



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

SPECIAL COMMON COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, February 7, 2013 6:00 p.m.

City Hall

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL

ALL PRESENT

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

NONE

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

Lee David Klein - 32 Seaman Road – Good evening Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council and Mayor Tkazyik. I understand there is one item on the agenda tonight and that pertains to Milo Bunyi. I am here to request that the Council give consideration and confirm him as City Administrator. I was on the City Council for 2 yrs. I worked closely with Mr. Bunyi. I found him to be very, very hardworking, and no one is more devoted to the City, lives in the City, in the office early every single day and the municipal finance as we know from newspapers and being involved in City Government is a critical concept and requires critical care. I would heartily recommend that the Council confirm him as City Administrator. I can't think of a better candidate in every way. He's accessible, responsible and making tough decisions and we all know that tough decisions are here, and there's no kicking the can down the road. He has the fortitude and the guts, and also the brains and heart to make those decisions and move the City forward. Please confirm Mr. Bunyi as City Administrator. Thank you very much.

Gary Beck, Jr. – Building Inspector – As you know, I've been the Building Inspector for the City and have been for 14 years. I just want to take a few seconds to share my support of the confirmation with Milo Bunyi as City Administrator. What I've seen and

worked with in the past 5 years is someone who is dedicated with guidance and leadership qualities. As a Division Head, he has always been there to answer my phone calls, my emails and has even left his door open for me. I've even seen his responses as early as 5:30 in the morning. I can tell you, I didn't look at the email at 5:30 in the morning. To me, that's dedication. I support Milo Bunyi as City Administrator.

Tracy MacKenzie – 79 Worrall Avenue – Good evening, everyone. I'm here to voice my support for Milo for City Administrator. City resident for almost my entire life, homeowner for 7 years and have served on various boards at the Mid-Hudson Children's Museum. I've worked with Milo in his different capacities as Commissioner of Finance and also as Acting City Administrator. He has always been professional, knowledgeable, he has not always told you what you wanted to hear, but he's always been truthful and always been helpful in pointing you in the right direction. I think he would be an asset to the City, and I wholeheartedly support him and I thank you all. Have a nice night, and get home before the snow.

Peter Leonard - 36 Ferris Lane – In my whole life I have never voted for a Republican, but I'm here to speak in support of Milo. I've known him for 15 years. I've worked with him a lot at Vassar College, where I'm the Director of Field Work, which is student interns. Milo has worked with the students brilliantly, and has given me a chance to see his work up close. My sense is he has values, although not essentially political values. They are moral values, that include hard work, fairness and openness. My overwhelming sense is he is an efficient person who really understands what government service is about. It's about serving the people and I would like to support his nomination to become City Administrator.

Bill Rohde - 21 Seaman Road – Good evening. I'm here tonight to offer my support for the appointment of Milo Bunyi as City Administrator. He's been dedicated to the City of Poughkeepsie and he has prepared very nice, conservative budgets to help keep our taxes down. I see him around the City at various events and am proud to see him there. What concerns me is to keep our City alive. That's my dream, and I know Milo will be that and he can be a valuable part of the team that makes this happen.

Ken Stickle - 118 Catherine Street – I'm just wondering, "Did we have any other applicants for this job?" Who will be taking over as the City Finance Commissioner if he is appointed? Has all the questions been answered by this gentleman? Those are my concerns. Thank you.

Alexandria Tuitt Curtis - 32B Flannery Avenue – Good evening. I currently work for a non-profit organization and Milo was very helpful in assisting us. We had some issues with our parking. Parking is an issue here in the City; especially if you work on Main Street or Market Street or any of the main business locations in Poughkeepsie. I just want to say that I am proud to nominate this gentleman because he was very helpful in assisting us in the matter. He seems to be very proactive, rather than reactive. I think it's a very important asset or quality to have when working with the City and improving it, and what it is we're trying to do with moving the City forward. Once again, I'm honored in nominating Milo for the City Administrator position. Thank you.

Kyp Mitchell - 44 Manitou Avenue – I came home from the military as a Veteran and had a lot of concerns with my taxes. Milo was very instrumental in helping me through some of the issues that I had. He did an excellent job in getting me through the process, because I had a lot of questions and a lot of things I had to finish. I would fully endorse him, or let's just say nominate him as City Administrator. His open door policy was great and I believe his door's going to be open to the City of Poughkeepsie.

Abe Santiago - 52 Garden Street – I am a member of the Planning Board, and have done numerous events in the City of Poughkeepsie. Milo has been there non-stop, a full supporter of all the events, works the events, makes sure he stays from beginning to end, supporting the community in everything he's done. We really couldn't have done these events, like the "Swag" event, without the support of Milo. I think Milo would be a great asset as a City Administrator and I look forward to working with him.

James Daley - 43 Thornwood Drive – Good evening. I am a resident in the City of Poughkeepsie for three decades. I have come to know Milo in a personal and professional way. These things that have been said about him this evening – I think you should endorse him before he changes his mind. This man seems to bring good will and competency wherever he goes and there's not enough of that to go around. I would ask you to enthusiastically support the Mayor's nomination of Milo for City Administrator. Thank you.

Betty Chapland – City of Poughkeepsie – Just wants to voice her approval for Milo Bunyi as he is a good asset to the City. He has been so far. I've watched him go through all the budgets and he's very good. That's what we need: Someone that can straighten this all out here. So, I urge you all to vote for him. Thank you.

Tom O'Neil - 17 Loockerman Avenue – Former City Council Chairman, presently Chair of the City Planning Board. I've had an opportunity to work with Milo on a weekly basis over the course of the past 18 months. In times of fiscal hardship, it is always the man (or men) holding the purse strings that take the heat, but when you sit and evaluate the job that he does and how he does it. I don't think that there's any question that Milo is a very competent individual, he is the Mayor's choice. The Charter says that the Mayor gets to choose who he wants to work with on a day-to-day basis. He's chosen Milo. Yes, it is subject to your confirmation, but unless there's some compelling reason of why should not second the Mayor's nomination of Milo, I would respectfully urge that you do so, so that we can move forward.

Sean Fitzgerald – Union Center Road – Ulster Park across the river. City of Poughkeepsie PBA President. My opinion might be in the minority tonight, but I firmly believe if we lack the moral courage to speak on issues that we believe in; when our voices are never heard, we should not speak up later when we're dissatisfied with the results. The PBA cannot endorse the candidate for City Administrator. We have seen too many errors that seem to go back to the office of Finance Commissioner to feel that this is the best candidate for the job and to echo Mr. Stickle's question, "Were there any other candidates that have been looked at and compared with Mr. Bunyi?" This is not a

personal attack on Mr. Bunyi. He has so many character references. I wouldn't even begin to attempt that. Mr. Bunyi, however, I don't think he's the best candidate. It's the overwhelming resounding feeling of the PBA that I represent tonight. Thank you for your time.

Shirley Adams - 100 South Hamilton Street – Also director of Catharine Community Street. I will tell you that one of the most humbling experiences you can have is having a stack of bills that don't necessarily belong to you, and you don't know how you're going to get them paid. That takes very strong shoulders. We know Milo has strong shoulders. We know who he is. We've been with him for years; some of us longer than others. I know some of you for the last four, but we've known Milo since he was in private industry. He comes with many skills. He knows who we are, he knows what we need. He's the only one right here, right now that can hit the ground running in the job of City Administrator. There are always things we can do better, but he's family. We know him and, the fact that he is willing to serve after being Chief financial officer is amazing, and I salute him, but I do believe he is a good person and the right person for this job. There can be no one else that can be as ready as he is for this job and he deserves our support. Thank you.

Bruce Dooris - 41 Wilson Blvd – Vice President of CSEA – I am here to say that CSEA is not endorsing Milo as City Administrator. We stand in support of our fellow officers to say that there's been way too many mistakes in the last 5 years since he's been employed with the City of Poughkeepsie. We're here to say that we think that there should be other candidates. We don't think there's been enough look through applications. We believe there were 25 applications submitted. There were two interviews and we feel that a lot more candidates, we believe would be more qualified than Milo. Thank you.

