



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE
NEW YORK**

**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING
MINUTES**

Monday, February 4, 2013 6:30 p.m.

City Hall

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL (7 Present, 1 Absent (Councilmember Boyd))

II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting of May 7, 2012 – Tabled by Vice Chair Solomon.

Public Hearing 10/1/12						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Herman	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Rich	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Parise	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Boyd	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

CCM 10/1/12						
			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Herman	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Rich	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Parise	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Boyd	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

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

NONE

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

Saul Rozinsky – 193 Washington Street – I’m here to speak about the garbage fee/sanitation fee. It seems to me to be a tax, not a fee because we are required to pay it and we have no chance to opt out of it. Not only that, it’s a regressive tax, regardless of the value of the property or the amount of the taxation of the person. It’s all the same, all equal, which is the very principle of a regressive tax. The second problem I have with this is that it is constructed in such a way, that’s to circumvent the governor’s 2% property tax increase cap. It was done so as not to have to confront the State government by calling it a “fee.” The effect of the fee is that the property owners in Poughkeepsie, are “hit” twice. First, we have to pay an additional \$306 per year for the privilege of having our garbage picked up, which used to be included in our tax bill. Now we have to pay additional for it and we can’t even deduct this additional amount from our State or Federal Income Tax, because theoretically, it’s not a tax. It looks like a tax, it smells like a tax, it works like a tax, but we’re not allowed to deduct it from our Federal Income Tax. This is a specific disservice to the residents of the City. This is something that was done so that you folks would not have to send a message in necessity to the Albany government, as Fishkill did in order to raise their property tax by 50%. You folks found a way not to have to confront the Governor – not to have to cause embarrassment politically to the Governor, but rather to cause an inconvenience to every resident of the City...that, I consider to be a disservice by a government employee, by a government servant. You folks are up for reelection in about 8 or 9 months and if you expect the residents and the property owners to forget that you stuck them with extra Federal Income Tax, so you could balance the City Budget. Don’t expect people to forget – people have longer memories than that. They’re not quite as stupid as you wish they would be. That’s all.

Frank Clark - 50 Rinaldi Blvd- My recollection says that the operators of the Ice House I think, withdrew their application for a liquor to be served down there at that meeting. The reason that I am here and thank you Chairman, Mayor and Council members. Mr. Chairman, you give instructions before the public can address the council, you state comments must be directed to the council as a whole, with no personal attacks. I think that you need to also remind Council members that while in these chambers, every member of the public should be treated with respect. I mention this because at the first common council meeting this year, I sat here and congratulated you Mr. Mallory, on being Chairman and simply stated that under your leadership these meetings would be held in a civil and respectful manner. It turns out that a member of this Council got very upset about that statement. While sitting in these chambers before the last meeting on January 22nd, I was subjected to a very disrespectful, verbal attack that included a personal threat. It was overheard by a friend of mine and other citizens. The only way that I want to respond to that incident is to congratulate this council as a whole that in a bipartisan way that between the Republicans and the Democrats, you voted unanimously to appoint a new Chairman this year. Myself, and many other citizens believe you made the right decision. Thank you.

Ken Stickle - 118 Catherine Street – I’d like to know what City employee is going to be on the “hook” for \$4,470 for mailing out the new taxes... for not looking at the

computer printout while it was printing out. If I make a \$4,400 blunder in my business, it comes out of my pocket. This needs to come out of whoever's in charge – from their department's pocket. Also I brought up the fact about the Animal Warden at the last City meeting – I'd like to know if that was ever investigated with the letter in the Poughkeepsie Journal with the Reformed Church on Hooker Avenue, why that dog was drug [sic] across the sidewalk, bleeding. I haven't heard anything back on that. The next thing that I wanted to talk about is, do we need any more development on the Waterfront? No. (Someone from the audience spoke out while Mr. Stickle was speaking) Excuse me, my turn. You want to speak, speak on your turn. No we don't. Take a ride on Main Street, Academy, right on down the line. It's filled with litter. We're back in the '80s and '90s again. The City is looking like "crap," and you want to bring a new supermarket in here? No way. You want to bring businesses in here? No way. Time to concentrate on the City – we need to get rid of the crime and to clean the streets up. All the people that keep complaining about the \$25.50 per household – this Council had a choice. They could've either chose the user fee or tacked on 16% onto our taxes this year alone. People learn to recycle. I'm tired of hearing all the landlords who are complaining too. Teach your tenants to recycle. Bring your solid waste down. Ulster County was just in the Poughkeepsie Journal; they're going to be paying \$100 per ton to get rid of their solid waste. So, start sucking it up, people. We bring this garbage in, and we better figure out a way to get rid of it. People better learn how to recycle and better stop throwing their garbage around and not cleaning up after themselves. Everybody wants an answer for nothing, but nobody wants to turn around and figure out how they're going to solve the problems. It's time to stop crying like a bunch of babies and realizing, I don't want the Federal government in my business, I don't want the State in my business, and I sure as "Hell" don't want the City of Poughkeepsie in my business. What I want out of you people is to provide me with the necessities I need. I want a decent Police Force – one that I can trust, a Fire Department that will come and take care of a house that is on fire, and I want my garbage picked up and remember, those Sanitation Workers not only pick up our trash; they plow our streets, so it's not that one thing that we pay that \$25.50 for, so everybody better turn around and start realizing that these men are valuable. I'd like to know why the Building Department has a one page ad about lead in houses; why is the City not turning around and putting in [an ad] about recycling and that they take TV's and computer monitors, etc. for free at the Sanitation Department. It's time to start thinking of ways to start cutting this budget. This is a big "screw-up," but I think it's time to give our Sanitation guys a little bit of slack here.

Constantine Kazolias - 47 Noxon Street - Mr. Chairman, first of all I wish you all the luck, because the City is a big "nut to crack." I speak as a Poughkeepsie resident. I'm now going to read the attached statement:

