



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
NEW YORK**

**PUBLIC HEARING  
(PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE  
WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE )  
MINUTES**

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**Monday, December 3, 2012    6:15 pm                      City Hall**

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**Chairwoman Johnson** called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** We concluded the public hearing regarding the Proposed 2012 Budget and we had another public hearing scheduled for the Waterfront Advisory Committee. I'm going to go out of order. This was supposed to be a part of my Chairwoman's comments, but I'm going to go out of order. Mayor Tkayzik. December is the holiest of all months. It is the month we celebrate the birth of Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and Hannukah with the lighting of the Menorah. On Friday, our beloved City of Poughkeepsie had our Annual Celebration of Lights Parade, which was the biggest, most spectacular parade to date. Hundreds of families showed up as our amazing floats with sparkling Christmas lights adorned the evening night. Our DPW tree crews did a fantastic job of decorating our two Christmas trees, and the other City trees that lined the streets as the parade passed by. Even our Council Members were in a jolly mood, as they passed out candy to the cheering children in the crowd. Then in our finale, we had our fireworks display, which lit the skies with a colorful array of starlights. Yes, we had a great night to kick off the holiday season. Christmas is a time of giving. That is why our December Volunteer of the Month has to be someone very, very special. That person has to represent the meaning of the season. Someone who exemplifies giving, generosity and a love of our community. So it is with great pleasure that I announce Reverend Blake Ryder, from Christ Episcopal Church as our December Volunteer of the Month. Reverend Ryder gives away from 1,500 to 2,000 backpacks filled with school supplies every year in his Christmas in July event. They also had free food, rides and entertainment. He runs a very successful Summer Camp Program each year, and allows the community and Clinton Elementary School to use the church playground every day, while others who have playgrounds with taxpaying dollars, worry about liabilities and have their playgrounds under lock and key. Reverend Blake Ryder does the re-entry

program project, helping men that have served their time in jail, get help to transition back into society with Dutchess Collaborative. He also hosts many community meetings, always having an Open Door Policy to social and community issues, such as the AA group, BOCES, Occupy Poughkeepsie, Hudson Valley Bluegrass and the Mexican Folk Dancers, just to name a few. He is the Chairman of Planned Parenthood and Past President of the Rotary Club. So, it is with great pleasure that I introduce to you, our December Volunteer of the Month, for 2012. Please join me in welcoming Reverend Blake Ryder.

Mayor Tkayzik presented the award to Reverend Ryder. (Inaudible)

Reverend Ryder accepted the award and said a few words of thanks (inaudible).

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Now we will begin the Public Hearing for the Waterfront Advisory Committee.

**John Mylod - Beechwood Avenue** – I want to speak about the proposed changes in the Waterfront Advisory Committee. I don't want to get into the details of the amendments. I just want to talk about the need overall and the Committee. I was on the original Waterfront Advisory Committee for 10 years. Harvey Flaad is in the room. He was also there. It was created in 1985-86, in that timeframe, because of a controversy on the waterfront. There was very little discussion and planning up until then about the waterfront. We had the opportunity to have a local waterfront plan. So, a Committee was established. It was large and in some ways cumbersome. The original committee structure was appointed by the Council and Mayor Aposporous. We were tasked to produce a local waterfront revitalization plan. Money was provided through a grant which we used for consulting fees and helped to do the plan. I think what was unique about the committee was that it was extremely diverse. It was made up of a lot of different people from the City and some environmental organizations, who brought knowledge of the waterfront, river, planning and administration and a lot of good work was done. In the 2000's, the committee became more partisan and there was a committee that was established. The people put on the committee were to make sure certain plans got approved. I think that it was a mistake to think that certain things are going to happen; therefore, we have to have a committee in place to have that happen. That doesn't bode well for the City. There needs to be a group of people who come together, that are appointed by the Mayor and the Council, to look at the needs of the City. Afterall, most of the waterfront is parkland – 99% is parkland and has to remain parkland. In the mid-2000's, we took 14 acres and de-listed it as parkland. One of the arguments at the time, was that it's just sitting down there doing nothing. Now it's open parkland. It's gravel and it's sitting there, not doing anything. You also might not know about a strip of parkland at the edge of the river right now and it can be used. I've sued the City successfully, three different times, to protect open space and parkland. The reason was, planning didn't happen and the rights of the public weren't maintained. That is the kind of work I've done over time – to protect the rights of the public, not only to the river, but to parkland, and in the process of planning that allows for a public voice that's listened to

during the process, not at the end of the road when the decision has been made. You may or may not know, that there's a planning process going forward of quote, "stakeholders" for planning on the waterfront. In my view, the number one stakeholder is the citizens of Poughkeepsie. There are people of the waterfront looking to change the economic engine. That is not the role of the waterfront. It is parkland. Parkland is special. It is so special, that you cannot change it without an act of the State Legislature, even if you do it at midnight. It's special, and the reason is that it belongs to everybody – not just those who can afford it. We have focused on the waterfront and have let go of our main corridor. Yesterday's newspaper talked about a woman whose store is going to close; partly for business reasons and partly because of the City. People don't want to come to Main Street. That's a terrible thing to have happen. The County Executive is moving people out of Main Street for reasons I don't understand. They're moving people away from the corridor. You walk up Main Street and there's graffiti on the sidewalks, put there by engineers, I guess – I don't know, but it's still graffiti. The City on Main Street looks awful. You can bring people to the waterfront, and they've been doing this for years. They go to the waterfront, they go home. We need to get people to come to Main Street, and stay on Main Street and use the stores and businesses in town and leave the waterfront parks to the people.

**Chairwoman Johnson:** Are there any others who would like to speak on the Waterfront Advisory Committee amendments? This concludes the Public Hearing regarding the Waterfront Advisory Committee hearing.

Official Minutes of Public Hearing held Monday, December 3, 2012

Dated:

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Public Hearing held on Monday, December 3, 2012 at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain