



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

SPECIAL INFORMATIONAL MEETING MINUTES

Monday, September 16, 2013 6:00 pm

City Hall

Chairman Mallory called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. Asked the Mayor to introduce the Department Heads present.

Mayor Tkazyik: Thank you Mr. Chairman. Good evening Council Members, good evening members of the public. As you know, by Charter we have two annual informational meetings, in which the public can ask questions of the various departments which are present. Those answers can either be received this evening, or in writing within 10 days. With us tonight we have our City Administrator, Milo Bunyi, Commissioner of Finance, Bill Brady, Corporation Counsel, Paul Ackermann, Commissioner of Public Works, Rich DuPilka, Police Chief, Ron Knapp, Fire Chief, Mark Johnson, Building Inspector, Gary Beck, Jr., Police Captain, Tom Pape Commissioner of Assessment, Deputy Commissioner of Finance, Karen Sorrell, Randy Alstadt, Water Plant Administrator, Paul Hesse, Social Development Director for the City, and our new City Assessor, John Taylor. That represents all the departments here this evening. Thank you.

Sean Harden – 36 Glenwood Avenue – Directed his concern to Building Inspector, Gary Beck, Jr. Mr. Harden has been to meetings several times to complain about 38 Glenwood Avenue. Every time there is an incident, they come out and take pictures of the building again and again. It's a constant problem. It's a nuisance property. I'm not sure if or how it can get on the list. It needs to be. They're out there 24/7 x 365 with constant drinking, loud music, vulgar language...just disturbing things. It creates parking issues because of alternate sides of the street parking. I know that it's more of a police matter, but I just wanted to know is anything that could be done about the property

Building Inspector Beck: 38 Glenwood? I'll go out and take a look at it.

Sean Harden: OK. The second is for the Police Department. I'm just curious, why do we give leniency to alternate sides sometimes. South Cherry and Forbus intersection is dangerous...why do we allow people to park on both sides of the road, there? It was hard enough for myself to get through with another car. It would be harder for a fire truck to get through that area. Is that granted case by case basically?

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Chairman Mallory: Excuse me, Chief? There's a mic right next to you, so you can be recorded.

Police Chief Knapp: This comes up from time to time. If you see something where there's a dangerous condition, then we'll take action, if it's just being in violation when there are services going on, in various places of worship, in agreement with the Council, it's not enforced.

Sean Harden: OK. The other one is, I've seen...is it still technically enforceable...I know the alternate side parking is one thing, but if somebody's blocking a hydrant or in a "No Parking" that's still being enforced, right?

Chief Knapp: Correct, and we give tickets out every day for that.

Sean Harden: OK. I'm just curious, because it does create a parking hazard; we do have narrow streets in the city...just asking about that. That's everything.

Ken Stickle – 118 Catharine Street – My question also goes out to Chief Knapp. I've been coming to the Common council meetings for over 6 years. I've complained about the parking situation coming out of my street for 6 years...on Sundays especially. I have a very large Church – they're a very good neighbor. I have no problem. I have "No Parking" signs on the corner...I call the Police Department. I don't get any response. Everybody's afraid to come out and give out a ticket. The corner of Catharine and Mansion is a nightmare. I'd like to see some type of enforcement happen on that corner. Half the time, the parking lot is not filled; the street gets filled up. I made the suggestion: Fill the parking lot, fill the street, then you have two small buses...use the City parking lot at Mill and Catharine Street, and shuttle the people back and forth. It alleviates the traffic on the corner and nobody is going to get hit at that dangerous intersection.

Chief Knapp: I know we've talked to the church several times and have put cones out, but the next time it occurs, where you have a dangerous situation, call. If they don't send anybody, call my office directly and we'll follow it up.

Ken Stickle: I have a very bad problem in my area. I have gangs on Cottage Street (from 20-24), from the other side of Cottage Street. I've had the Police up on the hill many times. These people come out and are ready to beat each other's heads into the street. We have another situation on Thompson Street, just off of North Hamilton, between North Hamilton and North Clinton. We have a large drug activity going on. We need more help over in our area there, in the 3rd Ward. People buying drugs park on Cottage. The drug dealers are bringing down the drugs and the people are pulling their pants down and shooting up the heroin into their legs or their arms and are throwing their syringes out into the street. This is a dangerous situation for kids going back and forth to Morris School.

John Markovka – 48 Noxon Street – Directed his concerns to the Police Department. There is a predominance of drug activity (use and sale). They'll park down the block, come up and get the drugs and by the time the Police arrive, the transaction's been completed and they've already

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left the area. Another problem is vandalism. We had tires slashed and cars scratched. No one has been apprehended for the crime and wonders if the Police has any leads on that. Speeding is the worst problem. The cars go 60 to 70 mph turning from Academy Street onto Market and it's an accident waiting to happen. Is under the impression that the speed limit on Noxon Street is 50 mph. There are always Police called to the last three buildings at the end of the block. I believe they are 56, 58, and 60 Noxon Street for domestic disturbances. There are children running around at all hours of the night with no parental supervision. Proposed the installation of cameras to monitor the street for speeders, drug activity, etc.

Chief Knapp: I'm not sure about the vandalism. I'd have to check on that. As far as the cameras are concerned, that is a budgetary thing. I'm going to have to talk to Captain Pape, because it sounds like a specific house over there.

Constantine Kazolias – 47 Noxon Street – I want to follow up on that. I wouldn't say they're driving 60-70 mph. I know they're doing 50. So how come we can't have a cop over there ticketing these people? When you see Mercedes' and BMW's going up and down that street...you know, we're in a poor section of town. What's going to be done to enforce the speeding traffic? Drugs are something else. What are you going to do about the traffic problem, without the cameras?

Chief Knapp: As everybody is aware, we lost one of our main traffic officers earlier this Spring (when he retired) and he hasn't been replaced, and right now, tickets will be down because of that. We don't know when we'll replace him, due to the manpower. On the books we have 96 people. We're really at 92 because of vacancies or injuries and people in the Police Academy, we're at 81. That's having an effect on most of the units, especially traffic. Gus, in response, when the guys are out there doing the radar, we'll try to have them over there as well. They have a route they follow, but there's more demands for traffic than there are people to cover them.

Constantine Kazolias: I know you have them on the east/west arterial, but it would be nice to have them on Noxon Street because kids play on that street. The next question should be addressed to the Corporation Counsel. It looks like the 411 court case – sewems like that's been adjudicated. What I'd like to know is, what's holding it back from being resolved?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: The case I think you're referring to was by Corlies Manor, has been resolved.

Constantine Kazolias: Oh, it has? Moneywise, too?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I can't speak to what the resolution is, it's been sealed by the court.

Constantine Kazolias: The City's off the hook?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Correct.

Constantine Kazolias: It's not being put on the Sanitation hook?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: No.

Constantine Kazolias: My next question is, the \$350,000 in the Sanitation for pre-existing conditions in the Sanitation account, how can there be a \$350,000 insertion if there aren't any C-2's filed since January 1, 2013. How can you justify the \$350,000 line? The New Year's coming up – you're going to put another \$350,000 line, when nobody's been hurt? Not what authority...what accounting principle gives them to put the \$350,000 as a liability into the Sanitation account? I don't who do address this do, the City Manager or Department Head?

Chairman Mallory: City Administrator?

City Administrator Bunyi: Mr. Chairman, we are addressing that question in Executive Session.

Constantine Kazolias: Thank you for addressing it.

Chairman Mallory: Mr. Brady, would you like to make any comments?

Commissioner of Finance Brady: I think the money was put there to recognize a potential liability of the Sanitation Fund. That was the thought process that went in there, if any judgments were rendered as a result of those cases, then that would be the Sanitation Fund that would pay.

Constantine Kazolias: I'd like to understand why you put it in there as a potential liability, but when the City and the County merge with the compensation insurance...I spoke to the person who's going to be running that show...she said, "No, there's going to be no pre-existing conditions." So, if you think you're doing it in the City, but you're not going to do it in the County - there seems to be a double standard. Let's talk about the two parking decks you sold. The reason they were sold was because of the excessive cost of maintenance, etc. My question is, I know the \$2 Million that you got from the sale of City property went in the fund balance. I'd like to know how is the maintenance of these existing parking decks which was a cause for financial burden... How are the revenues...are they increasing in the parking rates, so we can be self-sustaining, so we don't have to bond or anything of that sort or put the burden back on the City taxpayers?

City Administrator Bunyi: I'm not sure what your question is.

Constantine Kazolias: My question is, are the parking decks going to be self-sustaining? So, this way, you don't have to tap into the City funds. In other words...it used to be a parking authority here, it used to be self-sustaining and everything else, but it's since been eradicated. Let's put it this way – are they going to be self-sustaining in the revenues? How are you going to self-sustain it without dipping into the City tax coffers?

City Administrator Bunyi: The parking lots, except for the two properties that we sold off, make money. The Financial Plaza deck makes money, the Academy Street deck makes money,

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the Cannon Street...not the Cannon...the Crannell makes money. The Cannon deck made \$47,000 all year long, and the hotel, because of all the deals that were made with the Civic Center, hotel and all the other organizations only made \$60,000 a year.

Constantine Kazolias: In other words, they're going to be self-sustaining. It will be like a wash.

Chairman Mallory: Mr. Brady, do you have any comments?

Finance Commissioner Brady: No, I have nothing to add to that. City Administrator Bunyi put it very well.

Constantine Kazolias: I've got more questions, but the speeding on Noxon is uncalled for and I think something should be done. Maybe you're short, but if you put a cop over there with radar, you can pick up more on Noxon than you can on the east/west arterial highway. I'll tell you that right now. It's a 15 mph speed limit, too. I'd hate to see a kid...they roller skate and skateboard...God forbid – you know where I'm coming from. It's still a nice neighborhood. I haven't moved out, yet.

Josephine Quiles – 48 Noxon Street – The speeding is outrageous. I've started a petition in the City of Poughkeepsie to get the kids off the street by 9 o'clock. I will get as many signatures as you guys need, but you need to tell me how many I need to get this curfew up for these kids. They're going to end up dead. These people are taking that turn and riding down that street so fast. They've killed cats, run over dogs. They don't care. It doesn't matter. Someone's going to end up dead; it's no joke. It's getting bad. I have a 17 year old son. I swear to you, that child does not leave my house. Between the guns shooting, the drugs..you know around the corner from Noxon, there's been shootings over the last few years. You sit in your house and you hear it. The crime has gone crazy over there. I sit outside and if I see a cop, I talk to him. I ask, "What are you guys going to do?" He says, "We're trying – there's not enough people." Hire more people then, because someone's going to end up dead over there. Whether it's drug-related, being run over...someone's going to end up dead over there. It needs to be taken care of. It's getting really bad. I'm even considering selling. I feel I'd be a lot safer anywhere else; I said that the last time I was here. I do not feel safe in the City of Poughkeepsie. What are you guys going to do?

Sharone McClinton – 19 Gray Street – Directed her concerns to Chief Knapp or Captain Pape. We're told, "See something, say something, do something," but the Police can't be everywhere at any given point and we're the deputies on the street, but has any consideration been given to a citizen's committee or volunteers who will look for problematic areas? There could be a contact person to report to and then have them focus on an area, instead of going through the whole City, which they can't do, because other crimes are being committed...but the guns and the drugs and things are what's...just like the murder of the 99 year old woman. Those things are starting to really fester, like a cancer. Those things really have to be addressed – we can't blame the Police, because if we see something, we should do something. Some people are afraid to report something because of fear of reprisal. People come to me because they're afraid of being targeted, so I'm asking if a committee of volunteers can be given consideration, because we

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know the problem areas and names of residents and can give that information to the Police Department anonymously, like Kingston and Newburgh. You can call a hotline...not the Crime Stoppers...it may work for this type of issue, but it's not going to work due to fearful citizens.

Chief Knapp: There is a Tip Line you can call anonymously. It's on most of the signs around the City. It's also on the website. Plus, when you go to the website, under Citizen Observer, you can make an anonymous tip to us. We usually get one or two per week. So you can correspond with us. If you don't want to correspond publicly or one of us directly, you can utilize it to do that.

Sharone McClinton: Mostly inaudible as she wasn't speaking into the microphone. The gist of the conversation was that she understood what the Chief was saying, but still wanted to know if a citizen's committee could be considered.