POUGHKEPSIE'S WRONG BILLING WAS A DELIBERATE UNDERHANDED CALCULATION BY SENDING A FALSE FLAG TO KILL THE NEWLY APPROVED SANITATION LL, FYI, THE FINANCIAL COMMISSIONER APPROVED AND MAILED THE WRONG BILLING FOR THE 311, UPSETTING PROPERTY OWNERS. ANOTHER WRONG MAILING WAS WHEN THE CITY PROPERTY TAXES IN 2012 WAS A 2% TAX CAP COMPARED TO THE MAILED 2013 BALOONED TO 5.46%. A THIRD WRONG MAILING WAS THE W-2 MAILINGS TO DPW EMPLOYEES...IN BASEBALL ITS THREE STRIKES AND YOU ARE OUT, BUT NOT IN CITY POUGHKEEPSIE POLITIC, BECAUSE [THE PETER PRINCIPLE] ! REGARDING THE SANITATION FEE WHY WAS THE 6% COMP INS FOR ONE MILLION WAGES SHOULD BE \$62,000 AND NOT \$400,000? CITY EXISTING JUDGEMENTS AND PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS ARE THE CITY LIABILITIES AND SHOULD BE COVERED UNDER THE CITY'S UMBRELLA INSURANCE POLICY AND SHOULD NOT BE CHARGED TO SANITATION. THIS A DELIBERATE ATTEMPT TO FALSELY BILL THE NEW SANITATION FEE LL IT'S A DEJUEVUE WHEN HILLARY'S CATTLES FUTURE CHARADE, HILLARY TOOK THE \$100,000 WINNINGS AND HER MENTOR TOOK THE LOSES. QUESTION, [WHAT IS THE STATUS OF THE LEVISON'S 411?] THE CITY WAS SUED, A JUDGEMENT HAS BEEN RENDERED AND EVERY BODY IN CITY HALL HAS BEEN MUZZLED. WHY? IS THIS ANOTHER CASE THE CITY LOST? IS THIS GOING TO BE THROWN ONTO THE SANITATION BILL AS AN EXPENSE, WHEN THEY ARE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE PAST LIABILITIES?? ARE THERE ANY OTHER MISTAKES/DESCREPINICIES I MIGHT HAVE MISSED? THIS WHOLE COMPUTER MESS IS GARBAGE IN/GARBAGE OUT! IN GREEK, "THE FISH ROTS FROM THE HEAD DOWN AND THE COMPUTER DOES NOT HAVE A HEAD ...THE CITY HASN'T HAD AN OUTSIDE AUDIT IN YEARS, AND THE CC HAS ASKED FOR ONE BUT NONE WAS/ IS FORTH COMING. JUST AN IN HOUSE PERUSAL BY AN UNCERTIFIED AUDITOR. THE PRESENT FINANCE COMMISSIONER IS NOT A CPA. THE FORMER FINANCE COM WOLLOWITZ WAS CPA. HE LEFT, FORMER CITY ADMINISTRATOR LONG LEFT ON SHORT NOTICE FOR AN EQUAL POSTION UPSTATE? DOES THE NEW, SEPARATE SANITATION ACCOUNT START WITH A CLEAN SHEET, WITHOUT ANY LOSS CARRYOVERS WHICH ARE THE CITY'S LIABILITIES? OR, IS THIS POK DEJUEVUE, IMPLEMENTING HILLARY ACCOUNTING PROCEDURES? QUESTION :{ IS THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE OR THE NEW SANITATION ACCOUNT BEING CHARGED WITH ANY PREEXISTING CONDITIONS, CLAIMS OR JUDGEMENTS? WILL THE NEW RATES APPLY TO THE

CITY PICK UPS THE ICE HOUSE? OR IS IT COOMINGLED INTO THE NEW SANITATION ACCOUNT AS A FREEBEE?? THE CHAIR SHOULD APPOINT COUNCIL WOMEN JOHNSON, COUCILWOMAN BOYD, DOURDIS AND DPW DEPT HEAD DIPULKA TO THE SANITATION COMMITTEE BECAUSE THEY CAN HIT THE GROUND RUNNING THE CURRENT TWO COUNCILMEN SITTING ON THE COMMITTEE FAVORED PRIVITATION OF SANITATION. MONEY CRISIS WAS EXASBERATED WHEN C.E. MOLINARO CUT POUGHKEEPSIE BY TWO MILLION IN TAX SALES REVENUES!!! SHORING UP HIS D.C. FUND BALANCE RESULTING WITH A FAVOURABLE MOODYS BOND RATING., WHILE POUGKEEPSIE BONDS TANKED TO 'JUNK B STATUS " BY ADDING ANOTHER \$6.4 MILLION LIBRARY BONDS, WAS NOT MENTIOND IN POJO SUNDAY EDITORIAL OPINION, ALONG WITH CITYS GARBAGE CRISIS. FINALLY, EVEN TO CONTEMPLATE APPOINTING MILO TO AN \$119,000 WHEN \$25,000 WAS IN MAYORS BUDGET FOR ADMINISTRATIVE POSITION, THE PETER PRINCIPLE IS BUREACRACY AT WORK, THE PETER PRICIPLE EMPLOYEES ATTAIN THEIR HIGHEST LEVEL OF INCOMPETENCE WITHIN BEURACRCY AND STAY IN MANAGEMENT.THE CITY WITH ITS 27% PROPERTIES BEING TAX EXEMPT MANY WITH PILOTS WHICH IS DOWNFALL OF POUGHKEEPSIE. I WILL BE FILING A FOIL FOR ALL CITY PILOTS ATTACHED ARE TWO ~~LETTERS~~ ^{ARTICLES} TO POJO I AM SUBMITTING FOR THE RECORD.

Constantine Kazolias

CNSTANTINE KAZOLIAS, 47 NOXON STREET, POK12601, 02/03/13,[845]452-5539

10A

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Opinion

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Editorial

City needs solid growth plans

If the City of Poughkeepsie's tenuous financial situation was unclear to anyone, a national credit rating agency has just made it clear in startling spades. The situation is alarming and needs correcting.

Moody's Investors Service has downgraded the city's credit rating, meaning Poughkeepsie will likely have to pay higher interest rates on any future borrowing or refinancing. But Moody's report also does a sharp job of concisely explaining the city's predicament — and ways it might be able to get out of it over time.

Moody's says the city's financial position "deteriorated significantly following operating deficits over the last five years." The city, of course, is not alone. Virtually all levels of governments have been hard-hit by the recession and slow recovery, as revenue sources have been slow to rebound.

And, like many levels of government, the City of Poughkeepsie has

made some difficult cuts and has dipped into its fund balances to avoid big tax hikes.

The report says "Moody's believes the city's financial position will continue to be pressured in the near term." It projects that a decline in the city's \$2 billion tax base will continue in the short term "given the weakening of the regional real estate market and current economic conditions."

Yet, as the housing market rebounds, the city will benefit, and the city does have some good opportunities to see sound development along the waterfront and must maximize these opportunities.

Mayor John Tkaczyk says the city is working on updating its zoning laws, but this process has gone on for far too long. The city has to take advantage, for instance, of the phenomenal success of the Walkway Over the Hudson and ensure areas around it are zoned for a solid array of uses — such as for new homes, restaurants and small busi-

nesses — and not for old industrial sites.

City officials have estimated that about 25 percent of all property in Poughkeepsie is tax-exempt, meaning it is critically important that Poughkeepsie make the best use of its taxable land. There are too many vacant structures and abandoned business sites, and reuse of the parcels will be key to any future success.

The city also has to continue to work to attract a larger supermarket to the downtown area, something that would not only add to the tax base but entice more people to want to live in the core area.

The relative sluggish economy also has stopped the redevelopment of the southern waterfront, but it is hoped those plans can move forward soon.

