

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE  
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – APRIL 11, 2011**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy at 7:20 in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Rev. Art Hudak, Trinity Reformed Church, to deliver the invocation.

Mr. McCarthy then called upon John Polimeni 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 Denise K. Brucker, Carl Erikson, Margaret C. King, Thomas Della Sala and Barbara Blanchard

Absent – Joseph L. Allen

Also Present – Acting Mayor Gary R. McCarthy, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Corporation Counsel L. John Van Norden, Esq.,

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McCarthy asked if there were no objections, he would like to take Agenda Items #16, 16B, 16C and 16D out of order. There were no objections

Resolution No. 2011- 62 Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Della Sala invited Dr. and Mrs. McEvoy and all other volunteers present to come inside the rail to accept a resolution recognizing and encouraging Volunteerism in the City of Schenectady. Dr. and Mrs. McEvoy thanked the City Council for the resolution.

Resolution No. 2011-63 Adopted Unanimously

Ms. King invited Tina Macuzzo and Pat Gioia to come inside the rail to accept a resolution proclaiming the Week of April 10 through 16, 2011, as National Crime Victims’ Rights Week in the City of Schenectady. Tina Macozzo thanked the City Council for the resolution.

Resolution 2011-64 Adopted Unanimously

Mr. Erikson invited Judy Atchinson to come inside the rail to accept a resolution recognizing X-Quest for its Excellent Community Programming and Commending Judy Atchinson for her outstanding and selfless devotion to the Community. Judy Atchinson thanked the City Council for the resolution.

Resolution No. 2011-65

Adopted Unanimously

Ms. Brucker invited Tim Coakley and his Board Members to come inside the rail to accept a resolution proclaiming April 15th, 2011 as Butch Conn – A Place for Jazz Day in the City of Schenectady. Tim Coakley thanked the City Council for the resolution.

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Relative to a proposed Acquisition through eminent domain of property for Construction of Public Street and Parking Improvements to a Portion of upper Union Street.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #1 to come forward (7:50 P.M.). The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized:

Acting Mayor Gary McCarty: I have one written letter from a resident from 1054 Baker. I would direct the clerk to incorporate that into the minutes of this hearing.

**1054 Baker**, Schenectady, NY – Directly across from where Baker Avenue intersects Union St. is Ferri Formal. As a Resident living on Baker Avenue I have sat at the light at the end of the street several times a day for the last forty years. That entire section is an unsightly mess. Uneven blacktop laid over old sidewalks with cracks and broken curbing gives a very poor impression of the neighborhood as a whole. No amount of façade dollars can hide the poor condition of the area in front of the businesses on that block. Much work was done on Baker by the city several years ago and it looks wonderful. Northeast Fine Jewelry invested substantial money improving their entire building, the landscaping and the side walk area. The eastern end of Union Street has also turned out beautifully. Please don't allow all the work done in this area to be diminished by leaving one section in disrepair.

**David Evans**, Hopmeier Evans Gage Agency, 2330 Broadway, Schenectady, NY – Business owners all over the State of New York and especially in Schenectady are suffering in the current economic conditions. All retail business try to find ways to make the buying experience from their business easy and convenient. The proposed plan would reduce current parking for Ferri Formals and remove any guaranteed parking a customer any desire. Ferri Formals have been doing business in Schenectady since 1988 and have chosen to be located in Schenectady for certain reasons. However, now the City of Schenectady and or the Metroplex Authority appears to be acting against the private property owners wishes. I question why the current business property owner's request to be left out of the new parking area is not been observed. The individual rights to property ownership should not be infringed upon.

I would direct the clerk to incorporate that into the minutes of this hearing. I will open up the floor to John Polster, Assistant Corporation Counsel.

**Mr. Polster** - Thank you. To inform both the council and the members of the community that are in chambers, we need to go through a brief informational phase so that everything is clear. And the City of Schenectady, over the last several years, has been doing a reconstruction project of Upper Union Street, and it has been done in phases. The first phase was from Dean Street potentially to the town line down on Van Antwerp. And then the second phase or actually Part 2A was from Dean Street down to Baker Street. Those phases are completed. The third phase and one that we are here for tonight, concerns the area from Baker down to Garner, and there is a map over here on the easel which shows the area of the construction. The goals of the reconstruction are to improve vehicular safety, to improve pedestrian safety and to make the area a welcoming atmosphere to enhance the business activities that occur in the Upper Union Street Business District. The feedback that has been received so far has been very positive with respect to the first two phases of the project. Now, with respect to the third area which is shown on the map that is before you. And for each member of the Council, you have in front of you a blowup of the area that we're speaking about tonight. And for those that are in the gallery, there is an area right through here (indicating), which is the area in front of 1602, 1604, 1606 and 1608 Union Street. The issue that exists right now is that these four properties were initially what we believed to have been two-family homes, typical for construction in Schenectady. And some time in the past, and we believe '50s and '60s, they became commercial properties and have been built out, and it was done in somewhat of haphazard process over different time periods and there was never a global approach to handling both traffic and pedestrian traffic in front of these four parcels. Right now there is, again, a haphazard approach. All four parcels have essentially blacktop in front of them where there is illegal parking occurring and there is double parking. There are cars that are constantly backing out into traffic onto Union Street. Again, just to put this in perspective, this is Union Street right here, and the street right here is Lakewood, and then over right here would be Woodland (indicating). Right on the corner, provide a landmark, is Gershon's and then the four parcels in question. And there has been an extensive review of various options, and it has boil down to basically two options. One option would be to, right along the property line of the four parcels, we could just put in a curb and that will allow for parallel parking of two, maybe three cars. Not a very good solution for the area. The other option is to take what would amount to the front of those four parcels, approximately 29 and a half feet in depth from the city property line and construct sidewalks and put in what would be eleven parking spaces. They would be diagonally parking, and then as similar to State Street, there would be an island. So, traffic coming down to pull in, they could park, they could back out of their parking spot and then come out over on this area to the right (indicating). This is an intersection. This is Baker Avenue, which is one way into Union Street, and there would be traffic control or traffic lights here that would control all the traffic. And the traffic coming out of this opening of the

parking area would be able to turn both left and right. It is believed -- there has been extensive review. Metroplex has been involved with the project from the beginning. People from Metroplex have reviewed this; the people from the Upper Union Street Business Improvement District or BID have reviewed the design. Cleff Harbor was the entity that designed it, and it is in their opinion the best approach. And our own engineering department has reviewed it. And I believe that that is -- so the proposal is, we take the four -- the front of the four parcels, and we are dealing with three different properties owners. 1602 and 1604 are owned by the same entity, and so there are three property owners. We would like to take the front of those four parcels and make convenient parking for all of businesses in the Upper Union Street area. I will be happy to answer any questions.

**Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy** - Does the Council have any questions?

**Ms. Blanchard** - Is that island on Woodland maybe going to get shrunk or is it going to be the same size? Mr. Polster - The question is as to whether or not the island on Woodland is going to be shrunk or the same size. That's not actually part of the eminent domain issue. Paul Cassillo is here from our engineering department. And I know that the island - Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy - It's my understanding that they have no change to the island. Mr. Paul Cassillo: The Island on Woodland? Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy - Yes. R. Paul Cassillo: Is going to be narrowed about a foot or so. Mr. Polster - The island is going to be narrowed slightly about a foot. Mr. Paul Cassillo - And moved up a little bit closer to the intersection, where it makes a little more sense. It is going to be cut a little bit on -- towards where Gershon's comes in, their parking comes in, and it makes it a little easier. Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy: - Mr. Erikson. Mr. Erikson - Somewhere across the street there's diagonal parking. Is that -- that way -- where's the diagonal parking that's across the street? Mr. Polster - On Union Street, this will be going towards the Town of Niskayuna. On the other side there is diagonal parking, yes.

**Ms. Lina Ferri** - Hello, this is Lina Ferri and I start a bridal shop on Union Street for me and my daughter, and we would like to keep the parking lot for the customers. We have customers; I would like to keep it. Yes, I would to keep the parking on Union Street. And -- because we have to keep that business going and hard work, customer demand. And I'm sure that everyone who is in business understands what business is today. And that's why I don't want to move from Union Street. For me, its 47 years that I came here and I would like to keep this going on. I would like my daughter and my family not to move from there just because of the parking. Thank you.

**Ms. Sondra Stephens** - Good evening, Honorable Mayor and Distinguished Members of the City Council. My name is Sondra Stephens and I own Sondra's Fine Jewelry. I'm here on behalf of supporting everyone on Upper Union Street. This isn't a personal attack on anyone. It's not personal, it's strictly business. We started in 1997, my business, with a handshake and hope and support from our community with no financial backing and no partners in the building on Upper

Union Street. We are now at the old Hudson River Bank building at 1624 Union Street. With progress comes change; with change sometimes comes turmoil, sometimes not. But this is a positive, a very positive situation that is happening on Upper Union Street. In 1967, a few of us, Mike Mastroianni, who is from Gershon's, our deceased friend Tony Rena, a few of us backers got together, went down to see Sheldon Silver and begged for money and begged for help to make this look like some of our places like Saratoga. We had a vision. Vermont. Look where we are now. It's 2011. My store will be 14 years old, and we are starting to see major progress because of our leadership in Schenectady and people like Metroplex and BID and our continued friends in Upper Union Street. It's imperative that this process go through. It's imperative that you don't put a curb up and put three parking spots there. A short time ago, they did my parcel on Upper Union Street. Callahan is wonderful to deal with. The city was wonderful. It was visually painless and they did it very and it's been wonderful for my business. But I offered for a dollar to give up my gardens, which are pretty well known on Upper Union Street, to give up all my space for diagonal parking. I would have given up all my space -- they could have taken it, eminent domain -- for diagonal parking, because parking and location are paramount to business success. Now I sell jewelry. It's a very successful business. It's important. People get engaged. They walk out of my store in the rain, in the snow, in the sleet, in summer. I understand wedding dresses. I understand how importance this business is to stay on Union Street. She's a lovely girl, but it's that going to be that bad. It's going to be safer; it's going to be better. It's going to be better for everybody, and the longer we hold this project up, it hurts Upper Union Street. It's important for us to be a contender. We have some of the most successful tax revenue and sales revenue coming into the county are on Upper Union Street. And I hope that you will understand it's not personal; we need to move forward and we need your support. Thank you.

**Mr. Paul Sartoris** - Good evening, City Council. My name is Paul Sartoris. I purchased the building on Upper Union Street 21 years ago. My family and I started a business, Union Aquarium and Pet Supplies at that time. And the streets, curbs, sidewalks were atrocious then. And following 20 years, they got worse. It came to a point that many elderly and handicapped people would not come up to Upper Union Street. This has all changed with the streetscape. Last year they did the section that our building was in, and since then, we have noticed an increase in people coming from out of town here to Schenectady to their spend tax dollars. Just in the last two weeks we've had several people from Amsterdam and Johnstown, as far north as Lake Placid, and even from Connecticut coming to the store to purchase things. And they are seeing things that I didn't see myself. Initially, I saw the attractiveness of the streetscape, but I did not see the inherent improvement that other people saw in the safety in the fact that we are now an area to come to do shopping. We have to complete this work, and the emphasis has to be on safety. Not in the past, the other areas didn't have as much of a safety problem because the pedestrian traffic was primarily shoppers and residents. But at this particular location, we do have all the students coming from

Baker Avenue crossing at that particular point. And these are young children, and the safety in that area has to be, I think in particular, thought out well and done well. We have to finish the job and finish it with safety pedestrian design. It will meld more than 20 businesses on Upper Union Street into the best shopping destination in the tri-city. My thanks to the City of Schenectady and Metroplex for the facade project and the streetscape project. Thank you.

