

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING OF THE
SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL – MAY 8, 2006**

The meeting was called to order by Council President Mark W. Blanchfield at 7:00 P.M. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Mr. Blanchfield called upon Rev. Jean Mills, First Unitarian Society, to deliver the Invocation.

Mr. Blanchfield then called upon Lisa Sanders 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, Frank J. Maurizio,
Barbara Strangfeld, Gary R. McCarthy, Margaret C. King,
Barbara Blanchard and Mark W. Blanchfield

Absent - None

Also Present – Mayor Brian U. Stratton, City Clerk Carolyn Friello and
Corporation Counsel Alfred L. Goldberger

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Blanchfield asked if there were no objections, he would like to take Agenda Item #9 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2006-106

Adopted Unanimously

Ms. Blanchard invited Gloria Kichton and Don Rittner to come inside the rail to accept a resolution proclaiming May, 2006 as “National Preservation Month” in the City of Schenectady. They thanked the City Council for the resolution.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: None.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. McCarthy moved that the minutes of the City Council meetings of April 10, 2006 and April 24, 2006 be approved as submitted by the City Clerk. It was seconded by Ms. King. Hearing no objections, Mr. Blanchfield declared the minutes approved as submitted.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Official –

From the Department of Engineering, two (2) letters accepting the bids of and awarding the contracts to:

- “Two (2) Refuse Dumpers” for \$98,500.00 from CEJJ, Inc. of Schodack Landing, NY; and
- “Tow Behind Stump Grinder” for \$28,749.00 from Vermeer Northeast of Castleton on Hudson, NY.

General – (Public Announcement):

The Bellevue Preservation Association will hold its monthly meeting on Wednesday, May 10, 2006 at 7:00 P.M. at St. Paul’s Episcopal Church Parish Hall on Fairview Ave. The Guest Speaker will be Ray Gillen. The neighborhood garage sale will be held on Saturday, June 3rd. For more information, contact Tony De Luccia at 393-2701.

From the American Legion Post #21, a letter of thanks to the City Council for rental monies.

PETITIONS:

With 11 signatures opposing the business practices of the Union Street Bed and Breakfast at 1362 Union Street.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Ms. Strangfeld stated that the Finance Committee met and she reviewed Agenda Items #1, #3, #10, #11 and #9A.

Mr. Maurizio explained Agenda Item #2. We will move to amend the legislation to remove the first Resolve.

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS):

Mr. Blanchfield 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:

Pat Zollinger, 150 Clement Ave., said – I think that the city should hire out the stump grinder to residents. On Agenda Items #4 and #5, thank you for providing this packet of information. What is the liability factor for non-profits selling alcoholic beverages? You are allowing selling alcohol in an open environment.

Jason Planck, Schenectady resident, spoke in regard to Agenda Item #2. With this passage, the Office of Disability will close and open with a new non-for-profit. This non-profit got the grant last July and never showed up until March 1st. Mayor Jurczynski wanted the city to own this office. A lot of issues that we tried to get you to do – have failed. We would like you to work with persons with disabilities – not against us. The staff misleading you is wrong. Repair the damage that you have done by closing this office.

Katherine Delain, Liberty Street, spoke in regard to Agenda Item #9. There are 3 Walking Tours at the Woodland Preserve, the Stockade and Vale. I am thrilled about the Alexanderson House. This city is so full of wonderful history. Every time I go in Vale, I discover something new.

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

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

Consent Agenda –

Resolution No. 2006-107	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-108	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-109	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-110	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-111	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-112	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-113	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2006-CS18	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Mr. Blanchfield 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:

Frederic Lee, 706 Stanley Street, stated that a building near the Boy's and Girl's Club was brought down. That was a huge accomplishment; it's a little victory. We hope to continue working to come up with creative ways to improve the city.

Robert Sanders, 2821 Halsey Drive, stated that the Woodlawn Park cleanup was a great success. On May 20th and May 21st, the cleanup will be from 9:30 A.M. to 1:30 P.M. at the Woodlawn Park. We will continue on until June 13 and 14.

Diablo Montelongo, 418 Liberty Street, said – I propose that local artists work and sell without a license within the limits of the Art District.

Katherine Delain, Liberty Street, spoke in regard to Liberty Street and Erie Blvd.; nothing is being done. There is no concern for Public Safety. Also, what happened to the awards that were given out regarding Community Pride? We need to get re-involved with our neighborhoods.

