

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF WATERVLIET  
THURSDAY, JANUARY 21, AT 7:00 P.M.

**\*\*\*Due to the COVID-19 Pandemic this meeting was held via video conference\*\*\***

The meeting was called to order by Mayor Patricelli at 7:03 P.M.

Roll call showed that Mayor Patricelli, Councilwoman Diamond and Councilman Torncello were present.

Also present from City Administration were: City Manager Joe LaCivita, Corporation Counsel Brian Kremer, and Deputy City Clerk Dave Wheatley.

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Mayor Patricelli.

Councilwoman Diamond made a motion to dispense with the reading of the minutes from the 1-7-2021 Council Meeting which was seconded by Councilman Torncello. A vote was taken to approve the meeting minutes which passed 3-0.

### **REPORT OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEES**

City Manager Joe LaCivita spoke to the council on the following issues:

- Advised the Council that the remaining 15 cars that were towed after the December 17<sup>th</sup> snowstorm have been removed from the Hudson Shores Park and have been towed to local lots. The owners of the vehicles will be charged accordingly when they pick up their vehicles.
- Mr. LaCivita, along with Mayor Patricelli and Mark Cady from the City highway department recently visited the Albany County Highway garage and met with Scott Duncan from the County to discuss the equipment used by the City for snow removal and in other areas and what might be available from the County to assist in the future. There were also discussions held on ideas on how to remove snow more efficiently in the City moving forward.
- The City has begun the process of upgrading the phone system at City Hall and held a ZOOM meeting earlier today with Verizon Wireless to discuss the options they have available. Additional meetings with other carriers will be held soon.
- Mr. LaCivita also advised that a meeting was held with the City's information technology provider ABS Solutions to discuss computer and network upgrades available to the City's current system.
- The Albany County Landbank has reached out to Mr. LaCivita regarding two potential ideas for the former Papa's Restaurant property. One is for a restaurant and one to make

it a mixed-use property. Both potential property owners have been advised of the processes needed to be completed to start a business into the City.

- Mr. LaCivita also updated the council on the ongoing Congress Street Bridge study that is being done by Alta Planning in conjunction with the City of Watervliet and the City of Troy.

Mayor Patricelli advised that the City is working to put together programs for Hudson Shores Park including craft fairs and farmers markets. The City is looking to have events twice a month in the park from April to October.

## **OLD BUSINESS**

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**PUBLIC HEARING:** A Public Hearing for the purpose of hearing those persons who wish to be heard regarding Local Law #1 for the Year 2021, a local law to amend the Code of the City of Watervliet Chapter 233 Shopping Carts.

The public hearing began at 7:26 P.M.

City Manager LaCivita presented a slide show during the hearing showing some of the issues the City has encountered with shopping carts being left in public areas and explained the proposed changes to the law.

There were no comments from the public and the meeting was closed at 7:37 P.M.

## **APPROPRIATIONS AND ACCOUNTING**

- City Manager Joe LaCivita advised that he and Director of Finance Amanda Austin certified the 2021 budget recently and it has been entered into the City's new accounting system.

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Before the Public Comment Mayor Patricelli advised of the following:

- He will be giving his State of the City address on February 17<sup>th</sup>.
- Redemption Church is continuing their food distributions on the first and third Thursday of the month.
- There will be 250 hot meals given out at 6:00 P.M. on Wednesday, January 24<sup>th</sup> at the Watervliet Senior Center.
- The Police Policy Reform Committee met for the last time last evening and the draft will be presented on February 3<sup>rd</sup> to the committee and then the document will be presented to the City Council for review.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

- Becky Williams, 1525 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue

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After the public comment period Councilman Torncello made a motion to adjourn the meeting which was seconded by Councilwoman Diamond. This motion passed 3-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:43 P.M.

**Next Meeting: Thursday, February 4, 2021 7:00 P.M.**  
**\*\*\*This meeting will be held virtually\*\*\***

Respectfully Submitted,  
David C. Wheatley  
Deputy City Clerk