

A REGULAR MEETING OF THE CITY OF MOUNT VERNON CITY COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 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: Lisa A. Copeland, Danielle Browne Esq., Cathlin Gleason, Edward Poteat

ABSENT: None

PRESIDING: Derrick Thompson, President

OTHERS: Tanesia M. Walters, City Clerk, Elias Gootzeit, Legislative Assistant and Brian G. Johnson, Corporation Counsel

Council President Derrick Thompson called the meeting to order and provided house-keeping rules, including in case of emergency. He then asked councilman Poteat 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).

PUBLIC COMMENT

Geoff Monroe – *Address not disclosed, Mount Vernon, N.Y.* – spoke on community media and urban farming goals. State Rte. 22 is named after Columbus and should be changed to properly commemorate indigenous people to this area.

Patricia Richards-*Address not disclosed, Mount Vernon, N.Y.* – Homelessness in the City. The homeless population are taking over abandoned buildings and is becoming dangerous and unsafe to the community and the property value of the neighborhoods.

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 requesting a salary increase for the Secretary to the Board of Water Supply (increase of \$6,042.00) from Budget code001-521-521999
- Item No. 2 An ordinance to re-classify the title of “Laborer” to “Skilled Laborer” within the City’s DPW Traffic Bureau (Expenditure Code: A5110.101-Salaries & Wages)
- Item No. 3 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into a contract with A+ Technology & Security Solutions (Budget Code: A1680.405-\$52,990.92)
- Item No. 4 An ordinance granting permission to the Portuguese American Club to hold the annual St. Antonio Feast and the St. Joao Feast

Respectfully submitted,

Danielle Browne, Esq., Chair

Cathlin Gleason, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

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

- Item. No. 5 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Westchester County Office of Senior Programs and Services under Title III-B

Transportation Services Contract Program – (\$41,838.00). Revenue Code A4803.1. Budget Codes A6774.104 and A6774.458)

- Item No. 6 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement, with Giovanni Chef Amour Green of Break Bread Not Hearts (\$2,550.00-Budget Code: A7326.458)
- Item No. 7 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the New York State Education Department/21st. Century Community Learning Center (Natasha Howell, \$14, 766.08-Budget Code A7316.405-Strong Program)
- Item No. 8 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the New York State Education Department/21st. Century Community Learning Center (Akilah Radcliff, \$18, 394.88-Budget Code A7316.405-Strong Program)

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Copeland, Chair

Edward Poteat, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

To the Council:

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

- Item No. 9 A resolution appointing a member to the Board of Ethics of the City of Mount Vernon (Lorna Kirwan, May 25, 2022 - May 24, 2024)
- Item No. 10 A resolution appointing a member to the Board of Ethics of the City of Mount Vernon (Dean L. Bailey, May 25, 2022. - May 24, 2023)
- Item No. 11 A resolution appointing a member to the Board of Ethics of the City of Mount Vernon (Khendra David, May 25, 2022 - May 24, 2023)

Item No 12 A resolution appointing a member to the City of Mount Vernon Cable Advisory Committee (Kamaria Muir, May 25, 2022 - May 24, 2024)

Respectfully submitted,

Cathlin Gleason, Chair

*Danielle Browne, Esq., Co-Chair – **Abstain-conflict of professional relationship with appointee***

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Abstain: Councilwoman Browne (iem#12), Councilwoman Copeland (item#11)

Absent: None

To the Council:

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

Item No. 13 An ordinance authorizing the reallocation of funds within the Department of Planning and Community Development and requesting permission to create the position of "Associate Commissioner of Planning" - (Budget Code A8020.101 - \$105,433.00)

Item No. 14 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept funds from the Mount Vernon Urban Renewal Agency (Budget Code: A3620.101 - \$54,481.95)

Item No. 15 An ordinance authorizing the Mayor to accept a grant from New York Empire State Development to update the Mount Vernon Comprehensive Economic Development Plan (Budget Code: A8020.405 - \$75,000.00)

Item No. 16 An ordinance amending Ordinance No. 10 adopted on February 9, 2022, entitled "AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE COMPTROLLER TO REFUND AN OVERPAYMENT OF 2021 TAXES TO "PRO NATIONAL TITLE AGENCY" (\$22,324.76 - Account Code: A690)

Respectfully submitted,

Edward Poteat, Chair

Lisa Copeland, Co-Chair

Received, passed and filed.

Passed by the following vote:

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

Nays: None

Absent: None

OTHER BUSINESS/COMMENTS

Councilwoman Copeland spoke on gun violence and the recent killing of black families in Buffalo. She also remembered Sandy Hook and all the other gun violence issues we have experienced. Councilwoman Browne informed the public of openings on the Boards and Commissions. Councilman Poteat spoke about Cannabis Commerce and asked the public to provide their opinion and Council President Thompson asked the community to look pass color and see people as human beings then we will value every person's life and hopefully end gun violence.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

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

City Clerk