



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 6, 2013 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL – Councilmember Solomon absent

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting of September 3, 2013

CCM 9-3-13						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Herman	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Rich	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Parise	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Boyd	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Solomon	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Mallory	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

III. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any resolutions not listed on the printed agenda.

IV. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda items.

Randy Johnson - 52 Manitou Avenue – No response.

Frank Clark - 50 Rinaldi Blvd. – Congratulated those members who will be on the Council for next year. Unfortunately, our Commissioner of Finance isn't here. I would like to have apologized to him. At the last meeting, when I said this Administration did a poor job with the taxpayers' money for the last 8 years, I want everybody to know that Mr. Brady had nothing to do with that. He's only been on the job for a couple of months. I'm confident in saying, with Mr. Brady's knowledge, experience and most importantly, his honesty, if we

had him as a Commissioner for those years, we wouldn't be in this situation that we are now. I can't believe that our Mayor has the power to eliminate our City bus service. I thought it was a public bus service paid for by the citizens whose taxes, paid at the City, State and Federal level. By voting for our Mayor to serve a second term, and trusted him to maintain our City services with the taxes. I'll let the people decide whether he did a good job or not. It appears to me that the Mayor didn't give a strong enough fight to keep our \$2 million in tax revenue that Mr. Molinaro took away from us. Also, with our Mayor giving up our complete fleet of buses which, by the way, the City still owes money on, along with all our federal transportation dollars and the maintenance of the new City Bus Depot...all of that at no cost to the County. Add those things with discussions of some high ranking County Legislators are having with Mr. Molinaro of the possibility of the Mayor being asked to take some of his thousands of campaign dollars and giving it to another candidate, in exchange for a job that would be created at the County for him. If that happens, all I can say is, "Shame on you, Mayor for putting your personal needs above the citizens of Poughkeepsie's needs, and basically, throwing their needs 'under the bus'." Thank you.

Terry Horner - 81 South Hamilton Street – I've come here about the sanitation fee, but very particularly about the fact that I've been waiting since February, to be granted a residence reclassification which is my understanding the Ordinance allows. I made the application to the Building Department. They came and inspected my house. My house is on the Assessment Roll as a three-family, although there's no Certificate of Occupancy for a three-family, nor is it occupied by three-families. It's occupied by my family; a single use in its utilization right. It is now November. I still don't have a residential reclassification. Why is that? Because no one on this Council or Administration will simply tell the Building Department that they need to grant the reclassification. The Building Department came and inspected my property and saw three kitchens, so in their mind, it's a three family. They're ignoring the fact that it's not being utilized as a three-family, nor could it be legally occupied as a three-family. Now, I paid the first quarter at the three-family rate. I haven't paid since, so the City has, "shot itself in the foot," because I would've been happy to pay my quarterly single family payment. But, I'm not paying anything if I can't get the Building Department to be told to do what it's supposed to do. I don't understand why the residential reclassification is solely in the hands of the Building Department; why they can decide and ignore Corporation Counsel though I have asked several times, "Please direct me to do what the law requires." I've talked to Mr. Rich; I've talked to Ms. Solomon – nothing's happening.

Dawn Rabidou- 230 South Grand Avenue – Like the others, I've come to talk about the bus system. She rides the bus to get to work, school and running errands such as doctor/hospital appointments or going to the market. I have a question I'd like to throw out to you folks. Have any of you ridden our bus system? A show of hands...

Chairman Mallory: We don't respond to the questions.

Ms. Rabidou: OK. No, it's a "throw out." I don't need answers. If you have, you'd know that you'd get from point A to point B when you're supposed to get there. The Loop bus does not – I've ridden the Loop before and am riding it now to get to work. Fortunately, I

have at least a 30 minute window to get there if the buses run late, which they do almost every day. I will not be late checking in to work. The drivers know us and show extra effort. Twice, I've had surgery and the drivers made sure I had a safe place to get off. They help senior citizens off the bus and even help them with their bags. Loop does not do this. I have not seen the same Loop bus driver twice. They don't run on time; they're very inconsistent in their schedule. They can strike at the drop of a hat, and then we are screwed. We can't get to work, the doctor – we can't get anything done. For those of you who've never ridden the bus, why don't you try it? We need the bus system. Mr. Mayor, the worst you can do is take the public transportation away from us. You represent the City of Poughkeepsie. Our buses are for the City of Poughkeepsie – we need these buses. Thank you.

John Maravella - 139 Hooker Avenue – He wanted to know if homeowners would be able to vote on the bus resolution, or is it something that the Mayor and City Council vote on or is it one person's decision. He spoke about an incident when he had to go for eye surgery and called the Loop bus system to pick him up at 5:00 p.m. He called every 10 mins. and got no results. He stated that a police officer tried calling them and no one answered. He waited for the Loop bus for about an hour and 15 minutes. No bus ever came and he ended up having to take a cab which cost him \$30 from the Castle Point V. A. back to Poughkeepsie. When he called the next day he wanted to find out what happened to the bus. The person he spoke to said that someone was there and Mr. Maravella said that wasn't possible. The man wasn't helpful and so Mr. Maravella then asked to speak to a supervisor. The person on the other end stated that he *was* the supervisor and laughed at Mr. Maravella and said, "I'll get right on it." That wouldn't happen with the City buses. There are many people you can speak to. In the City, I can go to a supervisor or my Council member, etc. There are steps. We own the bus system and if it's about money, it shouldn't be. We deserve this service. It's important; it makes a difference. At the least, to have competition, where the Loop cannot do what they want to do. Is against privatizing. The drivers are different in the City. Maybe because they are government employees and they're secure in their jobs? Some people say that the Galleria bus from the City is not needed. I will go out of my way to take the City bus, not the Loop. It makes a difference.

Eusona Tyler - 24-26 Academy Street – She wanted to clarify that it's not "bashing" of the Loop – it's that they're not doing their job(s). She further stated that both systems are needed (Loop and City buses). She spoke of an incident in which she and another woman got on the Loop bus - 3:05 (maybe from Wappingers) and paid the fare. They both got off at Main and Market Street, but the other woman needed to go to the train station. The Loop driver told the woman, "I don't go to the train station. I don't know when the next bus comes. You have to take the bus from Main Street." Why couldn't she just tell her to walk straight down Main Street to the train station instead of walking to another bus? She couldn't give directions? Now, you want a bus service that doesn't give service? If nothing else, she could've given her a transfer (you can transfer from the Loop to the City bus). She didn't even offer her one. This is what I'm talking about – service. City buses can tell you if you're on the wrong bus and what bus you need to get to where you have to go. The Loop Company knows what's happening and they're not taking the initiative to fix the problem. If they don't do it now, I don't think they'll be doing it later. That's common sense; that's human nature. For my dollar, no thank you...I don't think for anybody else's.

