

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADAY CITY COUCIL – AUGUST 16TH, 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. Stacey Midge of the First Reformed Church to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. McCarthy called upon Councilmember Joseph L. Allen to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

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

Absent - None

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Eileen M. Versaci and Acting Corporation Counsel Alfred Goldberger, Esq.,

At this point in the meeting, Mr. McCarty asked if there were no objections, he would like to take Agenda Item #26A out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2010-158

Adopted Unanimously

Ms. King invited Edward and Kay Canty to come inside the rail to accept a resolution declaring September 11th a Day of Remembrance in the City of Schenectady. Mr. and Mrs. Canty thanked the City Council for the resolution.

PUBLIC HEARING: None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mrs. Brucker moved that the minutes of the City Council meeting of July 19th 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.

COMMUNICATION:

Official:

From the Office of the Mayor, a list of Appointments. (dist. 8/16/2010)

From the Department of Water & Wastewater a letter accepting the bid for the “2010 Waterline Replacement Project” and awarding the contract to Casale Excavating, Inc.,

General:

None

Petitions:

A Petition with 42 names, from the residents of Duane Avenue, concerning the house at 309 Duane Avenue, requesting immediate action to stop all illegal activity that detracts from their quality of life.

A Petition with 288 names from the residents of the City of Schenectady to the City Council to look into large tractor trailers/delivery trucks traveling down Kings Road.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to address the City Council on any item on the Legislative Agenda to come forward.

Jason Planck, Schenectady, NY – On item #2, with the Multilink Pilot Program, we had that on the Agenda back in April, the City should look into applying for FEMA Grant that could possibly pay for this under the disability portion of this. The Governor just vetoed having the Counties to have a disability registrar. The other piece of the puzzle is these tax certiorari. They are decided in Executive Session; but you are supposed to come out of Executive Session and give the public the amount. You are supposed to let us know how much you have lowered the assessment of these properties. Also, on the agenda last week was the “200 Properties list”. One of the things that were requested was the reports. The reason they cannot be given out is they are hand written and you probably could not read them. This is 2010. I’m sure there is a better way than just that. Why are employees writing hand written notes to their department head on their day’s work? I’m sure there is a program out there for this; they should not have hand written notes.

Frederick Lee, 706 Stanly Street – I am President of Schenectady United Neighborhoods, which includes most of the neighborhoods in the City, and I am here to speak on the Moratorium on the Re-entry Programs in the City of

Schenectady. It is important to note the Re-entry is an important issue in the United States. This is not Schenectady's issue, this is not Schenectady's shame, and this is a national issue. Our Federal and State Government have failed to deal with this issue on a national level. For 30 years, one after another programs have come to Schenectady promising to do great things and one facility after another has failed to do that. Even in good times, there are barely enough good jobs to support those that re-enter society from prison. In the current economy, it is virtually impossible to find jobs for those without prison records and with good education. Neighborhood after Neighborhood in the City of Schenectady has fallen to one re-entry program after another. Our homes have been destroyed. You can drive through some neighborhoods, like Hamilton Hill, and point to block after block where there has been a homicide. This is not a problem that is going to be solved overnight. If you go back in time, thirty years ago, our police officers did not have to wear Body Armor. Now they have to wear Armor to do their job. Thirty years ago we did not have Swat Teams to raid our homes. We need a Moratorium so that this City has a chance to heal, a chance it has not had in over thirty years. Thanks you.