**Mr. Mike Mastroianni** - Good evening, Corporation Counsel, Madam Clerk, Council Members and, lastly but not least, wearing his two hats, Acting Mayor McCarthy. And I did it on purpose, because you are now the third mayor that I'm coming before to talk about the improvement of Upper Union Street. This is truly a safety-related project. We started back, like Sondra said, in '97. In '99 we really kicked it into gear. We actually had our first plans drawn up in the year 2000, which showed diagonal parking in that exact area that we're discussing this evening. Who would thought a young guy like me -- but I'm not going to be the old guy on the block talking about the history up there, seeing how my parents and my family have had that building since 1949 directly across from the area. This is basically two city cottages, 2 two-family homes, that approximately 50 years ago the owner, business owners of those properties, decided to give up their driveways. And each building on the left-hand side -- you can see where the driveways used to being -- they voluntarily did that to increased their first-floor retail space. And to quote the counselor, yes, it was kind of haphazard, I think. But back then, vehicular traffic was nowhere the volume that it is today. Cars were never double stacked in front of those properties. A car in, a car out through the curb-cut only, and that was it. Nobody drove from Gershon's down to the other end trying to find a way to scoot out onto Union Street. A lot of near-hits I call them up there. There have been a number of accidents, but the near-hits are the things that are most worrisome, especially as Paul mentioned, with that being a designated crossing area for our school. What we're going to be doing next year is certainly going to around long after us and probably a lot of the businesses that are there. This is a 40- or 50- year commitment that the City and Metroplex is making to improve that area. I just want to close basically by saying, that this is definitely not a beautification process; this is definitely for public safety, vehicular, pedestrian. I am going to close my remarks now because it is very important that you hear from the effective property owners and business owners that are right in the area, because they are certainly the ones that are supporting this project also. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Rosemary Prock** - Hello, ladies and gentlemen. My name is Rosemary Prock. I am here wearing two hats. I'm reading a letter from Anita Hug who is the owner Domani Spa at 1606 Union. She is one of the effective properties that we are here discussing tonight. Anita writes: To the members of the Schenectady City Council, my name is Anita Hug. I am the owner of Domani's Day Spa on Upper Union Street. I am writing to urge you to ensure that the third phase of the Upper Union Street streetscape project be completed as designed, including the diagonal parking in front of my business. I believe this change will greatly improve our

area creating a safer, more pedestrian friendly environment on Upper Union Street. While I will no longer have the parking available in my own lot, I feel the benefits of this change more than make up for that loss. The own responsibilities prevent from being at this meeting this evening and I hope this letter will convey my wholehearted support of the project. And if I may add on my own note, I have a business on Upper Union Street; I am in the third phase. My shop is Sow's Ear Studio and Gallery at 1597. We are really looking forward to the changes that are going to occur in Phase 3. We've seen how wonderful the streets look all the way up. We're also very concerned about safety. Our sidewalks in front of our building, they're in major need of repair right now. My business brings a lot people in from out of the area. I am a decorative painter, and my client base is all over the Capital District. So we, in essence, are a destination and we feel we represent the area in that respect as well. So I thank you for your time, for myself and for Anita. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Jerry Griggs** - I don't represent any business, I represent myself as a resident. I'm kind of a new kid on the block. I've only been in the area for a decade. I want to thank everybody for their opinions, pro and con. But at the end of the day, as a resident of the street, I've seen a lot of changes over the last decade. I love it. I'm bringing my future wife into this area. And when I show her something, I show her Union Street. I think that the walking shop there is unlike really places you're going to find anywhere. And because of that, I have my concerns. I feel we should move forward for more than a couple of reasons. My primary reason is safety. I know the area in question. It's not had a rash of reported traffic accidents; but as Mike said, there are a lot of near-hits. And just because they don't make it to the police station doesn't mean they don't make it to the insurance company. I think everyone that goes there, if they're truly honest, they are going to admit that they have trepidation about driving into that location whether it's parking into it, exiting from it, or just driving by it. It's a disaster, and I think we have to be pragmatic and admit that. More to the point, if we want to see Union Street increase as we have with these businesses -- we've seen a couple new businesses come in, Head to Tails has come in -- and there's been an increase in traffic. We have to do what it takes to adjust for that and ensure safety. Again, it's a future commitment. To be frank, I won't go there, that section of the industry, if I can avoid it. I just won't. I don't feel safe. I can't walk my dogs there and I wouldn't bring my fiancée there because I don't feel that I can do that and be safe with her. The other thing is, again, I've talked about before, a walking shopping. At the end of the day, all the work that we're doing, we need to finish this so that we do have this defined walking shop area. It's a benefit to everybody to have a safe area. It's a benefit for the customers. It's a benefit for the customers and it's a benefit to their employees. I urge you to follow through with the resolutions. The streetscape has been great. The plan that the City and Metroplex has come together, I think that will create a safe reality for all us. At the end of the day, while we all have concerns over changes in our community; certainly we are always very concerned when government gets involved; I think it's important to remember that Union Street is a community. This is not about one business, two

businesses, three businesses, four businesses, it's about Union Street. The plan that Metroplex and the city have come together with is the best possible solution to resolving the situation and works for the community as a whole. To that end, as a resident of Schenectady and the Upper Union Street area, I support this plan. Thank you.

**Mr. David Bianchi** - Hello, my name is David Bianchi. I just want to speak on eminent domain. I think the government is out of control. I showed that with you were lied to. You are still going after it with eminent domain. I believe that we have a higher standard to our police department; I believe lawmakers should have a higher standard also. Thank you very much.

**Mr. William Chapman** - Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My name is William Chapman, I live at 1463 Clifton Park Road in Niskayuna. I don't live in the city, but I am one of your neighbors in Niskayuna. And the Upper Union Street project does border Niskayuna and many residents use it. I am a member of Metroplex, but I'm not speaking for Metroplex this evening, just for myself, and I am also a former member of the town board in the Town of Niskayuna. I'm here to encourage the board to go forward with eminent domain and to go forward with finishing the project. The first two stages have gone very well and have been very well-received by the business owners and by people who use this district. The new light poles, the trees, the paving, the curbs and sidewalks have really served to make this a very serviceable and very attractive shopping area. There are many residents in Niskayuna who shop here. My wife and I walk to Upper Union Street on a regular basis. I believe that the effort the City has made, along with Metroplex, to extend the sidewalks on both the north and the south of Union Street, helps to bring pedestrians to the area. Sometimes there are trip hazards on the sidewalks and they can be eliminated, the more we encourage people to walk to do shopping, and I think that will happen here. I think that improving Upper Union with the facades and the work that's been done certainly improves the business climate in the City and improves the values of the businesses that are here. But beside that, it's a benefit to all Schenectady County residents. Because if we have attractive places to spend our dollars in the County, we keep our sales tax dollars here, which help us do more projects. I think it's a good project. I would like to see it finished, and I'm here to pass along my support. Thank you so much.