Sheila Drew - 66 Washington Street – She told stories of things that happened with the Loop bus and said it was getting worse and worse. They've changed management time and time again. It's poorly managed. When she complained to her County Legislator, he passed along to the Loop people who sent her a letter inviting her for a tour of the place. She wasn't interested. She told the Mayor that if he believed the Loop bus can manage the whole city and won't cost any more money, she had a nice bridge to sell him out in Brooklyn real cheap. She suggested that, if the City needs money, fix up all these houses that the banks are leaving empty. If you can't sell them, rent them out. Thank you very much.

William Smith - 42 Columbia Street - Good evening, Mr. Mayor and members of the Common Council. Read the 2014 Preliminary Budget. He doesn't understand why everything has gone up 10 – 35%...more than the actual amount paid out in the 2013 Budget. For example, Common Council for '13 paid out \$53,529.00. Now, in '14 the Budget request is for \$158,720.00. Public Works in '13 paid out \$3, 534,187.00. Now, in the '14 Budget it's requested \$5,976,000.00. The Police in '13 paid out \$8,309,000.00. Now, in 2014 it's request \$12,765,000. The Sanitation paid out \$1,117,548.76 in 2013 Budget. Now, in the 2014 Budget, it's requested \$3,710,212.00. He stated he doesn't know where all that's going. The Debt Service Fund paid out in '13 \$4,246,017.91. Now, in '14 it's requesting \$5,092,304.00. I don't know if everybody is aware of this, but we, the taxpayers and homeowners reimburse the Common Council for \$62,000.00 for Health Insurance, \$2,000.00 for Medicare tax. The Common Council is the one that approved the Sanitation tax, and the Water and Sewage tax and the installment of new water and sewer meters.

Chairman Mallory: Excuse me sir, could you please wrap that up?

Mr. Smith: Excuse me?

Chairman Mallory: Your time's up. Could you please wrap that up?

Mr. Smith: Oh, my three minutes are up already?

Chairman Mallory: Yes it is.

Mr. Smith: God, I only got through one page.

Chairman Mallory: Well, you could leave that for the record if you like. We can put it in our record.

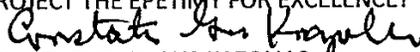
Mr. Smith: What are you going to do with it on the record? Alright, thank you.

Darrett Roberts - 148 Franklin Street – I'm a member of Community Voices Heard. I want the Mayor to tell these people why the Assessor did not ask these people if they needed the City bus. Mr. Mayor, please tell me what happened to \$200,000 in budget revenue that disappeared. Please tell me what happened to the unexplained transfer of money, Mr. Mayor.

Tell me why we got the reprimand from the State Comptroller, Mr. Mayor. These people need to go to work and find the means to go to school, the elderly have to go for food. Mr. Mayor, please explain that to me, too. Please explain why there's no extended bus service on Saturday and Sunday. We would make it much easier for the people to get their food and to get to work. Mr. Mayor, please tell me...do we also have the right to accept the liabilities and while the County gets the profits, which are minimal? Please explain that to me and the people behind me, because as a person of Community Voices Heard, I am part of the community and these people want their voices heard. Thank you, Mr. Mayor.

Constantine Kazolias - 47 Noxon Street – I'm glad you applied for a DEC grant, because Kingston got theirs for \$300,000 or \$400,000. Read attached statement.

THE LETTER TO THE POJO EDITOR BY BRUCE DOURDIS, FORMER V.P. UNION REP, COVERED THE MOST PERTINENT POINTS TO WHY THE CITY IS IN FINANCIAL STRAITS. ADDITIONALLY THE STATE AUDIT COVERED THE PERIOD 01/01/11 TO 07/01/12, DURING THIS PERIOD, THE MAYOR/COMMOM COUNCIL WERE UNDER REPUBLICAN CONTROL.THE SANITATION ENTERPTISE COMMENCED 01/01/13. LOOKING AT THE SANITATION ENTRY OF \$350.000, FOR PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, AS A DEBIT, NOT A CREDIT,REALIZING THAT NO COMPENSATION C-2 FORM WHICH ARE TO BE FILED WITHIN 24 HOURS OF ACCIDENT/INJURY, TO PRESENT NONE HAVE BEEN FILED; THEREFORE, IT SHOULD BE CREDIT[LOAN], AS WAS DONE AS NOTED IN THE 2012 WATER/SEWER STATE AUDIT REPORT. THE IMPENDING MERGER BETWEEN THE CITY AND COUNTY THERE WILL BE NO PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS, SO WHY DOES THE CITY ENTER THIS \$350,000 FALSE FLAG ENTRY"? I DO NOT BELIEVE THE WHARTON SCHOOL OF FINANCE STANDARD FOR ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES WOULD ACCEPT SUCH AN ENTRY HAS IT PERTAINS TO CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW SANITATION ENTERPRISE ACCOUNT!!! THE CITY HAS MANY DIVISIONS UNDER THE DPW. THEY ARE: PARKS, STREETS, LEAF PICKUP, AND DEAD ANIMAL PICKUP, SNOW PLOWING, TREES. ABATE VIOLATIONS GRASS/WEEDS/TRASH/, BULK PICKUP, STREET CLEANING, SAND BAGGING ICE HOUSE/ CLEANING CATCH BASINS, SNOW PLOWING, SWEEPING STREETS, TREES, MAYBE I MISSED A FEW, ALL THE ABOVE DIVISIONS UTILIZE SANITATION EMPOLYEEES, A/K/A/ POUGHKEEPSIE'S MINUTE MEN, EQUIPMENT VEHICLES, MAITENENCE OF THE ABOVE INCLUDING FUELS ARE ALL C HARGED TO THE SANITATION ACCOUNT RATHER THAN TO THERE RESPECTIVE DIVISIONS WHEN SERVICES USED? IS THIS A CARRYOVER BUNYI ACCOUNTING PRINCIPLES? REGARDING THE TRANSFER STATION, WHY WERE 2012 RE VENUES SHORTED BY \$20,000 AND MAYORS PROJECTED 2014 BUDGET BY \$70,000? THE2012 PROJECTD REVENUES @ \$120,000 WHY DO THE METALS RECYLIBLES REVENUES @ \$1000/MO BEING ENTERED INTO THE CITYS FUND BALANCE AND NOT SANITATION? KINGSTON RECEIVED A DEC GRANT FOR \$400+! WHERE IS THE CITY OF POK? DID IT APPLY? WHY DOES THE CITY CONTINUE PAYING \$18/TON MORE, BY SENDING TRASH TO COUNTYNS BURN PLANT!! AS A FORMER MAYOR OF POUGHKEEPSIE BOB AHMED ONE OF THE TWO BEST MAYORS OF POUGHKEEPSI, THE OTHER LOU FIORE, MAYOR AHMEDS POLICY WAS THE CITY IS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUSSINESS. THE BUS SERVICE IS CRITICAL TO MEETING THOSE CRITERIA. TO BELIEVE BY THE CITY GIVING UP ITS BUS SERVICE BY OUTSOURISING TO THE COUNTY WHEN THE COUNTY PRIVATISES TO AN OUTSIDE CONTRACTOR, WILL SAVE \$600,000 AND STILL MAINTAIN PRESENT SERVICE/WITH MAINTENCE, TO THOSE THAT DO, STILL BELIEVE IN THE TOOTH FAIRY? FORGET THE BRIDGES THEY HAVE BEEN OVERSOLD THOUSAND TIMES!! TO QUOTE A FORMER BUS DRIVER WITH MANY YEARS SERVICE EMPLOYED BY THE LOOP, CHARACTERISED THE SERVICE IN TWO WORDS"IT SUCKS)!ISO WHAT HAS CHANGED TO THIS DAY? TO THROW ANOTHER FLY IN THE OINTMENT, WHEN THE CITY PONIES UP \$600,000+ HARD PRESSED FUNDS, PLUS THE \$2,000,000+FEDERAL GRANT FOR A BUS DEPOT WITH NO TOILET FACILITIES, IS THIS PROJECT THE EPETIMY FOR EXCELENCE?


