



**THE CITY OF POUGHKEEPSIE  
NEW YORK**

**COMMON COUNCIL MEETING  
MINUTES**

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**Monday, October 21, 2013 6:30 p.m.** **City Hall**  
*5:45 p.m. Presentation by John Wolham from ORPTS  
in regard to the Basic STAR Re-registration*

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**I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

**ROLL CALL – All Present**

**II. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Common Council Meeting of August 26, 2013**

CCM 8-26-13			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 checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember Solomon	Voter	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Councilmember 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.**

**REMOVE**

**VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

- 1. FROM CHAIRMAN MALLORY,** Resolution R13-78, approving four Council appointments to the Industrial Development Agency (IDA).

2. **FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN**, Resolution R13-79, approving the exemption pursuant to Sanitation Code.

**VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

1. **FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN**, Ordinance O-13-16 amending the Sanitation Code to provide for user fee on the tax bill.

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

**Sheila Drew – 66 Washington Street** - Addressed the bus situation. Is opposed to the County (Loop) Bus taking over the City Bus System and feels it should be the other way around with the City taking over the failing Loop Bus System.

**Ken Stickle – 118 Catharine Street** – When the rezoning takes place on Parker Avenue, and the boutiques and chic shops, etc. coming in the junkyard on the corner of Bridge and Main Street. Also, the Sculpture Park looks worse than the junkyard and it's a health hazard. Kids go in and climb on it...it's rusty, has sharp edges, tall grass and poison ivy is growing through this hideous sculpture and you want to put galleries on Parker Avenue even though it failed on Main Street. The Mayor's not here to take the heat from anybody.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Where is the Mayor?

**Mr. Stickle:** This is the same situation we had when the church wanted to buy the parking lot on Cannon Street. I'd like to know why the Mayor is not at the Council Meeting(s). He is no different than any Councilperson. Don't tell me you have a previous engagement. He is the Acting Chief of the City of Poughkeepsie and should be at every one of these Council meetings. I think if he can't make it, (everybody complained about Mike Long not being on call) we should start deducting money from his pay...his \$25,000 pay. Thank you very much. That'll take care of the budget problem.

**Rich Ciferri – 26 Lexington Avenue** – Supports the resolution for the Sanitation Code. Read from a statement. Asked for options for garbage collection. Lives in a three-family dwelling but uses it as a single-family dwelling. Stated they have one functioning kitchen and use no part of the house for rental income. We put one can out per week but are charged a user fee for a three-family house. He has written letters, spoke to his Councilperson, to the Building Department and invited the City in to verify. I would think this Council would see the value of us being a one family, owner-occupied dwelling within the City limits. Unfair, inflated fees make an already struggling city unappealing to not only current

homeowners, but also prospective new residents. I ask this Council to seek resolutions that are fair to the taxpayers, homeowners and residents that live in this community. Thank you.

**Earl Brown – 5 Merrick Road** – I'm here to address the City about the issue with the buses. I've lived here about 20 years. I see it's falling apart – we're losing services. The City Buses are so critical to myself, the disabled... what are they going to do without the City Bus? There's no way the Loop buses are going to make all these stops at these different locations – senior homes, Smith Street. It's not going to happen. The money that supposedly can be saved... that's up in the air. Who knows about that? You can do a study and prove anything that you want to prove. I ride the buses frequently and they're very beneficial to me and to those who are disabled to go to doctor appointments or shopping. The bus drivers are very helpful. Loop is not going to do that. You can think you'll save money with this thing, but you're going to hurt a lot of people.

**Dawn Rabidou – 230 South Grand Avenue** - Has lived in the City since 1995 and has been riding the buses since then. She is disabled and not able drive, and must rely upon the bus system to get to work, school, etc. Since work hours were changed, she is forced to use the Loop bus. Out of the 5 weeks she's been using the Loop bus she stated that it is not reliable less than 50% of the time and she does not get to her destinations on time. The City bus is always reliable and she always arrives on time. She praised the drivers who are considerate of the passengers and always look for safe places to let them off, especially when snow is piled up on the sidewalk. They know the passengers by name, address, etc. She's against merging the two bus systems and feels that it's a big mistake. She heard that they're privately contracted. The buses belong to the County, but the drivers do not. If the drivers ever went on strike, people like her would have no way to get to where they need to go. Merging the two systems would be the worst decision you could ever make.

**Doreen LaGuardia – 7 Knightsbridge Road** – Is in agreement with everything that has been said concerning the buses and believes it's crucial for the City to keep their bus system the way it is. If it's a question of revenue... although rates were increased last year, she feels that the people using the bus system would rather pay another price increase rather than lose the City buses altogether. Suggested to look for other ways to cut corners.

**John Maravella – 139 Hooker Avenue** – Money should not be an issue. Believes the City Government is here to serve the residents in any and all ways. Has to take the Loop bus to the Castle Point V. A. and there are horror stories that he will not mention. You try to speak to a supervisor and someone laughs at you and then hangs up on you. With the City there are options. You can contact a supervisor or your councilperson Does not want the merge to take place with the County and City bus systems. They (Loop) have allegedly struck in the past. Lives with his 85 year old mother. It wouldn't be just an inconvenience, it would

be a catastrophe. Never saw the Mayor ride the bus. Maybe he should, so he could see the difference between the two systems. The City bus goes above and beyond for its passengers. The Loop does not. They're only interested in the bottom line. The City is here to serve the residents. I hope I made my point.

**Chairman Mallory:** Yes, you did. Thank you.

**Bruce Dooris – 41 Wilson Blvd.** – There've been some great speakers here and I agree with everything they say about the buses. Obviously, I'm here to talk about buses. I have facts to back what the others have said. On August 30, 2013 an article in the Mid-Hudson News stated, "Dutchess Comptroller Calls for the Elimination of Mass Transit...(inaudible) Subsidies." In a memo to County leaders, Coughlan said that chief among his recommendations was that the County should eliminate mass transit and eliminate airport subsidies for the operations. There is a request for a new transit manager starting next year. It is essential that this new contract stands for a more equitable standing for the County. The Comptroller also said, "Mass transit must review through routing and frequency through budget needs." What they're saying back here is the County doesn't care about...they only care about the bottom line. Like John said, "It shouldn't be about money, it should be about service." Had the Dutchess County Expansion Feasible Study with him. The Executive Summary provided was erroneous in that they say the City has 11 full-time drivers. There are only 6 bus drivers, one bus dispatcher and one mechanic. That's 8. We have 2 part-timers as a result of negotiating with the City for help with more personal service. So, we help the City in controlling expenses. The County says the City's average cost for the City bus is \$4.54 per passenger; the County's average cost per passenger is \$9.41 – twice as much! So, whose bus system is the best? It's the City! They talk about redundancies. We go to the Galleria, we service the South Hills Mall – we drop them off at the door. The studies say that their buses drop the passengers off on Route 9, and Route 44 and don't provide internal access to the plazas for the stores. People have to get to the store on their own. Then with packages, kids, disabilities...that's another problem. The Loop says it does not provide fixed route services in the northern parts of the city because they don't think it's profitable for them. Loop does not go to Vassar Medical Center, nor does it support student transportation to the Poughkeepsie School District.

