

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – NOVEMBER 13, 2007**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Mark W. Blanchfield at 7:00 P.M. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Blanchfield called upon Rev. Emmanuel Adams, New Bethel Community Church of God in Christ, to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. Blanchfield then called upon Barbara Katz to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

The City Clerk called the roll and the following members of the City Council answered to being present:

Present – Councilmembers Joseph L. Allen, Frank J. Maurizio,
Margaret C. King, Gary R. McCarthy, Denise K. Brucker,
Barbara Blanchard and Mark W. Blanchfield

Absent – None.

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Carolyn Friello
and Corporation Counsel L. John Van Norden, Esq.

At this point in the meeting, the Mayor honored the members of the Mt. Pleasant Action Coalition. Rune Skoog accepted.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. McCarthy moved that the minutes of the City Council Meeting of October 22, 2007 and the Recessed City Council Meeting of November 1, 2007 be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. It was seconded by Ms. King. Hearing no objections, Mr. Blanchfield declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Official –

From the Mayor, a list of appointments.

General – (Public Announcements):

After an absence of more than 50 years, the residents of the Bellevue neighborhood will once again have a Community Christmas Tree at the intersection of Broadway and Guilderland Ave., where the Veteran's Monument is located. The lighting event will be

held on Saturday, December 1st, 2007. Immediately following the event, a reception will be held in the lobby of the Bellevue Branch of the Key Bank. Refreshments will be served. The Bellevue Preservation Association and the Bellevue Neighborhood Association are co-sponsors of the event. For further information, call Tony DeLuccia at 393-2701.

The Bellevue Preservation Association will hold their Annual Tree Lighting and Christmas Party on Thursday, December 13th at 7:00 P.M. at St. Paul's Church Hall at 1911 Fairview Ave. Holiday music will be performed by local school and church musicians. Refreshments will be served.

The Bellevue Neighborhood Association will meet on Thursday evening, November 15th at 7:00 P.M. at the Bellevue Reformed Church, located at the corner of Broadway and Genesee Street. The Guest Speakers include the Bureau of Service's Commissioner, Carl Olsen and Building Inspector, Keith Lamp. All are welcome to attend.

PETITIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Maurizio stated that the City Development & Planning Committee met. He explained Agenda Item #6 – it was the sale of 203 Front Street for \$1.00 to Stockade Harbour Associates.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the Public Safety Committee met. He explained Agenda Items #10 and #10A. Both are grants for the Police Department.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. Blanchfield invited all who wished to address the City Council on any item of the Legislative Agenda to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Mark DeChiro, 38 Fairfax Ave., spoke in regard to Agenda Item #6. The Energy Advisory Board is in favor of this. We ask that, at a minimum, it be built with Energy Star Standards. I would like to be assured that it will continue to be energy smart and be assured that all future development be done with the Energy Star Standards.

Karen Wildzunas said – We urge the adoption of the DSAD Budget.

Colleen Merays, Acting Executive Director of DSIC, urged the adoption of the DSAD Budget.

Bill Kownack, 183 Nott Terrace, said – I am in support of the DSAD Budget and urge the adoption of the resolution.

Ms. Blanchard spoke in regard to Agenda Item #6. She made a motion that the townhouse be built to Energy Star Standards.

Mr. McCarthy asked for documentation before voting.

Mr. Maurizio said – I think that it's important that we move forward with this legislation tonight and put Ms. Blanchard's motion on for further discussion on a future committee cycle.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. Blanchfield declared the Privilege of the Floor on the Legislative Agenda closed.

INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES & RESOLUTIONS:

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 2007-212	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-213	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-214	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-215	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-216	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-217	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-218	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-219	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2007-220	Adopted Unanimously

With Unanimous Consent –

Resolution No. 2007-221

Adopted Unanimously

(Original Consideration) –

Resolution No. 2007-222

(Roll Call Vote) – 6:0:1

Voting Aye – Allen,
Maurizio, McCarthy,
Brucker, Blanchard,
Blanchfield

Voting No – None

Abstained – King

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Blanchfield invited all who wished to address the City Council on any matter of city business to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Maryanne Ruscitto, Front Street, asked – Why does a city who's trying to change its image, allow so many outdoor drinking parties? The tavern owners need to keep their patrons confined to 4 walls. I am asking you to take a look at these outdoor parties and stop issuing permits. Also, I want to thank you, Mr. Maurizio and Mr. Strichman for all their work on 203 Front Street.

Vince Riggi, 2138 Campbell Ave., stated that it is so important that your campaign issues of cleaning up the neighborhood be addressed. Nobody should live with hardships. The neighborhood needs to be addressed and I will hold you to your promises. Also, maybe at sometime, we can look into getting these seats back here padded.

Richard Antokol, Schenectady resident, spoke in regard to our tax rate. My nephew in Westchester's tax rate is lower, but, their tax bill is 3 to 4 times what I pay. I don't pay the rate, I pay the bill – the bill is a bargain. I want to thank you all for getting our finances straightened out and our housing is economical and inexpensive.

Edward Balga, Schenectady resident, said – I demand that you refuse the \$4,200.00 raise. Give it back. Who gets that kind of money? You are making people look like a bunch of fools. Give the raise to the Waste Department.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. Blanchfield declared the Privilege of the Floor closed.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Blanchard suggested that you buy LED Holiday Lights which are almost the same price and just as nice and they use 4 watts instead of 40.

Ms. King stated that the Gazette Holiday Parade is scheduled for November 17th at 5:00 P.M. This year, there will be a new addition to the Parade, Simon the Chipmunk Balloon. Also on November 17th, Lennon's Irish Shop is holding its first ever Christmas Open House from 2:00 P.M. to 5:00 P.M. There will be entertainment and wonderful holiday gifts.

Mr. McCarthy stated that it was brought up about Mill Lane. Some time ago, this Council waived some status that we had through a UDAG Grant that went into that property. I understand that we recently sold it through the foreclosure process as opposed to what I thought we had agreed to waive our status and our claim to some reimbursement. I wonder if the Law Department can recap that or put it on for committee review to see if, in fact, everything was done appropriately or if we were misled in terms of the final outcome of the project.

The Mayor thanked everyone who voted on Election Day and gave us your support. Congratulations to my colleagues and Tom DellaSala. It was a strong campaign. These charts here remind us of what we have done as a team over the last 4 years. We don't ever want to go back to that position or place. Also in regard to the comments about the Schenectady Downtown Improvement Corporation, the comments said that I was having a rift or rebuffing to some of the small business owners – nothing could be further from the truth. I welcome the opportunity to meet with any of our business people. The legislation that created the DSIC put into place a process for appointment and that process is through the Mayor with the Council's confirmation. We welcome suggested input and dialogue by the business owners. Our needs and goals are far too important, not to work together.

Mr. Blanchfield spoke in regard to the discussion that we had to amend our Consent Agenda. I want to make it clear that it's not an expression of opposition; there's a time and a place for them to develop fully during a committee meeting when we can consider them. There are and will appropriate junctures for us to consider energy options in the future. Thanks to my colleagues for helping us work through that. I know that I can look

forward to their dedication in obtaining all the information that we need. Also, thanks to the Finance Department for all their hard work regarding Agenda Item #5. The improvements that we have had regarding the Capital Projects, particularly in the last 4 years, has been dramatic. These days, we can look forward to well-managed Capital Projects, in terms of their execution and also the financial aspects of the projects. The money left over will be used to retire the debt. Finally, thanks to all the volunteers, planners and coordinators for the Stockade-a-ton yesterday. It took us through Vale Cemetery which was beautiful and takes us off the streets. Congratulations to the 1 & 2 finishers in the Women's Division, Eileen Combs and Emily Bryans, both Schenectadians. This was tremendous when you consider how far away people come to run in this race.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Blanchfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:00 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

**BY CAROLYN FRIELLO
CITY CLERK**