

Prior to the Committee of the Whole and Common Council Meetings, City Manager Matt Alexander served as Master of Ceremonies.

Procession of Mayor and Council, followed by invocation by Rev. Valerie Greenaway. Drew Claxton led the pledge of allegiance followed by the National Anthem which was performed by Westchester Women's Chorus.

Swearing in Ceremony for Mayor McKenzie, Councilman Charles DiGruccio, Councilwoman Beverley Chang, and Councilman Darren Rigger, Police Chief Adam Renwick by Governor Kathy Hochul.

Performances – Daisy Jopling, Poets- Hana Qaiser and Max Markarian and dancers from Just the Place. Benediction Reverend James Perry.

A public meeting of the Common Council was held in the Central Firehouse, 1141 Main Street, Peekskill, New York on January 1, 2026 beginning at 12:20pm with Mayor Vivian McKenzie presiding.

Mayor McKenzie called the meeting to order and asked City Clerk Redd to do a roll call.

Present: Mayor McKenzie, Deputy Mayor Patricia Riley, Councilwomen Kathleen Talbot and Beverley Chang, Councilmen Darren Rigger, Charles DiGruccio and Brian Fassett.

Also Present: City Manager Matthew Alexander, City Attorney Eric Gordon, City Clerk Cassandra Redd, Sergeant at Arms Chief of Police Adam Renwick, and Director of Planning Carol Samol, Human Resource Manager Joanna Duncan, Executive Director of Youth Bureau Tuesday McDonald, Section 8 Director Jessica Ganus, Building Inspector Nicholas Ceccere, Fire Chief Seymour, Assessor Bob Morin, Economic Specialist Matthew Rudikoff.

REGULAR AGENDA

Resolution #J-1 - Order of Precedence

Deputy Mayor Riley moved to adopt the following resolution.

was seconded by Councilman Fassett and unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF DEPUTY MAYOR AND THE ORDER OF PRECEDENCE OF THE COMMON COUNCIL

WHEREAS, pursuant to §C31 of the City Charter, the Common Council shall designate the order of precedence among its members to serve as Mayor in the event of absences or emergencies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that pursuant to §C31 of the City Charter, as amended, Councilwoman Patricia Riley shall be and is hereby designated to serve as Deputy Mayor and shall serve as the Mayor in the absence of the Mayor or in the event of emergencies, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the following is the order of precedence for Council members to serve as Mayor in the event of absence or emergencies:

Councilwoman Kathleen Talbot

Councilman Brian Fassett

Councilman Charles DiGruccio

Councilwoman Beverley Chang

Councilman Darren Rigger

and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #J-2 – Designation of Official Newspaper

Councilman Fassett moved to adopt the following resolution.

It was seconded by Deputy Mayor Riley and unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF THE
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPERS FOR THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL
FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026**

WHEREAS, pursuant to §C40 of the City of Peekskill City Charter, annually, in the month of January, the Common Council shall designate one or more newspapers circulated in the City as the official newspapers of the City of Peekskill.

WHEREAS, the Westchester Journal News publishes daily and outlines their deadlines for submission, and

WHEREAS, The Westchester Journal News is widely available to residents of the City of Peekskill; and

WHEREAS, the Westchester Hispano newspaper is also available to the residents of the City of Peekskill

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that pursuant to §C40 of the City of Peekskill City Charter, as amended, the Westchester Journal News is hereby designated as the official newspaper of the City of Peekskill, in which shall be published, at such times as shall be determined by the City, all legal notices required to be published, except as otherwise provided by the Local Finance Law, for the calendar year 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City of Peekskill will continue to use the Westchester Hispano newspaper as a supplemental newspaper for publication, as needed.

Resolution #J-3 – Designation of Official Banks

Councilwoman Talbot moved to adopt the following resolution.

It was seconded by Deputy Mayor Riley and unanimously passed.

RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL AUTHORIZING THE DESIGNATION OF OFFICIAL BANKS FOR THE CITY OF PEEKSKILL FOR THE CALENDAR YEAR 2026

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 3-b of the General City Law of the State of New York, Section 10 of the General Municipal Law (GML) of the State of New York and Sections C55 and C58 of the Charter of the City of Peekskill, the City must designate one or more banks for the deposit of public funds; and

WHEREAS, The City Comptroller has determined that Wells Fargo Bank, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Orange Bank and Trust Company, PCSB Bank, Signature Bank, Webster National Bank, TD Bank, M&T Bank, Capital One Bank, Cogent Bank, and NYCLASS are quality banking institutions and/or depositories for the City of Peekskill and,

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT

RESOLVED, that all funds and monies of the City of Peekskill be deposited to the credit of the City of Peekskill in either Wells Fargo Bank, JP Morgan Chase Bank, Orange Bank and Trust Company, PCSB Bank, Signature Bank, Webster National Bank, TD Bank, M&T Bank, Capital One Bank, Cogent Bank, or NYCLASS for the year 2026, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager, Comptroller and all other officers of the City of Peekskill into whose hands come monies or funds belonging to the City of Peekskill be, and they are hereby directed to deposit said funds and monies to the credit of the City of Peekskill in said banking institutions and/or depositories, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager, Comptroller and the Common Council take such bond and/or bonds, certificates or notes of the United States of America, State of New York, New York Municipalities or School Districts as security for the funds deposited in such amounts and in a form as the Comptroller shall recommend in writing to the Common Council, subject to the approval of the Common Council, and the Common Council hereby reserves the right to fix said amounts in sums other than recommended by the Comptroller; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Resolution #J-4 – CPL Planning and City Engineering Services

Councilman DiGruccio moved to adopt the following resolution.

It was seconded by Councilman Fassett and unanimously passed.

**RESOLUTION OF THE COMMON COUNCIL
APPROVING THE CITY MANAGER’S APPOINTMENT
OF CPL ARCHITECTS, ENGINEERS, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS,
SURVEYORS AS CITY ENGINEER AND
CONSULTANT TO THE PLANNING DEPARTMENT**

WHEREAS, pursuant to City of Peekskill Charter §§ C-12b(a) and C-12b(b), respectively, the City Engineer position shall be filled by appointment by the City Manager, subject to the approval of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City of Peekskill Charter § C-12b(c), at the discretion of the City Manager, the City Engineer may be a contractual consultant to the City of Peekskill retained by the City on a yearly basis; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to City of Peekskill Charter § C-12b(b), the City Engineer must be licensed as a professional engineer in New York State; and

WHEREAS, a vacancy for a City Engineer currently exists; and

WHEREAS, on September 8, 2025, the Common Council passed Resolution #J17 to approve the appointment of CPL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Surveyors (“CPL”) as City Engineer for the year ending December 31, 2025 calendar year; and

WHEREAS, CPL employs engineers who are licensed as professional engineers in New York State; and

WHEREAS, CPL's billing rates for 2026 are \$205 per hour for the Project Manager (Professional Engineer) and \$170 per hour for the Senior Engineer Civil/Structural; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for City Engineer services in expenditure account line 001.1900.1970; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peekskill Common Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Peekskill to approve the City Manager's appointment of CPL as City Engineer for the period of December, 31, 2025 through December 31, 2026; and

WHEREAS, on August 12, 2024, the Common council passed Resolution #J11 to appoint CPL to provide consultant services to the City of Peekskill Department of Planning and Development; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peekskill requires planning consultant services for the Planning Department in conjunction with the review of applications for the Common Council, Planning Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals, as well as other tasks performed by the City Planning Department; and

WHEREAS, funds are available for general planning consultant services in expenditure account line 001.8686.0404; and

WHEREAS, the City of Peekskill Common Council finds it to be in the best interest of the City of Peekskill to approve the appointment of CPL Architects, Engineers, Landscape Architects, Surveyors ("CPL") consultant to the City of Peekskill Planning Department.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that the City of Peekskill Common Council hereby approves the City Manager's appointment of CPL as the City Engineer and Consultant to the City of Peekskill Planning Department, effective immediately, through December 31, 2026; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the City Manager is authorized to take any and all necessary actions to effectuate the intent of this Resolution; and be it further

RESOLVED, that this Resolution shall take effect immediately.

Congratulations and recognition were extended to Cornell Hammonds who was recognized as the new Superintendent of DPW.

CITIZENS DESIRING TO BE HEARD

None

ADJOURNMENT

Mayor McKenzie asked for a motion to close the meeting. It was moved by Deputy Mayor Riley. It was seconded by Councilman Fassett motion and unanimously carried. This meeting adjourned at 12:30pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Cassandra Redd
City Clerk