**Chairman Mallory:** Excuse me, could you wrap it up?

**Mr. Dooris:** I'll wrap it up here. In conclusion, the most important thing is cost. The cost estimates are predicted on the transfer of needed equipment from the City, at no cost to the County. At a minimum, Dutchess County Loop would require the transfer for 6 heavy duty buses, a service support vehicle, a compatible fare box radio equipment to implement the new service without this transfer. The County would be able to expand its services at no additional cost, let alone realize the positive financial return. That would cost the City (just in equipment, and

underestimated) \$229,317. To transfer some of the garage may cost another \$450,000. In conclusion...

**Chairman Mallory:** Mr. Dooris...Mr. Dooris...

**Mr. Dooris:** just one more thing. This has to do with the Council. This will only take one minute. The findings from this study will be forwarded to the County and City for review and consideration. Needless to say, any expansion of Loop Service in this City will require close coordination among responsible entities, including FTA, NYS Department of Transportation and implementation will ultimately rest with the responsible Executive Legislative Body of the County and City. So...

**Chairman Mallory:** Mr. Dooris. I would just like to remind everyone that there is a three minute time limit. You need to give time for other people to speak as well. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Dooris:** I'm sorry to go over, but this is a very important issue.

**Barbara Thestrup – 66 Washington Street** – Thinks the City buses should be kept because they run better, drivers are very friendly, courteous; they help their passengers and go places where the Loop bus won't. I need them to go to the doctor, Galleria and other places where the Loop won't go.

**Pete Collins – 457 Maple Street (Maplewood Apts.)** – The City bus system is good. They come every two hours to the Maplewood Estates. I would rather pay for an increase in fares instead of it being eliminated. I like the drivers and the schedule, and most of all, I like the price. Thank you.

**William A. Ball, Jr. – 457 Maple Street – (Maplewood Apts.)** – The Loop bus does not do what the City bus does. The drivers are respectful and treat you good. I don't see any changes. We should just keep the City buses. Thank you.

**Colleen Tothe – 61 South Hamilton Street** – I have issues with my feet and need the buses. I just hope you keep the City buses. Thank you.

**Eusona Tyler – 24-26 Academy Street** – I have access to all the buses. I take them all. I don't drive, so I need to use the buses. Loop doesn't go to the places I need to go. The City does. The City bus comes on time – I can depend on it for any reason. If there's a problem with a City bus, the bus breaks down, the drivers will let you know if they see you standing there...he won't let you stand there. They'll tell you to get on the bus – he's not running today. The Loop bus never lets anybody know when there is a problem. They leave you stranded. I don't pay my money to be stranded. If the Loop pulls a strike, what recourse do I have? I pay good money for those buses. I was a homeowner and paid for school taxes, City taxes – all taxes. I have a son who takes that special bus. I don't have to

worry, he's safe; they pick him up and bring him to his school. When he gets out, the bus is waiting there for him. What am I going to do about him? They're not going to do what the City does. They can't make their appointments now...if you combine them, how are they going to make that timetable? I don't have to wait an hour for City buses. I've waited for the Loop for 2 hours. Very inconvenient. Two systems you have. They're not going to do that to you. You have other choices. One system, no choices; no recompense, you have nothing. Not a good idea. You just said "The Pledge," – liberty and justice. You're taking our liberty and you're giving us no justice. Thank you.

**Janet Yorke – 107 Fulton Avenue** – Moved back and forth from Poughkeepsie to the city over the years. Moved back to Poughkeepsie so her daughter could attend Poughkeepsie schools, not city schools. Her daughter went to schools and college here and now has children of her own. Children and parents alike depend on the City buses to bring them back and forth to school. Worked for the State and the County bus system had a strike during that time. It was hard to get to work. How will they get to school now?

**Helen Douglas – 66 Washington Street (Interfaith Towers)** – Most of the things that I'd planned on saying have already been said. I live in a senior apartment. I can walk, but there are a lot of people there that can't walk. They need the City bus system to take them to their doctor appointments, shopping and be able to get the (shopping) bags to the building without carrying them far. This is a big issue for the elderly and disabled to be able to access transportation and don't have money to take cabs. So, it's important to them to have buses come up to the building and give them that service.

**Donald Decker – 51 Delafield Street** – The City buses should not be eliminated for the sake of senior citizens. The Loop bus will not pick up senior citizens where they live; they'll have to walk blocks to the corner bus stop. Some of these people are disabled and have wheelchairs, walkers and canes. Raise fares by \$.25 or \$.50 if you have to but keep the City Bus System.

**Ruby Slater – 66 Washington Street** – Spoke on behalf of the City buses. They are convenient for her. She depends on them for going to doctor's appointments, stores, The Galleria Mall, etc. Keep the City buses.

**Constantine Kazolias – 47 Noxon Street** – Prefaced his remarks by stating that he doesn't like people ripping down his sign with a truck and chain on the east-west arterial highway. He used to take the bus when he was younger and wants to keep the City uses. Down in the city, if you miss the subway, you know there's another one coming. Here, if you miss the Loop bus, you never know when another one is coming. Read from his statement. I got to ask you one thing, being you're Chairman – Kingston got \$300,000 for DEC for sanitation. What is that here in the City? I hear you're involved and if it's true or not, please give me a disclaimer

**Wilson Jean-Baptiste – 34 Lindbergh Place** – Owns property at 264 Main Street. He was told he owes \$3,000 for 2007 tax year. Stated he forgot to pay it, and the property was sold in 2010 for \$3,600. He claimed that 2008, 2009 and 2010 taxes were paid. He went to the City to try and redeem the property, but was told he couldn't redeem it. No one wants to help him. He held up papers, claiming they were all his paid tax receipts for the subsequent years [from 2007] and said it was impossible to be able to sell the property because his taxes were paid with the exception of 2007. He paid a lawyer \$4,000 but he didn't call him back. Wants to know how this could happen when he paid taxes from 2008-2009 and 2009-2010. Alleges that the property is worth \$350,000 but it was sold for \$3,000 – has totals of those who owe \$20,000 but their properties were not taken and sold.

**William Smith – 42 Columbia Street** – Stated that he wished everyone had come out for the Sanitation meeting the way they came out for the buses. Read from his statement.

