

**Minutes of the
TROY CITY COUNCIL
REGULAR MEETING
February 3, 2022
6:00 P.M.**

Due to the ongoing COVID-19 crisis and pursuant to NYS legislation S.50001/A.40001, this meeting was held remotely via videoconference.

The meeting was called to order at 6:07p.m. by Council President Mantello.

Roll Call: The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Member Gulli, Council Member Ashe-McPherson, Council Member Steele, Council Member Menn, Council Member Conley-Wilson, Council Member Sorriento, Council President Mantello, Chair.

In attendance were Mayor Patrick Madden, Corporation Counsel Richard T. Morrissey, Comptroller Andrew Piotrowski, Approximately 10 members of the public attended.

Public Forum:

The following individuals spoke:

- Dylan Rees
- Luz Marquez Benbow
- Ellie Irons
- James Messiah Cooper
- Sean Mickey Dobbin

Carmine Casale and Angela Beallor submitted written statements. See Appendix A

After Public Forum at approximately 6:41 p.m., Ordinance #6 was introduced, and a motion was made to go into executive session. The motion passed. City Council resumed public deliberations at 7:13p.m.

5.Ordinance Authorizing Settlement Of Claim, To Wit: Maryellen Arsenault And Felix Champito, Plaintiffs Vs. City Of Troy, Et Al., Defendants (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

6.Ordinance Authorizing Settlement Of Claim, To Wit: Dahmeek Mcdonald, Plaintiff V. The City Of Troy Et Al., Defendants, U.S. District Court, Northern District Of New York Civil Action No. 1:18-Cv-1327 (Dnh/Cfh) (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Ordinance passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

16. Resolution Of Troy City Council Authorizing And Scheduling A Public Hearing In Connection With Proposed Local Law No. 1 Of 2022 Amending Troy City Charter Part 2, Article 1, Section C-2 (Council President Mantello)

Resolution passed 4 ayes, 3 nos (Steele, Menn, Conley-Wilson), 0 abstentions.

17.A Resolution To Provide An Informal Honorary Designation For A Portion Of Hill Street Between Liberty And Washington Streets As “Esposito Way” In Honor Of Michael A. Esposito (Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

18. Resolution Commemorating The 100th Birthday Of Dorothy M. Robinson (Council President Mantello)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

19. Resolution In Memory Of Michael A. Esposito (Council Member Steele, Council President Mantello, Council Member Menn, Council Member Ashe-McPherson, Council Member Sorriento, Council Member Gulli, Council Member Conley-Wilson)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

21.Resolution Commending The Troy Fire And Police Departments (Council President Mantello, Council Member Gulli, Council Member Ashe-McPherson, Council Member Sorriento)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

22.Resolution Appointing Commissioners Of Deeds For The City Of Troy (Council President Mantello) Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

23.Resolution Authorizing The Mayor To Enter Into An Intermunicipal Agreement With Capital Region Boces For The Provision Of Information Technology And Cyber Security Services To The City(Council President Mantello) (At The Request Of The Administration)

Resolution passed 7 ayes, 0 nos, 0 abstentions.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 p.m.

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

Council Members,

It is with utmost urgency I implore you to amend the seat distribution on the redistricting commission.

This commission will not succeed for the people without an even distribution (1:1) of Dem/Rep et al.

I understand this commission was recommended under the previous council's Democratic majority, which is odd to me, as I'm told the Democratic party is the party of equity and inclusivity.

If this is true, I'll expect your Democratic members to immediately action a realignment to even the seats in order to properly serve the residents, today, tomorrow and through this council.

Failure to change the current distribution would be a direct statement to us all that you stand for yourselves first and residents last.

Respectfully,

Carmine Casale III

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a man shot by the Albany PD. This case is being reviewed by the Citizens' Review Board in Albany. We should pay close attention and learn and act!

Given the history of police improprieties, the lack of transparency and accountability, I was not convinced then nor now that Officer Iler should not be held accountable for his use of force in 2017. I do not trust the outcomes of grand juries who decide they don't need to take a case to trial to explore what happened.

All we need to do is look at the case of Edson Thevenin. Where the excuse was that a car was a weapon – moving towards Officer French AFTER he had already riddled the car and the driver with bullets. The ballistics analysis confirms that fact.

As community members, we should be looking for more opportunities to hold the police accountable. We should be asking journalists to help us in that. Asking hard questions, not just publishing the police press release.

I close by recalling a gathering from 2020. Troy 4 Black Lives “brought the community together again in order to demand change and accountability, recounting the names of those killed or injured by the Troy Police Department since 2008.”

“One of two cases in 2008, Jamel DeWitt, unarmed, not resisting, but still beaten by police officers William Bowles and Jeffrey Hoover. Officers say because of his past history with police, the plummeting of fists, batons, and flashlights was warranted,” one of the other organizers read.

The list also included Marquese Hill, Shakim Miller, James Foley, Luis Luberes, John Larkins, Brian Houle, Jordan Novak, Robert Washington, Samuel Ratley, Malcolm Washington, Archie Davis, Lawrence Nesmith, Rashon Donley and Thaddeus Faison, along with Dahmeek McDonald and Edson Thevenin.

We are glad Dahmeek McDonald is here, living, and able to accept this settlement.

Angela Beallor

Jacob Street, Troy, NY

I write as a community member of Troy. On the agenda today, Richard Morrissey (Corporation Counsel) is seeking approval of a City of Troy/Jarrold Ihler settlement in relation to the 2017 police shooting of Dahmeek MacDonald. I write today regarding this and policing more broadly in the City of Troy and beyond.

This is the second settlement brought to Troy City Council, related to a police shooting, in six months.

In August 2021, the city agreed to settle with Cinthia Thevenin in the police shooting of her husband, Edson Thevenin.

In both cases, I am glad that Cinthia and Dahmeek are receiving the settlements that they sought.

In both settlements, I am appalled at the legalistic language, a requirement for insurance purposes, to be absolutely clear that the City of Troy admits no wrongdoing or culpability in these cases.

In the case of Edson Thevenin, the layers of reports, the Centanni report, the Attorney General office's report, all call into question Officer French's story from that evening. It is plain as day that Ablove railroaded this case from day 1 and the police and the City of Troy worked hard to cover it up.

The history of government collusion in protecting police officers who use force/deadly force is well-documented. The ongoing process of cities standing with officers in the wrong, including Troy, paying out large sums of settlement money, is a well-documented pattern.

It has been a year since the Mayor convened the Executive Order 203 committee to review the policies, procedures, and actions of the Troy PD. They then issued a pitiful document, added more money to the police budget, and more cops on the beat. The call then was for transparency and accountability. Something that the city and police have greatly resisted.

Where is the publicly shared policy on body cams?

Where is the publicly shared policy on police communications?

Where is the publicly shared policy (and updates) on the Troy PD acquisition of military-grade weaponry, the LRAD (Long Range Acoustic Device) approved in August of last year?

Where are the public updates on the goings-on of the PORB which apparently has been meeting since April of last year? The PORB, and all of us, should be closely watching what happens in the case of Jordan Young,