

Minutes of the Syracuse City Council Regular Meeting, August 11, 2009.

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on August 11, 2009, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Alan Clark
Doug Hammond
Lurlen A. Knight
Douglas Peterson
Larry D. Shingleton

Mayor Fred Panucci
City Administrator Rodger Worthen
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Police Chief Brian Wallace
IT Director TJ Peace
Fire Chief Craig Cottrell
Finance Director LaMar Holt
Building Official Jason VanAusdal
Building Inspector Tex Couch

Visitors Present:	Neisha Bennett	Adam Bennett	Ann Anderton
	Nina Yamane	Craig Johnson	Kerry Logan
	Constance Logan	Brian Bott	Melissa Taylor
	Shane Crowton	Elaine Nance	Jimmie Chadbourne
	Marjorie Dalton	Josh Winward	Becky Winward
	H. Aostri	Mary Streuling	Susan Julian
	William Shiffett	Bob VanVelkinburgh	Jeanne VanVelkinburgh
	Jerry Guffy	Tanna Woods	Daniel Frei
	Edith Reniker	Colleen Thurgood	Viola Bennett
	Mary Barfus	Bill Barfus	Mary Byrd
	Rickie Snow	Deborah Daily	Ren Toole
	Kyle Nance	Melvin Thompson	Shanna Thompson
	Candace Baird	Chris Layton	John Perry
	Don Nelson	Alan Mollenhauer	Dan Welton
	Travis Smith	Machelle Burt	Tancy Johnson
	Dennis Johnson	Jeff Gibson	Beverly Hurd
	Mildred Burton	Colleen Abate	Jerian Miller
	Spencer Miller	Allen Miller	Scott Taylor
	Amy Taylor	Russ Topham	Chris Andrada
	Dave Morse	Julie Topham	Cindy Jenkins
	Sandy Jensen	Shannon Elmer	Ginger Weathersby
	Bruce Schofield	Mary Schofield	Dean Bennett
	Lyle Elmore	Rory Darby	Kristen Day
	Heather Steed	Tony Wilson	Brian Barker
	Thomas Mellars	Arlene Hamblin	Larry Lewis
	Kathi Lewis	Jadin Lewis	Kaitlin Lewis
	Kindahl Lewis	Khloe Lewis	Kimberlie Lewis
	Lynn Glauser	John Booker	June Thurgood
	VeAnn Bean	Karianne Lisonbee	Matt Kimmel
	Diane Booker	Lewis Rhoades	Maria Thorpe
	Wallace Rampton	Robert Sanders	Robert Whiteley
	Diana Hellewell	Byron Hellewell	Julianne Griffin
	Lavell Sackett	Jed Dubach	Penny Dubach
	Wally Peterson	Tena Campbell	Annette Burrell

1. Meeting Called to Order/Adopt Agenda

Mayor Panucci called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. as a regularly scheduled meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember. An invocation was provided by

Councilmember Peterson and at the request of the Mayor, Boy Scout Spencer Miller led all present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

COUNCILMEMBER CLARK MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT THE AGENDA. COUNCILMEMBER HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Work Session Meeting of July 14, 2009 were reviewed.

Councilmember Hammond stated that page two, line 11 of the minutes include the words "car was" and that should be changed to "car wash".

COUNCILMEMBER KNIGHT MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE WORK SESSION MEETING OF JULY 14, 2009 AS AMENDED. COUNCILMEMBER HAMMOND SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

The minutes of the Regular Meeting of July 28, 2009 were reviewed.

Mayor Panucci explained that some time during the meeting he made a comment that Councilmember Hammond had told him that his son was the applicant for the Syracuse Car Wash and Mayor Panucci explained that he told Councilmember Hammond that he did not need to disclose that information to the Council because he did not think that it was in the Council's best interest to have that information because he wanted the Council to deliberate on an issue with no partiality.

At a later date City Recorder Brown found that Mayor Panucci's comments were actually made during the July 14, 2009 minutes and said comments were accurately recorded in the minutes of that meeting.

Councilmember Peterson stated that page 18 of the minutes refers to "Mr. Ken" and that should be changed to "Mr. Spencer".

