council is going to buy new toys before they fix the mistake that was made in Steinmetz Park last year. An exposed galvanized heating system in the multipurpose room is astatically offensive and doesn't conform to the goals of the comprehensive plan. That heating tunnel is not beautiful. The officials would not put such a thing in their own family rooms nor would the decision makers who made the call to do it but they didn't hesitate to install a monstrosity in the Goose Hill neighborhood. I can bring you to a church in Niskayuna that redid their community room around the same time that the Steinmetz's room was being re-done. Both places have the same kind of trusses in the ceiling. Both places installed heating units in the ceiling. That is where the similarities end. The church finished off the ceiling by covering the heating system with sheet rock. Schenectady installed an industrialized heating system in Steinmetz Park and chose to leave the system exposed. I was present at the time the renovations for the multi-purpose room were being discussed. The room was intended as a venue for weddings. Industrialized heating units belong in basements not wedding halls. As you make plans for this new grant look for money to correct the mistake that was made in the park last year."

Seeing no other speakers come before the City Council, Ms. Perazzo declared the privilege of the floor, regarding the Legislative Agenda, to be closed.

**INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

Mr. Kosiur made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas.

**Consent Agenda –**

- Resolution No. 2017 – 02 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 03 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 04 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 05 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 06 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 07 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 08 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 09 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 10 .....Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2017 – 11 .....Adopted Unanimously

**PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:**

Ms. Perazzo invited all who wished to address the City Council on any matter of City business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

**Joy Hall**, Schenectady - Noted we have big problems in the city regarding speeding on Erie Blvd and drivers running red lights. She added vehicles seem to be in a hurry and are making illegal u-turns. She also noted there have been three to four accidents in her neighborhood involving parked cars. She asked that something be done about it before it's too late.

**Tony Bounome**, Schenectady – Noted it has been five years the Oak Street Bridge has been closed pending repairs. He noted the casino project has been completed in a hurry, yet the Oak Street

Bridge has not yet been replaced. He noted he watched a recent Committee meeting and heard the discussion on bridge repairs and that another bridge will likely be complete before Oak Street Bridge will.

**Mary McClaine**, Schenectady - "At the Council meeting on December 12, 2016 there were fourteen items on the Council agenda. I wanted to address more than one of them but there was no time to do so given the three minutes allotted to each speaker. It's an ignorant way to bring democracy to 60 thousand citizens regarding the ban on no smoking in cars with children. Council should have worked with Congressman Tonko to make the ban a federal law so that all motorists throughout the country would have the same information such as the no texting behind the wheel law that all Americans know. A local ban for no smoking with children in cars law can only cause distress and confusion for everyone. The other item I wanted to address dealt with the DSIC - 2017 budget, either Council does not care or doesn't do its homework or both. A listed item on the budget called for a \$2,000.00 cost reduction for community events. No Council member questioned the item during the committee meeting session. The cut-back is already obvious with this year's downtown Christmas decorations. On one side of Jay Street all the light poles are decorated for the holiday season on the opposite side of the street, one pole is decorated, the others are bare, no decorations. I don't know who is assigned that task to beautify the City, I wish the job would go to someone who knows what he is doing. Last year I suggested that Council form a Beautification Committee who would embrace the goals of the Comprehensive Plan. It wasn't Council's idea so the suggestion went nowhere. Smart City Schenectady came up short again. It always settles for half-baked."

**Richard Holder**, Schenectady - Noted he lives in the Goose Hill neighborhood and is a business owner. He noted the city has experienced accidents and crime which have resulted in the loss of life. He then shared concerns related to the cities lack of policy related to driving and drug prevention. He then challenged the city to implement changes to its drug testing policy suggesting in its current state the process is ineffective.

**James Moloney**, Schenectady - Noted he spoke before City Council a few months ago regarding the number of available medallions for livery service in the city. He added there are a number of renegade taxi vehicles in the city and that the Council recently passed a resolution in support of ride sharing in upstate. He noted he also supports ride sharing but would also like to bring his own livery service to the city as well. He noted there are taxi services in the city which don't abide by the regulations including having staff available 24 hours a day. He noted his livery service offers clean, non-smoking vehicles for customers and they require the drivers to complete safety courses.

**Rev. Phil Grigsby**, Schenectady - Noted he is the Executive Director of SICM and noted a forum will be held on the Civilian Police Review Board, January 24 at 7:00 p.m. at the State Street Presbyterian Church. He noted there will be a question and answer session and he expects the Schenectady Police Chief to be on hand. He noted the intent of the forum will be to create more public awareness about the board.

**Marva Isaacs**, Schenectady - Noted Bethel AME Church will host a potluck on February 2 at 6:30 p.m. in Hamilton Hill.

**Ian McDonald**, Schenectady - Noted that he is the Chair of the Housing Standards and Review Board. He noted the board offers services to home owners, tenants and landlords. He added the board can also offer policy recommendations to the City Council. He noted the board meets on the first Tuesday of the month and more information about the board can be found on the City website. He added the board is looking for two additional members and one needs to be an architect.

Seeing no other speakers come before the City Council, Ms. Perazzo declared the privilege of the floor, regarding general City business, to be closed.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL**

**Mr. Riggi** – Noted Bellevue Preservation will host its next monthly neighborhood meeting on January 12 and will feature Commissioner Paul LaFond as the guest speaker. He then extended his appreciation to Mayor McCarthy for his action and policy related to demolishing properties damaged by fire in a timely manner.

**Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas** - Reminded residents that the new 2017 garbage schedules are available at City Hall and on the City website. She also advised residents looking to dispose of Christmas trees to put them out the night before their garbage collection day.

**Ms. Porterfield** - Extended her appreciation to the City for installing a walk light at the cross walk on the corner of Frank Street and Duane Avenue.

**Mr. Mootooveren** - Noted the Schenectady County Human Rights Commission's Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition will host an event focused on Education on January 12 at 6:00 p.m. at the Double Tree in Schenectady. He noted the Commission will also host the 30th anniversary Martin Luther King Jr. Coalition event on January 15 at 2:00 p.m. at Proctors GE Theater.

**Ms. Perazzo** – Wished everyone a Happy New Year and noted the next City Council meeting will be on Tuesday, January 17 due to the holiday on January 16th. She then noted the new Stewarts on Broadway will host an open house on January 13 at 10:00 a.m. She also noted the Women's Community Leadership Network will host an event on January 20 at 7:45 a.m. at the Proctors Fenimore Gallery.

**Adjourned:**

Seeing further business to come before the City Council, Ms. Perazzo asked for a motion to recess the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Mootooveren and seconded by Ms. Zalewski-Wildzunas. The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

**A true record**

  
**By Chad Putman**

**Schenectady Deputy City Clerk**