

# **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 26, 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*

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**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF THE MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL  
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 26, 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.\*\*\**

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

**ABSENT:** Pro Tempore Danielle Browne Esq.

**REMOTE:** Councilmember Edward Poteat

**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

**CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

Pledge of Allegiance lead by Deputy City Clerk Bonilla.

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 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).

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**PUBLIC COMMENT**

**Christopher Goad**, *2 Gramatan Ave, Mount Vernon, NY* - ("Regarding 230 South 3rd Avenue) - No show at 7:08 pm & 7:22 pm

**Sonya P. Murray**, *151 Summit Ave, Mount Vernon, NY* - ("City problems, street lights, hospital, stop signs, homelessness, need more more help!) - No show at 7:08 pm & 7:22 pm

**Sabrina Powell**, *28 East 1st Street, Mount Vernon, NY* - ("Food Truck") No show at 7:08pm (speaker spoke at 7:22pm)

Speaker spoke of a food truck that operates every weekend. The challenge is the parking near Hartley park. Food truck serves between 4:30pm to 6pm. Speaker has a suggestion to have the option to serve inside of Hartley park. Speaker would clean up after the food truck and would like suggestions on fundraising ideas from the council.

Councilmember Boxhill- sounds like something we can look into. I will speak to recreation and DPW to see if we can accommodate.

Councilmember Thompson- Only parking needed for serving we can speak with council with police and DPW. Because we have had events where food truck drive into the park.

Councilmember Poteat- recreation would probably have to be the first point of contact.

Council President Gleason- Not sure if it's legal for you to block off those spaces, but we can move it into the park.

**Mary Harris**, *No address given, Mount Vernon, NY* - ("City property use by the community) No show at 7:08 pm & 7:24 pm

**Thomas Keller**, *12 Pasadena Place, Mount Vernon, NY* - ("Landscape enforcement)

Speaker addressed gas powered leaf blowers. Registrations are running out and not being removed.

-A report should be written up when staff go on training trips, including the mayor.

-Wakanda celebration use of Traphagen school and co-sponsored by the city. The mayor wants to charge the school district \$30K for the use of Memorial field.

-Wagstaff's involvement in a scam. Received an email \$375K to discipline police officers. BOE must of approved this. It's a waste of money.

Councilmember Boxhill- I agree with the reports

Councilmember Thompson- everyone who utilizes the field pays for the fees for that event, no matter who it is. Whether it's police/fire, etc. There are 16 public schools, 2 charter schools and 1 board of education building (named all the school and the street as located).

Councilmember Poteat- The field cost the city \$700-\$800k per year, and we want to make sure that the field does not only cost the tax payers of Mount Vernon. We make sure to recoup that maintenance and upkeep cost. Proud of the campaign of Wagstaff, he should be DA but he was not elected and he is a very standup guy.

Council President Gleason- Yes, I did send an email out in support of Wagstaff, I think he is a great attorney. I agree with landscaping permits. I would like to direct police and dpw to write tickets.

**Sarah-Lois Matthew**, *115 South 4th Avenue, Mount Vernon, NY* - (Parking lot #1 on 2nd Street & 5th Ave)

Speaker addressed Municipal city lot #1, the price has increased to \$100 per month, However, no improvements have been made. Cars have been damaged and my car has been broke into twice. There are no other options for us, so we have to use the lot. I also have permit parking and on Sundays it is

hard to find parking. Grace Baptist Church members are using the lot and parking in permit parking spaces. We have tried speaking to the Church and no none helps.

Councilmember Boxhill- we should have upgrades, stay on top of us.

Councilmember Thompson- parking for parking permits, but not getting an allotted spots, that's odd. The city has to assign spots to people, especially when you live close to the lot. I understand parking is an issue in Mount Vernon.

Councilmember Poteat- I will speak with my contact at Grace Baptist's Pastor.

Council President Gleason- We are under a comprehensive review with all the garages, spoke with DPW on June 12th, waiting for a report. It's a major project, next step is securing funds. Unfortunately, it's not happening quickly because of how government works. Ask Clerk Walters to call Grace Baptist and remind them not to park in permit lots.