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETING OF JULY 28, 2009 AS AMENDED. COUNCILMEMBER CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

3. Public Comments

Heather Steed, 3361 W. 700 S., Syracuse Arts Council President, stated that she wanted to provide the Council and the audience with information about the Arts Council's current activities. She stated that this year the Syracuse Guild for the Visual Arts (SGVA) has provided several workshops that are free to the public; there are two workshops each month – one is taught by the local guild and the other is taught by a professional artist who receives compensation for the service he or she provides. She stated the topics of the workshops vary from month to month. She then stated that the Arts Council supports the community choir, which is taking the summer off, but plans to resume practicing during the fall months. She added that this year the summer concert series that is typically sponsored by the Arts Council was put on hold. She then reported that the Arts Council is currently working on producing Pirates of Penzance; many efforts have been made to save several thousands of dollars during the production, such as the waiver or royalty costs and being granted permission to use the Syracuse High School auditorium free of charge. She stated that many members of the Arts Council have volunteered their talents; the Arts Council has been very fortunate to have props and costumes loaned to the Arts Council for the production. She stated that she wanted to thank the Council for the support they have given to the Arts Council in the past. She then stated that due to the economic downturn the Arts Council does not anticipate the receipt of all monies previously budgeted for the Arts Council. She stated that she does not expect special treatment from the City, but if it is possible she would like to request that future funding for the Arts Council not be decreased as drastically as it has been this year. She stated if that is not possible she will still appreciate the continued support of the City in any manner possible. Mayor Panucci asked Ms. Steed to meet with Finance Director Holt to discuss how the Arts Council can access the funding included in the budget for them.

Scott Taylor, 2276 S. Doral Drive, stated that he lives in Tuscany Meadows across from the weed field that many people are present to discuss this evening. He stated that he wanted to come to the City with a proposal and he provided a copy of that proposal to each member of the Governing Body. He stated that the proposal was put together by citizens in his subdivision with the help of a Councilmember. He stated that the residents are proposing the development of the catch basin in phases to occur over the next three or four years. He stated that phase one would be grading and leveling the catch basin adjacent to the existing park area to include the removal of debris, weeds, and extra dirt. He stated that future phases could be the installation of a sprinkling system, hydro-seeding the area, and removal of the existing fence to provide easier access to the site. He stated that he and his neighbors know that funding this type of a project would be very difficult. He stated that he is aware that the City has estimated the entire project could cost approximately \$115,000, but if much of the work is done in-house by City employees the cost could be reduced to approximately \$25,000. He stated that he believes that is a feasible

amount and that monies from the City's general fund could be used, which would not require an additional tax burden on the residents of the City. He stated that regarding a time line the citizens propose that phase one be completed soon; they would like the cleanup to begin immediately and be completed by fall of 2009. He added that the installation of the irrigation system could also begin and be completed by the fall of 2009 and the site could be hydro-seeded in the spring of 2010 so that it can be used the following summer. He stated that utilizing City staff and resources will reduce the cost. He stated there are great benefits that will be provided by doing the work. He explained that the park is currently a fire hazard as a result of dry, overgrown weeds. He stated that the debris stored in the park is a safety hazard as well. He stated that he wished that KSL News had reported on the issue a week earlier because they would have seen that at that time the weeds were about 10-feet tall. He stated that the community and his neighbors have the ability to be patient and work with the City on this issue, but eventually they want the work to be done. He stated he would like a consistent amount of money applied to the project each year. He stated he believes these requests are reasonable since the residents of the neighborhood have contributed money to the park development fund since their subdivision was developed. He then referenced the last page of his proposal and explained it contains a photograph of the concrete pile that has been stored at the park site for the last four or five weeks. Mayor Panucci inquired as to who dumped the concrete at the site. Mr. Taylor stated he does not know who put the concrete at the site and he does not care. Mayor Panucci stated he cares because the person that dumped the concrete violated a City ordinance in doing that. Mr. Taylor stated that he heard that the City dumped the concrete at the site. Mr. Worthen assured Mr. Taylor and the Council that the City did not dump the concrete at the site.