CONSTANTINE GUS KAZOLIAS

IN THE PAST, POUGHKEEPSIE WHOSE ORIGINAL INDIAN NAME WAS THE CITY BY THE BROOK, BUT NOW IT'S KNOWN AS DETROIT EAST!!! THE DAM HAS BURST WITH THE OUSOURCING TO D.C. OF; THE PLANNING BOARD, THE REZONING OF THE RIVERFRONT AND THE WALKWAY INCLUDING 1, 3, and 5 WARDS. OTHERS ITEMS ON THE CHOPPING BLOCK ARE: THE BUSSES, FEDERALGRANTS, And THE ASSESSOR OFFICE. THE CITY SOLD ITS TWO PARKING DECKS, GAVE SWEET HEART DEALS TO DEVELOPERS [REDACTED] THE CITY UPGRADE ITS METERS TO THE TUNE OF TEN MILLION, WHILE THE CITY UNDER THE RADAR IS TRYING TO PRIVATISE THE WATER PLANT. ANOTHER MAYORS SIGNATURE PROJECT IS THE PRIVATIZATION OF SANITATION. AS FORMER MAYOR BOB AHMED PHILOSOPHY WAS THE CITY IS IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE BUSSINESS. IF THERE IS NI BUSSINESS TO BE HAD THE WAY THIS CITY IS GOING THEIR WILL BE NONE BUT A POLICE STATE.

Amstute P. Kahr

Terry Clayton - Wappingers Falls – CSEA President – I got a text that says this isn't being televised on the computer. Just something quick...the Council, if you're the voice of the people then I would be upset, because you have a room full of people here who want to keep the buses. I think they should stay here in the City. You have 8 very, very loyal drivers to the people of the City who know their routines and their handicaps. If they're running a little late, they'll hang around. They get them to the right places; they know where and when they shop. It's like having your own car with a chauffeur – it's nice. I think we should take a look at that Mr. Mayor and keep the buses here. On a second note, if you want Sanitation to work, we need to educate the public. Raising the price to \$39.00 is not the answer. Educating the public on recycling, recycling, recycling. If we can, I'd like to get a meeting soon and if we can sit down and get something together. I think it will help out a lot. Thank you.

Francene Canteen - 450 Maple Street – City of Poughkeepsie residents know her since she was 12 – she's now 44. She attended two colleges and she always got there on time. She stated that the Council and Administration are making a big mistake. She doesn't know the names of the Loop drivers but she named all the City bus drivers and shared some of their personal histories. She became emotional and asked not to take her "brothers and father" away.

Ken Stickle - 118 Catherine Street – He grew up in the City 57 years ago. He stated he's watched the City go from great down, back up and now we're hitting "rock bottom" again. Everybody knows my feelings. I was pulled aside and was told, "Please don't attack the Mayor," as I said at the last meeting, "The Mayor should be here for every meeting." I was told he was only a guest. Well, guess what? Guest stopped 4 years ago when he was able to raise his hand at any Common Council, or to give his opinion. He's no longer a guest; he's a member. I stand behind, that he should be here for every meeting and if not, it should be docked from his pay, just as I said at the last meeting. So, now, take away the bus system? Shall we look at the bus system's history? I don't think there's enough rental buses still in Dutchess County, that we had back in the '80s and '90s every time the Loop system was shut down. It wasn't because of a fire – they were inadequate. The State came in and took them off the road because of faulty brakes, low maintenance, etc. Our City buses aren't taken off the road. There's nothing he's seen to encourage people to recycle. Why? Pick up TV's; take them to the Transfer Station. The only thing they charge you for is to take tires up there. People do not know we have a recycling program in the City. I blame the City Executive Branch for this...I'm sorry. We've been asking for this. I clean College Hill. Whenever somebody dumps something there illegally, he calls "Cy" and Cy gets somebody up there to pick up the trash dumped there. We don't need to raise Sanitation fees; we need to be realistic. We should've had a recycling program in place over a year ago (going on two years ago). If you take away our bus drivers, let me tell you something. You're going to have a war on your hands, Mr. Mayor. The taxpayers are sick and tired of losing everything. We are going to fight and I'll tell you right now, if you run for State Senator, you'll never get a job as a dog catcher if you have to go out and get votes because people are fed up.

Pete Collins - 457 Maple Street – Spoke in favor of keeping the City bus system.

Doug Nobelitti - 147 Academy Street – Owner of 328 and 330 Main Street - It sounds as if the County should get out of the bus business and the City should get into the bus business. If we can show them, maybe we can run a profit from it, then the City may do better to take on the County's bus system. Another thing he spoke of is a "For Profit" grant offered by Chase Bank that he and his wife have been deemed eligible for and Main Streets across the country. They've met the criteria and the narrative they wrote will be reviewed by the bank. These funds will be able to help better their business at 328 and 330 Main Street.

Dave Dooris - 71 Garden Street – Wanted to express his support for keeping the City bus system, but also wanted to know who is benefitting from the bus merger. Thinks it's a political move, not a money issue. This is a move orchestrated by one person alone. He's sleeping with the County Executive.

Chairman Mallory: Be careful, Mr. Dooris.

Mr. Dooris: Well, that can mean anything Bob. I believe the Mayor is using this for his political future. He's not going to be around anymore. He cares more about the County than he does the City. He's more concerned about his reputation than the citizens of Poughkeepsie. He quoted Webster's dictionary with three definitions of the word, "reputation." Beware of your reputation – it will follow you. Your reputation is what the public thinks of you – whether good or bad. And, it will follow you the rest of your life.

Yvonne Flowers - 31 Lent Street – She is concerned about the County taking over the City's bus system. It is my understanding that some of the essential bus routes will be eliminated such as the school kids not being able to get to school and residents not being able to go to the shopping areas. When I was on the Council, Ralph Coates and I both were school liansees [sic] so we talked with the superintendant and some of the school officials. We found out that there was a high absentee rate with kids that lived farthest away from the schools. They weren't able to get on the bus on time, so we rerouted the bus and had them go around for a second time. This ensured that the children were able to get to school on time. Hopes that you consider what a disservice this would be to the residents and kids of the City of Poughkeepsie and reconsider.

Christina Colaizzi - 66 Washington Street - Moved from Florida and she likes it here better because of the four seasons. Is willing to pay a fare increase if it means keeping the City's bus system. She worked for the Bee-Line Bus System in Westchester County for 20 years and it does an excellent job. She understands that there are costs associated with running a bus system – gas, maintenance and drivers' salaries. Supports the City's bus system.

Steven Planck - 81 Carroll Street – He believes landlords are the first point of contact for all the bull@ \$#! that comes into the City of Poughkeepsie.

Chairman Mallory: Please.

Mr. Planck: I shared my story about the drug dealer I had living in my building. The tenant was evicted. There should be an application process for potential tenants. The problem is epidemic. Landlords should be held accountable for the actions of their tenants, cleanliness of their buildings. Penalties should be enforced. He sent a postcard out to all over 500 landlords in the City of Poughkeepsie, targeting two and three family dwellings. The person farthest away is in Las Vegas. He hasn't gotten much of a response which, he believes is because a lot of them just don't care. It's on your shoulders to make them care. I have a small list of those who are ready to take action. My time is expired. I'd like your support on this. If anyone would like to talk to me about this...I'm pretty positive we don't have a Landlord Association, but it's time that we had one. Instead of people coming up and speaking out against the Mayor, I would like to see them come up with suggestions.

Lena Moses – Poughkeepsie P.O. Box - Unable to hear. Not close enough to microphone.

Kevin Newman - 2 Mack Road – Spoke about the merger with the Loop bus. Gave statistics for the City bus. Total ridership was 403, 326 in the year 2012. That's 90% of the Loop bus, which is 450,000. That means that the Loop, if they had to maintain that same level, would have to double and of course they're not going to do that. 66% of City of Poughkeepsie households have 0 or 1 vehicle. He compared the services of both bus systems. The Loop bus is inferior. Keep the City buses. The study was a waste of money. The Loop purchased 5 new buses and only one was a hybrid. Believes the others use twice the fuel and stated that the County apparently doesn't care about wasting money. City buses are run by CSEA Union employees. They're community oriented. The City buses were the ones to help with the disaster during the storms.

Chairman Mallory: Mr. Newman, please wrap it up.

Mr. Newman: I guess that's all I have to say if I have to wrap it up.

Pam Christy – Highland, NY – Is a member of the Board of Trustees at Temple Beth-El. She coordinates the monthly Lunch Box program which feeds the hungry of the City of Poughkeepsie. Is also a member of the Hunger Alert of New York. One fifth of New York's children go to bed hungry every night. The loss of our buses will cause a big impact to those who don't have vehicles to drive to the stores outside the inner city for cheaper fresh produce. It will inevitably cost more and provide less nutrition if those individuals are not able to get to these stores. The City Council and Mayor needs to think about the needs of the citizens of the community. Thank you.

Sheila Blanding - 78 North Bridge Street – Is also a member of Community Voices and is in support of keeping the City bus system. The drivers have a right to earn their pension. We need the bus system. We need the Sanitation system. What happened to the youth program, so they're not hanging out in the streets? We don't need any more juvenile delinquents – if they can't get to school, what do you think is going to happen?

Doreen Grill – Poughkeepsie P.O. Box – Is in support of keeping the City buses. Loop buses don't go to all the places that the City buses do. Relies on them. Knows all the drivers. Asked that they not be taken away.

Bruce Dooris – 41 Wilson Blvd – He doesn't have anything to add, since he said it all last meeting and the citizens have said it. Will try to give answers to people's questions, instead. Whose responsibility is it? Last week as I read from the Executive Summary, Feasible Study for Dutchess County Transportation that the findings will be forwarded to the County and City for review and consideration. Any expansion requires all responsible entities including FTA, NYSDOT, and implementation will ultimately rest with responsible Executive and Legislative bodies of the County and City. So, you guys are the legislative body.

Councilmember Johnson: Yes, we are.

Mr. Dooris: When Mayor Colette Lafuente was in office, we took back our buses from the County to do our own maintenance because they weren't maintaining them. Lastly, he stated that Kingston got their recycling bins. It was discussed in the last budget hearings that we need recycling bins which saves \$80 per ton, which we don't buy.

Mrs. Thomas - 135 Main Street – She spoke about waiting for a bus that never arrived. She tried to contact "Richie" at the bus department. The phones are compromised in the City. When I tried calling the bus' telephone number I never got through - it went to a different department. Verizon needs to check on it. She met with the Mayor and City Administrator at great lengths and voiced her concerns. The City needs to take care of its senior citizens. She spoke of her personal experience with being a crime victim.

Chairman Mallory: Excuse me...excuse me...can you please finish up?

Mrs. Thomas: OK. All I'm saying is there's something going on in Poughkeepsie. Verizon has to be fetched and we have to follow our leads.

Chairman Mallory: Thank you.

William Dykus – 96 South Hamilton Street – I'm a little aggravated because I couldn't get into this building tonight. I don't think you should be locking people out. He came to speak on behalf of the City's bus system. It looks like it's the Mayor's decision. Don't merger with the County. He's sick of the County telling us what to do. The people have spoken. You need to listen to what they are saying and do the right thing and not get rid of the buses.

Ms. Wallace – Spoke in favor of keeping the bus system. Loop bus is not reliable. People will have no way to get to work and will lose their jobs. We really need the buses.

Name inaudible – Poughkeepsie High School student – She can depend on the City bus system to get her to school.

V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

Mayor Tkazyik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Good evening everyone, members of the public. Thank you for being here tonight and expressing your concern and your voices being heard and how about a round of applause for our bus drivers?

Applause.

Mayor Tkazyik: I would also at first like to congratulate all those who were victorious in the Common Council election – congratulations to all of you, and of course, to thank those who are returning and to wish the best of luck to those who are newly elected and to thank those who will no longer be on the Council and thank them for their service to the City. Of course, I look forward to working with you moving forward as we continue to move Poughkeepsie forward. You can clap, absolutely you're going to clap.

Applause.

Mayor Tkazyik: I appreciate everyone's concern in relation to the City Transit System. I'd like to take a walk down "Memory Lane," because Mr. Clarke's comments earlier were ones that were false, inaccurate and untruthful. In 2008, when I walked into office to the overall debt of the City was \$82 million with a depleted fund balance because prior to that, we dipped into the fund balance to balance previous budgets so that there would not be large tax increases. When you're talking about having a fiduciary responsibility, you have to make a decision as an executive. I chose to pay down the debt. We've reduced the overall City debt by \$27 million over that time. Debt service payments were over \$2 million in 2008. They're now under 6. We have to put that in our City Budget which gets taxed to all of you, which we have significantly reduced, which is quite an accomplishment in a time when an economic downturn is in place. Each year I see the decline...2008, 2009, 2010. For property taxes are becoming short and people are no longer being able to pay for the tax liens in which the City sells at the end of the year to be made whole. I meet with taxpayers every day. "Mayor, I can no longer afford to pay the water bill. I can't pay the Sanitation bill. I can't afford to pay the School Tax bill." And, it's getting harder and harder. Taxes are the revenue that helps support and sustain City operations. We're getting cut from the Federal government. We're getting cut from State government. We're getting cut from County government. Let me say this – I worked very hard, along with the Mayor of the City of Beacon and at the time, Council Chair, Gwen Johnson to secure the \$9.5 million that the City would maintain in sales tax revenue to the City. Let's think about it. The County used to distribute \$30 million to the towns, cities and villages of Dutchess County. But, because an agreement had expired previous years, the County Executive was no longer binded to stay within that amount. The County Executive had proposed to reduce the amount by \$5 million without any recourse. He had that authority because a contract had expired previously. We fought to maintain the \$9.5 million. The City had the most to lose out of that \$5 million, because of a formula that was created way back when the City gave up its rights to implement sales tax to take a portion and a share of the County tax. We worked really hard to maintain \$9.5 million and I can tell you when I go to the Mayors and Supervisors meetings across this County, they're jealous of the City of Poughkeepsie for the amount of Sales Tax

