

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

May 28, 2014

The City Council Meeting was called to order by the City Council President Margaret King at 7:03 p.m. in Room 209, City Council Chambers at City Hall.

Ms. King asked for a moment of silence in lieu of the invocation.

Ms. King called on Bill Frank to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

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

Present – Council members Carl Erikson, Margaret King, Ed Kosiur, John Mootooveren, Leesa Perazzo, Marion Porterfield, and Vincent Riggi

Also Present – Deputy City Clerk Chad Putman, Corporation Counsel John Polster and Mayor Gary McCarthy

At this time Ms. King introduced Austin Fisher and Jennifer Jennings representing the Schenectady Greenmarket who then presented as part of the series on Schenectady's Economic Strengths.

At this point, Ms. King asked if there were no objections, she would like to take agenda item number 13 out of order. There were no objections.

Resolution No. 2014 – 124 – A Resolution Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of our Nation's Men and Women in Uniform and Proclaiming Schenectady as a Purple Heart City. Bill Frank, Director of Schenectady County Veterans Service Agency extended his gratitude to the Mayor and City Council for the recognition. He then introduced Schenectady County veterans including Matt Tilly who is a Purple Heart recipient.

The resolution was moved by Mr. Kosiur and seconded by Mr. Erikson. The resolution passed unanimously.

City Council President then presented Mayor McCarthy with the Good News Award which was awarded to Mayor McCarthy and the City of Schenectady, at a recent Chamber event, related to the City's HOMES program. The Mayor extended his gratitude to the Chamber and Council President for the recognition.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Ms. King asked for a motion to approve the minutes from the May 12, 2014 meeting as submitted by the City Clerk; Ms. Perazzo made a motion to approve the minutes, Mr. Mootooveren seconded the motion.

COMMUNICATIONS:

Communications Presented to the City Council for Wednesday May 28, 2014

Official:

From the Mayor a list of appointments dated May 28, 2014.

General:

None

Petitions:

None

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

None

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR (LEGISLATIVE ITEMS)

Ms. King invited all who wished to address the Legislative Agenda to come forward:

Jason Planck, Schenectady – Noted the recent City audit indicated that the City was in compliance with Affirmative Action requirements. He reports this assertion is false. He asked the Council to review further.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – “I am very much opposed to the installation of kiosks in the City. The City attorney told us the kiosks will be convenient and economical. For whom? If the kiosks are installed, I will have to pay to pick up my mail at the post office every day. So will more than a 1000 other people. There are more than 1000 rental boxes at the post office and box renters will be affected if kiosks are installed in the City. Not the legislators who will vote on the issue. If I have to pay to pick up my mail as a result of this administration’s decision to install kiosks then I suggest that the Mayor pay a monthly rental fee to park his car in the spot outside this building that is now reserved for such a City official. Secondly; kiosks will mean a new line item in the City budget because kiosks will necessitate a rental fee that must be paid every month by the taxpayers. There are 700 meters in the City. Currently, when a meter head breaks it can be fixed with a new part and no more monies are required from the taxpayers. Kiosks mean monthly costs. It is better to fix the broken meters than shell out monthly rental fees. Schenectady doesn’t need kiosks. Concentrate on litter.

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

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

Mr. Kosiur made a motion that Council approves the Consent Agenda and the motion was seconded by Mr. Mootooveren.

Consent Agenda –

- Resolution No. 2014 – 125Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 126Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 127Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 128Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 129Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 130Adopted Unanimously
- Resolution No. 2014 – 131Adopted Unanimously

Resolution No. 2014 – 132	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2014 – 133	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2014 – 134	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2014 – 135	Adopted Unanimously
Resolution No. 2014 – 136	Adopted Unanimously

PRIVILEGE OF THE FLOOR:

Ms. King 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:

Jason Planck, Schenectady – Noted there is a public hearing taking place on June 9 related to proposed changes involving Section 8 and the Code Enforcement rental certificate program. He noted the legislation will be available for review on June 4. He expressed his belief that the City should not be involved with Section 8 inspections. Regarding property values he encouraged City residents to file grievances in an effort to have their assessments reduced. He would like to see the City conduct a full City reassessment by completing a section of the City every five years. Regarding the CDBG funding resolution he reports two of the seven City Council members should not have voted given their board membership with organizations receiving funding.

Bharath Arjoon, Schenectady – Noted his request for the City Council to look into the pending convenient store on Emmett Street. He referenced the petition he submitted to the Council with 50 signatures for the May 12th Council meeting. He noted if the store is permitted the police will be bombarded with calls and this would be a burden on the City. He asked the Council and the City to deny the request.

Sharon – Linn Schmidt, Schenectady – Extended her gratitude to all the individuals and organizations who participated and helped with the cleanup event in Mont Pleasant on May 3rd. Some of the volunteers and groups included representatives from the Police and Fire Department, City Council members Ms. Perazzo, Mr. Riggi and Mr. Mootooveren, Rev. Bookhout with the Bridge Church and Rev. Grigsby with SICM. She then thanked the Daily Gazette, Home Depot and Stewart Shops for donations.

Marva Isaacs, Schenectady – Noted on May 24 Hamilton Hill hosted the Schenectady Bike Rescue which was a success. She then expressed concerns about a half-way house on Emmett Street which is in need of a cleanup. She noted there is garbage everywhere and people drinking.

Joy Hall, Schenectady – Noted that her car was towed recently following a temporary no parking order. She noted the City needs to give housing residents more notice before towing vehicles.

Mohamed Hafez, Schenectady – Noted concerns related to the casino proposal. He noted the Council seems to be seeking approval in a hurry and it makes no economic sense. He noted studies have shown that most casinos draw locals and not tourists and thus will not draw the reported revenue. He noted the casinos will create parking problems and increase problem gambling and bankruptcies. He noted the casinos are an avenue for moving money from the poor to the rich and in 3-5 years will have a negative impact on jobs. He quoted Warren Buffet and then asked the Council not to vote in favor of the casino.

Mary McClaine, Schenectady – “I was not able to be here for the last Council meeting when the convenience store item was listed on the agenda. No convenience store should be allowed to operate like the one on the corner of Nott Street and Van Rankin Avenue. The grounds are filthy,

weeds grow three feet high and at this time a clump of sod was pulled from the ground and has been lying on the sidewalk for a month. The area is one of the main thoroughfares of the City. Not pretty. I was called regarding the next issue. It has to do with cutting out stars after an American flag has been retired. I first learned of the practice about a year and a half ago when one of the T.V. stations did a story on it. I was surprised then and I am still puzzled by it now. As I understand flag etiquette, cutting up the American flag after it has been retired is still an desecration. Retiring the flag is a solemn ritual even if it is done by an individual rather than a group (such as scouts, etc.). I gave lectures on flag etiquette and distribute pamphlets after the talk. I am taking the liberty to give everyone a copy so that you can understand that retiring a flag is not taken lightly by our government. I asked about the practice of cutting out stars when I visited West Point last year. They said they wouldn't do it. Neither will I. A citizen has approached this podium several times to draw attention to the practice of cutting out stars from retired flags. Since this forum is being used for such advocacy, I think Council should know more about the issue and make a disclaimer on the practice. When flags are retired properly, there are only ashes left and the ashes are buried."

Seeing no other speakers to come before the City Council, Ms. King declared the Privilege of the Floor closed regarding City Business.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE COUNCIL

Mr. Erikson – Noted several points for consideration related to the proposed casino development. Some of which include; consideration of the risks associated with a casino and the potential for increased crime; pro's being financial incentives including an estimated \$6 million dollars in revenue to the City which would allow the City to cut taxes similar to what Saratoga County did; currently he is undecided but wants to make sure revenue is spent prudently; he noted the City would share the revenue with the County even though all the revenue would be generated within the City and thus the City should receive a larger share; he noted meetings with the proposed operators and that the representatives were very professional and run a good company.

Mr. Kosiur – Noted the ceremonial resolution recognizing local seniors followed similar recognition by the County Legislature and New York State. He noted the County awardees include a 103 year old resident (Elise Harrington) and local neighborhood association leader (Lou Grasso). He noted he attended a recognition at Schenectady High School which honored juniors and seniors and the Woodlawn Neighborhood Association awarded a \$1,500 scholarship to a graduate pursuing a career as an emergency medical technician. He noted Union College recently hosted a U-Care Day which included campus tours and a carnival like atmosphere for area residents.