Russ Topham, 3475 W. 2200 S., stated that he lived immediately behind the weed field. He stated he would like to be able to refer to the site as green space, but when he looks out his back door and over his fence every day he sees weeds that are an eyesore. He stated the property is a breeding ground for bugs and it is not a safe place for children to play. He stated that he has knowledge that the City has promised the residents a well developed park for their neighborhood over a quarter of a century ago. He stated that his request is that funding be diverted to that purpose.

Allen Miller, 741 S. 3900 W., stated that he lives in the Rock Creek subdivision and his house abuts the park that was recently finished last year and has since 'gone to pot'. He stated that someone needs to adjust and fix the sprinkler system at the park because it is watering during the middle of the day. He stated that his children are not able to use the park and it is a tragedy that the City has spent money on the park and it is now going to waste. He stated that he has called the City's park department and they have told him that they must water during the middle of the day due to water pressure issues. He stated that he is not a landscaping guru, but if the water pressure is not available at a certain time of day it is simply necessary to water for a longer amount of time so that the water can penetrate deeper into the ground. He stated that if the City would water the grass at night it would be possible for his children to use the park during the day. He stated that it is simply a waste and he is sorry that his tax dollars are being wasted in this manner.

Amy Taylor, 2276 S. Doral Drive, stated she is speaking on behalf of everyone in attendance that is wearing red. She stated that they are here to voice their opinions about the Doral Drive park issue. She stated she is a concerned parent who lives across the street from the park. She stated that she and her husband paid more money for their home lot because it was located across the street from the park. She stated that her biggest concern is the safety of her kids while they are at the park; her neighborhood has turned into a place where there is no place for kids to 'hang out' and play and they are essentially wandering the streets. She stated that cars drive very fast in the subdivision and someone is going to get hurt. She stated that she is asking the City to pool their resources and do something about this problem. She stated that she lives very close to the Buffalo Point Elementary School, but she does not trust her kids to walk there by themselves to play at the park. She stated that anything the City can do to improve the site would be greatly appreciated.

Chris Andrada, 3493 W. 2365 S., stated that she lives in Tuscany Meadows and she is the mother of seven children, ages four to 14. She stated there is no place for them to play together in the subdivision. She stated that they all gather in the cul-de-sac that she lives in, but she really needs a safe place for her kids to play, even if the site only consists of grass. She stated that the construction debris that has been dumped at the site is a hazard and someone is going to get hurt some day. She stated that she would like the Council to take into consideration the work that the residents have put into preparing their proposal. She stated that other parks in the City are too far away from her home for her kids to get to safely; they would be required to cross wide, busy streets to get to the other parks in the City.

Julie Topham, 3475 W. 2200 S., asked that every person present that is concerned about the park issue to stand up. She then stated that these are just a few of the residents that feel strongly that the City needs to develop the park to serve the Tuscany and Ranchettes subdivision. She stated that she is asking that the Council approve the expenditure of \$25,000 of general funds for the development of the first phase of the park. She stated the total park space is just over 3.6 acres in size and the City has already planted grass on an area that measures approximately one acre. She explained that people use that area every day. She stated that the remaining acreage is not developed at all and the weeds and thistles growing at the site were over seven feet tall recently. She stated it was impossible to even see the fire hydrants at the site. She stated that while the children should be playing in the grass area they end up playing on the debris pile and someone is going to get hurt. She

reiterated she is asking that the City approve funding to develop the park as originally intended. She stated she would like for the area to cease being an eyesore and safety hazard.

Dennis Johnson, 3415 W. 2200 S., stated that he has concerns about the development of the weed patch as well. He stated that he has lived in the Ranchettes subdivision for 24 years and the residents there have been told for many years that the City would develop the park. He stated that Tuscan Meadows has since been developed and the residents there are also upset that they have not received the park they were promised. He stated he has personally donated thousands of dollars and countless to the City because he loves this City. He stated he feels those monies have been wasted on other parks when it should have been used to improve the park and make the area nicer. He stated that residents there do not have access to other parks without crossing major roads and they would appreciate some consideration on their behalf so there is a safe place for their kids to play.

Councilmember Knight stated that the Council discussed this issue during their work session meeting this evening and these citizen requests are going to be referred to City staff for review. He stated that the City will work to remove the concrete and other debris and remove the existing fence immediately. He stated staff will evaluate the other items included in the residents' proposal.