revenue that we receive, because we receive the greatest amount of which was cut and reduced without any control of the City or the City of Beacon. That was simply an Executive decision and it was both sustained with the vote of the County Legislature and a vote of the Common Council to protect the City for the next 10 years. If we had lapsed that and not come to an agreement, the City could've lost more revenue from Dutchess County. I bring that up twofold because that was one mechanism to sustain revenue. I talked about the reducing of the cities that reducing of the \$27 million. I had to make a choice. The revenue is not there. To either pay down the City's debt, or to build a fund balance. Folks, we couldn't do both, because the revenue is not there. The shortfall of taxes in 2010 was over \$700,000 and if we're only collecting 50% of the tax liens being sold, there's a shortfall. And, who's eating that shortfall? These are serious economic times. We are doing all that we can to maintain essential service. And I would hope, none of you would think I would do anything to disenfranchise our seniors, our veterans and those who depend on public transportation the most. We're looking for ways to save. We're looking for new ways to create new revenue. People aren't happy that I proposed parking meters downtown. People aren't happy, but we are looking at a way to possibly save money by expanding the County Loop service into the City, whereby, the County would then take over the routes that are currently in place and that all that would happen is the seal on the door would be a different color, but that each of you would maintain the accurate routes in which you have. The transit system runs itself in the "Red." Federal government reduces its cost funds to the City. The State reduces its cost funds to the city and the General Fund has to subsidize that loss in revenue. On top of the mandates, and yes, our senator was here and says he's fighting for, but folks, the Workers' Compensation system is broken, the Pension system is broken, we need relief and we need continued help. If we work within the budget which we have in order to conduct these services. So, this was a plan to look at ways to save on expenses, to try to achieve more revenue for the City, to maintain and enhance a transit system under one roof. I can't blame any of you for being worried, upset, nervous, not making sure the bus is going to be at your door to get you to your job. Let me assure you this – I would not do anything that would harm our seniors and our veterans and those who depend on public transportation the most. And, if it's something we feel in the end is not going to benefit the citizens of the City, it won't take place. I guarantee you that. I will work hard for all of you to make sure that the needs are being met. That is very important to me and to the members of the Common Council. This job is not easy for any of us. All of us don't do it for the money, because we know that's a joke, but we're committed to serving you. Sometimes we don't like the decisions that have to be made, but these are not easy times. and, we're looking at all ways in which we can find new revenues without taxing you out of your homes even more. Someone said, "Look at the article they had on the Town of Fishkill how they turned things around in 3 years." Well, they had a 56% tax increase. My friends, we pay the lowest taxes in Dutchess County, here in the City of Poughkeepsie. And I pride myself that we held the line on spending and taxes and not raise the levy by more than 2%, the prior 6 years that I've been Mayor, because I see the shortfall of those who cannot pay the taxes at 2%. Can you imagine if we had raised taxes 30, 40 or 50% - what people would be able to afford then, or what that shortfall would be in order to sustain these services? We're working very hard for all of you. I want you to continue coming to the meetings, I want you to continue making comments. We appreciate your comments and it's something we don't take lightly. Don't think you're leaving here and it's going in one ear and out the other, because

that's not the case. We know that this is a system and a service that you all depend on very greatly and no decision will be made in haste. So, I appreciate you coming tonight. I do have two important things. We did receive a \$7,500 grant – that Greenway Compact grant that the Common Council approved. It was a 4-4 split, but I did break the tie to the City of Poughkeepsie to look at the strategy that would help retain local college graduates and entice young professionals between the ages of 18 and 34 to live and maintain the City of Poughkeepsie and look at ways that will continue to enhance job growth and opportunity in the surrounding areas along the colleges and institutions that surround the City of Poughkeepsie. So, we look forward to partnering with Patterns for Progress on that project. Also, the holidays are fast approaching and please mark your calendars - Friday, December 6th. We will have our Annual Festival of Lights Celebration downtown. That is sponsored again by the River District Restaurant Association, as well as along the Bardavon. That should be a great night in downtown Poughkeepsie. Please mark the date. Come down. There will be fireworks. We march right from Main Street down to Donegan Park and that's Friday, December the 6th and I think kickoff is around 6 o'clock. Mr. Chairman, that concludes my comments this evening.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Mallory: Thank you much, Mr. Mayor. I'll just speak briefly again. I thank everyone for coming, and please voice your concerns to us. And finally, just for myself - for the gentleman that spoke beforehand, next meeting I'll have better control over respect and common courtesy...I can promise that. Now I'd like to take this time we'll take a 5 minute recess so we can sign the paperwork for the students. Thank you.

VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

None.

VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

None.

IX. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 1. FROM COREY MADISON**, a notice of personal injury sustained on August 8, 2013. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**
- 2. FROM RAYMOND DIAZ**, a notice of personal injury sustained on July 26, 2013. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**
- 3. FROM CATHERINE M. MULLEN**, a notice of property damage sustained on September 4, 2013. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**

Chairman Mallory made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss Line Item #1 and personal issues and it was seconded by Councilmember Boyd.

Motion to resume the rules made by Chairman Mallory and seconded by Councilmember Boyd.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Boyd: Two pieces of property: 13 Alden Road and 26 Alden Road
13 Alden – one person deceased, the other sick and suffering hardship got a letter stating he has a vacant piece of property and you want him to pay \$125.00 from 0 to 6 months while the house is vacant. The house is being maintained by Scott Tancredi (the maintenance guy). There's no vegetation growing out and there's nothing going on. He's afraid that if he pays this \$125.00 and he puts his property on a vacant lien, or saying that the house has been vacant, he's going to have a hard time trying to sell it.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Just so the Council's aware, as part of the Pace Initiative, and working with Pace Law School and Ford Foundation (that's the Dyson Foundation), they (the Pace staff) had done an inventory of property in the City of Poughkeepsie. That inventory included neighborhood groups that assisted, went block to block looking at houses. That information was taken in. Information from the Fire Department they were going from block to block was received. They obtained water records which were evaluated. All this information, property taxes – non-payment of property taxes was obtained, analyzed by their staff and they made a list of potential vacant and abandoned properties, based on that list. Letters were sent out with information about the vacancy law – if people that are receiving them that do not feel that they are subject to the law, they should just notify our office and we'll pass on that information.