Chief Knapp: We sometimes do that with the block meetings, where people form as a group. What happens is, after a problem is usually resolved in the neighborhood, the group kind of breaks up. If local residents want to have such a meeting, we'll try to facilitate them. It's been a little harder because we don't have Community Policing anymore, but at the same time, if you want to get some people in your area, where they sit and help us, you're more than welcome to work with them on that.

Darrett Roberts – 148 Franklin Street – I've been listening to all the comments about the drugs and the gangs. Asked the Finance Department - because of the gangs here in Poughkeepsie, I feel like there are no jobs or opportunities to get jobs and the only opportunity they see to make money is to sell drugs, which is a detriment to everybody here. Can the Financial Department spare any revenue at all to alleviate the problem by getting them places to work, like "job senders" or to some youth counsel places or like Sharone brought up, volunteers that can help with our youth – is it possible?

Finance Commissioner Brady: I'd have to get back to you on that. We're challenged revenue-wise right now, to meet our expenses. We could maybe meet and talk about some possibilities for that.

Darrett Roberts: OK, thank you.

Mayor Tkazyik: We, as you know, as a City and a Council, we do participate in a Summer Youth Employment Program, working with Nubian Directions. This is one organization that helps the City with their gardens and flowers, which has been very successful. We've employed anywhere from 15 and 30 young people in the Summer. We've also had the opportunity to hire temps this past year...not many, but a few. We do participate with the various educational institutions for non-paid internships for those who would like to learn a particular field of study, whether it be "Upward Bound" or intern projects at Vassar. But locally, as a city, that's what we contribute as well. And of course, working through the federal government for the CDBG with some of the non-profit supply for funding to support programs that are non-profits that are in the local Poughkeepsie community.

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Darrett Roberts: Yes, I've seen some on White Street. Like the Summer programs, we also need Winter programs if the funding is available. Thank you so much for your patience.

“Charles” – No address given. My name is Charles. I don't want to go any further on that, and the Mayor and 3rd Ward Councilmember know my particulars. After you hear what I have to say, you'll understand. The first thing touched upon was Noxon Street. Thompson Street, between North Hamilton and North Clinton (numbers are 15 and 17). #17 is totally inhabited by a gang of Bloods. They have, for immediate action (I don't know who's behind me...this set-up is kind of funny – these people should be in front), but that's what you've chosen to do. I can't talk out of the back of my head and the front at the same time. At the property of #17, there's a garage of white wall about 6 x 10 with their logo. Graffiti is illegal...you passed an ordinance not too long ago. I also have a white wall on Clinton Street and somebody decided to make a memo on my wall. I've got 48 hours to fix it or get out a checkbook, OK? That's a rule that all of you made. Having said that, let's drop by 17 Thompson and let's get that graffiti off that garage. That should be immediate. Mr. Scott knows how to handle those and he can walk right in there and nobody's going to be discussing anything with him. When you talk with Mr. Scott, it's a short conversation. That's number one. We don't want a “drug alley” on the north side of Thompson between North Hamilton and North Clinton. We really don't want that; I hope that sinks in. The second things is I have something positive to say. It's really the responsibility of everybody in front of me – not just my Mayor or my Councilmember...I'm paying \$20,000 + between the Board of Education and the City. Where I live, it's not Rodeo Drive, it's not the Vanderbilt Mansion. \$20 K plus. I've even thrown in \$55.00 per week – per month, excuse me, for the Sanitation...chump change compare to the twenty grand. As a governing body, I know answers aren't easy; I don't have a suggestion right now. You just got to look at things more carefully. It can't continue this way. The number of abandoned buildings – you know the numbers better than I do...a couple of hundred. I can handle it; I'm not going anywhere, but a lot of folks can't handle it. It's just too much. The Board of Education is not your responsibility, but in this respect, it is. You've got to reign those people in. I read not too long ago that they wanted a Marching Band for the High School. What is it, Granville University? There's got to be a point to stop. I understand if 12 people want to play volleyball and it could go on and on, but at some point, the Board of Ed has got to be reigned in. I don't want to deny anybody an education, I can't deny it.

Chairman Mallory: I was just going to ask if you had any questions for Department Heads, that's all.

“Charles” - I just want to say that the taxes are 10 and 10 – just too much money. I don't have any questions for the Department Heads, but would like to say that the City is looking better and better than I can remember it. College Hill Park, Mansion Square Park, Department of Public Works, Parks Department...Mansion Square Park – you better start looking, because they have a shelter at Dutchess Community College and they have to be in at 7:00 p.m. and out by 7:00 a.m. and they're starting to filter down to Mansion Square Park. I have had some brief experience with our Police Department as far as their undercover people. They're good. Drug dealers look a lot like homeless people...it's pretty hard to pick them out. You really need to keep an eye out, because it's growing. It's not a major issue right now. I know the rules with graffiti. I want to see that done quickly.

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William Dykas - Good evening, everybody. My question is to the Mayor. I'd like to see Community Policing come back. We've had the Neighborhood Association on the south side for the City. We saw a lot was going on in the City. We're all pointing fingers at everybody else and stuff, but I know there's a problem with the County and the State. They take a lot away from you. The thing that irks me is that we have to take some pride in our city, ourselves as citizens, and we did (with my neighborhood, anyhow). And, you can see a lot of problems – especially, when we had the neighborhood community relations with the Police Department, Lt. Wilson used to be in charge and they would attend our meetings. We were very informed of what's going on in the City, and we would give them information they needed too. I think the City was running much better under Community Policing. And, if you need more officers, I think you should hire them. You should really look at that. Has anybody thought about that? Can I ask that question? I guess I can ask all of you, right now...

Chairman Mallory: We can't respond to these questions. It's for the Department Heads. If you'd like to address hiring, finances...you can talk to the Mayor, the Commissioner of Finance, the Chief of Police if you're concern is about hiring officers, and all. This is an informational meeting for Department Heads.

William Dykas: OK. I'll start with you, Mayor about hiring some Police Officers.

Mayor Tkazyik: Well, as you know, per the State of New York we are bound by a 2% tax cap, which we have had over the past couple of years, in relation to the overall budgeting practices. The issues of the unfunded mandates and the cuts for both the State and the County and the Feds has hurt the City Budget with increases of course, to help pay for insurance and pension costs, but being opposed by the 2% cap with a 2/3 majority of that vote to take place, dealing with the economy of scale which has been suffering since 2008 and the shortfalls that we see, in collection over those years on top of the over 300 vacant and abandoned properties, it becomes quite challenging in order to just say, "Let's hire 10 more Police Officers, or 10 more Firefighters," with those types of demands. Knowing of course, as was expressed earlier, the challenges that it becomes to the constituents in relation to paying bills. But the tax cap and the mandates have really put a stress and burden to the City on its overall budgeting and of course, people being able to afford to pay. As you know, we've been under tremendous pressure under the Office of the State Comptroller to get the city's debt under control, which is something we've aggressively tackled together, but we still have more steps to go along in accomplishing all of that. So, it's not just easy to say, "Let's just add 4 positions here and 5 positions there." It's budgeting appropriately, conservatively and certainly, what people can eventually afford in the end.

William Dykas: Is anybody taking an initiative to fight the State about that?

Mayor Tkazyik: You've heard from Mayors and Supervisors and County Executives all across the State, who feel that the 2% cap is really unrealistic. Faced with all the mandates and the cuts, on top of providing essential services and quality of life that residents and businesses enjoy. Of course, you're now imposing to oversee that cap by providing for the local government to vote to

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do that in order to make ends meet. But, at the same time, you are the people that have to pay the bills.

William Dykas: The gentleman who spoke before me mentioned the fact that these drug addicts look like low lives and street people, and they are. I'm well aware of this...I've worked in the psychiatric field for a while. I think more people should also be made aware. But a lot of them are also psychiatric patients – a lot of them, because they are self-medicating themselves with drugs on the street since they can't afford to get them. If they could afford them, they'd be fine. And, I know a lot of them personally. When they're on medications and they're treated the way they're being treated, they do pretty well. I just think we should have more of an open heart and try to get people that we know, personally. I'm sure there are a lot of people here in this room, that get up and speak, know drug addicts personally. They should go and convince them to go to rehab. I've done it myself getting some to go too. And, some are doing pretty well today. You've got to take initiative in your neighborhood – instead of going around and pointing fingers at everybody else, assuming that you guys are going to do the job for us. We have to do something for ourselves and for our public. One thing I'm happy about...I don't know if it's appropriate or not, but I'm going to say it anyhow. I'm very happy, Mrs. Johnson, that you're running for the County and remember you saying (and I'll hold you to it), is that you were going to speak more for the City, and I believe you will. You've got my vote.

Councilmember Johnson: Thank you.

William Dykas: I thank you all for listening and I think we should look at ourselves a little bit and try to help our fellow citizens, too. Whether we like it or not, they can use our help. And, it's amazing what you get from a person that no one pays attention to, if you speak to them. It's an amazing response you get from them...they're dying for someone to talk to. I think I'm talking about compassion here, that's what we need.

Frank Clark – 50 Rinaldi Blvd. – Asked City Administrator Bunyi if the City and County are combining their bus services. He read that if the deal was accepted by the City, we'd have to give the County all our buses at no cost. The City bonded for those buses. Is that bond all paid up now?

City Administrator Bunyi: As you are aware, the buses...we may have bonded for the buses, but in reality, 80% of the funding came from the Federal Government, another 10% came from the State and the City is only obligated for 10% of the total bonding.

William Dykas: Are they paid for?

City Administrator Bunyi: No.

William Dykas: Then we're giving them away for nothing...?

City Administrator Bunyi: No, the...

Deputy Finance Commissioner Sorrell: Inaudible – no mic.

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William Dykas: OK, because I read online, the deal would be that we would give up all our buses to the County and we'd have to give all the federal money that we get, to the County. I'd like to mention the revenue that the City is making on buses, and I know ridership is up a lot.

Chairman Mallory: Mr. Brady, would you like to speak on that? Or, Ms. Sorrell?

Deputy Finance Commissioner Sorrell: The study that was done, I believe you read in the paper...

William Dykas: No, I read it online.

Deputy Finance Commissioner Sorrell: Online...did address and did take into consideration all of the revenue and whether it be fare box revenue or federal or state revenue as well.

William Dykas: Do you know the amount of the fare boxes and has it gone up?

Deputy Finance Commissioner Sorrell: I would have to check on the exact amounts of the fare boxes.

City Administrator Bunyi: You need to understand that we do not have a self-supporting transit bus system.

William Dykas: I realize that.

City Administrator Bunyi: We get support for a lot of our expenses from the Federal Government, number one. Number two, the General Fund puts in about half a million dollars per year, into the transit to make it whole. So, even if you get the revenues coming in, at the end of the day, it cannot support itself. When the paper said that the fed money coming in is going to go to the County, all it means is all the subsidies that go into the bus system...obviously, if the bus system is now on an expanded system from the County, they will get that money instead of the City of Poughkeepsie. That's all directed and targeted only for transit.

William Dykas: The article also said that the City would be saving \$600,000. Does that include the revenue taken in on the buses?

City Administrator Bunyi: No, I think I mentioned to you that the General Fund...the City puts in about half a million dollars a year into the transit. If there is no transit, we will be saving that half a million dollars. The revenue...regardless of what revenue we get, at the end of the day, after we pay all the expenses it is short about half a million dollars and the City has to fund that difference.

William Dykas: OK, but the revenue that's collected from the buses – where did that money go? In the General fund?

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City Administrator Bunyi: No, it stays in the transit. But, like I said, after you collect all the payments that people make, after all the subsidy that we get from the Federal Government, after all the expenses are taken out, it's still short about half a million dollars.

William Dykas: Thank you.

Ellen Staino – Hooker Avenue – Poughkeepsie Garden Club - Read from the attached statement. There's a lack of communication and we've been very disheartened.

Chairman Mallory: Did you have a question for the Mayor or Department Heads at this particular time? Your statement is on the record.

Ellen Staino: There's been a breakdown in communication. The fact that those grasses were mowed down and we've been taking care of that site. It's like...what happened? Our club president has been trying to communicate with the Mayor many times. We need to work together here and it's just...