Dutchess County government is pitching in by taking a larger role in the broader waterfront development plans, but the county also has put a cap on the sales tax the city

and other municipalities will be getting this year. The city estimates it will lose \$2 million in revenue as a result. The county says it is committed to working out an equitable arrangement — a new sales tax agreement for towns, villages and cities — and that accord is surely needed.

The city and county also have promising plans to cooperate on providing more efficient bus service, something that is under careful study.

The mayor notes the city has to reach agreements on salary contracts with many of the city's union employees. Pension and health care costs have been rising, and the city is not alone in trying to curb these costs.

But the city already has laid off dozens of employees during the recession, and Tkaczyk has shrunk the ranks of his administrative and planning teams.

There is only so much the city can cut. Growth will be key.

PUSO
SUNDAY
02/03/13

was raised, old Asian traditions include simi- Then she dies and the pain he suffers is as real su@amreg.com.

Letters

Blame county, not haulers, for costs

Beginning Feb. 1, the new Ulster County waste flow monopoly will start to be felt by many citizens and businesses. In December 2012, after officials passed waste flow law, the Ulster County Resource Recovery Authority (UCRRA) distributed a notice saying on Feb. 1, their waste disposal tip fee will be \$100 per ton plus an unspecified fuel surcharge amount. This is considerably more than other nearby state-permitted disposal sites. However this law requires waste haulers to bring county waste to UCRRA facilities. Waste haulers will no longer be able to shop around and get the best disposal rates for their customers. Waste haulers, based on experience from other waste flow locations, will likely pass these increased expenses on to the citizens and businesses in the county.

Our industry knew this would happen. We recommended other options to fix UCRRA problems. But when county officials chose to institute a monopoly, higher costs for citizens and businesses were inevitable. County officials seem to hope most

people won't notice that they are paying these higher fees, since they will now be most often hidden in the bills waste haulers send to their customers.

If you are a county resident who is unhappy to see your costs go up, don't blame your hauler. They fought this law. Ask county officials to rescind this flow control law and return to an open-market system based on choice and competition for collection and disposal services.

Steve Changaris
New York state chapter
manager, National Solid Wastes
Management Association
Auburn, Mass.

Fire district must be fiscally responsible

On Dec. 11, I was elected to the Board of Fire Commissioners in the Arlington Fire District.

I want to thank all of the people who worked to help me get elected; all of the people who came out to vote for me; and all of the people who participated in the process even if you didn't vote for me.

Fire district elections are held on the second Tuesday in December from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. as required by state law.

This makes it hard for people who can't drive at night, or have unbreakable commitments. The board can add earlier hours to allow more public participation and this should be done.

I ran as a taxpayer in the district who sees the spending and resulting year-after-year fire-tax increase as unwarranted and out of control. As I said in my campaign literature, "I will work to get AFD spending under control while preserving the service level to keep our community safe."

The AFD budget is so high, now \$15.9 million, that it surpasses the budgets of many towns and villages. As such, AFD should be viewed much like a government entity where any member of the community can run for a board seat and seek to fulfill the fiduciary responsibility to taxpayers by providing the necessary emergency services at the most fiscally responsible cost.

I look forward to serving the AFD residents. I invite you to attend AFD board meetings. See www.afd.org for details.

Jim Beretta
commissioner, Arlington Fire
District
Poughkeepsie

More opinion content online

The Poughkeepsie Journal offers additional opinion content exclusively online.

At 3 p.m. Monday the Journal Editorial Board will meet with Dutchess County Legislative Chairman Rob Rollson to discuss the county's finances, redistricting and the proposed new county



guest column by Michael Kink, the executive director of New York's Strong Economy for All Coalition, talking about avoiding another con-

nal's Editorial Board meeting with the leaders of the City of Beacon and towns of Poughkeepsie, Dover, and Rhinebeck;
» comments from readers on editorials, letters to the editors and columns;
» a gallery from Gannett editorial cartoonists from across the country;
» reader-submitted

Steven Planck - 81 Carroll Street – Just as County Executive, Marc Molinaro stated in his State of the county address last week, I too, believe in hope. So much so, that it allows suffocates me and also allows my words to convict me. If it were possible that all the powers that be, were bestowed upon just one man, I hope that each of you would be the kind of man that would want to help everyone equally. Jew, Black, Latino, Gentile or White, rich or poor, those on the Southside, those on the Northside, those on the Waterfront, and those on Main Street as well. I'm hopeful that each one of you would want to live with each other's happiness and not one another's misery; that you don't despise one another rejoice in all of us when we succeed. I'm hopeful that you'd be the kind of men and women who look towards building a brighter future for our children and creating peace of mind for the elderly, and that these hopes would be in every decision that you make. I was at the public meetings in December when they talked about how they were going to close the budget gap and I remember the propaganda. Today, however, your office seems to be getting about 30-40 calls per day from unhappy citizens, and I'm hopeful that you're listening to what they're telling you. No one can argue that the City is broke, and that there clearly trying to cover their operating expenses. I get that. However, I'm here tonight to argue that the Sanitation fee does not offer me fair and equal protection under the law, because if some citizens are allowed to opt out and hire private haulers, then every citizen should be afforded that same right. I'm arguing that I can hire a private hauler for 1/3 of the cost that the City is now charging me, whereas, I'm being billed \$77/month, the recycle depot would charge me \$19/month and Royal Carting would charge me \$28/month. I'm arguing that the user fee is biased, because the City made assumptions as to how much garbage a single family home would toss out, as compared to a three family home and whereas these assumptions can, in fact, be the exact opposite, it is known that a single family home would toss out more garbage than a three family home. I'm also arguing that the City implemented this law in one week, by stealing the language from other municipalities, whereas the City should have written a law that should apply to the needs of and for the benefit of the citizens it was intended to help. The policy as I see it, has three fundamental problems in it. It places a burden on taxpayers; it reduces the pressure to contain costs governed by New York State with regard to Sanitation and the State's goal to reduce waste and increase recycling rates. Thank you. Have a great night.

