

## January 21, 2025

A Regular Meeting of the Common Council was held in-person in the Common Council Chambers, City Hall, 520 Warren Street as well as remotely via Microsoft Teams on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 6:00 PM with President Thomas DePietro presiding.

Upon roll call there were present: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo and President DePietro.

Absent: Councilmember Belton.

The clerk announced there was a quorum present for the meeting as required by Section C12-13 of the City Charter.

On motion of **Councilmember Purnhagen**, seconded by **Councilmember Morris**, the minutes of December 17<sup>th</sup> meeting were ordered received and placed on file. Carried.

### Committee Reports.

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Morris**, the following committee reports were ordered received and placed on file:

#### Legal Committee

December 4, 2024

In attendance: Councilmember Margaret Morris, Chairperson; Councilmembers Mohammed Rony and Jennifer Belton; Crystal Peck, Counsel

Absent: Councilmembers Gary Purnhagen and Dominic Merante

Ms. Morris opened the meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall. It was conducted via Microsoft Teams and livestreamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

#### Harassment Legislation

Ms. Morris introduced a proposed local law regarding interference with city officials. The law stated that although harassment is generally prohibited by state law, the local law would make such conduct criminal. She asked if there were state laws relative to harassment that would cover this issue. Ms. Peck said the state's law was a violation while the proposed law would result in a misdemeanor charge. The proposed law expanded the state law by specifically defining who in the city (which employees) it would pertain to and the type of harassment, which she said involved the person's official job duties, not a personal situation. "Then the second part of this is that it makes clear that this is a misdemeanor, which affords additional protections to individuals that are subjected to harassment as opposed to a simple violation."

The law would cover any city officer, code enforcement officer or building inspector.

Ms. Peck said the harassment would have to be repetitive, "not just annoying a city officer. It has to be an act serious enough or repeated acts that interfere with that officer's job

responsibilities. It has to actually be a harassment that is directed to the person in their official capacity as opposed to a personal capacity.”

“What problem are we trying to solve? Is there an ongoing problem of residents in the city, on a regular basis, harassing city officials, and by that, I mean more than one or two?” Ms. Morris asked. “Is this something where we’ve got 15 or 20 people who are a problem and that the city officers and city employees are constantly subjected to harassment, but from the populace as a whole, or are we talking about one or two people? What problem are we trying to solve?”

Ms. Peck said the law—which was proposed by a city department head, not the Council president—should not be directed at any individual person. “It should be directed to remedy a situation or to address a gap in the law that doesn’t address a situation as a whole for the city. This is not, nor should it be perceived as being focused on one individual or one or two individuals that could be causing problems.”

Ms. Morris said the question was what problem had been identified. Ms. Belton said multiple people were problematic. “If you walk in back in the city clerk’s area, they actually have a list of people that come in continuously and scream and threaten them,” she said. Ms. Morris interrupted to ask if there was a specific situation involved and if so, would discussion be appropriate in executive session.

She said city employees should not be subject to harassment but wanted to know if a separate law was needed. If there was an issue of one or two people and a focused problem, there are other mechanisms to address such other than a broader law, she said, such as orders of protection.

Mr. Rony asked for clarity on what constituted an annoyance. “Is there a legal understanding of the word as it pertains to this law? Is there an accepted understanding of that word because a city employee might feel annoyed at just the sight of someone, but they might have legitimate business?”

Ms. Peck explained that just because an employee stated that they were annoyed by a resident, the person would not automatically be convicted of a misdemeanor, rather there will be discussion with police. “There’s going to be a level of discretion at that level and then they would have to go through an actual court proceeding where it is found that that actually happened. That’s why you’re looking at repeated conduct and it has to be interfering with that city official’s performance of their job duties that’s going to get to that level.”

Ms. Belton asked what happened if a person was charged with a harassment violation. Ms. Peck said she had to do more homework on that. She said that an order of protection could not be issued if there was no actual crime committed. “It’s not a misdemeanor and that is one significant difference between a violation and a misdemeanor situation.”

Ms. Morris referenced a section of the law regarding actual or threatened physical contact and asked if that was assault and battery, which would be covered under state law. “I would say it is assault but there are multiple situations where you can have multiple laws that cover similar conduct,” Ms. Peck said. “That’s where you would see someone get charged with multiple violations or different statutes.”

First Ward Supervisor Clair Cousin said it was difficult for an elected official or city employee to get an order of protection “because the nature of your job is to engage the public and if you’re not going through a full court proceeding or there’s not something criminal happening, you’re not going to get an order of protection.” She said the proposed law would

protect employees and elected officials “from the harassment that they’re subjected to sometimes from folks that don’t understand the capacities of their jobs.”

Resident Ron Kopnicki observed that beginning with Section B, the proposed law was almost verbatim to Albany’s law with the exception of expanding the scope to include all city officers. That law referred to people who were actually out in the field, not to anything that might occur, for example, at a Common Council meeting.

He asked if there had been any recent incidents in Hudson where any city officer was struck, shoved, kicked or subjected to actual or threatened physical contact. Ms. Morris asked if that should be responded to in general terms rather than in executive session. Ms. Peck said it could be discussed in general terms but not if there were actual incidents that were under investigation. Mr. Kopnicki then asked if anyone had sought any kind of legal protection against resident Bill Huston but was told that individuals could not be discussed in an open meeting.

Resident Verity Smith said that Ms. Morris had questioned the need for an additional law. “As a concerned member of the public I would say that there is a difference and there is a need for an additional law because when harassment occurs between individuals there’s a harm to that individual but when harassment occurs to a public official or agency head, et cetera, impeding them from potentially doing their job it’s a harm both to the individual and to the public in a pretty direct way.”

She said Ms. Peck had pointed out that there were instances where someone could be charged with more than one thing. “I think there’s a pretty clear additional value to something that’s specific, whether the working should be tweaked or not to make it clear that this is meant to protect people for not only as individuals but so that they can continue to do their jobs so that we’re not all harmed by these kinds of disruptive harassing actions. I actually think there is value in fleshing out this dimension of the harm and specifying people not only as individuals but as public servants.”

Mr. Kopnicki was concerned about the proposed law’s impact on speech. For example, a person could come to a Council meeting and asks critical and probing questions that might be construed by some as annoying. “Would that kind of speech be subject to this law?” Ms. Morris said it would not. She added that the law had less to do with councilmembers and more with day-to-day people doing their jobs. Mr. Kopnicki pointed out that the law was expanded to include all city officers “and I have to come back to the fact that the occasion of the law seems to have been an event involving speech at a Council meeting and I don’t think that’s what’s intended.” Ms. Morris said the intent was not to impinge on speech. Mr. Kopnicki further questioned whether the law could be applied to a blog in which the blogger or a poster might say something that might be construed as “annoying or harassing on the part of certain city officers.” Ms. Peck said there were clear speech protections in state and federal case law that would not fall under harassment.” Mr. Kopnicki said that should be explicit in any law drafted.

He also felt that the city should lift text verbatim from another municipality’s legislation. Ms. Peck countered that it was a common practice. “No one wants to recreate the wheel when it comes to these things so oftentimes what you will see are municipalities taking other laws and tweaking them for the situations that they want them to address.” She said she looked at Albany’s law and expanded its scope when drafting Hudson’s version.

Ms. Morris asked for a tighter definition of “annoying a city official. Getting annoyed should not be sufficient cause for somebody getting a misdemeanor.” Mr. Rony said the charge would have to be proven in court. Ms. Morris questioned whether someone should have to go to

court to defend themselves for annoying people. Ms. Peck said she could tighten the language so it would be more geared toward impeding official duties.

Resident Matt McGhee feared the potential to dampen speech. “When you apply it to the City Council, this is a chamber where people are supposed to be able to feel that they’re able to speak freely and express their opinions. I think that this would inhibit the freedom of speech that we are guaranteed by the Constitution. I think that including that in it is excessive and goes well beyond normal practice of government. I think our rights should be very clear and very well understood and there shouldn’t be impediments raised to having the ability to speak out and express grievances to your government.”

### **Day Care Locations**

Ms. Morris said an amendment to City Code Chapter 325, Articles III and XIII would add day care facilities as a conditional use in all zoning districts. Day care facilities are not an allowable use in any zoning district. She discussed the possibility of waivers on a case-by-case basis, but Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh said that would be very difficult.

There are two definitions of day care facilities in the state—licensed and legally exempt. The first version of the proposed amendment did not address the exempt facilities, which she said are typically in-home informal situations for up to three children and do not require a license. “They’re a very important part of the day care landscape. Many parents don’t want to put very young children into a formal day care.” She also said that exempt facilities were often less expensive and provided revenue for individuals who chose to operate them.

Ms. Morris had reservations about allowing day care in the R1 zoning district, which is mainly single-family residences. She felt that would have a ripple effect on the entire city. She said her primary concern related to the Fifth Ward in the R2 zoning district. “I’m not sure that we want to say that you can have a commercial day care in the middle of residential.” She recommended that the committee look at R3 and beyond, which would cover most of the city, for licensed facilities and R1 for exempt facilities. “It would ensure that developments would be able to have on-site day care and then you wouldn’t have potential issues with the Fifth Ward area.”

Ms. Belton asked if the reason R2 would not be allowed was due to insufficient outdoor space. Ms. Morris gave an example of a neighborhood of Victorian homes with little outdoor spaces and with valuations not suitable for conversion to a day care facility. However, in the boulevards area there are bigger lots and one-story buildings with more potential for an investor to purchase and use for commercial day care. She felt that could be an issue for neighbors on either side. She wanted to protect against that situation and allow situations like Kearney Development’s proposal for an apartment building with a day care facility at State and Fourth streets.

Mr. Rony said her concern would be taken care of in the intent section of the law by discluding that. Ms. Morris said that as currently framed, her next-door neighbor would not be permitted to take care of two kids because only licensed facilities would be allowed.

Mr. Rony understood her concern about not wanting to live next to a licensed facility “but I don’t know if that’s really a good ruler to judge a situation by when we’re living in such a small city.” He leaned toward the R1 zoning district for both types, saying the potential for a large number of facilities was very limited. Additionally, he said even an approved use would require Planning Board approval “so that would be the checkpoint for that.”

The committee agreed to remain with the R1 zoning district across the board and to add language to ensure that legally exempt day care facilities be added before presentation to the full Council next week.

### **Accessory Units**

Ms. Morris said revisions were being drafted to permit accessory dwelling units. Many older homes in Hudson have a garage with an apartment above. The idea was to make it possible for other properties to do the same. “This is something that a lot of different municipalities are doing to try to address issues of housing shortage and so forth.”

Ms. Peck said any new accessory dwelling unit would have to be built to fire and building codes. Any unit grandfathered would not be required to be brought to code unless substantial modifications were made.

### **Procedures**

Ms. Cousin asked what the next step was for an answer to her query regarding process in regard to meetings of city agencies. She reached out to Hudson Community Development and Planning Agency Attorney Chris Chale but did not get a response. Ms. Morris recommended she speak with Ms. Peck, who is counsel to the Common Council and if needed, City Counsel Andy Howard.

There being no further questions or public comment, Ms. Belton made a motion to adjourn at 6:45 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Rony and approved by all members in attendance.

## **Informal Meeting**

December 9, 2024

In attendance:

Council President Tom DePietro

First Ward Councilmembers Margaret Morris and Gary Purnhagen

Second Ward Councilmember Dewan Sarowar

Third Ward Councilmembers Lola Roberts and Shershah Mizan

Fourth Ward Councilmembers Jennifer Belton and Rich Volo

Fifth Ward Councilmembers Vicky Daskaloudi and Dominic Merante

Fire Chief Shawn Hoffman; Police Chief Mishanda Franklin; Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry; Youth Department Director Liz Yorck; Youth Commissioner Maija Reed; Crystal Peck, Counsel

Absent: Second Ward Councilmember Mohammed Rony, Senior Services Commissioner Nea McKinney

Mr. DePietro called the meeting to order at 6 p.m. at City Hall. It also was conducted via Microsoft Teams and livestreamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

### **Minutes and Communications**

Councilmembers received minutes of special meetings on November 7 and 26, a public hearing on the 2025 budget on November 21, the Informal meeting on November 12, the regular

meeting on November 18, the Finance Committee on November 19, Public Works Board on November 14 and the Ad Hoc Parking Committee on November 26.