Mayor Tkazyik: I'll address the issue. As you know, this was brought up, I believe at the last Council meeting and the one before that. It took us over three months to get the estimate from Gloede Signs for \$5,600 for repair. This is the third time vandalism has taken place. Last week was really the first time I heard back from the Garden Club in relation to ideas or recommendation towards it. Earlier in the season when it took place, as you know, no one really came forward with information to the Police on the vandalism efforts that took place. The second time it occurred, you all remember we had a Good Samaritan come forward and donate almost \$2,000 to cover the cost of the second vandalism. So, I know we discussed that we were going to meet in Leadership regarding this issue as a Council and Administration, to then maybe bring in Garden Club officials to talk about how we might move forward, given the burden that the agreement of the responsibility falls on the City and the taxpayers. This being the third vandalism at \$5,600 we need to make a serious decision, because how many times are we going to continue to have this come on. So, be that as it may, I would request that we meet with the Garden Club immediately. We can hear the recommendation in relation to cameras, but again, the Council and I would have to discuss the monetary cost of the \$5,600 in repair. That's what I would recommend. This agreement was made in 2007. I did support it as a previous Councilmember. However, at that time, the agreement then left the donation, the gift to the City to maintain and repair. So, again, I think we could collectively work together with the Garden Club on how we would advance this project, but again, take into consideration this being the third time. That's really all I would say, but it did take us quite a long time to get the estimate because the owner who does the estimates was out of town for quite some time.

Chairman Mallory: Before you leave, could you leave your statement with us for the record?

Ellen Staino: Yes. But again, we're concerned about the grasses being mowed down by the City...something there that is very confusing to us and of concern.

Craig Brendli – Hooker Avenue – This is about the Historic Preservation Board. Has a neighbor who is going up for recognition. Mr. Brendli submitted a statement in June. He sent a

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different neighbor attend on his behalf as he was unable to attend. They haven't met quorum – I believe they haven't met quorum since May, from what I'm hearing. Now, this is a type of commission that is required of various property owners who want their houses painted or roof repaired if they live in a Historic District need approval. I encourage people to own houses in the Historic District, but it seems to be discouraging that we can't meet quorum on this board since May. If someone wants to get their house painted, are there people right now waiting to choose their paint colors since May? Others may need siding. How can we monitor our boards? Is there something we can do with the Council? What are we going to do to make sure that boards meet quorum, so we can run this City effectively?

Mayor Tkazyik: Well, there are a couple of different scenarios I was made aware of the Historic Commission quorums not being met, and of course, that doesn't just take place on that board. It takes place on other boards and Council has allowed for alternates, the ZBA and the Planning Board. I do also encourage members who no longer wish to serve, or cannot commit the time to please resign because there is a process the Mayor must take to remove someone from office of appointment and I have to have legitimate cause. Obviously, in speaking with some of those who have missed, encouraging them to either resign giving me a formal letter, or again, I would not reappoint them if their term was up. Other than that, we could encourage alternates to be appointed to that board, right now it is not part of the code – only within the Planning and Zoning Board. But, another avenue I have recommended to the Chairmen of the Boards is...for instance, the meeting meets the second Tuesday of the month, fourth Tuesday of the month to...if you can't get a quorum that particular night because, let's face it – we are dealing with all volunteers that let's try to reschedule the meeting for the following week or the following Thursday and I know that they have to get notices out to post within 200 feet, depending on circumstance if it's a ZBA, for instance. So, I encourage the Chairmen to try to do that so that the person who wants to get their house painted...maybe you're paying an Engineer or your lawyer to come doesn't become too costly for the applicant either. So, I am looking at those who have a lack of attendance and we will be making those changes appropriately in relation to how the code says how I must proceed under those levels of appointment and definitely be speaking with the Chairs of the Boards to try to reschedule meetings more frequently, rather than just saying, "Let's meet next month" and keep putting down to the next month. I could speak with the Chairman, if the Council would want to consider adding alternates to the Historic Commission, as we do have for Planning and Zoning due to people's schedules. And, again, if they're no longer interested, they need to let us know. I thank you for coming and we're definitely going to address that so that we can have our meetings frequently for the Historic Preservation Commission.

Craig Brendli: I just have one more question. The Scenic Hudson could be a great opportunity for developing new jobs – a lot of which would be in retail and the food service industry. There's a lot of talk about the architecture, which is great, but are there talks about incentives and things that the City is able or thinking of doing to get buildings in to take these storefronts. For instance, we have a lot of storefronts that aren't being used right now. Now we're going to add a plethora of more and the worst thing we could have is more empty storefronts on Main Street and another set of empty storefronts...

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Mayor Tkazyik: I think that people are getting mixed up with the proposed zoning for the Walkway-Gateway project. This is a tool and a resource for the opportunity that could be made available within a Parker Avenue Walkway corridor for developers and to create public-private partnerships within a particular area. The City works the best we can with CDBG funds to people who want to fix up their façade – we still do offer a grant to that respect and, of course, this zoning tool is going to help us in one particular area, but as well, when we finalize the overall zoning code. That's going to lift and be a little more welcoming in relation to opportunities within the Central Business District, Waterfront areas, or different types of commercial uses, artist's lofts...things like that. We've been working closely with the Arts Council in trying to incorporate an Arts District. Part of the zone of what's to be created on Main Street, the Council's been working diligently on this. It's being collaborated with Scenic Hudson and I don't want people to think that just because this plan is before us, that we have 10 people at the door, ready to build and take everything away from that part of town. That's not what's taking place. As I mentioned previously, all those properties are tied up in private hands. The City does not own any of those properties within a particular corridor. So we would look to partner with the private sector and other agencies as we build up not only Main Street, but the Walkway area itself.

Craig Brendli: My question, I guess is geared more toward the government incentives, private incentives. I understand that part. I guess also looking at what they did on Warren Street in Hudson and in Kingston as well on Wall Street...those types of things where...how did government work with the private industry? Those types of example are what Main Street in our area could look like with the collaboration between the government and between private business.

Mayor Tkazyik: Again, I think bids were created in some of those areas. That of course, is something the community, business and property owners within a particular neighborhood are going to have to support and bring forward to a municipal body to try to create or sustain the type of improvements that they would like to specifically see. I know, from working with Ron Hicks and Dutchess County Government, he's trying to pull together several of those key components...partners on Main Street and other areas to see what type of initiatives and ideas could come out, as well as bringing in the Chamber of Commerce on that. So, we are aggressively working on those types of things, but we need partners in it as well.

Craig. Brendli: Absolutely. Thank you.

Unknown Speaker (no name given) - Bus Transit questions – I had a multitude of questions, but I'm only going to ask two, tonight. This is a bus question. If the bus has prearranged conditions, and one of the conditions was ongoing maintenance of the new transit hub, what kind of maintenance would be involved and how much...estimated price range? This question would be for the Mayor.

