

**Minutes of the
TROY CITY COUNCIL
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMITTEE
February 16, 2023
5:30 P.M.**

The meeting was called to order at 5:55 p.m. by Council Member Sorriento, Chair

Pledge of Allegiance

Roll Call:: The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Member Gulli was absent, Council Member Figueroa was absent, Council Member Steele, Council Member Menn, Council Member Conley-Wilson Council Member Sorriento, Council President Mantello, Chair.

In attendance were Mayor Patrick Madden, Deputy Mayor Christopher Nolin Corporation Council Richard Morrissey, Comptroller Andy Piotrowski, Approximately 40 members of the public attended

Public Forum:

- Cindy Ryan
- Mark Speed
- Jana Favreau
- Greg Kilcomboe
- John Kane
- Emily Burkmeyer
- Eileen Javier
- Liz Moran
- Greg Drifus
- Lena Hendrickson
- Amelia Levecque
- Rob Hayes
- Zachary Guthrie
- Jean Kreger

Mayor Patrick Madden and Superintendent of Public Utilities, gave a presentation on their plan for Lead Pipes

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

An audio recording of this meeting is on file at the City Clerk's office.

February 14, 2023

To: Mayor Patrick Madden and the Troy City Council

Re: Protect Kids in Troy from Lead Poisoning Now

Dear Mayor Madden and Troy City Council members,

We are writing to you about Troy's lead poisoning crisis. We are Troy residents, mothers and fathers, supportive local organizations, and many others who care deeply about the health and safety of our families, neighbors, and the over 1,000 lead-poisoned children in the city.

Troy has a lead in drinking water problem. We are demanding that you take more aggressive action to ensure that every person in Troy has clean, lead-free water and to put the city on a path to 100% lead pipe replacement. We urge you to commit to the following **Get the Lead Out Platform**:

1. Present a plan to swiftly spend current lead pipe replacement grant funding. In line with these [Principles of Lead Pipe Replacement](#), do not place any costs on homeowners or tenants. Prioritize replacements for families with lead-poisoned or young children and in low-income neighborhoods;
2. Establish a local revenue stream for lead pipe replacement, in addition to using American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, and commit to a timetable for removing all of these dangerous pipes. Use the City of Albany as a model, which intends to replace all lead pipes in 10 years and has set aside money specifically to do so;
3. Provide free water filters to every home with a lead pipe as those residents wait for a replacement, so they are protected from lead exposure when they turn on the tap;
4. Make public all communications about the current lead pipe replacement grant funding between city staff and other city, county, and state officials;
5. Investigate whether Troy is fully complying with actions required by the US EPA following the city's exceedance of the action level for lead in drinking water;
6. Release a list of state and federal funding that the city intends to apply for or has already applied for to accelerate lead pipe replacement;
7. Pass a resolution urging Governor Hochul and the State Legislature to appropriate and allocate more state funding for lead pipe replacement;
8. Do NOT establish a task force on lead poisoning. Task forces slow progress and sap energy from the real work needed to eliminate this threat to public health. Instead, identify a point-person and team who will work on this issue full-time; and
9. Create and regularly update a website to track progress with handing out filters, replacing lead pipes, applying for new funds, and more. List the full-time point-person and team for residents with questions.

At the Troy City Council meeting on February 2, we raised the alarm that the city has for 5 years failed to spend a \$516,000 grant from the NYS Department of Health (DOH) to replace lead pipes. We also described how Mayor Madden and Superintendent of Public Utilities Wheland had ignored at least one resident who had pleaded for help to remove her lead pipe and safeguard the health of her young children. Council President Mantello had also proved unresponsive to a recent email from this resident.

But after listening to heartbreaking stories about residents' exposure to dangerous levels of lead in drinking water and experience raising lead-poisoned children, Mayor Madden made statements at the end of the meeting downplaying the urgency of problem and dismissing residents asking important questions

about why the city had not acted years ago to protect people from lead hazards. The Mayor's comments were outrageous.

In the week since that Council meeting, the Mayor and Superintendent have continued to make unacceptable comments. They have tried to deflect blame for the city's failures by [faulting](#) homeowners for not identifying lead pipes themselves, and they have [implied](#) that replacing no lead pipes is better than beginning to replace some lead pipes.

The truth is that there is no good reason why the city should not have spent 100% of its lead pipe replacement funding by now, as other grant recipients like Albany and Schenectady had done years ago. It is time for Mayor Madden and his administration to accept responsibility for that and shift their full attention to getting the lead out of Troy's drinking water.

On February 8, the Times Union [reported](#) that council leaders are supportive of tapping into Troy's remaining \$4 million of ARPA funds to boost funding available for lead pipe replacements. While this would be an important and welcome step, it would still only make a dent in the need to replace Troy's estimated 14,000 lead pipes, with an estimated price tag of \$70 million.

The **Get the Lead Out Platform** that we listed above is needed in addition to the use of ARPA money. Nothing less than a comprehensive strategy to eliminate the lead in Troy's drinking water will be adequate to protect people's health from this deadly neurotoxin. We hope to hear updates on each of our platform requests at the Utility Committee meeting this Thursday. The voices of Troy residents should no longer be ignored on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Supportive Organizations (in alphabetical order):

Alexis Goldsmith
Beyond Plastics

Rebecca Garrard
Citizen Action

Bobbi Wilding
Clean+Healthy

Chris Lake
Community for a Cause

Marketa Edwards
The Community Rising Project

Liz Moran
Earthjustice

Rob Hayes
Environmental Advocates NY

Sarah Bachinger
Friends of the Mahicantuck

Dierdre Shea
Fun Stuff Design

Bob Blackmon, Linda OMalley, Daquetta Jones,
Robert Martiniano, Noreen McKee, and David
Bissember
Justice Center of Rensselaer County

Rev. West McNeill
Labor-Religion Coalition of NYS

Kathleen A Curtis
Moms for a Nontoxic New York

Xavier Coughlin, MD and Jane Luceno
People's Health Sanctuary

Shanice Fleming
Queenz Cut Flower Farm

Adrian Alicea Roman
RPI RA Union

Aileen Javier
The Sanctuary for Independent Media

Greg Campbell-Cohen
TIMBER

Sean Collins
Troy Area Labor Council, AFL-CIO

Renee Rhodes
Troy Democratic Socialists of America

Mark Looney
Troy NAACP Environmental and Climate Justice Committee

Hon. Gabriella A. Romero
Albany Common Councilmember, 6th Ward

Supportive Troy Residents (including parents and business owners, in alphabetical order):

Emily Abramson
Jay Alcumbrac
Rhiannon Antico
Jeffrey Arias
Deyva Arthur
Kelly Artis
David Banks
Aidan Bardos
Carolyn Bardos
Christopher Bassett
Jenn Baumstein
Katherine Bell
Luz Marquez Benbow
Jessica Bennett
William Bornstein
Annee Borthwick
Melissa Bromley
Emily Brown
Simon Burke-Lipiczky
Crystal Burnham
Stephanie Caragliano
Jennifer Cardinal
Laura M Cardwell
Rachel Carter
Christopher Caulfield
Justin Cirigliano
Jess Cloutier
Dr. Brandon Costelloe-Kuehn
Nailah Coley
Colie Collen
Alanna Costelloe-Kuehn
Emily Coopet
Shannon Curran-Trzepacz
Victor Davidson
Holley Davis

Skye Day
Diane Deas
Sophia DeVito
Sanjana Dhulipalla
Kristoph DiMaria
Noelle Dommasch
Rhea Drysdale
Sasha Dubodel
Emily Eller
Emily Ellis
Jona Favreau
Colette Fishkin
Meghan Fitzgerald
Lila Flanagan
Wayne Foy
Lori Friday
Kourtney Gallagher
Michael Gardner
Rosaly German
Myron Getman
Taylor Gillis
Lisa Graham
Daniel Graham
Nicole Gramenides
Amanda Gray
Christian Grigoraskos
Zachary Guthrie
Alexander Hanse
Sina Basila Hickey
Sonya Hovsepian
Ellie Irons
Azura Iversen-Keahi
Aileen Javier
Julia Kelly
Danny Killion

Dr. Abby Kinchy
Nancy Klepsch
Celia Kutz
Arslan Lau
Isabella Legovich
Erin Lennox
Jack Letourneau
Lily Lothrop
Andrew Lynn
Maricate Mangan
Jess Maxwell
Nora McDowell
Desirea McKee
Sylva Menard
Quinn Miller
DaVania Mitchell
Loretta Montgomery, PE
Graciela Monroy
Daniel Morrissey
Adam Morrow
Gwen Moyer
Michele Murray
Abigail Murray
Avi Nagel
Caroline Nagy
Lyd Nenno
Samantha Neumann
Kamilia Nicolas
Bug Nichols
Anthony Olivares
Alissa Ouderkirk
Emily Pallas
Sarah Parks
Ashley Parsley
Katherine Parsley
Lawrence J Parsley Jr, MD
Sara Paupini
Adam Pelletier
Ariela Perez-Wallach

Terra Pfund
Kelsey Poore
Anita Prabhakar
Elizabeth Press
H. David Previtali
Hannah L Price
Kevin Quinde
James Dylan Rees
Hannah Riegel
Renee Rhodes
Victoria Robert
Laura Ryder
Ashley Saupp
Elizabeth Schatz
Eloise Schieferdecker
Nicholas Schrader
Jennifer Schulaner
Nina Schwartzman
Christopher Scully
Dara Silbermann
Abigail Simkovic
Cameron Smith
Emma Soto
Gia Sprouse
Monica J Staats
Beth Steckley
Sophia Turnbow
Eleanor Tyner
Audrey Vallee
Rafael Varela
Aaron J. Vera, P.E.
Emily A. Wager
Lorelei Wagner
Ian A Walkinshaw
Ashley Whitaker
Amanda Wild
Aliana Wilson
Yi Zhou

Supportive Former Troy Residents and NYS Residents (in alphabetical order):

Jennifer Becker
Stephanie Collins
Angela Cortina
K Michelle Doyle
Kayla Hartman

Line Kristine Henriksen
Jessica Hoffman
Laura Rabinow
Mark Russo
Pam Sweig