

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, APRIL 27, 2022. Scheduled for 7:00 pm. In the City Council Chambers City Hall, Mount Vernon, New York.

*** Due to the ongoing pandemic this meeting was held in the council chambers, with virtual participation via ZOOM and CMVNY Facebook. The meeting was not closed to the public however, the maximum number of in-person occupant was limited ***

PRESENT: Derrick Thompson (Acting Mayor for this meeting), Danielle Browne, Esq., Lisa A. Copeland, Cathlin Gleason and Edward Poteat

ABSENT: None

PRESIDING: Danielle Browne, Acting President

OTHERS: Tanesia M. Walters, City Clerk, Elias Gootzeit, Legislative Assistant and Brian G. Johnson, Corporation Counsel, Timothy Allen, Director of Communications

Acting Council President Danielle Browne called the meeting to order and provided house-keeping rules, including in case of emergency. She asked corporation council Brian Johnson to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Acting Council President then proceeded to the Public Speakers session of the evening (listed below as public comment).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geoff Monroe – Did not wish to state his residence, *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared via zoom.* Spoke on his interpretation of the way the council body addressed the request for legislation for a documentary from the police department. He commended the council on their act of proper resistance, then he proceeded in stating on the way he believes the council body should have appropriately responded in showing their authority as the legislative body. He believed there was a strong demand form the executive branch and he viewed the council’s response as cajoling and somewhat acquiesce or asking permission to regulate, which is their job. and he was a He also spoke on his ask for the cable advisory board term extension where he was met by a negative response from the council. He wants to see an active community media, because the school media is no longer active. He wished the council would take this seriously.

Wilma Frank – 239 S. Columbus Ave., *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared in person.* She requested that the council reform all the taxes that is placed on the residents of Mount Vernon, she laments that there should be no taxes as people are suffering and crying out for help. She stated that she received a county tax so high she had never received a county tax this high. She is being charged

for garbage and refuse tax and that doesn't make any sense. Isn't the refuse tax for the garbage. Taxes are on everything. She believes the City is trying to force the homeowners out of their houses so the developers can get it.

Patricia Richards –137 S. Fulton Ave., *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared via zoom.* Concerns about zombie houses and the homeless, the homeless are living in the abandoned houses and it is not safe for them nor for other residents.

Thomas Keller –12 Pasadena Place *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared via zoom.* Concerns about refuses fee and power leaf blower. He proceeded to read the legislation that was passed then stated that it has not be regulated. The decibel machines are to be purchased to measure the decibel level; the devices cost around \$100-200 dollars. \$1000 can be used to purchase a few of these devices to start implementing the ordinance. Landscapers are using power leaf blower, and no one is checking them. The ordinance must be enforced.

Mary Harris –222 West 2nd. Street, *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared via zoom.* Need information about the broadband that should be available to the citizens of Mount Vernon, the information was not shared to the citizens and she would like to know the reason why. Also, what is the status on the cannabis dispensary, and what is the procedure for the implementation of the comprehensive plan and how can one be a part of it. She had a few more concerns and questions that were addressed by the council.

Nicola Sanders – *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared via zoom.* She stated that her understanding of government is that the government is working for the citizens and is to do what's best for the citizens. She stated that before a politician is elected most politicians appear like a "kitten" they present positive things they are going to do and after they are elected the total opposite evolves. She addressed the councilperson who bowed when Ms. Frank stated her disapproval of their actions, Ms. Sanders state that she was disgusted with the response of the council members. The taxes are high, the garbage and refuse tax is not fair and the garbage men tosses the garbage bins oftentimes damaging them. She feels so discourage and feels the best thing to do is go on welfare and the people who are placed in office to help the people are doing nothing. The acts of the new administration and council is shameful. The council should try harder to fight for us.

Brian Johnson – Corporation Counsel, *Mount Vernon, NY, appeared in person.* He spoke with regards the law department budget and reiterated that the law department is burden by outside council fees and settlement fees due to legislation that predates his leadership.

The council body responded to the speakers' concerns

REFERRAL SESSION

Roll Call administered by City Clerk Tanesia M. Walters

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND ACTION THEREON

To the Council:

The **LEGISLATION AND PUBLIC WORKS** recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

- Item No. 1 An ordinance granting permission for the Westchester County Legislator, Tyrae Woodson Samuels to conduct an Autism Awareness Walk - (Saturday, April 23, 2022).
- Item No. 2 Resolution appointing a member to the Taxicab Commission as Taxi Industry Representative of the City of Mount Vernon - (Neville Gibson)
- Item No. 3 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding ("MOU") with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC"), and County of Westchester ("County") to rehabilitate the sewer system - (\$150M)

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Browne, Esq., Chair (Absent)

Cathlin Gleason, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Acting President Browne, councilmembers; Gleason, Poteat, Copeland

Nays: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

The HUMAN RESOURCES Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

- Item No. 4 An ordinance granting permission to the Department of Recreation to host an inter-faith "National Day of Prayer" "Save our Streets" ("S.O.S.") - (Thursday, May 5, 2022, from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.)
- Item No. 5 An ordinance proclaiming May 1-7, 2022 as the City of Mount Vernon Emotional Wellness Week

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Copeland, Chair

Edward Poteat, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Acting President Browne, councilmembers; Gleason, Poteat, Copeland

Nays: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

The **PUBLIC SAFETY AND CODES** recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

- Item No. 6 An ordinance granting permission for one (1) member of the Police Department to attend an internal Investigation course (no cost to the City - April 18" to April 29, 2022)
- Item No. 7 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to renew an agreement for a maintenance contract with Interaction Insight Corporation. (\$7,032.00 - Budget Code: A3120.414, Repairs to Plant and Equipment).
- Item No. 8 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to renew an agreement for a maintenance contract with CI Technologies / IA Pro (2,164.86 - Budget Code: A3 120.449, Investigations & Trials).
- Item No. 9 An ordinance authorizing the Police Department to write-off parking summonses/tickets 10 years and older
- Item No. 10 An ordinance authorizing the Police Department to increase the fee for the application and removal of the automobile restraining device (boot).

Respectfully submitted,

Cathlin Gleason, Chair

Danielle Browne, Esq., Co-Chair (Absent)

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Acting President Browne, councilmembers; Gleason, Poteat, Copeland

Nays: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

The **FINANCE AND PLANNING** recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

No recommendation for this agenda

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Poteat, Chair

Lisa Copeland, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

Ayes: Acting President Browne, councilmembers; Gleason, Poteat, Copeland

Nays: None

Absent: None

OTHER BUSINESS/CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilman Poteat reminded everyone of the girl scout troops. Acting President Danielle Browne stated that the Auxiliary police is hiring, Arbor day will be this Saturday and Also Kayla Greene's funeral this Saturday at 10 am.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Tanesia M. Walters, *J.D., M.P.A*

City Clerk