**Darrett Roberts – 148 Franklin Street** – Brought up two things. First, the 40% of the people who are not paying their sanitation bills; they should include them all in the same tax so they can all pay their fair share. Second, except for Ms. Solomon, we're all going to get old one day. We should think about when we get old and need to ride the buses. People need these buses. Try to get money from the State to help fund the buses.

**Chris Petsas – 36 Talmadge Street** – The City has made many bad decisions over the years. Selling off or merging our bus system is simply a bad decision and is one that can't happen. We have been seeing too much of the City being sold off; whether it be our boat dock, ice house and our access to the park down at the Waterfront. Only those who make the deals are the ones who benefit from them, not the City residents. These are tough economic times, but you have to look out for the residents of the City and not worry about the dollars, etc. – not that it happens a lot but you need to look at what's in the best interests of the residents. It is critical for the residents of the City to keep the City buses. He feels that they are having the wrong conversation. The first question should be about how we can make the bus system more profitable for the City before we talk about this. A citizen's committee should be formed by the people in the audience who are passionate about the bus system. They should meet with Councilmembers and try to come up with ideas of how we can help improve and promote our bus system before we talk about selling our bus system. Thank you.

**Annette Hubbard – 120 Hudson Avenue** – Uses the North side bus. It's the only bus she sees. She can't afford a cab every day. She can't walk to Main and Market to catch a bus because she has bad knees. She has 4 children that will have to walk from Smith Street to the High School or the Middle School. Doesn't think it's fair. If the buses are taken away, they won't have anything. The drivers

know us and our children by name. It would be a big mistake to let the buses go to the County.

**Frank Clarke – 50 Rinaldi Blvd.** – Thank you Chairman and all the Councilmembers; thank you, Administration (minus the Mayor). A resident at a previous meeting stated too many times a local government hires outsiders to be consultants at very substantial costs. I wonder if the consultants included any bus riders or any City bus drivers. Is asking the Administration to hold off on the mergers so that a committee of 6 people can put their heads together to possibly come up with ways to save our City Transit System. It should consist of 2 frequent City bus riders, 1 City bus driver, 2 Councilmembers and the City Administrator. He moved to the City in 1960. He either walked around town or took the bus since then. There's no better system than the City of Poughkeepsie Bus System. The drivers are great. It's unfortunate, after 8 years of having a Republican controlled administration who has mismanaged our money, we are forced with the possibility of losing our bus system and are faced with the possibility of the sanitation fee being doubled. This administration has failed horribly in doing their job, by not instituting an educational program to show people the importance of recycling. Everyone knows if we recycle as much as we can, the sanitation fee will eventually go down. Thank you.

**William Dykus – 96 South Hamilton Street** – Has been a resident since 1956 and is proud of the City. Has negativity for the Mayor...is very disappointed. He is missing too many meetings. There's no way the buses should go to the County. Is sick of the County dictating to us. Also feels positive too. Is proud of his fellow citizens tonight. This is what Poughkeepsie is really about...Poughkeepsie people sticking together and speaking up about how they feel with issues. They try hard to do the right thing. Do not go along with the Loop. Thank you.

**Denise Jackson – 73 Garden Street** – Moved to the City in 1981, moved back to her hometown...then moved back to the City again. She doesn't own a car and doesn't want to rely on others to transport her around. Like so many others have stated, she also has had issues with the Loop bus. She won't be able to get to her job and that would be true for a lot of other people. This bothers her because it's going to create a financial problem for her. She wants to be able to keep her job. Hopes the City buses are kept because they are very reliable and she doesn't have a problem with them. She wants to keep her job as well.

**Jacqueline Marone – 20 Fountain Place** – Nothing is being done for the good of the City residents. There never is. All they want to do is double the money on something, double the fee, take the service...one thing after the other away from us. I was shocked with the news about this bus business. I went to High School on the bus from down at the Waterfront (at that time) to North Hamilton Street. I was unable to walk there even as a young person – I can't walk at all, now but what would I have done without the bus? Her father worked all day and her mother didn't drive. It's ridiculous to do away with the bus system. Also is

concerned about the user's fee for garbage. She currently lives in a two-family residence all by herself. The other tenant(s) moved out. They never put out garbage. They either ate out all the time or they didn't eat. I put out a small container of garbage each week and my landlord has to pay the fee for a two family dwelling. This City is making so many wrong decisions and they keep coming up with ideas (we know who, but I'm not going to mention names) which are fanatically stupid ideas. This is chasing those out of the City and I know several people who are making plans to go and know others who purposely stay out of the City. It never improves; it practically gets worse by the day. The bus system could be handled, taken care of. You're getting enough out of the residents to not even require a user's fee. Our garbage should be picked up with taxes. We pay enough of them. We thought we had this garbage thing all settled. Now, here we are all over again with it. It's one thing after the other and normal people and poor people can't afford to live. That's why the population has gone down from when I was a kid to now. Somebody's got to come up with something good pretty soon. Thanks for listening. Please think about what all the residents said, because we're all the residents. We make this City.

**V. MAYOR'S COMMENTS:**

**Absent**

**VI. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS AND PRESENTATIONS:**

**Chairman Mallory:** I want to reassure you – every one, that we've heard you loud and clear. Prior to your comments today about the bus system, there are Council members that I have spoken to. We are looking into the situation and we do have our reservations and concerns. You've brought some other things to light, such as an advisory committee as well as other options we could possibly look at, but I want to assure you all that all 8 of us sitting up here realize the value and particularly those that are utilizing the system for me representing the North side, understand the value in itself. So, we are going to continue talking and this will be a continuous conversation as we reach and go into the budget. Another topic mentioned beforehand is the sanitation user fee. This Council will also bring before the budget. There are some concerns that were presented in the proposal and I'm very sure the Council members will be bringing that up, to address that situation on those proposals. I want to thank you all very much for your lengthy participation, conversation and please, don't hesitate to come again with different people who are sharing the same voices about these particular two main topics. Thank you very much. As there are no Motions and Resolutions, I'd like to go out of order and ask that we skip ahead to Item IX. (Presentation of Petitions and Communications) and ask that Items 2, 3 and 4 be referred to Corporation Counsel.

**VII. MOTIONS AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**VIII. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

**IX. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**1. FROM COMMISSIONER OF FINANCE BRADY, August and September 2013 Financials.**

**Commissioner of Finance Brady:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman, Members of the Common Council. Unless there's an objection, I'm going to deal with the September Report because August's numbers are included in the September figures unless you have a specific question about August.

**Chairman Mallory:** Does the Council mind if we go back to September first?

**Councilmember Boyd:** I just have one question. How come August and September are combined?

**Commissioner Brady:** We typically talk about Year-to-Date (YTD) numbers, so we're talking about September YTD which would include the figures on the August Report. If you had a question about the August Report, I'd be happy to answer that for you. Starting with the General Fund – there was some confusion about the column headings the last time we gave a presentation. I think it was the July figures. Councilmembers seem to want to see the actual numbers. Column #6 where it's headed, "Year-to-Date Transactions," "Actual Transactions" is the figures that appear in the financial records...financial system of the Town. Under Revenue - Property Tax Item is the \$17,721,000 property tax that is billed to the taxpayers in the City. Column #9 shows Projected YTD Transactions for the 9 months ending September 30, 2013. We've taken 75% of that property tax line, arriving at \$13, 290,000 to allocate 9 months with the property tax collections to 9 months of the year. The actual property tax collection for the 9 month period of the \$17,721,000 that was billed is \$16,365,940.94 all of the highlighted items, numbers printed in bold are numbers that have been projected taking the annual revenue where we know what that number is. Many of them are back-loaded. They're December 31<sup>st</sup> transactions or late December revenue items in many cases. The Sales Tax number actual is \$5,721,576. That's the amount that's actually been collected in Sales Tax Revenue, YTD September 30th. As you know, we've reached an agreement with the Dutchess County Executive and Legislature that provides the City with \$9,566,000 for the year 2013. Three-quarters of that number is \$7,162,500. Next, is the Sale of Real Property. We had a boost in the month of September, when we sold 7 properties valued at \$1.8

million. We felt that gave the City a one-time revenue shot for the year, which we've allocated again, using the same rationale – 75% of it to the first 9 months of the year. Many items at the bottom of the Revenue column are year-end items that show no actual transaction for the period of September, yet they're an annual number that applies to the year 2013. In order to get a more accurate picture we try to allocate 75% of those numbers as revenue to give a clearer picture.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I have a question. The Real Property Taxes from actual – January to September was \$17 million. Is that what we...

**Commissioner Brady:** That's the amount of revenue.

**Councilmember Boyd:** That we billed.

**Commissioner Brady:** Revenue is booked when it's billed.

**Councilmember Boyd:** OK. So, that's the amount that we collected; we billed that amount?

**Commissioner Brady:** We collected \$16 million.

**Councilmember Boyd:** Where is that figure?

**Commissioner Brady:** It's not on here. The \$13 million is an allocation because it's annual revenue. We tried to portray that 75% of that revenue was actually earned from January 1 to September 30.

**Councilmember Boyd:** So the \$13 million is a projection?

**Commissioner Brady:** Yes. It's 75% of the 17...

**Councilmember Boyd:** And where's the \$16 million that was actually collected for taxes?

**Commissioner Brady:** It doesn't appear on this report.

**Councilmember Boyd:** Why not?

**Commissioner Brady:** It would appear as a balance sheet item. When the revenue is booked, it becomes a receivable. This is an operating statement. The amount that would still be in receivables would be a balance sheet item and it's not showing in this chart, in this presentation.

**Councilmember Johnson:** I think it would probably be useful if you did provide us with a balance sheet so we can see the actual money instead of projections.

**Commissioner Brady:** We could do that.

**Councilmember Johnson:** A lot of the Council people would like to see actual figures, not just projected or billed amounts. We should have a balance sheet to know exactly what we're really dealing with.

**Commissioner Brady:** I have that information for you. The amount that's been collected (now the City tax has been collected) is \$16,365,940.94.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Is the actual cash received...

**Commissioner Brady:** That's the actual property tax money received through September 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Mr. Brady, see that that \$16 million sum is on the third page of our Budget Organization Report. There we see how much property taxes were paid over the course of different months.

**Commissioner Brady:** OK. I didn't know you had that sheet.

**Councilmember Solomon:** February and March we did good business.

**Commissioner Brady:** Well, the bills go out in the first installment is due on February 28<sup>th</sup> and many of the escrow companies make a full payment of the property taxes for the accounts that they hold at that time. That's what makes that number so large.

**Councilmember Solomon:** It's very encouraging. The County figure shows we have collected \$5 million...correct me if I'm wrong. That money is paid to us and we give it to the County?

**Commissioner Brady:** It's County tax that's a portion to the City taxpayers, yes.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Do we collect it for them?

**Commissioner Brady:** We do, yes.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Do we collect the City School Taxes?

**Commissioner Brady:** The School District collects their own taxes.

**Councilmember Solomon:** And, the Library Tax?

**Commissioner Brady:** We collect the Library Tax as well.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Do we charge anybody for doing this?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** It's by law.

**Councilmember Solomon:** By law...that's unfortunate. I think we're doing a lot of work for free. What is going to happen with that \$1.4 million property tax that has not been collected so far? Do you expect that to come in or is that going to be "dead?"

**Commissioner Brady:** I would guess at this point, \$500,000 to \$600,000 would not be collected.

**Councilmember Solomon:** So that's a very good percentage, isn't it? People do pay their property taxes?

**Commissioner Brady:** By and large, yes.

**Councilmember Solomon:** So, if we put it on our property taxes we'd probably collect as much money as we need?

**Commissioner Brady:** We would probably do a better job of collecting, yes.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Well, I somehow feel that that's a better plan than doubling the price of the garbage tax, because the people who pay and for the people who don't pay, get off with a lien. We will discuss this more in budget meetings.

**Chairman Mallory:** Yes, we will. Would you like to add anything else?

**Commissioner Brady:** The expense lines. The only bolded number there is Personal Services for the Health Insurance Buyouts that happens at the end of the year when those payments are made. So, the Personal Services line has been increased a little bit for that.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I have a question regarding that. If you're inflating that figure, why are you inflating this budget of...this budget in part only goes 'til September.

**Commissioner Brady:** It's the same logic for allocating the revenues equally throughout the year.

**Councilmember Boyd:** But why don't you allocate that for the next quarter? And inflate...

**Commissioner Brady:** It's an arguable point. We try to take the one time revenues or the revenues and expenses that don't flow evenly throughout the year. There's nothing that flows perfectly evenly throughout the year. But, to get a

better projection as to where we really are, we felt it was equitable to take those one time shots and allocate it based on a percentage of the year that was used up, as you will.

**Councilmember Boyd:** So is that number 70%?

**Commissioner Brady:** 70% of the health insurance buyout.

**Councilmember Boyd:** It shows 70 here in line 8.

**Commissioner Brady:** That's because it's only three-quarters of the percentage. It's only three-quarters the amount of the buyout. The buyout is approximately \$95,000 to \$96,000 and three-quarters of that is about \$72,000.