4. Councilmember Reports

Councilmember Peterson stated that he did not have anything to report, but he wanted to remind residents that kids are back in school and there is a lot of construction taking place throughout the City and he asked people to be careful while they are driving through these areas and to watch for children walking to and from school.

Councilmember Clark stated that none of the committees that he is assigned to have met recently. He then thanked everyone in attendance this evening for sharing their opinions and thoughts. He stated he is grateful for what the residents have to say.

Councilmember Knight stated that he is a member of the North Davis Sewer District (NDSD) Board and they are holding a public hearing on August 13 to discuss property taxes. He explained that when property values drop it becomes necessary to adjust tax rates to ensure that the same amount of property tax revenue is received by an entity. He stated that the NDSD is instead considering maintaining their current tax rate, which must be advertised as a tax increase, but by maintaining the rate the District will realize a shortfall of \$60,000 in property tax revenue dollars. He reiterated that the public hearing will be held August 13.

Councilmember Hammond stated that he had a couple of items to report; he noted that over the past week the City lost a pillar in the community. He stated that DeLore Thurgood, former Syracuse Mayor, passed away and his funeral was last week. He stated that Mr. Thurgood's wife is in the audience tonight and he wanted to recognize her and Mr. Thurgood for all the community service they have participated in. He then stated that prior to the last City Council meeting the City's Human Resources Director, Cherissa Alldredge, submitted her resignation and would like to acknowledge that Ms. Alldredge did a great job for the City and the Council appreciated her in that endeavor. He then stated that there is a museum in Syracuse City. He stated that if anyone has not taken their kids to the museum, now is the perfect time to do so. He stated that there are a lot of great volunteers working at the museum, but more are needed. He encouraged residents to go to the museum and see what it has to offer. He stated it is a great thing in the City. He then stated that in response to the residents that spoke about the park issue he wanted to assure them that the Council did discuss that issue during their work session meeting and that particular issue is very important to all of them. He added that he lives in a subdivision that is managed by a Home Owners Association (HOA) and they maintain the park in his subdivision, which is two acres of land that was developed by the residents themselves. He stated the residents now maintain the area themselves through volunteer efforts. He stated the more volunteers that are willing to serve in the community, the better off the City will be. He stated that everyone knows the kids need a safe place to play so the Council will do whatever they can for the residents in that regard.

Councilmember Shingleton stated that he wanted to reassure those residents that spoke about the park that their comments did not fall on deaf ears. He stated that this issue will go further than just discussion; the Council does not know how far it will go, but it will be addressed.

Councilmember Knight stated that he wanted to correct an erroneous statement that he made during his report; the NDSD will be short \$600,000 in property tax revenues and he originally reported the shortfall would only be \$60,000.

5. Mayor Report

Mayor Panucci stated that he appreciated Councilmember Hammond's comments about DeLore Thurgood; Mr. Thurgood was a pillar in the community and his service did not end after he was done serving as Mayor. He stated that Mr. Thurgood was instrumental in raising the money to build the museum and the farm and home museum. He stated that Mr. Thurgood has been an active member of the community and Syracuse is a better place because of him. He stated the City owes a great debt of gratitude to Mr. Thurgood. He stated it is very humbling to serve as Mayor and stand in the shadow of

men like Mr. Thurgood. He then stated that he wanted to thank the Police and Fire Departments for doing a great job at Mr. Thurgood's funeral; they escorted the funeral procession to the cemetery and they gave Mr. Thurgood the honor that he deserved. Mayor Panucci then stated that the Arts Council president spoke earlier about the Pirates of Penzance production and there have been many different groups ask the City to invest money in their projects. He stated that one way to mitigate the need for the City to make a financial contribution to the Pirates of Penzance production is for people to participate in the event. He stated that the play will take place on August 13, 14, and 15 at 7:00, which an additional matinee showing on August 15 at 2:00 p.m. He stated that if citizens attend these types of events and buy a ticket to support the group, it will be much easier for them to prepare for their next production. He stated that everyone would be amazed by the level of talent in the community. He then reported that a 'Meet the Candidates' event will be held August 26 at 7:00 p.m. at Bluff Ridge Elementary. He encouraged citizens to go to the event and find out who the candidates are and see whose thoughts they align with. He stated that if candidates think they can give an answer to a question that will make everyone happy, they are wrong.