## **Department Reports**

### **Fire**

Chief Hoffman reported 32 calls during November. There were two structure fires (one for mutual aid in Greenport and the other on Columbia Street), three motor vehicle accidents, one natural gas leak and one unauthorized burn.

The company that is building a new boat for the department is waiting for a computer chip, which is expected in the next couple of weeks.

Ms. Daskaloudi asked where the two accidents occurred and was told one was at the intersection of Green Street and Fairview Avenue and the other near the Hudson Area Association Library.

Mr. Merante asked if any tickets were issued for the burn, based on the new law regarding fire pits. Chief Hoffman said no ticket was issued. The department tries to educate first but will ticket if there is an ongoing issue.

### **Youth Department**

Ms. Yorck said a Fall Festival was held at the Youth Center for all age groups. Games were played and a meal was enjoyed. Youths had a private screening of *Moana 2* at Spotlight Cinema with discount tickets that included popcorn and lemonade.

A highlight of November programming was skateboarding lessons given by a community member who is part of the youth basketball league. Four or five youths were taken to Oakdale Park a few days a week for the lessons. “It was really great to watch him grow as a teacher He was only 13 and still taking the time to really nurture these kids in their interest and did a great job encouraging and not letting them get frustrated because I don’t know how many of you have stood on a skateboard and tried to get around. It’s not as easy as they make it look,” she said. “It was a really great program, and he wants to come back with us in the spring.”

Other programming was offered by Bindlestiff Cirkus, Art School of Columbia County and the Sylvia Center. The Debate Club continued. One of the recreation attendants who is studying cosmetology showed 10 youths how to make sugar scrubs from ingredients available at a grocery store.

Teen programming included a home cooked Thanksgiving meal that they helped prepare for around 100 people. They also had a ping pong tournament.

Ms. Yorck said registration and attendance figures were on track for the past few years and were about the same as this time last year. Registration will continue throughout the school year.

She addressed questions surrounding the department’s budget. There were increases in two contractual lines in the budget—personal services and food service—and eight lines decreased or stayed the same. Personal services increased due to salary increases. The meal service line is a contract with the Columbia County Recovery Kitchen. “That was budgeted for the most amount of meals we think we’ll buy. We like to come in under budget with that because as you know, we go through our slow seasons and get fewer meals.” She added that paperwork had been submitted to the state for reimbursement for a portion of the food service line.

A breakdown of what was provided by supporters was provided, as was the cost of managing Oakdale Park. That included maintenance of the building, grounds and beachfront, lifeguard salaries and training. Part of the latter is supported by Friends of Hudson Youth.

She also touched on revenue generated by the department. “Obviously we’re never going to be the largest revenue provider in the City of Hudson, but it is something that we think about constantly.” For example, rental fees for use of the center were increased. A large sum of money was provided by the county, specifically for transportation for summer camp. The Hudson City School District provided many free services, such as free use of space for sports programs, as well as use of four classrooms, a cafeteria and a gym for six weeks for summer camp regardless of whether they are used or not. The district could have charged almost \$199,000 for use of the space. “We are looking to partner with other groups. We are looking to get outside resources for that.”

Ms. Yorck said the citizens of Hudson made a decision to invest in the community’s youth. “The community prioritized supporting, protecting and improving the lives of the children from the greater Hudson area because they still value its importance. That’s still the mission of the department today. We’re fortunate that we have the partners that they do that recognize the value of what we’re going and want to support us in that.”

Ms. Belton said the breakdown of the budget provide “how much you care and want us to understand everything that’s going on.” She asked the number of employees in the department. Ms. Yorck said there were about 15 permanent part-time employees and seven or eight full-time employees. All of the full-time non-supervisor positions were unionized and the permanent part-time employees had the option to join the union. “They’re all obviously benefitting and protected by the union whether they join or not.”

Ms. Belton said the department was providing employment and a service not provided by the city—a parks department. Ms. Yorck added that at least 30 more employees were on board for the bike shops, lifeguards and counselors for summer camp. “It’s pretty large personnel and necessary for the services we offer,” she said, and all received extensive training.

Ms. Daskaloudi said she would forward the figures to the county supervisors to make the argument for increased funding.

Mr. Volo asked if there was an overlap between the Youth Department and Department of Public Works (DPW). Ms. Yorck said there was not; for example, her department collected trash and DPW picked it up or, on occasion, would be called to help cut a fallen tree.

Ms. Morris asked for clarification on whether funds from Friends of Hudson Youth and so forth would go directly against the \$800,000 the city budgeted or whether that was separate. Ms. Yorck said it was not taken out; the only money that comes back is for things like food and funds from the county money, which goes toward summer camp personnel.

Ms. Morris said the school district’s contribution was in kind. “Given that the Youth Department’s position is that all children in the school district can use the Youth Department, the least the school can do is actually provide facilities for their own students. It’s not exactly generous.”

## **Police Department**

Chief Franklin said body camera reports indicated there was no need for training. There was one use of force incident in November. There were 16 arrests on 17 charges. Officers handled nine calls for emotionally disturbed persons, no drug overdoses and one motor vehicle

accident involving a pedestrian at State and Carroll streets. Both parties were gone before officers arrived.

Chief Franklin thanked Council President DePietro for support of her department and especially the canine program. “We have had, since May, 22 deployments, which just means that we have been requested to appear at certain events, not just within the city but within the county.” One in particular involved the loss of Greenport Rescue Squad member Steve Walsh. “We were asked by the crisis team to respond with Wrigs (the dog). He did an awesome job and it was very beneficial.”

She confirmed that human remains had been found earlier in the day. The department received a call from the State Police at 11:18 a.m. stating that a survey team for the Mill Street housing project found the remains in a wooded area some 100 to 150 feet to the right of the Empire State Trail. An investigation was under way. She did not know how long the remains had been there.

Mr. Merante asked if there were calls for service at the warming center located at the First Reformed Church. Chief Franklin said there were not many calls there. “They try to keep us out of it unless absolutely necessary, but we are able to go in and do walk-throughs and talk to staff.”

## **Department of Public Works**

### **Sewer**

Mr. Perry reported septage revenue of \$54,430 for October, which was on pace to exceed the annual revenue goal by about \$75,000 if November and December would hold to average.

Three projects were under review for sewer extensions and had paid application fees—Mill Street Lofts, Lil’ Deb’s Oasis at 735 Columbia Street and PBF Hudson.

The survey continued for the first phase of the stormwater separation project. Crews would be seen mostly on Columbia Street between Front and Seventh streets as well as Long and Prison alleys. He anticipated that the survey would be completed in April or May of 2025, then design would begin with the expectation of a bid for the first half to be let at this time next year for construction in the spring of 2026.

### **Water**

The city and Town of Taghkanic have communicated for at least 15 years about a dirt road that runs along the side of the reservoir. The town is abandoning roads that it doesn’t use and the reservoir road between the Taghkanic Churchtown Road and County Route 27 is one of them. The city owns all of the property on either side of the road. “If there is no need for anybody who’s not on city business to take that road. We’ve had issues with people defecating and all sorts of sordid things along the side of it because it has very little traffic.” Temporary road closed signs were put up. Once discussions with the local fire departments about how they would like to have access, permanent gates with keys or another system will be put up.

There was a water main break at Fourth and Columbia streets last week. There were a number of utility conflicts so Premier did the excavation. A wooden water main was found.

### **Land Swap**

Mr. Perry reported that the public and city access the eastern end of Long Alley by crossing lands owned by Galvan. Galvan requested an easement to formalize access. A lot line adjustment was discussed. The city would give Galvan about 500 feet of Long Alley then



improve it to make a formal entrance to the alley. There is a spill area that was closed in 2005 by the state Department of Environmental Conservation that lies within the section of the alley to be transferred, which Galvan agreed to accept transfer of and assume any future liability. The site is at Galvan's Foundry project at the former Van Kleek's Tire building.

### **DPW**

The staff has been busy with seasonal work, including collection of leaves, installation of holiday tree lights and construction of new "no parking" signs. A contingent of volunteers made improvements to one of the buildings in Santa's Village, known as the ornament house.

Damaged conduit was repaired so power could be run to one of the Santa's Village houses in Seventh Street Park. Outlets were repaired on now city-owned electrical infrastructure.

Mr. Perry reported that the waterfront advisory group's contractor would do soil borings next week in and around Rick's Point.

### **DRI**

New catch basins were put in as part of the streetscape project, as well as new curbing. Construction will be suspended next week until spring.

### **Ferry Street Bridge**

A new water man will connect to the existing main on Front Street, replacing one that was abandoned by the city about 25 years ago. It will go toward the Ferry Street bridge. Rebar was installed for both decks. "We ran out of time with the holiday. Amtrak wouldn't allow any work the week of Thanksgiving and after that the weather hasn't really cooperated, so it looks like we're pretty much tabled until next spring.

### **ADA Work**

New sections of sidewalk and some pads were installed at Seventh and Union streets as part of Americans With Disabilities Act compliance.

Ms. Daskaloudi inquired whether a radar sign had been installed on Worth Avenue. Mr. Perry said it was installed. It is solar powered and will take a few weeks to warm up and work well. She asked him to recharge the battery on a similar sign on Parkwood Boulevard.

### **Resolutions**

The following resolutions were laid on councilmembers' desks for consideration at the formal meeting on December 17:

- Appointment of Lyric Falkner, Tracey Roberts and Tyler Halstead as Commissioners of Deeds from January 1, 2025 through December 31, 2026. Introduced by Mr. Mizan and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

- Authorizing the mayor to sign a memorandum of understanding to accept donations to the Youth Department by Friends of Hudson Youth for all of 2025. Introduced by Mr. Sarowar and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

- Authorizing acceptance of up to \$200,000 in donations to the Youth Department by Friends of Hudson Youth during all of 2025. Introduced by Mr. Mizan and seconded by Mr. Sarowar.

- Authorization to accept \$1,101 in donations to the Senior Center. Introduced by Mr. Mizan and seconded by Mr. Volo.

- Authorizing the mayor to sign a lease renewal with PBF Hudson to use a portion of a vacant parcel at 604 Washington Street, across from the Central Fire Station, for parking at a cost of \$13,000 for a year. Introduced by Ms. Daskaloudi and seconded by Mr. Merante.

### **Local Laws**

The following local laws were presented to councilmembers:

- Amendment of Chapter 325, Articles III and XIII of City Code to allow licensed and legally exempt day care facilities as a conditional use in all zoning districts. Introduced by Mr. Sarowar and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

- Amendment of Chapter 188, §188-17 of City Code regarding harassment of city officers and staff. Introduced by Ms. Roberts and seconded by Mr. Mizan.

Mr. Purnhagen asked if he had a responsibility to assist a police officer, if asked, in the midst of a public disturbance. Ms. Peck said the City Code already prohibited interference with official duties. A new subsection states that “no person shall hinder, obstruct or interfere with any city officer in the performance of their duties, nor shall any person willfully refuse or neglect to assist any city officer when lawfully called upon him to do so.” She agreed that there could be a duty provided that the duty was required by law. “There would have to be a legal requirement, like a police officer asking you to step aside or provide information with respect to something.”

Mr. Purnhagen felt that the law was broadly written. Ms. Morris said the Legal Committee, which she chairs, modified some of the original language, specifically regarding the word “annoy,” which was vague. The committee discussed at length that it was not the intent of the language to interfere with free speech, she said, but counsel decided “not to explicitly discuss that we had talked about potentially putting that in here.” Another issue, which she wanted to get Chief Franklin’s take on, was why the law was needed if there was a state law already in place.