Councilmember Boyd: They have. They contacted Gary Beck several times. That's why he called me. He came to show me the letter. The house is immaculate. He has paid all his taxes.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: There's something that occurred...

Councilmember Boyd: He has even paid his sanitation user fee and he doesn't even have any garbage.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Well, there's some reason that there was something that was obtained that led them to believe it was potentially, and if it's not, then they just need to notify the Building Department why it's not vacant and it will be removed from the...

Councilmember Boyd: Well, what does he have to do? He has notified the Building Department.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's all he needs to do; that's it.

Councilmember Boyd: Nobody's gotten back to him. The letter says he has 10 days...to respond within 10 business days.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Then if he responded, that property will be removed from the list.

Councilmember Boyd: Because he does have family members around the holidays that do stay at the house.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: When we get the information of potential properties that were on this list that are not vacant, Fire Department will confirm it or other City staff will confirm it and then it will be removed from this list.

Councilmember Boyd: Should I have him call you if he's not getting any response with the Building Department?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's fine. Somebody in our office will be happy to assist him.

Councilmember Boyd: OK. What's the story with 26 Alden? It's a mess.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Refresh my memory. Is that the one with the legal...

Councilmember Boyd: That's the one where the landlord rented it out to...house...for rehabilitation for people that had alcohol abuse.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I'll have to check. It was in City Court. The last conversation I had with the property owner was that he had rented to a single family.

Councilmember Boyd: She never came. Jackie is her name; she never came, she never rented it. There's garbage outside. There's furniture in the back. There's furniture in the front. There's stuff thrown all over the lawn. The lawn needs to be mowed.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I'll have Sanitation take a look. I'll have the Building Department follow up with that.

Councilmember Boyd: Also, there were some FOILs that were just recently done, requested. And, it seems there's a hold up on these FOILs. Employees of the City asked for these FOILs and there's a hold up. Nobody knows what's going on with them?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: There's a process for FOIL information. If they did not receive it, there's an appeal process. Just let me know what department it is, and I'll look into it.

Councilmember Boyd: How long do they have to wait to get an answer?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: There's statutory limitations on the response.

Councilmember Boyd: How long is the statutory response?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: They should get a response within 5 days.

Councilmember Boyd: 5 business days...?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Right. They may not get the information in that period of time, but they should at least be receiving notification that they are in receipt of the request. All the FOILs go to the Clerk's Office...(inaudible)...

Councilmember Boyd: OK.

Councilmember Rich: Is upset about the fact that Mr. Terry Horner (81 South Hamilton Street) has not received his exemption for utilizing a three-family dwelling as a single family dwelling and wants to pay the sanitation user fee as a single family use. He stated that Mr. Horner may well sue the City. What do I tell him, Paul? Go ahead and sue? What's going on? Why can't we get this finished? I think Gwen Johnson has one in her ward, too. Why can't we solve this? It's in the local law we passed on December 17, 2012. He has three apartments he wants to make into a one apartment under the local law. It's for garbage pick up. It's got nothing to do with anything else but garbage pick up. Why can't we get this settled in a timely manner? I'm tired of this.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: If he wants to legally convert his three-family house into a one family, that's an issue he has to work with the Building Department to do that and get a Building Permit.

Councilmember Rich: That's not what you told me way back when.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Can I finish?

Councilmember Rich: Yeah, but that's not what you told me at the beginning of this stuff.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Because you're raising a separate issue today. That's not the issue that was raised before, and I'll explain. If he wants to convert his three-family to a one family, he can legally do that by going to the Building Department, handing in a Building Permit and converting it to a single family residence. My understanding is that's not what he wants. What he's looking for is an exemption, as provided for under the local law, passed by this Council under Sanitation. Underneath that local law, it states that the Common Council will issue those exemptions. They drafted and provided this Council with a resolution to do so, and it wasn't acted upon. As far as where it is, that's where it is at this point.

Councilmember Rich: But we can bring it back, that resolution?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Sure. It's drafted...

Councilmember Rich: Then I suggest – at least my part of it, bring it back and let's vote it up or down for this poor man.

Councilmember Boyd: That's going to involve a lot of other people's property.

Chairman Mallory: Let Corporation Counsel answer.

Councilmember Rich: Let this be between me and...because this has been going on. December 17, 2012 we passed this local law 8 to nothing and the Mayor signed it that night. And, it seems to me he's got every right under the local law change from three apartments to one if he follows procedures, which he has. Now he's being told that he won't get back pay for...he won't get reimbursed. It'll start as early as January 1, 2014. That could be a lawsuit in itself.

Councilmember Herman stated that Mr. Horner shouldn't be reimbursed because tonight he stated he wasn't paying anything anymore.

Councilmember Rich: He paid one bill.

Councilmember Herman: He's one of the reasons why there's a problem with people not paying their bills.

Councilmember Rich: He is not one of the reasons.

Councilmember Herman: He is. He's not paying the bills, Joe.

Chairman Mallory: Gentlemen. Corporation Counsel, do you care to respond?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: My response is complete, actually. The Building Department will do an inspection, they'll provide you with what their inspection shows. Based on that, the Common Council has the right to issue an exemption. That information will be provided to you, and it's up to the Council if they decide to issue an exemption.

Councilmember Rich: Just so it's clear, that's not what I was told way back when, that the Council would be issuing any exemptions. It would be between the residents, the owner, the Building Department and then once all the details were settled, then he got his exemption, or didn't.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Well, listen. The Building Department will give you the report and will show you what evidence or information they have obtained from and if you feel that, in fact, it is being occupied as a one family as opposed to multi-residence or two family, three family then that information will be provided to you and you can issue an exemption.

Councilmember Rich: OK. If we can proceed to put it back on the agenda with the permission of the Chairman so we can vote it up or down and give the poor man a decision. It's been months and months and months. It's been a year...almost.

Mayor Tkazyik: This recommendation, this exemption that would come before the Council, would affect the City city-wide in relation to an exemption that could be granted outside of the applicant who may have their house inspected to convert it from a three or two family to a one family and not remove kitchens. But, because they don't want to go through the process or the money to legally do it. They want to seek this exemption, you'd better think about how this opens Pandora's Box city-wide that the revenue will continue to shrink, based off of that.

Councilmember Rich: Well, you should've thought of that when we passed that bill, because there was no talk about removing furniture or appliances back when we passed this local law back in December 17th.

Mayor Tkazyik: I believe that falls within the New York Building Code in relation to how someone would reduce a) how their property is assessed and b) how it's classified. There's a process...

Councilmember Rich: You're missing the point. We never talked about anything like that .

Mayor Tkazyik: We absolutely did.

Councilmember Rich: I don't remember.

Mayor Tkazyik: Mr. Beck came to the meeting and we went through it – and, Mr. DeMarco in relation to changing the classification of property. This was a big issue.

Councilmember Boyd: That was after the fact that we passed that resolution. That was after December 17th.

Councilmember Johnson: Maybe I should speak out of turn, too because I had my finger up forever because I wanted to partake in the conversation.

