

City of Mount Vernon, New York

*1 ROOSEVELT SQ. RM. 104
CITY HALL, MOUNT VERNON, NEW YORK 10550
& VIA FACEBOOK.COM/MOUNTVERNONNY*



Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

7:00 PM

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL**

City Council

*TANESIA M. WALTERS, J.D., M.P.A.
City Clerk*

*NICOLE J. BONILLA, M.B.A.
Deputy City Clerk*

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF THE MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 12, 2024**

Scheduled for 7:00 pm in the City Council Chambers, City Hall, Mount Vernon, New York.

***** This meeting was held in the City Council Chambers, with virtual participation via ZOOM and CMVNY Facebook. The meeting was not closed to the public.*****

PRESIDING: Cathlin B. Gleason, President

OTHERS: Tanesia M. Walters, City Clerk; Nicole J. Bonilla, Deputy City Clerk; Johan Powell, Deputy Corporation Counsel; Antoinette Anderson, Legislative Aide

Council President Cathlin B. Gleason called the meeting to order and provided general house-keeping rules, including encouraging citizens to share the meeting on social media and what to do “in case of emergency”. Council President Gleason explained the 3-minute-plus-1 public comment rule. She then asked a Councilperson Thompson to lead the council in the Pledge of Allegiance. Council President then proceeded to the Public Speakers session of the evening (listed below as public comment).

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Councilmember Derrick Thompson.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Wanching Lin, 121 South 9th Ave, Mount Vernon, NY, linsmandarin2010@gmail.com - No show.
Council President Gleason - DPW is scheduled to install new signage.

Wilma Frank, 239 South Columbus Ave, Mount Vernon, NY - (no cross walk South Columbus Ave & Grandview) Speaker express that this is her third time, presenting this issue to the council. Stated that Councilwoman Browne had called her, but no action has been taken yet. Express that during Mayor Wallace's time in office there was a crosswalk but the white lines has weathered away. Speaker expressed that the crosswalk in front of her property needs repairing and she was informed that the crosswalk in front of her property is her responsibility and she does not agree and the repair should be the city's responsibility. Speaker also address the need to the city streets to be paved and that her car hits major pothole and repair on her \$100,000 car would be expensive.

Councilman Boxhill- was informed that an engineer will be needed and a more through traffic study has to be done because that is a major intersection.

Councilman Thompson - street paving is scheduled in accordance to the underground Con Edison schedule. It would be a waste of expenses to pave a street that ConEd has schedule work to be done in the future and the street would be "chopped up" after street paving.

Verna James, 531 East Lincoln Ave, Mount Vernon, NY, - (A community building activity) Speaker invited the council to attend a panel she is promoting on child abuse and domestic violence, she stated that she has reached out to the council and has not received a response on the invitation. The upcoming panel will be experts and she will read excerpts from her books. She expressed that she has been involved with Mount Vernon Library, Yonkers Library, Greenburgh Library and an upcoming event at Mount Pleasant Library. The information of the event is available at Eventbrite.

Councilman Thompson - Thanked speaker for the work she is doing and will speak to her about bringing the program into the schools in Mount Vernon.

Council president Gleason urged the speaker to email the legislative aid Antoinette Anderson, directly at aanderson@cmvny.com.

Nisha Beharie, 10 Chesterwood Ave, Mount Vernon, NY, nishabeharie@gmail.com - (20 Chesterwood Ave - abandon house, vandalism and kids breaking in.) Speaker addressed the property located at 20 Chesterwood Ave, adjacent from her home. Expressed that the home is an eye sore, safety hazard that has been abandoned for about seven years. The property's lawn is tended to, but nothing else, the roof is damaged and a family of raccoons have made a home in the roof and recently had babies. Recently, kids broke into the home, but a neighbor was able to chase them away before they could fully enter the property and go to the upper levels of the home. The home is not safe and the kids could of gotten hurt. Councilman Boxhill - Contacted the buildings department three times on this property, waiting for a response will follow up.

Mike Skylar, 72 Southfield Road, Mount Vernon, NY (Ongoing illegal party house) Speaker addressed the property located at 63 Southfield Road. He has pictures of thugs and teenagers having late night house parties at that property. Bottles and garbage are littered all over after the parties and the speaker made claims of prostitution and other illegal activity going on at the property. Speaker stated that police have been called, they come to the property but the partying continues after the police leaves. Speaker stated that Zoning Law only prohibits one boarder and that the property being used as an Airbnb is illegal. Speaker wants the certificate of occupancy revoked.

Councilman Thompson - will check on the owner and current violations on the property.

Denise Figueroa, 72 Southfield Road, Mount Vernon, NY (Ongoing illegal party house) Speaker expressed the same property and sentiment as speaker #5 and that the owner of the property is never around. Speaker further elaborated that her grandchildren do not have good experiences and can't sleep visiting her because of the named property.

Council president Gleason - will reach out to the PD and was apologetic that her grandchildren do not have a good experience visiting her because of this property being a public nuisance.

Leslie Cajas (virtual) & Marisol Pence (no show), 3295 Sawmill River Road, Yonkers, NY, lesliecajas18@gmail.com -(Unsafe parking at lot #8 North 3rd Ave & East Sidney Ave, elevator does not work, no police control inside or outside parking lot) Speaker explained that she is a member of Xtreme Fitness, a gym located on Gramatan Ave. Free parking for the gym members is on the third floor of the parking lot and that the lot is unsafe, dark, dank, smells of urine and littered with used condoms on the floor. Speaker expressed that the lot needs repair and policing. She does not feel safe using the lot.

Council president Gleason - DPW is in process of doing a full assessment of the lot because for years it has been overlooked, there are plans for an engineer and major improvements in the future.

Thomas Keller, 12 Pasadena Place, Mount Vernon, NY - (Real estate transfer tax and gas blower/landscape) Speaker stated that contractors do not go the buildings department to get permits or they slip money to the staff for permits to go through. Speaker address a concern with Tim Allen in communications. Speaker stated that on the city website only five landscapers are listed as having gas leaf blower permits. Speaker urged the city to purchase devices to measure sound decibels. Speaker question if staff that attends trainings have to write a report that would be available for the public to view. Speaker questioned the Mayor's request for two thousand dollars advance for a social event, also questions the council president who also attended the same event how that trip was funded. Speaker questioned ARPA funded positions on how they will be budgeted once the ARPA funds run out.

Councilman Boxhill - Code/ordiance enforcement officers are needed.

Council President Gleason- I paid for the event with my own personal money.

Jason Fava, 870 Gramatan Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY (Complete Veterans Park on Scotch Bridge South 11th Avenue & 1st Avenue) Speaker discussed the unfinished veterans park. Speaker expressed that he can't get a meeting with the mayor and will not stop addressing the council on completing the park because veterans deserve to be memorialized.

Councilman Boxhill- Was not aware there was a veterans park, but will follow up.

Council president Gleason - will reach out and see if discretionary funds can be used at that park.

REFERRAL SESSION

Roll Call administered by City Clerk Tanesia M. Walters

PRESENT: Councilmember Jaevon Boxhill, Councilmember Edward Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Derrick Thompson, and President Cathlin Gleason

ABSENT: Pro Tempore Danielle Browne Esq.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND ACTION THEREON

To the Council:

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

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1. **TMP -645**

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Grace Baptist Sankofa Fair.pdf](#)
[FD Response Grace Sankofa Fair.pdf](#)
[PD Response Grace Sankofa Fair.pdf](#)
[DPW Response Grace Sankofa Fair.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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2. **TMP -646**

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Grace Baptist 5K.pdf](#)
[PD Response Grace 5K Walk.pdf](#)
[DPW Response Grace 5K Walk.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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3. [TMP -647](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Unity Baptist Church.pdf](#)
[DPW Response Unity Baptist.pdf](#)
[FD Response Unity Baptist.pdf](#)
[PD Response Unity Baptsit.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - Support churches and programs.

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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4. [TMP -651](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [MV Classic Car Club.pdf](#)
[FD Response Classic Car Show.pdf](#)
[PD Response Classic Car Show.pdf](#)
[DPW Response Classic Car Show.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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5. [TMP -611](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [DPW Pre Fab Referral Letter.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - This is a board of health issue and necessary.

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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6. [TMP -639](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Rec: amended city fest.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

To the Council:

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

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7. [TMP -622](#)

Code: HR

Attachments: [SRAEP 2024 Referral Letter .pdf](#)
[2024 SRAEP Award letter - Mount Vernon.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:**
Councilmember Poteat

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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8. [TMP -623](#)

Code: HR

Attachments: [Pride Event.pdf](#)
[PD Pride Response.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:**
Councilmember Poteat

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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9. [TMP -655](#)

Moved: Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:**
Councilmember Poteat

On the question: Council President Gleason - Thirty-seven years with Mount Vernon Daycare

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

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12. [TMP -649](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Amend Position Title Personnel Specialist](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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13. [TMP -633](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Reimbursement for RBT Expenses](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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14. [TMP -652](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [DCJS Tech Grant Referral Letter](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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15. [TMP -653](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [A+ Technology Camera Referral Letter](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - Company is on state contract and they received three quotes.

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

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16. [TMP -657](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Gun Range RFP Referral Letter](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - It is so important for training for the Police Department to be at a Mount Vernon site.

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

To the Council:

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

() 17. [TMP -541](#)

Code: FP

Attachments: [Asst.Commissioner.Community.Dev.Referral.4](#)

Moved: Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - Are all the concerns satisfied?

Response: Councilmember Boxhill - The permanency of the position was questioned and the position will end when the Grant money runs out or the Grant is re-funded.
Councilmember Thompson - It is an average of two years that Grants are funded. The Mayor can budget to keep the position or another Grant has to be procured.

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

ADD-ON

To the Council:

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

() 18. [TMP -658](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [REFFERAL.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: Council President Gleason - I just want to let the city know that precautions were taken to protect the seniors during this demolition.

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

To the Council:

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

(Request approving the Specifications for Third-Party Claims Administration Services)

19. [TMP -660](#)

Attachments: [Referral Letter - Request approving the specific claims administration services.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

OTHER BUSINESS/CLOSING COMMENTS

Councilmember Poteat- June is my favorite month. Not only because it's my birthday month, but because it is Pride month. Please join us on June 14th at City Hall for our Pride month celebration.

Councilmember Thompson - June 19th is our Juneteenth celebration walk to Hartley Park

Clerk Walters - Early voting starts on June 15th until June 23rd at City Hall in the Memorial Room and at the Doles Center.

Councilmember Thompson - Exercise your right to vote. I give rides as well as the Youth and Recreation Department to take people to vote.

approved

Motion to Adjourn

Moved: Council President Gleason, **Seconded:** Councilmember Poteat

approved

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason

Nay: None

Absent: Pro Tempore Browne

There being no other further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:31 p.m.

Nicole Bonilla, MBA
Deputy City Clerk