Ms. Peck said the law came in as a request to make sure that city employees and those working in various departments had some additional layers of protection. “There are reasons why this is an added layer of protection above and beyond what’s in state law.” For example, under state law several types of harassment situations dealing with city officers, especially those that serve the public, that may not be considered a crime, but a violation. Also, officers may be hesitant to get involved in those situations that would allow for city officers experiencing threatening behaviors or conduct from the public that interferes with their duties to at least call on law enforcement and perhaps even use it as a basis for an order of protection if the conduct rises to that level.

### **Other Business**

Mr. DePietro announced that the last comprehensive plan visioning session would be December 16 at the Spark of Hudson building at Fifth and Union streets between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m. Food and refreshments will be available, and activities will be offered for children. All are invited to drop in and share their thoughts on the process and hear updates on the process.

Ms. Daskaloudi requested that Ms. Peck look into the possibility of a fee on developers that would go into a fund for a parking garage. The two agreed to communicate via telephone.

### **Public Comment**

Resident Ron Kopnicki said he raised questions to the Legal Committee about how the law would reflect on freedom of speech and was told that there were protections in it that did so. “I ask that these be incorporated into the draft of this law, and it be explicit about the law not

applying to speech in public forums or in print. “I’m very disappointed to see that that hasn’t been done.”

Ms. Peck said a variety of protections for free speech were written into the Constitution and case law at the federal and state levels. A law cannot discriminate based on the content of speech with some limited exceptions, such as hate speech, but “a law on its face cannot discriminate on the content of speech. This law doesn’t.” The next question would be whether the law was being unconstitutionally applied. “There’s a lot of case law on this subject and it is a case-by-case circumstance. It is not something that would be appropriate to necessarily write into the law because it is very much a case-by-case scenario for how these laws are applied and that was the reason why additional language was not included in here because those protections are already afforded at the federal and state case law levels.”

Resident Matt McGhee said it was his understanding that the Common Council and other public bodies that have meetings and hearings would be covered by the proposed law as being officers of the city. He was told that was correct.

Mr. McGhee said the proposal could undermine liberties by inhibiting speech. Fear of punishment will be a violation of the First Amendment “by bridging the freedom of speech, of the press and of the right of people to petition government for regressive grievances.” He cited Amendment 14, Section 1 which states that no state shall make or enforce any law that will abridge the privileges or immunities of U.S. citizens or deny any person within jurisdiction equal protection of the laws.

There also are issues with Article 1, Section 9, which states that no bill can be passed that can be construed as denial of civil rights by way of punishment, he said.

“All of these civil liberties protections likely are in danger of being abridged or denied under the proposed law. Just opening up the possibility should be unacceptable,” he said. Article 6 indicates that the Constitution was the supreme law of the land. “We are the great crossroads for our republic. Can constitutional guarantees given to the people, can constitutional government long endure in this nation if we choose not to go out of our way to honor the Constitution? The White House, Congress and Supreme Court are already given over to enemies of the Constitution. Must Hudson take this wrong step away from responsible governance? Surely there are already reasonable ways to respond to the issue at hand. Just saying because laws protecting speech are on the books makes everything okay doesn’t cut it when the proposed law, on the face of it, is in opposition to the laws.”

He said the proposed law should be tabled.

Mr. Kopnicki said that the law, as drafted, would still permit speech to be interpreted as interfering with the performance of an official’s duties and should be clarified. He felt that more discussion was needed as well as a public hearing. The Council should not vote on it at this time of year when many were preoccupied with the holidays. Mr. DePietro said the Council would not vote on the measure this year and that there would be a public hearing.

There being no further public comment, Mr. Purnhagen made a motion to adjourn at 6:59 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Merante and approved by all members in attendance.

## **Finance Committee**

December 17, 2024

In attendance: Councilmember Rich Volo, Chairman; Councilmembers Vicky Daskaloudi and Margaret Morris; Treasurer Heather Campbell  
Absent: Councilmembers Shershah Mizan and Lola Roberts

Chairman Volo called the meeting to order at 5:15 p.m. at City Hall. It was also live streamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom Meetings.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Ms. Campbell reported building and plumbing permits totaled \$218,060 for the year to date, at 89 percent of budget. Last December was a big month, but the amounts vary. "We're at 89 percent of the budget with 90 percent of the year done so that's looking pretty decent."

Ms. Morris asked if the fees were paid by people who were not licensed Hudson plumbers, those that take an exam and are approved by the Board of Plumbers. The Board of Plumbers has not existed for a long time and people have to pay a fee to use an unlicensed city plumber. Ms. Campbell was not familiar with the situation and said she would follow up with Code Enforcement Officer Craig Haigh. Ms. Daskaloudi said that if work was done in the house a city plumber was not needed.

Ms. Campbell reported that on- and off-street parking revenues were at 87 percent of budget. "We did have a a good month last month for the Front Street municipal lot so we're slightly higher than the budget at that point, but that was before the change in the pricing happened so obviously, we're going to be keeping an eye on that."

Revenues from parking and other permits was a little low while parking ticket revenues were on trend. "This is true for plumbing and building permits as well. You can see that the 2025 budget numbers are significantly more aggressive than what we're seeing currently. The building permits increase was because we do have some additional developments happening like the Mill Street Lofts, so that was taken into consideration."

All parking revenues increased with the exception of parking and other permits. The rationale was that there would be more meters when they are placed on Warren Street below Third Street and the possibility of an increase in the amount charged for a parking ticket. Mr. Volo asked if the fund balance would be used if budget was not met. Ms. Campbell explained that the city budgeted to be revenue neutral. Revenues and expenses always match, she said. When revenues are higher the fund balance goes up and vice versa. She said about \$40,000 was added to the fund balance compared to hundreds of thousands in the past "because we're peaking out on all of these new revenue streams that we've been able to benefit from over the last five years. I think 2025 is going to be a tough year to watch. I wouldn't have put anything out there if I didn't think it was at least somewhat achievable. I've been very straightforward in all the budget meetings that I think it's aggressive. We have to all hope that some of this stuff really pans out."

She urged the committee to consider increasing the cost of parking tickets and associated late fees that could be tiered.

Ms. Campbell said there was not much change in taxes except for the lodging tax. The last sales tax payment will not be received until January so it will be a charge back. She believed that cannabis tax revenues would be made quarterly, so that would be another charge back. Mortgage tax was complete for the year and came in slightly ahead of budget. Lodging taxes should be a little higher because part of what is collected in the first three months of the new year will get charged back to 2024 as well. "We won't really know until the end of March what that

number looks like. We can see it looks quite a bit lower versus where we were at 2023 and compared to the budget, and then you can see it looks very low compared to 2025. I think that's one of the most aggressive numbers but having said that, remember there's going to be a one percent increase that takes place." She said it was too late to apply for December, so a March 1 target date was set to tie into a quarterly tax filing cycle.

Ms. Morris asked if that included short-term rentals (STRs). Ms. Campbell said it did but one of the unknowns was the number of STRs that would disappear. "I think you're seeing it already. I think that's why that number has dropped considerably. I don't think we're going to get another \$180,000 just in December. It'll go up beyond the \$380,000 for sure." The city will receive two percent of the cannabis tax. That number was budgeted aggressively for 2025 at \$235,000.

Ms. Campbell said her office would begin implementation of the financial systems upgrade. Numbers for the sidewalk improvement are still outstanding, and officials need to figure out how they're going to get onto the assessment roll and tax bills. Exemptions and challenges also have to be figured out. The county wants a test file by January to make sure it can be entered into the assessment database. The Public Works Board is working with Crawford and Associates on an Excel file.

Ms. Morris asked if a Police Department promotion to captain was included in the 2025 budget. Ms. Campbell suggested she speak to Police Chief Mishanda Franklin.

In response to complaints that budget increases in the past five years were "out of control," Ms. Campbell gave a comparison of the 2020 and 2025 budgets. The city budget was \$14.9 million in 2020 and is now \$19.8 million, an increase of \$4.8 million. She said 81 percent of it is the general fund and the remainder were the cemetery, water and sewer funds, which are all self-funding. Those four funds accounted for more than 75 percent of the increase in that period of time.

Just over three-quarters of the increase in the general fund was from four areas—the Department of Public Works (DPW), benefits, the Police Department and debt service. DPW rose \$925,852 (23 percent), benefits went up \$799,882 (20 percent), police increased \$677,715 (17 percent) and debt service rose \$627,465 (16 percent). When the next four largest departments are added, that now covers 95 percent of the total increase. Those four are interfund transfers, the Youth Department, the Mayor's Office and the library.

Ms. Campbell explained that almost 80 percent of the increase in DPW reflected new state-funded programs—state touring routes and Pave Our Potholes. "It's really budget neutral." The bulk of the other increase was due to person services, like union contracts. "I don't think there's been any significant increase in the number of employees or the pay scales so it's really just contractual increases." Benefits increased \$800,000 in just five years and of that, almost a half million dollars, is the city's mandatory contribution to the police retirement system. In 2020 the total contribution for both retirement systems was about \$810,000; the contribution for just the police retirement system in 2025 is roughly \$825,000. She said that was not due to having more officers. For roughly 26 people, which includes dispatchers, the city paid \$800,000 annually and then for the other 80 some city employees, \$300,000 was paid a year. Mr. Volo asked if any credit was given for the city not using the county's law enforcement services. Ms. Campbell said there was not but there was a bit of money from the Hudson City School District for providing a school resource officer. The Town of Greenport also paid the city for provided court security. "Between those two things, that's 90 percent of the increase in benefits right there so we don't really have any control over that short of reducing the number of people we have and

therefore have to provide health insurance to or renegotiating the costs.” The city has two health care plans, MVP and Empire. The latter costs almost 10 times as much per person as MVP. The city pays more than \$100,000 a month to Empire compared to \$10,000 to \$20,000 to MVP for the same period of time “and there’s far more people on it.”

According to Ms. Campbell, 95 percent of the increase in the Police Department’s budget was for personnel. “You take that and you add the retirement increase in it and there’s over a million dollars right there for just one department.”

Virtually the entire increase in debt service was due to short-term borrowing and very little of that will be converted to long-term borrowing. The short-term borrowing was for projects where money was expended then reimbursement was received, such as the Downtown Revitalization Initiative (DRI). “We have these projects that are going on that we will get reimbursement for, but these are very big dollar infrastructure projects that eventually we will get paid for.” She said the city had to focus on managing the core operational budget.

The problem with short-term borrowing was that only interest had to be paid; once rolled over into a second year, payment had to be made on the principle. The \$3 million complete streets project should be completed in spring or early summer. The city is in discussions with developers about the Dunn warehouse and it appeared that the city might be able to transfer that portion of the DRI grant to them, “which would take the city out of having to manage that.” Because those projects should be done by summer, “ideally when I go out and borrow again, when I’m either shutting down the short-term things or converting them into long-term... some of this will go away. On the other hand, we’re going to have new debt and we’ve been pretty good about trying to hold off doing something until we know this debt service is going away. We’re not going to have quite that luxury because we’re going to have to finance for the new pumper truck, so that’s like a million and a half bucks and there’s nothing to offset that.”

She wrapped up with the top 10 largest account increases that equaled \$3.4 million, or 85 percent of the total increase in the general fund: state touring routes, police personal services, short-term borrowing, police retirement fund, transfer to capital fund, medical insurance, Youth Department personal services, DPW personal services, state retirement for all other employees and the library. A total of \$911,000 of the increase is offset by revenues from STRs and sale of a fire truck. An additional \$613,000 is short-term borrowing.

A lengthy discussion on the fund balance and remaining obligations followed.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:54 p.m.

## **Public Works Board**

December 19, 2024

In attendance: Councilmember Gary Purnhagen, Chairman; Mayoral Aide and ADA Coordinator Justin Weaver; Public Works Commissioner Tyler Kritzman; David Marston; George Kroenert

Mr. Purnhagen opened the meeting at 6 p.m. at City Hall. It was conducted in a hybrid format—in person, via Microsoft Teams and live-streamed on YouTube at Hudson City Zoom meetings.