**Councilmember Boyd:** You have already taken 70% of that? Is that what line 8 means?

**Commissioner Brady:** Again, it's a projected amount, a projected figure.

**Councilmember Boyd:** OK, thank you.

**Commissioner Brady:** None of the other items have been adjusted. They are as shown in the financial records. So, under the actual concept under column #6, if you will...shows a deficit at the end of September of \$1,824,000 by allocating the expenses we show a surplus of \$392,000. I think throughout the year, the surplus or the deficit fluctuates between a surplus and a deficit depending on the month.

**Councilmember Rich:** Asked about the numbers under Grand Totals for Revenue Totals vs. Expense Totals. The summary shows a negative (\$415,589.00) and next to it we have a "412." Can you explain what those numbers are?

**Commissioner Brady:** That's the report that appeared in your packet. We revised that report – I thought the Councilmembers had a revised copy.

**Councilmember Boyd:** When did you revise it?

**Commissioner Brady:** I believe the next day after the meeting.

**Chairman Mallory:** We received an email.

**Councilmember Rich:** OK. Can you tell us, just in general, if you think Revenues and Expenditures up to this point in time for the 2013 Budget look like we're going to have a deficit again in our General Fund or a surplus or are we going to break even?

**Commissioner Brady:** My best guess as to right now, where we are is in the revised sheet that went out. It's too early to tell, but our goal is to have a small surplus at the end of the year. We've got a lot of revenues coming in December; primarily State Aid money that helps us achieve that goal. Our sales tax is loaded more to the end of the year. Our revenues are loaded more to the end of the year than they are at the beginning of the year. We've taken measures to try to curb the expenditures here at City Hall.

**Councilmember Rich:** We just heard from our auditors (Sedore & Co.) and they said the 2012 Budget they reported on, there was a negative -\$2.4 million but you feel it's going to be substantially better...

**Commissioner Brady:** I feel it's going to be close – revenues and expenses should be much closer.

**Councilmember Rich:** That's better than the deficits over the last 6 or 7 years.

**Commissioner Brady:** Yes.

**Councilmember Johnson:** And, to what do you attribute that to?

**Commissioner Brady:** Cost saving measures. I believe we have realized more revenues in 2013, than in 2012, but it's a bit early to make that projection.

**Councilmember Rich:** It looks like we're going in a better direction going into 2014 than we were in previous years.

**Commissioner Brady:** I feel confident in saying that we're headed in the right direction.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The biggest thing we encountered so far this year is that we had that extra \$1.8 million of revenue that we generated from the auctions that was not budgeted for. If you take the logic of the 2012 deficit which was \$2.4 million and add back the \$1.8 million, we are now only dealing with \$600,000. We feel the biggest infusion we got in 2013 was the \$1.8 million that we received in the auction.

**Councilmember Rich:** Can you do that? Because the 2012 has been totally audited? And, this \$1.8 million we got from selling property is 2013.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** No, you asked us why we think it's going to be better. If you go back to the audit that says we were short \$2.4 million – everything being even, if you have an infusion of \$1.8 million in revenue unaccounted for in the budget, \$2.4 minus \$1.8, we're already \$600,000 closer in making the revenue and expenses come closer together.

**Councilmember Rich:** So the 2013 is looking better because of this \$1.8 million?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** You asked us why we could say that. We feel confident that that \$1.8 million is definitely a help.

**Councilmember Rich:** In 2013?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** Correct.

**Councilmember Rich:** So that's why we're looking so good Mr. Brady?

**Commissioner Brady:** I think that's a large reason why we're looking so good at this point.

**Councilmember Rich:** So, we have to be careful. That doesn't mean we're going to be able to sell \$1.8 million in 2014.

**Commissioner Brady:** You always have to be careful of one time revenues.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The other thing you have to consider is, if you remember in your presentation, the \$2.4 million, the revenues were close in 2012 where the issue was the expenses of which \$1 million of the extra expenses came from paying down the debt, \$1.4 million came from the increase in benefits like Workers' Comp., etc. We can report now, that in 2013 the paydown on the debt was only \$400,000 (not a million dollars).

**Councilmember Johnson:** Brought up the sale of the Upper Landing and other factors. You also didn't have to worry about the \$2.4 M with sanitation and \$300,000 Workers' Compensation expense you no longer have to worry about because you threw that in the sanitation, so although you sold at auction our parking, and parking is a problem in the City of Poughkeepsie that was a one shot deal.

**Commissioner Brady:** Correct.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I was wondering, if this is not accurate figures then if it was gone over and given us accurate figures, how come we don't have it on our desk for tonight's meeting? I understand that you probably sent it to us over the internet via the City's website, but I think it would've been nice to have it here so we can compare what the accurate figures are.

**Commissioner Brady:** I apologize for that. I thought you did have it sent out to you.

**Councilmember Solomon:** Before the meeting I asked Mr. Bunyi, what kind of money the City had to pay from the General Fund in order to keep the bus system going. Well, it turns out to be about \$500,000. So, even if we raised the bus price \$1.00 we would still have to put property taxes...the bus system doesn't pay for itself. This is a truly knotty problem and I hope it will turn out that the City can keep the bus system, but please understand – nobody wants to get rid of it, but it's a problem. We have to really work on it.

**2. FROM RAYMOND DIAZ,** a notice of property damage sustained on July 26, 2013. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**

**3. FROM ANDRES JAVIER,** a notice of intent to obtain a Liquor License. **Referred to Corporation Counsel**

**4. FROM WALLACE & WALLACE, LLP,** a notice of intent for Harpo, Inc. d/b/a/ Log Cabin to renew its Liquor License. **Referred to Corporation Counsel.**

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**Councilmember Boyd:** I know the newsletters went out regarding the water meters. But I was quite concerned about what's going to happen to the E-coli that was in our water and whether, wherever, whenever we get that back. I don't think we've settled that problem and how we got it from the very beginning. And, here we are already talking about new water meters. I would really like some answers because my constituents have been asking me regarding this E-coli problem that we've had in the water and I have a lot of nursing homes and a lot of elderly people in my ward that are quite concerned about this problem.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** I think it would be good for the Common Council is to have Commissioner DuPilka submit to the Common Council, all the pieces of documentation that he submitted to the DOH and the Poughkeepsie Journal. I will make this statement. The Poughkeepsie Journal has not or cannot understand a lot of the reports that the Commissioner has submitted to the DOH and Poughkeepsie Journal. Sound bytes are what is being reported in the Poughkeepsie Journal. However, the actual chemical, engineering and all the reports and studies the Commissioner has done a terrific job of, they have not made it known by the public. He defended and commended the Commissioner and the Water Department for doing a terrific job making sure the citizens and the rest of Poughkeepsie are protected by any possible E-coli contamination. He suggested that Mr. DuPilka come in and meet with the Council to explain what was done, perhaps through a forum of an Executive Session. He has provided

voluminous amounts of documentation, scientific studies, chemical studies and engineering studies to all the parties concerned. However, either through lack of understanding how to interpret it, or just purely looking for sound bytes, none of it has made the paper.

