



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
NEW YORK**

**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

**Monday, September 19, 2016 6:30 p.m.**

**City Hall**

**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL- All Present**

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Councilmember Young** made a motion to amend the minutes, **Councilmember Johnson** seconded the motion.

**Common Council Meeting of August 22, 2016**

**Common Council Meeting of August 29, 2016**

			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Young	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember McNamara	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Klein	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

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

**NONE**

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

**Diane Campbell  
George Brindle- 8 Mansion Street  
Patricia Patrano 117 Second Mile Drive  
Frank Clark-Second Mile Drive  
Shelia Drew 66 Washington Street**

**Mary Maisnak 467 Maple Street**  
**Stacia 15b Corlies Avenue**  
**Helen Claussen 60 Academy Street**  
**Penny Lewis 28 Harrison Street**  
**Constantine Kazolias 47 Noxon Street**  
**Leroy Bowen 66 Washington Street**  
**Doreen North Perry Street**  
**Esona Tyler 26 Academy Street**  
**Laurie Sandow-South Grand Avenue**

## Official Minutes of the Council Meeting of Monday, September 19, 2016

Laurie Sandow comments at Common Council meeting, Sept. 19, 2016 – Page 1 of 2

A strange thing happened at the last Common Council meeting (Sept. 6, 2016).

There were a lot of City residents in the audience—a welcome sight.

But, oddly, they showed up to talk about something that wasn't on the Council's agenda.

Now, I haven't lived in Poughkeepsie that long; but I've lived here long enough to realize something's up when a bunch of people show up to talk about a topic that's not even on the agenda. From what I hear, I'm pretty sure that merging City and County bus systems would be as foolish as selling the water plant. I hear and share the public's concern, but still have to ask: Why on earth would someone send an alarm to seniors, veterans and disabled, scaring them about an issue that hasn't been explored in public? And why on earth would a certain councilmember have a prepared statement about an issue that's not on the agenda? especially when that councilmember controls the agenda.

I guess the next Mayoral race is off to an early start.

The strangeness continued into the Council's debate over the new City administrator, where certain councilmembers opposed the administrator's salary increase on the basis of "last year's 7-percent tax increase; the \$11 million deficit; a police department that's gone without a pay raise in four years and doesn't have a contract yet; and, other city employees that have gone years without a pay increase, too." Well, four out of eight councilmembers were in office while all those things were happening. If the City budget was incomprehensible, or the City was running a deficit, why did the Council not use its power to compel testimony, and demand records, instead of choosing to remain uninformed?

If the 7 percent tax increase was a result of the deficit and unacceptable, why was the budget passed without a deep dive into City books and administration? If the police department hasn't seen a raise in four years and doesn't have a contract, why wasn't their contract settled during the two full years of the last council? The City employee who hasn't seen a pay raise in years—why has the Council ignored this employee until now? And for the Councilmembers who defend themselves by saying they weren't on the Council at the time, why weren't they right here in the audience, speaking up, and making their case or stating their protest during public comments?

Laurie Sandow comments at Common Council meeting, Sept. 19, 2016 – Page 2 of 2

At the last meeting, one Councilmember proposed a probationary period for the new City Administrator. Perhaps the Council should model the behavior it wants to impose on others. Councilmembers who take an oath of office, but are unwilling to honor it? They'd fail probation. Councilmembers not capable of performing their duties, or putting their personal life in front of their elected duties? They'd fail probation. As a City resident, I get to vote for only two people in this room—the Mayor and my Ward representative. But the votes, actions, lack of knowledge, or lack of interest by ANY councilmember takes a toll on EVERY city resident. Not doing your job, but reserving the right to affect the outcome of City votes and the City's future? As they say in Brooklyn, either straighten up and fly right; either honor your oath or surrender your office.

Lastly, regarding Councilpeople who create suspicion and division by suggesting that other Councilmembers are “betraying confidences”:

The Council salary of \$9,000 is printed right in the Poughkeepsie Journal article of October 28, 2015. The Council medical reimbursement of \$58,849.00—nearly four times the protested City Administrator salary increase—it's right there on page 64 of the 2016 City adopted budget, posted on the City's Finance webpage. The Councilmember who was elected without a platform? That's also in the Journal article. The Councilmember whose vote helped defeat the Administrator's salary increase, but whose platform stated: “It is imperative that the city hires a grant writer and a city planner; both with the experience of working with economically distressed cities....” Yes, all that's in the Poughkeepsie Journal article. The information's readily available to anyone who pays attention, reads the paper, and has enough interest to look beyond the surface and add two and two. Which has nothing to do with betrayed confidences.

## V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

**Mayor Rolison** thanked everyone who was involved in the 911 Ceremony that was held at City Hall, where Detective Steven McDonald from the New York City Police Department gave a very inspiring set of remarks about the importance of that day. And also, for communities to work together to meet the challenges that they face. Thanked the Kiwanis Club for coordinating, they were the driving force for getting this memorial constructed in the first place. Also, Darrell Levine, from Nubian Directions, the gardening team, really did a spectacular, and beautiful job around the memorial. The Department of Public Works, the City of Poughkeepsie School District was there with elementary school kids from Warring, and the Poughkeepsie High School choir. A

special thank you to United States Army retiree, Baskin Durham, who probably plays “taps” like no one else ever does, who was there. Our recently departed Joe Chenier from Engineering, who helped with the design and helped to facilitate DPW in getting that park spruced up. Now it is really a place to see every day, and to reflect. Joe just left after fifteen years. He is now the Commissioner of Public Works in the City of Kingston, and we wish him well. Wanted to touch on a couple of things. Tomorrow, September 20<sup>th</sup>, there is an informational meeting at the Mid-Hudson Heritage Center at 5:30-7:30, which is concerning the city’s desires along with the Poughkeepsie Alliance, the Downtown Poughkeepsie Partnership, along with Scenic Hudson to create a popup park in the spring, at Mural Park/Commerce Park on Main Street. On the 29<sup>th</sup>, there will be an event here in the City of Poughkeepsie, which has never been here before. It’s called the “Fireball Run”, where forty race teams will be leaving the Grand Hotel that morning, and going out to another location. It is a tristate race that is going on for eight days. The teams will be here in the city that night, they will be in Beacon during the day. This entire area will be full of cars and people. Encourages anyone who has a chance to be there to see that, it is probably an only time it will happen here. It will bring a lot of people into the area. The council should have received from the Mayor’s Office, the technical memorandum on the Main Street bus from Pace University Landuse Law Center. To correct the record, it’s been said twice now, people talking about the County Transit Administrator, that she was fired from Ulster County that is incorrect. She was hired from Ulster County to come to Dutchess County. That was their loss, and Dutchess County’s gain. Wanted to talk a little about the 2017 budget. As most of you know, the budget process was started early this year, in June. Wanted to thank Councilman Klein and Councilman Young. The Chairman had created a Finance Committee, and he has been able to brief both of those individuals, and Councilman Young was part of the Fiscal Advisory Group, and has been a real help in that. In the preparation of any budget, there is a lot of work that goes into it, and obviously it’s not done. Just wanted to say before getting into numbers, that it is his responsibility to deliver the Mayors Preliminary Budget to the Common Council on or before October 14<sup>th</sup>. That will be done, and wanted to let you know that when the budget is given to you, “he is not letting go of it”, so to speak. They will work on the budget together, up until its final adoption. Asked you tonight, since the Chairman is not here, and will have the discussion. This is going to be a very difficult, and time consuming budget process. He hopes that you will be able to set an aggressive budget review schedule. They will make sure that all Department Heads, and others that have information as it relates to their budgets, Finance, and members of the Administration, will be here whenever you need us, to talk about the budget. Respectfully requests that a schedule is set, and we try to stick to it. Because this is basically the most important document that the City of Poughkeepsie has. But also, the Department Heads have their obligations to their departments at the same time. Wants to make sure that any questions are answered, any dialogue that is needed will happen, and will work on this process as we move into the budget review as soon as it’s released. Back in July, he asked Finance to prepare a snapshot of what a 2017 operating plan would look like, if we did everything, essentially that we are doing today. Not expanding city services, maintaining city services, core services, what the cost escalation going from 2016 into 2017 would look like. At that time, the numbers were anywhere from three to four million dollars in a shortfall for the operating budget. Since that time, we have been meeting daily with the Department Heads, and their requested 2017 spending plans and initiatives. That has been an exhausted process for someone who had not gone through that at the level that he did this time. Thanked the

