



THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE NEW YORK

ANNUAL SPECIAL INFORMATION MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, September 20, 2010 **6:00 pm** **City Hall**

**Presentation by Mr. Byron and Mr. Bunyi of the Department of Finance
regarding City of Poughkeepsie Debt and Debt Service Analysis**

Constantine Kazolias 47 Noxon Street: There's a lot of things on my mind but I just wanted to ask one sure question tonight. This has come to my attention tonight, and you are probably addressing it. I'm glad to see the new DPW, Richie, here. To me he is an asset to the community, and I'm glad to see him sit here as the head of the department as a PE too, if you understand where I'm coming from. It's something to see someone who knows what's happening up there. Second of all, I'd like to say one thing, because this has been gnawing away at me, and I think that I want to bring it to the attention of the City of Poughkeepsie. Because first of all you ride down Main Street first thing in the morning. The first thing you see is the garbage right out on the streets, especially in the business district. I remember years ago when urban renewal took rear access properties for the reason also for garbage and all like that. But yet you see the garbage out on the street. Not only mattresses, things of that sort, and all of the big bulk items and all like that. But more important which I'd like to see is these store fronts, what they like to do is...there should be an ordinance like they have in New York City where the store owners are responsible for in front of the store, and also 10-20 feet into the street way. So this way, they start taking an interest in the city. It's their city, and this way it will give incentive to the individual, to the property owner in other words to spruce up the property, and this way it will clean up the city. Because let's face it, with the budget coming down, I don't even want to know what's going to happen. I got to say one thing. Thank god we're not Fishkill or Newburg. If there is any lower rating, we'll miss our prime mortgage, our department. There is one other thing I want to say too. I do, that's one question. What is going to be done to institute an ordinance or policy so this way the store fronts and the streets don't shove it out in the street. Not only on Main Street but on the core areas as well? And also too, there are some people that sit out in the street in the core area where it doesn't look good for the businesses. These are the two questions that I wanted to have answered, but more

important, that they start cleaning up their own garbage and I don't know who is dropping these bulk things on Main Street between Acedemy Street, Hamilton Street and all the way up. Because they have rear access to put the stuff in the back, especially the bulk. You gave it to them so they can put the garbage on the street, which to me as far as I'm concerned is urban renewal. Set it up so you won't have all that because there was a closed street. I would like to have an answer to both of the questions. I appreciate your time.

Caroline Miller 7 Virginia Avenue: I've lived there for 18 years, and I've seen it all. We've had shootings on our street, we had a drug issue... Well the drugs are coming back again, and I'm getting very concerned. I spoke to my councilwoman, Mary Solomon. We live on a cul-de-sac, I come when there is an issue to be addressed, I've written letters before, I will write letters again, because we still haven't had the drainage issue addressed on my street, and that was supposed to be done and looked into. There is no offense to you, Mr. Mayor, and to other people, and winter is coming... But my main concern right now is the drug problem. I go up and down three-quarters of the way down Virginia and I go up State Street and I myself clean up the garbage and can go down probably at least once or twice a day cleaning up two, three bags worth of garbage. In that garbage I may find anywhere from 10-20 on a given day, sometimes less, sometimes more, drug bags. I'm finding the cigar, I'm finding them hollowed out. They're going down to the end of the cul-de-sac, they are doing their drug buys. I broke one up the other night. I have no problem going down there. I saw the guy coming down. They cut the tree down. What we need down there is a brighter light. I was told by the city workers when they were down there cutting it down, when I came down to address it, they said the city does not want to pay for anything that they do not have to pay. I understand and I know that this is a step in the first direction. But if you do not get a bright light shining down there... the other night my neighbor called the police. He thought he saw somebody down there with a gun. It took the police 45 minutes to respond. When I called, we had a fight a few weeks back with a 12 year old girl. No one called it in. When I called it in, it took the police a while to respond. When they got there, I'm not going to give names, I'm not here to knock the police, they basically were nasty with me. They were rude. They made me feel [this] big, like I should be afraid for calling the police. I basically interrupted his dinner. When he got mad, he slammed into the car, he zoomed into the driveway across the street, slammed on the brakes, jumped out of the car. Now I said to him, as soon as you leave, these people are going to loiter down at this cul-de-sac. They said, well we cannot do anything because they are just sitting there, and they have a right to be there. I said, alright, I will call. They said, ok you call us back. One officer looked right at me and said, well I will tell you what, I will go down right now if that is what you want me to do because I have no ... tolerance for this night. I am like, you know what I am tired when there is a problem on my street. I am afraid to have my 16 year old daughter come home at night and have to worry that something might be going down. I went down there the other day... there was a broken car window that was shattered on the end of the cul-de-sac. So something did go down there. Something happened, and I am waiting before anything gets done about it, if it is going to take

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another shooting or if it is going to take somebody getting killed or somebody getting hurt. We have not had that happen on my street and I refuse to have it happen. We have small children there. I have done everything in my power to work with the city. Like I said, I clean up the street. I go down, I take care of it. We have a little puppy. The garbage is so bad down our streets that I have heard the street cleaner is broken. It clogs up the catch basins. I call up the woman at the Department of Public Works, has she has to send crews out to constantly clean the catch basins. If the garbage, if we had a street cleaner going down...I walk the streets of Poughkeepsie, I walk from Virginia Avenue down to Vassar Street because my mother-in-law lives there and I have been taking care of her. The garbage and everything is horrible. The cigarette butts, the cigar wrappers. It is all these issues from these drugs. Then I ran into somebody who said to me, we understand that there are problems in your street, but they are just peons and we are going after the bigger picture. Well, I am sorry. No offense, but they may think what is going on my street is peons but to us it is not.

Sean Sheldon 142 College Avenue: My issue tonight is one of zoning. I have an issue as far as a C-1 District, having the ability to sell cars. I am in an auto-repair shop, and I would like to be able to present that within certain parameters, size of lot, district and area. But I would like to be able to address the possibility of having that put in the new zoning, that C-1 would afford a certain amount of cars to sell. I repair a lot of cars.

Dated: January 27, 2011

I hereby certify that this a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the of the Informational Meeting on September 20,2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Deanne L. Flynn
City Chamberlain