Mayor Tkazyik: Where are you getting your information from? I'm not understanding where you're coming from?

Unknown Speaker: Well, I read it online.

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Mayor Tkazyik: I think you're referring to the study that the County released.

Unknown Speaker: The study, yes.

Mayor Tkazyik: So, Wendell did a study in relation to the expansion of Dutchess County Transit into the City of Poughkeepsie.

Unknown Speaker: Is it true that the City will be maintaining the transit hub for the County if the deal were to go through?

Mayor Tkazyik: That will all be determined by the FTA in the end because remember, anything that's transit-related, are assets in relation to the Transit Administration and the FTA. They are assets which were given to a community, such as Poughkeepsie, who provided transit services. So, anytime you're talking about assets, that was paid for by the Federal Government in relation to transit services. Those assets, in any way would have to be disposed. And, how that would be done would be regulated by the FTA. That's something the city would be seeking more information on as we proceed through, looking at the County's expansion of service into the City of Poughkeepsie. So that, I don't have a specific answer on yet, because I have to see how the FTA will consider all the assets that is within the transit system.

Unknown Speaker: Was that request made by the County...that the City maintain the Transit Hub?

Mayor Tkazyik: I wouldn't know that, sir. I wouldn't know if Dutchess County made that or not. This was just a study to see if Dutchess County Transit could expand into the City of Poughkeepsie. Now, when you're talking about further,...

Unknown Speaker: Do you have a copy of this?

Mayor Tkazyik: I believe it's through the Poughkeepsie-Dutchess Transit Council, Yes. I have a copy in my office; I can give it to you tomorrow.

Unknown Speaker: You've seen this part that I'm...?

Mayor Tkazyik: Yes, I have seen it. I have seen the recommendation of Wendell who was the third party consultant to review County Transit and City Bus. Yes. In relation to disposition of assets, you have to take the lead on the FTA, and how the City would proceed on that and that answer I cannot give you yet, because we'll be meeting with them.

Unknown Speaker: I was just wondering if they're considering, as far as the maintenance...what has to be done, the cost...

Mayor Tkazyik: I wouldn't know, because the County requested it. I'll know that information shortly, I just don't have it today for you.

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Unknown Speaker: Also, in this study, if this deal was to go through, no one mentioned what would happen to the Shop Steward for the bus drivers. What would happen to the City transit workers? Do you have an answer for that?

Mayor Tkazyik: Well, obviously, given that the County would expand service into the City, that there would be routes that they are going to pick up that currently exist. Now, how that transition would work, in relation to the employees, again, working with the FTA and State DOT officials on disposition of assets and how... what opportunities would be given to employees in that? Again, I do not have that final recommendation. However, I can say to you that, with the County expanding into the City, picking up the routes, there's going to be opportunities for employment because they're going to have to hire in relation to covering what they currently do not have.

Unknown Speaker: I know they have been constantly hiring.

Mayor Tkazyik: I cannot speak for Dutchess County.

Unknown Speaker: No, I am.

Mayor Tkazyik: I cannot speak for Dutchess County.

Unknown Speaker: I'm only telling you what I see. I'm just curious as to when the study was done; when it began – were the City workers included in the study, from the start?

Mayor Tkazyik: Well, manpower would definitely be considered, yes. I'm telling you that if one agency is expanding, routes need to be covered and it would suggest...

Unknown Speaker: I understand. I know what you're saying on that part. My question is, "What's going to happen to us?" Yes, even though they need manpower, it doesn't mean that they need our power.

Mayor Tkazyik: Well, again, until there are final details as far as to how this type of plan would work, I can't say to you that, "Yes, there's going to be 10 positions for our employees to go ahead and apply for." Obviously, you know this is one system, and they're one system. As that opportunity arises and I get more information, I will definitely share that with our drivers on what opportunities would be made available in the future to them.

Unknown Speaker: Do you have any degree of "say so" in that matter? Any percentage?

Mayor Tkazyik: I would not, because this would be an expansion of service – Dutchess County into the City.

Unknown Speaker: OK.

Mayor Tkazyik: But, I would definitely advocate for. Having authority, but advocating are two different things. I would definitely advocate on behalf...

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Unknown Speaker: Trust me, I know the difference. Thank you very much.

Mayor Tkazyik: Yes. As more unfolds with this information, I will definitely share it, not only with you, the public but with members of the Council. But the study, is online and it's available and we can print it for you tomorrow.

Unknown Speaker: No, I have the study. I have a lot of other questions, but as things begin to unfold, I'll be back.

Mayor Tkazyik: Sure. I'll be happy to meet with you, too.

Unknown Speaker: Thank you very much.

Terry Clayton, CSEA Union President – The routes...I've talked to some people here – some others who are elderly, handicapped. The routes for these buses are very convenient...not a far walk. Their concern now is, "Am I going to have to walk a half mile or quarter mile?" when it's hard enough for them to walk up the block, what kind of transportation will we provide for them...they obviously shouldn't be overlooked. I don't know if the routes are going to be changed. Do you have any information on that?

Mayor Tkazyik: Obviously, the plan or the study presented proposed routes where savings and duplications exist. Obviously, there would be public input and comment to that, going forward. But again, the FTA is going to decide how much leverage, I would say, the County would have discretion in changing, expanding into the City of Poughkeepsie because of the population that's served. So, again, I don't want to say we're in the beginning stages, but we're working through the process; working with the Federal Government. When I have more answers in relation to that, I can share that. Obviously, there was a study, a proposal, but there's nothing concrete at the present time. We need to get direction from the FTA on how this would move forward on both levels, but again, the ridership and the public are at the forefront, as well as advocating for the gentleman who just spoke before you.

Terry Clayton: Another concern I do have is, we do send out a bus for the schools and the kids for High School. I'm not sure if it's Junior High and High School, but also a concern. Is it something the County's going to pick up, or...?

Mayor Tkazyik: It's something that the City would definitely advocate for and obviously, with the FTA, knowing the routes, the population that it serves...obviously great consideration I believe, would be given to that but the public will have every opportunity to speak on that.

