

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK
SCHENECTADY, NEW YORK
AGENDA FOR
THE COUNCIL CAUCUS
AND
THE CITY COUNCIL MEETING

August 25, 2014
Room 209
7:00 P.M.

1. By Councilmember

PUBLIC HEARING

Regarding Revisions to Chapter 186
of the Administrative Code
Regarding Steinmetz Park Fees.

1. By Councilmember

Ms. Porterfield

(ORIGINAL CONSIDERATION)

A RESOLUTION Authorizing the
Mayor to Enter Into a Project
Development Agreement for
Performance Based Energy
Efficiency & Water System
Improvement Project.

4 Votes

2014-192

2. By Councilmember

Ms. Perazzo

A RESOLUTION in Support of an
Application by the Land Reutilization
Corporation of the Capital Region to
the Attorney General seeking
\$3,000,000 in Funding.

4 Votes

2014-193

3. By Councilmember **Ms. Perazzo** **A RESOLUTION** Authorizing the Issuance of Revocable Permit No. 583 to I Love NY Pizza For a Patio on the Building Located at 1705 Union Street, Schenectady, NY.

4 Votes **2014-194**

4. By Councilmember **Mr. Riggi** **A RESOLUTION** Authorizing the Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Concerning 856 Union Street.

4 Votes **2014-195**

5. By Councilmember **Hold two weeks** **A RESOLUTION** Amending a Previous Resolution Regarding 219 Brandywine Avenue.

4 Votes

6. By Councilmember **Mr. Riggi** **A RESOLUTION** Honoring the members of the 1954 Schenectady Little League team upon the 60th Anniversary of their Little League World Series Championship.

4 Votes **2014-190**

7. By Councilmember **Ms. Perazzo** **A RESOLUTION** Honoring Perecca's Bakery for their 100th Anniversary.

4 Votes **2014-191**

8. By Councilmember **Ms. Perazzo**

(CONTRACT & SUPPLY)

A RESOLUTION Awarding the Bid and Contract for the “Uniform Rental and Laundry Services” to The Unifirst Corporation of Watervliet in the Amount of \$35,503.00.

4 Votes

2014-CS-14

**MINUTES OF THE REGULARLY SCHEDULED MEETING
OF THE SCHENECTADY CITY COUNCIL**

August 25, 2014

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Margaret King at 7:04 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. King called upon Rev. Bill Levering with the First Reformed Church of Schenectady to provide the invocation.

Ms. King called on Maria Papa to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present – Council members, Margaret King, Ed Kosiur, John Mootooveren, Ms. Perazzo, Marion Porterfield, and Vincent Riggi.

Also Present –City Clerk Chuck Thorne, Corporation Counsel John Polster and Commissioner Wayne Bennett.

At this point, Ms. King asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item number 3 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2014 – 190 – A Resolution honoring the members of the 1954 Schenectady Little League team upon the 60th Anniversary of their Little League World Series Championship. Representatives from the 1954 World Series team were on hand and extended their gratitude for the recognition by the Mayor and City Council. Mr. Riggi added there will be a street re-naming event regarding Mike Maietta Way on August 27th at 11:00 a.m.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Riggi and seconded by Ms. Mootooveren The resolution passed unanimously.

Resolution No. 2014 – 191 – A Resolution Honoring Perecca’s Bakery for their 100th Anniversary. Maria Papa extended her gratitude for the recognition by the Mayor and City Council. Ms. Papa added the Little Italy Festival will be taking place on September 6.

The resolution was moved by Ms. Perazzo and seconded by Ms. Porterfield. The resolution passed unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

- 1. Regarding Revisions to Chapter 186 of the Administrative Code Regarding Steinmetz Park Fees.**

Seeing no speakers come forward, Ms. King declared the Privilege of the Floor on the Legislative Agenda closed.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. King asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the August 11, 2014, meeting as submitted by the Deputy City Clerk, Mr. Kosiur made a motion to approve the minutes and Mr. Mootooveren seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications Presented to the City Council for Monday, August, 25, 2014

Kim Aron -- Noted the animals are not receiving medical treatment and their eyes are infected. She noted the dogs should be allowed outside for exercise but rather they sit in their cages all day. She noted the animals do not receive any love or affection from the staff and this is vital for animals to thrive. She noted the dogs are exposed to concrete floors, surrounded by urine and feces. She posed a question to City Council, would you like your children subjected to these conditions? She also noted that City Council should show some compassion and love toward this situation.

Caitlin St. George - Noted the animals are denied adequate care and they will be dead within a week. She noted the conditions in which these animals are exposed to breaks her heart. She added an adoption process has not been implemented and dogs are not being returned to their owners. She noted animals are killed inhumanely because it is cheaper. She added tax dollars are going towards expenses to keep animals in inhumane conditions. She is looking for City Council to begin making the necessary changes to resolve this matter.

Carol Johnson – She recited a quote written by Nelson Mandela, “We can change the world and make it a better place.” She also noted another quote by Alexander Hamilton and Malcolm X, “Those who stand for nothing will fall for anything.” She noted these quotes influenced the principles behind the animal rescue program and her desire for Schenectady to become a better place. She added due to the recent media attention some conditions at the Schenectady Dog Shelter have been improved. She noted the dog shelter has possession of lost, abandon, seized, homeless and abused dogs. She noted many of the dogs are being killed because it’s cheap and more convenient. She noted that Schenectady is in a moral crises and someone needs to stand for these defenseless animals.

Brenda Jean – *Read a letter on behalf of Irene Rose regarding her dog.* Amber was able to run out of the house and get away from her owner. She noted that Irene believed the dog was stolen and then her neighbor suggested that she contact Schenectady Animal Control. She then proceeded to contact the animal shelter and left her name and telephone number on the answering machine. She noted that she was able to locate her dog at the Anthony Street shelter. Once she received this information an attempt was made to retrieve her dog. Unfortunately, after arriving at the animal shelter she was not allowed to enter the building and had to wait one hour for the police to arrive. She was informed that they needed proof of her dogs current rabies shot and a fine of \$15.00 dollars was involved. She noted Schenectady Animal Control should have a Facebook page because this would make it easy for owners to locate their animals.

Mariesa Jozwiak –She reported that animals in the custody of the Animal Control Department experience confusion, anxiety and silence for the seven days they are in the shelter. She noted the animals are exposed to ten thousand and eighty minutes of silence and this leaves them wondering. She noted Schenectady can make this situation better for these animals.

Anthony Carotel, Schenectady – Asked a hypothetical; would you treat your family or friends the way the City of Schenectady treats dogs? He noted that a registry for lost dogs should be implemented just like a registry for sex offenders. He also noted he agrees with Councilmember Riggi that Schenectady has issues with dogs. He then made a couple of suggestions to address abandon building in the City such as making necessary repairs on buildings and renting the vacant space or using the abandon buildings for storefront businesses. He then suggested using these buildings as a possible rescue for an Animal Protective Foundation, community room for after school programs, and even allowing those incarcerated to care for the animals.

Theresa Schoenborn – Noted Schenectady Animal Control shelters are inhumane. She noted a dog named Dakota was in the Shelter for two months and this dog was harmed by other dogs.

have decreased and he believes the City needs to conduct a property reassessment. He noted residents are unable to refinance and taxes have quadrupled. He then commended the City for their expedient action regarding the Eastholm Road situation.

Marg Edwards, Schenectady – Noted several months ago she had some plumbing issues which were resolved by the City Of Schenectady. She noted some of the work was left incomplete by a licensed contractor who is known for not completing jobs. She asked why this contractor received a permit to work on her property even though he is known for not completing his jobs. She noted that she keeps her property clean and she has to look at abandon buildings in her neighborhood. She asked who is going to correct the abandon building problems, adding there is dust and rocks everywhere.