6. Site Plan Approval, Wendy's Restaurant, located at approximately 1598 South 2000 West.

Jeff Gibson is requesting approval of the Site Plan and elevations for Wendy's Restaurant located at 1598 South 2000 West. An application for a Wendy's restaurant at this same location was submitted to the City and approved by the Planning Commission back on June 20, 2006. However the approval expired one (1) year after approval per City ordinance regulations. The applicant was informed of this expiration and told that they would need to begin the approval process again. The applicant appeared before the Architectural Review Committee on Tuesday July 28, 2009. The applicant brought with him the masonry materials that he will be using on his building. The building will have a split-face masonry unit for the base with a brick clad exterior up to the eaves of the building. There is a stucco banding around the building just above the brick veneer and the interior of gables will have a synthetic shingle material. The applicant did mention that the single band of masonry shown on the elevations at about the middle of the elevation would not be a different material, but rather would be a soldier course of bricks similar to the brick used on the rest of the structure. The dumpster enclosure will have the same masonry finishes as the building, a lower coursing of split face masonry block with the upper portion of the enclosure being clad in brick. All of the attached signage plans are for channel letters except for the "cameo" images of the Wendy character. These will be internally backlit. The Architectural Review Committee felt that this was a reasonable exception to the rule of no internally back lit signs in the Town Center. The monument sign will have similar masonry finishes as those of the building and will be externally lit from below. The Architectural Review Committee unanimously approved the application, site plan, elevations and signage. The applicant has addressed all of the issues and concerns as outlined in the Epic Engineering letter dated July 14, 2009. Staff has no other concerns at this time. Staff can recommend approval of Jeff Gibson's Site Plan and elevations for Wendy's Restaurant located at 1598 South 2000 West, subject to all requirements of the Syracuse City Land Use Ordinance specific to architectural plan reviews.

Councilmember Hammond stated there are three structures rising above the roofline of the building and he asked what they are. Jeff Gibson approached the Council and explained that the structures are gables and they can be seen from the front or back side of the building. Mayor Panucci added that the gables conform with the theme of the Town Center.

Councilmember Peterson stated that the gable on the far right includes the 'Wendy's girl' emblem and he asked for information about other signage on the building. Community Development Director LaBonty explained that the 'Wendy's girl' sign is a cameo sign and they are the only signs that will be backlit on the building. He stated the rest of the signs will fully comply with City signage ordinances. Mayor Panucci explained that the City's Architectural Review Committee (ARC) has recommended that the Council 'loosen up' on sign restrictions in order to better accommodate businesses interested in locating in the City.

Councilmember Clark asked if the design of the building has changed since it was originally submitted in 2006. Mr. Gibson stated that there will be a stucco band around the top of the building and additional GFI breakers will be added in the kitchen area. Councilmember Knight stated that he felt the new design is much nicer than the original design and the ARC was very pleased.

Councilmember Hammond inquired as to the time frame for the construction of the restaurant. Mr. Gibson stated that he would like to be open before the Thanksgiving holiday. He then reported that Wendy's International originally turned down this project. He stated that he is a franchisee with Wendy's and he has been for the last 25 years. He stated that he has been working on this site for more than a year and this is the only project he has been involved in where he will be the sole owner. He stated that the reason he chose this site to be the sole owner of is because of the community. He stated that every community has a problem, but as he became familiar with this community he quickly realized this is where he wanted to build his first restaurant. He stated that every city across the United States is struggling financially and one thing everyone needs to remember is to support the local businesses in their community to bring the money back to the community. He

stated that he is excited to be part of this community and he will be a community player. Mayor Panucci stated the City is looking forward to having Mr. Gibson and Wendy's as part of the community.

