

ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING

Monday, June 17, 2013

The Common Council was convened at 7:00 p.m. and was called to order by Council President McLaughlin.

The roll being called, the following answered to their names: Council Members Bailey, Commisso, Fahey, Freeman, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Jenkins-Cox, Konev, O'Brien, Rosenzweig, Sano and Smith.

Also present were the following staff: Cashawna Parker, Nala Woodard, Barbara Samel and Patrick Jordan.

Council Member Rosenzweig led the Pledge of Allegiance.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

1. Kathleen Bronson, 24 Ramsey Place, Albany, NY 12208 (Ordinance 2.11.13 in relation to Complete Streets);
2. Kevin Nephew, 46 Glenwood Road, Menands, NY 12204 (Resolution 39.61.13R in relation to the Two Row Wampum Celebration);
3. Lori Quigley, 10 Andrew Court, Troy, NY 12182 (Resolution 39.61.13R in relation to the Two Row Wampum Celebration);
4. Virginia Hammer, 52 South Allen Street, Albany, NY (Ordinance 2.11.13 in relation to Complete Streets);
5. Shykarra Johnson, 403 Nutgrove Lane, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
6. Andres Rivera, 20 Corlear Street, Albany, NY (Public Safety);
7. Pamela Bullock, 24 West Van Vranken Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);

Majority Leader Herring made a motion to extend public comment for 30 additional minutes, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

8. Sherr Duggar, 628 South Pearl Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
9. Sahamal Turpin, 117 Broad Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
10. Willie White, 38 Morton Avenue, Albany, NY (Programs for youth/Ezra Prentiss Crosswalks);
11. Peter Jones, 25 Marvin Avenue Apt. 2B, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
12. Angie Scott, 637D South Pearl Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
13. Charlene Benton, 639F South Pearl Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
14. Valerie Richardson, 511 Nutgrove Lane, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);

15. Deneen Carter, 639M South Pearl Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street);
16. Tammy Miller, 628B South Pearl Street, Albany, NY (Traffic Safety on South Pearl Street)

There being no further speakers, the President declared the public comment period closed.

CONSIDERATION OF LOCAL LAWS

The local laws on the agenda were held at the request of Majority Leader Herring.

REPORTS OF STANDING COMMITTEES

Planning, Economic Development and Land Use - Chairman Herring stated that the committee would be meeting on June 18, 2013 to discuss Local Law B-2013 in relation to the creation of a Sustainability Advisory Committee and to interview applicants to the Albany Industrial Development Agency/Capital Resource Corporation (AIDA/CRC).

CONSIDERATION OF ORDINANCES

Council Member Rosenzweig introduced ORDINANCE NUMBER 37.63.13R, which was held:

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 251 (PARKS AND RECREATION) OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF ALBANY REGARDING THE DESIGNATION OF JENNINGS LANDING

The City of Albany, in Common Council convened, does hereby ordain and enact:

Section 1. Section 251-1 of Article I of Chapter 251 of the Code of the City of Albany is amended to read as follows:

§ 251-1. Designation of parks.

The public ground and enclosure in front of the Academy on Park Place, Elk Street and Eagle Street and Washington Avenue shall be known and designated as "Academy Park"; the public ground west of North Pearl Street and south of Clinton Avenue shall be known and designated as "Clinton Park"; the public ground south of Madison Avenue and east of Lark Street shall be known and designated as "Delaware Square"; the public ground between Eagle Street, State Street and Swan Street and Washington Avenue shall be known and designated as "Capitol Park"; ~~and~~ the public ground and enclosure below the junction of Central Avenue and Western Avenue shall be known and designated as "Townsend Park"; the public ground on the south side of Hudson Avenue, at the intersection of Liberty Street and Union Street, shall be known and distinguished as "Hudson Avenue Park"; the public ground on Madison Avenue, east of Eagle Street, shall be known and designated as "Bleecker Park"; ~~and~~ the public ground between Washington Street, Ontario Street, State Street and Partridge Street shall be known as the "Beaverwyck Park"; and the public ground west of Ten Broeck Street, north of Second Street, shall be known as "Van Rensselaer Park"; ~~and~~ the public ground west of Ten Broeck Street and north of First Street shall be known as "St. Joseph's Park[-]"; ~~Also,~~ the public ground located at 77 Philip Street between Philip Street, Bleeker Place, Eagle Street and Elm Street shall be known and designated as "77 Philip Street Park"; ~~and~~ the public ground located at 88 Philip Street between Philip Street, Wilbur Street, Grand Street and Myrtle Avenue shall be known and designated as "88 Philip Street Park"; and the approximately 5.36 acre parcel of public land within the

Corning Preserve bounded to the east by the Hudson River, on the west by Quay Street, on the south by the State water intake facility property and on the north by the Corning Preserve tidal ponds shall be known and designated as “Jennings Landing.”

Section 2. This ordinance shall take effect immediately.

The remaining ordinances on the agenda were held at the request of Majority Leader Herring.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTIONS

Majority Leader Herring asked and received majority consent to add Resolution Number 41.63.13R to the pending agenda, which was approved by unanimous voice vote.

Council Member Konev offered RESOLUTION NUMBER 41.63.13R(MC), asked for passage and a roll call vote thereon:

RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING WORLD REFUGEE DAY, ON JUNE 20, 2013 AND RECOGNIZING THE U.S. COMMITTEE FOR REFUGEES AND IMMIGRANTS, ALBANY FIELD OFFICE (USCRI) SEVENTH ANNUAL WORLD REFUGEE DAY PICNIC TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22, 2013 IN ALBANY’S WASHINGTON PARK

WHEREAS, the United Nations recognizes June 20 of each year as ‘World Refugee Day; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Albany Field Office (USCRI) opened its doors in 2005 to help refugees build new lives in upstate New York. It expects to resettle more than 350 refugees in the Capital Region in 2013; and

WHEREAS, USCRI brings hope and opportunity to the lives of refugees and immigrants by defending human rights, promoting self-sufficiency, forging community partnerships, assisting refugees in obtaining early employment and achieving self-sufficiency, and nurturing community integration for new Americans; and

WHEREAS, the City of Albany is home to a large and diverse community of refugees from around the world who have come to the United States fleeing conflict and persecution, and seeking a home where they can live and work in peace; and

WHEREAS, the refugee population, made up of hardworking men and women, have contributed to the economy of this city as employees, consumers, and taxpayers; and

WHEREAS, USCRI will be celebrating World Refugee Day on Saturday, June 22 by holding its Seventh Annual World Refugee Day Picnic in Washington Park. This community event serves as a reminder of the warm welcome, which Albany has given to so many refugees and immigrants over the years, and recognizes the contributions refugees have made to their new home.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City of Albany Common Council recognizes June 20 as World Refugee Day in the City of Albany.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City of Albany Common Council recognizes the U.S. Committee for Refugees and Immigrants, Albany Field Office Seventh Annual World Refugee Day Picnic to be held on Saturday, June 22 in Albany's Washington Park.

**Note: Council Member Konev spoke on this resolution prior to passage.*

The resolution passed by the majority vote of the following Council Members:

Affirmative – Bailey, Commisso, Freeman, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Jenkins-Cox, Konev, O'Brien, Sano and Smith

Affirmative 11 Negative 0 Abstain 0

Resolution Number 41.63.13R(MC) was co-sponsored by Council Members Bailey, Calsolaro, Commisso, Conti, Fahey, Freeman, Golby, Herring, Igoe, Jenkins-Cox, O'Brien, Rosenzweig, Sano and Smith.

The remaining resolutions on the agenda were held at the request of Majority Leader Herring.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Majority Leader Herring offered the following, which was adopted by unanimous voice vote:

RESOLVED THAT THE FOLLOWING PERSONS BE AND HEREBY ARE APPOINTED COMMISSIONERS OF DEEDS FOR THE CITY OF ALBANY, NEW YORK FOR THE TERM ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND WAIVE THE READING OF THE NAMES:

1. James P. Sano, 15 Van Schoick Ave, Albany NY 12208
2. Robert G. Porter, 564 Park Ave. Albany NY 12208

Council Member Golby stated that she was moved by the comments of the members of the public that spoke at tonight's meeting. She stated that the Complete Streets legislation recently passed by the Council, would help address some of the public's concerns with regard to traffic, signage and crosswalks. She feels that the speed limit of 30 mph is not slow enough in certain areas. She discussed statistics of survival of being hit by a car at various speeds to reinforce her point that the speed limits need to be lowered in certain areas.

Council Member Konev apologized for sleeping during the public comment portion of the meeting when citizens were commenting on the death on South Pearl Street. He announced that he did take notes on red light cameras and feels the City should use speed bumps and speed humps in relation to reducing speed.

Council Member Freeman discussed needing quick action for the community after the death on South Pearl Street. He wants to see signs posted immediately and doesn't want to wait until after further meetings. He stated that he spoke with Mayor Jennings and he is in support of the traffic upgrades for South Pearl Street.

Council Member Sano rose to express his sadness concerning this tragic accident being so close to Father's Day. He discussed Pearl Street being a NYS road to which truck traffic is rerouted. He discussed the lack of services from NYS to maintain the road. He feels that enforcement and education

are important because some accidents are preventable. He made the Council aware of an accident on New Scotland Avenue that killed a family member of his in similar fashion.

Council Member Jenkins-Cox asked Council President McLaughlin to be the conduit for getting traffic signage around the City of Albany as a whole. She stated that she does not want another tragedy to happen in the city.

ADJOURNMENT

Majority Leader Herring made a motion to adjourn. President McLaughlin, hearing no objections, stated that the meeting was adjourned.

A true record of the Common Council Minutes of June 17th, 2013.

CASHAWNA PARKER
SENIOR LEGISLATIVE AIDE TO THE
ALBANY COMMON COUNCIL