## ADA Report

Mr. Weaver reported that a walk-through of Front Street was conducted on December 11 with Creighton Manning and Luizzi Companies. Three concrete pours remain on the west side to complete the new sidewalk to the new crosswalk just north of Ferry Street. The asphalt plants shut down as of December 13 so that work is done for this year. All granite curbs on the west side from State Street to Ferry Street were complete. Drainage, curb and sidewalk work on Front at Ferry is to be completed by A. Colarusso and Son in the spring. Items purchased by Luizzi for the Ferry Street bridge will be given to Colarusso and Luizzi will be compensated via field charge payments.

Streetlight foundations with conduits were completed on the west side of Front Street. One existing light pole base was still energized in conflicts and a work order was submitted to National Grid. An existing National Grid pull box will be de-energized and removed. He said Department of Public Works Superintendent Rob Perry will contact the utility to facilitate onsite meetings to de-energize the old light pole base and pole box as soon as possible to allow west sidewalk completion.

Driveway asphalt, concrete curb tie-ins are to be completed. Luizzi will remove existing concrete curbs and will place and compact temporary backfill in all locations. "There's a lot of places where cement should be and because the asphalt companies have shut down, what they decided to do is to fill it with sand, which will get it through the winter. It's a special type of sand so there's not all these gaps where somebody could fall in because there's missing concrete. It will continue to be addressed until all those places that have been identified through the walk-through are going to be filled with something until spring when the concrete companies reopen."

Mr. Weaver said runoff was observed from one of the Hudson Terrace Apartments parking lots. "It was running across new sidewalks at driveway one and two, posing potential maintenance erosion issues. Luizzi was to install erosion control stabilization in those areas."

A damaged curb and sidewalk were found at the northeast corner of State and Front streets and it will be repaired by Luizzi. Warren Street bump-outs drainage and raised Front Street intersection will be completed in the spring. The intersection of Warren and Second streets will also be completed in the spring. Some pavers were cracked and coming out of place at the entrance to Promenade Hill Park, near the Columbia County Chamber of Commerce office. Because it is a high traffic area, contractors wanted to get that work done before the end of the year.

Warren and First Street improvements were reviewed. Temporary handrails at the South Second Street stairs at Allen Street running to Cross Street were discussed. The handrails were not there at the time of the walk-through, but he was assured that they had been installed since then. Permanent handrails are targeted for spring.

Mr. Marston asked if stop signs had been reinstalled at First and Warren streets. The signs were removed and temporary signs on tripods placed in their stead. Mr. Weaver was not sure when they would be reinstalled and noted that Luizzi struggled with deadlines. "We struggled with the intersection for four months to get it done and then they gave us that insane bid on the last round. Luizzi has been an issue all along with their timetables." He was to contact Mr. Perry to see if he had a clear time frame on when the actual signs would be reinstalled, especially with snow removal coming up.

## **New Commissioner**

Mr. Kritzman was introduced as the new Commissioner of Public Works. He is a Hudson native and worked 20 years in facilities. He has two daughters—one in college and the other in elementary school—and has relatives who held elected office in Hudson. His grandfather was an assessor. “I guess it’s just my time to give back now.”

## **Taxation Data**

Mr. Purnhagen reported on a meeting between city and county representatives regarding sidewalk improvement district data needed for the assessment and tax rolls. Ryan Loucks, senior engineer with Crawford and Associates, said dates for receipt of data were discussed, the first in May for the tentative tax roll to be sure that the database he was developing would work for the county. He said the board and city need to make decisions on a couple of parcels. “The city boundary is the biggest piece that we were looking at in our office recently to understand exactly how that’s defined.” For example, there are a number of properties along Fairview Avenue that have no sidewalks while some do. “Where’s the frontage being measured along and things like that? That’s where we’re going to spend 80 percent of our time.”

Mr. Purnhagen said clean data had to be provided in July for the final tax roll. “It seemed like the consensus of everyone was that, thank you Public Works Board. Please provide us a final version of data and the amounts and you take care of the exemptions as well as the credits.”

Mr. Weaver said the city will do the calculations and be responsible for inputting data via Crawford Engineering. It was also suggested that we figure out perhaps a way for people to maybe go on the city website and have a calculator so they can play with the numbers as well, but the data is basically coming from the GIS data that’s already with Real Property. We’ll be going with that to determine frontage fees, but our calculation is going to be based on the formula that has already been put out.”

A process for credits to those who had work done on their sidewalks within the last 10 years still has to be worked out. Members previously discussed having people submit their receipts for the work so they would not be charged the full amount, whether it’s a \$100 or \$200 flat fee. Exemptions and what to deem as an exempt property were a topic at the meeting of city and county representatives. The general consensus was that if a property was already exempt with the county Real Property Office, those sidewalks would be exempt. Mr. Purnhagen said the board will work with Counsel Crystal Peck to offer exemptions to veterans and firefighters. Mr. Weaver said Ms. Peck, who wrote the sidewalk improvement district law, indicated that changes could be made. “We’re going to figure it out together.” The city will use the county’s exemption list, which has 77 veteran exemptions.

Mr. Perry suggested that information about the sidewalk improvement district law and a quick guide be included in water and sewer bills. Mr. Loucks emphasized that nothing would happen until 2026.

Mr. Marston asked if the approach that’s been taken aligned with how an assessor would proceed and whether it would pass legal muster with the state. Mr. Purnhagen answered in the affirmative. “We’re providing a number and they’re looking for that to be after the appeals process and that it be reliable.” Mr. Marston asked if the data was due in July, whether the appeals process would take place before that. Mr. Purnhagen said that was the case. Are we going to ever have to go back out and do measurements? I think that’s where the wiggle room came in because I believe their Grievance Day ... was between May and June.”



Members discussed the grievance process and the need for certified data. Mr. Purnhagen did not feel there should be any fees associated with filing a grievance. He added that the city was not in a position for grievances. “We’re just taking accurate data off of the systems. If you have a problem with that then you go to the county and take care of it. I think we need to definitely get the county’s buy-in. That’s our policy, that we’re leveraging county data. That’s not our business. We’re just using that in our calculation app. I found it very clear that they’re not expecting us to do anything other than the calculation based on the information that they have, and we plug it in and send it to them. They also are looking for a final number in terms of exemptions.”

Members questioned whether the city, in the future, could require contractors to quantify the cost of sidewalk repairs. Submission of a billing statement when a permit was issued was discussed as a possibility. The contractor would be responsible for listing the frontage.

### **Payment Resolution**

Mr. Purnhagen reminded members that it had sent three resolutions to the Common Council—one for work done on Union and Seventh streets, a contract amendment of \$20,000 to complete management of the projects at Cherry Alley and Third Street and Seventh and Union streets and database preparation, and another amendment of \$40,000 for management of the projects slated for Fifth, Sixth and Seventh streets. Another resolution was needed to approve payment of the approved work. All members in attendance agreed.

### **Project Manager’s Report**

Mr. Loucks said a pretty good system was in place for the tax formula and the Excel file was sent to all. “We’ve set this up with a lot of different categories...that I think in the end the Public Works Board is going to need for the long term.” For example, if someone requests an exemption a box can be checked in the file and the formulas will populate themselves. “We’re in a position now where we can finish this. The thought was after today’s meeting was it might be a good idea to submit a section of these that we feel confident with to the county to make sure it plugs into their formula or their system and that they all spit out good answers. As soon as we have the green light on everything going on that piece, we can continue down the path to do every parcel in the city as long as that’s the path everybody wants to go with.”

He did not think there were any changes to the formulas or the way they’re being calculated. However, some questions arose after a closer look, such as the Empire State Trail that runs in front of the Firemen’s Home, Elks Club and High School. That is not a sidewalk. “I’m sure there’s going to be other examples of other unique situations that might need to be discussed on the city level as to how those are managed. But for now we will start with the first step, getting in touch with Real Property again, giving them a small section as a test and then hopefully they can tell us in a couple days or a day or two that that works for their system. We just need to know which of the criteria of pieces they need. I’m assuming it’s going to be tax ID numbers and maybe something else. They may need an address or something.”

The only category that his office had been manually entering and checking is the sidewalk frontage. When the number is entered the built-in formula shows what the charge will be. “The only piece that we’ve been working on and confirming again is the square footage, just making sure those line up.”

Mr. Loucks reported that preliminary site work was done for the Fifth, Sixth and Seventh streets project to identify areas on the list to be worked on. The work will follow the intersections

along all three streets going to municipal properties such as the library, Oakdale and Building Department at the central fire station. Not every intersection has work scheduled on all four corners. For example, Union and Seventh streets had work done on all but the west side.

The goal is to prepare a bid package in the next month or two. Common Council approval is needed. “We’d love to bid this project in the winter to get the best pricing so that a contractor can start the spring with a project.” There will be a base project of a few intersections, probably all of Fifth Street, and then Crawford will give alternates to add in for Sixth and Seventh streets to build the biggest project that funds will allow. “Hopefully by then we will also have a first round of the tax assessment formula together and you’ll have an idea of how much money that first round will be bringing in.”

He said the city would have a number at the end of this assessment period, which would provide the yearly income would be from the fund. “That could help gauge how much work we can take on each year without dipping into other funds. That will give you a good balance of how much work you can actually see yourself doing in the next year or coming years. The public would know that as well.”

Jumping ahead, Mr. Purnhagen asked if Warren Street was the next logical street to tackle after Fifth, Sixth and Seventh. Mr. Weaver believed that to be so because Warren was the most traveled street. “I think that’s something that we would have to decide upon as a board and figure out if we’re on the right path here with what we’ve already done and going forward with the intersections leading to the rest of the municipal locations in the city. From that point probably Warren Street and continue to follow the Department of Justice’s guides. Then I guess the next question would be which end of Warren Street do we start with. We’ll have to figure that out quick.”

### **Meeting Date Change**

To accommodate payments to Crawford and others, the board decided to move its meeting prior to the Common Council’s monthly meeting. Starting in January, meetings will be on the first Thursday of each month at 6 p.m. at City Hall.

### **Other Business**

Mr. Marston asked about the pads installed at the Youth Center and Cherry Alley. They are plastic and drilled in, while those everywhere else are a kind of hardened rubber that are set in. He wondered if the city went with a cheaper option or if there was no choice. Mr. Loucks said the contractor had a lead time issue with the hardened rubber pads. Mr. Perry had some of the plastic pads on hand that were traded out. Mr. Marston said he wanted to make sure that the best materials were used for the cost. “I’m not sure those plastic ones will last but I’m not an expert in that stuff.” Mr. Loucks said that when Precision Safe Sidewalks LLC came through and did cutting, DPW went out and installed those over all the ramps on Warren Street “so those are the same...as those that are at Third and Cherry Alley. Unless there’s a different box that DPW has, the same material should have been provided to the contractor.”

Mr. Weaver said a few corners needed asphalt around the curbs to balance out the levels and one was already cracking.

There being no further questions and no public comment, Mr. Marston made a motion to adjourn at 6:52 p.m., which was seconded by Mr. Weaver and approved by all members in attendance.

Carried.

**Communications.**

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Morris**, the following communications were ordered received and placed on file:

- 1) Tracy Delaney, City Clerk submitting the Record of Annual Completion of Training Report for the members of the Planning Board and the Zoning Board of Appeals for the year 2024 pursuant to Resolution No. 5 of October 17, 2017.
- 2) HPD Section 9 Data Reporting – December 2024.
- 3) HPD BWC Weekly Report Findings – December 2024
- 4) HPD Quarterly Vehicle & Traffic Report – October 1, 2024 - December 31, 2024.

Carried.