Vince Riggi, 2138 Campbell Avenue – I have some real concerns about item #6 on the Agenda and you as a Council should have some concerns also. I don't come before you at most meetings on agenda items. You can't say what does Vince Riggi knows about that? Well this time, Vince Riggi knows about Body Shops. I am going on 50 years in the business; I have run my own shop. From what I am reading from the article from last week and from what you have been told, I do not know what study has been done and I do not know how you are going to make money on doing RUST repair. Call any body shop in the area and ask them how much money is in Rust Work. They do not even want to do it, because it is so labor intensive to do the job correctly it is almost impossible to get a good rust job done. How are we to make money at it? I don't understand this. This just doesn't just smell. This stinks. You should be very concerned about this. You are not going to make money with doing rust work. You're going to get a manager, to train guys, not body men. This is a pretty intricate business. I'm still learning. You just can't train people in a few days. I see there are 2500 hours for training in the budget. You got to be kidding me. The whole thing is a joke. Put the brakes on this tonight, please and I will speak more on this later. This thing smells. Thank you.

Marion Porterfield, 842 Strong Street – I am here to talk to you about item #13 on the Agenda, the Moratorium on Half-way Houses. It is important to those of us who live in the City, as Mr. Lee says it will give us a time to heal especially in our neighborhood. We are looking for some peace. Most of our neighborhoods are saturated with all kinds of Half-way Houses. We appreciate this and we would like to talk about some development on the State Street Corridor.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – I am going to address #9 and #26A on tonight's Agenda; Council has coupled solemnity with revelry. Like fire and water, the two do not mix. Item # 26A reads: A resolution declaring September 11th a Day of Remembrance in the City of Schenectady. Item #9 reads: A resolution authorizing the waiver of the open container law for the Fifth Annual Little Italy Street. Why didn't Councilmembers ask Ms. Gebert for the date of the event before considering a waiver and placing it on tonight's agenda? What about Mr. Erickson? Why didn't he ask? Why wasn't he on top of the issue? He wanted to be in that seat the infinitely qualified one. Well, I did ask Ms. Gebert right in the committee room. She said, "The Fifth Annual Little Italy Street will be held on September 11th. This authorization has got to be insensitivity at its base level. The organizers of this event had one year to pick an alternate date for celebration and it was Council's responsibility to see to it that it was done before considering a waiver. There is a movement afoot in this country to make 9-11 a National Day of Mourning. What are our elected officials telling us with this waiver - Let's Party! Sensitivity to the matter would have gained Council a great deal of respect. I'm sorry Council blew it.

Pat Zollinger, 150 Clement Avenue - I would like to address item #6, I was at the last Committee Meeting when Carl Olsen was explaining his reasoning behind having a body shop. Apparently, this body shop was build into the design of the new Bureau of Service. Secondly, what the City would be doing is taking away business from private individuals. I understand that from what Vince said, a body shop is hard work. I also understand from what Mr. Olsen said, he wanted to extend the life of various pieces of equipment. From what I see, you are generating work that should be done by private industry. What I do not see is where you would save money. By hiring people for a body shop, you pay FICA, Retirement and the rest. It should remain a private business. As far as body work goes, maybe you should improve your bidding process and try to get even shops outside the City to do work. But, don't try to employ more people in the City. It would be more of the burden to tax payers.

Thomas Griffen, Loudonville, NY – I am the Attorney for Firetree, Mr. Ertel asked me just to say to you, which you are most likely aware of. The program is for people returning from incarceration. Secondly, he wanted to say to you that his experience he has had in other communities has been good. His neighbors have been supportive and have not been disrupted in any way. Incidentally, this is a federally funded program. Your adoption of this Resolution tonight and the Local Law next week could cause irreparable harm to Firetree. Obviously its intent is to single Firetree out. Finally, I would like to offer that Firetree is willing to and has been willing to work with the Planning Commission. You have laws that will protect you. Thank you.

Vickie Hurewitz, 837 DeCamp Avenue – I am speaking tonight as a resident of the City of Schenectady. I am speaking in favor of the Moratorium on the Half-

Way House that has been proposed for the site on State Street. I came back to the City about three and half years ago. The reason I bought a house in the City, a good friend of mine works in City Hall and she told me about the wonderful revitalization that was happening in down town Schenectady. She said check it out. I had worked here in the late 1990's and the City of Schenectady was not doing well as it is doing today. I am here as a resident, and I know the City is struggling. It is going in two different directions. The City is revitalizing. But, we do have a large population that is in need. The City is working very diligently to meet these needs. I feel that at this time we are saturated with people that need services. There are plenty of services here. We need to think more about how to attract more of a working class population back into the City. By locating a large half-way house here, it gets out with all the media, the newspapers and people looking to buy a house stop looking in Schenectady. I think this Moratorium will go a long way in improving our Comprehensive Plan so we can keep revitalizing this City. Thank you.