Caroline Miller - 7 Virginia Avenue – I'm here tonight on behalf of some of my neighbors. We had a shooting yesterday on Virginia Avenue near my home. I've lived there for over 20 years. I call it my home. It's gotten to the point where, 20 minutes earlier, I was at that house cleaning up the garbage in front of it, because we do not do much about these absentee landlords. We could alleviate a lot of the problems if we take care, first and foremost, all of these houses that have been pushed into two families, three families. They're the ones that create the garbage. When you get people living in there that don't care, they're the ones that move in the drug dealers. Families living in with families; moving in one by one. The violence increases. Twenty minutes prior to that, I was at that house. I go into my home, and what to my surprise, I am taking care of a three month old and my son runs down the stairs and my husband runs out the front door to hear multiple gunshots. I have seen it all on my street. I have complained, I have pleaded, I have come to you folks for help, for guidance. I tried to do my part as a law

abiding citizen. Somewhere down the line, this has to be addressed as a more serious issue. We have to understand that this is not going to go away on its own. We cannot push it under the carpet. We cannot say, "This is going to subside, if we sit there and worry about one or two houses." I have at least six houses on my street that are issues. I've had the City there; I've had them cite them. I hear there's no money to enforce these citations. If we don't force to enforce these citations things are not going to get better. It's just a piece of paper to them. These landlords have to be held accountable. They have to know who they are moving in there; who they're letting live there. I have a house around the corner from me that opens up the window and just throws their garbage out onto the side, not even into a trash container - I get cited when I put some metal in my garbage that should not be there. I go around 4 times per week with a broom and dustpan, cleaning up my neighborhood. I know about the garbage issues. I worry that they're going to take away the garbage cans that are on the street because people are throwing garbage in there because that is my solace, to clean up my streets. Again, I tell you, when my kids grew up and joked to their friends that they lived in the "Ghetto," that breaks my heart. I work just as hard as every single one of you here and then some. I lived in the City because I believed in the City, and I still believe in the City, but we are not going to get people or businesses to move back in here unless first and foremost, we start back to square one and cleaning it up. Thank you.

Bruce Dooris - 41 Wilson Blvd - Vice President of CSEA – I really wasn't going to speak tonight, but after the last speaker, she "hit it right on the head." Sanitation fee is \$25.50 – I came before you earlier in the month, showed you a bill from a senior citizen from a very well-known carter here for Dutchess County for \$23.50 for once per week pickup. Also, a very well-known carter in Dutchess County, I've heard prices of \$33.00 for a single family...\$28.00, I've heard \$19.00. I've heard them all. So, \$25.50 is right there in the "ballpark," just like the lady who spoke before me, and others that spoke. If the City of Poughkeepsie Sanitation Department was just sanitation, it would be lower than \$25.00. I've told you that I'm going to come up here, time and time again and tell you, "Sanitation plows snow." Sanitation plows on the street, Sanitation plows in the City parking lots, City sidewalks. They started the new program, because the Law Department were getting claims from people falling on the sidewalks. You weren't keeping up with the sidewalks, so they put Sanitation on the sidewalks and the parking lots. Like the lady said, garbage on the street...who picks that up? In the cans? Sanitation. When there are violations, who goes out and does violations? Sanitation. Who picks up parks? Sanitation. Who picks up the downtown district? Sanitation. Who sweeps the streets? Sanitation. Time and time again. Now, if I owned a business called, "Bruce Dooris, Sanitation," and all I had to do was pick up garbage, my fee would be competitive. But, if I had to sweep the streets, do violations, pick up the parks, do the gutter lines, parking lots and pick up the dead animals, it's going to be a higher price. It's just a fact; just the way it is. Now, if you want to take that all out of Sanitation, just go ahead and do it and I guarantee you – put that in another department and just have Sanitation pick up garbage, your fee will be a lot less than \$25.00, but we're City of Poughkeepsie. We have to do everything. Those carters don't have to do that. So, once again. That's what our guys do. They get called on to do other duties, so we need to know that here in the City of Poughkeepsie...that they don't just pick up the garbage on the street. They multi-task, time and time again; every day. Thank you.

Archie Chambers - 61 Garden Street – This is one of the first times of coming to a Council meeting. I wasn't sure of what you guys did or what was on the agendas, or how the agendas even get out to the public. I know numerous people who have no idea of what you do...what's on the agendas, how fees or taxes are determined. I have a little better idea, because I work in an educational environment, and a lot of that information comes through. I came tonight to get some ideas from the community. I see that most people here are from the City of Poughkeepsie, but not from my immediate area. I know who my representative is; he actually lives two doors down from me. There's not enough done for the City of Poughkeepsie as a whole. The only time you need the City of Poughkeepsie is when you need revenue. I don't hear anything from my councilman or Mayor unless it's an election year or revenues need to be raised for ideas you may come up with. Isn't sure how the fee was figured for sanitation. I was told it was in the news last Sunday. I was away, so I didn't know about it. Then I get a bill for Sanitation. When I inquired, I was told that my taxes didn't go up, it's a fee. What's the difference? There is no difference. Taxes did go up this year and I don't mind that; I want to do my part. Questioned how the fees were determined. Lives in a single family, well really is a two family, where it costs \$600 per year for 1 bag of trash. As others have said, they can get private to do that, but you tell me that I can't; that I'm mandated to do City pickup. Why? I'm mandated to "do" City taxes. I should have an option. If I choose to have the City pick up the trash, I will pay the fee. If not, I shouldn't be penalized and should be able to choose. You're a taxpayer, a law abiding citizen and you go about trying to keep the taxes down in the City of Poughkeepsie. I'm one of them. I've lived in the City for 20 years. This is the first time I'm asked to find out what's going on and come back and let us know. Don't we have a Councilman for that? Don't we have a City Mayor for that? I don't want to ramble on, but I'm a little upset. I do have a better understanding of the concerns of the citizens of Poughkeepsie. Has concerns and will participate in the Council meetings and bring many people in to express their thoughts and concerns, because not everyone can afford the fee. People have said, "It's only \$25.00" - no, it's \$76.00 for a single and \$156.00 for a "double" per quarter. I live in a row of 7 houses at \$600.00 per year. That's \$4,200.00 per year to pick up our trash. That's ridiculous. Don't tell me that I can't get something cheaper to pick up my trash for my unit. That's all I have.

Daniel Lezinski – 193 Smith Street – If you need to raise more money for trash pickup, you make that part of the taxes. It should've been part of the budget. Should have been part of the tax, so that we could declare it on our Federal Income Taxes. That's it. As a citizen of Poughkeepsie, I simply expect that this Council would try to get us the best deal possible, and I feel that they haven't. That's all I have to say.

Bernard Daisley – 6 High Street - I didn't want to speak tonight, but I learned one thing. There needs to be some publicity; some way to let those people know who have been away what is going on. Some kind of publicity campaign in the newspapers, etc. for those who don't check on TV, etc. I'm also a vocal opponent of prison expansion of Dutchess County. We need to have different ways of dealing with criminal activity. The State is closing Kindergarten programs. The trajectory is that there will be more criminal activity with no kindergartens. Bring back those programs so that there will be 32% less

crime. There is talk of closing prisons. With the potential for increased crime, partially from closing Kindergarten programs, and additionally, closing prisons, what will happen with less prisons and more criminals? Something is wrong here. He plans to bring boxes of petitions to the County Executive, Marc Molinaro. Feels that minorities are being targeted unfairly. Thank you.