Finance Department, and the members of the Administration for working very diligently on that with all of the Department Heads. That number has increased, we were hoping that it would go the other way. We are going to present the most realistic, and accurate spending plan that we can put forth. And that number has increased anywhere from five and a half to a six million dollar gap. That is a big numbers, and will require a lot of work to get that number down. His anticipation and hope is that prior to giving the budget to the council, that number will be lower. They are going to present a plan that is conservative in its estimation of revenues and expenses. The city has been criticized in past by the Office of the State Comptroller for not doing that, we are doing that. We are not going to put things in there that are not going to be realized. Unfortunately, that has happened in the past, but we can't change what has happened in the past, we can only do what we think is the right thing now, and be diligent in being accurate. His anticipation is, after meeting with the heads of the three unions, and the discussion with the PBA being out of contract, and that is a concern. The CSEA, their contract is at the end of next year. The Firefighters contract expires at the end of this year. These are things that we have to consider in any spending plan. And wanted to make sure that the union heads knew that number as well. They have agreed to have further discussion with the Administration and Finance, to develop a team from their respective unions, as we go forward to talk about these financial issues that surround the operation of their departments. As unions, they want to be involved because ultimately their Collective Bargaining Agreements depend on a stable budget. Also wanted to say, that they understand the limitations that government faces, based on the revenues coming in. They also understand that the council has to make certain decisions that only you can make. And that, they will present to you also, probably within a week to ten days, two weeks at the most, resolutions that we will bring forth, to do things that the council has to do. Whether that is, discussion on transit services, a council decision. We are looking at fee structures, outside of the tax levy. There are other ways that we can generate revenue to support the basic core city services. One example is, last year there was an increase in parking revenue, but there was not corresponding council action to increase the parking fines that went along with that increase. We are going to suggest those types of things. That can be anything from parking fines, sanitation fines, sanitation ordinances, building fees, permit fees. This is not an exercise just to go out and grab revenue, we want to know where we are compared to other municipalities that charge for certain things. So if we make that suggestion, and include that in the budget, you will get the resolution to take that action. That will obviously be your decision to make. That is why it is critical, this year, this will be a spending plan that we believe will set the city for long term stability. We have to start down that road. We don't have the opportunity to say we'll get to it next year, or we'll get to it the year after that. We have to start now, and as difficult, and as painful as that may be, we have to do it, and we have to say this to the people in the audience, or people who may be watching, he is asking for your patience. The city did not get in this situation, it finds itself in, overnight, and will not get itself out of it overnight. Only long-term budgeting, comprehensive and accurate budgeting will get this city where it needs to be. This way we're not having this conversation ten years from now saying the same thing.

**VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**Vice Chair Cherry** thanked all of the people who came out tonight to speak about the bussing, because you probably had to find alternate transportation to get here to the meeting tonight. The council appreciates your voice. She stated that she wanted to

ensure you all that they have not had any formal conversations about consolidation. At the last meeting some of them were perplexed by the amount of people who were here to speak about the buses. They actually had no idea where it was coming from. Later she learned that the Mayor had a meeting with some of the bus drivers. But that was the extent.

**Mayor Rolison** added that also he wanted to compliment the drivers that were present that morning. It was not a “convincing session”. It was a session in which he informed the city drivers that it was his desire to make this transition for a variety of reasons. It was then communicated in an email to the council, and wanted you all to know that he had done that. These discussion with the county are ongoing. When there is sufficient information to give to the council, of what this means, what it is going to look like, it will be given to you. He understands that this issue is very important, and very concerning to all of us.

**Vice Chair Cherry** added that this is going to be a difficult budget. She stated that she thinks that they all knew that going into this year, that the budget would be difficult, based on some of the decisions that were made last year, and the year prior. She stated that it brings her back to a book that she read, “The Finer Moments”, when you have to choose between “right and right”. There is not always two rights. Sometimes there are two rights, and two wrongs. They are going to have to make a decision. And the only way that they are going to make the best decision for the city is if they all work together on the budget process, and really listen to the needs of the constituents, the needs of the city as a whole, the expertise that is available to them by way of Finance Commissioners or City Administrators. The skillset on the council. They all have different skillsets, and they need to identify them, and collectively use the skillsets. But this is going to be a trying time, and a defying moment. There are going to be decisions that some may agree with, and some may not. There may be decisions that are overwhelmingly supported. There may be other decisions that they make that everyone simply hates. But, they have to prepare themselves for this process, mentally, and physically. She stated that she knows that they all have committed to this challenge, and this is the first time in a long time, that she believes that the Mayor and the Council will be working together, as opposed to in opposition. She stated that she looks forward to that. Back to the bussing, they have not had conversations, but as the Mayor said, there won’t be any transportation changes, unless the council votes on it. She assures you, until you see it on their agenda, nothing can happen.

## **VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

- 1. A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to receive and print.**

### **RESOLUTION (R16-82)**

#### **INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON**

WHEREAS, the Mayor has appointed and the Common Council has confirmed the appointment of a City Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the City Administrator is scheduled to take the oath of office and assume her position by October 15, 2016; and

WHEREAS, in the interim the Mayor is desirous of continuing Police Chief Ronald J. Kanpp in the capacity of Acting City Administrator in accordance with City Charter §3.08(b); and

WHEREAS, City Charter §3.08(b) provides that said appointment is only effective for sixty days in any fiscal year unless extended by resolution of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council approved the appointment of Acting City Administrator Knapp for a period of ninety (90) days commencing on July 1, 2016; and

WHEREAS, the Acting City Administrator’s term is set to expire at the end of September; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City and its residents that Acting City Administrator Knapp’s term be extended for an additional thirty (30) days; and

**NOW, THEREFORE,**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that the pursuant to Section 3.08(b) of the City Charter, the Mayor’s appointment of Ronald J. Knapp as Acting City Administrator is extended for a period of thirty (30) days commencing on October 1, 2016.

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KLEIN**

R16-82			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent	
		Councilmember Young	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember McNamara	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accepted	Councilmember Klein	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

- 1. A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to receive and print.**

**ORDINANCE AMENDING §13-177(b) OF THE  
CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE CODE OF ORDINANCES  
ENTITLED “LEFT TURNS PROHIBITED FOR ALL VEHICLES”  
(O-16-8)**

**INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON**

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

**SECTION 1:** Section 13-177(b) of the City of Poughkeepsie Code of Ordinances entitled “**Left turns prohibited at all times**” is amended by the following **addition**:

When appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected, left turns shall be prohibited at the following locations at all times:

**From Smith Street to the south on North Clinton Street**

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

**SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER KLEIN**

**BOLD and UNDERLINING** INDICATE ADDITION  
~~[BRACKET AND STRIKETHROUGH]~~ INDICATE DELETION

016-8			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
		Councilmember Young	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember McNamara	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accepted	Councilmember Klein	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Defeated	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>	Tabled	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

**IX. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

- 1. FROM JOYNEIA JOYNER**, a notice of personal injury sustained on August 29, 2016. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**
- 2. FROM DRENA AND TIMOTHY PAULSON**, a notice of property damage sustained on March 7, 2016. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**

**X. OLD BUSINESS:**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Cherry and Councilmember Johnson to adjourn the meeting at 9:02 p.m.

**Dated: October 12, 2016**

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, September 19, 2016, 2016

**Respectfully submitted,**  
**Deanne L. Flynn**  
**City Chamberlain**