**Resolutions.**

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 1 January 21, 2025**

**RESOLVED**, that the following be and hereby are appointed Commissioners of Deeds in and for the City of Hudson, County of Columbia, for the following terms:

**February 1, 2025 through January 31, 2027**

Nicolas Pierro 12 Paddock Pl, Hudson, NY  
 Heather L. Dianda 402 Joslen Blvd, Hudson, NY  
 Peter Merante 50 Kipp Lane, Lot 31, Hudson, NY  
 Kimberly Gaylord 22 Hover Road, Claverack, NY  
 Kimberley Engel 23 VanTassell Manor/PO Box 323, Ghent, NY

**Work**  
 701A Union Street  
 560 Warren Street  
 77 N. 7<sup>th</sup> Street  
 520 Warren Street  
 401 State Street

**March 1, 2025 through February 28, 2027**

Richard Scalera 13 Michael Court, Hudson, NY

**Work**  
 401 State Street

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 2 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION RE-APPOINTING DAVID MARSTON TO THE PUBLIC WORKS BOARD**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article XXII of the City Charter there is a Public Works Board comprised of five members, one of whom is a member of the community appointed by the Common Council;

**NOW, THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED**, that David Marston is hereby re-appointed to the Public Works Board, for a term ending on December 31, 2025.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Volo**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 3 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION TO ACCEPT DONATIONS ON BEHALF OF THE HUDSON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson Fire Department has received checks from Liberty Elks 1545 in the amount of \$150.00 and Orpheo LLC in the amount of \$50.00; and

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, the City Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to accept those funds.

\$200.00	Increase Revenue:	A.2705	Grants, non-budgeted	
	Increase Expenditure:	A.3410.52	Misc. Firehouse Donations	\$200.00

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 4 JANUARY 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE A BUDGET TRANSFER TO COVER EMPLOYER-PAID HEALTHCARE AND HEALTHCARE DEDUCTIBLES**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson provides a high-deductible health care plan through MVP and as part of the plan covers employees’ deductibles in full (HRA); and

**WHEREAS**, the projected hospitalization expenditures for 2024 exceeds the amount budgeted in the Water fund; and

**WHEREAS**, the projected HRA expenditures for 2024 exceeds the amount budgeted in the Sewer fund; and

**WHEREAS**, there are available funds elsewhere in each fund’s budgets;

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following budget transfers for FY2024:

\$2,900	TO: F.9060.0800	Water-Hospitalization
	FROM: F.9060.0800.0100	Water-HRA Reimbursement
\$7,750	TO: G.9060.0800.0100	Sewer-HRA Reimbursement
	FROM: G.9060.0800	Sewer-Hospitalization

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 5 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO COVER MATERIALS & SUPPLIES FOR VITAL STATISTICS**

**WHEREAS**, the department of Vital Statistics made a request for funding for Other Expenses in the 2025 budget request for necessary materials and supplies, and

**WHEREAS**, this request was missed during the 2025 budget process,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to make the following 2025 budget amendment:

\$1,600	INCREASE:	A.4020.0460	Vital Statistics Other Expense
		A.0000.1001.0200	Use of Fund Balance

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 6 January 21, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, as part of the collaboration between the Friends of Hudson Youth (FOHY) and the Youth Department, FOHY makes donations both for the current operating year and in advance for the express purpose of providing available funds as early as possible in the next fiscal year (Designated Funds), and

**WHEREAS**, there are existing Designated Funds intended for FY 2025,

**NOW BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized and directed to set aside \$46,741.52 as Assigned Unappropriated Funds in 2024 budget and to appropriate the same to the 2025 budget.

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Rony**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 7 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT TO COVER THE 2024 EXPENSES OF THE COUNSEL TO THE COMMON COUNCIL**

**WHEREAS**, the city has occurred greater expenses in 2024 for services provided by the legal counsel to the Common Counsel than the amount budgeted, and

**WHEREAS**, there are funds available elsewhere in the 2024 budget,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to make the following budget transfer:

4,725	TO: A.1010.0480.0100	Council Counsel
	FROM: A.1420.0460	Attorney Fees

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 8 would authorize the Mayor to execute an Addendum to a Lease Agreement to the Commercial Lease Agreement relative to the redevelopment of the Dunn Warehouse.

**Councilmember Morris** stated there were three major changes including an extension from thirty to thirty-nine years, a delay of the period of paying rent and the swimming pool and she said “much of the language relating to the swimming pool is should the city and the tenant come to an agreement then whatever and the city, I think will be responsible for the lifeguards and so on, I think that there is too much unknown about the city’s financial exposure in what that might be down the road and we’re talking about a forty year lease”. She said “having an amendment where we change the length and the rental period, fine but until it’s actually a worked-out agreement about the finances, who’s going to do maintenance, what the actual costs and exposure financially to the city is in regard to that, I would prefer to see that language removed” and she said “we did get an answer to the increase, annual increase in insurance to the city, we didn’t know that last month, it is eighteen hundred because all of our insurance is bundled”. Councilmember Morris said “I just think there’s too much out there that is not yet determined, whether or not one thinks a swimming pool in that area is a good idea or a bad idea, I would be much more comfortable not having the swimming pool language in there” and she said “I really would like to see this resolution passing so that we can move forward with the Dunn Warehouse agreement because I think, that group is a very good group and they really understand the mission of connecting the warehouse to the city”.

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “I feel that it’s a great project, we have to move forward but the entire pool, it can be a lot of extra costs for taxpayers and although it seems just hiring a couple lifeguards and the insurance you know, it’s one thing but there’s a lot more other costs behind it, with maintenance, with repairs and it needs to be either remove the paragraph or make some changes”.

**Councilmember Volo** said “having a pool down there by the Dunn Warehouse, it’s in a flood plain, the area already floods” and he said “climate change is real, sorry and it’s not going to get any better any time soon, folks.”

**President DePietro** said “I understand what you’re all saying but it doesn’t really make any sense in terms of what’s actually here in this lease where it says lessor and lessee shall collectively agree to pursue the development of a public pool, should the parties agree to the development of a public pool, the funding shall not be with the senior construction loan but rather funded through NY SWIMS” and he said “there’s no obligation for a pool here, I just don’t understand what you’re talking about”.

**Councilmember Morris** said “just take it out and then if down the road there is, a plan comes to fruition where we actually have financial figures and a plan, we can then bring it to the council for approval” and she said “my concern is, if we sign off on this and say you know, we agree with this amendment that this pool agreement could be worked out without ever coming back to the council for approval”.

**President DePietro** said “that’s not possible at all.”

**Councilmember Sarowar** questioned what expenses would be covered by the SWIMS Grant.

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “construction of the pool.”

**Councilmember Volo** said “that’s not for the maintenance.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “it’s not going to pay for ongoing costs.”

**Councilmember Merante** stated the DPW Superintendent Robert Perry Jr. had mentioned previously that the excavation for a pool could not be completed without permission from National Grid and NYSDEC and he said “I called Troy, Troy has just done their new pool and you know, their maintenance costs is, that’s not a DPW thing, it’s a third-party maintenance cost that could run from eighty to a hundred fifty thousand dollars per year”. He said “I think that there’s some validity behind, we don’t know what the cost is going to be, one it says fundraising, well who’s going to fundraise right, because we can’t fundraise so is that more grants that we’re going to go after and a lot of grants is not going to cover future maintenance right, they’re going to cover construction” and he said “this is going to cost, probably I would be very surprised if it doesn’t cost a million and a half by the time this is all done”.

**President DePietro** asked “can we just move right ahead and cut the pool from this”?

**Councilmember Rony** said “this is just saying we are pursuing the development of a pool; it doesn’t tie our hands to any agreements as far as are we going to do a pool or not, we’re just pursuing the development of a pool that is independently funded through the SWIMS Program.”

**Sean Roland of Dunn and Done LLC** said “we are fine with removing it, the reason it was in there in the first place was because we were pursuing together with the Mayor’s Office the collective development of the site” and he said “language in there is meant to be collaborative in that we wanted to ensure that the city was going to be an active participant in the conversations and the development opportunity that you know, we assisted them with applying for an eight hundred thousand dollar grant which is a great thing”. He said “all the councilmembers have great points, it doesn’t actually have a business impact on what you are voting on whether it’s there or not so like to move it along, let’s take it out.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “and then down the road we can continue to have the conversations and see what’s feasible.”

On motion of **Councilmember Daskaloudi**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, Section 11B of the Addendum to Commercial Lease Agreement was ordered removed by the following vote:

Ayes: Councilmember Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.



Prior to voting “aye”, **Councilmember Rony** said “I want to ensure that this vote does not impact that you know, the desire of the people on the council to not pursue this pool, I think it would be, if it’s feasible, something that can be done, it would be great for the city to have”.

**Councilmember Volo**, prior to voting, said “relation to that yea, I mean I say take this out now, do the investigations to see if a pool is even possible and you can always come back with another resolution that says ok, yea we can do the pool and it’s going to cost x, y, z and then we’ll see if it’s extra real but I’m afraid of like what Margaret said, saying yes to this and maybe we don’t see it again, maybe it doesn’t come back to us so, that’s what happened on Mill Street, we saw the property and then we didn’t see the legislation again so, aye, take it out”.

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution, with amended agreement annexed, was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 8 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE AN ADDENDUM TO A LEASE AGREEMENT TO THE COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT RELATIVE TO THE REDEVELOPMENT OF THE DUNN WAREHOUSE**

**WHEREAS**, on August 1, 2017, Governor Andrew Cuomo announced that the City of Hudson was a Round 2 DRI winner, receiving \$10,000,000 of investments in Hudson’s BRIDGE district; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson created the Local Planning Commission (“LPC”) comprised of 23 local business people and citizens, officials from NYS ESDC, NYS DOS, NYS OCR, as well as a national planning firm which evaluated dozens of projects; and

**WHEREAS**, the culmination of the efforts of the LPC resulted in five (5) municipal projects being designated to receive DRI funding which included the Structural Rehab of the Dunn Building for future re-use; and

**WHEREAS**, following a Request for Proposals, in October 2023 by Resolution No. \_ the Common Council approved the proposal submitted CGS Group LLC for the rehabilitation and use of the Dunn Building and authorized the Mayor to enter into an Agreement for same; and

**WHEREAS**, on March 13, 2024 said Agreement was entered into which allowed for a 90-day due diligence period to update the construction budget and allow the City to review further developed plans to ensure alignments between the two parties; and

**WHEREAS**, as a result of said due diligence period certain amendments to the Agreement entered into on March 13, 2024 are now required with the particulars of same set forth in the Addendum annexed to this Resolution;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Mayor is hereby authorized to executed an Addendum to Commercial Lease Agreement subject to review by the City’s corporation counsel.

**ADDENDUM TO COMMERCIAL LEASE AGREEMENT**

This Addendum (“Addendum”) is made this \_\_\_\_\_ day of December, 2024, by and between City of Hudson, a municipal corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the State of New York, with a principal place of business located at 520 Warren Street, Hudson, New York 12534 (“Lessor”) and Dunn and Done, LLC, a New York limited liability company, with a principal place of business located at 34 Allen Street, Hudson, New York 12534 (“Lessee”) to the Commercial Lease Agreement entered into by the Lessor and Lessee dated as of March 13, 2024 (the “Lease”) to amend certain terms and conditions of the Lease.

All terms not defined herein shall have the meanings ascribed to them in the Lease.

The following sections of the Lease are hereby modified and replaced as follows:

2. Term. (a) The term of the Lease shall be for thirty-nine (39) years (the “Term”) commencing on the date construction is completed and the Lessee receives a certificate of occupancy for the Lessee’s Permitted Use of the Premises as defined below (the “Commencement Date”) and ending on the earlier of thirty-nine (39) years from the Commencement Date or December 31, 2065 (the “Expiration Date”).