**Ms. Marie DeBrocky** - Good evening, I am Marie DeBrocky. I am the owner of the two properties involved, 1602 and 1604 Union Street, Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center. I don't think anyone here has more at stake than I do as far as having property taken away or taxes involved or customers being affected. This project has many faults. It doesn't address all of the issues, and I don't think there is any simple way to address all the issues that this involves, but it does attack some of the main things that are a concern of everybody in this room. I'm going to start by saying I am very in favor of this project because it addresses the pedestrian-traffic issue. It is not safe for people to walk in front of my own business. I've almost hit people in front of my own business. We need pedestrian

safety, period. It is unsafe for people to back out on Union Street. Because we are a wonderfully busy growing district, we have a lot more traffic. I'm a new business. In two years, I have over fifteen hundred customers that I know of, that are just daycare and grooming, and all those customers that come by foot that I can't count. Every day I have probably at least an average of 50 customers coming in and out of my store that I can count, and those are the people looking for a place to park in a quick fashion, and we don't any quick fashion that is not safe. So I do believe this project will help alleviate it and will provide a safer place for people to walk. Many of my customers have children in toe, a dog in toe; and having a sidewalk for them to walk down is something that I look forward to. Don't kid yourselves, I am inconvenienced by this, my customers will be inconvenienced by this, but I'm looking at this as a community project. These are great people that work on this association and they are looking for what's best here, and that is to provide our customers, our neighbors with safety, with a beautiful new streetscape, convenience to an extent; but more than anything, to bring this district up to what it should be, a thriving business district. And what a wonderful problem we have is that we have so much business growing that we can't provide parking for our customers. I wish everybody would have that problem. So I will look forward to this Stage 3 being completed. I think it's only going to enhance what we have now. What I am going to challenge you with now, which is not a part of eminent domain, but nonetheless it encompasses it, because the real problem is parking, period. We do not have enough on Upper Union Street, and we have a little gem here of the business district. And without the stewards of our community, all of you people here in front of me, looking forward to the future of perhaps a Stage 4, a Phase 4, that will help us to find more parking in our area, because we desperately need it. We are not going to continue to grow like we are, we're not going to continue to strive forward as a community, and I don't want to die out like Lark Streets and other places that were great businesses but now there's no parking so no goes. I want to keep growing. I'm only here two years; I want to be here 32 years and still be growing, because this community deserves it. And these people that are for this project that I work with every day, they work so hard, they give of themselves, to make this a better community and a better place to shop. They're not doing it for themselves. They have nothing to gain here, but they work because they love living here, they love working here, and I do too. And I'm proud to be a part of this; I hope you vote in a positive way.

**Mr. Kyrish Iyer** - Good evening everyone, and thank you very much. My name is Kyrish Iyer. I'm the direct of operations for Northeastern Fine Jewelry located at 1607 Union Street, which is actually across the street from the locations. And first and foremost, I would like everyone to know that Upper Union Street store is our flagship store, it is our face. We do support the third and final phase of the streetscape project and we want to see this project move ahead quickly and completed by this year. The other two phases look fantastic. Many of the business owners on this part of Union Street look forward to finishing the job and getting a uniform look and feel to the Upper Union Street Business District would be fantastic. As a major investor and state holder of the future of Upper

Union Street, our message to the Mayor and City Council is simple, finish the job. We have 24 employees in the Schenectady store and have been around since 1985. The current location was around since 1985, and Ray Blesser, the owner, had been in business on Union Street since 1980. We do have a great commitment to Upper Union Street and to Schenectady, but we need new curbs and sidewalks and a better look than what is right there for our business to succeed. Much like Mr. DeBrocky and Mr. Mastroianni has stated, it is important that we look at this as a safety. I actually have, I guess, the pleasure of overlooking that entire area. My office is right on that corner, and I've many times seen cars coming out from near-accidents, backing into and out of that area. And in fact, the area in question also has a streetlight that people are backing out of; just blowing right through because they are not even aware of where the streetlight is based on their location of backing out. So this is a safety-concern issue, and we want to make sure that everybody understands that moving forward, obviously, in the short term, will inconvenience everybody; but in the long run, we will be benefactors of all this. Thank you very much.

**Ms. Laurie Bucheldor** - Good evening, Council Members and Acting Mayor. Good to be here again. My name is Laurie Bucheldor and I'm a long-term resident of Schenectady County. Unfortunately, I had to move out of the County for a while, but I had an opportunity to find a new home and return to Schenectady. And I sought out a home on Upper Union Street. I'm speaking here as a resident, not as a business owner but a resident. I came to this county, this part of the city, on purpose because of the lovely and wonderful businesses on Union Street, everyone of them. My dog goes to the pet store and I buy the jewelry up there, but I'm also a customer of the bridal shop. My daughter got married last October and I had to buy the gown to get her married, and I can tell you that the parking in front of this woman's shop was critical for me purchasing that gown. When we went to pick up her gown, it was pouring. And fortunately, there was a devoted parking place to her, my daughter, to get her gown. So I'm not saying don't do this. I'm asking if there's any way that we can re-look at this just a little bit, find a possible solution to allow the bridal shop to keep a couple of devoted parking spots for mothers' of the bride. I have another daughter engaged next year. I want to be able to go back and bring her to that shop for another possible purchase. I walk to Union Street. I go there to all the restaurants, and I'm a major purchaser of every product out there. I love it. I'm asking for a second look. Thank you.

**Mr. Chris DiCocco** - Good evening, my name is Chris DiCocco, I'm co-owner of DiCocco & Associates, and also the elected chairman of the Upper Union Street Business Improvement District. I'm here to speak in favor of the Upper Union Street project. We thank the City and Metroplex for the commitment you've made so far to our district. And as business owner and chairman of the board, I urge you to finish the job. I know that using the power of eminent domain must be a difficult decision, but in this case, it is appropriate. The City has a compelling interest in ensuring that Upper Union Street is a safe place to walk, drive and shop. You have the support of many of our business owners as well as the BID

itself as you consider this action. The Upper Union Street BID board voted unanimously to ask the City to use whatever means necessary to finish the job. We know that the plan improvements were professionally designed to maximize pedestrian and vehicular safety and that the proposed diagonal parking mode provides the most parking while maintaining the highest standards of safety, and we urge you to implement this plan. Although we are geographically a small business community spanning only five city lots, we are by no means small in impact. Between property tax and sales tax revenues our businesses are one of the most productive revenue producers in the city. Over 650 people work in our district. That means 650 families depend on the success of our district. We can also proudly state that we have a 95 percent occupancy rate. We have only three empty storefronts in our entire district. I do not believe that is any district in our City that can boast those same employment and occupancy figures or even come close. We bought some of the City's longest ten-year businesses. Scotty's Restaurant, Northeastern Fine Jewelry, Hartz Cleaners, Gershon's Deli, Musler's Fine Womenswear, Sondra's Fine Jewelry, City Squire, and Michael's Shoe Service, have laid a foundation that our newest members have built upon. Newer businesses have established roots in our district. Phillips Hardware, Head to Tail Pet Wellness Center, Trendy Tots, Vintage Chic and Rubbin Butts Barbecue has all decided that Upper Union Street is the place that they want to. I strongly believe that these new businesses are here because we offer safe, attractive, main street shopping district business owners can focus their energies on business promotion and service securing a safe and attractive environment. For all of these businesses, longstanding and new, and for all the people whose livelihood depend on these businesses, it's important that we finish the job we starting two years ago. Our customers, clients, visitors, neighbors and business owners are depending on it. Thanks for all your support in the past. Please enable the completion of Upper Union Street streetscape project as designed. I thank you for this opportunity to speak.

**Ms. MaryLu Aragosa** - Good evening, I am MaryLu Ferri-Aragosa, owner of Ferri Formals and Bridals. My mother, Lina Ferri, and I started our business back in 1988 on Hamburg Street in Schenectady. In 1997 we relocated to Union Street which was vacant at the time. There we grew into a retail bridal salon with a modest selection. Over the years, we have grown into an upscale leading bridal salon in the Capital District. In 2000, we expanded by introducing our salon day couture of upscale design bridal gowns. In 2004, we were the first salon in the area to introduce a famous designer of bridal gowns, Vera Wang. By representing exclusive designers, we draw customers from Vermont, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Canada. Over 50 percent of our clientele come from outside Schenectady County, with 7 percent from other states. My family lives in Schenectady County and we chose Union Street for its fine representation and charm. My greatest desire is to be here and continue to grow our business here. With the out-of-town clientele we draw, we send customers to eateries, hair salons, nail salons, florists, travel agencies, jewelry stores and other fine establishments on Union Street. In the past two years, we have contributed over

\$75,000 in dress donations to charitable organizations. In 2010, we have generated over 37,000 in property taxes and sales tax revenue for Schenectady County. Within each of our unique business, the only bridal shopping standing in Schenectady County, it is crucial to have pull-in store-front parking for our brides picking up their dresses. Here I brought Sara this evening who got married on a weekend of a snowstorm. Hopefully she'll have a few minute to explain her situation. The fine silk gowns cost up to \$7,000 and take six to eight months to be handmade and two months to be custom altered. These white silks are vulnerable to the elements such as rain, snow and debris. They cannot be easily replaced or remedied. It would be devastating to a bride and her family if the bridal gown or wedding attire were damaged. Some of our clients are elderly, such as grandparents who shop for dresses and tuxedos. It's a very stressful time for a bride and groom, therefore having front-door access is vital and cannot be comprised. Our clients require four to eight hours to choose the attire for their special day. We cannot hassle them with parking time limits on cars as this will interrupt the selection and buying process. Taking away our four parking spaces would have a terrible impact on business. The bridal industry is unique and must be treated as such to remain successful. We are in favor of the streetscape improvements to Union Street and Metroplex's support and funding. However, we have great concern with the high taxes and potential loss of customer base due to the lack of adequate parking. In December of 2008, the City Engineering Department approved a permit for a 30-foot street-wide curb-cut allowing nose-in parking as we are currently using. We have been able to grow our business and handle the problem with the four spaces in front of our salon. Any reduction in parking spaces will be detrimental to our business. After fifteen years on Union Street, the four spaces have helped us to survive, even through a rough recession. It is extremely important that we have a plan that will provide more parking so all of us have a better chance to survive and meet our tax obligations. We are proposing a plan that would expand parking, not restrict parking. I don't think my neighbors understand how detrimental this plan will be to our businesses. Voting for eminent domain would be setting precedence for other areas of Schenectady such Bellevue, Woodlawn, Mount Pleasant and others. It will deter entrepreneurs from taking risks by investing in properties. Taking eminent domain action creates fear that other Schenectady businesses could be dramatically and detrimentally affected by government. My attorney, Christine Meier, and Engineer, Rubin Hull, will present some alternative parking solutions. Let's work together to find the best solution possible for all businesses. Three of my guests have not signed in, so I don't know if it's too late for them to sign it today. Is there anyone that can help us with that?

**Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy** - Thank you, Ms. Christine Meier, I have a packet for Mr. President and the rest for the council members.

Acting Mayor Gary McCarthy - If you could just give the originals to Mr. Polster.

**Ms. Christine Meier, Esq.** - Considering the time limit and the amount of people that wish to speak, I am just going to point out the highlights of my report. Traffic

safety has been cited by various people, including Mr. Polster, as a reason for proposed project; in particular, the backing out is dangerous. Well, the City of Schenectady allowed backout vehicular traffic from directly across the road in their Phase 2 plan. In addition, Brueggers Bagels, Pizza Hut also allowed backout parking onto Union Street. According to statistics, this is not a high area of traffic safety concerns. Through January 1st, '08 through March 31st, 2011, there have been 22 accidents in this area of Phase 3. Two were due to backing out of property. That is much less than what occurred in Phase 1 and Phase 2. The current proposal by the City does not include signage or traffic lights, which will assist drivers merging onto Union Street from the proposed new municipality parking areas. That's a problem. And engineer will discuss. Currently there are 12 to 14 private parking spots between the properties, the three properties that are the subject of this eminent domain idea, four of which belong to Miss Aragosa. The current plan shows the creation of eleven public spots, which is a decrease of the two to three spots. By taking this property away from my client and reducing the number of spots, you're reducing the number of available spots, and also, you are displaying the customers and the clientele of these businesses, forcing them to move to other public parking locations, which is not helping the parking problem. In addition, the proposed plan includes an island which would separate the flow of traffic from the parking. This island idea is not working. We can see that from across Proctor's. People back up, people illegal parking across the island. It's not really a solution to the proposed problem. We propose creating parking on Woodland area and Lakewood Avenue. There are currently seven available spots on Lakewood and eleven on Woodland. By modifying the islands in the middle, we can create an additional 12 public parking spots, which is one more spot than what's being proposed by taking my client's property. I do have other proposals, but I'm out of time and I will let the engineer address those. I would like to make this part of record. My proposals are on the final page of this along with supporting documents to back up everything.

**Mr. Rubin Hull** - Members of the Council, my name is Rubin Hull. I'm a civil engineer with Frasier, Westin and Sampson, but I'm also a resident. And as a resident, I'm very impressed with the work that has been done on Upper Union. And the majority of my shopping in the City of Schenectady is in that area, so I am affected by the parking as well. And I was asked to take a look at the existing parking, the proposed parking and any alternatives that could be done to help Miss Aragosa meet her objectives, which are to have some control on the parking and on the access and the circulation in front of her building, in front of her business. What is in the report that Attorney Meier presented are some sketches that I had done that shows how modification in Woodland Avenue and in Lakewood Avenue can yield a net increase of parking. So if the objective of the parking count is a critical piece of this project, by keeping the parking spaces that exist in front of those buildings and reconfiguring the islands with median parking and eliminating the parking on the sides of the street, we can get a net gain of 12 without touching the spaces that are in front of these four businesses. With regard to safety, I believe that the front of the building -- the frontage along the curb can

be reconfigured in such a way that, so rather than putting the sidewalk directly in front of the businesses, it can stay along the alignment of the curb in the roadway and not unlike that in front of Brueggers and Pizza Hut or in front of the Union Street Plaza on the other side of the street, down the street, and exactly like the property just around the corner. So there are precedents in this area that's already been done that match what I feel can be done in front of these properties. The layouts are in the report for both what could be done at the two side streets as well as a proposal that would allow a change in the angle of parking, that rather than the eleven spaces proposed for -- that's in the proposal on your board, can get up to 16 spaces across there by going to a 75-degree parking as opposed to a 60-degree parking. I believe that can be making more efficient and with doing some minor adjustments in the sidewalk, those four spaces could remain on the property and meet the intent of Metroplex plan. The real objective of Miss Aragosa is, again, to keep the control of the circulation and the access so that the clients who are coming in by appointment will be able to be in front of her business and to do their bidding at her site. Thank you.

**Action Mayor Gary McCarthy** - Thank you sir. There are two people who want to put in additional comments. Come up, state your name and address for the record.

**Ms. Kathleen Tooms** - My name Kathleen Tooms and I have an address at 157 Barrett Street, Schenectady, New York. I have been a client of the Ferri's since MaryLu and her mother handmade and custom designed a dress for me in 1989 for a 1990. Since then, I have referred several clients to Ferri Formals. I can say that Ferri was selected because of the parking. Other shops in Schenectady that did not have adequate parking were past by for shops in Albany. I believe that if parking is removed from the shop, this will continue to happen again. I think it will be a significant deterrent to Ferri Fashions because you don't spend thousands of dollars on a dress to chance it being damaged to the elements, which is what will happen, even when they are wrapped up in plastic. You go out in the weather, you're not going to take a chance that you are going to have to walk a block or two away. Besides being a customer of Ferri Fashions, I am also a small business owner in Schenectady. I can tell you that when I purchased my property at 157 Barrett Street, I paid significantly over fair market value because it contained five parking spaces. I am, quite frankly, horrified that the City would take a private person's parking spaces. I understand there is a need for streetscape and beautification, but we are not talking about taking somebody's garden, we are talking about taking private property which is an essential part of their business. If that were to happen to my business, I know I would substantial loss of business; and in fact, I would end up closing up shop in downtown Schenectady and go to the suburbs where parking was not a problem. And it is with that premises that I speak to the council and ask that they carefully consider what eminent domain entails. It's not simply making a more beautiful street; it is not simply putting in curbs and sidewalks. It is an eminent domain proceeding that seeks to remove

private property from MaryLu Aragosa against her wishes, which to me is a fundamental violation of our American way. Thank you.

**Mr. Antonio Loria** - My name is Antonio Loria. I own Gershon's Deli and I have been up on Union Street for over 30 years. It has been -- this job should have been done a long, long time ago. It's been very dangerous on my side of the street, on Lakewood, and in front of Gershon's for years and years and years. This project has been in progress for three, four, five years. Miss Aragosa has never, never took an interest and listened to what Union Street, the other business was saying to her. Never! Okay. All of sudden she was wanted to be -- new design, new thing. We asked the City many, many years ago to check if they could do one-way street on each side, due to Lakewood and the other street next to it. And the neighbors would not do it to have people park in front of their house. So we need to do this program. We need to finish. It's dangerous. I have a lot of old customers who come in my place. It's very dangerous. Finish the job, please. Thank you.

**Ms. Sara Pantenelli** - Hello, everyone. My name is Sara Pantenelli, my address 26 Justine Court in Rensselaer, New York. I'm here because I'm a recent customer and bride of Ferri Formals. I got married this past February. My father had the big responsibility of picking up my gown the day before my wedding. Along with my \$4,500 Vera Wang gown, which I HAD saved every penny knee for the last four years, he needed to pick up my mother's gown and two of my bridesmaid dresses. This task would have been absolutely impossible if the parking in front of Ferri's had not been directly available to him. On this day, a nor'easter decided to come through the area, leaving two feet of snow. Luckily, he was safely able to get the gowns into the car after one of the employees plowed the spot in front of the store. So therefore, I believe it's essential to keep the parking for Ferri's because the aspect of their business. And as a bride, I just want to say, do not underestimate the detail that goes into the planning. And I know that if I had -- if this parking had not been available, I probably would not have purchased the gown. Thank you.

