

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – MAY 24, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy at 7:05 P.M. in Room 109, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Rev. Bill Levering of the First Reformed Church to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. McCarthy then called upon Councilmember Joseph L. Allen to lead us in 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, Margaret C. King, Thomas Della Sala, Barbara J. Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy.

Absent – Councilmember Denise K. Brucker.

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Corporation Counsel L. John Van Norden.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

1. An Ordinance amending Chapter 264 – Zoning of the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady shall be amended to change the zoning classification Applicable to SBL 39.50-2 lots 44, 45 and 46 to C-4 Downtown mixed use.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #1 to come forward (7:13 P.M.). Seeing no speakers Mr. McCarthy closed Public Hearing #1 (7:14 P.M.).

2. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 186, section 16 to add a New Subsection C in relation to Penalties for Violation of the Section.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #2 to come forward (7:14 P.M.). Seeing no speakers Mr. McCarthy closed Public Hearing #2 (7:15 P.M.).

3. An Ordinance Amending Chapter 248, Vehicles and Traffic Law of the Code of the City of Schenectady regarding proposed parking meter rate increases, and fine increases for certain violations.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #3 to come forward (7:15 P.M.)

Jason Planck, City of Schenectady – On this item here for disability parking, it should be \$2,500.00 fines for people parking in these handicapped spots. The proposal that you are doing is for \$140.00, you should round it off to at least \$150.00. There is also the \$30.00 surcharge for disability education. We need a separate code within the parking ticket that is just for disability parking in the access aisles and if you are found parking in the access ~~isles~~aisles, the fines should be double, so that would

be a \$300.00 fine. We need a line on the ticket so that the officer can ~~recite~~ snow removal from handicapped parking and access aisles. That would be helpful. Thank you.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. Blanchard moved the minutes of the City Council meeting of May 10th be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. Mr. Della Sala seconded it. Hearing no objections Mr. McCarthy declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATION:

Official:

From the Department of Utilities and Facilities two letters accepting the bids and awarding contracts to:

Slack Chemical for “Bulk Liquid Chlorine” in the amount of \$19,896.00.

Rocal, Inc., for “Traffic Signs” in the amount of \$24,191.20.

General:

The Bellevue Neighborhood will be conducting a Neighborhood wide garage sale on Saturday and Sunday, June 12th and 13th. Bellevue residents who wish to participate can pick-up a copy of an application at Bellevue Branch of the Key Bank or call Tony DeLuccia at 393-2701.

Petitions: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Allen: The Health and Recreation Committee met at the Golf Course to plan the 75th Anniversary of the Golf Course and some of the things that are on the agenda for the golf course are on May 22nd, The Women's Gazette Championship Tournament, on June 12th and 13th, ~~they~~ **Van Arlen Cup** are going to have the 43rd Annual ~~_____~~ Haggerty Two Man Championship.

~~_____~~ **Van Arlen Cup:** Two man Handicapped ~~___~~ Championships, on August 10th, they ~~_____~~ are having 1935 Rate Day, which is going ~~__~~ back to 1935, what they charged for a ~~_____~~ round of golf that year. They are doing ~~___~~ some things on the Golf Course; ~~they.~~ **They** are going to renovate the eighth hole and ~~_____~~ restore all banners, clear some brush and ~~_____~~ new trees. They are looking forward to ~~_____~~ the 75th Anniversary, hoping to improve ~~___~~ the golf course. It is looking real good.

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PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Jason Planck~~Plack~~: Last Monday, we had the Community Block Grant that came up ~~_____~~ on the agenda. This item really needs to be addressed. This is a 15 million dollar project package that was not even gone over. You guys did not even have the documentation in front of you, ~~the.~~ **The** Mayor and his staff did make the changes four days later to include the public comment but that is about it. Also, **Councilman** Allen brought up the Economic Disparity Study during that period; we are burying our heads in the sand, saying that as long as we are not doing the document we are not liable. Well you are liable, you just ~~passed~~ **passed** the 5 year plan, and it included 15% set asides. What are the costs? We need to know what direction we are going. Just to say we are going to give 10% to affirmative action for equal opportunity. We are paying \$50,000 for 20 hours a week worth of work; ~~that's.~~ **That's** almost a \$1,000 per week we are paying this person; we are ~~all~~ getting no ~~_____~~ jobs, no growth.