COUNCILMEMBER KNIGHT MADE A MOTION TO GRANT SITE PLAN APPROVAL FOR WENDY'S RESTAURANT TO BE LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 1598 SOUTH 2000 WEST. COUNCILMEMBER CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

7. Public Hearing – Proposed Ordinance 09-12 declaring the annexation of 4.8 acres of property located at approximately 2200 South 3000 West into the City of Syracuse, Davis County, Utah and establishing zoning for the property.

The City Council, during their July 28, 2009 meeting, set a public hearing for August 11 to consider the annexation of 4.8 acres of property into Syracuse City. The property is owned by David L. and Cleone B. Cook and the land is to be used for the construction of a Stake Center building for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (LDS). All historical documentation regarding the proposed annexation has been provided to all members of the Governing Body.

Mayor Panucci reviewed the site to be annexed and explained that it is across the street from Freemont Park. He stated that parcel of ground is just about the right size for a church house.

Mayor Panucci then convened the public hearing.

John Perry, 2461 S. 3585 W., stated that he lives to the west of the site and he asked how the Legacy Parkway could impact the site. Mayor Panucci stated that the construction of the future Legacy Parkway should not impact the site. He stated that Syracuse City has preserved as much property as possible along Bluff Road in order to accommodate the future Legacy Parkway in a manner that will not require the displacement of people or businesses in that area. He stated that looking down Bluff Road it is almost possible to see where Legacy Parkway will be. Mr. Perry stated that he noticed that the property is part of or adjacent to a sensitive overlay zone and he asked what that is. City Administrator Worthen explained that property located in a sensitive overlay zone has additional development requirements placed upon it.

Julie Topham, 3475 W. 2200 S., asked if the property to be annexed will be used for commercial or residential development. Mayor Panucci stated the City is fairly certain that the property will be the future home of an LDS church house.

There being no further persons appearing to be heard, Mayor Panucci closed the public hearing.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED ORDINANCE 09-12 DECLARING THE ANNEXATION OF 4.8 ACRES OF PROPERTY LOCATED AT APPROXIMATELY 2200 SOUTH 3000 WEST INTO THE CITY OF SYRACUSE, DAVIS COUNTY, UTAH AND ESTABLISHING ZONING FOR THE PROPERTY. COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

8. Public Hearing – Proposed Resolution R09-22 adopting the Fiscal Year (FY) 2009-2010 budget; Proposed Resolution R09-23 adopting the FY 2009-2010 wage scale.

Finance Director Holt provided to each member of the Governing Body a detailed list of the changes that had been made to the proposed budget since it was adopted as an operating budget. Advertisements regarding the Truth in Taxation public hearing to be held during this meeting were published in the July 28 and August 4, 2009 of the Standard-Examiner.

Finance Director Holt explained this is the final step in the budget process defined by State law. He explained that the Council adopted a tentative budget in May after staff had gone through the process of assembling the budget. He stated included in the staff proposed budget was a 40 percent property tax increase. He stated that the second step in the process took place in June when the Council was required to either adopt a final budget for the coming fiscal year (FY) or adopt an operating budget and advertise the intent to investigate a possible property tax increase. He stated that the Council opted for the latter option. He stated that Council decided that a tax increase could be considered, but it should be a 20 percent increase rather than a 40 percent increase. He stated that in order to balance the budget with a considerably lower potential tax increase staff removed all road projects from the budget. He stated the City has advertised a public hearing for the final proposal to be considered this evening. He stated that staff has recommended that the Council consider a property tax rate of .001936, which would generate an additional \$304,660 in property tax revenue. He stated that technically the budget is balanced without the increase, but the Council has discussed saving any money that would be generated by a property tax increase and depositing it into the City's 'rainy day' fund. He stated there is currently no money available for use in that fund; the fund currently has the minimum amount the City is required to have in savings. He stated that the average value of a home in Syracuse City is \$258,000 and if the increase in property taxes were accepted by the City the average home owner would pay an additional \$45.83 per year or \$3.81 per month. He stated that a 10 percent increase would cost the average home owner an additional \$22.98 a year; a five percent increase would cost the average homeowner \$11.49 a year; and a 40

percent increase would cost the average home owner an additional \$91.66 a year. He stated that the City had a revenue shortfall of \$600,000; budget reductions were made and \$400,000 in road project funding was removed from the budget to cause the budget to balance.