Chairman Mallory: And, I'll get to you once Councilmember Rich is done with his.

Councilmember Rich: I'm being...before you told me this. Now it's well....OK, guys, I hear you. Play the games if you want. This is ridiculous.

Councilmember Johnson: I believe what's being discussed here is, when you file for a single family house or a three family, or is classified as a three family, or a two family, but you don't have any tenants...it's just you. The Building Inspector wants people to dismantle their kitchen and go through all this rigmarole, which is another hardship by dismantling stuff, taking stuff out, this and that. This is ridiculous. I discussed this with Corporation

Counsel. Have them sign a contract stating they don't have a tenant(s), they're not collecting rent. No one is living there. If they're found to be in violation, they will pay a hefty fine of \$1,000.00 plus back fees. They would have to let the Building Inspector in and if no access was granted after two or three attempts, they get hit with another fine. When I spoke to Corporation Counsel, he said, "Well, we can't do this, in general if someone comes in and says they have a downstairs apartment and they're not utilizing it and says 'come and see – but, I don't want to dismantle all of this stuff. Just have me sign something'." He said, "It can't be done that way. The only way we can do it is on a case by case basis." They'd have to come before the Council and sign a contract agreeing to pay fines, etc. if they violate the contract. I think that's where the confusion lies. The property in my ward was a three family house with their daughter living up in the attic and no one else resides in the other apartment and they're willing to sign a contract with fees and penalties attached to it. Since this is a new local law, it has to be tweaked due to the different types of situations with people and their apartment houses.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: The alternative, if it's going to be burdensome, to be issuing individual exemptions would be to rework the local law to provide for the automatic exemptions, and to set the criteria based on it. And, one of the criteria is this penalty provision that you're speaking of and clarifying some of the conditions, and that can be reworked if it's not the Council's intent to sit and judge and jury and issue exemptions for each individual parcels. However, with that said, I think Administration would have to be involved, because there's going to be paperwork that's going to involve inspections that are going to have to be done and annual contracts are going to have to be signed and maintained with these, and if there's some reason to believe that it's no longer being used as a one family, but is being rented out, there's going to have to be some enforcements procedures also.

Councilmember Johnson: Well, of course. Then you have to give them "x" amount of notice (60 days or 30 days)...or 30 days before they convert it over to a rentable property; but it's not a lot of people that fall into that category. Nobody is going to sign their life away with a contract, and if you're caught you pay a \$1,000.00 fine and all the back fees. Nobody is that crazy.

Mayor Tkazyik: We deal with this ongoing with zoning throughout the City. This falls right in line with the student housing.

Councilmember Johnson: We're not talking about student housing. We're talking about people that are homeowners, not students. These are adults.

Mayor Tkazyik: These are landlords who are saying one thing and doing another.

Councilmember Johnson: This is owner occupied...not a landlord, not an absentee landlord. It is an owner occupied house. Anyway, can I go on to my next thing? First of all, I want to clarify something earlier that was misleading that the Mayor said, under "Mayor's Comments." Initially, we were told about the sales tax agreement that Mark Molinaro, the County wanted to impose on the City, I called the meeting so we could get some clarity and

maybe try to work out a deal. At that point, he said he would get back to us. He never got back to me. You met him with Randy Casale and you all discussed the agreement between the two Mayors and the County Exec. At that point, Bob Mallory went with Barbara Jeter and Steve White and had a meeting with the County Exec. I didn't have a follow up meeting with the \$2 million. Second of all, I did not support and did not vote for the \$2 million loss to the City in sales tax, nor did I vote for the new water meters that's going to increase the water and sewer bills, nor did I vote for the 2 hour parking meters for the Waterfront, Market Street and Main Street. So, let's set the record straight.

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

Councilmember Boyd: I had a conversation with Candace Lewis. She's the head of Glebe House. She wants to get the fence fixed and the lead paint fixed in the building. In order to do that, Mr. Bunyi told them they had \$20,000.00 left, and had to use it. She was told she had to get three estimates.

City Administrator Bunyi: Correct.

Councilmember Boyd: She got the three estimates.

City Administrator Bunyi: OK.

Councilmember Boyd: I would like to make a resolution to relinquish the \$20,000.00 so she can fix up the Glebe House and put it to rest.

Councilmember Rich: I'd like to second it.

City Administrator Bunyi: No, wait a minute. Remember that we're dealing with CDBG funds here. You cannot pre-draw CDBG funds. You have to draw the funds, based on what has been spent. That has to be submitted electronically, to the Federal Government.

Councilmember Boyd: Well, who's going to do the job without getting paid for it?

Mayor Tkazyik: They're going to get paid. She's submitting the bids, it'll go through Purchasing and will be reviewed by...

Councilmember Boyd: They did submit the bids.

Mayor Tkazyik: So, it will be reviewed by Paul Hesse, through CDBG...

Councilmember Boyd: Well, how long does she have to wait?

Mayor Tkazyik: When did she submit the bids?

Councilmember Boyd: She told Milo she submitted all three bids.

Mayor Tkazyik: We'll talk to Paul Hesse tomorrow morning to make sure she selected a contractor.

Councilmember Boyd: She wants to get this house...

Mayor Tkazyik: This happened Friday, and you're telling us tonight?

Councilmember Boyd: No, it didn't happen Friday.

Mayor Tkazyik: This is the first I'm hearing of the bids being submitted. So, we'll meet with him tomorrow. It's not a big deal.

Councilmember Boyd: She wants to get this house in shape so she can start raising money for this house to have tea parties for the 1700 Century and you guys are holding her up.

Mayor Tkazyik: We're not holding anything up.

City Administrator Bunyi: No one is holding her up. What she wants to do is for us to hand over \$20,000.00 to her without any detailed receipts or invoices. We are not going to do that. The Federal Government is not going to allow that – this is not our money. This is Federal Government money. There are procedures. Not only was Candy Lewis told, the head of the Historical Society was also told. Guess what, folks – we had a meeting with them. Paul Hesse, myself had a conference call and said, “You only have two quotes.” It's not a bid - two quotes. She said, “We will get the third quote.” After she gets the third quote and submit it to Paul Hesse, it will be reviewed by Purchasing. Once it's approved, which is no big deal; same day we can do it, that's not a problem. Then we will agree to the construction. But, we are not going to put out money on the basis of a quote. There has to be a contract. There has to be receipts and bills. We can't just give them \$20,000.00...

Councilmember Boyd: OK, so she has three bids. From there, what happens now? She has to go get a contract, or do you have to go along those three bids, and find out which one you want to choose or who's responsible for choosing that bid?

Mayor Tkazyik: It will be reviewed by Paul Hesse. Then to Purchasing, to follow purchasing procedures. Then it will be authorized, making sure the contractor meets criteria, has the proper insurances, submits the proper paperwork to the City. The money will then be...

Councilmember Boyd: Who shall I tell her to speak with?

Mayor Tkazyik: I will speak to Paul Hesse tomorrow and see if she's got clearance.

Chairman Mallory: Who should she be calling tomorrow?