P.D. Voorhis: I didn't ~~hear~~ **are** about the public ~~ban~~ on smoking and I believe that ~~Mr.~~ ~~_____~~ **Ms.** Blanchard stated that this is adding a \$50.00 fine and it is only in Central ~~_____~~ Park. I still don't know what the increases are. Item #4, a Resolution repealing ~~_____~~ Resolution 2010-88, I don't know anything about that it is not in our sheets here, ~~all.~~ ~~_____~~ **All** I know is that Mr. Van Norden said it was his favorite. So I

think it had something to do with open containers. Do we have anything on the books on who

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can be on the streets, a girl with paint all over her body, it is that artistic expression? Item #7, these street lights, I saw them ~~there~~. There is no new technology to them ~~they~~. They just look like they are larger.

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

INTROEDUCTIONINTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION UPON LOCAL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 2010-95	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-96	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-97	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-98	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-99	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-100	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-CS-08	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-CS-09	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. McCarthy 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:

Barbra Katz, 375 Broadway – I talked about this a few months ago, we need stores downtown. a shoe store and a market on Union Street, restaurants that charges \$3 or \$4 dollars not \$9 or \$10 dollars to eat. We don't need any more restaurants. a big Art Supply Store would be nice. We need more business downtown.

Frank Natalie, 20141 Caldicott Rd – Good evening, my name is Frank Natalie and I am President of the Schenectady Labor Counsel and also Business Agent of Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 7. We represent 1000's of Union ~~member~~ members and their families in the area. My goal here tonight is to educate and

inform the public about our Apprenticeship Program in building and construction trade, unions and give information on how to apply to these programs. We do actively recruit _____ applicants —in our target local communitycommunities including people of color and _____ minorities, we. We pretty —much do it the traditional way, through newspaper ads, _____ participate in _____ career days. —We have the information posted on our website and some of the union people run _____

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some of the union people run T.V. commercials. The last couple of years we have partnered with the building bridges program, Building Bridges Program, directed by Ada Martinez, and she is here tonight to talk to you _____ about the program but. But, she takes applicants and helps them apply to our _____ Apprenticeship Programs. She helps them prepare for the subsequent interview _____ process that the individual will go through as well as to hopefully enter our _____ program. Our programs are a great opportunity for individuals who are not _____ college bound. Individuals do not have to have any prior construction background _____ or knowledge. We train individuals from the ground up. Our programs run from 3 _____ to 5 years and they will receive training on the job as well as classroom _____ instructions at night. Lastly, we were disheartened by an article that appeared in the _____ Schenectady Gazette a week ago yesterday that discouraged people of color _____ and _____ minorities from applying to our Apprenticeship Programs. These programs are _____ life changing career opportunities, they. They provide good paying jobs, and they _____ provide health care benefits for the apprentice and their families and a pension. _____ Right True, the economy is bad and unemployment is high, but future demands in the _____ construction trades and the need for people will increase substantially. Thank you.

Ada Martinez, 27 Chestnut St. – I am the project manager for the Capital Region Development Center, which is a non-profit arm of the Capital District Labor Organization. I'm also a resident of Schenectady, the. The Building Bridges Program, focuses on people of color in low income communities. First of all, I am _____ a partner with the building trades at theretheir request. We work with them in getting _____ them into candidates for the Apprenticeship Programs. Of the 30 students we have _____ graduated in _____ the past two years, we have 66 in the building trade or on an _____ Apprenticeship list. I want to focus on the fact on the fact that we have been focusing on _____ Albany, _____ because that is where we have gotten our funding. We have applied for a _____ grant —through the United Way, so we can expand to the City of Schenectady. I _____ have —lived in the Vale Community my whole life, so I do understand the need for _____ these —programs, so that individuals can get all the skills that they need to succeed _____ in the —Apprenticeship Program. I just have to tell you about our program and that _____ we _____ have been able to place minorities in the construction field. Thank You.

Jason Planck, City of Schenectady – Going back to the Affirmative Action Contract, the Community Development Block Grants. Tracy Chance took it over

in 2007 and left in 2008, and Marion ~~Cajuste oyuchi~~ took over in 2008 and ~~in~~ each one of those years ~~have~~has been set aside for policy guide-lines and procedures and the goals of Affirmative Action, ~~none~~, None of them have been met. In this last contract for the 2009, 2010 season, oh, they said we did it. In reality they have not. How can you implement something that is not there to be implemented? We need to come back to finding out what is going on with our Affirmative Action? What is happening with "Persons of Disabilities" programs? This all goes back to the Consolidated Plan, which was a 5 year, plan and which there was no plan at all.

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happening with "Persons of Disabilities" programs? This all goes back to the Consolidated Plan, which was a 5 year, plan and which there was no plan at all. We have to take another look at these plans. I have said this before; we are dead last in the State in having jobs for people with disabilities. We need jobs and for the summer youth, it is even ~~worst~~-worse.

Vince Riggi, Campbell Ave, Schenectady – What Jason said about money targeted for neighborhoods, he is absolutely right². I have been here talking about the problems in the neighborhoods for years, years and years and in Schenectady ~~in~~I'm seeing that we have a "Tale of Two Cities" we have two cities, ~~we~~, We have downtown and ~~we~~ have Union Street and then the rest of the City where most of us live. It is just not right; I don't know what we are going to do about it. We are not even close to stabilizing the problem in the neighborhood; they just go on and on. People are disgusted; we have burned out buildings, the old Ann's Pizzeria in Bellevue that went down this winter, it is not even stabilized correctly. It is wide open, it looks like heck, and it is right in the main corridor of Broadway and the person next door, a business person has their building for sale. You try to sell something with that burned out hulk next door. We have problems, ~~they~~, There are drug houses, ~~there~~, There was a drug deal going on at Campbell Avenue and I have to give the ~~the~~ Police Department credit. When they came, there was fighting outside and when ~~the~~ police came; they told the people involved that they have to move. I would like to see more of that. I'll bring this up again. What we need is zero tolerance. The smoking ban is great, ~~make~~, Make sure it is in all the parks, and I lost two sisters to cancer. We need a plan, ~~so~~, So come up with a plan City Council. I'll help any any way I can. Lastly, "Memorial Day", I want to give my thanks to all the Veterans who gave the supreme sacrifice, we can't say enough about that. Memorial Day is their day, for those who gave the~~their~~ life for our country.

Harry Brand, 2108 Van Rensselaer Ave – I hope I get extra time. I missed a couple of meetings. I would like to talk about that property on Foster Avenue, that garage. I still can't understand how nobody on the City Council didn't know that

they didn't have a title to it, ~~before.~~ Before you spend 20 million dollars. Now, apparently we have the title and we paid an extra \$13,000 ~~that.~~ That means nothing, ~~the.~~ The City has the money. We need a change in our City. We can-not afford anymore dead wood. We need you to wake up and do your job and save the taxpayers money. Our streets are the most deplorable in the whole Capital District. Do you do traffic survey on Nott or on Broadway? What's going on?

Sam Hotaling, 1836 Campbell Ave – I had just recently learned that there is a city ordinance against outdoor ~~fire place~~ fireplaces in the City of Schenectady. My family and I had no idea about this. A few nights ago, the fire department stopped by my ~~house because someone called in and told them I had a fire place in the back yard. The fire man was not happy to inform us about the ordinance against fires in~~

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~~house because someone called in and told them I had a fireplace in the back yard. The fireman was not happy to inform us about the ordinance against fires in~~
Schenectady. I had a garden hose on and ready if anything was to happen. Under the grill was a tray to catch any fallen ~~ambers-embers.~~ And I made sure that the ground around the above fire-place was wet and not going to go up. The wood pile was placed far away from the fire-place. Every step I could make to be sure of my fire-place was not going to cause any damage to my house or any other house. I am here tonight to ask if there is some ~~kingd~~ kind of permit I could get to use the fire place in my backyard and what would I have to do to get one. There is nothing better than having a hotdog cooked over an open fire, and don't get me started on roasting marshmallow for smores. As you may or may not know, my dad ~~is~~ is blind and my mom has limited mobility and at ~~times~~ times has to use a wheelchair, ~~it.~~ It is very difficult for her to do any outdoor activities which involve a lot of walking. And that's why we ~~purchasederehes~~ purchased the outdoor grill in the first place, to bring camping ~~home.~~ I have been out camping with the boy scouts and fire safety is part of the requirements to achieve the rank of Eagle Scout which I am proud to say I have achieved that honor. On many camping trips, I have been placed in charged of the fire because of the respect I show for the fire. So just let me know if there is any type of permit that I can get from the City. Thank you.

J.R. Hotaling, 183 Campbell Ave – I am concerned about the issues that are ~~happening~~ happening up in Bellevue. Last night we had possible child abduction and we had ~~a~~ a guy getting the daylight beaten out of him the other night, right across from ~~me.~~ me. ~~Luckily for him,~~ Luckily for him, we have great neighbors to stop ~~sueksuch~~ such a fight. This concerns ~~me,~~ me, ~~that~~ that people are coming into our community that have never been in our community or never been in our City and are ~~bring~~ bringing some of their problems ~~with them.~~ with them. But ~~there~~ there must be something we can do. I must agree with Vince on ~~our~~ our Memorial Day Celebration, please enjoy.

Rev. Van StartStuart – I just want you to know, “We did it” if you don’t know, well last Saturday we finished what has been called project SKIP. This project was put together by college students, Jeremy Tagliere and Joe McCarthy, Weed & Seed, ~~Marvin~~Marian Porterfield. We were able to assembly over 100 workers in Jerry Beurrell Park, ~~they~~. They did an excellent job and all the equipment is in the ground. Over \$80,000 was raised from mostly public and private funds. I must say that the Office of General Services was just johnnying on the spot and we do thank you for all that was done to the park. Mayor Stratton was the only elected official who came out. I really would have liked to have seen more of you, but this is not the only park we are going to improve, ~~so~~. So, we can give you a double ~~of~~ portion of work next time. Thanks.

~~Prairie Wells, 9 Roosevelt Street, Albany, N.Y. – I don’t live in Schenectady, but I used to and I am here tonight on behalf of my boss. Bob Matelli, who is~~

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~~Prairie Wells, 9 Roosevelt Street, Albany, N.Y. – I don’t live in Schenectady, but I used to and I am here tonight on behalf of my boss. Bob Matelli, who is~~ unable to be here tonight, Bob is the President of the Building and ~~trade~~Trade Council who represents approximately 12,000 workers in the Capital Region. I’m here because we actually wanted to piggy back ~~unto~~onto what Frank and Ada were talking about. It’s not like the concerns of the city as a whole, are the economic development, ~~our~~. Our concerns are that the best economic development tool going, is a job for every person who wants one. One of the ways we make sure that that is a reality is that we provide training and we have been partnering with the Building Bridge Program, because I actually work for the Burick Layers Union, and we have some great statistics to share with you. Ada has helped with 2 graduates from the Building Bridge Program. We took 10 apprentices and 2 of them were from Building Bridges, ~~that~~. That would be 20% of good qualified folks who are really excited to work and one of the gentlemen who could not be here tonight, but he wrote me a note. John Gibbson ~~in~~ is one of the Building Bridges graduates who is working at Global Foundries and he wanted to make sure to let people know he is now a first year apprentice for Brick Layers and belongs to Local 2. He says that the program opened the door for me and many others. We have invested time, energy and money into these programs and welcome any suggestions the City might have and we welcome working with the City. Thank you.