3. Rent. (a) Commencing on \_\_\_\_\_ day of November 2027, Lessee hereby covenants and agrees to pay to Lessor, ...

4. Deposit. The Lessee shall deposit Thirty-Five Thousand and 00/100 (\$35,000.00) Dollars (equal to one (1) year’s Rent) with Lessor, which shall be deposited in an interest-bearing account (the “Deposit”). The Deposit is made pursuant to Section 3 above to cover the first twelve (12) months of Rent and is refundable should the Lessee be unable to obtain the necessary permits for the Premises and/or Permitted Use.

5. Use of Premises. The Lessee may use the Premises as a mixed-use commercial building, including but not limited to retail commercial spaces, food & beverage space, event space and an outdoor pool/recreation area (collectively “Permitted Use”). The Lessee shall comply with all present and future laws or ordinances applicable to the Premises and the operation of the Lessee’s business conducted thereon. The Lessee shall not commit or suffer waste on the Premises or use or permit anything on the Premises which may be illegal, or constitute a public nuisance, or invalidate Lessor’s property insurance. It is understood and agreed that should Lessee be unable to obtain the necessary permits for the Permitted Use, then the Lessee shall be entitled to a refund of the Deposit less any Rent that is due Lessor up to the date of any denial and terminate the Lease. Further, should the City of Hudson Planning Board impose a parking requirement on the Lessee, the Lessee shall have the option to terminate the Lease and demand the return of the Deposit less any Rent.

11A. Waterfront Re-development . No later than September December 30, 2024, Lessor shall advise Lessee, as a partner and key stakeholder in the Development of the waterfront, about any plans for re-development of the Waterfront

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11A. Waterfront Re-development . No later than September December 30, 2024, Lessor shall advise Lessee, as a partner and key stakeholder in the Development of the waterfront, about any plans for re-development of the Waterfront

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This Addendum is hereby made a part of the Lease and Lessor and Lessee have agreed to the modifications.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, each party has executed or cause to be executed by a duly authorized officer, this Addendum as of the date set forth below.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**LESSOR:**

**CITY OF HUDSON**

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kamal Johnson, Mayor

**LESSEE:**

**DUNN AND DONE, LLC**

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
Gabriel Katz, Member

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Volo**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 9 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL FUND FOR THE INSTALLATION OF EV CHARGING STATIONS FUNDED BY A NYSERDA GRANT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson has been awarded a \$75,000 grant from NYSERDA for the installation of Electric Vehicle charging stations, and

**WHEREAS**, this grant is provided on a reimbursable basis, requiring the city to provide project funds up front, and

**WHEREAS**, the city expects to begin work on this project in the immediate future, and requires an interfund loan to provide the necessary cash flow,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Treasurer is directed to execute an interfund loan from the General Fund to the Capital Fund – Other of up to \$75,000.

The Treasurer’s Office is directed to ensure that the loans from the General Fund are paid back by the Capital Fund as soon as the Treasurer’s office has grant reimbursement funds.

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 10 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE TRANSFER OF FUNDS TO COVER 2024 POLICE DEPARTMENT PERSONAL SERVICES EXPENDITURES**

**WHEREAS**, there are insufficient funds in the Police Department Personal Services account, but available funds elsewhere,

**WHEREAS**, there were funds included in the 2024 Contingency Fund budget to cover the accruals of an Officer payable upon retirement, and said Officer did retire in 2024,

**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is authorized to make the following 2024 budget transfer:

51,825.16	TO:	A.1320.0100	HPD Personal Services
	FROM:	A.1990.0400	Contingency
3,999.03	TO:	A.1320.0100	HPD Personal Services
	FROM:	A.3120.0470	HPD Contracts

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 11 January 21, 2025**

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Article XXXIII of the City Charter and General Municipal Law §239-x, there has been a Conservation Advisory Council whose members are named by the Common Council,

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that Danielle Bissett shall be appointed as a new member to the Conservation Advisory Council for a term ending on December 31, 2026; and

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the following shall be re-appointed to the Conservation Advisory Council, for a term ending on December 31, 2026:

Rich Volo  
Joshua Cohen

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 12 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET TRANSFER FOR THE POLICE DEPARTMENT**

**WHEREAS**, The Hudson Police Department has insufficient funds in their equipment line to purchase a suitable replacement for a 2017 Ford Police Interceptor vehicle that was totaled during an incident on December 5, 2024, and

**WHEREAS**, The City of Hudson received an insurance payout for the replacement value of a new vehicle, minus the City’s Insurance deductible,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to make the following 2024 budget adjustments as follows for the Police Department:

\$42,364.96	Increase:	A.0093	Passthrough
\$42,364.96	Increase:	A.3120.0400	Police-Equipment
\$1,000.00	Decrease:	A.3120.0400	Police Materials and Supplies
\$1,000.00	Increase:	A.3120.0200	Police-Equipment

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 13 would appoint T. Randall Martin to the Industrial Development Agency to serve in lieu of the Planning Board Chair.

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** questioned if Mr. Martin could remain a member of the Planning Board.

**President DePietro** said “yes, he is” and he said “I assume he couldn’t but it’s really only councilmembers who are not allowed to be members of the Planning Board.”

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** asked “right now he’s on IDA, Planning and the Supervisors,’ correct”?

**President DePietro** said “yup.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “the IDA is made up of *ex officio* people so the Chair of the Planning Board serves on the IDA but can designate a member of the Planning Board in their step so he had served on the IDA and worked on the Planning Board.”

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 13 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION APPOINTING T. RANDALL MARTIN TO  
THE HUDSON INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**

**WHEREAS**, Chapter 677 of the laws of 1975 established the Hudson Industrial Development Agency; and

**WHEREAS**, the General Municipal Law of the State of New York requires the governing body of the City of Hudson to appoint Board Members of such agency; and

**WHEREAS**, pursuant to Resolution No. 9 of September 16, 1975, the procedure for the appointment of Board Members of the Hudson Industrial Development Agency was established, and

**WHEREAS**, the procedure for the appointment of Board Members was last amended by Resolution No. 4 of June 20, 2017; and

**WHEREAS**, by Resolution No. 11 of January 17, 2023, T. Randall Martin was appointed to the Hudson Industrial Development Agency by virtue of his position as a member of the Planning Board; and

**WHEREAS**, T. Randall Martin is currently a member of the City Planning Board and has expressed his willingness to continue to serve on the board of the Hudson Industrial Development Agency;

**NOW THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED** that T. Randall Martin is hereby appointed as a member of the Board of Directors of the Hudson Industrial Development Agency to serve as City Planning Board delegate to the Agency and to serve until December 31, 2025.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 14 January 21, 2025**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is hereby authorized to make the following transfers within the Fire Department Accounts for FY2024:

\$215.39	From:	A.3410.0100	Fire Dept – Personal Services
	To:	A.3410.0450	Maintenance & Repairs of Equipment
\$287.15	From:	A.3410.0400	Materials & Supplies
	To:	A.3410.0450	Maintenance & Repairs of Equipment
\$1,463.47	From:	A.3410.0410	Printing & Advertising
	To:	A.3410.0450	Maintenance & Repairs of Equipment
\$134.93	From:	A.3410.0440	Training
	To:	A.3410.0450	Maintenance & Repairs of Equipment
\$823.79	From:	A.3410.0490	Annual Inspection
	To:	A.3410.0450	Maintenance & Repairs of Equipment
\$2,981.58	From:	A.3410.0420	Telephone & Travel
	To:	A.3410.0430	Maintenance & Repairs of Buildings
\$2,798.71	From:	A.3410.0460	Pagers
	To:	A.3410.0430	Maintenance & Repairs of Buildings
\$7,811.88	From:	A.3410.0480	Fuel & Lights
	To:	A.3410.0430	Maintenance & Repairs of Buildings
\$5,430.80	From:	A.3410.0100	Fire Dept. – Personal Services
	To:	A.3410.0430	Maintenance & Repairs of Buildings

To cover shortage in Fire Department accounts.

**Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment.**

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.



**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 15 would authorize a 2024 budget amendment to cover 2021-2024 senior center proportional share of utilities expense and he said “apparently, we were just not billed for this, for those years and suddenly the landlord....”

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “they have a mistake thought, there’s an extra zero.”

**President DePietro** said “yea, that last zero.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “how did this happen”?

**President DePietro** said “T.R. Galloway did not bill us for three years and now they want to be paid all at once.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “do they have documentation of what it should be”?

**President DePietro** said “unfortunately yes.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “is it based on usage”?

**President DePietro** said “it’s the way it’s been determined up to now you know, the original agreement.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “did the senior center not notice that they weren’t getting billed”?

**Councilmember Merante** stated the Commissioner of the Senior Services has not provided reports to the councilmembers; has not attended Board of Estimate and Apportionment meetings; and the clerk has not submitted the invoices for payment and he said “I don’t know if you guys know but the county is back at the senior center and that the condition of the senior center when the county came back in had to be cleaned because it was disgusting”. He asked “where’s the oversight at the senior center, what is the staff doing if they’re working a 40-hour a week job” and he asked “who the hell signed this damn lease because who pays for combined, in a common area where the library is opened twenty-five, thirty more hours than the senior center weekly, what is the breakdown of this agreement”? Councilmember Merante said “we need to sit back and see about re-negotiating this” and he asked “how can we budget something we can’t control”?

**Councilmember Morris** said “I think we need to see more documentation on the actual detail of the charges.”

**Heather Campbell, City Treasurer** stated she had prepared the resolution on behalf of the Mayor’s Office and she said “all I can tell you about this is that was the agreement that was written into the agreement that we entered into back in 2011 or 2013 or something like that”. She said “my understanding is that those invoices were all issued to the senior center email account and for some reason they were not paid during that period of time” and she said “I cannot give you any more insight as to why or how that happened but that is, like I said, when

we discovered this when the Mayor's Office was notified of this from Galvan at the middle of last week, they came down and met with me in my office to write the resolution on their behalf".

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** asked "do you have access to that lease"?

**Treasurer Campbell** said "that would be with the Clerk's Office."

**Tracy Delaney, City Clerk** stated she would provide the councilmembers with a copy of the lease agreement.

**Councilmember Morris** asked "could we also have copies of the invoices that were sent and never paid"?

**President DePietro** said "I think we should delay this whole resolution."

**Councilmember Purnhagen** asked "should there be a line item in the budget for this"?

**Treasurer Campbell** said "there has been a line item in the budget for utility expense every time the senior center budget was put in and we did, in fact I believe in the last go round of the budget meetings, we all commented that, that number had been coming in quite a bit lighter than had been budgeted for the last few years, we were not given a reason why that was the case and I think we actually had even reduced it in the 2025 budget based on the trends, not knowing these invoices were outstanding".

**Councilmember Merante** asked "on a weekly basis, right, how many invoices come through from the senior center"?

**Treasurer Campbell** said "I don't know for sure; I would guess some where in the range of five."

**Councilmember Merante** asked "where is the oversight at the senior center" and he said "we have cleaning crew, a cleaner that goes there but if the county is saying they had to go in and have a re-clean, what is the cleaner then doing"? He said "I think there needs to be a real good look at what the oversight is at the senior center, now that we're talking about finances and things like that, that's an issue."

**President DePietro** said "what I'm going to propose is that we table this until we get more information and an appearance by the Commissioner at our next meeting."

