
STATE OF NEW YORK
COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY

THE MINUTES

of a Regular Meeting of the Schenectady County Legislature held July 9, 2024
7:00 p.m. at Legislative Chambers Schenectady County Office Building, 620
State Street, Schenectady, New York

July 9, 2024

The invocation was given by the Clerk of Legislature.

Pledge of Allegiance

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Legislator Fields.

Presentations

Chairman Hughes invited County Manager Rory Fluman to join him in the well to present awards to some of the long-term county employees within the Schenectady County Department of Probation. Theresa Knapik and Amy Clark have worked at the county for 26 years, and Angelina DeCarlo has worked at the county for 25 years.

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

Chairman Hughes called the Legislative Conference of the Schenectady County Legislature to order and instructed the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present:	14	(Ruzzo, Pratt, McGill, Samuel, Frisoni, Fields, Cuomo, Patierne, Ostrelch, Vellano, Hess, Hughes, Gatta, Jasenski)
Absent:	1	(Constantine)
Excused:	0	
Vacant:	0	

Meeting of Committee on Rules

Legislator Fields called the meeting of the Committee on Rules to order.

Dr. Steady Mono and Patrick Ryan gave a brief presentation about Rules Initiative 40-24.

There was a multitude of questions from the legislative body regarding Rules Initiative 40-24. The members spoke in favor of this initiative as well as thanked all parties involved in the process of Rules Initiative 40-24.

Legislator McGill spoke in support of the college's program, he then asked about the college's marketing strategies.

Legislator Ruzzo echoed his colleagues remarks that this is a wonderful plan for our County.

Legislator Ostrelich thanked all parties involved in the process of this initiative, and she spoke about the positive community impact it would have.

Legislator Frisoni asked if the program would support full-time and part-time student participation.

Legislator Cuomo asked if this type of program had been done before. if this program was available to anyone regardless of a student's financial eligibility, and what would be the repercussions of a person signing up for classes they failed to attend?

Legislator Vellano asked how the College envisioned the program and how they would measure it's success.

Legislator Hess asked if there are any specific grade requirements and if the College offers any new programs, specifically in the trades field.

Legislator Gatta asked the panel to speak more on the metrics they plan to use and on the college's long-term vision for the plan.

Legislator Jasenski provided clarity to all questions regarding the student's financial responsibility and the enrollment impact. Dr. Moono and Patrick Ryan answered all the other aforementioned questions.

Legislator Jasenski moved to report Rules Initiative 40-24. Legislator Gatta seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Privilege of the Floor

Louise Gundam of Schenectady, and a representative of the Freedom Park Foundation, thanked the Legislative body on behalf of the Freedom Park Foundation for the Schenectady County Arts & Culture Grant that the organization received this year.

Ashok Ramsubrian representing SCEAC spoke on environmental waste in the community

Jasenya McCauley representing SCEAC spoke on clothing waste, clothing insecurities in our community, and the importance of properly recycling your clothing.

Nancy Gifford of Scotia expressed her concerns about the changes within the Schenectady County Public Library System.

REGULAR MEETING

Chairman Hughes called the Legislative Conference of the Schenectady County Legislature to order and instructed the Clerk to call the roll.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: 14 (Ruzzo, Pratt, McGill, Fields, Samuel, Frisoni, Cuomo, Patierne, Ostrelich, Vellano, Hess, Hughes, Gatta, Jasenski)
Absent: 1 (Constantine)
Excused: 0
Vacant: 0

Approval Minutes

Legislator Gatta made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 3rd and June 11th meetings. Legislator Patierne seconded the motion. The motion was carried without objection.

Reports

We have received reports from: The Commissioner of Finance, the Department of Weights and Measures, and the County Clerk.

Committee Reports

Legislator Samuel reported the Committee on Economic Development and Planning met on July 1, 2024 and reported to the agenda Resolution 129.

Legislator Samuel reported the Committee on Education and Libraries met on July 1, 2024 and reported to the agenda Resolution 130.

Legislator Frisoni reported the Committee on Labor and Civil Service met on July 1, 2024 and reported to the agenda Resolution 131.