**Chairman Mallory:** Is this information that sensitive that we need to go into Executive Session?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** I would have to review it before. I'm not privy to the documentation at this point.

**Chairman Mallory:** If we don't need to go into Executive Session, people need to know as well as we do, out in the open. Alright, thank you.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** I would imagine if it was provided to the Poughkeepsie Journal it's...

**Chairman Mallory:** That's what I was getting at, but I just left that one alone...

**Councilmember Boyd:** In the Poughkeepsie Journal there's a letter that was supposed to be coming out November 5<sup>th</sup> regarding the E-coli and whether it was from the County or the County's Health Department. Is anybody aware of that?

**Councilmember Boyd:** Nobody's aware of that? Well, I think it needs to be addressed and we all need to sit down and find out what the heck is going on.

**Chairman Mallory:** So, before we get to Councilmember Johnson, we'll sit down and talk later to find out and we'll set up a time for information to be provided to us all.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** I just want to make sure that people understand. This is not a situation where Commissioner DuPilka or the Water or Engineering Departments don't know what's going on. I think...

**Councilmember Boyd:** I never alluded to that fact. I want to know, and my constituents want to know whether this is going to happen again. It's very simple. I never alluded to the fact that they're not doing their jobs. I want to know...my constituents want to know how this was caused and whether this is going to be a cause of action in July of next year. That's all I want – that's all I'm saying.

**Councilmember Johnson:** There are a lot of people here concerning the bus merger. I'm sorry that they left, because I would advise them to go to the County meeting and address those concerns to the County Legislators and also express your concerns about our \$2 million tax revenue that we need back and then guess what? We will be out of the garbage business - plain and simple. Let your voice

be heard. But you have to go to the right places. The next thing I would like to know and get some clarification because there's a lot of rumors going around in regards to the merger between the County and the City bus system, that the County Exec., Marc Molinaro and the Mayor met concerning this merger and that it would not have to come before the Common Council predicated on the Common Council vote. Do we get to vote on this, or is this something that the Mayor and County Exec. can do without the Common Council? I would just like to know where do we stand with the talks concerning this merger is concerned?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** It's a little hard to answer that specifically, at this time because it's really going to depend on ultimately how this plays out. It's still in its early stages. If the City is to just get out of the bus system there may not have to be Common Council action taken on that. There has been some talk about continued involvement of the City in whatever bus system comes to fruition after this time, which may need some Council action and may need some Council action for some disposition of federally funded assets, but...

**Councilmember Johnson:** Let me understand this. The merger...if they should merge, they can merge without any action from the Common Council?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** You're using the term, "merger," and I don't know if that's an appropriate...

**Councilmember Johnson:** Consolidation...

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** ...or consolidation, or whatever it may be, ultimately, it's going to depend on these systems or how this goes forward. It's in its early stages and until that's fully developed, we can't tell you at this time what exactly is going to be needed. It's an exploratory thing at this time. There may not be Council action that's needed. It's going to be dependent in how it's going to play out. Until we know that better, I can't give you an answer to that.

**Councilmember Johnson:** OK. That's important, because a lot of people that came here tonight think that we are the last deciding factor in this merger/consolidation. What I heard was that the Mayor and County can decide this and, "boom," it will be a done deal, so I didn't know whether...the truth behind that but you're saying that it really doesn't have to come before the Common Council, but because something with the federal government or something...approval?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** There are no concrete agreements or anything that are in place at this time until we know how this is exactly going to play out. The only thing we have right now is the study that's been done, saying it's a possibility.

**Councilmember Johnson:** We like to play the “What if?” game. What if the Mayor decides with this study that this merger would be a good thing. Can they do this without the approval of the Common Council?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** I’m not going to get into the, “What ifs,” because there are a million different, “What ifs,” and to try to speculate, I can’t do that until we have some concrete plan of what’s going to happen. I can’t tell you how it’s going to play out – what’s legally going to be done.

**Councilmember Johnson:** OK. What is the operating cost of the bus system?

**Commissioner Brady:** The total transit budget is \$1.6 million.

**Councilmember Johnson:** That’s the total budget? With the revenues generated, is it like...?

**Commissioner Brady:** I don’t have that information in front of me.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Is the revenue taking care of the expenses of running?

**Commissioner Brady:** No.

**Councilmember Johnson:** So, what is...how much is it short?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The City puts in between \$500,000 and \$600,000 every year to support the bus system.

**Councilmember Johnson:** I know you don’t want to answer and the Mayor isn’t here. I don’t want to put you on the spot, but I think that’s important to the residents. I don’t want them to walk away from here thinking...because we don’t know; we can’t even get an answer whether or not this is a decision that’s going to be made by this Council...that we have the last word or we don’t have any word as far as the bus system is concerned.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** It’s such at its infancy stage. The program report from the consultant just came out. I can’t tell you. I’m not trying to duck the question.

**Councilmember Johnson:** I understand, the Mayor isn’t here.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** I don’t think he’s going to be able to answer if he was here.

**Councilmember Johnson:** I think one thing he can answer is whether or not he's thinking or even contemplating whether he wants to merge with the Loop. Other than that, we can get rid of all the hysteria.

**Councilmember Rich:** We are about to start the 2014 budget. Are we, the City Council going to look at a document that includes the City's bus system? Or, have you decided that there will be no City Bus System in 2014? Therefore, it's redundant to vote on it, because I think people need to know what the Common Council's responsibility is. They came here thinking we have a say. Now you're saying, "Well, you may – you may not." That's really bizarre.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** Well, first off, I don't develop the budget.

**Chairman Mallory:** City Administrator

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The bus system is in the 2014 Proposed Budget.

**Councilmember Rich:** That's what I see, but now you're talking about selling it. So, I'd like to get it straight.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** To clarify, the position of the County has always been: Should the City decide to terminate its bus system, the County would plan to expand its bus system. There is no talk about any merging; there is no talk about consolidation. The FTA is the arbitrator in this whole process. Basically, the County will move and expand their services, based on the recommendations, if the City decides to terminate the services.

**Councilmember Herman:** If you terminate the service, and it's a budget item, that's got to be the consensus of the Council, correct?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The termination of the service is different than the budget because if you terminated, let's say, in January or February, what happens then whatever money is in the transit system automatically goes back to the General Fund.

**Councilmember Herman:** So...without Council consent? If you decide to have a "Fire Sale," for the bus service, the Council has no consent...is sitting here as far as listening to the public, listening to the constituents that, you know...