V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS

Mayor Tkazyik: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, good evening Council members, members of the public. First, let me start off by apologizing to everyone in relation to the tax bills that were generated that reflected the correct levy. I want you to know that when we became aware of this, we immediately implemented a procedure to correct the system, prepared to mail the new bills, issue credits and refunds and properly notify the public. Again, I'd like to thank the members of the Finance Department for diligently working through this and correcting this error that was made, and certainly, to cast blame on one division, one department, or one individual would not be fair nor accurate. It was corrected, and again this was done with little disruption to the public as possible. I want to thank the Finance Staff for diligently working through this, and also, Corporation Counsel/Acting Administrator Paul Ackermann, for working through this to resolve it to the taxpayer. Also, to address comments, the City does receive an annual, independent audit. In fact, my administration has made the attempt to get the audit on time, within a year; back from when it is done. I remember being a Council member, when the audit would not come back for two to three years when we would get it prior. So, we have made great strides in working through that to get an on-time audit. We are also working diligently with the Commissioner of Public Works and Council leadership in relation to the overall marketing program in relation to recycling and efforts of recycling and trash pick up. I would like to remind everyone, this Ordinance was put together, in the end, to be implemented in 17 days – 17 days. We worked diligently to put together this plan administratively, as this program was going to be put into place. Now we are working with Commissioner DuPilka and staff, members of the Council to implement that overall marketing plan that so many of you have come tonight to ask for. In all of that, strategizing and look for new ways in which the City can conduct itself with business to re-look for relief on the tipping fee costs to the City. We are aggressively pursuing that and moving forward in a positive manner, which I think the Council and the public will see over the next two months in relation to that work being done. So, we're diligently working on all of those measures in relation to Sanitation. Outside of that, before you tonight, Council members, Chief Knapp did provide you with a review of the dangerous dog incident that occurred and again, I will reiterate, "dangerous dog" so please review that, and any follow-up questions to that matter, you can speak to myself, Acting City Administrator Ackermann or Police Chief Knapp regarding that incident. Outside of that, that concludes my comments for this evening.

VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

Chairman Mallory: Good evening. In response to the Mayor's State of the City Address, transparency and communication is the only way we and the Executive and Legislative branches of government can work together to address our problems, to

support agendas that will enhance the City of Poughkeepsie. Departments must spend within their budget lines, approved for the 2013 Budget and any moving of money from one budget line to another should be brought before the Council before doing so. Transparency openness must be the word in addressing our fiscal crisis. Not knowing of losing a potential City service until October 15, 2012 that would impact our budget and our community is not the way to conduct business with the Council. This Council, the Mayor and his staff will have to sit down in the coming months and address concerns and other issues as it pertains to Sanitation User Fee. I believe City Government is about providing services, such as public transportation and sanitation. We need to work together; be creative in maintaining these services. To the residents of the City of Poughkeepsie, the Council is fully aware of the struggle you continue to endure and we are trying to balance the services City Government provides – should be providing, without any additional burdening on you. Please continue to come to the Common Council. It's important to express your views. We welcome your input. This Council wants to see and encourage economic growth in our city, but we expect all – including those renting City property to comply with all City Ordinances, Codes and signed Agreements. If there are changes, particularly with signed Agreements, the City must come before the Council, keep us informed. Let's work together. I too, spoke to County Executive Marc Molinaro and I sensed a different relationship between the County and the City. What I've heard about the proposed sales tax agreement, sounds like the City will be able to rely on specific amounts to incorporate into our future budgets. The Council welcomes a partnership and intimates of agreements with the County when it benefits the City. Finally, this Council appreciates the tireless effort of all City employees who when called upon, performed the task, and I will work as hard as my colleagues to provide them the resources to succeed. I'd also like to mention that this Thursday, we will have ...for lack of a better word, Q&A; questions for the Mayor's selection of Milo Bunyi as our City Administrator. Also, on February 11th, we'll be sitting down with our auditor and the Finance Commissioner about the 2011 audit. Lastly, I'd like to congratulate and acknowledge Councilwoman Perry, for your recognition of the Poughkeepsie Neighborhood Club. So ends the Chairperson's comments.

VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

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

Mayor Tkazyik before you tonight...as you know, Corporation Counsel Ackermann has been Acting City Administrator within the past 60 days. This extends that up until the 19th of February or until a confirmation of City Administrator, whichever may come first. As the Chairman said, before you I (the Mayor) presented you with the name of the Commissioner of Finance, Milo Bunyi for that position. You have a Special Meeting scheduled for that on the 7th at 6:00 p.m. So before you tonight is the resolution extending Mr. Ackermann's time period.

RESOLUTION (R-13-19)

INTRODUCED BY COUNCILMEMBER SOLOMON

WHEREAS, a vacancy occurred in the office of City Administrator upon the resignation of Michael H. Long in October, 2012; and

WHEREAS, in accordance with City Charter §3.08(b) the Mayor appointed an Acting City Administrator; and

WHEREAS, City Charter §3.08(b) also provides that said appointment is only effective for sixty days in any fiscal year unless extended by resolution of the Common Council; and

WHEREAS, On December 5, 2012 Mayor Tkazyik appointed Corporation Counsel Paul Ackermann as Acting City Administrator for a period of sixty (60) days which is set to expire on February 5, 2012; and

WHEREAS, Mayor Tkazyik is desirous of extending the appointment of Corporation Counsel Ackermann to Acting City Administrator until February 19, 2013 or until the confirmation of a City Administrator; and

WHEREAS, the Common Council deems it to be in the best interest of the City and its residents that an Acting City Administrator be so extended;

NOW, THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED, that the pursuant to Section 3.08(b) of the City Charter, the Mayor’s appointment of Corporation Counsel Paul Ackermann as Acting City Administrator is extended until February 19, 2013 or until the confirmation of a City Administrator.

SECONDED BY COUNCILMEMBER

R13-19			Yes/Aye	No/Nay	Abstain	Absent
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accepted <input type="checkbox"/> Accepted as Amended <input type="checkbox"/> Tabled	Councilmember Herman	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Rich	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Perry	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Johnson	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Parise	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Boyd	Voter	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" 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"/>

VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

NONE

IX. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

1. **FROM STEVE MAJETTE**, a notice of property damage sustained on October 19, 2012. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**
2. **FROM MICHAEL REED**, a notice of intent to renew Noah's Ark liquor License. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**
3. **FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN**, a communication regarding bonding for upcoming library expansion project.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Thank you Mr. Chairman, Members of the Council. I just wanted to briefly update the Council that, in the very near future, we will be asked to go to the bond market for our portion of the Library Expansion plan. Right now, myself and bond Counsel, Rapport-Meyer are reviewing some issues surrounding the Constitutionality of requiring the City of Poughkeepsie to actually go out and float the bond. The issue or concern that has been brought to our office is, in order to go to the bond market, this body has to furtively approve the bonding. We can't go to the bond market without a majority vote of this Council authorizing the bonding. While it went to a referendum, and the public supported the expansion, this is an independent body and makes an independent decision with regard to that issue. So we're reviewing the issue, that, in case the resolution to bond fails at this body, what our next step is, or what our legal liability is to go to the bond market. Obviously, things have changed slightly, with the recent announcement from Moody's, so we're taking that into careful consideration. We're looking at the constitutionality of requiring this municipality to go to the bond market. I just wanted to let you know that and that will be requested of this body shortly, and before that's resolved we will have obtained some information for you in regards to that.