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

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

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 2010-133	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-134	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-135	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-136	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-137	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-138	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-139	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-140	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-141	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-142	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-143	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-144	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-145	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-146	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-147	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-148	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-149	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-150	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-151	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-152	Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2010-153	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-154	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-155	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-156	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-157	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2010-CS-15	Adopted Unanimously

Roll Call Vote:

Resolution No. 2010-158

Adopted by the following vote AYES: Brucker, Della Sala, Erikson, King and McCarthy – Total 5. NO: Allen, Blanchard Total 2.

Resolution No. 2010-159

Adopted by the following vote AYES: Brucker, Della Sala, Erikson, King and McCarty – Total 5. NO: Allen, Blanchard Total 2.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR: (CITY BUSINESS)

Mr. McCarty 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:

Rev. Van Stuart, 930 Albany Street – I was here Monday Night, and I have great concern about a report I heard based on Housing. It had to do with the 200 Houses that are in need of repair. The report that came back from Mr. Lamp was very incomplete. This makes me wonder. What is the nature of the Housing Policy that we have. There are many poor people that make up the lines at SICM every day. Putting together housing that is in need of work, and to rehab these houses would help find work. In the years I have been dealing with the Consolidated Plan, the Comprehensive Plan, trying to get a plan for Housing together for those people who stand in those lines, it still has not happened. As Jason says, getting reports that are handwritten, maybe this is slowing down the process. Maybe the information is not coming in fast enough to get some of these properties back in shape. The report from Mr. Lamp was totally inadequate and I am not trying to get Mr. Lamp fired. And even if he were fired, I believe that position would stay open. We have many programs out there to help our housing problems like Weed and Seed. Marion Porterfield has kept Weed and Seed going and now her job is being abolished. We were told if we could raise \$200,000.00, we could save her job. Now if we get rid of Mr. Lamp, are we about to cut the \$800,000.00 that we have allocated from the CDB&G money, I don't think so.

All I am saying is that there are some things that really matter to a community that right now sees no Community Development, if you asked right now, anyone in the community “do you know anyone in the Community Development Department?” very few of them would. When we asked for a liaison from the City to the Community and even had \$40,000.00 in the CDB&G budget that was supposed to go for that, even a person for that, even a person appears, never any person was interviewed for the job as far as we know. Summarize, if you look at the jobs that are kept and look at what needs to be done, we are missing the boat.

Kathleen Kornish, resident of 1726 Guilderland Avenue for 59 years – I have a couple of questions about property next door to me. I have been trying to get people from Codes to come and take care of it. It has probably been a four-year battle. I have talked to Councilmember King, talked to Ms. Blanchard and Mr. Blanchfield. He’s gone now. The problem is that in the City of Schenectady, we have a large population of Section 8 Housing. Firetree is supervised rehab in the City, and we have unsupervised rehab coming up from New York City and they are all over the place. This house next door to me is a Section 8 House. I have tried to get someone to do something about it. It seems to be all kinds of rules and regulations when it comes to Section 8 Housing. The way it looks they can be irresponsible and not maintain the property. The landlords do not have to maintain the property and I really don’t see the City coming to the aid of people who live next to these houses. There is a house across the street from me that has been vacated for about six years and the house is falling down. I have been down here a number of times and nothing has been done. Mr. Olsen did send SNAP up and I have to say I have never saw guys work in the heat the way these guys did. The City Codes don’t support them; the fines don’t really impact these absentee landlords. I want to say one thing. I resent this three-minute rule when you come down here, and this is a public forum. Also, I don’t understand why you have to have a special night off just to do your job. You’re supposed to represent us. We should go back to the ward district, where we have representation right in the neighborhood. I pay \$8500.00 a year taxes to look at this mess across the street.

Marva Isaac, 304 Duane Avenue – About the petition at 309 Duane Avenue, I thank you for sending Code Enforcement. I thank Chief Chaires for sending patrol cars and the Commissioner. What I want to say tonight is that this man is coming on my property now, trashing me and getting his friends to do the same. Something has to be done about this man.

P.D. Voorhis, Jay Street – I just want to say something about protocol. The other night at the meeting, a person was denied the right to speak to Council and then three gentlemen were allowed to speak on the same subject matter and they were allowed to speak with the council members. It was totally out of order when

certain people are allowed to speak and others are not. Another point that just irks me is that speakers come and usually complain, but they can not get any answers from the Council. I think the people who are doing the camera work should be identified.

M. Fergusson, 316 Kings Road – I have been a resident of Kings Road for about half a century and I have watched the road deteriorate over that time. I like to ride my bicycle three feet out from the curb. There are so many potholes that I am taking my life in my hands just to ride my bike. Also, the curbing is so high that you just can't ride up on the sidewalk and that includes trying to go into your driveway. In some areas, it is probably an inch and half. So that is a danger issue. Also, there are some concerns about the trucks. I am very pro business, but a couple of businesses near the bridge, at the end of Kings Road, according to signage when Rotterdam paved their part of Kings Road, Highbridge Road has an 8 ton limit the other half of Kings Road has a 8 ton limit. And yet, we have salt trucks about half the length of this room, I would say up to twenty wheels. These trucks are making grooves in the road and the potholes are so large that it vibrates in my house when a car hits them. We have replastered, we have sheet rocked, and since the advent of salt trucks we now have cracks in our garage floor. Our properties values are going down, our assessments are not going down. I'm concerned about the weight limit. I don't know if you can do anything about the weight limit. If Rotterdam and Schenectady could work together, maybe we could do something. The speed is an issue. We have kids that speed on the road and adults too. It's a safety concern. We would love to have a police officer periodically with a speed trap. We have graffiti in our neighborhood. We never did before. Maybe a Police presence would help. We just don't feel as safe as we used to.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady, NY – Resolutions are meaningless if they are not employed and applied. Such was the case for two of the resolution Council passed last month. The community heard Mr. Erickson read the where as for the Americans with Disabilities Act. What a set-up that was. Other council members couldn't read them. They already knew there was a problem with the sound system in the public meeting rooms. There is no full participation in community life for people who cannot hear what is being said during committee and council meetings. The other resolution was about the pending conference on Women's Issues which would emphasize women's skills and their vision to lead. Included in the conference would be programs on diversity management. Three women had the opportunity to appoint a professional woman with a working knowledge of the city to a seat on City Council. Instead, they selected a 37 year old white male. Mr. Erickson was 6 years old when I attended my first City Council meeting in Schenectady. I have been engaged ever since. "Infinitely qualified," said Ms. King. Others were supremely qualified but they were ignored. The vacant seat should have been decided via a primary and not by a handful of people held up in

a room behind closed doors. Mr. Erickson doesn't belong here. He knows nothing about the legislative process the people, the City or the issues. Nor did he spend the last two years grooming himself for the position. He just showed up and getting paid for it. I do not deserve this kind of representation. Neither do the good and decent people of Schenectady.

Barbara Katz, Downtown Schenectady – Local drivers pay no attention to people who walk and have to cross the streets; they just keep driving and don't give a pedestrian a chance. Thank you.

Leroy Fogle, 320 Paige Street, Schenectady – We hosted an event in Central Park on July 30, 31 and August 1st. The program was Lord of the Rings. We had over 1000 people each day, it was a high school showcase and it was a pro-am showcase. The event went very well without any hitches. I want to thank the City especially Bill Macejka for being with me each day. What I would like to see is the City gives more for this tournament, because it is going to grow. I suggest that the City have professionals come to the City to help the kids. It was an unbelievable event that was run very well.