Legislator Frisoni reported the Committee on Public Safety met on July 1, 2024 and reported to the agenda Resolutions 132, 133, 134.

Legislator Fields reported the Committee on Rules met earlier this evening and reported to the agenda Resolution 128.

Legislator Fields reported the Committee on Ways and Means met on July 1, 2024 and reported to the agenda Resolutions 129, 132, 133, 134, and 135.

Resolutions

RESOLUTION 128-24

Sponsored by the Committee on Rules:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY HIGHER EDUCATION PROMISE PROGRAM

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the County Manager by memorandum dated July 5, 2024 requests that this Governing Body financially support the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program to be implemented by SUNY Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager advises that the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program would fund up to six (6) credit hours of tuition and fees for Schenectady County residents who are enrolled as students at SUNY Schenectady in the City of Schenectady beginning in the fall semester of 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager further advises that the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program could support up to 1,600 residents who wish to participate in such Program; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager further advises that the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program would support personal and professional development for residents, promote life-long learning, and create a life changing opportunity for certain residents who may not be able to afford a post-secondary education; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager recommends that this Governing Body approve appropriate budgetary amendments to enable the implementation of the Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program at SUNY Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body finds that the proposed Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program has a beneficial value of \$1,242.00 to each enrolled person in the 2024-25 academic year at SUNY Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body finds that all persons who wish to participate in the proposed Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program would be required to complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FASFA)

prior to any award from such Program, and Program funds would be awarded to students after other financial aid dollars have been conferred; and

WHEREAS, this Governing Body finds that the proposed Schenectady County Higher Education Promise Program is an innovative and pioneering initiative to promote post-secondary education and enable access to education for Schenectady County residents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Operating Budget be and it hereby is amended as follows:

Create/Increase Expense Code by:

A542495.400411 -- Schenectady County Now Higher Education Promise \$ 1,000,000.

Increase Use of Fund Balance:

A.599 – Appropriated Fund Balance \$ 1,000,000.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Rules (R40)*

7/9/2024: *Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 129-24

Sponsored by Legislator Samuel:

A RESOLUTION TO AUTHORIZE THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO A PARKING/HOLDING AGREEMENT REGARDING PARKING SPACES IN THE CITY OF SCHENECTADY

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Chairman of the Board of the Schenectady Metroplex Development Authority recommends by memorandum dated June 17, 2024 that Schenectady County enter into a Parking/Holding Agreement with a production company for the use of three parking lots in the City of Schenectady for the week of August 12, 2024, which lots are owned by Schenectady County and held in trust for SUNY Schenectady; and

WHEREAS, a copy of the Parking/Holding Agreement and a map identifying the three parcels in the City of Schenectady has been presented to this Governing Body at a meeting of the Committee on Economic Development and Planning held on July 1, 2024; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 recommends that a Parking/Holding Agreement be entered into with a production company for the use of three parking lots in the City of Schenectady for the week of August 12, 2024; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to negotiate and to execute a Parking/Holding Agreement with a production company consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Economic Development and Planning (EDP8)*
7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)
Nays: 0.0000
Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)
Abstain: 0.0000
Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 130-24

Sponsored by Legislator Samuel:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR A PUBLIC HEARING ON THE ADOPTION OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY COMMUNITY COLLEGE OPERATING BUDGET FOR THE PERIOD FROM SEPTEMBER 1, 2024 TO AUGUST 31, 2025

BE IT ENACTED by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, a public hearing is required by law before final adoption by the Schenectady County Legislature of a budget for the SUNY Schenectady County Community College, which is a County agency; and

WHEREAS, by section 7.04 of the Charter of the County of Schenectady, New York, at least ten (10) days advance notice is required for a public hearing on a budget; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that a public hearing is hereby called, to be held at the Chambers of the Schenectady County Legislature, in the County Office Building on the 5th day of August, 2024 at 7:00 pm for the purpose of hearing all interested persons on the question of adoption of the following budget for the SUNY Schenectady County Community College:

Operational Budget to serve the operational needs of said college for the period commencing September 1, 2024 and ending August 31, 2025 not to exceed the gross amount of \$28,072,403

; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the notice of such public hearing, including a general summary of the tentative budget, be published one (1) time in the Daily Gazette Newspaper and a copy of such notice be posted on the bulletin board on the first floor of the Schenectady County Office Building, and at centers of other municipal governments in the County, as required by law.

