

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY  
COUNCIL – AUGUST 25, 2010**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Gary R. McCarthy at 5:30 P.M. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

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 Blanchard and Gary R. McCarthy

Absent – None

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

**PUBLIC HEARINGS:**

1. Adopting a Local Law establishing a moratorium on “Halfway Houses”

Mr. McCarthy invited all those who wish to speak on Public Hearing #1 to come forward. The following speakers rose to be heard and their remarks are summarized.

**Mark A. Townsend**, 315 Sullivan Road – I am in support of this moratorium against halfway houses.

**Pat Zollinger**, City of Schenectady – This City needs a rest from all these programs that is costing the taxpayer money that they cannot afford.

**Ellie Pepper**, 701 Plymouth Avenue – I am in agreement with this moratorium having a another program that does not pay property taxes is no help to the citizens of Schenectady.

**Mary McClaine**, Schenectady, NY – This meeting should be a lesson to Council Members not to play musical chairs with the council calendar in the future. This item could have been taken care of back in July rather than have citizens who are genuinely interested in their community to come here tonight at an early hour so hat should have been passed a month ago. I also want to compliment the citizens of Schenectady who have kept the Firetree Project alive. Their diligence has stopped another non-profit from moving into the wrong place. It has been their efforts and not Council’s that made this meeting possible. Five council members never bothered to attend the initial Firetree presentation, infinitely qualified, indeed. The ban on Half-way Houses is a necessity and council should pass it.

**Thomas Griffen**, Loudonville,, NY – I am the attorney for Firetree and here to ask you to reconsider the moratorium, if you go to any of the communities where and Firetree Program has been placed you will find that the members of the community are pleased and go on with the lives because it does not interfere.

**Rev. Van Stuart**, Schenectady, NY – I am associated with the SICM Program and I believe that the Hamilton Hill and Vale Neighborhoods are over burden with these types of programs. We needs a rest from them. I am for this moratorium.

**Rev. Phillip Grisby**, Schenectady, NY – I am also with the SICM Program and I support this moratorium.

**Vickie Hurewitz** – DeCamp Avenue – I am totally in favor of this Moratorium.

**Marion Porterfield** – Schenectady, NY – I am in favor of this Moratorium, this Neighborhood does not need any more of this type of housing.

Seeing no further speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the Public Hearing #1 closed.

2. Adopting a Local Law on Electing a retirement Incentive Program Part A & B as authorized by Chapter 105, Law of 2010 for the Listed Employees of the City of Schenectady.

Mr. McCarthy invited all who wished to speak on Public Hearing #2 to come forward. The following speaker rose to be<sup>3</sup> heard and her remarks are summarized.

**Pat Zollinger** – Schenectady, NY – I am speaking against the retirement Incentive Program, in the end this will cost the taxpayers of this City more money which they can not afford. I have been on the street talking to literally hundreds of residents of the City and they are afraid of the taxes taking a big jump this year and most of them can not afford it.

Seeing no speakers to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared Public Hearing #2 closed.

### **INTRODUCTION OF AND ACTION SUPON LOCALLAWS, ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

Local Law No. 03-2010  
Local Law No. 04-2010  
Local Law No. 05-2010

Adopted Unanimously  
Adopted Unanimously  
Adopted Unanimously

**ADJOURNMENT:**

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. McCarthy declared the meeting adjourned at 6:10 pm.

**A TRUE RECORD**

**BY EILEEN M. VERSACI  
CITY CLERK**