Spero P. Zoulas, 225 Kings Road – I come to you this evening to follow up on a petition that I organized regarding the repaving of Kings Road. I am here to tell you about the deterioration of the homes along historic Kings Road. This .7 miles of road succumbs to being assaulted by very large vehicles. These trucks are 18 to 22 wheeler tracker trailers which haul tons of materials to local business. Even at the current speed limit these vehicles shack up our houses, destroying our foundations, and further declining our property values. This small stretch of road is heavily patched for potholes. This road is lined with many homes that were constructed over a century ago. As home owners, we are expected to be good stewards for our community by maintaining our homes and property. However, when matters beyond our control, i.e a 22 wheeler tractor-trailer keep going by and our glasses rattle, cupboards and the floors shake beneath our feet. The Citizens that signed this petition, which you all have a copy of, want immediate action to be taken. The City Council prepares and passes a measure to assist and restore Kings Road and preserving the integrity of our homes. Thank you.

Frederic Lee, 706 Stanley Street – I am here for a good thing, a couple of good things. This weekend we all enjoyed the celebration in Bellevue. The Mayor was there, Vince Riggi and his band provided great music, a good time was had by all. While I was there, I had a chat with the Mayor about one of our resent "child finds" activities at Schenectady Neighborhood Watch. I have invited a couple of our captains and co-captains their. For those of you that are not aware, it takes many months to train people to the level. Last Wednesday, was a proof of concept, and the concept is that if there are not enough police cars available for a particular moment and there is a lost child or an adult, who is going to go looking for them? It is a testimony to our training, from the Schenectady Police

Department. We have a website SchenectadyNW.com; if anyone is interested go to the website; there is a Public Service Announcement on there. Mr. Lee introduced some of his captains. I want to thank you for your support during the year. I just want to remind everyone that back-to-school day is the highest amount of calls we get for lost children, September 8th is coming up fast. This is an important thing to do. Thank you Mayor Stratton.

Jason Planck, City of Schenectady – Question one, Would Firetree be on this Planning Commission Meeting agenda on Wednesday? Some people say it has been taken off the agenda and some say it is still on the agenda. Could any of the Council verify if it is on the agenda? Also, going back over the last couple of months, we have talked about the disparity study and we have talked about the Pilot Programs. There has been no movement on bringing a disparity study up to date around here. This pilot program is for Economic Development, there is no Economic Development. When you have these pilot programs, two years ago we gave away our Sales Tax, so that when we develop new business during the year, we are not going to get any more sales tax. The property tax is over a twenty year period. How much money are we actually losing? Jobs we are transferring from Colonie and other places, except we are not putting our own people back to work. We really need to find out what these pilot programs costs us. We need to know what's going on.

Vince Riggi, 2138 Campbell Avenue – You never cease to amaze me. You had the right idea about sending it back to Committee about the Body Shop Manager and then you chose not to. It had to be done tonight; you got one side of the story from Mr. Olsen. That's only one person. I already told you my expertise in this and you know I have it, but you don't want to hear it, do you? Now my words were used against me. I had words put in my mouth about people not wanting to do rust work. That's because of the quote, I think Kathleen Moore is a pretty good reporter and she said that Olsen thinks that the City should rake in hundreds of thousands of dollars in work from other municipalities. No, that's not exactly what I meant. There are big facilities that specialize in truck work and the small guy doesn't make money but they do. If you can't see that this is a job custom made for someone, because I was going to say I'll come out of retirement, I'd love to have the job. It would be a great job. I could run this shop for you. You have to be a card carrying member of the Union for Heavy Equipment. I'm a Schenectady resident and have been for 64 years. I have been in the business for 50 years. I have owned my own business. I want to apply for that job, just take the Heavy Equipment thing right out of there, that's not necessary. Have somebody else move the equipment? Why does the body shop manager move the equipment? I never heard of that before. This is a specialty thing? I have an idea of who the individual that he has in mind, so look further into this. I am not done with this either and what you did tonight was wrong. You all sit here and think that what you did was great and it was not great what you did. If a job was being

put together for an individual at taxpayer's expense that is wrong. Did any of you know that? The wool was pulled over your eyes and you go along with it.

Harry Brand, 2108 Van Rensselaer Ave – I don't know how many millions of dollars we are in debt. I wish you would spend it on some new air conditioners so we can sit through a Council Meeting and hear. Another thing I would like to talk to you about is the streets. I don't know what priority is given and I don't even know if you are involved in it. I just cannot understand why Broadway is not paved yet. It is a disgrace for our City. It's a shame. I don't know why some of the other streets like Union Street are priorities. I just don't know how you do priorities for streets. Now you are talking about looking at houses. Tonight should prove to you that you cannot miss any more City Council Meetings, all those propositions. Do you know what you're voting on? You have to have Carl Olsen come in and explain everything to you. You people don't do your job and make City employees live in the City. I thought it was a law that they live in the City. You do. Maybe we should go outside the City and let people run for our City Council. If you people don't know what you are doing, then we have to get someone else. Don't bring anymore propositions here that you don't know about, that you can't justify the vote on it.

Lou Grasso, 2933 Halsey Drive – I live just off of Kings Road. Coming onto Kings Road from Rotterdam, and trucks have to come over the bridge. When you reach the City, there is a sign that says Welcome to Woodlawn, and then it is a wash board roadway. I guess they are talking to Carl Olsen right now. I just want to say when the salt trucks come in; there is a truck about every half-hour. So when winter comes, the trucks come back. The salt is in packages and the trucks are back to pick up the salt. So there is a very limited time when the trucks are not going back and forth. They can come up with some restrictions on the trucks so they don't go so fast up and down the streets.

Wayne Harper, 2933 Turner Avenue – I would like to thank the veterans for the privilege to speak here tonight, all those who have served and those that are serving. I can't help but think we need to bring them home. We need to do some fighting here, probably on a national level. I didn't want to ever come back here, but I have to tell you Gary and Brian, I don't like the way seniors are being treated. I'm a senior myself, I'm speaking more for Mary McClaine, and they deserve more respect. I think there is a lack of respect in general for the resident taxpayer. We are being treated like we are insignificant and I just want to remind you and your viewers we anchored this City when there was no downtown. But for whatever reasons you folks, you will cling to a business at the expense of the taxpayer and I quite frankly had enough. I'm going to be re-locating and I think I will have to come back and let your viewers know, because I travel. I'm looking at Tennessee and North Florida. There are better places. I could come back in 10 years and very little changes. Now, why I am here! I started to call you, Gary on May 28th. That's how long I have been calling you about the problems I have

been having with the Police Department. I would like to pass this here to Peggy King. That's a Police Report which nobody can read. I also would like to ask the Police Commissioner why a uniformed police officer has to make out this report when clerical people could do that, save some money. Okay Al, I have something for you (Goldberger). I would like to get my money back without hiring a lawyer, so when I don't get goods or services, I ask for my money back. I talk to CEO's all the time, so Brian, you are a CEO. So why don't you see how Wayne can get his money back for policing. My curbs are deteriorating. I also would like to take care of your sidewalks. Joe Allen talked about sidewalks many years ago. Did we ever get sidewalks, no. We are just the resident taxpayer. What do we get? Get with Metroplex and tell them these poor, stupid taxpayers need some of that sales tax money back so we can at least give them sidewalks and curbs. I don't think that is too much to ask. Thank you.