Councilmember Solomon: Do I understand that we are not responsible for bonding the entirety of the library, but our amount?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's correct.

Councilmember Solomon: I remember when Mr. Lawrence was sitting here in front of me waiting for a new library. He said, the library patrons and the library will pay its own bond. What keeps the library from floating a bond? It is a municipal...

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: They are not authorized to bond. The way that they're incorporated in their structure as a library district, does not allow them to go to the market to bond.

Councilmember Solomon: I don't think that anyone here was aware that that amount of money was going to be added to our indebtedness. I was a little bit concerned about the new library to begin with, but I certainly am concerned about adding it to our indebtedness. These will be very expensive bonds with our new rating. Am I right?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's one of our concerns, correct, and the bonding for the library expansion was one issue that was raised with Moody's. So, it's something that the City is concerned about, and again, we really got to look back to how the formation of the library district occurred. We have to look back to that to see what our Constitutional obligation is to float the bond.

Councilmember Solomon: What a mess.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: It's an interesting legal topic that really has not been challenged, so we will...(inaudible)...counsel's assistance. Chris Shaw from Rapport-Meyers is very good at this stuff. We will have an answer when it heads to the Council. I just want you to know that it's going to be on your radar screen that this request to go to the market, because they're anticipating purchasing of the property, so maybe at your next Council meeting you'll see a request for the bond.

Councilmember Solomon: Have we alerted the library district to storms in the sky?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I don't know if that conversation was had with the library. I know we're trying to get our legal "ducks in a row" first.

Councilmember Rich: Yes, Paul, if we were to go to court to object on whatever Constitutional basis you believe, would we not have opposition, for example, from the Town of Poughkeepsie, from the library district itself? Maybe somebody else we have yet to think about.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: And that's our concern. The first step in going to the bond market is we cannot go without authorization of this body to go to the bond market to float these bonds. The concern raised is what happens if this body does not authorize it? This is an independent bonding, and they can make a determination on their own. Are we then setting ourselves up for a legal challenge from residents from the City? Residents from the Town of Poughkeepsie? The Town of Poughkeepsie itself? The library district itself? And what, ultimately, what will be the outcome? What's the Constitutional basis for them saying you need to approve this to go to the bond market. That's what we're assessing at this time.

Councilmember Rich: I have a follow-up. If we do go to court, will this be in-house with our own Corporation Counsel office, or will this be contracted out or will it be a private law firm?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: It will be done through my office in consultation with bond counsel.

Councilmember Rich: So it would be a cost outside of your office, the bond counsel?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Yes, bond counsel's budgeted - there will be some cost to bond counsel. That's what we're assessing us at this time.

Councilmember Johnson: Yes, I would like to ask Finance Commissioner to come forward please.

Chairman Mallory: Don't we have to suspend the rules?

Councilmember Johnson: No, he's an employee of the City. He's the Finance Commissioner. We've been downgraded to according to the Moody Report to a BAA from what?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: From A3 (AAA).

Councilmember Johnson: Can you explain to the listening public, what the difference between an A3 being downgraded to a AA?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: The A rating is the highest possible for the investment group. B is what we call the mid-level. Below the B is what everybody considers to be the "junk level."

Councilmember Johnson: How does that affect our borrowing...for things that the City would need in an emergency?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: What is considered a mid-level, would probably depend on the people that we go to. There will be an uptake on the interest rates.

Councilmember Johnson: So we would have a higher interest rate?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: Yes ma'am.

Councilmember Johnson: Also, I believe, since we went to the Sanitation Users Fee, we got approval or something from the Comptroller's office? Mr. Di Napoli? Mayor Tkazyik, he was in favor, or he did something, because we went to a user fee, he thought that by getting this additional revenue...

Mayor Tkazyik: The Comptroller's office, during their review as well as Moody's, when you speak to bond, Moody, the rating agencies, or auditing agencies look for ways in which the City can generate revenue. Even looking at an expense elimination was one proposal, or of course, with the User Fee proposal, it would be generating a new sense of revenue. They don't just look at operations, they also look at development opportunities. For instance, they were very much interested in the Dutton Lumber development and the rateables that that will bring to the tax rolls once fully developed and implemented. So, it's a variety of strategies and a variety of scenarios I have to submit to them – different plans of actions and recommendations of what the City steps would be, going forward. In relation to that, Commissioner...can speak...

Councilmember Johnson: So, they look favorably on that? We're looking to get revenues from the sanitation user...

Mayor Tkazyik: They're perceiving it as a new revenue stream.

Councilmember Johnson: OK.

Chairman Mallory: May I interrupt please? We were on number IX with Corporation Counsel talking about the bonding. Are we done with that?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I have nothing further to report.

Councilmember Johnson: No, because all of this is tying in to the fact that, with the downgrade of the BAA, did they consider the bonding for the library? Did taking that into consideration bring us down?

Mayor Tkazyik: Yes.

Councilmember Johnson: Also, how much are we looking to bond with this library expansion?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: It's a little over \$2 Million.

Councilmember Johnson: \$2 Million? OK, \$2Million for a library on Boardman Road in the Town.

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: Correct.

Councilmember Johnson: The only reason I'm bringing this up, is because I already know the answers, but for those (as the gentleman said) people that don't know in the audience and at home, this is so that they can have a better understanding of what we're talking about. The City is in bad shape. We can't afford this, and it's unfortunate that we're being put into a position that we really cannot afford. That's the point I wanted to make, so people understand the bond rating; where we were at an A3 (AAA), now we're being downgraded to a BAA; what does that mean, as far as the level being able to borrow? Now we're at a "junk" rate.

Mayor Tkazyik: We're not at "junk" bond, yet.

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: We're at a mid-level. It's mid-level, then the "junk" rate.

Mayor Tkazyik: One other thing. I know we talked about bonding. I pointed this out in the State of the City, but you talk about mandates and on funded concerns. The larger concern, even if you're on top of the library, is the future EPA regulations that will be coming down on the Joint Water Facility that we share with the Town. Estimates that Commissioner Alstadt has talked to the Board about, you're looking at anywhere between a \$16 - \$20 Million upgrade to meet standards in relation to what by-product disinfectants will have to be put into the water stream that will be required by the EPA. Now you can, of course, try to receive extensions, up until the point in which you fail.

But, plans of action do need to be submitted to these regulating agencies and it's something that myself, Councilmember Herman, Commissioner Bunyi as well as Engineer DuPilka is something that we're analyzing very thoroughly in relation to the needs of the plant and what will have to eventually be presented before the Common Council again and the Town Board. You tie that all on top of course, the BAA situation and as the Commissioner said, the risk potential going forward on top of the debt we already have on the books, that we already brought down over the past 5 years; coming in at \$82 Million, bringing down to \$27 Million is positive. It's steps in the right direction, but we still bear that additional burden that we still need to strive for.