7/9/2024: Reported from the Committee on Education and Libraries (EL1)

7/9/2024: Adopted by the County Legislature

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 131-24

Sponsored by Legislator Frisoni:

A RESOLUTION TO IMPLEMENT CERTAIN SALARY ADJUSTMENTS AND TO CREATE AND ELIMINATE CERTAIN POSITIONS IN THE OFFICE OF THE SCHENECTADY COUNTY ATTORNEY

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Attorney by a memorandum dated June 17, 2024 requests that a position of Deputy County Attorney in the Office of the

Schenectady County Attorney be eliminated and that a position of Assistant County Attorney be created; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Attorney further recommends that two positions of Deputy County Attorney, which are held by Dylan Reilly and Christine McClellan, in the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney be increased by \$13,000.00 each; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Attorney states that these proposed changes will better meet the current operational needs of the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Human Resources by memorandum dated June 27, 2024 recommends the creation of a position of Assistant County Attorney in the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Human Resources further recommends that the position of Assistant County Attorney be classified at JC-8; and

WHEREAS, the Director of Human Resources states that no additional action is required by the Schenectady County Civil Service Commission regarding the aforesaid changes; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 recommends that a position of Assistant County Attorney be created in the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney, that a position of Deputy County Attorney be eliminated in such Office, that salary adjustments be implemented for two Deputy County Attorneys in such Office, and that appropriate budgetary amendments be approved; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the following position in the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney be and it hereby is created as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Classification</u>
Assistant County Attorney	JC-8

; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that a position of Deputy County Attorney in the Office of the Schenectady County Attorney be and it hereby is eliminated; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the annual salaries for the position of Deputy County Attorney for the two aforesaid persons be increased from \$89,583.00 to \$102,583.00; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Operating Budget be and it hereby is amended as follows:

Increase Expense Code by:

A511420._01305 – Assistant County Attorney \$ 38,462.

Decrease Expense Code by:

A511420._01362 – Deputy County Attorney \$ 38,462.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Labor and Civil Service (LCS17)*

7/9/2024: *Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 132-24

Sponsored by Legislator Constantine:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MONIES FROM THE NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR THE GUN INVOLVED VIOLENCE ELIMINATION INITIATIVE

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Manager advises by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 that Schenectady County was recently awarded funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services to support the Gun Involved Violence Elimination Initiative within Schenectady County; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Manager further advises that Schenectady County is projected to receive \$69,636.00 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Manager recommends the acceptance of grant monies from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and that appropriate budgetary amendments be approved; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of these monies and utilization of these funds needs to be reflected in a resolution of this Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Schenectady hereby accepts the aforesaid grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and authorizes the utilization of such monies for the aforesaid purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the Schenectady County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to enter into any necessary agreements, certifications, or reimbursement requests for the acceptance of such grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Operating Budget be and it hereby is amended as follows:

Decrease Expense Code by:

A543110.415757 – Project GIVE – Sheriff \$ 20,904.

Create and Increase Revenue Code by:

A33150.332017 – Project GIVE (Jail) \$ 27,318.

A33160.332017 – Project GIVE (Task Force) \$ 7,500.

Decrease Revenue Code by:

A33310.332017 – Project GIVE (Sheriff) \$ 57,223.

Increase Use of Fund Balance:

A.599 – Appropriated Fund Balance \$ 1,501.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Public Safety (PS6)*

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 133-24

Sponsored by Legislator Constantine:

A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MONIES FROM THE NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR THE LAW ENFORCEMENT TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Sheriff advises by an undated memorandum that Schenectady County was recently awarded funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the Law Enforcement Technology Program; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Sheriff further advises that Schenectady County is projected to receive \$312,250.00 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Sheriff further advises that the aforesaid grant monies will be used to purchase necessary law enforcement equipment to enhance the operations of his Office; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Manager by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 recommends the acceptance of \$312,250.00 in grant monies from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and that appropriate budgetary amendments be approved; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of these monies and utilization of these funds needs to be reflected in a resolution of this Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Schenectady hereby accepts the aforesaid grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services, and authorizes the utilization of such monies for the aforesaid purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to enter into any necessary agreements, certifications, or reimbursement requests for the acceptance of such grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Operating Budget be and it hereby is amended as follows:

Create and Increase Expense Code By:

A543110.415764 -- Law Enforcement Technology
(LETECH) Program

\$ 312,250.