Lisa Sanders, 2821 Halsey Drive, thanked everyone who helped in the Woodlawn cleanup.

Pat Zollinger, 150 Clement Ave., said to use a tiny portion of the 2005 budget surplus to open the Woodlawn and Quackenbush Pools. Also, we used to have Tuesday in the Park. It's a great advertising for the city. Also, May 20th and May 21st is the Woodlawn Garage Sale. Lastly, the Department of State is soliciting grant applications with a 50-50 match for the Waterfront Revitalization program and the deadline is May 25th. You can look at a local waterfront website.

Harry Brand, 2168 Van Rensselaer Drive, said - Congratulations on reducing the deficit. Why, in Schenectady, do we have so many people on Section 8? Why are there so many people looking for handouts? Also, how does Union College get away with not paying taxes? The Corporation Counsel needs to figure out a way to get them to contribute. Also, some families had to leave Hillhurst Park last week because of kids and foul language. Maybe all of our parks should be patrolled.

Sharon DeNovio, Schenectady resident, spoke in regard to 803 Grant Ave. There is recurrent and unreasonable use of the rental property causing annoyance and

inconvenience. The owner doesn't care. The Police Department is making a difference and bringing others into the loop to get that property under control. No one should have to tolerate this behavior from a rental property.

Vincent Riggi, Campbell Ave., stated that people should be able to enjoy the Summer. We need to have special patrols through the Summer to control kids, boom boxes, noise, etc. To get first time homeowners here, we need to address these issues. Also, we need a plan to utilize the pools.

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

MISCELLANEOUS:

Mr. Maurizio stated that Quality of Life issues have to be paramount on our Agenda to attract new homebuyers. Also, a good public school system attracts new people. On May 16th, the school budget is up for vote - I look at it as an investment. I urge folks to get out and vote one way or the other.

Mr. McCarthy spoke in regard to the dorms being put in the MVP building to be used by the Community College. Preliminary has had it as a private developer who would own the building, pay full taxes and utilized by the students. For the past 2 years, this is what we are doing - looking at those who are not paying their fair amount in pilot agreements or not-for-profits

Ms. King said - I attended a Press Conference for the Park & Ride Facility up on State Street across from St. Luke's. This is a positive thing for those who commute over to Albany. It's part of a larger effort by CDTA to implement a rapid bus transit system on Route 5. I have also heard about conditions of bus shelters in Woodlawn and I have been told that there is a plan for replacement or improvement. I need to check further into this.

Mr. Allen said - In my opinion, Hamilton Hill, Mt. Pleasant and Vale were communities most in need of a pool. That was a priority for me. I told Bob Sanders that you have to push for your own neighborhood. Also, I still see garbage cans in front of houses. We need to step up the enforcement.

Ms. Strangfeld stated that we have explored the issues of pilots and have worked on it for a few years. I support the Mayor's attempt to get a PILOT Program from Union College; the time is now. For the amount of service that Union College requires, it should pay something. I will explore the possibilities of a public safety fee for not-for-profits if there is no resolve to this.

Ms. Blanchard stated that everyone who is watching this program is watching Public Access TV. This Public Hearing is the only one that will be held before the contract. Time Warner doesn't really like Public Access TV. All you need to do is stand up and say that you enjoy Public Access TV. I would like everyone to make an effort to come on Thursday at 7:30 P.M. at SCCC.

The Mayor stated that the Office of Disability Services and the Mayor's Task Force will not cease. Its operation will be expanded. The Center for Independence will take over that office. I wish Teena will thank her for all her services under the previous administration. Also regarding the article on absentee landlords and their properties, I don't think a fear of drug activity should prompt landlords to be vigilant about inspecting their properties. I hope people that buy rental properties take the utmost care and concern for who they rent to. It's prudent that we continue to look at the Nuisance Ordinance and straighten them. We need to ensure quality of life in the city.

Mr. Blanchfield spoke in regard to the Community College and housing. I understand that Community Colleges can't own their own houses so to make that happen, they need private, taxable development to work out the housing situations. In regard to the trash, people need to take care and put the cans out of site, but, with our trash schedule, I think that we need to temper our enforcement. Perpetual offenders deserve what they get. In regard to the Public Hearing, it's important because that's a source of revenue for the city. We get a franchise fee for providing service.

ADJOURNMENT:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Mr. Blanchfield declared the meeting adjourned at 8:40 P.M.

A TRUE RECORD

**CAROLYN FRIELLO
CITY CLERK**