IV. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

1. A motion was made by Councilmember Solomon and seconded by Councilmember Boyd to receive and print.

Mayor Tkazyik informed the Council that said resolution: Mr. Chairman, thank you. Good evening members of the public. Thank you all for being here tonight. It gives me great pleasure to appoint to you, Commissioner of Finance, Milo Bunyi to the office of City Administrator. Commissioner Bunyi has served our City with distinction over the last 5 years as Commissioner of Finance. He has experienced first-hand, the fiscal challenges that our City faces. And he has strived in his capacity to achieve many accomplishments; instrumental in reducing the City's overall debt by \$27 Million from \$80 Million – under \$60 Million. He instituted tighter controls and accountability for overall expenditures, and has consistently produced budgets in a conservative manner during these challenging times. He's overseen and completed the City-wide software system that has not been updated since 1999. Throughout the course of his term, he has also served as Acting City Administrator on numerous occasions. Having attended to and

overseen many community events and has also been part of the day-to-day operations of the City and including emergency situations. Among his oversight were the successful operations of both Pulaski and Spratt Pool operations. Also, with his charge now, the City's parking facility fund, we've seen an increase in growth, by over \$400,000. His commitment will be to the overall financial health to the City and its efficiency of its overall organization. He's looking forward to working with all the Department Heads, the Divisions and the Unions, as we continue to move our City forward. Let's make it certain. The office of City Administrator is not behold to one person, one group, one department or to one union. Tough decisions have to be made and accountability has to be at stake in this office. Mr. Milo Bunyi is up to that task and has shown us this in these last 5 years in his capacity. We went through a National Search in this campaign, and received roughly 30 resumes. Out of that, only 4 were worth looking into. The others were not qualified for the position, based on the information and experience that they provided to the City. We went through the motions. Other candidates eliminated themselves from the position due to the residency requirements. And as you know, ladies and gentlemen, we did not want to be a part of a situation in which we just left a few months ago. Mr. Milo Bunyi is, inasmuch, the most highly qualified individual, up to this task, resident of the City and ready to take on this role immediately. Without a learning curve, he can get his boots on and continue to work with all of us. So, Mr. Chairman, it gives me great pleasure to present to you, Commissioner of Finance, Milo Bunyi as my appointment as City Administrator.

Commissioner of Finance Bunyi: Good evening Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council, Mayor. I just wanted to take on a couple of issues that obviously is in the minds of everybody. The first one has to do with the downgrading of the City of Poughkeepsie from an A3 to a BAA2. One of the things we were concerned about that was asked of me at the last meeting was what impact it will have in terms of any borrowing that we do. Fortunately, today, we had to go to the bond market to refinance two bans that we have and expecting that we were going to get about a 2.5% interest on our bans, I am happy to report to you that it was the contrary. The first ban that we have for \$6,110,000 came in with a net interest of 1.66% interest rate. The series B, for \$3,780,000 the interest came in at 1.392% which was actually lower than last year's 1.5%. Also, I would ask that the Chamberlain pass it out to you. Also, on the third page handout, we were contacted by the investment magazine called, "Debtwire," and they wanted to do a story on the City of Poughkeepsie concerning its downgrade. Read a brief excerpt from the article. The rest is attached in its entirety.

Councilmember Solomon made a motion to table Resolution R13-20 until the Common Council Meeting of February 19, 2013, **Councilmember Rich** seconded the motion.

Official Minutes of the Special Common Council Meeting of February 7, 2013

Motion to table R13-20						
			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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>
	Chairman Mallory	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

VII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

NONE

X. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Chairman Mallory** and **Councilmember Solomon** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

Dated: April 25, 2013

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Special Common Council Meeting held on Thursday, February 7, 2013 at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain



**SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
COMMON COUNCIL**

Common Council Chambers
Thursday, February 7, 2013
6:00 p.m.

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL

II. 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. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. FROM MAYOR TKAZYIK, Resolution R13-20, confirming appointment of City Administrator.**

VII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

XI. ADJOURNMENT: