



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, June 21, 2021 6:30 p.m.

City Hall/Zoom

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 June 21, 2021, and the time is 6:33 pm.

Effective immediately and based upon notices and health advisories issued by Federal, State, and Local officials related to the Coronavirus, the City of Poughkeepsie Common Council will not hold in-person meetings. Until further notice, all future City Council meetings (including public hearings) will be held via videoconferencing, as permitted by the NYS Open Meetings Law.

Due to public health and safety concerns, the public will not be permitted to attend at the remote locations where the City Council members will be situated. The public, however, will be able to fully observe the video conference meeting by using the registration link that was posted with our meeting notice and the meeting will be available for viewing at a later date and available on our website.

I'd like to acknowledge that we are gathered, wherever we are, on the traditional territory of the Lenape people and this territory was a critical resting place along a popular trade route for people of the Lenape Nation and other cultures as is evidenced in the earliest derivation of the name 'Poughkeepsie' with an indigenous string of words, U-puku-ipi-sing, that, when translated, means 'reed-covered lodge by the little water place' or resting place.

Let's all recite the pledge of allegiance.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL - Six present, two absent at time of roll call (Councilmember Cherry late arrival)

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting June 7, 2021

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Johnson to accept the minutes.

CCM Minutes 06-7-2021			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Flowers	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 R. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chair Salem	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input 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.

1. Professor Joan Mandle

2. Laurie Sandow

At the May 17th Common Council meeting I asked when this Council would resume in-person meetings, and noted that nothing has served this Council better than the pandemic in their ability to hide from and exclude the public. Other localities have been holding controlled in-person meetings. The NYS Committee on Open Government has stated that in-person public gatherings have not been prohibited by the Governor’s Executive Orders. [Directly quoting NYS Committee on Open Government Assistant Director Ms. Kristin O’Neill, who wrote on May 13, 2021: “There has never been a prohibition on in-person meetings. Executive Order 202.1, which has been repeatedly extended, most recently by EO 202.107 until June 9, 2021, permits public bodies to prohibit in-person attendance (as long as they offer a remote option), but does not require public bodies to do so.”] And in the Chair’s remarks of May 17, Salem insisted they were working to resume in-person meetings. Yet a Freedom of Information request has produced no responses from a single councilmember, and absolutely no evidence of that claim. So I am asking again, when will those who’ve been silenced this past year by the exclusive use of digital platforms have their voices heard and be present once again in Council Chambers? At the next Council meeting on June 7th, I noted that week after week, the Council’s agenda includes absolutely nothing about 14-year-olds being murdered, arson on S. Clinton, a tidal wave of evictions, market rate apartments that people can’t

afford, misery for N. Hamilton residents, and more. And I pointed out that instead, rather than urgent issues, we had yet another Southern Waterfront presentation. So what's on tonight's Council agenda? A fourth waterfront presentation brought to you by councilmembers who prioritize their own re-election campaigns and campaign contributions over the life and death issues facing city residents. And though, in the June 7th Chair's remarks, Salem insisted they were working to assemble a meeting to address violence in the city, once again a Freedom of Information request has not only produced absolutely no evidence to support that claim, and produced no replies whatsoever from a single council member, it has produced one response from the Police Department reading "The PD has no requested documentation." Three months ago, Councilmembers Salem, Menist, Brannen, Cherry, and Randall and Lorraine Johnson all sponsored a resolution to create a Southern Waterfront task force. Sarah Brannen has stated that tonight she'll request that the term and deadlines of the Southern Waterfront task force be extended. I am absolutely opposed to that extension. What Brannen has proved most clearly in the past three months is her inability to fulfill the terms of the very resolution she helped write, instead obstructing its work by introducing grandstanding presentations at one task force meeting after another. Lastly, we still have the 8th Ward vacancy created by Matt McNamara's resignation. And we still have a situation where the Council required resumés and cover letters by May 27th while not scheduling interviews until after the primaries are concluded. One councilmember has publicly stated that they were not consulted in advance about the interview dates and cannot attend. Six people, myself included, sent letters of interest to fill the vacancy. The Council Chair has still not made all applicant names public, and while the Council continues to deprive the 8th Ward of representation, and while interviews have still not yet been conducted, two or more councilmembers have publicly endorsed an applicant unknown to the public, and two or more other councilmembers are said to have privately endorsed a different candidate. As always, the "Me First" councilmembers focus on their own benefit and their own backroom squabbles, interests, and shifting alliances, while pretending to be champions of the democratic process.

3. Ken Stier

Before some general comments about my experience in my first, and almost surely my only political campaign as a candidate, I wanted to highlight a matter of pressing importance that has gotten far too little attention so far. I refer to the large-scale (roughly 220 units) housing development on Main Street commonly referred to as the Wallace Campus, which has been before the City Planning Board for more than a year. It is only recently that the public's views have been solicited and it's fair to say the response has been passionate - for and against. That reflects that the project is easily the most consequential in years for what remains of our central business district - and the City at large. As initially

conceived the apartment complex would offer very affordable housing – three-quarters under 50% of our Area Median Income (AMI). That’s either very, very generous workforce housing or the kernel of concentrated poverty. The planned inclusion of some three dozen supportive housing units for people with major life challenges - mental illness, drug abuse, finding footing after years of incarceration, etc. - deepens the concern. Poughkeepsie is already host to lots of troubled folks – at least two-thirds of the county’s total and Dutchess’ well-deserved reputation for wrap-around social services is attracting more. This project would be a magnet for more, and that’s a prescription for more disruption on Main Street, already the daily battlefield of sordid quality-of-life offences and bloody, under-reported NY Post-worthy crime scenes. *It is probably not hyperbole to say the project presents Poughkeepsie with a stark ‘fork-in-the-road’ decision – either the City fights to retain a respectable core business district or resigns itself to the once famous commercial corridor – hanging a left up North Hamilton – becoming a huge welfare campus.* Why it is important for our city to have a vibrant commercial core I will leave to others better qualified to explain, but it is very much related to why the local property tax burden increasingly falls on residences. Fortunately, there’s still time for more considered community oversight. But that will require the immediate, focused engagement of City Hall and the Common Council – which should also convene public hearings as well. To date, City Hall has insisted it stick to the sidelines because there is “a process” - essentially leaving the matter entirely in the hands of the all-volunteer Planning Board. While packed with talent for discussing competing design features, ad nauseum, board members privately admit they are out of their depth when considering the wider implications. That’s why the board shirks its proper, over-arching mandate to weigh whether projects will have a “positive impact” including on the community’s “character.” Instead, the Planning Board insists on a more pinched interpretation – that they can only consider ‘land use’ issues, not ‘tenancy’ – even though who lives on this fragile (300) block is the most decisive factor in impact. This is why the Wallace Campus has to be considered by the City’s wider governance structure. Rob – there’s no dodging this - getting it right, or wrong, may well prove decisive for your political future. Again, fortunately this is not rocket science. What has been proposed is what maximizes the profits of the developers, given federal and state incentives. Now Poughkeepsie needs to dig into the details and rebalance the project so that it better serves our City’s interests. Some council members have already begun to do this. Part II - I now know where every mulberry – chestnut and gingko - tree is in my ward. All go unharvested. Tonight, on the eve of our little local elections I can genuinely say I’m feeling quite calm. That’s not to say I’m confident of prevailing – because I’m not. After all, I’m up against, among others, the formidable Debra Long, a life-long Poughkeepsiean and one of the highest profile community activists we blessed to have. She’s also no doubt benefited from being endorsed by

the long-term incumbent of the First Ward- who has not had a word of reply for me for many months. (Still hoping Chris that you can prove you're not an early lame duck.) I'm calm mostly because the effort of campaigning has been a reward in itself not just because of the mulberries I'm harvesting (for pies etc.) but because it has forced to me to push the boundaries of what I know about my ward- which, most importantly, is to say my neighbors. That's been reward enough, as cliché as that may sound. One highlight was spending a summery dusk getting to know Ms. Lenora Hayes – outside her home on Delafield – where she has lived for 50 years since the Thurgood Marshall Terrace Homes opened. Pity that the Poughkeepsie Housing Authority has still not gotten around to erecting an entrance sign at this complex, to properly name this place and honor our first African-American Supreme Court Justice. A grandmother of 12, and at retirement age, she still receives neighbors' babies at 6:30 in the morning, some just 6 months old, up to 11 years, so their Moms can go to work - only coming back some 12 hours later. A wise, soulful, indispensable stalwart - one of our many unsung heroines; she deserves celebration! Just across the street, another Poughkeepsie native has returned after a few years in Brooklyn, only to find he has to pay just about the same in rent – \$2,600 for a two-bedroom apartment that's hardly luxurious. On North Bridge Street and Charles Street, a Ghanaian family is fixing their new home, across the street from a retired TV producer from Manhattan who is renovating a second one on Mill. Next to them are two EMT workers from Astoria fixing up other houses, as investors. On the corner an extended Egyptian-Jordanian family run a deli they want to expand. There's plenty of diversity and dynamism. There's also stagnation, and quiet despair. One widespread challenge. Managing absentee landlords who too often seem indifferent to their tenants and unfazed by the City's dictates. Here's one thing that should happen. Every single property owner in the City should be clearly known and readily reachable - by email and text - by any City agency at any time. More specifically, the City needs to markedly tighten up its sanitation enforcement and generally make landlords more responsive. (More details later.) Absentee landlords of our largest housing complexes should be invited to show up on premise to demonstrate that they'd be happy to have their own parents or grandparents live in, say Admiral Halsey, where there are no activities for its many seniors, despite a pretty attractive community room. It's the worst building they have ever lived in some residents told me. On-site management hardly ever seems around. Charles St/Bixby needs a new community room, one of among many changes. Meanwhile, RIP has persistent vermin issues, among other woes. And all these places should have real community bulletin boards – not just where management talks one-way to tenants – but where residents can post things. This is just one small step among many needed to encourage a genuine sense of community – of knowing thy neighbor. Frankly, if I fail to join the Council, I'll probably also feel relieved. Relieved because I have a far

deeper appreciation of the gnawing needs all around. I'll be quite happy to welcome whoever does become the next First Ward representative - Deb, or Jacqueline, or Laura or Warren - and to pass along to them a long list of those needs and ardent wishes, the ones I mentioned and many more - curbing tax hikes, slowing down traffic, and especially more Programming for KIDS!!!!, etc., etc. Fulfilled the way I think this position should be worked - given all those needs - this could easily be a full-time job. I hope whoever prevails will regard it as such as well.

V. CHAIRPERSON'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Juneteenth commemorates June 19th, 1865, when African-Americans were freed and could no longer be held as slaves by white slave owners. And we celebrated that this past Saturday, June 19th. And a critical moment of history is now a federal holiday as of last week here in the United States, here in our community. And while this is great news and indicates a positive forward momentum in the fight against racism and oppression, there's still a lot of work left to do to ensure equity and justice for our black community members here in Poughkeepsie. I was able to attend a couple of events on Saturday, first at the Family Partnership Center. I went to a memorial and mural unveiling to honor the wife of the late Tre Theodore Arrington. It was a beautiful ceremony. A number of folks spoke to the legend and the work and the impact that she had on the youth in the city, because you still have in that expression that does carry through each of those young people as they come up through the community and they become leaders in the community and in other places. And I was very happy to be able to attend that. The mural is in the Family Partnership Center on the first floor. I work there, so I walk by it every day now and it is beautiful. Lesson was a local mirrorless did it and has many other murals in that building. So if you haven't seen that mural, please do go to the Family Partnership Center and check it out. It was really well done and it is a great honor for Tre to have that up in that building. Additionally, I then popped over to Mansion Square Park and I attended the Community Juneteenth event that was organized by council member Flowers and council member Lorraine Johnson. It was packed, packed with community members and packed with community organizations, all giving out really, really good information. I learned a lot of things that were happening in the community that have been happening through the pandemic, but we haven't been necessarily able to connect with each other. And that was one of the things that I thought was most valuable, is although it was a very, very hot day, it was nice to see people without my son walking around the park, dancing, music, food. I had a delicious fish sandwich. And I just really value the camaraderie that I felt from other members of the community and Council members Flowers and Johnson should be very proud. It was a great event and I hope that it happens every year, if not in that capacity, in some kind of capacity, which is so important to mark the occasion that, again, there's still a lot of work left to do. But now that it's a federal holiday, I think that that is a good, positive mark. Forward vaccines are still being

administered and are now widely available. Many you can just walk right up and walk right into a health care center and get if you haven't gotten a shot yet, go get one. It's important that we all get vaccinated, although many are being lifted. We don't wear masks anymore. If we're vaccinated and things are loosening, thankfully, it is important to make sure that nobody gets left out. So if you're looking for information on where to get a vaccine, there's a ton of information on the CDC website. There's a ton of information on the county website. If you need help, let me know. I'll help you find out where you can go get a vaccine, how it works and any other information that you're looking for. Again, it's really important that none of us get left out of this health care measure as you move forward, not knowing what else could occur. It's very important. And now vaccines that there's not such a run on the vaccine. So it's much easier to get one at this moment of time. And then lastly, tomorrow, there is a Democratic primary election. And I don't know if anyone else knows about that. I know about that. And polls are open from six a.m. to nine p.m. the period of early voting has passed. So if you haven't voted, this is your last chance to vote in this critical election for the city of Poughkeepsie. So, again, polls tomorrow are open from 6:00 in the morning until 9:00 at night. Find your polling place at the board of election website, again, if you need help finding out where to vote, I'll help you out. Make sure you have a voting plan when you're able, whether it's before work, during work, during your lunch hour after work, tell your friends, tell your family it's very important to get out there and cast your vote to make sure that your voice is heard. With that, I conclude my comments.

VI. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES AND BOARDS:

1. SOUTHERN WATERFRONT REDEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE

I'll kick us off and then turn it over to my co-chair Kafui, and I wanted to start off by thanking all the council members for who supported the creation of this task force. I will say without hesitation, it is probably one of the most rewarding experiences I've had since working in local government here in Poughkeepsie so far in the past few years. Just the positivity that everybody has brought to the process, all of the different task force members has been really, really great. And I will tell you, it doesn't mean that we agree on everything all the time. For those of you who have been on these kinds of working groups and task forces before, you know, that's virtually impossible. But that's OK, because that's part of the process. And for the past couple of months, since our first meeting, we have met a number of times, pretty much every other week, a couple of times, two weeks in a row since the process started. And we did deliver. The short term recommendations are now final and they appear on the city's website. I will forward a copy of it to anyone who wants it by email as an attachment. But there are 10 recommendations that are all about short term access. And I want to thank Mr. Nelson, Mr. Duplika, Chris Gent, Terry Clayton, and I think I'm forgetting one other person from the engineering department whose name is escaping me at this moment. So I apologize. But thank you too for

coming on the walkthrough with us. And this was a really complicated piece of property to work with because it's simultaneously a really it's a blank slate, but there are a lot of issues with it. So it took us a lot more conversation in order to get to these short term recommendations than we anticipated. But we did get them to you in the time frame anticipated. And so I'm just going to share my screen. Can everybody see that? I'm going to start as a slide show so that you can see it. So there are 10 recommendations. About short term public access and as a reminder, this site used to be open to the public, but for several years has not been it's been cordoned off with a chain link fence. Council member Menist and I met with the administration back in February in the hopes of getting it open in time for striper season in late April, early May. We were told definitively at that time that it was just too complicated because of some of the existing conditions. So after meeting with D.C., doing multiple walkthrough and deliberating the most important things to get done in the short term, we came up with what I would consider a punch list of things to do. So first and foremost, removing debris and public privately owned property from the site, I believe. I don't see Mr. Nelson on my screen, but I think he can attest to the fact that some of this has been started. But it's not completed yet. There was there's a trailer there. There was someone's private boat there. And there was just a lot of debris. And I think that's already beginning to be cleaned up. There is already a public parking lot available to members of the public, but the issue is that it's hard to know when it's open and if it's publicly available because there's no signage. So like you have Liberty Street Lamp, for example, it has a sign that tells you it's a public lot. This one does not. And there's no curb cut to allow people to turn off of Rinaldi Boulevard into the site. So we're recommending that there be a curb cut and some signage to indicate that members of the public can park there, because right now, the only way to access it is through the parking lot that is designated for Shadows and Grandview. But this lower lot is actually part of the deal of our site. It's publicly owned and it can be parked in during normal hours like all of the other publicly owned lots. So we're recommending that a curb cut be made and it would be relatively easy. We've heard from Mr. Duplika because there's not a hard curb there. It's mostly just grass. And so it would be mostly landscaping to make that done. Obviously, there's the chain link fence. We're recommending that the chain link fence be removed and moved further down on the site. And if you look in the report, there's a line there that indicates where we recommend it be located. That was one of the biggest points of deliberation for the task force. And you can see all of that. I won't go through all the details now, but you can see where we landed and how we got there in the report. This is a term that came up in the task force to create a welcome mat at the beginning. So some signage, maybe some porta potties, some other things temporarily so that people know they're arriving somewhere. The fifth is to install a walkway along the shoreline because the future development is uncertain. We're recommending not putting in a paved walkway at this time, but putting in some crushed stone or stone dust which is allowed on the site. We asked DEC if that would be an issue given the remediation and they said no. And so this pedestrian walkway could be put in and easily changed in the future if need be creating wooden displays. A lot of

people got excited about the opportunity for public education on the site to talk about the history, talk about ecology and where there are certain hazards on the site instead of just putting a fence around them to put up some wooden displays to prevent people from tripping, but then use the wooden panels as educational panels temporarily, we recommend stabilizing some of the loose gravel. A lot of concerns came up around making sure that the city is patrolling for safety, just like they do with the rest of the parks. And also we talk about the timeline for implementation and creating an implementation working group, which I and several other members of the task force have agreed to be a part of, to work collaboratively with the administration on implementing some of these things because the devil is in the details. And so putting in a safety railing, for example, was something that we debated a lot. But then picking out that safety railing and making sure that it is in keeping with the site itself and is attractive is something that people really wanted to have a voice in. So those are our short term recommendations. Some of them might seem like they would have been obvious or like a no brainer and some of them were, but some of them were not, and those were the ones that we really spent time on with. It took everybody a while to get familiarized with the site conditions. And I think we have a really good handle on that now. We've been able to make contact with DEC., which has been really, really helpful, especially as we think about the long term recommendations as well. So all that said, we now have about three weeks left before the long term recommendations are due. And in speaking to Emily Svenson, who helped in drafting the report and editing it and then also some of the other task force members who helped pull those short term recommendations together, we do think we would be able to deliver a much more thorough report to the council that will guide future long term development of this site if we were able to have an extension of that time frame. And there's one really important reason why, and that's because we're trying to do inclusive community engagement, which we know sometimes works in the city and sometimes doesn't. But no matter what takes a lot of time and effort to do it right. And so with that, I'm going to turn it over to my co-chair Kafui to talk a little bit about the community engagement that he's been spearheading. Thank you.

Kafui Attoh: Thank you so much, Sarah. Let me just start by saying it's been really great to be able to serve on the task force and I think I echo what John and who's on the task force said earlier, and that can really proud of the recommendations we've put forward. So, as you all know, because it was passed by this body, the kind of resolution had two components, short term and long term. So we having passed now the short term recommendations, we've moved on to kind of the long term, the long term recommendations and the language in the resolution, I think is really important, which is, you know, the tasks we're asked to consider options for the long term development of, you know, portion of the formative of our site inland from and then from shore. And in the event that a great project does not proceed. And I think as we move to the task force, I think almost, you know, some of what we've learned is that, you know, whether it proceeds or not, actually having a greater input from the public will and will be necessary and will benefit whatever happens happens at the place, which means

that the public input is even more important and gathering is even more important. So in terms of what we have done, apart from hosting a number of publicly public meetings, is, you know, I've been spearheading a survey community survey that I think will, once it's completed, offer a set of clear picture, a clear picture of kind of what priorities people in the city the priorities people in the city have for these. It'll take time, though. And so going back to kind of serious point, I think, again, I think would really benefit of the process and the ultimate proposal to get to extend the timeline a bit so that we can we can get further from the public input. I think we've done a good job thus far, but I think in terms of quality and representation, definitely be definitely worthwhile. So I think that's really in terms of the long term issue where we were at, which is we've already collected a lot, but it's great to collect more and we need a little bit more time. So I'd ask you to consider that I realize, you know, given comments earlier, that there's all sorts of other priorities. But I think this is really I think is really important and great to be able to present to the council a sense of how people see the waterfront. These aren't these aren't studies that are often done by developers. But they are ones that should be done by the city.

Councilmember Brannen: Thanks, Kafui have we do you had shared in the last task force meeting a little bit about the survey, just in terms of the number of responses. And also we discussed some concerns about the diversity of respondents. And I feel like that's important for us to share with the council members, because we had a really long discussion about that in the last meeting. And I know you just got a bunch of paper surveys from Juneteenth, so that was great. But could you just share, as of the last meeting how many responses there were and there was a breakdown by demographic.

Kafui Attoh: So lots of things have changed because of the influx of new surveys. But the last meeting place, we had around 300 in survey. Three hundred and seventy completed surveys, around 50 percent or 60 percent were white respondents. Eight percent were black respondents, five percent was Latino respondents. And then it was optional question. So a number of people did not respond after 24 hours, up to four hundred and thirty respondents, which is excellent. And the numbers are closer to what we, is what is it? It's you know, when you look at the demographics of the city versus the survey, you want them to be you want them to be close, closer than they are. So I think I think we're moving in that direction just a little bit more time would be great on people on this call have helped a move that Cherry helped with the school district. That was excellent. Juneteenth being able to table a Juneteenth thanks to some member flowers was excellent. We also we got a lot of responses there. So even as we made the rounds, you know, the city. So we're trying. So I think we're moving in the right direction.

Councilmember Brannen: Yeah. And we did talk about whether we should just cut off the public engagement and try to make our deadline. And as a group, we weren't comfortable with that because it seemed important to make sure that we

tried to hear as many voices as possible and took the risk to come to you after making that decision to ask for a little more time. So I hope that you all can understand why we felt that was important. And you can support the task force by giving us a little more time to be able to summarize the results of that public engagement. Also, some of the best practices that we've been gathering, Emily, we heard today is summarizing those. And we want to deliver something really, really good to the council and also to the administration, because we think that whatever we do now, if we put in the time, will be really prepared for whatever comes next. So we want to give you all a product or work product that we feel proud of. So thank you and happy to answer any questions. Thank you so much.

VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

1. **SEQRA Resolution R-21-55 and Sale Resolution R-21-56**, authorizing the Sale of City Owned Property at: 302 Church St.: 6161-23-285902

NEW YORK STATE ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY REVIEW ACT (SEQRA) RESOLUTION REGARDING A SALE OF CERTAIN CITY OWNED PROPERTIES (R-21-55)

BY COUNCILMEMBER CHERRY:

WHEREAS, the Common Council of the City of Poughkeepsie is considering the sale of city owned property located at 302 Church Street and identified as Tax Map No. 6161-23-285902; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council considers the proposed sale to be an Unlisted Action under Title 6 NYCRR, Section 617.2 of the SEQRA regulations; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council considers itself to be the only "involved agency" with respect to this proposed sale of properties; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has reviewed the proposed sale of properties in accordance with Title 6 NYCRR, Section 617.11; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council has considered the hereto attached Short Environmental Assessment Form (EAF)

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as follows:

1. In accordance with Section 617.5(a)(1) of Title 6 NYCRR, the Common Council determines that the above described action is subject to SEQRA; and
2. In accordance with Section 617.5(a)(2) of Title 6 NYCRR, the Common Council determines that the action does not involve a federal agency; and
3. In accordance with Section 617.5(a)(3) of Title 6 NYCRR, the Common Council determines that the above described action does not involve any other agencies; and
4. In accordance with Section 617.5(a)(4) of Title 6 NYCRR, the Common Council classifies the above described action as an unlisted action. The Common Council in making such classification considered Section 617.12 of Title 6 NYCRR and determined that the above action did not fall into any of the categories listed under Type I, and also considered Section 617.13 of NYCRR and determined that the above described action did not fit under any of the categories listed under Type II Actions, thus reaching the conclusion that it is to be considered an unlisted action; and
5. In accordance with Section 617.5(a)(5) the Common Council determines that the above described project will not require a long EAF since the short EAF provides sufficient information; and
6. The Common Council officially makes a determination of non-significance in that the proposed sale of properties are not expected to result in a significant adverse impact on the environment and, therefore, the preparation of a draft environmental impact statement is not necessary; and
7. This determination shall be considered a Negative Declaration for the purposes of Article 8 of the Environmental Conservation Law; and
8. The City Chamberlain shall maintain a file of this determination as well as the attached EAF which is hereby made a part of this resolution.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRANNEN

SEQRA R-21-55						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chair Salem	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

**RESOLUTION
(R-21-56)**

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER CHERRY:

WHEREAS, the City of Poughkeepsie has previously taken title to a single family house located at 302 Church Street (Tax Map No: 6161-23-285902), in the City of Poughkeepsie by reason of unpaid real property taxes; and

WHEREAS, the above mentioned properties have been offered for sale by the City in accordance with the policy for the sale of City owned property; and

WHEREAS, an offer has been received from Vicente Govea and Paulina Govea in the amount of \$56,000; and

WHEREAS, the Property Acquisition and Disposition Committee, having considered the mission of the Committee and the policies of the City, has recommended that the City of Poughkeepsie accept this offer; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council hereby finds that the offer from Vicente Govea and Paulina Govea is in the best interests of the City of Poughkeepsie; and

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Common Council hereby makes the following determinations: (a) that there is no existing municipal purpose or need for this property, and (b) that the sale price and

conditions imposed herein represent fair and adequate consideration for the conveyance; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the offer from Vicente Govea and Paulina Govea to purchase premises known as 302 Church Street (Tax Map No: 6161-23-285902), in the City of Poughkeepsie for the sum of \$56,000.00 is hereby approved subject to the hereinafter mentioned conditions and subject to such other and further conditions which the Corporation Counsel shall deem appropriate; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this sale is approved subject to the following conditions:

- A. That the Purchaser shall close and accept title within thirty (30) days of the date of the adoption of this resolution.
- B. The transfer of title and Purchaser's use of the Property shall be subject to all state, federal and local regulations including the City of Poughkeepsie and New York State Building Codes and the City of Poughkeepsie Zoning Ordinance and real property taxes coming due pursuant to law on and after the date of transfer of title;
- D. Purchaser agrees that they shall not use the agreed upon purchase price as a reason to grieve or otherwise contest the assessed value of the premises for purposes of real property taxation;
- E. Prior to the closing of title, Purchaser shall apply for and obtain the approval from the Planning Board and/or the Zoning Board of Appeals of any site plan approval or zoning variances required by law;
- F. Purchaser shall abate any and all building code violations within sixty (60) days.
- G. Purchaser agrees that the premises will be owner-occupied for at least three (3) years from the date of transfer.
- H. Purchaser shall accept such title to the real property as the City of Poughkeepsie is possessed of and agrees to accept such title by quitclaim deed subject to any defects or encumbrances as are of record

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor or the City Administrator is hereby authorized to sign the deed and any other documents required to effect the sale, provided such deed contains the terms contained herein together with such other terms and conditions which the Mayor and the Corporation Counsel shall deem appropriate, and the Mayor, the City Administrator and the Corporation Counsel are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the terms of this resolution.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER BRANNEN.

R-21-56			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Defeated <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Flowers	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Cherry	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember R. Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Menist	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Petsas	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember L. Johnson	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Brannen	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Chair Salem	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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

- 2. Resolution R-21-57, to amend Resolution R-21-31 to extend time for the Southern Waterfront Site Redevelopment Task Force to complete recommendations**

RESOLUTION **(R-21-57)**

Resolution to amend Resolution R-21-31 to extend time for the Southern Waterfront Site Redevelopment Task Force to complete recommendations

INTRODUCED BY CHAIRSALEM, VICE-CHAIR BRANNEN, COUNCILMEMBER MENIST:

WHEREAS, Resolution R21-31 created the Southern Waterfront Site Redevelopment Task Force (the “Task Force”) to study the reactivation of the former DeLaval site and tasked it with providing recommendations for Near-term improvements and Longer-term redevelopment; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force was inaugurated upon appointment of members on April 5, 2021; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force has been working diligently on its charge and has completed and unanimously adopted its recommendations for Near-term improvements; and

3. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Councilmember Brannen and seconded by Councilmember Flowers to adjourn the meeting at 8:46pm.

Dated: June 24, 2021

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, June 21, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

**Jasmin Nicole Davis
City Chamberlain**