Seeing no speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the City Business closed 7:59.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Della Sala: First, I want to mention that I spent the last 7 days in Pittsburg, visiting my family. I have shared a ~~new~~news item with the Commissioner, ~~the~~ The City Council, is reviewing the parking fines structure. I just find it interesting that little Schenectady and big Pittsburg has the same issue on the Agenda and the Public Hearing on the fines drew no speakers. Secondly, I want to piggy-back on to what Vince said, a little history lessons that people may not know ~~in~~. In 1866, a number of military groups in the North and the South planned a day to honor those who died in the Civil War, ~~then two~~ Then two years after that, they wanted to honor everyone not just ~~—~~North and South. And in 1870, New York State was the first State in the Union to ~~—~~declare this day a State Holiday. Then in 20 years, 30 more states joined on and then in 1918 it became a Federal Holiday, just at the end of World War I, ~~_~~ which would be in 1919. Then it was to honor all those who died in war, not just the ~~—~~Civil War, ~~then~~ Then it was called Decoration Day. So now it has been 140 years that ~~—~~this Country has honored those who died in service to this country. So, I want to remind you to think about those who have died for you and

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this country and as Vince said, it is a privilege and we all know someone who died in the war and there are still those who are dying in the war. Thank you. Vince said, it is a privilege and we all know someone who died in the war and there are still those who are dying in the war. Thank you.

Mr. Allen: I want to just piggy-back on Mr. Della Sala's comments on the Memorial Day weekend. I was drafted in between two wars, Korea and Vietnam. I was in the military and they said you want to go to Vietnam, ~~basically?~~ Basically I didn't know where Vietnam was; but I said I didn't think I really wanted to go there. We have been blessed in this Country; ~~we~~ We have had numerous men who have served in the military, ordinary men who have done extraordinary things and shared all kinds of heroism and some extraordinary leaders. It came to mind the other day, when I was watching the Commencement at West Point, these outstanding young men and women were reminded that theire next move would be to a war zone. That they would be in harms way. When I just started college, all the guys who had served in Korea were coming home and talking about ~~there~~ their experiences. They were courageous. We are fortunate to have so many that will make the ultimate sacrifice for all of us and appreciate their families and loved ones.

Ms. Blanchard: I wanted to congratulate Project SKIP. They did a great job. Rev. Van Stuart did mention that the City did help prepare the land and that they were faced with a lot more work then they expected. There was a lot of concrete in the soil and Carl Olsen and Bill Macejka and their staff did a superlative job with collaboration and volunteer efforts of Weed & Seed. It was great and now we have a wonderful playground.

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Ms. King: Just a couple of things I would like to make some comments about our veterans. I have always had a very healthy respect of your military and their contribution for all of us. I also, want to thank the folks that came to talk about the Building Bridges Program. It is certainly good information for us to have. Also, I want to thank all of those who worked on the Jerry Burrell Park Project this weekend. I was running the Schenectady County Community College Commencement this weekend, but I'm going to try to get up there soon. Lastly, Steve ~~Strickhman~~~~Striekman~~ asked me to announce that on July 1st, 2010, the final presentation of the Mohawk River Water front Revitalization Plan for Schenectady County will be at the County Library in the ~~McChessney~~~~McChessy~~ Room at 7:00 p.m. The plan is ready for your review on the Schenectady Website. Thank You.

Mayor Stratton: I again want to join with our City Councilmembers, the Labor Federation and the Capital Labor Federation on bringing this information on the Building Bridges Program. Help the entry of people into the Apprenticeship Council Mtg.
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Program. We have promoted this program for several years and encourage minorities to join in this program. We are happy to see that it is alive and well and paying dividends. Also, I want to congratulate Rev. Stuart and the volunteers that ~~came together to erect the jungle-gym and do planting, it was a tremendous effort. A great project, you are to be congratulated. Also, I want to make a note of~~ came together to erect the jungle-gym and do planting, it was a tremendous effort. A great project, you are to be congratulated. Also, I want to make a note of Marcela's Grand Opening of their new 5 million dollar addition to our downtown and Broadway corridor. They are a great addition. I too want to join with Councilmen Allen on his articulate remarks saluting our veterans. Thank you Mr. President.

Mr. Allen: I want to thank who ever put the New York State Disparity Study in my mail box. I appreciate it.

ADJOURNEMENT:

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

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EILEEN M. VERSACI

CITY CLERK