Mayor Panucci then convened the public hearing.

June Thurgood, 4398 W. 1700 S., stated that no one likes a tax increase and everyone is pretty 'ticked off' about it. She stated, however, that the amount of the tax increase currently being recommended by staff is reasonable. She stated that in 2005 the City asked Brigham Young University (BYU) to conduct a study on the City. She stated that the study suggested that Syracuse City increase property taxes at a slow pace. She stated this is not slow and this makes people mad. She stated the Council should have been making small increases each year or every other year. She stated that she can handle paying the City an additional \$3.81 per month, but she would ask for responsible spending on the part of the City in return. She stated that when her son was getting his Eagle Scout she came to a Council meeting; the new City Hall is wonderful, but the City did not need it so quickly. She stated she loves the lobby of this building, but it was not needed. She added that the ridiculous signage on the Police building was not needed either. She stated she can stand across the street from the building and take her glasses off and still read the sign. She asked what the fountain in the middle of the roundabout is for. She asked about the City sign that welcomed people to Syracuse. She stated it was in a state right-of-way and had to be knocked down. She stated that the City can raise her taxes, but the City better spend her money responsibly. She stated that if she has to follow a budget in her home the same should be done in the City. She stated that she is running for City Council and she will not accept wages for this position other than to keep her cell phone connected, buy some new clothes to wear to Council meetings and to recoup the money spent on campaign costs. She then turned to the audience and stated shame on citizens that do not shop in Syracuse. She asked all residents to support their neighbors and friends and she asked the Council to be friendly to business; the businesses are mad at the City because the City is not supporting them. She stated she is glad the City made some changes to signage regulations recently, but she reiterated there are some very frustrated business owners in the City.

Maria Thorpe, 2804 S. 580 W., stated that her family moved here three years ago because they loved this town and the rural area. She stated that she lived in Washington D.C. for 10 years prior to that time and her taxes are higher in this town than they were 35 miles south of the nation's capitol. She stated that her point is that the taxes here are 'too stinking high' and they need to be lowered. She stated the facilities in the City are wonderful, but she wondered if they were needed. She asked the Council to please consider her plea to lower taxes.

Edith Reniker, 1278 W. 1875 S., stated she was a little awed by her tax statement because her home's value decreased by \$14,000, but she owes more in taxes than she did last year. She stated she is concerned about what is going to happen here in the future; property values will increase again at some time in the future, which means that property tax revenues received by the City will also increase and at that time the City will 'be rolling in it'. She asked if the Council has considered floating any bonds while interest rates are low. She added that there is money available through the federal stimulus package and she asked if the City has tried to get any of it.

Craig Jenkins, 2292 S. Alison, stated that he has lived in the City for almost 13 years and many of those years he has spent serving on the Syracuse City Arts Council and he is currently a Syracuse City Planning and Zoning Commissioner. He stated he has served in that capacity for the past two years and because of his experiences he is on a first name basis with a number of City employees. He stated he knows from first hand experience how dedicated and hard working the City's employees are. He stated that these are touch economic times, but balancing the budget on the backs of the employees can not be done. He stated that every city in Davis County is suffering, but Syracuse City is the only city in Davis County that is considering a property tax hike. He stated the Davis County Commission has declined to raise property taxes because they understand it is not appropriate to raise taxes in the world we are currently living in. He stated the Davis School District has found ways to manage their shortfalls without raising taxes. He stated that some economists are saying this is the worse economy since the Great Depression, yet even the State of Utah has cut the state budget and so far they have refused to raise taxes. He stated that two years the Council asked for and received a 48 percent tax increase; this spring the original request was for a 40 percent increase. He stated that proposal has since been reduced to somewhere in the range of 20 percent, but that is still a very difficult "pill to swallow" for families that are on a fixed income, families facing pay cuts or unemployment, and especially senior citizens. He stated he wanted to strongly urge the Council to stop passing double digit tax increases every two years. He stated that in his professional employment he has the responsibility, for the last 10 years, of balancing a budget and one way he was able to do more with less was outsourcing certain functions. He stated that it is possible to get the same quality service for less money in some instances. He stated that managing budgets in a responsible manner is what needs to be done by Syracuse City. He asked the Council to leave no stone unturned in protecting the citizens of the City and he urged them to vote against the proposed tax increase stating that now is not the time to consider the increase.