Mr. Riggi – Noted the earlier presentation by the Schenectady Greenmarket is a good example of how a grass-root idea can become a very successful community asset. He noted the Bellevue Farmers Market will start back up on June 12 at 4pm on the corner of Thompson and Broadway. He then noted his participation in the City staff walking challenge and has noticed a number of potholes on his 2.5 mile route. He added the side streets are the worst including locations near Broadway Lunch, Thompson, Rose Street and on Broadway. He noted he had damage to his car due to a pothole and he encouraged the City to address the issues or the conditions will continue to deteriorate.

Mr. Mootoveren – Noted Mont Pleasant will be having its monthly neighborhood association meeting on June 12 at 7pm at the Faith Deliverance Tabernacle Church. Guest speaker will be the Executive Director of the Community Loan Fund.

Mayor McCarthy – Noted the City Streets Department is going through neighborhood by neighborhood in a strategic manner to address potholes and improve the conditions of the roads. He noted reports of specific locations are helpful and that he appreciates everyone's patients while the work is being completed. He then welcomed the Phantom of the Opera back to Proctors which was the first Broadway play to take place in the theatre following the renovations. He closed by noting the school district has reported an increase in attendance and graduation rates.

Ms. King – Noted the City Engineer, Chris Wallin is being recognized by his colleagues for a New York State Engineer of the Year award at a recent event. She then reported attending a recent conference hosted by Northern Rivers and recognized a theme of non-profits struggling with decreased funding streams; adding it will be important for organizations to explore consolidation as the Council reviews applications for CDBG funding in 2015.

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 Mr. Riggi and the meeting recessed at 8:06 p.m.

A true record


By **Chad Putman**
Schenectady Deputy City Clerk

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

May 28, 2014
Room 209
7:00 P.M.

1. By Councilmember **Mr. Riggi** **(ORIGINAL CONSIDERATION)**
- An Ordinance** amending Chapter 248 the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Parking Large Vehicles on City Streets.
- INTRODUCED ONLY**
with
- A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR** a Public Hearing Regarding Changes to Chapter 248 the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Parking Large Vehicles on City Streets.
- 4 Votes **2014 - 125**
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2. By Councilmember **Mr. Mootoveren** **AN ORDINANCE** amending the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Parking Meters.
- INTRODUCED ONLY**
With
- A RESOLUTION** Calling for a Public Hearing Regarding Changes to the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Parking Meters
- 4 Votes **2014 - 126**
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3.	By Councilmember	Mr. Mootooveren	AN ORDINANCE amending Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Commercial Building Inspections INTRODUCED ONLY With A RESOLUTION Calling for a Public Hearing Regarding Changes to the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Commercial Building Inspections	4 Votes	2014 - 127
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4.	By Councilmember	Ms. Perazzo	AN ORDINANCE amending Chapter 210 of the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Rental Certificates. INTRODUCED ONLY With A RESOLUTION Calling for a Public Hearing Regarding Changes to Chapter 210 of the Administrative Code of the City of Schenectady Regarding Rental Certificates	4 Votes	2014 - 128
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5.	By Councilmember	Mr. Mootooveren	A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Acceptance of the GIVE-2014 Grant	4 Votes	2014 - 129
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6.	By Councilmember	Ms. Porterfield	A RESOLUTION Issuing a Negative Declaration for the Erie Boulevard and Nott Street Intersection Construction Project	4 Votes	2014 - 130

7.	By Councilmember	Ms. Porterfield	A RESOLUTION Declaring the City of Schenectady to be the Lead Agency for the Erie Boulevard and Nott Street Intersection Construction Project	4 Votes	2014 - 131
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8.	By Councilmember	Mr. Riggi	A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Sale of 954 Albany Street	4 Votes	2014 - 132
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9.	By Councilmember	Mr. Riggi	A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Brought by Brown.	4 Votes	2014 - 133
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10.	By Councilmember	Mr. Riggi	A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Brought by Sandham.	4 Votes	2014 - 134
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11.	By Councilmember	Mr. Riggi	A RESOLUTION Authorizing the Settlement of a Tax Certiorari Brought by 1707 State Street LLC.	4 Votes	2014 - 135
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12.	By Councilmember	Mr. Kosiur	A RESOLUTION Honoring Elsie Harrington and Lou Grasso as Senior Citizens of the Year	4 Votes	2014 - 136
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13. By Councilmember **Mr. Kosiur**

A RESOLUTION Honoring the Service and Sacrifice of our Nation's Men and Women in Uniform and Proclaiming Schenectady as a Purple Heart City

4 Votes

2014 - 124