Pat Zollinger, 150 Clement Avenue – For the past four or five weeks, I have been talking to literally hundreds of residents of the City of Schenectady. And the main concern is that we are being burdened with taxes. I believe that it was July 12th that the Mayor presented his concerns about twelve and half million dollars deficit for the budget. At the last Committee Meeting, Mr. Olsen is presenting a new job; Mayor Stratton is concerned about having to reduce the workforce in the City and moving money around and putting off paying the school tax until next year. All these measures are all delaying the inevitable and the taxpayers are really concerned about taxes in the City. In addition to that one, these things I want to bring up have to do with when Mayor Stratton took office. He presented the budget 1st of September. I don't believe that it is in the Code. That was a very good idea it went by the wayside. We need to start thinking about that, a twelve and half million dollar deficit for 2011. We can't even talk about it. We are all so afraid that our taxes are going to go up, if not taxes then our fees, trying to plug a hole in the budget. So, it was really wrong to allow Mr. Olsen to give a job to somebody. Thank you.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Allen – I have concerns about several issues that came before me that pertain to our Police Department and it came before the City Council too. A couple of weeks ago Chris Dixon came here and he felt that he was being picked on by a certain police officer. And then there was that raid on Brandywine Avenue where the DEC kicked in their door and it turned out that it was the wrong house. Just recently I received a call from a lady that got arrested, her car was taken. It was supposed have been involving her son driving her car. He was involved in a domestic dispute. Her concern was that she was 70 years old and having her arms pulled back and twisted to put handcuffs on her. I'm thinking where the

sensitivity is. Where is the common sense that goes along with good policing? Of course, you want criminals arrested. But, because this woman allowed her son to drive her car, she ended up getting arrested. She had to get a lawyer and all this stuff. I'm thinking somebody should have had some common sense in this particular issue. The District Attorney, he threw out all the charges, but that still costs her some money. I'm saying, I don't know what kind of training that our police get but, I think they need to get some common sense.

Ms. King – Mary McClaine mentioned the fact that the Little Italy Festival was on 9/11. And I want people to know that the second week in September is always the big weekend in downtown. The Greek Festival and the Stockade Art show along with the Little Italy Festa. That way, downtown has got all the venues going at once and people make a day of it. I would like to encourage folks to remember that second week in September for good food and art work and just a nice time.

Mr. Erikson – I just want to make a couple of comments here. First, about the body shop that we talked about. When I first heard about this, I had a lot of questions for Carl Olsen. I talked to him about the costs, the figures, and the return on the investment and assuming the fact that the figures were accurate. We are investing a little bit of money to hire a person which will have a return from outsourcing and extending the life of very expensive equipment. I felt it was a good investment based on the figures that we find down the road. If it is not a good investment, we will remove that from the budget. As far as hiring, I assume this is an open position and it would be open to anyone that is interested in applying. Another point that was brought up by several people was Codes. I mentioned return on investment and we made a big investment in Codes in the past. And I want to make sure that in this year's budget we take a look at it to see if there are any rewards. So I think we will be having some discussions going forward again. It is not worth it if we are not accomplishing something that is not worth the investment. Thank you.

Mayor Stratton – I want to thank everyone for coming down tonight. And I do understand that the Council Meeting is on Channel 18 and that Open Stage Media is moving us over from 16 to 18, that's great. Councilmen Allen, I would urge you to talk to Commissioner Bennett on the issues you brought up. I was very happy to pick up an issue of Metroland recently, which is the annual 2010 Best Of and notice that Schenectady is mentioned no fewer than 19 times in their portrayal of best places. The best Italian restaurant was Scotti's. The best pizza was from Fireside. The best Japanese restaurant is Mari's, best delicatessen was Gershon's, cheap eats Bomber's Burito's, best Gelato is at Villa Italia, best bakery for bread is Villa Italia; the best bakery for confections was Villa Italia, best Boutique is the Open Book Bookstore. The best musical instrument is Drome Sound, best gym Best Fitness; best big film experience is at the GE Theatre at Proctors.

ADJOURNEMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

A TRUE RECORD

**BY EILEEN M. VERSACI
CITY CLERK**