Penny Ross – Noted that dogs in the Schenectady Animal Shelter are only feed once a day and are exposed to an excessive amount of feces. She noted according to Assistant Police Chief Falvo the shelters are in need of help cleaning up the feces. She noted that deadly diseases can be spread and testing the soil outside the shelter is recommended. She noted elderly people who do not have means to care for their animals, should not be giving a choice of having their dogs euthanized and instead they should be placed in a foster home. She noted her dog was picked up by Schenectady Animal Control and she had no idea where to locate her animal.

Frank Wicks, Schenectady – Noted he had an opportunity to get to know Joe and Linda Kelleher further at a recent event and he would support Joe Kelleher's appointment to the City Council. Regarding dogs, he noted he loves dogs but distinguishes between, homeless and dangerous dogs. He noted if a dog attacks another dog they should be put down immediately. He noted he has empathy for humans in Guantanamo prisons. Regarding the situation in Ferguson, Missouri, and the young man killed by police he noted the police department culture is not good. He then noted he has concerned about the Schenectady Police department as well. He added some improvements have been made, but suggested some abuses related to overtime on the budget and history of harassing small store owners continues. He then recommended that police should have identifiable numbers so residents can report good and bad police officers.

Heather Newell, Schenectady – Noted she is speaking on behalf of concerns raised related to the City dog shelter. She noted she works with animal's everyday and she is concerned about animals suffering in Schenectady County. She closed by noting she would like to see that the animals are treated in a humane manner.

Flora Romanonski – Announced the National Association of Mental Illness (NAMI) will be hosting a fundraiser on September 4 from 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at the Tom Isabella Pavilion. She noted all are welcome to attend this annual event. She added NAMI is a local organization with national connections which serves adults and children with mental illness. She noted the organization's mission focuses on advocacy, education and support for those impacted by mental illness. She noted NAMI hosts peer support groups along with outdoor activities. The group has also hosted regional experts at their educational series and offered trainings for the Schenectady Police Dept. She then closed by offering to do the ALC ice bucket challenge.

Elmer Bertsch, Niskayuna – Noted he submitted an opinion piece to the Schenectady Gazette recently which included a number of facts related to the operation of the Schenectady County Metroplex Authority. He noted the Metroplex Board has 11 board members and two of the 11 are from the City of Schenectady. He noted one is appointed by the Mayor and the other by the City Council. He then noted there has not been an annual oral or written report from Metroplex to the City of Schenectady. He noted his feeling of an increasing disconnect between Metroplex and the ordinary citizens of the City. He gave an example related to the Robertson property

school and waiting for buses. He added there are still openings for crossing guards, if residents are interested in part time work. Regarding Metroplex, he noted when he was on the County Legislature in 2004 he was part of the group that appointed Ray Gillen. He added Mr. Gillen and his staff has done a tremendous job. He noted funding for Metroplex projects does come from tax payers in the form of sales tax revenue. He noted receiving compliments from out of state visitors recently who referenced all the new development in downtown Schenectady. He added downtown is the heart of the City and the work is starting to move out into the neighborhoods as well.

Commissioner Bennett – Noted he will follow up on the barber shop issue and other concern raised tonight. He then clarified his next comments would come from himself and not Mayor McCarthy. He noted he cannot tolerate others referring to Assistant Police Chief Jack Falvo as a liar. He noted Mr. Falvo has served City for over 30 years and is a dedicated profession. He noted it's inappropriate to attack individuals and those types of behaviors do not imply a spirit of working together for solutions. He noted it's time to work together on viable options.

Ms. King – Noted City staff and the City Council are working to address concerns related to the Dog Shelter. She then noted downtown Schenectady will host the Italian Festival, Stockade Art Show and the Greek Festival on September 6. She encouraged everyone to come out and enjoy the events.

Adjourned:

Seeing no further business to come before the City Council, Ms. King asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was moved by Mr. Kosiur and seconded by Ms. Porterfield and the meeting adjourned at 8:29 p.m.

A true record



By Chuck Thorne

Schenectady City Clerk