**City Administrator Bunyi:** I think I would rather leave it the way Corporation Counsel said, it's basically...there's so many "ifs," there are so many scenarios, we don't know...

**Councilmember Solomon:** On a totally different matter – on October 12<sup>th</sup> we celebrated Autumn in the Park at Bartlett Park. It was a beautiful day and we had hundreds of kids. There were some outstanding contributions made by some

people. Richie Lawrence came on his day off and managed the foot races. John Flowers came and wore himself out running the first three steps of every race. The cow, named “Yogi,” was very docile and just moored and did not leave its position. We had a good time. Also, the Hooker Avenue Fire Department came and let the kids crawl all over the fire truck, and they were wonderful. It’s nice. We should celebrate the good things that happen in the City because they do happen and they’re a lot of fun. Thank you.

**Councilmember Perry:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I’m way behind here, but the bus study...do you have any idea how much that is going to cost?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The bus study was paid for by the Federal Transit Authority that was given to the County.

**Councilmember Perry:** So the study is completed...?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** Correct.

**Councilmember Perry:** ...and paid for? But, we don’t know what the result is?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The result is online. The study is online with the County. If you go to the County website, the County Bus Expansion Study is online.

**Councilmember Perry:** We’re having a conversation here about the bus for some time now – many people came here and spoke about it. I didn’t get the understanding that the study was completed, the cost was established, but we don’t know what is going to happen.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I have a copy of that bus study, if you would like it.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** We will go to the County’s website and print it and make sure everyone gets a copy.

**Councilmember Johnson and Councilmember Boyd** responded simultaneously, stating they each had a copy.

**Councilmember Perry:** No one is talking about it here.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** Because it’s not our study. It’s a County study, an FTA study of their planned expansion of the bus system, which was paid for by the Federal Transit Authority.

**Councilmember Perry:** But, we had approximately 42 people here and at least 21 people spoke about the possibility of losing that service, but no one reassured them that it may or may not be. That’s the part I don’t understand. If the study is

completed and everything is over with, why would it not be possible for them to know if we're keeping the service or not if the study's completed. What would be the purpose of the study? Please educate me so I can understand.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** The study was requested by the County with the help of the FTA to try to establish whether or not an expansion of their service into the City was viable. That's all it was. There was no participation in terms of the FTA and the City doing a study. That was a pure County study and when they were provided the final report it was also put up on the County's website. It was a report that basically answers the question for the County, as to whether or not it is a zero budget impact to the County, should they decide to expand into the City. That's the basic premise of that whole study.

**Councilmember Perry:** So, the people who are relying on the bus service that the City operates, would leave here tonight and not know what's going on. Does anyone know? 21 people spoke. One lady stated she relies on the bus to keep her job. Several people said they rely on the bus to take their children to and from school. I wrote everything down as they were speaking. I don't see the slightest sign of any resolution or reassurance regarding that. Is the City of Poughkeepsie's official newspaper still the Poughkeepsie Journal?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann** responded affirmatively.

**Councilmember Perry:** So, explain to me the "sound bytes," as opposed to accurate news regarding the water.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** What it comes down to, ma'am, is this. They get voluminous documents, they do interviews, they talk to residents, to Commissioner DuPilka, to members of the Water Plant and what it comes down to... and this is the exact words of Mr. John Ferro the other day (before he ran his last news), "Remember that we are only allowed so much of a piece of reporting – so much space. Within that space, we have to decide which ones we want to put in there."

**Councilmember Perry:** So, is that considered accurate news?

**City Administrator Bunyi:** To their perspective, it is accurate.

**Councilmember Perry** continued speaking on the level of inaccuracy which was reported by the Poughkeepsie Journal with regards to the drinking water and there is no one who can ask them to retract what they wrote.

**City Administrator Bunyi** advised her that reports of the drinking water situation were voluminous and could not be written about at any great length due to limited space and made their own determinations as to what information was released to the public.

**Councilmember Perry** maintains that the drinking water is a very important topic.

**Councilmember Rich:** Just received the bus study and it contains a lot of pages to read through. He wanted Mr. Bunyi's opinion of the Loop Bus System. Does the study suggest the Loop Bus is not a very good one, and it is as bad as people who spoke about it earlier had said it was?

**City Administrator Bunyi** was not inclined to comment on a study that was commissioned by the County. He suggested Mr. Rich read through his own copy of the study and make his own conclusions like everyone else about the bus System and stated that the City and County are colleagues and they work together in common. He stated it was unfair to put him or anyone else on the spot and ask him or anyone else to pass judgment about another municipality of Dutchess County.

**Councilmember Rich** thinks it is very fair because he thinks the Mayor is really "Gung ho," about hooking into the City's bus system and selling it to the Loop. He feels, therefore, that it is very relevant that the County Executive branch tell the Council and the people what they think of the Loop Bus System and Mr. City Administrator, we really need to know what you think. I'll tell you what I think after I read it, but we need to know the Mayor's people think about this proposed bus merger. We need to know how good or bad it is before anybody out there says this is a good or bad idea.

**Councilmember Boyd:** Just getting back to the bus system as well. I have a copy of the study here, and it does show the City budgeted cost for the bus system was approximately \$1.4 million annually from 2010 to 2012. Where'd the County get these figures from? Personal salary, wages and benefits were the largest expenses for the City bus system, averaging \$894,000 annually from 2010-2012. Where'd the County get these figures from? The Preliminary 2014 Budget for the bus system, according to my math, the salaries were \$405,872 wages, benefits were \$371,684 – my math comes to \$777,558 which is about \$118,442 over what this study is showing. Also, the last step of this study that the County says the final review will be forwarded to the City and County for consolidation...any expansion of the Loop service will require close coordination among all the responsible entities, including FTA (Federal Transit Authority) and New York State DOT (Department of Transportation). Implementation will ultimately rest with the responsibility of the Executor and Legislature bodies of the County and the City. So, that to me says, that the Common Council has something to say about this bus system. The Comptroller of the County states in his report on the Mass Transit and airport subsidiaries, in a memo from the legislator leaders among his recommendation in the County, should eliminate mass transit and airport subsidiaries for the operation that is supposed to be enterprise fund to generate profits. I rest my case.

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**Councilmember Johnson:** Yes, I noticed that the appointments for the IDA were pulled off the agenda. It says here that the term for the people appointed, ends December 31, 2013. Come January, new people would have to be appointed?

**Chairman Mallory:** Not necessarily. They can reappoint the same people.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Right, I would assume, on January 1<sup>st</sup> you would appoint or reappoint for the new term. It's an annual appointment?

**Councilmember Rich:** Two years.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** They serve concurrent to the terms of Council that appointed them.

**Councilmember Johnson:** What are the primary duties of the members of the IDA and how many City Officials (I see we have the Mayor and Mr. Bunyi and some others), how many officials do you have to have on the IDA?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** Pursuant to the rules of the legislation that created the City of Poughkeepsie IDA, there has to be no less than 3 members, no more than 7 members. There is no requirement that City Officials be on there, with the exception that the Corporation Counsel represents the City of Poughkeepsie IDA, but is not a voting member on the IDA. There is no requirement for City Officials to be on there. However, historically, since the creation of the IDA, the Mayor and City Administrator have been members of the IDA.

**Councilmember Johnson:** The Mayor doesn't have any voting rights?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** That would be at the pleasure of the IDA.

**Councilmember Johnson:** What are the duties of the IDA for the listening audience?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** The duties of the IDA is essentially, they're trustees of the IDA (the City of Poughkeepsie Industrial Development Agency). It is a quasi-governmental agency, that is established for the purposes of holding property and issuing bonds. When the IDA holds property, it can hold property tax-free, tax-exempt. So, it's a mechanism just for economic development within a municipality.

**Councilmember Johnson:** So, this is specific. A lot has to do with the Delaval...

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** Not necessarily.

**Councilmember Johnson:** I thought the IDA was involved...

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** The IDA will ultimately hold the property for Delaval, but it's just an ongoing body that deals with property that is currently held by the IDA. Any property that may be held by the IDA, it receives applications...

**Councilmember Johnson:** What properties are currently held by the IDA?

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** There's probably a dozen or so properties...

**Councilmember Johnson:** Name three.

**Corporation Counsel Ackermann:** Name three? The 400 block – the Hamilton Apartments on the 400 block, Woodside Manor, Marshall & Sterling building, the Financial Plaza deck...

**Councilmember Johnson:** Can we get a list of properties the IDA oversees? Also, those are Common Council appointments. Do you put something out in the media?

**Chairman Mallory:** I believe it went out in May.

**City Chamberlain Flynn:** It went out twice.

**Councilmember Johnson:** How many responses did we get?

**Chairman Mallory:** Just them and one other person.

**Councilmember Johnson:** Are you looking to appoint these people? Are you looking for new people?

**Chairman Mallory:** I haven't put the request to the colleagues...unless you're putting it out right now?

**Councilmember Johnson:** Let's see, you have the Mayor, you have Mr. Bunyi, you have Mary Solomon, Mark Metzger, Ira from Board of Elections. It would be nice if there was some diversity.

**Chairman Mallory:** Yes, it would be and we put it out twice.

**Councilmember Johnson** believes that the appointments were sidetracked because it is now October and the appointments end in December.

**Chairman Mallory** did not agree.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I asked to have the General Fund separated from the Contract Services from the Finance...I didn't get that tonight. Also, the reason why I wanted that your General Ledger states in the Finance Department, under Contract Services from January – June we've spent \$12,000. From what I understand from the Commissioner of Finance, he told me that the sheet you had given us is for reimbursements and that's why you have the General Fund incorporated with the Finance Department. But, if it's reimbursements, they don't add up to \$12,000 from January – June. So, I'd like this separated and find out exactly where the money is going, because I think that's a heck of a lot of money in 6 months.

**Commissioner Brady:** We can provide that information to you. We'll go through the list. You're asking me about the employees on the list – is that correct?

**Councilmember Boyd:** You have a list that was given to me, but it was a combination of a General and Finance Department. When I brought it to your attention at the last meeting, you told me it was from reimbursements.

**Commissioner Brady:** No, you asked me why employees names appeared on that list. My recollection...

**Councilmember Boyd:** I asked you about two lists. One was the employees' and the other I asked you about, I was told, reimbursements of the employees on that list of the General Fund. What I'm asking you now is if they are reimbursements for monies laid out, why do we have \$12,000 from January – June in the Finance Department if this is just a list of reimbursements? The reimbursements add up to \$12,000?

**Commissioner Brady:** It wouldn't surprise me that they did.

**Councilmember Boyd:** OK, that's what I'd like to know.

**Commissioner Brady:** So, you want to know, by employee, how much they were paid and what it was for?

**Councilmember Boyd:** Yes, and I'd like to separate it from General and Finance, because your General Ledger for Finance is \$12,000 from January – June and I would like to know what that \$12,000 for Contract Services was for.

**Commissioner Brady:** I also said to you that's a vendor list. That probably hasn't been culled since the year 2005. There are employees on there who are no longer employed here.

**Councilmember Boyd:** Right, but I'd like the General Ledger to meet with Contract Service list that you gave me.

**Commissioner Brady:** You want to know what the actual expenditures for Contractual Services were for January through June is made up of?

**Councilmember Boyd:** Right. Yes, that's correct.

**Commissioner Brady:** That's a short list.

**Councilmember Boyd:** I'd like to know where the money is coming from or where the money is going.

**City Administrator Bunyi:** I just want to clarify that the Finance Department is part of the General Fund, so that everybody understands that. I don't know what the purpose of peeling off the Finance Department is. We could peel off the Police Department, which the reimbursement to employees runs to about \$200,000 but nobody's asking for the Police Department.

**Chairman Mallory:** It doesn't matter. A Councilmember has made a request; it's going to be granted.

**Councilmember Perry:** Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to mention that the "famous" 117 North Hamilton Street is cleaned up and the area looks so much better. And, I want to thank Corporation Counsel, Mr. Ackermann for everything he did and to Mr. Milo Bunyi and Mr. DuPilka for all that they've done. Thank you, gentlemen very much.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT:**

A motion was made by Councilmember Solomon and seconded by Councilmember Boyd to adjourn the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

**Dated: December 10, 2013**

I hereby certify that this true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Common Council Meeting held on Monday, October 21, 2013 at 6:30 p.m.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Deanne L. Flynn  
City Chamberlain**



## **COMMON COUNCIL MEETING**

Common Council Chambers  
Wednesday, November 6, 2013  
6:30 p.m.

### **I. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:**

#### **ROLL CALL**

### **III. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Common Council Meeting Minutes of**

### **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 CHAIRMAN MALLORY, Resolution R13-78, approving four Council appointments to the Industrial Development Agency (IDA).**
- 2. FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN, Resolution R13-79, approving the exemption pursuant to Sanitation Code.**

**IX. ORDINANCES AND LOCAL LAWS:**

- 1. FROM CORPORATION COUNSEL ACKERMANN, Ordinance O-13-16, amending the Sanitation Code to provide for user fee on the tax bill.**

**X. PRESENTATION OF PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS:**

**X. UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

**XI. NEW BUSINESS:**

**XII. ADJOURNMENT:**