**Ms. Gloria Herman** - Hi, I'm the owner of 1712 Union Street. My name is Gloria Herman. I believe that this project will not work on Union Street. Just to cross the street, it is big deal for me, and it happens to a lot of people. Go to Union Street at 12:00 and try to cross the street. You look like an idiot waiting for a couple of minutes trying to cross the street. It is very, very, very difficult. This idea, I don't think it was designed by people that took into consideration the businesses and the amount of traffic that we have on Union Street. It doesn't work across the street from Proctor's. It would not work in that area. I think there are alternatives that you can use. You can design similar where you can in and park facing like a flower pot or something like that, and then people can backup into the stores. And then you can go out, straight out, and they can have sidewalks on the back -- in the back, so it is like a little shop. But I don't think this idea will work. I am really sorry and I would like to see two, three years down the road, those women that own those businesses will say because I don't think this is smart. Again, I don't

think that the people that designed this took into consideration the area they are working on. This is not a very small area. We have a lot of businesses. Gershon's, for instance, I don't understand why they're not taking this out of Gershon's. That's a very big curve and they and put two or three cars in that area to increase the parking on Union Street. This city, I don't think, is not necessarily fair. Not everybody gets the same treatment, and I don't think that that's fair. I remember my mother-in-law lived on Lakewood Avenue and there would be ten or fifteen cars parked in her street and it would be very difficult to sell the house. It took me three years to sell the house. So I'm really sorry. I don't know who brainwashed this woman's brains, but that idea will not work. I will not give the front of my business parking for eminent domain. I just think this is stupid. There is alternatives, things that they the city can do, and I will please beg you to do it because we need more parking on Union Street. It is ridiculous. There are houses for sale that the city can buy and make it into more parking for all our merchants. The city has to realize, we have downtown Schenectady and we have Upper Union Street. Those are the best areas to go in and shop in this city, and if you guys don't take care of Upper Union Street, you will probably end up with one or none.

Seeing no other speakers, Mr. McCarthy declared Public Hearing #1 closed at 8:40 P.M.

2. Changes in Certain Rates Related to the City of Schenectady Municipal Golf Course Operations.

Mr. McCarthy saw no speakers for Public Hearing #2 and declared that Public Hearing #2 Closed.

3. Proposed Bond Ordinance Authorizing the issuance of \$13,876,500 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Schenectady, New York.

**Jason Planck** - City of Schenectady - I believe that this public hearing is useless, because you have not even bothered to move on to other things or even listens to public comment. A few things I have issue with are \$100,000 for Grout Park, and a \$400,000 for the Golf Course Master Plan. We don't need master plans for parks, we need curb cuts, like Jerry Berrell Park, there is a play ground there but no way to get people up on the side walks. You keep funding Quackenbush Pools, but can't get across Crane Street because of any curb cuts. Those are just some of the things we are looking at. You keep introducing items after items and it does not do us any good. You don't need to Bond some of these things and it is money that can be used somewhere else. Thank you.

Seeing no other Speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Public Hearing #3 closed (8:43 pm).

4. A State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) concerning the proposed Bond Ordinance Authorizing the Issuance of \$13,876,500 Aggregate Principal Amount Serial Bonds of the City of Schenectady, New York.

Mr. McCarthy saw no speakers for Public Hearing #4 and declared that Public Hearing #4 closed (8:43 pm).

#### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Ms. King moved that the minutes of the City Council meeting of March 28th, 2011 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. Also, the minutes of the recessed meeting of April 4th, 2011, Mr. McCarthy declared the minutes approved as submitted.

#### **COMMUNICATIONS:**

##### **Official:**

From the Office of the Mayor a list of appointments dated April 11, 2011.

From the Supervisor of Buildings, a letter recommending acceptance of the bid for "Sodium Hypochlorite Bulk Liquid Chlorine" from Slack Chemical in the amount of \$19,152.00.

##### **General:**

From Bellevue Preservation Inc., announcing their monthly meeting on Thursday April 14<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at St. Paul's Episcopal Parish Hall.

##### **Petitions:**

None

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**Ms. King** - There were several items on the City Development & Planning Committee; one is to move forward with the sale of nine city owned properties. We also agreed to the sale of city owned property to Better Neighborhoods, Inc. They are partnering with the City and Habitat for Humanity for development of the "Options in Green Affordable Housing Project. We also agreed to sell property the adjacent to property at 1423 Third Avenue to David J. Grace and he will be building a garage on that. We also had a presentation on the 2011 Consolidated Plan and so we are now in the beginning stages of reviewing that. Thank you.

**Mr. Erikson** - Just quick remainders that it is the time of the year people want to play in the parks, whether it is softball, soccer, or any outdoor sport, a lot of activities actually there is a shortage of space. I think that we should put together a long range plan for these sports. I have heard from members of the community and we should have designated places and we should try to provide more athletic field for different sports.

**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.

**Joy Hall**, Schenectady, NY - You have one big problem in Hamilton Hill on Millard Street, you have the blinker light going all the time, there are a lot of accidents and other place is on Nott Terrace, this has got to stop.

**Vince Riggi**, Campbell Avenue -I just wanted to thank the Council for giving the resolution to Quest and Judy Atchinson. She is a little known secret in the City of Schenectady for the service she provides and the safe haven for kids. It is just an amazing program and people should check in on it and these are troubled youths that she is working with. She deserves it, once in awhile you have to give people a pat on the back, and I appreciate that you have here a resolution and I know it means a lot to her. Thank you.

**PD Voorhis** - Schenectady, NY - This public hearing on April 25th, I was thinking that there should be a lot of consideration to this. It is a terrible thing when you live in a private residence and half of it becomes Section 8 housing and nobody says anything about it and then I discover that Code Enforcement has special rules about it. Municipal Housing has no control over this; Section 8 is an entity on to its own. It is terrifying, it needs some transparency.

**Rev Phil Grisby**, 930 Albany Street, Schenectady, NY -- I would like to discuss briefly three items on the agenda. Number one, I appreciate the resolution for Volunteerism, and especially recognizing Dr. McEvoy work. Secondly, about the Community Block Grant, I'm glad for the hearing coming up in two weeks and I'm glad for the leadership that the Council has shown. Thirdly, I'm glad to see the properties being better utilized by Better Neighborhoods and others for redevelopment. Several years ago there was a property disposition committee with members from outside City Hall. I believe that it now entire committee is City Hall staff. I recommend that the administration return to having outside members on the Property Disposition Committee. Thank you.

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Privilege of the Floor (Legislation Agenda) closed - 9:02 P.M.

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

**Consent Agenda –  
With Unanimous Consent**

Ordinance No. 2011-09	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-62	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-63	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-64	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-65	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-66	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-67	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-68	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-69	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-70	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-71	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-72	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-73	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-74	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-75	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-76	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-77	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-78	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-79	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-80	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-81	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2011-CS-03	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 - We need business downtown like a discount store, a market for people to shop, we need a department store. Thank you.

**Jason Planck** - Schenectady, NY - In two weeks we have the public hearing on the Community Block Grant, it seems that there if a 3% reduction across the board, and there may be more reductions and I am hoping that this City Council will have these reductions available for us by the public hearing. Again, next year they are looking at 7 1/2% to almost 10% cut. They are looking at cutting more funding in the Medicare and Medicaid lines and they are looking at cutting Block Grant funding two ways and this will effect community based housing and

keep people out of nursing homes. This is not just a city issue, it is across the board. What I'm hoping for is more discussion. Thank You.

**Mara Isaacs**, 304 Duane Avenue, Schenectady, NY - Left the meeting.

**Vince Riggi**, Campbell Avenue, Schenectady, NY - I am concerned about the missing grates and the recovery of these grates, the Director of the DSIC stated that the grates that were not recovered the City has Insurance. I don't know if that is the way to go or not. If they are not recovered why not get restitution from the people that did this. I assume that they are not employees of the City, but employees of the DSIC shouldn't they be bonded? They were using city vehicles, I really kind of at loss on how this happened. I can't believe that they don't realize that some of this is not kosher at the salvage company, did they pay in cash, do they pay out in a check, there are a lot of questions to be answered and I hope the city gets some answers to these things. One thing, the City has insurance, if you put claims in your rates go up. Mr. Mayor or Mr. Council President, I still have a hat, if you decide to announce. About the windows, they go up and they go down, but one thing they need to be cleaned, they are pretty disgusting. Thanks.

**P.D. Voorhis**, Schenectady, NY - There is a letter to the Editor from P. Zollinger about economic freedom, I am surprised to hear that from her, because she keeps things pretty tight around here, she comes here all the time very well prepared. The televising has to be looked at, they are up to three station and most of the time nothing is on them. That is just my observation.

**Harry Brand**, 21089 Van Rensselaer Dr. - Mr. Brand has not found any good things that this Council has done. We need some changes on the Council.

**Rev. Phil Grigsby**, 925 Albany Street - I wanted to mention three events that the Council should be award of, the first one was advertised on the SEFQU Bulletin board, it is on April 14th and is for Education for Middle School and Senior awareness, it is good to see those kind of events happening. Secondly, I would like to invite you all to the Walk for Hunger, on May 1st all the Council is invited; if you are available that day I hope you can join us. Third, I received a letter today, we have sponsored some of the summer months youth job slots, and we are going to have 600 slots this summer and that is the highest number we have ever had. Thank you

**Wayne Harper** - Schenectady, NY - I want to send my condolences to Pat Zollinger on her loss of her partner, Mario. The City Council, The County Legislature and Metroplex, all as a group and individually want to take credit for Downtown, well as a taxpayer. I am taking credit for Downtown, it was build with my money, so with that said, and I think it is about time that someone represented the resident taxpayer in this City. I can see that Metroplex and some of you folks have aligned yourself with business and in the mean time the taxpayers are paying the bills, I wish that someone would start to think about us.

**Mary McClaine** - Schenectady, NY. - Not Present

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

**MISCELLANEOUS:**

**Mr. Erikson** - I just want to touch on a couple of things, recycling I saw the infomercial with Carl Olsen and was very impressed. I look forward in seeing more of these types of things about the services in City Hall. I think it is important to encourage all residents to recycle. It is important to recycle, it protects the environment and if that doesn't impress you it also saves you money. Secondly, I want to touch on the Eminent Domain Public Hearing, I think it is very important that the owner and Metroplex come to some solution that is amiable to both parties. Lastly, the CDBG Funding, we have had some discussions on this and I would like to encourage certain people in the City who put this budget together to provide some performance information on some of these programs. Some of the latest information is that the budget isn't getting cut as much as we thought it would and again we have to decide where we have to spend this money, which is why we need to know the performance of the programs that we had in prior years to make sure the value is there. I have not seen the performance on each of these programs, I believe that this information should be presented to us, so we understand each program and how much results that we got, per dollar, per resident. Thank you

**Mr. Della Sala** - I would like to thank all the people that came down, they acted civilly and I do appreciate their comments. I'm an optimist and I truly hope they can figure out a way to solve this problem. Just for clarification for Mr. Brand, there are some new faces that are up for election. Mr. Allen and I are not running for election, so there will be two new faces and Mayor Stratton can not run for re-election, there will be a third new face. With that said, Thank You

**Ms. Brucker** - I echo the comments of my colleagues tonight and thank all the individuals that came down tonight to speak on the Eminent Domain proceedings. I think each side has very strong arguments and I too hope they can come to some kind of resolution that works for everyone in the City. Thanks to everyone that came down.

**Mr. McCarthy** - I also want to thank everyone that came down, it is for everyone difficult, eminent domain, it is a project that has broad based support in the business district on Upper Union Street and we have to hope that people don't have unrealistic expectation and are able to see the best way and we are able to move these things forward. A lot of times in Schenectady we have very good ideas and are slow to implement them and that sometimes hinders us to attract other businesses and create and image here of a City that is able to move things

forward and continue the growth that is happening. To Mr. Riggi's comments on the grates, early on when I talked to Chief Chairs, who is in the Chambers tonight, that was followed up on immediately and arrests were made, some of the investigation is still continuing, and no City vehicles were involved. Some utilization of vehicles owned by DSIC were involved, clearly not City vehicles, we are reviewing whether we are to collect under city insurance and if DSIC has some liability, in the mean while the area around the trees have been filled with mulch in a very attractive manner. I want to thank everybody that has reached out to me this week and offering words of support to members of the Council and the City as a whole. Sometimes here there are a lot of negative comments, but there are a lot of good people in this community doing a lot of good work. Our resolution tonight honoring volunteers is just a small token of recognition for the great effort people put into the communities with that, don't let the nay Sayers get us down and keep moving forward, this is a great place and the best days are still ahead and with that I will entertain a motion to adjourn.

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.

**A TRUE RECORD**

**BY EILEEN VERSACI  
CITY CLERK**