Terry Clayton: It's my understanding that the Federal Government – we have a new garage up at DPW. They put money into, I think, two bays for that for the buses, and there is equipment there – specifically, for buses. What happens there? Is something we have to pay back to the Federal Government? Do we lose it? I mean, that's a big deal...

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Mayor Tkazyik: That's considered an asset, and how a municipality or an agency disposes of transit assets is under the direction of the FTA. When I have that answer from the FTA, I will share that with you. Obviously, that garage is very useful to us. We wouldn't want to lose the garage...

Terry Clayton: No, not even those two bays.

Mayor Tkazyik: ...we need the garage. Obviously, there's debt incurred with that and how that is handled and we proceed with lifts, or what would be purchased. Again, we need the direction plus...

Terry Clayton: And we need the mechanic there.

Mayor Tkazyik: Right, and we need the mechanic there.

Terry Clayton: Thank you.

Mike Grande – Manitou Avenue – I guess a lot of people have talked about the drug activity in Poughkeepsie. I've got to congratulate, I guess it was, Officer Camacho who was involved in a drug bust up the street. I guess they found 300 + vials of heroin, so you know heroin is coming into the area, and is coming in heavy. I've seen dirty needles around, and as you know, "Birds of a feather flock together," and we've got to get rid of them somehow. When there's a drug bust in a house, I thought there's a Federal Law that can confiscate the property, or confiscate if they catch them in a car. Can't they confiscate the property?

Councilmember Johnson: He's talking about eviction.

Mike Grande: Eviction, confiscating; if somebody's caught in illegal activity...

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: If the property can be tied to the crime and used in the commission of a crime, it would qualify to be confiscated. So, if it was used in the commission of a crime or can be tied to the commission of a crime or proceeds from the commission of a crime, it would be confiscated.

Mike Grande: Also, I don't know how it can be done legally, but where I come from, if you hit a man in his pocket book, it's the hardest thing to do. If you fine him, that's revenue for the City, but that's where you got to get people, or they keep going along. Get money out of them. The gentleman who spoke about community policing – that was going along kinda good in the City for a while. I don't know how it would be today, it's a little rougher these days. Get people involved, get Wards involved. I think that would be an excellent idea.

Councilmember Johnson: This is my Block Captain, and I think the question he was trying to ask, which I see Mr. Ackermann has disappeared, is that once a drug dealer is busted at an address, why are they still allowed to live at that address? I think that's what he wanted to know, was, if there was any way - an eviction process and what penalty is there was for a landlord that

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harbors a known drug dealer that's been busted at the address. That's the question he really wanted to ask.

Chairman Mallory: Is that the question you wanted to ask, sir?

Mike Grande: Yeah, I did. We talked about that.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: If the City could prove that the location, the house, the apartment was being used again to conduct illegal business, whether it be drugs, prostitution or whatnot, if the landlord refuses to take action evicting the tenant, the Real Action Proceeding Law would allow the City to bring an action to evict those tenants, based on the information that the apartment or the house was being used in the commission of a crime.

Councilmember Johnson: The second part of the question...

Chairman Mallory: Wait...and I know we're not supposed to interact. Sir, do you have follow-ups based on what...

Mike Grande: I talked to Mr. Ackermann. I think everybody kind of understands where I'm coming from. Something more I was going to ask, I forgot. Anyhow, just for the couple of things that were brought up at the meeting here and I guess this gentleman was talking about Main Street and bringing people in. I've been to a lot of seminars and have been in the landscaping business for a lot of years, to make something attractive to people's eyes brings in revenue. I went to a tree conference in Utica and it was called the, "Releaf" conference. There was a speaker from the University of Washington and talked about how they built trees and shrubs and made it really nice looking and that is what attracts people. We have to clean up our streets, our buildings and make our City nice to look at. We need more people in here and we need more Police Officers to get some of these [undesirable] people out of here. That's what we need. Thank you.

Steve Planck – 81 Carroll Street – What, if anything, are we doing to get these stores (which the Police Chief said, attracts a lot of riff-raff) closed by a reasonable hour?

Mayor Tkazyik: Obviously, Mr. Ackermann just stepped out, but the Common Council just tightened up the convenience store ordinance in relation to the late night operation of hours. We of course, simply cannot just regulate when they can close and open, but we can have a great deal of input in relation to what they need to do to operate beyond a certain time. And, we had just done a sweep not too long ago of convenience stores, in relation to sales to minors and loose cigarettes being sold, and a lot of them were suspended in relation to that and then the City proceeds to send those violations to the Tax Department and Health Department who have more oversight and jurisdiction over those convenience stores' operations. We have aggressively tackled convenience stores. Common Council has just tightened up the current ordinance, in relation to tackling where a lot of these nuisances, crimes and shootings have taken place.

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Steve Planck: I respectfully disagree. I read the Ordinance. The Ordinance didn't do anything about closing stores by a reasonable hour. What it did, was mention a bunch of things about fines and 25%...

Mayor Tkazyik: Outside of them self-imposing, that of the Planning Board, we cannot regulate that at the time. One member had brought up about tightening up zoning, in relation to where these stores can and cannot be. One thing we have to remember when we look at that is, all of these can then be considered Non-Conforming Uses. So, it's not like, if you ban them in this neighborhood, they're going to go away tomorrow. That's not going to be the case. They're going to be considered a Non-Conforming Use and they're going to be "Grandfathered." If a store shuts down, and there's a new applicant and a new store, then it would apply, going forward. But, zoning was something that was addressed after this ordinance. Corporation Counsel can go further. I don't know if I explained...

Steve Planck: I just want to know if we can get them closed by 8 o'clock. That's my question.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Constitutionally, like the Mayor said, we do not have the authority to tell one type of business, to single them out and say, "You need to be closed by X Hour. So, when we were reviewing this and having issues with the convenience store, what we did to be Constitutionally accepted, is we came up with this permitting process. We thought that the next best thing would be to require them to get a permit, which we ultimately can do. That's what the Council has adopted. The original convenience store ordinance did have an effect. Many of the businesses that were staying open late, did not want to stay open late because they did not want to go through the permitting process and pay the fee for it. Businesses who chose to go through it are held to strict scrutiny if they're going to be operating between 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. If there's criminal activity at those locations, if there are building code violations, zoning violations, there permit will be suspended and possibly revoked and will not be able to operate between those hours. The Council just tightened up those regulations. They just started going into effect and see how that works. I think the adoption of the convenience store ordinance and permitting process has significantly helped some of the problem spots. I think in the future, it's going to help even more. Ultimately, people would say we wanted them just to close at X Hour – we can't do that.

