

COMMON COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS
Tuesday, April 26, 2022 - 7:00 P.M.
Common Council Regular Meeting
Common Council Chambers

Roll call was taken

PRESENT:

Mayor Keeler
Council President McCarthy
Council Member Smith
Council Member Russell
Council Member Briggs
Council Member Biggs
Council Member Alesio

EXCUSED:

None

Public Comment:

Randy Konifika, Bridge Ave., "Public Safety should come first. The last couple of weeks, the situation with the Fire Department has gone from bad to worse. No one is all right or wrong. The residents are the ones who suffers. Why can't adults make this happen to try and remedy the situation?"

Stephen Napier, Director of Community Development gave a quarterly report. (Attached).

Natalie Turner Castle, Brighton Point, "My family and I have been victims of racial harassment in the community. I am concerned as the weather changes, this harassment will only increase. I would like the City Council to be aware of this. Who can I address this to?"

Council President McCarthy, "This is a horrible situation for sure. Maybe try the School District to see if you can find out who they are."

Council Member Briggs, "Let me start a conversation. I know a few teachers and a few children in the neighborhood. This is not acceptable".

Mayor Keeler, "Lawn and leaf bag collection has started. Paving of streets is underway. Our light conversion is 1/3 of the way complete. An announcement regarding Rock the Block will be coming next week."

Council Member Alesio made a MOTION to approve the minutes of the February 8 and 22, 2022, and March 8, 2022 Common Council meetings. Seconded by Council Member Briggs. All members voted "AYE".

Ordinance No. 4 for 2022

AN ORDINANCE ACCEPTING AN EASEMENT FROM THOMAS BRENNAN-IN, OVER, ON AND THROUGH 54 GARNER STREET

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Ordinance No. 4 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Biggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Ordinance No. 4 for 2022 passed.

Ordinance No. 5 for 2022

AN ORDINANCE APPROVING THE GRANTING OF A LICENSE TO MOBILITY DEVELOPMENT OPERATIONS, LLC REGARDING A CARSHARE PROGRAM

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Ordinance No. 5 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Biggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Ordinance No. 5 for 2022 passed.

Resolution No. 20 for 2022

A RESOLUTION APPOINTING AND/OR REAPPOINTING MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF ASSESSMENT REVIEW

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Resolution No. 20 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Briggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 20 for 2022 passed.

Resolution No. 21 for 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A SHARED SERVICES AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF COHOES AND THE VILLAGE OF GREEN ISLAND

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Resolution No. 21 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Alesio. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 21 for 2022 passed.

Resolution No. 22 for 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A CONTRACT FOR THE REMSEN STREET PHASE III PROJECT WITH CALLAHAN INDUSTRIES

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Resolution No. 22 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Biggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 22 for 2022 passed.

Resolution No. 23 for 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING THE COMPROMISE AND SETTLEMENT OF PENDING LITIGATION

Council Member Alesio made a MOTION to approve Resolution No. 23 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Russell. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 23 for 2022 passed.

Resolution No. 24 for 2022

A RESOLUTION AWARDDING A CONTRACT FOR CERTAIN UPGRADES TO THE CITY'S COMPUTER SYSTEMS TO NORDUTCH TECHNOLOGIES AND AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN AGREEMENT AND/OR RELATED DOCUMENTS REGARDING SAME

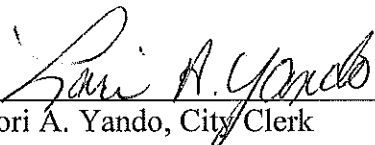
Council President McCarthy made a MOTION to table Resolution No. 24 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Briggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 24 for 2022 was tabled.

Resolution No. 25 for 2022

A RESOLUTION APPROVING A BIKE SHARE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE CAPITAL DISTRICT TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Council Member Russell made a MOTION to approve Resolution No. 25 for 2022. Seconded by Council Member Biggs. Council President McCarthy, and Council Members Smith, Russell, Briggs, Biggs, and Alesio voted "AYE". Resolution No. 25 for 2022 passed.

At 7:44 PM, Council Member Alesio made a MOTION to adjourn the Common Council Meeting. Seconded by Council Member Russell. All members voted "AYE". The Common Council Meeting concluded.



Lori A. Yando, City Clerk

Recently Purchased property at 60 Remsen Street (the former Cohoes Savings Bank Foundation Building) redevelopment is going forward, but while we had hoped to see shovels in the ground this year, the progress has been slowed by the new owners because in the past six months the costs of materials have increased by 37%, accounting for upwards of a million dollars. The redevelopment will still happen but on a slightly longer timeline than we anticipated. I'll keep you up to speed.

In late January a prospective business owner sought to open a methadone clinic on Niver Street, across from the Senior Apartments. I alerted Councilman Alesio to the situation, he was in touch with the residents of the senior apartments, but it turned out to be a moot point when the Mayor and I both declined to sign a required letter of support for the project, effectively putting a stop to the methadone clinic moving forward.

Larry Russo, the owner of the Pig Pit has retired from the restaurant industry. The business is lucrative, is for sale and he is actively seeking a buyer. I expect it will re-open in short order.

Cafe Con Mel is temporarily closed, as a carried forward balance on the national grid bill from D&L hospitality during the pandemic shutdown has shut off their electricity. I've spoken with Melanie many times since then and she intends to re-open in the near future. She is working hard to get the funds to get the lights back on.

Eat in the street will be back this summer. We expect it to start in late May.

We continue to work with prospective business owners to open new places in Cohoes and in some cases to help them move operations to Cohoes.

The LDC issued a request for proposals in January to develop a parcel owned by the LDC on Whitehall Street. It faces 787, the proposal is to purchase the property for \$500,000.00 and develop it as commercial property. If the proposal is accepted by the LDC there would be a public input process on what would be built on the parcel, with initial conversations including options like an urgent care, a grocery store, office space, some combination or something else entirely. The LDC will be planning a public information and input session to which the members of the Common Council will be invited.

We (the LDC and IDA) have taken ownership of 226 Remsen Street. We got it by winning a private auction because the property was in bank foreclosure. The bank didn't realize that they were trying to foreclose on a vacant parcel of land until we called them and told them (repeatedly) and asked them to dispose of the property. There were multiple bidders on the property and it was purchased for \$18,000. With that we now own three of the six properties that made up the fire site parcels. Critically though, that means that all six properties are in the possession of the City of Cohoes or Albany County. We met with our County Legislators two weeks ago to make a plan to get the parcels into the LDC and IDA's hands, and the process is now in motion. We hope that it will move quickly. I'm staying on top of that situation to try to advance it so that major Redevelopment at the corner of Remsen and Columbia can get underway.

Juncta

787

787

**Proposal
to Purchase
Property for
\$500,000.00
from LDC**

Kelman

Saratoga St

21

19

Anthony's

222

224

226

228

230

23

Renssen St

Renssen St

Columbia Street