City Administrator Bunyi: The last conversation we had was, everything was to be between the Historical Society and Paul Hesse.

Chairman Mallory: So Paul Hesse is the one to contact tomorrow?

City Administrator Bunyi: Yes.

Mayor Tkazyik: He's very efficient.

Councilmember Boyd: OK. I have a house on Yates Blvd. The gentleman has an assessed value that he's been paying higher taxes for the last 7 or 8 years. Someone recently went in (I don't know who it was) and apparently told him that his house wasn't the assessed value that he was paying for the past 7 or 8 years – that it's a lot less, because there's no second floor in the house (no square footage for the second floor); it's just the first floor. I talked to John Taylor and he told me that he looked into this situation, but he didn't give the gentleman any kind of form to fill out regarding maybe, retroactive taxes...what happens in this situation when this gentleman has been overtaxed for his assessed valuation for the past 7 or 8 years?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: The property owner can either grieve their taxes every year on Grievance Day, which is in March. If they do not grieve their taxes for that given year, the proposed pursuant grievance.

Councilmember Boyd: But, he did grieve it, because John Taylor went over there to check the house out. But, there was some kind of form(s) that was to be given to him. He can go online to New York State Real Property website for information on how to grieve your taxes and what criteria you need to grieve it. Unfortunately, he'll have to wait until next year to grieve his taxes.

Councilmember Johnson: I was reading Mr. Planck's postcard about the things that we're missing – good tenants, safer neighborhoods, better schools, less crime, less taxes, higher property values - that leads me to this question, "When you have an absentee landlord who is harboring known drug dealers, and if the dealers are busted right outside his house and the rest of the family members were left in the house, and they're continuing the family business, what penalties do we have to hold landlords accountable that are harboring these known drug dealers. Since heroin seems to be the new epidemic in the City of Poughkeepsie for the last 5 years. Is there anything on the books that, maybe they could be fined? After they're told that there's a lot of activity, suspicious activity, there are things going on, everybody sees. They just have to investigate. What does it take? At this point, I can't get the Police to solve a crime. The way we got rid of the first drug dealer is because somebody sold the house and he got evicted. This one, I had to call you two Sundays ago when one of the addicts parked their red car in front of my driveway for 45 minutes. The other night one was screaming to the other down the block. I saw the landlord today and told him there's suspicious activity and something's going on there. He works somewhere in law enforcement. Is it all about the rent?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I'll provide you with copies of three laws that can be used. The Local Nuisance law, the State Nuisance law and a copy...

Councilmember Johnson: I requested a meeting with the landlord.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: We're requesting a meeting with the landlord also.

Councilmember Johnson: He gave me his number. Do you want me to give you his cell phone?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: We have it.

Councilmember Johnson: We need to take this seriously.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I'll provide you with a Real Property Action Proceeding law that would allow the eviction of tenants for...

Councilmember Johnson: Here's the thing...he said, because now I put him in touch with Captain Pape about the 350 bags of heroin...the guys that were busted in front of that address. What can we do to aid this landlord, if he wants to get rid of this tenant?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I don't want to speak specific with regard to one property, or anything real specific, but there are ways you can do it. I'll be happy to meet with you with regards to that. In order to bring evidentiary proof that we can bring it to a court of law, and say, "This is exactly X, Y and Z why we know that this landlord is harboring a drug business, so..."

Councilmember Johnson: When we call him in, and let him know, show him the news article about people being busted in front of his door and that the Block Captain has seen all this traffic going into the house, heroin addicts walking up and down the street. Do we want to solve crime, do we want to get rid of these drug dealers? We need to call this landlord in, because there's suspicious activity going on...look what happened in front of your door. He's saying he lives out in Timbuktu and is not aware of the crime going on in the City...he's not aware of this...he's not aware of that...so we have to make him aware to make him accountable, so he can't say he didn't know what was going on in this apartment that you're renting out. I don't want a shooting in my ward. I know what's going to happen next. I know there's going to be a shooting. I know what's going to happen next. One of their relatives opened up a convenience store at Worrall and Fulton. He started off with candy, soda, chips and donuts. Now, he's selling cigarettes, cigars and other stuff that's used for...this is in a school zone. He says he has a right to sell whatever he wants. He has a right to sell it, but I mean...goodness. We know what these things are used for.

Chairman Mallory: I just have one question for Corporation Counsel. The Inter-Municipal agreement with the basketball and Pop-Warner – I sat with the Mayor...where do we stand with that? Particularly with the basketball league.

City Administrator Bunyi: When we reviewed everything, there was never an Inter-Municipal Agreement between the City and the School District. So, Mr. Ackermann is right now putting together a brand new Inter-Municipal Agreement that handles only the procedures in terms of using the basketball courts because the financial agreement is still between the City and KNEE-CAP????

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: It's not even an Inter-Municipal Agreement. The only agreement that I did, that I had drafted previously, was between the City and KNEE-CAP???? I was unaware there was any interest in the City School District in the past.

Chairman Mallory: And that agreement would have specific language with the proper checks and balances...the flow of money, things for purchasing – things of that nature? OK. And then Pop-Warner is another one that will be addressed later on?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Pop-Warner is done through the Community College.

City Administrator Bunyi: The financial part of it.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Again, the only thing I've done is Community College.

Chairman Mallory: OK. That's good, I'll let them know.

Councilmember Johnson: When you say basketball, you say basketball courts?

City Administrator Bunyi: The gymnasiums.

Councilmember Johnson: Oh, the gymnasiums at the school district?

City Administrator Bunyi: Right.

Councilmember Johnson: Oh, when you say "courts," I'm thinking parks, ...

City Administrator Bunyi: No.

Councilmember Johnson: I got a little nervous, because I don't want a league at my park.

Chairman Mallory: Not at all.

Councilmember Johnson: I'd like to give thanks to all the voters; all the people for coming out and supporting me in my election and supporting my son. Thank you.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by Chairman Mallory and Councilmember Parise to adjourn the meeting at 9:25 p.m.

Dated: December 10, 2013

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Wednesday, November 6, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

**Deanne L. Flynn
City Chamberlain**



COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

Common Council Chambers
Wednesday, November 6, 2013
6:30 p.m.

*5:30 p.m. Public Hearing regarding the proposed
designation of 328-330 Main Street, 83 Worrall Avenue,
317 Main Street and 115 Hooker Avenue
6:00 p.m. Senator Gipson-Legislative Update*

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting Minutes of September 3, 2013

IV. READING OF ITEMS by the City Chamberlain of any resolutions not listed on the printed agenda.

V. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: Three (3) minutes per person up to 45 minutes of public comment on any agenda and non-agenda items.

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

VII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

VIII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 4. FROM COREY MADISON**, a notice of personal injury sustained on August 8, 2013.
- 5. FROM RAYMOND DIAZ**, a notice of personal injury sustained on July 26, 2013.
- 6. FROM CATHERINE M. MULLEN**, a notice of property damage sustained on September 4, 2013.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIV. NEW BUSINESS:

XV. ADJOURNMENT: