

**Minutes of the
TROY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 7, 2019
7:00 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. by Council President Mantello.

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call: The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Member Gulli, Council Member Paratore, Council Member Cummings, Council Member Bissember, Council Member Kennedy, Council President Mantello, Chair.

In attendance were Mayor Patrick Madden, Deputy Mayor Monica Kurzejeski, Corporation Counsel James Caruso, Deputy Comptroller Andy Piotrowski, Deputy Director of Public Information John Salka, and Superintendent of Public Utilities Chris Wheland. Approximately 35 members of the public attended.

Mayor Patrick Madden filed the State of the City Report with the City Clerk on February 7, 2019.

Good News commendations were given to the Literacy Volunteers of Rensselaer County and Billy Carter.

Public Forum:

- Peggy Kownack, 114th Street, expressed approval for all items on the agenda.

1. A Local Law Amending The Charter Of The City Of Troy §C-48 Authorizing The Payment Of Eligible Delinquent Taxes In Installments (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

For introduction purposes only. Public hearings to be held on February 13, February 21, and March 7.

1. Ordinance Authorizing And Directing The Reconveyance Of 165 Hutton Street (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

2. Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Agreement With The Water Commissioners For The Town Of Waterford For The Supply Of Water (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

3. Ordinance Amending The Special Revenue Budget To Accept A NYS Homeland Security Grant For The Purpose Of Purchasing Radios And Related Equipment (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

4. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects To Allow For The Closure Of The Capital Project Entitled “2015 Street Paving” (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

5. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects To Allow For The Closure Of The Capital Project Entitled “2016 Street Paving” (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

6. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And General Fund Budgets To Allow For The Closure Of The Capital Project Entitled “Fire Boat” (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

7. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2019 General Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

8. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

9. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects To Allow For The Closure Of The Capital Project Entitled “Landfill Pump Replacement” (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

6. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute A Contract With NYSERDA To Accept A \$180,000 Grant As Part Of The Clean Energy Community Initiative (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

10. Ordinance Authorizing The City To Create A Capital Project And Amending The Capital Projects Fund Budget To Allow Funding For Said Capital Project (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

8. Resolution Authorizing The Renewal Of A Contract With Collar City Auctions And Realty, Inc. For Auctioneer Services On City Owned Surplus Property (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

11. Ordinance Declaring Certain City Owned Property As Surplus And Directing The Comptroller To Dispose Of Said Property (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

4. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A 2019 Stop-DWI Enforcement Agreement With The County Of Rensselaer (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

5. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into A 2018/2019 Stop-DWI Enforcement Crackdown Agreement With The County Of Rensselaer (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

7. Resolution Proclaiming February 2019 Black History Month In The City Of Troy, New York (Council President Mantello, Council Members Paratore, Bissember, Gulli, Cummings, and Kennedy)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

9. Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Execute An Inter-Municipal Agreement With The Albany Pool Communities Relating To The Long Term Financing Plan (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

10. Resolution Appointing Commissioner Of Deeds For The City Of Troy (Council President Mantello)

Added via unanimous consent of City Council. Amended to add Carole Claren-Weaver, Timothy J. Kennedy, Carmella R. Mantello, Kimberly McPherson, Laura Rabinow. Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

11. Resolution By The Troy City Council Supporting And Endorsing The City Of Troy, NY In Its Grant Application To The New York State Department Of Environmental Conservation For Invasive Species Removal At The Tomhannock Reservoir (Council President Mantello, Council Members Gulli, Paratore, Cummings, Bissember, and Kennedy) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Added via unanimous consent of City Council. Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

12. Resolution Accepting Resignation Of Council Member McGrath (Council Member Kennedy)

Added via unanimous consent of City Council. Resolution passed 6 ayes, 0 nos.

13. Resolution To Create A Committee To Fill The Vacant District 2 City Council Position (Council President Mantello)

Resolution withdrawn by Mantello.

Public Forum:

- Peggy Kownack, 114th Street, spoke regarding the resignation of Mark McGrath.
- Messiah, Grace Court, spoke regarding the 7th Avenue park and the need for a community center in North Troy.
- Anastasia Robertson, Troy, spoke regarding diversity and representation in Troy leadership.
- Luz Marquez Benbow, Troy, read a statement on behalf of Justice for Dahmeek, a copy of which is appended to these minutes.
- Jerry Ford, TEAM Hero, spoke regarding race relations in Troy.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is on file at the City Clerk's office.

February 7, 2019

Dear Honorable President Carmella Mantella and Troy City Council Members,
CC: Mayor Patrick Madden

Bcc: Deputy Mayor Monica Kurzejeski, and Billy Carter Troy NAACP

Hello and Happy Black History Month!

We the Justice for Dahmeek Committee want to express our support for holding Mark McGrath accountable for his racist statement. We know that this sends a long overdue message to all leadership in Troy that racism will no longer be tolerated in our beloved City. Additionally, as we stand firm against racism, we also stand with MeToo; and against sexism, ableism, classism and heterosexism. We expect that all elected officials, business and religious leaders will also be held similarly accountable should they also participate in hateful speech, and/or actions.

In the words of Dr Martin Luther King Jr, "There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe nor politic nor popular, but one must take it because our conscience tells us it is right." Given this, we the Justice for Dahmeek Committee stands before you again, almost a year later to garner support from the City Council to engage the Mayor's Office and our leadership in establishing a revised Civilian Review Board with subpoena power.

Last year we presented the City Council, Mayor Madden, and other community leaders with a 10-point plan for such a Civilian Review Board; that should not be confused for a human rights committee (which we need) or a community relations board. Like all systems we need our law enforcement system to be transparent and accountable to ensure community safety of all residents.

We are back again urging you as our representatives to use your leadership; we know that such a Civilian Review Committee is not under your governance, but we also know that your voice as a Council can help bridge productive and effective community engagement to make our community safer not just for some in our neighborhoods but for all. I will remind you that on April 17, 2016 Edson Thevenin was shot and killed by Troy Police for what should have been a simple DWI stop. He was shot 7 times. Then in August of 2017, Dahmeek McDonald a 22-year-old was shot twice and seriously injured by Troy Police for a parole violation. The NYS Attorney General's Office investigated the Edson Thevenin case and revealed an extensive cover-up by the Troy Police Department and the former Rensselaer County DA Joel Ablove. The taxpayers in Troy have had to pay over \$250,000 in the past years to settle with other victims of police abuse; and yet many in our community are not aware of the human and money costs to our City.

In Mayor Madden's 2019 State of the City Address, he talked about meetings with the Troy Pastoral Alliance, and a representative from the Department of Justice. Initially, Justice for Dahmeek participated in these community discussions but have not been informed that the meetings continued or ended and neither have we seen any 6-point plan or learned about a Community Relations Board. Given that these are tax payer dollars this 6-point plan should be made public. Where is the transparency? Where is the accountability?

As Troy residents we have joined the growing cry of Black and Latinx mothers throughout our Country. The growing movement for police accountability, community oversight and an end to police violence across our state. Like many of you, we love Troy, but we will no longer continue to have a blind eye for how we as Black, Latinx, Immigrant, LGBT, Disabled, youth and women are treated by law enforcement.

Thank you for your time and we look forward to further discussion, Justice for Dahmeek

Contact Information:

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