

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – DECEMBER 26, 2006**

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. Dominic Isopo, St. Luke's Catholic Church, to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. Blanchfield then called upon the Goldberger Family 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,
Gary R. McCarthy, Margaret C. King, Barbara Blanchard and
Mark W. Blanchfield

Absent - None.

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Carolyn Friello and
Corporation Counsel Alfred L. Goldberger

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: None.

COMMUNICATIONS: None.

PETITIONS: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Maurizio stated that the City Development & Planning Committee met and he explained Agenda Items #4, #9 and #10.

Mr. McCarthy stated that the Public Safety Committee met and he spoke in regard to the Police Community Review Board.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Blanchfield asked if there were no objections, he would like to take Agenda Items #11 and #13 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2006-262

Adopted Unanimously

Mr. McCarthy invited Bill Rocco, Frank Feiner, Rose Cooper, Dr. Robert Rohr and Doris Aiken to come inside the rail to accept a resolution recognizing and commending RID on its 29th Anniversary. They thanked the City Council for the resolution.

Resolution No. 2006-263

Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Maurizio invited Corporation Counsel Alfred L. Goldberger and his family to come inside the rail to accept a resolution expressing appreciation for the service, advice and counsel received over the course of 11 years and wishing him well in his retirement from public office. They thanked the City Council for the resolution.

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:

Jason Planck, Schenectady resident, spoke in regard to Agenda Item #4. I know that the Woodlawn residents would be here if they knew what the Mayor's staff was planning to do. We specifically said – "No development" on the maintenance lot on Oregon Ave. That land is forever Parkland.

Jim Livingston, Schenectady resident, spoke in regard to Agenda Item #5. My poll shows that no one on the Council has compared the final draft with input from the neighborhoods. There are many good things in the plan, but, several things were not included. I can't believe on the word of the Zoning Officer that you would believe this has been a fair and open process. A lot of things are in the plan that were not put in by anyone in our neighborhood.

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 –

Local Law #6-2006

Adopted Unanimously

Consent Agenda (Continued) –

Local Law #7-2006	Introduced Only
Resolution No. 2006-264	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-265	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-266	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-267	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-268	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-269	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-270	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-271	Adopted Unanimously

Original Consideration –

Resolution No. 2006-272	Adopted 4:2 Voting Aye – Maurizio, McCarthy, King, Blanchfield Voting No – Allen, Blanchard
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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:

Pat Zollinger, 150 Clement Ave., stated that for 2007: 1) Simplify the Code; 2) Always let us know if the Local Laws are subject to Permissive Referendum; 3) The Council needs to take away free benefits; 4) Increase the City School District as part of the city function; 5) Put the Code on internet; 6) Have the residents treated with respect; 7) Separate the budget items associated with; 8) Write legislation to dismiss a Councilmember for cause; 9) If the Council seat becomes vacant and 10) Create and distribute an annual report.

Katherine Delain, 214 Liberty Street, said – I am deeply concerned about the appointment of Denise Brucker. She is against the televising of these meetings. She does not stand up for the people. I strongly oppose her nomination. You are taking the process out of our hands.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady resident, stated that a man moved here from California – bought a house in Hamilton Hill, rehabbed it himself and now lives in it. BNI honored him for his work; I think that Mr. Columba also should be recognized by the Heritage Foundation. I would like to nominate the house for the National Heritage Awards Ceremony. What better way to see Schenectady than through the eyes of a newcomer. He is enjoying his life here. Also perhaps, the citizens can be recognized on a regular basis during the member's comments during the City Council meetings.

Tony Buonome, Bellevue resident, stated that on December 14th, the Bellevue Preservation had their annual Tree lighting. The High School did a great job entertaining and they were a very polite group of kids.

Jim Livingston, Schenectady resident, asked – How many Councilmembers participated in conversations about the sale of water to Saratoga? I did a little poll and found that they knew nothing about it. What happens if we accelerate the draw down of the aquifer. I hope that everyone is involved. We need an incentive, not disincentive to clean up the river.

Jason Planck, Schenectady resident, said – “Forever Parkland” means that it cannot be switched from one piece of land to another.

Barbara Katz, Schenectady resident, spoke about an individual throwing their garbage at 114 State Street and Hulett Street. They throw their garbage on the grass and even in the road because they want it to go anyplace.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Blanchard wished everyone a “Happy New Year”. She told everyone that if you have too much to drink, you need to ask the bartender for a free ride home.

Ms. King stated that River Street Planning has had the Comprehensive Plan on their website for a long time. They had accepted continuous comments and no way, have people been excluded.

Mr. Blanchfield said – “Thanks” to Al Goldberger, the one I called a “soothing presence in City Hall”. You can always call him with whatever degree of stress you or someone else has and he has a soothing quality to him. We have been lucky to have him.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Blanchfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:15 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

**BY CAROLYN FRIELLO
CITY CLERK**