On motion of **Councilmember Rony**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, Proposed Resolution No. 15 was ordered tabled. Carried.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Purnhagen**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 16 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A BUDGET AMENDMENT  
TO COVER 2024 PAYROLL EXPENSE**

**WHEREAS**, after calculating payroll chargebacks, there are insufficient remaining funds in several 2024 personal services accounts, and

**WHEREAS**, there are available funds elsewhere in the 2024 budget,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to make the following budget transfers:

130	TO: A.1210.0100	Mayor Personal Services
2330	TO: A.1210.0130	Housing Justice Personal Services
6152	TO: A.1325.0100	Treasury Personal Services
82	TO: A.1355.0100	Assessment Personal Services
895	TO: A.1410.0100	City Clerk Personal Services
70	TO: A.4020.0100	Registrar Personal Services
9,659	FROM: A.9060.0800	Hospitalization

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 17 January 21, 2024**

**RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer be and hereby is authorized and directed to transfer funds to the following 2024 budget accounts within the Public Works Department:

DPW

\$9,000	From: 8160.46 A – Refuse – Tipping Fees
\$2,000	To: 1620.1 A – Buildings – Personal Services
7,000	To: 5110.43 A – Street Maintenance – Materials & Supplies
\$6,000	From: 5182.46 A – Street Lighting – Lighting Expense
\$5,000	To: 5110.43 A – Street Maintenance – DPW Garage
1,000	To: 5110.45 A – Street Maintenance – Maintenance of Equipment

CEMETERY

\$4,000	From 9060.8 C – Cemeteries - Hospitalization
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\$1,000	To: 8810.1 C – Cemeteries – Personal Services
1,500	To: 8810.4 C – Cemeteries – Materials & Supplies
500	To: 8110.45 C – Cemeteries – Maintenance of Equipment
1,000	To: 8810.46 C – Cemeteries – Other Expense

WATER

\$12,000	From: 1950.4 F – Water Administration - Taxes
\$12,000	To: 8330.1 F – Water Purification – Personal Services
\$4,000	From: 8320.2 F – Supply - Equipment
4,000	To: 8330.4 F – Water Purification – Materials & Supplies
\$3,500	From: 8310.47 F – Water Administration – Professional Services
3,500	To: 8330.48 F – Water Purification – Power/Energy

SEWER

\$38,500	From Sewer Fund Balance
\$1,000	To: 8130.1 G – Sewage Treatment – Personal Services
30,000	To: 8130.4 G – Sewage Treatment – Materials & Supplies
7,500	To: 8130.45 G – Sewage Treatment – Maintenance of Equipment

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 18 would authorize the Mayor to execute a license agreement with Hudson Sloop Club, Inc.

**Councilmember Volo** said “basically it’s an in-kind transfer, eight thousand dollars, and then they collect the dock fees” and he asked “do we know how much money they’re collecting in dock fees.”

**President DePietro** said “I think the full report was submitted.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “it’s unclear how does the money flows from the Sloop Club to the City in dock fees and how much we’re getting.”

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Merante**, Proposed Resolution No. 18 was ordered tabled. Carried.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 19 approving the 2025 fee schedule for the dock space would be held as well.

**Councilmember Merante** stated the early the information would be available, the quicker the matter could be resolved and he said “we don’t want to hold them up either on their side of it because they start early May.”

**Councilmember Volo** asked “a boat comes, they want to dock ok so what actually happens”?

**President DePietro** said “signs are there on how to contact them.”

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Rony**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 20 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION ENDORSING KITE’S NEST APPLICATION FOR A NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION’S COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION CENTER GRANT**

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest has provided high-quality creative educational programming to children and teenagers in the Hudson area for twelve years, supporting youth to engage in environmental justice, regenerative agriculture, and ecological stewardship education;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest has provided meaningful job training and employment opportunities for youth in Hudson in the areas of education, urban agriculture, environmental justice, arts and civic engagement;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest has run key environmental justice initiatives, including the River City Garden, a public community garden serving 40 low-income families in the 2nd Ward; a youth run, city-wide compost program; and a youth-run commercial and educational greenhouse;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest has worked in close partnership with local youth organizations and community organizations to deliver environmental education and build community-based solutions around issues of environmental and food justice, including Sweet Freedom Farm, JAM Collective, the Radix Ecological Sustainability Center, Columbia Land Conservancy, Long Table Harvest, among many others;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest has served as a vital resource for youth and families in Hudson since 2013, has led advocacy efforts for equitable and family-centered development in our community, and has built a deep network of support from across Hudson’s diverse communities;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest is the owner of the properties at 57-59 North Front and Dock Streets, and is transforming the formerly-industrial site located in a NYSERDA identified Disadvantaged Community and NYSDEC potential environmental justice area into an ecological campus with

an educational facility, community event space, urban garden and greenhouse, and publicly accessible outdoor areas for gathering and play;

WHEREAS, Kite’s Nest is applying to the DEC for grant funding to construct an educational facility and publicly accessible community campus located at the corner of North Front and Dock Streets, a site located within the territorial jurisdiction of this Council; and

WHEREAS, said not-for-profit corporation sought support from the Members of the Common Council of the City of Hudson;

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED by the Members of the Common Council of the City of Hudson, New York that the application of Kite’s Nest for grant through the Community Environmental Education Center program for the ReGeneration Capital Project which is located within this community is hereby endorsed.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 21 would authorize the Mayor to apply for and receive funding under the 2024 NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access Program.

**Gail Wittwer-Laird of Starr Whitehouse Landscape Architects and Planners, PLLC** said “when we finalized the report for Furgary we did a page on next steps and funding sources and we found a Hudson River Estuary Grant that is specifically for river access for projects in the flood plain and for creation of accessible waterfront spaces so we think that Furgary park site is a perfect candidate for this grant and so we’re just assisting the city pro bono to assemble the grant application with LaBerge which has the on-call contract with the city for grant writing”. Ms. Wittwer-Laird said “the grant could be up to two hundred thousand and it requires a thirty percent match, we think that the grant should be approximately a hundred forty-five thousand with a hundred and ten from DEC with a thirty-five-thousand-dollar match from the city would be required in July.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “the fact that we are applying does not commit us at this point to the match, we can look at that if and when we are successful in the grant, correct?”

**Ms. Wittwer-Laird** said “correct” and she said “the grant would be announced, it’s due actually January 31<sup>st</sup> and the announcements are made in May”.

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Rony**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 21 JANUARY 21, 2025**

**CITY OF HUDSON**

**RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR AND RECEIVE  
FUNDING UNDER THE 2024 NYSDEC HUDSON RIVER ESTUARY GRANT FOR  
RIVER ACCESS PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The Hudson River Estuary Program offers grants to municipalities and nonprofits located within the Estuary Watershed Boundaries to help communities improve water quality, adapt to climate change, enhance environmental education, and advance stewardship of habitat and natural resources.; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson Common Council (hereafter “Council”), after due consideration, has determined that it is desirable and in the public interest to submit an application to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) for a 2024 Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access Program grant for the Furgary Fishing Village Planning Project; and

**WHEREAS**, the grant funding will assist in the completion of a full project design, environmental review, and the drafting of contract documents for the Furgary Fishing Village Improvements Project to improve access to the tidal waters of the Hudson River for all; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed financing is appropriate for the specific project; and

**WHEREAS**, the proposed project facilitates effective and efficient use of existing and future public resources so as to promote the preservation of community resources; and

**WHEREAS**, the Council hereby authorizes the commitment of at least 15% of the grant funding amount in accordance with NYSDEC Estuary Program Requirements.

**WHEREAS**, the Council hereby authorizes and directs the Mayor to submit an application for financial assistance under the 2024 NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access Program;

**NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED**, that the Common Council hereby supports and will sponsor an application for 2024 NYSDEC Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access Program grant for the Furgary Fishing Village Project; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor by and hereby is authorized to execute and file an application on behalf of the **City of Hudson** with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation for a 2024 Hudson River Estuary Grant for River Access Program grant; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and designated as the representative and to act as such in connection with the application to provide additional information as may be required including all understandings and assurances contained in the application; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to execute any contract and/or agreement with the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation; and;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the Common Council commits at least 15% of the grant funding amount in accordance with NYSDEC Estuary Program Requirements.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, to the extent all or any actions hereby authorized have been executed and/or performed by the Mayor all are hereby ratified and confirmed and this Resolution take affect immediately.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Roberts**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 22 January 21, 2025**

**INTRADEPARTMENTAL YOUTH TRANSFERS**

**WHEREAS**, after calculating 2024 payroll chargebacks, there are insufficient funds in the 2024 Youth Personnel Service line, and

**WHEREAS**, there is available funds in the Personnel Services Oakdale Park line,

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that the City Treasurer is authorized and directed to transfer funds from the following 2024 budget accounts as follows for the Youth Department:

<b>\$8656.11</b>		From:	A.7310.0100.0003	2024 Youth Personnel Services Oakdale Park
	<b>\$8656.11</b>	To:	A.7310.0100.0000	2024 Youth Personnel

Approved by Board of Estimate and Apportionment

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Resolution No. 23 would accept Housing Trust Fund Corporation Grant Funds for the Access to Home Program.

**Michelle Tullo, Housing Justice Director** said “we won two housing grants, this is the first one, it’s Access to Home, we won a hundred and twenty thousand dollars to do accessibility modifications for residents who are either tenants or homeowners” and she said “if you know people who are interested, there is a link on the city website to submit an interest form”.

**Councilmember Morris** said “the second one is the large grant, correct”?

**Director Tullo** said “the second resolution is to create the bank account.”



**Councilmember Morris** said “this is one where we, once the money is expended then the money, it’s a flow through right”?

**Director Tullo** said “yea.”

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Morris**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 23 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING GRANT FUNDS FOR THE  
ACCESS TO HOME PROGRAM**

**WHEREAS**, The City of Hudson (“Recipient”) has applied to the Housing Trust Fund Corporation (“Corporation”), a subsidiary of the New York State Housing Finance Agency, for and has received an award for grant funding by the Corporation in the amount of \$120,000 to administer a local Access to Home Program (“Program”) as described in the Recipient’s 2024 funding round application, and

**WHEREAS**, the grant awarded by the Corporation in the amount of \$120,000 is in the form of reimbursements for eligible costs to complete the Program as outlined in the annexed Agreement as Schedule “A”; and

**WHEREAS**, the period of performance for all Program activities pursuant to the Agreement shall be twenty-four (24) months commencing on the effective date of the Agreement and ending on **December 31, 2026**, (“Term”); and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson Common Council supports the administration of an Access to Home program within the City.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Common Council of the City of Hudson hereby authorizes the Mayor to accept the Housing Trust Fund Corporation grant in the amount of \$120,000 and to execute all necessary contracts and/or documents in connection with same; and

*(Copy of Agreement on file in the City Clerk’s Office)*

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

On motion of **Councilmember Mizan**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following resolution was adopted by the following vote:

**RESOLUTION NO. 24 January 21, 2025**

**A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING A LOAN FROM THE GENERAL FUND TO THE CAPITAL FUND FOR A 2025 HOUSING REHABILITATION PROJECT**

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson has been awarded two housing rehabilitation grants from New York State’s Office of Homes and Community Renewal, a \$520,000 HOME grant to fund health and safety repairs for single-family owner-occupied housing and a \$120,000 Access to Home Grant to make residential units accessible for low- and moderate-income persons with disabilities, and

**WHEREAS**, these grants are provided on a reimbursable basis, requiring the city to provide project funds up front, and

**WHEREAS**, the city expects to begin work on this project in the immediate future, and requires an interfund loan to provide the necessary cash flow,

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Treasurer is directed to execute an interfund loan from the General fund to the Housing Rehab Capital Fund of up to \$520,000 for the HOME grant and up to \$120,000 for the Access grant.

The Treasurer’s Office is directed to ensure that the loans from the General Fund are paid back by the Housing Rehab Capital Fund as soon as the Treasurer’s office has grant reimbursement funds.