Create and Increase Revenue Code By:

A33310.338907 – Law Enforcement Technology
(LETECH) Program \$ 312,250.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Public Safety (PS7)*
Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means

7/9/2024: *Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes,
Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo,
Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 134-24

Sponsored by Legislator Constantine:

**A RESOLUTION REGARDING THE ACCEPTANCE OF MONIES FROM
THE NYS DIVISION OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE SERVICES FOR ANTI-
VIOLENCE INITIATIVES AIMED AT REDUCING GUN VIOLENCE IN
THE COUNTY OF SCHENECTADY**

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Sheriff advises by an undated memorandum that Schenectady County was recently awarded funds from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services for the reduction of gun violence within Schenectady County; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Sheriff further advises that Schenectady County is projected to receive \$100,000.00 in funding; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Manager by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 recommends the acceptance of \$100,000.00 in grant monies from the New York State Division of Criminal Justice Services, and that appropriate budgetary amendments be approved; and

WHEREAS, acceptance of these monies and utilization of these funds needs to be reflected in a resolution of this Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Legislature of the County of Schenectady hereby accepts the aforesaid grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services,

and authorizes the utilization of such monies for the aforesaid purposes; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to enter into any necessary agreements, certifications, or reimbursement requests for the acceptance of such grant monies from the NYS Division of Criminal Justice Services; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the 2024 Operating Budget be and it hereby is amended as follows:

Create and Increase Expense Code By:

A543110.415010 -- Anti-Violence 1Life2Live \$ 100,000.

Create and Increase Revenue Code By:

A33110.338911 – Anti-Violence 1Life2Live \$ 100,000.

7/9/2024: *Reported from the Committee on Public Safety (PS8)*

Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means

7/9/2024: *Adopted by the County Legislature*

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrelch, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

RESOLUTION 135-24

Sponsored by Legislator Jasenski:

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE COUNTY MANAGER TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO A PUBLIC BENEFIT SERVICES AGREEMENT WITH THE TOWN OF DUANESBURG

BE IT ENACTED, by the Legislature of the County of Schenectady, as follows:

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Attorney by memorandum dated June 12, 2024 requests that Schenectady County enter into an amendment to a Public Benefit Services Agreement (Contract # 24-137) with the Town of Duanesburg that would authorize the Town of Duanesburg to use \$62,136.01 of an

unexpended portion of a \$200,000,00 “broadband services” grant for Park Improvements; and

WHEREAS, the Schenectady County Attorney advises that the proposed Park Improvements would include, but not be limited to, resurfacing and restriping various tennis courts, and providing the option of the playing pickleball on such courts; and

WHEREAS, the County Manager by memorandum dated June 28, 2024 recommends that Schenectady County enter into an amendment to a Public Benefit Services Agreement with the Town of Duanesburg that would authorize the Town of Duanesburg to use \$62,136.01 of an unexpended portion of a \$200,000,00 “broadband services” grant for Park Improvements; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the County Manager be and he hereby is authorized, after approval of the County Attorney as to form and content, to negotiate and to execute an amendment to a Public Benefit Services Agreement with the Town of Duanesburg consistent with the provisions of this Resolution.

7/9/2024: Reported from the Committee on Ways and Means (WM10)

7/9/2024: Adopted by the County Legislature

Ayes: 14.0015 (Cuomo, Fields, Frisoni, Gatta, Hess, Hughes, Jasenski, McGill, Ostrellich, Patierne, Pratt, Ruzzo, Samuel, Vellano)

Nays: 0.0000

Absent: 0.9985 (Constantine)

Abstain: 0.0000

Excused: 0.0000

Adjournment

On the motion of Legislator Patierne seconded by Legislator Gatta without objection, the regular meeting was adjourned.