Executive Session 7:43 pm

To conduct interviews for the Economic Development Task Force

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

go into Executive Session

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Aye:</b>    | Councilmember Boxhill, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason |
| <b>Nay:</b>    | None  |
| <b>Absent:</b> | Pro Tempore Browne  |

Exit Executive Session 8:11pm

**Moved:** Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxill

approved

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| <b>Aye:</b>    | Councilmember Boxhill, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason |
| <b>Nay:</b>    | None  |
| <b>Absent:</b> | Pro Tempore Browne  |

**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.



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**Nay:** None  
**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

3. [TMP -640](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Comm Vehicle Referral Letter.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-council requested other quotes for other vehicles, there is a nominal fee but this vehicle is available. DPW went to other dealers to find a comparable vehicle and get pricing.

**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 -634](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Resurfacing of Various Streets in the City of M](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-This is the end of the paving contract and to continue we have to out for bid.

**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 -654](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Request for Approval to enter into contractual : Woodard and Curran Letter.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-Is this for the roof at the Police Department?

**Response:** Councilmember Poteat- DPW works hard and are overwhelmed and about \$20 million worth of work needed at city buildings, DPW thinks its best to hire an outside consultant to come up with scopes of work, so the bids are accurate. The vendor will also help with the city being HUD complaint.

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 -656](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Crown Waterproofing 2024.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason - My vote is nay because this is retroactive work.

Mayor Patterson-Howard - it was passed by the council on Oct 11, 2023, it was sent back by BOE because of the wrong budget code. It is not retroactive work. We could not correct on the floor of BOE because it was a budget code. Email has been sent.

**Response:** Council President Gleason - My vote will still be the same until I can review the email.

*\*needs a second vote to pass*

held

**Aye:** Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, and Acting Pro Tempore Thompson

**Nay:** President Gleason

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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7. [TMP -661](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Referral Letter.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-This is at no cost to Mount Vernon, everything is covered.

**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 -662](#)

**Attachments:** [City Council - RFP Engineering Services - Poli Replacement.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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9. [TMP -678](#)

**Attachments:** [Request for Permission to Release an RFP for Lidar Scan.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Councilmember Thompson -(read the referral letter aloud)

**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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10. [TMP -638](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Wakanda Co Sponsor.pdf](#)  
[PD Response Wakanda 2024.pdf](#)  
[PD Response 2.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Councilmember Boxhill - They are requesting auxiliary. Councilmember Thompson- did we get information on if they were utilizing school safety?

**Response:** Councilmember Boxhill - I do not have that information.

Council President Gleason - They should provide the auxiliary officers with a stipend, because these duties are outside of City work and they should be compensated.

adopted

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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11. [TMP -565](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [buddy white.pdf](#)  
[PD Response.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-this is a great event and I hope Mount Vernon comes out.

**Response:** Councilmember Thompson- This event is usually done at the Doles Center. Mount Vernon Proud Day, not to be confused with Pride Day. The event is not LGBTQ+ related. The event is for people either born, raised or reside in Mount Vernon. Everything is free, food, drinks, icy's everything. The colors are burgundy and gold.

adopted

**Aye:** Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, Acting Pro Tempore Thompson, and President Gleason  
**Nay:** None  
**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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12. [TMP -685](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Mayoral Charter Rev Comm. Apptmnts.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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13. [TMP -686](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Charter Rev Comm Apptmnt.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

() 14. [TMP -687](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Council Charter Rev Appmnts.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:

No Items

**To the Council:**

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

() 15. [TMP -690](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [Defunding the zombie coordinator position.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Commissioner Holder-my request are predicated by the state department, we got a report on April 15th with 120 day observation period, which ends in August. There are action items that are inspections that have not been done in the city for over 15 years. This is to get these inspections done in a timely manner and show the state that we are cooperating.

**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 -599](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [Tyler Referral Letter](#)

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

**On the question:** Councilmember Poteat-there was a discussion on RFP for these services, there are two avenues through our procurement policy that it does not need to go to RFP. Number 1 it's a professional service and number 2 Tyler is on a state contract. PD has expressed urgency and that there are bad things that will happen without this technology.

**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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17. [TMP -628](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [Public Safety: Reduce Funding Computer Cons](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-this is also taking officers out of the office and back on the street.

**Response:** Mayor Patterson-Howard-This is an open position and there are salary savings.

adopted

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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18. [TMP -626](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [CreatePersonnelAssociate](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason-that position was not in the budget, how is it being funded?

**Response:** Mayor Patterson-Howard- There are cops currently in those positions, doing a civilian jobs. We created new positions that were budgeted for. We put those cops back on the streets. There is a shortage in the police department and to pay someone double who does not have HR background. The second position will be funded from the savings. The benefits would be paid from the benefits line as a standard employee. Will be in the budget for next year. We are short about 30 police, we have money in the budget. We have 160 police and we should be at 208.

adopted

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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19. [TMP -629](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [Referral Letter - CRime Analyst  
Crime Analyst Ordinance](#)

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

**On the question:** Councilmember Poteat- If it's the pleasure of council, I would like have someone from PD explain the changes.