Approved by Board of Estimate & Apportionment.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**Bills.**

On motion of **Councilmember Roberts**, seconded by **Councilmember Mizan**, the following bills were audited and ordered paid by the following vote:

CG NYS BOC	120.00	RingCentral Inc.	434.50
Mid-Hudson Cablevision	75.00	US Bank Equipment Finance	122.02
Mid-Hudson Cablevision	75.00	GoGov	9,588.00
James M. Delaney Jr.	600.00	RingCentral Inc.	88.08
JV Computers	6,141.00	US Bank Equipment Finance	81.27
Verizon	49.15	Staples	21.07
US Bank Equipment Finance	262.13		

**2024**

Preferred Print Solutions	768.20	Bailey, Johnson & Peck PC	4,723.50
Amazon Capital Services	346.58	US Bank Equipment Finance	81.27
WB Mason Co Inc.	751.94	Repeat Business Systems Inc.	5.52
Hinman Straub	1,200.00	Valley Energy	25.55
Parking Ticket Bureau	73.00	Ricoh USA Inc	4.87

Galls LLC	179.28	Barton & Loguidice DPC	672.50
Chatham Printing	1,200.00	Safeguard Business Systems	331.69
Uline	384.67	T2 Systems Inc.	14,213.50
1000Bulbs.com	1,896.00	Amazon Capital Services	97.57
Laberge Group	827.32	Columbia Greene Humane Soc.	80.00
Eastern Mnged Print Network	23.60	First Light	66.71
Chatham Printing & Copy Ctr	600.00	Rodenhausen,Chale,Polidoro	1,262.50
Frank Vosburgh & Sons Inc	25,250.00	Crawford & Associates	7,051.25

Comprehensive Plan (2024)

Public Works Partners LLC 20,322.13

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

### Local Laws.

**President DePietro** stated Proposed Local Law Introductory L of 2024 related to Interference with City Officers.

On motion of **Councilmember Rony**, seconded by **Councilmember Purnhagen**, the proposed local law was ordered removed from the councilmembers' desks.

**Councilmember Morris** said "as I researched this and I looked at the language around misdemeanors in New York State, these are Class B misdemeanors, it's not clear to me that, two things, that we need to create laws within the City of Hudson defining things that we're going to consider violations and misdemeanors that go beyond what's already in New York State Code so if you look at the two things that are listed here under harassment, the first one, you know if you strike, kick, shove etcetera city officer, all of that's already covered under New York State Law so why do we need a law saying that, that will be a Class B misdemeanor in City of Hudson, it's unclear to me". She said "I have bigger issues with the second one because it seems very subjective to me, it's engages in a course of conduct repeatedly or commits acts which alarm or impede a city officer or employee" and she said "again, I looked at some of the code, this code around harassment, different things you know, following people and so on, so there are things in the code that could be revoked, in equivocal that could be revoked, particularly here, with behavior itself, it's in the definition, it's not clear what specific action would be a Class B Misdemeanor". Councilmember Morris said "maybe I'm alarmed by something that someone else is not alarmed by, how do we know you know, how do you implement that because the behavior itself has not been, has not been indicated" and she said "to me this is subjective because you're not talking about what specific act it is". She said "another issue that has been raised by a couple of constituents since it covers the Common Council and we are officers, if we have a meeting where members of the public are very vocal or they are displeased, etcetera and that alarms somebody on the council, is that now a misdemeanor"? Councilmember Morris said "yes, by all means, update the code 188-17 to include city employees, not just city officers, but I don't feel that we really need to go the route of defining Class B Misdemeanors within the City

of Hudson, beyond what is in New York State Law” and she said “I’d like to take it back to Legal so that we could work through this a little bit more”.

**Councilmember Rony** stated the councilmembers had sought clarification from the Counsel to the Council and he said “the explanation that I was satisfied with was the fact that, this defines it but it’s not like, if I charge somebody yelling at me in a council meeting, I’m the one charging them with a misdemeanor, the police are involved and then it becomes a matter of court”. He said “that would set the precedent, once a court decides, it’s up to the court to like define what that is.”

**Councilmember Purnhagen** said “the police would probably not take it forward if it was ridiculous.”

**Councilmember Rony** said “I think this just makes it more succinct where we have a mechanism for the police to act when the need arises, it’s a clear, this is the statute under which they are being charged and then it goes to court.”

**Councilmember Morris** asked “why do we need to define criminal code”?

**Councilmember Rony** said “this law just makes it so that it applies to city officer beyond what was already there.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “what it says is in addition to penalty set forth under 188-28, a violation of this subsection B of this section shall be a class B misdemeanor, we are actually saying this is a class B misdemeanor, rather than just letting New York State Law determine whether or not it’s a class B” and she said “I don’t disagree with updating the code but why don’t we leave it New York State to define what a class B misdemeanor is”.

**Councilmember Rony** asked “isn’t a misdemeanor automatically defined by the state”?

**Councilmember Morris** said “it’s all very explicit in the New York State Code” and she said “what I’d like to see us doing is updating our code to say it includes city employees.”

**President DePietro** said “I never liked this law from the get-go” and he said “at the same time, I really don’t want it to go back to Legal because we’ve spent enough time and money on this.”

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “unless we don’t vote for this, we don’t go ahead” and she said “the state is given us the guidelines, we don’t need to go any further on this.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “it applies to city officers and there is no reference to city employees” and she said “updating the code in that fashion to include city employees, that’s perfectly reasonable.”

**Crystal Peck, Counsel for Council** stated the original concern had been impeding city employees from being able to perform their duties and their actions having little legitimate

purpose and she said “that part there is not necessarily covered under state penal law misdemeanors which was part of the reason that it was requested to add something to the code”. She said “we can certainly get alarm if that’s you know, for the subjectivity and strike that part out and just say which impede, if the council still wants to precede this.” Ms. Peck said “with respect to questions about why you know, define misdemeanors if they’re already in the penal law, it’s because there is certain types of conduct that may not fall within that specific form of harassment as defined by the penal law and that is what we’re talking about when you’re talking about someone coming in and interfering with a city officer or employee from performing their duties and their actions have no legitimate purpose” and she said “it’s also something that you see quite frequently in zoning code provisions where you include whether there is any certain of fine or criminal penalties that are associated with the violation”. She said “the council could either leave it alone, they can expand it to city employees, you could get rid of the word alarm and just leave it as impede, it’s really how you want to move forward with this.”

**Councilmember Morris** questioned if Section 188-17 (C) could read penalties set forth under 188-28 will apply to any violation of section B of this code.

**Ms. Peck** said “you can but the Class B misdemeanor was because there was a question as to whether you know, if there are, if there is an issue where a city officer or an employee is being prevented by a third party from being able to perform their duties, can the police come in and do anything about that, well if it’s not the misdemeanor, you might, that’s where they’re issued bringing it to the next level and that’s where the questions are, ok well that conduct might be annoying but it might not actually rise to what’s in the penal law which is where it was requested to add something to the code”.

**Councilmember Merante** asked “wouldn’t that be under obstructing government administration”?

**Ms. Peck** said “it will depend upon how the police officer who is coming in and receiving the complaints view the situation.”

**Councilmember Merante** asked “wouldn’t it be easier to prove obstruction of government administration”?

**Ms. Peck** said “I’d have to take a look at the elements of proof for both of those” and she said “if alarm is a concern, I can see how alarm would be an issue, you know, that would be a section that strike out or again, if the council doesn’t want to move forward with this, they certainly don’t have to”.

**Councilmember Morris** said “I think we still have the issue, Crystal, that 188-17 explicitly refers only to city officers and not city employees”.

**Councilmember Purnhagen** said “it also requires, as it currently stands, that a police officer can require me to assist them in some way.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “that’s correct.”

**Councilmember Purnhagen** said “if we walk away from this, that has, in my mind, has to be struck down.”

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “maybe it’s not urgent to be done right now” and she said “I think there might be some important items for Legal coming up.”

**Councilmember Merante** said “I think we need to put something in the least in the code, to protect the city employees.”

**Councilmember Morris** said “I’m really uncomfortable with us saying it’s a Class B Misdemeanor; I think it’s up to New York State to decide whether something’s a Class B Misdemeanor.”

On motion of **Councilmember Merante**, seconded by **Councilmember Morris**, Proposed Local Law L of 2024 introduced by Councilmember Belton, seconded by Councilmember Mizan, was ordered laid on the councilmembers’ desks. Carried.

**Ron Kopnicki of Hudson** said “my original concern was that speech alone could be classified as annoying or an alarming act under this law” and he said “I’m glad to see that the protections of free speech are referred to in the legislative intent.” He said “I don’t know what the legal force of the legislative intent section is, I would rather see that phrasing about freedom of speech and its guarantees in the main body of the law.”

**Matt McGee of Hudson** said “I’m still a little unclear if you’re still applying, considering applying this law to people who are in you know, like the city council, other deliberating bodies of the city, I really am very concerned that this would harm peoples’ right to speak.”

On motion of **Councilmember Morris**, seconded by **Councilmember Sarowar**, the following proposed local law introduced by Councilmember Sarowar, seconded by Councilmember Mizan, was enacted by the following vote:

**Local Law No. Intro M of 2024**  
**A LOCAL LAW AMENDING THE LODGING TAX**  
**OF THE CITY OF HUDSON**

**SECTION ONE. TITLE** This Local Law shall be known as Local Law \_\_\_\_\_ for the year 2024.

**SECTION TWO. LEGISLATIVE HISTORY**

**WHEREAS**, the New York State legislature has heretofore authorized the City of Hudson to enact a local law imposing a lodging tax in accordance with Section 1202-dd of the Tax Law, as set forth in Chapter 465 of the New York laws of 2006; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson has heretofore enacted local laws consistent with such authority and received a necessary financial benefit as a result thereof and believes that the continuation and renewal of the tax would result in a benefit to the residents of the City; and

**WHEREAS**, the City of Hudson has received legislative authorization from the State of New York to increase the City's Lodging Tax in accordance with Section 1202-dd of the Tax Law;

**SECTION THREE. ENACTMENT** The Common Council hereby enacts this local law amending Chapter 275, Article VIII of the City of Hudson Code by DELETING §275-23(A) and REPLACING it with the following:

**§275-23** Tax Imposed, applicability.

- A. In addition to any other tax authorized by any other taxing jurisdiction on the provision of short-term lodging within the City, there is hereby imposed a tax of five percent (5%) per day of the rent for a room used to provide short-term lodging and any and all charges and fees ancillary thereto including, without limitation, cleaning fees, linen fees, key fees and like charges and fees. The tax imposed hereby shall be paid by the person liable therefor to the host of the room occupied or to the person entitled to be paid the rent or charge for the room occupied for and on account of the City of Hudson imposing the tax, and that such host shall be liable for the collection and payment of the tax; and that such host or person entitled to be paid the rent or charge shall have the same right in respect to collecting the tax from the person occupying the room, or in respect to nonpayment of the tax by the person occupying the room, as if the tax were a part of the rent or charge and payable at the same time as the rent or charge for such room; provided, however, that the City Treasurer shall be joined as a party in any action or proceeding brought to collect the tax by the owner or by the person entitled to be paid the rent or charge.

**SECTION 4. SUPERCESSION**

Pursuant to the authority granted in Section 10 of the Municipal Home Rule Law, to the extent this local law is inconsistent with any state statute or regulation including if otherwise applicable, any sections of the New York State Building and Fire Prevention Code, this local law shall supersede any such inconsistent provisions. Notwithstanding, construction of Dwelling Units and Studio Apartments shall be subject to the minimal requirements of the New York State Building and Fire Prevention Code and any other State, County or City Laws that may be applicable.

**SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE**

This local law shall take effect on March 1, 2025.

Ayes: Councilmembers Daskaloudi, Merante, Mizan, Morris, Purnhagen, Roberts, Rony, Sarowar, Volo, and President DePietro.

Nays: None.

**New Business.**

**Councilmember Rony** said “if I remember correctly when we kind of went to this re-formula of this Financing Committee and there was a promise from some of the members of the committee to get regular updates for larger council on what you guys are kind of working on.”

**Councilmember Daskaloudi** said “we’re just working on the fees, raising the fees of the city so we just started doing that” and she said “usually we have Heather present, this is one time we didn’t, prior to that she had come up with an entire presentation which we all received about the budget and also one thing we usually do is we review any items that refer to finance in the agenda of the formal”.

**President DePietro** stated the City Treasurer’s monthly report would be provided at the Informal Meeting.

**Councilmember Volo** said “majority of the meeting is Heather’s financial report so and we’re able to ask more questions.”

On motion of **Councilmember Sarowar**, seconded by **Councilmember Volo**, the meeting was adjourned.

City Clerk