

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, September 11, 2024

7:00 PM

**CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS
CITY HALL**

City Council

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

*JORDAN A. RIULLANO, J.D.
Deputy City Clerk*

**A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF THE MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL
HELD ON WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 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; Antoinette Anderson, Legislative Aide; Johan Powell, Deputy Corporation Counsel.

CALL TO ORDER / PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Pledge lead by Council President Gleason

PRESENT: Councilmember Jaevon Boxhill, Pro Tempore Danielle Browne Esq., Councilmember Edward Poteat, and President Cathlin Gleason

ABSENT: None

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).

Clerk Walters read the notices for the two public hearings.

PUBLIC COMMENT

1. Ray Copeland 236 Bedford Ave, Mount Vernon, NY

Speaker addressed reckless driving, crumbling infrastructure and homes not appropriately zoned for the area.

CM Thompson - addressed what is wrong and what is right with Mount Vernon and that he frequently drives around the city.

CM Poteat - Thanked the speaker for their insight.

CM Boxhill - Agreed that there are problem with reckless driving but that the issue is not limited to Mount Vernon.

CM Browne - Agreed with the reckless driving and that the law department needs to work with the police department

CP Gleason - Requested a list of properties that should be addressed by DPW and that the legislative aide will follow up.

2. Ayanna Armstrong, Mount Vernon, NY armstrong@nysassembly.gov

Speaker spoke of an incident that occurred on July 23, 2024 where the Mount Vernon Police Department breached her confidentiality.

CM Thompson - Thanked the speaker for bringing this to the attention of the council. Will follow up with police department.

CM Poteat - Thanked the speaker and apologized for the mishap.

CM Boxhill - Apologized to the speaker for the incident.

CM Browne - Asked additional questions to the speaker for clarification

CP Gleason - Acknowledged that this was difficult to hear and will speak with police department.

3. Rev James D. Robinson Jr, Mount Vernon jd.robinson1@verizon.net
Speaker spoke of speaking near the Graham School and the paving schedule.
CM Thompson - Acknowledged there is an existent speeding issue in Mount Vernon.
CM Poteat - Thanked the speaker and addressed the street paving schedule
CM Boxhill - Informed the speaker of the speed zone home rules law
CM Browne -The speed zone law was approved by council.
CP Gleason - Spoke with Police Commissioner to do a traffic study.

4. Dolores Mack, 55 Sheridan Ave, Mount Vernon, NY
No show at 7:57 pm

REFERRAL SESSION

Short-Term Rentals

Clerk Walters read the three correspondences regarding Short-Term Rentals

1. Richard Hyman - Chair of Westchester County Planning Board - No objection
2. Darryl Selsey - Planning Board Chair Mount Vernon - No objection
3. James Rausse - Commissioner Planning Board Mount Vernon - No objection.

Public Speaker: For

1. Raymond Copeland

Public Speaker: Against

2. Michael Sklar

Code Enforcement Program

Public Speaker: For

1. Michael Sklar
2. Raymond Copeland

Public Speaker: Against

None

Clerk Walters read the one correspondences regarding the Code Enforcement Program

1. Mayor Patterson-Howard - No objection

Motion to Close Public Hearing

approved

Roll Call administered by City Clerk Tanesia M. Walters

PRESENT: Councilmember Jaevon Boxhill, Pro Tempore Danielle Browne Esq., Councilmember Edward Poteat, and President Cathlin Gleason

ABSENT: None

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES AND ACTION THEREON

To the Council:

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

1. **[TMP -853](#)**

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Approval of budget transfer of \\$30769.90 from Data Processing Equip A1680.486.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

2. **[TMP -813](#)**

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Referral - 2024 Cities United Convening.pdf](#)
[2024 Convening Agenda.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: CM Browne-Mayor updated referral letter to include the names of three members attending. Chief of Staff Malcome Clarke, Eric Crump Constituent services, (named) Neighborhood & Safety Director. I do not know why constituent services is going at all. Spoke with Mayor, have not completed safety plan from attending other conferences.

Response: none

*NOT ADOPTED **Item needs a second vote***

denied

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Councilmember Poteat, and Thompson

Nay: Pro Tempore Browne, and President Gleason

Absent: None

3. **[TMP -849](#)**

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Referral Letter - Budget Transfer 8-28-24.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

4. [**TMP -817**](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Green Innovation Grant Program.pdf](#)
[\\$150M Signed Endorsement of MOA CMV CoW001.pdf](#)
[MtV-4thStreetPark-SchematicSitePlan.pdf](#)
[GIGP Acceptance Letter.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

5. [**TMP -841**](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [RFP-DPW Uniforms.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: CP Gleason-This is a request for proposal, it does not mean we are going for this at this time.

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

6. [**TMP -863**](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Environetics - Revised September 9, 2024.pdf](#)
[DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY FOR MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

7. [TMP -830](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [WTR-Referral-Letter08152024.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

8. [TMP -865](#)

Code: LPW

Attachments: [Referral - CGR Contract Law Buildings.pdf](#)
[CGR-ProposalforOperationalAnalysis.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

Motion to take items 9-11 as a block vote

Moved: Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill

take items as block vote

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

9. [TMP -874](#)**Code:** LPW10. [TMP -873](#)**Code:** LPW

adopted

11. [TMP -875](#)**Code:** LPW

adopted

approved the Consent Agenda

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Pro Tempore Browne, Councilmember Poteat, Thompson, and President Gleason**Nay:** None**Absent:** None12. [TMP -877](#)**Code:** LPW**Attachments:** [Transfer BOE 2023 Chargeback.pdf](#)**Moved:** Councilmember Browne, **Seconded:** Councilmember Boxhill**On the question:** none**Response:** none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Pro Tempore Browne, Councilmember Poteat, Thompson, and President Gleason**Nay:** None**Absent:** None**To the Council:**The **HUMAN RESOURCES** Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:13. [TMP -848](#)**Code:** HR**Attachments:** [Nutrition leg letter.pdf](#)
[Rec- 2024 Title IIIC-1 & IIIC-2 Nutrition Contract](#)**Moved:** Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:** Councilmember Poteat**On the question:** CM Browne - question if the contract was reviewed by Counsel.**Response:** Assistant Corporation Counsel Powell - Confirmed but wants to have additional conversations with the Commissioner.

*NOT ADOPTED **Item needs a second vote***

denied

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

14. [TMP -810](#)

Code: HR

Attachments: [SYEP- Presbyterian referral letter 2023 \\$17,224.pdf](#)
[YTH-Printer - award letter.pdf](#)

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

On the question: none

Response: CM Thomspson- This is for Mount Vernon Youth to accept funds to pay the youth workers.

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

15. [TMP -846](#)

Code: HR

Attachments: [Resolution of the City of the City Council of the City of Mount Vernon honoring James Frank Rowson.pdf](#)

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

On the question: none

Response: CM Thompson - Read the resolution into record

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

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

16. [TMP -854](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Referral Letter-Demo19 STerrace-Zombie Homes .pdf](#)
[19STerrace-Photo1.jpg](#)
[19STerrace-Photo2.jpg](#)
[19Terrace Ave Photo3.jpg](#)
[19 South Terrace Ave - Demolition 7-24-24.pdf](#)
[19 South Terrace Avenue Quote.pdf](#)
[19 S TERRACE-Quote.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne
On the question: none
Response: none

adopted

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

17. [TMP -859](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [ReferralLetter-FeesUpdated.pdf](#)
[Referral-Legislation.9-11-2024 Meeting.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne
On the question: CM Poteat - Questioned the pricing for 15 units.
Response: DC Mamak - Yes, and rounded up the fee would be \$500.00

adopted

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

Motion to amend item #18

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne
On the question: none
Response: none

Fourth whereas, second part of that sentence strike the line appointing from the legislation and strike the entire section two of the legislation. Adjust the third and forth to be section two and three.

approved

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

18. [TMP -864](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Leave of absence referral letter.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne

On the question: CP Gleason - Leave of absence and appointment, are we allowed?

Response: CM Browne - Confirmed the importance of Corporation Counsel to review contracts before the Council votes.

adopted as amended

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

19. [TMP -835](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Transfer of Funds to Cover Negative Balances](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

20. [TMP -796](#)

Code: PSC

Attachments: [Taxi Fare Increase.pdf](#)

Moved: Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne

On the question: none

Response: none

adopted

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

Nay: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

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

legislation:21. [TMP -852](#)**Code:** FP**Attachments:** [COMP2024-12-NYCOM 2024 Fall Training.pdf](#)
[COMP2024-12-NYCOM 2024 Fall Training Agenda.pdf](#)
[COMP2024-12-NYCOM 2024 Fall Training Hotel.pdf](#)
[COMP2024-12-NYCOM 2024 Fall Training Registration.pdf](#)**Moved:** Councilmember Boxhill, **Seconded:** Councilmember Thompson**On the question:** none**Response:** none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Pro Tempore Browne, Councilmember Poteat, Thompson, and President Gleason**Nay:** None**Absent:** None**ADD-ON****To the Council:**The **HUMAN RESOURCES** Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:22. [TMP -882](#)**Code:** HR**Moved:** Councilmember Thompson, **Seconded:** Councilmember Poteat**On the question:** CM Thompson - read the resolution into record**Response:** CP Gleason - Spoke about the celebration and spoke on his background.

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Pro Tempore Browne, Councilmember Poteat, Thompson, and President Gleason**Nay:** None**Absent:** None**To the Council:**The **PUBLIC SAFETY AND CODES** Committee recommends for **ADOPTION** the following entitled legislation:23. [TMP -885](#)**Code:** PSC

Attachments: [Allotment of Firefighters.pdf](#)**Moved:** Councilmember Poteat, **Seconded:** Councilmember Browne**On the question:** none**Response:** none

adopted

Aye: Councilmember Boxhill, Pro Tempore Browne, Councilmember Poteat, Thompson, and President Gleason**Nay:** None**Absent:** None**OTHER BUSINESS/CLOSING COMMENTS**

Poteat - God Bless our firefighters on the courage they had that day and every day.

Boxhill - second that to all our first responders, fire, police EMS. I respect it and appreciate them

Clerk - remind that local voter registration takes place at city hall 9/28 and 10/10 noon - 9pm. Sororities working with Eric Crump, planning to have local registration event 9/17 noon - 3pm on the plaza. Early voting 10/26 and City Hall and Doles Center

Browne - today we remember and honor those who lost lives on 9/11 they live on in our hearts and actions. We lost people from MV. Gives us an opportunity to reflect on today.

Thompson - posted on social media to recognize today and reminds us to have that togetherness.

Tomorrow is not promised. Be kind to one another. People are losing their lives every day, we have to be there for one another. We lost Frankie Beverly. The other day James Earl Jones. We lose people in our community every day, we have to cherish life.

Browne- desperate need of board members. Economic development task force. We need about 30 people, please send in resumes. December 31 to allocate ARPA funds. Get the RFP's out.

Gleason - A lot of our first responders died because of 9/11 related. Labor force not to be forgotten.

Nextel was the only radio was working. It was an act of terrorism, we're always under attack, Voting is important. Not telling you who to vote for but register to vote. Drive an elderly if you can.

Motion to adjourn.

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

approved

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

There being no other further business, the meeting was adjourned at 9:42 p.m.

Nicole Bonilla, MBA
Deputy City Clerk