**Response:** Council President Gleason- that is a great idea. Anytime a commissioner has anything on the agenda, they should be in attendance.

Mayor Patterson-Howard - this is not a restructuring, the position has been budgeted as entry level, the person selected has over ten years as a CSEA employee, over ten years, automatically go to top step of that position. This is a stand contracted agreement with the union. This is to add the additional funding for that contract. We have a seasoned civilian being promoted.

adopted

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

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20. [TMP -630](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [Referral Letter - Records Clerk](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason- this is a civil service situation.

**Response:** none

adopted

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

**Nay:** None

**Absent:** Pro Tempore Browne

- () 21. [TMP -684](#)
- Code:** PSC
- Attachments:** [National Night Out Letter Signed By Capt.pdf](#)
- Moved:** Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson
- On the question:** Councilmember Poteat-This is one of my favorite events all year. We should let the public know when it is.
- Response:** Councilmember Thompson- The event is August 6th at Hartley Park.
- 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:

- () 22. [TMP -648](#)
- Code:** FP
- Attachments:** [Comp Plan BRS Contract 2024 Referral Letter BRS - CUA Proposal Mt Vernon NY Planning 4JUNE24.pdf](#)  
[DRAFT BRS Contract.6.20.24.pdf](#)  
[BRS - CUA Proposal Mt Vernon NY Planning 4JUNE24.pdf](#)
- Moved:** Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson
- On the question:** Commissioner Holder - because of the time constraints this situation falls under the procurement exemption so we can get the process started.
- Response:** none
- 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 **FINANCE AND PLANNING** Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

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23. [TMP -694](#)

**Code:** FP

**Attachments:** [Referral Letter - Revised ARPA Budget for 2024 ARPA.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 **PUBLIC SAFETY AND CODES** Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:

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24. [TMP -696](#)

**Code:** PSC

**Attachments:** [DOB Referral - Fee Schedule MultiDwelling In 2024.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Commissioner Holder- we researched surrounding municipalities to be on par and update the fees.

**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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25. [TMP -697](#)

**Code:** Mayors Office and Patterson-Howard

**Attachments:** [Labella Referral Letter.pdf](#)  
[REFERRAL Letter-Legislation.pdf](#)

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

**On the question:** Council President Gleason- this company has the experience, the bandwidth and means to complete this project. Commissioner Holder -We do not have the resources internally to do multiple dwelling and all the other permits and inspections.

Council President Gleason- Who is in the office to monitor the fees and make sure it does not go over?

**Response:** Commissioner Holder- The 2nd deputy, also requesting an additional clerk.we have been in contact with Labella on the roll out and use of our OpenGov system. They are ready to start within 2 to 3 weeks. They have 5 state certified inspectors.

Council President Gleason- concern I have is, there is no sunset time, that I have requested for. I don't want to get in the habit of just using this company and not going out for bid. City Council - we reviewed the procurement 6C an 6D, we are going to have get a detailed breakdown with a time frame.

Councilmember Boxhill- how do we ensure that these inspectors are not running up the hours? CH- generally a Multi-dwelling takes about 90 minutes. The 2nd Deputy will be on it, and we will audit.

Councilmember Poteat- RFP will be issued, when?

Commissioner Holder- November 2024 Councilmember

Poteat- We would like to move it up from Nov to Sept.

Commissioner Holder- Labella is aware that there will be an RFP.

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:

- 26. [TMP -705](#)

**Code:** LPW

**Attachments:** [Referral VxRail Support Contract Payment Cit](#)  
[ARPA Budget Code H1680.203.C927 \(rev.6.2\)](#)

**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

**OTHER BUSINESS/CLOSING COMMENTS**

Councilmember Thomson- we are in the summer months, there are only meeting for July and August, the second Wednesday of each month.

Councilmember Boxhill- promote young professionals gala, this Saturday, June 29th at Radisson Plaza at New Rochelle, \$165 per ticket.

Council President Gleason- Council woman Browne will be honored at that event, I am unable to go, but I sponsored another person to attend.

Motion to adjourn.

**Moved:** Councilmember Thompson, **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 9:40 p.m.

Nicole Bonilla, MBA  
Deputy City Clerk