Steve Planck: That sucks. My next question is, how many full and part time employees does the city currently have on the payroll?

Mayor Tkazyik: 326.

Finance Commissioner Brady: That includes management.

Steve Planck: Correct me if I'm wrong, here...somebody might have the number. So, basically we're paying 326 people over \$30 Million, between their health care, retirement and their annual salaries? Is that correct?

Finance Commissioner Brady: Yes, that's correct.

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Steve Planck: My next question is, is the Sanitation Fund self-supporting yet?

Mayor Tkazyik: No.

Steve Planck: OK. Is it true that the Sanitation Fund is currently short by approximately \$459,000?

Finance Commissioner Brady: I believe that's approximately the number.

Steve Planck: Is it true, that come year end if we don't have...if we do not get that number (\$459,000 - \$100,000 less or \$100,000 more) – is it true that the shortfall will be made up by the General Fund?

Finance Commissioner Brady: No, it's not true. Not this year. The General Fund is obligated to meet cash shortfall needs like payroll and things like that, but because the bills have gone out, that revenue is recognized and it doesn't in itself need/necessitate any action by the General Fund. The General Fund is more responsible for possibly meeting payroll and other expenses of the Sanitation Fund, simply because people aren't paying the bills.

Steve Planck: I don't understand where is the extra money going to come from? Say it's short (rounded up) by \$500,000. When it was sold to me as a taxpayer in December, I was under the impression that it was an enterprise fund; it had to be self-sustaining or else it dies. I'm just curious as to where that extra money is going to come from.

Finance Commissioner Brady: Well, the Tax Lien process would kick in and...

Steve Planck: The what?

Finance Commissioner Brady: The Tax Lien process – the unpaid garbage bills would be levied as tax liens against the people's property who didn't pay it. And, over the course of a couple of years, it would be paid off. The problem develops if it's an ongoing problem and people next to you don't pay their taxes...sanitation bills the following year. So on, and so forth. It's a snowballing problem, if you will...

Steve Planck: In December, I was under the impression that the Sanitation Enterprise Fund cannot make money, so if we're short a year again (rounding up here again) a half a million dollars, we wouldn't...a normal person would not assume we would be "plus" \$500,000 so where does that \$500,000 come from to pay our bills, if it's not being collected in the current fiscal year?

Finance Commissioner Brady: If it's coming to pay the bills, the cash shortfall would have to be met by the General Fund, just as a practical matter. It's a difference between a cash shortfall and a deficit.

Steve Planck: So, at the end of the year, if the Sanitation Fund was short, the General fund will pay the difference?

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Finance Commissioner Brady: I believe so, yes. We would have to. We're obligated to pay our employees.

Steve Planck: I could swear someone just told me that wasn't going to happen...2 minutes ago – 5 minutes ago, that the Sanitation...

Councilmember Johnson: It depends on who answers the question.

Steve Planck: I'm just looking for a clear answer. Does the General Fund pay the difference when we're short at the end of the year, or does it not?

Finance Commissioner Brady: The General Fund would meet a shortfall. If people don't pay their sanitation bills, if there is a \$459,000 shortage...people don't pay \$459,000 worth of bills and we incur \$459,000 worth of payroll, the General Fund would pay it. That, in itself doesn't create a deficit in the Sanitation Fund, because the revenue is recognized when the bills go out. The collection period would be extended by the Tax Lien process.

Steve Planck: I hope I'm not the only one in the room that finds that funny.

City Administrator Bunyi: I think the issue here is this: Right now, all the expenses in the Sanitation Fund have to be paid – payroll and all that stuff. There is not enough money coming in, because it's a brand new fund and basically, cash from the General Fund is being used to pay bills. Ideally speaking, the idea was to move the shortfall into people's taxes.

Steve Planck: As a tax lien?

City Administrator Bunyi: As a tax. The only issue with that is, because if you're short the first year, and you move it into the taxes, that does not make up the shortfall from this year, and now you're starting 2014 and if you encounter another 30% shortfall, you've compounded the shortfall from the '13 to the '14 and it just keeps on growing.

Steve Planck: ...and you're a million dollars behind.

City Administrator Bunyi: Could be. Now, the problem is people will say put it in the taxes, people will pay. That is not true. In 2010, the City of Poughkeepsie experienced a shortfall of \$800,000 in taxes not being paid. In 2011, the City experienced a shortfall – almost half a million dollars of taxes not being paid. In 2012, it was \$400,000. There is no guarantee that when you move that \$500,000 into taxes, that people will pay.

Chairman Mallory: Do you have any other questions before we get off the topic of sanitation? Do you have any other questions for other Department Heads?

Steve Planck: I do. I met the CSEA President. So far, my first impression was he's a stand-up guy. So, I'm by no means, personally attacking him or any other employee, but I'm curious if it's true or not that CSEA employees have been working since 2011 without a contract?

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Chairman Mallory: City Administrator?

Mayor Tkazyik: Corporation Counsel should speak to timelines. We're in negotiations...I can't...they are over, in relation to...that's all I can say. They're not the only bargaining unit that is expired; they have expired.

Steve Planck: That was my next question. I thought the Fire and thought the Police have expired as well.

Mayor Tkazyik: Yes, and Joint Water; they're all expired. Right. But, being that discussions are ongoing in relation to bargaining units and Corporation Counsel...

Steve Planck: It's a sensitive matter.

Mayor Tkazyik: ...we really cannot speak in relation to that, because it would compromise any of those talks.

Steve Planck: That was my next question, as to how it's going?

Mayor Tkazyik: Slow. Because when someone's here (raised hand) and someone's here (raised hand again, to a lower level), you're not going to get too far. That's all I can say.

Steve Planck: Because if we're looking at the numbers, we got 60% of our budget going towards paying 326 people, it seems that the first place as a business owner, I would go towards looking to get those numbers reduced. And, I was just curious if ...I guess that it's a sensitive matter. I won't go any further. That's it.

Chairman Mallory: See you at Public Participation. Thank you very much.

Dated: November 13, 2013

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Special Informational Meeting held on Monday, September 16, 2013.

Respectfully submitted,
City Chamberlain