

**Minutes of the  
TROY CITY COUNCIL  
SPECIAL MEETING  
June 9, 2020  
6:45 P.M.**

Due to the COVID-19 crisis, this meeting was held remotely via videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 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 Ashe-McPherson, Council Member Steele, Council Member Cummings, Council Member Zalewski, Council Member McDermott, Council President Mantello, Chair.

In attendance were Mayor Patrick Madden, Deputy Mayor Monica Kurzejeski, Corporation Counsel Richard T. Morrissey, and Deputy Comptroller Andrew Piotrowski

**Public Forum** - written statements were submitted by the following individuals and are appended to these minutes:

1. Mike Yeomans, St. Vincent's Avenue
2. Dylan Rees, Linden Avenue
3. John Scheetz, 112th Street

**30. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And General Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**31. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And Water Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**32. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And Water Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**33. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 General Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**34. 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 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**35. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And General Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**36. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And General Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**37. Ordinance Transferring Funds Within The 2020 General Fund Budget (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**38. Ordinance Amending The Capital Projects Fund And General Fund Budgets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

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

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**40. Ordinance Amending The 2020 General Fund Budget To Appropriate Funds From The Unemployment Reserve (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**52. Resolution Determining That Proposed Actions Are Type II Actions For Purposes Of The New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**53. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of \$350,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Reconstruction Of Various Streets In The City (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**54. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of \$275,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Cost Of The Acquisition, Installation And Upgrade Of Police Cameras On City Streets (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**55. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$655,000 Serial Bonds To Finance Parks, Playgrounds And Recreational Areas Improvements (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**56. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of \$180,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Cost Of Various Projects For The Police Department (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**57. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of \$165,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Cost Of Various Projects For The Fire Department (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**58. Bond Resolution Of The City Of Troy, New York, Authorizing The Issuance Of An Additional \$100,000 Serial Bonds To Finance The Rehabilitation Of Powers Park (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**59. Resolution Authorizing M.O.U. With Capital District Transportation Authority For Powers Park Work (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**61. Resolution Setting The Hourly Wages Of The Assistant To The City Clerk (Council Member Zalewski)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**62. Resolution Approving The City Clerk's Appointment Of Julia Alsarraf As Deputy City Clerk And Setting The Annual Salary Of The Deputy City Clerk (Council Member Zalewski)**

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.

A video recording of this meeting is on file at the City Clerk's office.

**Public Forum for June 9, 2020**

1. Mike Yeomans, St. Vincent's Avenue
2. Dylan Rees, Linden Avenue
3. John Scheetz, 112<sup>th</sup> Street

Good evening Troy City Council: My name is Michael Yeomans and I am a homeowner in South Troy, NY. As all of you are well aware, there is incredible momentum nationwide imploring us to consider how systemic racism affects our communities across the US. The Black Lives Matter campaign seeks to unveil the decades-long subjugation of minorities in the United States and to reimagine governments that invest in community and humanity, not policing and fear.

Already, we are seeing public officials respond in big ways: Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti has promised to redirect \$250 million from the LAPD to social services, Bill de Blasio pledged to cut funding to the NYPD (and to have that in place by the July 1st budget deadline), the Minneapolis City Council promised to "dismantle the police." The 2020 Troy budget has allocated over \$20 million dollars to law enforcement and just \$454,000 to Housing and Community Development, just \$230,000 to youth city services. We should be investing money in social systems that uplift our most vulnerable populations, which would offset the monetary needs of a reactionary police force. The Civil rights movement is undoubtedly a movement of TODAY, and for good reason.

I implore you all to have difficult discussions about institutionalized racism in this country. to redirect funds away from law enforcement and into communities of color, to learn as much as you can about the pervasiveness of systemic racism in this country. Follow the fights that your fellow public servants have begun in Minneapolis, NYC, and LA and please fight to enact change here too. Thank you.

Thanks, Ken. Please confirm receipt of this email when you have a moment.

Mike Yeomans, St. Vincent's Avenue

---

Council Members,

On Sunday, you witnessed a mobilization of 11,000 peaceful demonstrators demanding swift action be taken to drastically change the way policing is done in Troy. This type of unprecedented public outcry requires an unprecedented response from City Hall. As such, I am calling upon you to publicly respond to the demands of Justice for Dahmeek, who organized the rally. The demands are as follows.

- 1.) Establishment of a civilian police review board with subpoena power.
- 2.) Justice in the case of the police shooting of Dahmeek McDonald.
- 3.) An end to 287g, the county program that deputizes the County Sheriff's office as a collaborator with ICE.
- 4.) All investigations of police shootings be handled by the NY attorney general.

Sincerely,

Dylan Rees, Linden Avenue

Ken, it looks like Justice for Dahmeek has posted an updated list of demands, so I would like to amend my comments to include them. They are listed below and can also be found on the [group's Facebook page](#).

("BIPOC" means Black, Indigenous and People of Color)

- 1.) Establishment of a civilian police review board with subpoena power and representation of no less than 60% of people most impacted by violence and police violence, namely BIPOC at the intersection of LGBTQIA, Young people, people with disabilities, and formerly incarcerated peoples.
- 2.) The exploration and creation of diversion programs away from criminal justice involvement to community-based treatment alternatives, especially for youth and the mentally ill. Furthermore, in cases involving drugs or substance abuse and sex work, actively reducing unnecessary incarceration which disproportionately impacts exploited communities and specifically BIPOC.
- 3.) The disentanglement of county government with ICE and the declaration of Troy as a sanctuary city.

---

My name is John Scheetz, I am a resident of the city at 112th St. I would like to state my lack of support for Ordinance 29.

I urge the Council to not pass Ordinance 29, which would repeal the paper bag fee. I understand that the City is facing the economic impacts of COVID-19, and businesses are struggling during these trying times. I understand the State has delayed implementing the plastic bag ban, and if it is necessary, will understand delaying the paper bag fee to go into effect when the state requires plastic bags be banned. Repealing the law entirely, however, does not speak to the spirit of why it was passed, and the members of the Council who originally opposed it seem to be using the guise of COVID-19 to attempt to repeal it.

The fee does not impact the business's bottom line, but is a fee to encourage consumers to bring their own reusable bags and reduce the waste created by single use materials. Additionally, as a homeowner who has to pick up garbage on a daily basis from the alley next to my home, I encourage any effort to reduce the amount of single-use materials being disposed of in the City. Reducing the amount of single-use material will directly reduce the costs of garbage disposal for the city. Additionally, as Council President Mantello and Council Member Gulli have wholeheartedly touted that they are endorsed by the NY Green Party, I expect that they will NOT vote to repeal the law, which is backed by the party they are proud to have been "endorsed" by.

On a different note, in light of recent protests within the City against police brutality, I strongly urge the Council and/or Mayor's office to release the full "secret" memorandum commissioned to investigate the shooting of Anthony Thevenin. The internal police probe conducted by the police department found that the late Sgt. French improperly forced Thevenin's car off the road and lied about the shooting. I urge that the secret memo commissioned by the police department and

reviewed by both the Mayor's office and City Council that has been said to absolve Sgt. French be released to the public. If the report explains why the shooting was justified, then Thevenin's family deserves closure.

Thank you,

John Scheetz, 112<sup>th</sup> Street

---