Councilmember Johnson: OK, and I think it's important that the public know this – the whole picture, because it's a lot of things tied in together. It's not just cut and dried. It's a lot of gray areas.

Councilmember Perry: This question is for Corporation Counsel. When you said the bonding had to be agreed upon by 'this' body. Are you talking about the Council?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's correct.

Councilmember Perry: OK, so if that is the case, and if the vote from the Council is "No," what is the difference of that vote as opposed to any other vote that the Council would have?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: Because of the way the library district is created and structured, involves two municipalities, although independent, they cannot tax on their own or go to the bonding market on their own. So, you have a public referendum quoting the expansion of it in a positive. However, in order to go to the bonding market, the Common Council has to support that - going to the bond market to float that bond. We're preparing in-house with bond counsel in the unlikely (or likely) event that this body votes, "No." We can't go to the bond market if this Common Council votes, "No."

Councilmember Perry: Well, that would be my question. If we vote, "No," what would be the consequences?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's what we're looking into. What the Constitutionality of this is, and are we going to end up in court with an action of the library district saying we are Constitutionally mandated to go to the bond market because of the public referendum.

Councilmember Perry: So we are Constitutionally required to vote, "Yes," even though the answer is "No?"

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: That's what my office is looking into.

Councilmember Perry: I have a hard time understanding that Sir, because we are asked to vote on any matter that's brought here. Yet, if we vote, "No," and someone requires us

to vote, “Yes,” there’s a penalty or a suspected penalty...or a Constitutional penalty. Then we shouldn’t be voting on anything.

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: And that’s the legal question...why does this Board, if it’s an independent Board, and why do they even need to act upon this, but because we carry the debt, we need the support of this Council to go to the bond market. Are we, because it’s an independent body, therefore, Constitutionally required to go or not to go and that’s the question. We’re going to formulate an answer and give you an opinion on it.

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: Can I just make a comment? The bond market will not accept any bond application out there without the governing body approving it. That’s the first thing they ask for – a copy of the resolution that the Council approved for us to go to the bond market.

Councilmember Solomon: They don’t ask for the referendum?

Finance Commissioner Bunyi: They ask for the resolution.

Councilmember Solomon: Interesting.

Councilmember Rich: Yes, I’d like to speak with Paul and his two offices: City Administrator and Corporation Counsel. It is my understanding that the people of the City of Poughkeepsie voted, “Yes” and they voted “Yes” in all 8 Wards, and they voted “Yes” in the 2nd Ward by quite a large margin. So now, I’ve been told by my people that, yes, they want this addition. They are to assume that I would agree with them. If I vote “No,” I’d have to explain to them why I’m going against their wishes, and there’s your lawsuit because they voted “Yes” and they want this to be bonded – I assume they knew it would cost them money; I assume they did when they voted, “Yes.” If they want the library and are willing to pay the money, who am I to judge?

Councilmember Johnson: I believe once again, we have a lack of communication. Whenever the library puts a referendum on the ballot, everybody say, “Ooh, the library. I gotta vote for the library.” They didn’t understand the ramifications. They didn’t have a complete understanding of the finances of the City. They didn’t have this understanding just like before when they voted for the library, and it raised their taxes. They didn’t know they were voting to raise their taxes because nobody is out here getting the message out, like the gentleman said, letting the people know the predicament that they’re putting themselves in. Again, a lack of knowledge, a lack of communication. They really don’t understand what’s going on right now. When they had this referendum vote concerning our participation this library and bonding, they overwhelmingly voted, “Yes.” That puts this Council in a position where, if we vote, “No,” then we can make the City liable, not only to the library or the Town, but both of them together can sue us. Can we stand another lawsuit? Can we pay for another attorney? We’re getting ourselves deeper and deeper in the hole. We’ve already lost a whole bunch of lawsuits.

Councilmember Perry: What I find with the referendums is this; no one talks about them all year long. On the day of election, you see it in the back of the paper...so far. People see it and think they should vote for the library, because, "it's a wonderful thing to provide education for our people," so they vote, "Yes." No one talks about it. Just like the campaigns for candidates running for office; they should be told until the people understand clearly what it is they're voting for on Election Day. I think that's where the problem is. Lots of times people have asked me what they're voting for. Sometimes, I can't even explain it to them, because that's the first time I have knowledge of it myself.

Councilmember Solomon: I think everybody knows that a new building costs money. You don't have to explain that. I don't think they understand the ramifications to the City, which is a little complicated, and I certainly was not aware of it. I'm willing to pay the new library tax, but I don't want to injure the City with the new library. This is really a hard problem.

X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

Councilmember Johnson: I'm sorry that a few of our public participators have left. Always stay for unfinished and new business, because that's the only time the Council can speak on any agenda item. Other than that, we can only speak about the resolution or the Ordinance that's on the agenda. I would like to speak about the December 17th vote of the Budget. In the Mayor's October 15th State of the City's Preliminary Budget, he was eliminating the Sanitation Department – 13 Sanitation workers plus other workers; two mechanics and three Police Department Civilian workers for a total of 18 employees. So that meant that every person, every house, would have to go out and find their own private hauler to pick up their garbage. So you might have a different garbage truck every day of the week once or twice per week. How ever many, picking up garbage all over. The garbage men went out with petitions to try to save their jobs. They're Union workers. We're talking about private vs. union. Ten days later another proposal was made. This was the Waste Zero Plan. This company would make money in two ways: One way was selling us clear bags with the City's logo on it for \$3.00/bag until markup in the stores would have them priced at \$5.00/bag. \$5.00 for one bag of garbage...they would also make a percentage on these bags and their theory would be that the City would start recycling at 90%. The blue containers which we've been putting out all these years, and getting zero revenue for – somebody was getting that revenue; it wasn't the City. Their idea was that the City would get revenues for recycling and would also receive monies on the reduction of garbage that was being disposed of. Right now, we dispose of approximately 6,800 tons at \$79.00 per ton. So we'd pay \$79.00 per ton, while a private hauler would only pay \$71.00 per ton. There's an article I read about Ulster County which stated that as of February 1st, they're going to pay \$100 per ton...right across the river at the recovery center - the same place we were bringing our garbage. So, we may have to do that, because the new law is about "Flow Control." That means you can only keep your garbage in the County and can't send it somewhere else where you can get a cheaper tipping fee. We've already got a \$2 Million shortfall. Now, we're being put into another \$2 Million shortfall, because a former Mayor let the contract expire with the County for the sales tax. The City used to get 7.9% of all the sales tax in the whole County. There are villages and towns and two cities in the county:

Poughkeepsie and Beacon. In order for the County Executive to close the \$4 Million gap, he laid off about 130 County employees, and he decided to put a cap on the sales tax – a \$25 Million cap that meant we got less money from the sales tax. He decided this in August; the books were already going out (for the Budget). We had to stop the books from being printed because we now had an additional \$2 Million loss which increased our loss to \$4 Million, putting us in this predicament. The 3rd option was to raise taxes to 16.4%. I work for H & R Block. I have a house. Under Schedule A – Property Tax, you can only deduct a percentage of it from your taxes. The 16.4% tax increase would only have been good for one year (like a “Band-Aid” to stop the bleeding) and the following year we’d be faced with the same problem and would be raising the taxes again, 13% – 17 or 18% and so on and so forth. The Mayor has kept the tax cap down for the last 5 years, and it resulted in 400 vacant and abandoned properties that are draining the City. We also have an arsonist who is going around trying to burn down these vacant and abandoned properties. The Council tried to come up with a 4th option. The Sanitation User Fee was that option, which was based on a successful program being used by Schenectady and Newburgh. We didn’t reinvent the wheel. It keeps our Sanitation men. Because we had to start somewhere, we had to figure out all the Sanitation expenses through analysis in order to operate the Sanitation Department. Remember, we weren’t receiving money from recyclables. In order for that plan to work, you have to start recycling. So that means that the City should start a recycling campaign so we can start getting money. If you ask the Vice President of the Union, we’re now doing that. We’re sending our recyclables to Beacon. We need to get the City to start recycling. The City doesn’t know that we can recycle in a single stream, which is to put all kinds of recyclables together. Remember, we did this in the last meeting on December 17th when we had the Local Law, just to give you that option. You could go with option #1 – private haulers. However, once you go private and we no longer have the sanitation trucks or workers, they can charge you anything they want; they got you for the duration, for life. The Sanitation User Fee can be adjusted every year. The more you recycle, the less tonnage you throw away – 6,800 tons can be reduced to 5,400 tons. If you get a lower tipping fee, the same as across the river the user fees go down for the homeowner. When someone wants to opt out, you need to realize that we’re all in this together. We’re going to fail as a City and when it goes bankrupt, we have nothing. We didn’t put ourselves in this predicament. The County decided to put a cap on the sales tax, that’s what killed us. So, when people don’t know what’s going on, now...the vote was December 17th – I ended as Chair [of the Council] on that day. I don’t have an office at City Hall, nobody here does. This is a part time position which pays \$9,000 per year – times 365 days per year. We asked for a room to meet with our constituents in and the Mayor vetoed it. He didn’t feel that we needed to have a room because we were part time. So, it’s not up to me. I sent emails suggesting it. You need to get this message out. Let people know what happened, what are their options and educate them. Also, bring in the guy from Schenectady, bring in the guy from Newburgh to help educate the people. Put an ad in the paper, let them know about it. My mother lives in New Orleans and she owns a double wide, but lives in both sides. She pays for garbage pickup for a third house too. Each house costs her \$24.00 each. And she’s living on a fixed income. Cities have to try new things because there isn’t any money. The Commissioner can tell you – you have medical, pensions, etc. and these costs are rising and the City doesn’t even know how they’re going to pay these bills. Nobody comes to the meetings. Look at the

empty chairs. Where's the media? They're never here. But in Sunday's paper they finally explained how the County shorted us out of the sales tax...the \$2 Million.

Councilmember Herman: I've been flagging a lot of calls about the garbage. A lot of people have two or three family houses throughout the City and they're just...they don't mind paying the fee, but triple of what the single family pays they feel is unfair. I was under the impression that when the first bill went out, it would be for the first month with information on what to expect three months down the road. I don't know if they can put something on the website; how it's going to continue. Councilwoman Johnson is working on recyclables and all that.

Councilmember Johnson: I wasn't appointed to the committee.

Mayor Tkazyik: The Committee has not been established yet. We're working on that.

Councilmember Herman: You said that earlier.

Chairman Mallory: Can you answer Councilmember Herman's question about putting some information on the website?

Corporation Counsel Ackermann: I believe there is some information on there, but I'll make sure that it's on there, front and center.

Councilmember Rich: Yes, just to follow-up on what Councilman Herman just said. I got a call from a constituent, furious. He lives in a single family home. He pays \$25.00 and they guy across the street has three apartments and he's only paying \$25.00 That is incorrect. He was furious that it was equal for both properties although it was just him and that across the street it was three and that it was unfair. Yet, we get demands out there that we make it equal. What is fairness? I guess it's in the eye of the beholder.

Councilmember Johnson: The \$25.50 fee is for one house. It's like buying pants: If you buy one pair of pants, it's \$10.00, if you buy 2 pairs, it's \$20.00, you buy 3, you're paying \$30.00. So forth and so on. You have a two family, you're receiving income from the second family. It's the same with the other municipalities. Again, it's only an option, but if you go private, I guarantee you'll be paying more. I spoke to a lady at the School Board meeting. She told me she pays \$64.00 every two months for once per week pick up. Now, I just want to say that these other people have been in the sanitation business for decades – we're just starting. Since Sanitation can never make a profit, so if we start getting revenues from recycling and lowering the tipping fees, the sanitation fee comes down, but you have to start somewhere, since you didn't have anything coming in before. In addition to Governor Andrew Cuomo, we have two new government officials, Mr. Gibson and Mr. Skartados – I say lobby, call them up, tell them, "We need five new garbage trucks."

XI. NEW BUSINESS:

Official Minutes of the Common Council Meeting of February 4, 2013

Councilmember Perry: This is for our Mayor. I just want to say, “Thank you for sending your Mayoral certification to the event at the Grand Hotel on Saturday for honoring myself and all the other honorees for the Poughkeepsie Neighborhood Club.” Thank you very much, sir.

XII. ADJOURNMENT:

A motion was made by **Chairman Mallory** and **Councilmember Solomon** seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Dated: April 24, 2013

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, February 4, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

City Chamberlain



COMMON COUNCIL MEETING

Common Council Chambers

Monday, February 4, 2013

6:30 p.m.

*6:15 p.m. Public Hearing regarding
Amendments to the Waterfront Advisory Committee*

I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:

ROLL CALL

III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Common Council Meeting of May 7, 2012

Public Hearing of October 1, 2012

Common Council Minutes of October 1, 2012

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

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

VI. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:

VII. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:

VIII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:

- 1. FROM MAYOR TKAZYIK, Resolution R13-19, extending the Acting City Administrator status.**

IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:

X. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:

- 4. FROM STEVE MAJETTE**, a notice of property damage sustained on October 19, 2012.
- 5. FROM MICHAEL REED**, a notice of intent to renew Noah's Ark liquor License.
- 6. FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN**, a communication regarding bonding for upcoming library expansion project.

XIII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

XIV. NEW BUSINESS:

XV. ADJOURNMENT: