

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – JUNE 14, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy at 7:15 P.M. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Rev. Paul Panos, St. George's Greek Orthodox Church to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. McCarthy called upon the Hon. Mark Blanchfield to lead 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, Denise K. Brucker, Margaret C. King, Thomas Della Sala, Barbara Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy

Absent – None

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Assistant Corporation Counsel Evelyn Kinnah.

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McCarthy called upon Mr. Della Sala to move Resolution #4 Out of Order to appoint Carl E. Erickson to serve on the City Council and it was seconded by Councilmember Brucker.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McCarthy asked the City Clerk to call the roll, the following members of the City Council answered "Yea"

Councilmembers Joseph L. Allen, Denise K. Brucker, Margaret C. King, Thomas Della Sala, Barbara Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy

Mr. McCarthy called upon the Honorable Mark W. Blanchfield to swear Mr. Erickson in as a member of the City Council – Holding the Bible for him was his wife Justine and his son Carl the III.

At this point in the meeting Mr. McCarthy asked if there were no objection, he would like to take Agenda Items #8, #9, #11A, #11B out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution 2010-102

Adopted Unanimously

and said if they didn't sell that the city could make them sell; Mr. Bianchi plans to fight and feels he is being unjustly dealt with by the City.

P.D. Voris, Schenectady, N Y, stated she wanted to asked whether this is part of the original Little Italy Project or an extension of the project because it was unclear from PDF: I believe that the location is not part of Little Italy; read a portion of the General Municipal Law regarding condemnation; I question, whether the owners of the six lots were aware they had an interest in development. I question status of the Cornell properties because I never heard a report and I believe it would never work, went out of business and what happened to the pay back.

Seeing no other speakers, Mr. McCarthy declared Public Hearing #1 closed at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Brucker moved that the minutes of the City Council meeting of May 24, 2010 be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. It was seconded by Ms. Blanchard. Hearing no objections, Mr. McCarthy declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Official –

From the Office of the Mayor, list of Appointment (dist. 6/14/2010)

A letter from the City Engineer accepting the bid and awarding the contract to:

Callanan Industries, Inc., for the "2010 Paving Program" in the amount of \$1,581,483.00.

A letter from the Finance Department accepting the proposal from:

Chase Equipment Finance, Inc., for the Leasing of Two (2) 1500 GPM Pumpers and Necessary Related Equipment.

General:

None

Petitions:

One Petition with 31 names was presented for the City Council to review, from the residents of Emmett Street to request that the City of Schenectady repair the broken sidewalks on Emmett Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Mr. Allen – Parks and Recreation Committee has had numerous meetings over the last week or so. In regards to the Golf Course, and we will continue to have meetings dealing with the 75th Anniversary and plans for the event leading up to the celebration. There are some spectacular things being done in regards to the Golf Course, because we are trying to make the 75th Anniversary known throughout the Capitol District, and maybe even throughout the State. We are looking forward to continuing our meeting, making progress. We have outstanding committee people from around the State. Looking at the golf course and giving suggestions and hopefully in the very near future, you will see some changes in the golf course. Thank you Mr. President.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. McCarthy 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- Councilmember Allen brought up the Economic Disparity Study. There were several misconceptions last week on the study and as such one of the things that we might use is the New York State Economic Disparity Study. As a catalyst and that is incorrect, because it doesn't deal with population and so forth that are here. The State Disparity Study had to deal with employment and time. When a City looks at a Disparity Study they look at Affirmative Action within the City. Mainly an Economic Disparity Study is used for any kind of Public Funding to make sure everyone has an equal opportunity. That is the whole reason why the Economic Study governs over 16 different government entities in Schenectady County that have to have an Economic Disparity Study. We need to take a look at it and what is going on and we need to develop it ourselves. Also, Item #10, Paving Contract, some of that money is coming from the Community Block Grant. On the Block Grant 70% of that money has to go to HUD Zones and the Community Development Block Zones Area. If it is not, then you are in violation of that money. With proof of hiring with the contract, we have to know how many employees they are hiring,

where are they located and so forth. This is all part of a Disparity Study. You have to know how you're billing out and your affirmative action manager have to be able to look things over. Thanks.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady resident – I am opposed to the appointment of Carl Erickson to serve on city council. There are several reasons but primarily because qualified Democrats who were interested in the appointment were not interviewed by the City Democratic Committee. The process is flawed. Mr. Erickson does not have the necessary expertise to hold a public office. He is here because he and the Council President were neighbors. Mr. McCarthy lived at 1524 Wendell Avenue and Mr. Erickson lives at 1538 Wendell Avenue. Mr. Blanchfield, who held the seat, also lives on Wendell Avenue. This appointment will be a repetition of Councilman Della Sala's inexperience. Mr. Della Sala knew nothing about the City when the committee recommended him. His selection came about because he sat on the bleachers at baseball games with Frank Maurizio. I never realized how unprepared new office holders are, until I began attending committee meetings two years ago. Miss a meeting. Miss the information. Miss a year's worth of meetings and no one has the know how to represent us. Individuals cannot expect to learn about the city by selling widgets for General Electric or acting as a spokesman at the bargaining table for the teacher's union. There is no rush to fill the council vacancy. Postpone this appointment until every one who is interceded in the position is given the opportunity to submit a resume and is properly interviewed by the City Committee. The citizen's of Schenectady deserve it and this new father can use his free time to spend with his baby.

P.D. Voorhis, Schenectady resident – I did not know anything about Mr. Erikson, but I do believe a resume is in order. I did know what district you lived in. I didn't know what your career orientation was. I didn't know how you would fit with the rest of the Council or what you were bringing to the table. I still don't know your party affiliations. I do have questions about that. I think we are entitled to know these things. Thank you.

Seeing no speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Privilege of the Floor on the Legislative Agenda closed at 7:58 P.M.

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

Ordinance No. 2010-09
Ordinance No. 2010-10
Resolution No. 2010-101

Adopted Unanimously
Adopted Unanimously
Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2010-102	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-103	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-104	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-105	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-106	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-107	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-108	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-109	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-CS-10	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-CS-11	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:

Barbara Katz – Downtown Schenectady – The bus schedule needs to be looked into. The new schedule is not convenient. Things need to be looked into. Thank you.

Vince Riggi, 2138 Campbell Ave, Schenectady – I brought this up maybe 10 or 12 years ago, but I'm sure you would remember. People walking in the middle of the street, side by side, you can't get down the street. There is a group of kids that get off the bus at Broadway and Hageman everyday and they walk down Hageman across Guilderland Avenue, traffic has to stop. They won't move, what do we do? We need a policy for the Police Department to get the people on the sidewalk, where they belong and let the cars move down the street. I'm tired of waiting, waiting, it's not like I'm waiting for traffic. It's not just children its adults too and mothers with strollers and babies in the street, isn't that endangering the welfare of a child. They are not crossing; they just choose to walk in the street. I'm not the only person that has complained about it. We have to get some policy or program to try to put a stop to this. Speaking of cars, can the Council maybe urge the State to change the color of the new license plates? They are god awful, you can't have a car that will match with those colors that is impossible, and it's the worst thing I have ever seen in my life. Tomorrow is the School Budget Vote. I urge people to get out and vote, no matter which way you vote, but I personally am urging people to vote "No". So we can have the contingency budget because we are facing a major difficult next year. So we might as well have a little more pain this year. At least we don't have to have superintendent explain that the contingency budget is going to be higher, stay

with me and vote NO. Lastly, it has come to my attention that some people are getting property exemptions, senior exemptions, enhance Star exemptions, that are not suppose to be getting it. They don't live at the properties because they own multiple properties.

Jason Plack, Schenectady – Following up on previous conversations, Joe Allen brought up that Metroplex needed to comply with an Economic Disparity Study and complied with Affirmative Action because some of the money is bring used as private funding. That is incorrect, under the 1988 Restitution Act. It states that anytime you use, public funding money no matter how much you use as private money you must comply with Affirmative Action Rules. We need to put people back to work. We need to be accountable and job to move forward.

Harry Brand, 2108 Van Rensselaer Dr. – I fully agree with Vince, there are more people walking the road than on the sidewalks. It's a shame we have our local patrol driving up and down the street, its time to stop talking to these people and so something with them. We raised parking meter fines, what good does that do. Some people are special, look all around Union College, why can't they park in the lots instead of places where they say "no standing." Look at Union Street in front of St. Johns; they are lined up in front of the Church in a lane for traffic. I respect the church but there is a limit for the people that go there. We need some change we need some young people. I don't care what party. I heard the three things you want to stand for and I hope you stand by them and wake up some these other people.

Mary McClain, Schenectady – On May 24, 2010, council members stood in this chamber and thanked the veterans for their service to this country and yet week after week, month after month, year after year, citizens are kept out of the committee meeting process and their speech is limited in this room. Limited speech does not happen at the county level, nor does it occur in nearly towns and communities, only in this building. Another dark mark for Schenectady brought about by the city's office holders. Another item: I want to say something about the flowery send-off given to the departing councilman (Mr. Blanchfield) on May 10th. I barely recognized the fellow. The councilman I know disenfranchised Schenectady voters when he supported his colleagues who made Barbara Strangfeld's vacant seat an appointed one rather than an elective office. The councilman I know actively throws Americans off the ballot and keeps the lines for himself and his friends. The councilman I know promotes and condones limited speech. The councilman I know ran for City Council ran for the Assembly came back to City Council and then accepted a judgeship. Hardly a picture of stability. Courts are about equity, fairness and justice. Pity the individual who finds himself in a wayward court.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City, Mr. McCarthy declared the Privilege of the Floor Closed 8:15 P.M.

MISCELLANEOUS:

Ms. Blanchard – First of all Mr. Mayor, my shelf on my desk is broken. Could you get it fixed? I want to say I support Mr. Brand opinion on parking in front of St. John's. Parishioners park in a traffic lane and they should not be there. Also, I would like people to know that this coming Friday is "Art Night" the 18th of June and there will be a lot of activities around town from 5:00 to 9:00 p.m. City Hall will again be open, we will have displays by 5 artists on the 1st and 2nd floor, in this chamber. We will have original films by new filmmakers. Also, in room 110 a women is doing a project called heroes of Schenectady. She is taking people's pictures. She is going to do an exhibit in the fall, in City Hall again, so if you're lucky you might even get in the book she is writing. "Running the River" a blue grass band will play in front of City Hall, the weather is supposed to be great. Come on down.

Mr. Della Sala – Just a reminder that this Saturday is the Strawberry Festival on Union Street. It is one of the more interesting things we have in the City. One of the best things about it you get to eat something. It's a wonderful event; hope the weather is good for it.

Ms. King – Just a reminder that the Stockade Secret Gardens Tour is this weekend. There are some lovely garden hidden away and I'm sure you would enjoy them.

Mr. Allen – A couple of people have mentioned this evening that I have mentioned before. Mr. Riggi, mentioned people walking in the street. In the winter time when there are snow banks and sidewalks are not cleaned I can understand it. It was two days ago, three ladies with there strollers were pushing their babies abreast up the middle of the street. I said something 5 or 6 years ago. People were walking in the road and they had a dog, the dog was walking on the sidewalk and they were all out in the street. I don't know what you can do about it Commissioner, but maybe start giving out tickets for "Jay Walking" to get their attention.

Mayor Stratton – I would like to join my Council, collogues in welcoming Carl. I can tell you it's like having your first child; your life will never be the same.

Council Mtg.
6/14/10
Page 9

Mr. McCarthy - At this time I will entertain a motion to Recess the Council to recess without a date and call it at my discretion. Should the Legislature in Albany act then, we shall reconvene to adopt the Resolution support of the Home Rule Bill, allowing the Sale of Tax Liens.

ADJOURMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 8:25 P.M.

A TRUE RECORDED

**BY EILEEN M. VERSACI
CITY CLERK**