Lynn Glauser, 3111 W. St. Andrews Drive, stated that he has been a resident for some time and he is a business owner as well. He stated he owns 12 properties on the City that he is being taxed on. He stated that he also owns properties in other cities, but those cities are not increasing taxes. He stated that he has not taken out a building permit recently because of the current economic climate, but he was recently informed that as of August 5 the cost of a building permit was increased. He stated that he has paid the fees to develop property as well as all impact fees he has been assessed, yet no parks have been built with that money. He stated that the City park on 700 South is totally dead due to neglect by the City. He stated that he is concerned about the intersection of 3000 West and 1700 South; a school was constructed there and cars are now stacked all around with no place to go because the City has said that 1700 South is a State road and the City had no authority to make improvements there. He stated the City controls the perimeter of the City and they have pull with the State. He stated that recently his son was driving on the road and the car in front of him flipped a piece of gravel onto his windshield damaging it. He stated that the person that he contacted at the City told him that they could do nothing for him because the accident happened on a State road. He stated that over and over the answer that citizens get from the City is that there is nothing the City can do and they are sorry. He stated now is not the time to raise taxes; the City needs to manage with what it has and maybe look at reducing building permit fees to help increase building revenues in the City. He encouraged the Council to look at the budget again to find more reductions instead of raising taxes.

Alan Miller, 741 S. 3900 W., stated that money is being wasted in the City day after day and now is not the time to raise taxes. He stated that Mr. Hold even said that the City can manage to do everything that is needed with the current proposed budget. He stated that everyone is suffering and now is not the appropriate time to raise taxes.

Thomas Mellars, 1833 W. 2525 S., stated that he has been a resident for seven years and he has lived in an area that had high taxes. He stated he is afraid the City is on the same slippery slope as the city he used to live in; the city is increasing taxes by double digit amounts and taxing cell phones and other utilities. He stated that he drives a 10-year old car; he would like a newer car, but tough times have fallen upon the country. He stated he has had to tighten his belt and he expects the City to do the same. He stated cutting costs is the way to approach solving this problem, but he has not heard much discussion about how to cut costs. He asked the Council to address that topic.

Josh Winward, 523 S. 2925 W., stated that if the Council adopts the proposed tax increase that will take away his ability to take money from his own pocket and put it into his own rainy day fund. He stated that any increase in taxes at this particular time is not good. He agreed that it is a small number, but small amounts over time add up and that is not acceptable. He stated that someone said earlier that the citizens need to support City businesses. He stated he has tried to do that as much as possible, but it is difficult to spend more money during this economic downturn. He then read the following quote from Thomas Jefferson: "A wise and frugal government which shall leave men free to regulate their own pursuits of industry and improvement and shall not take from the mouth of labor and bread it has earned, this is the sum of good government". He stated that everyone knows that taxes are necessary, but at this time raising taxes is not the right thing to do.

Shannon Elmer, 2984 W. Augusta, stated she has lived in Syracuse City for eight years and she loves it here. She stated her story is probably very similar to the stories of a lot of the people here tonight; her husband is a teacher and her family can not survive on one salary so her husband works two jobs. She stated that she has five children and she is a stay at home mom and her husband is working very hard to continue to support her family. She stated that this is not acceptable to her, especially when everyone else is raising their fees at the same time. She stated that another concern she has is the fact that the City has built many beautiful state of the art facilities; the City building, the Fire House, the Police Station, and the Community Center. She stated she has served on the Arts Council and the City has been very generous to that group, but recently she was made aware that the hours at the Community Center were being changed and the building would no longer be available at the time that the Community Choir had scheduled for rehearsal. She stated that she asked to be allowed to use the Community Center at another time on another night and she was told that would not work because the other people that use the Community Center would be annoyed by the Choir's singing. She stated that is very unacceptable to her; the City is trying to raise her taxes and she is being told that the group she belongs to is an annoyance to the City. She asked the Council to reconsider the proposed property tax increase. Mayor Panucci asked Ms. Elmer when she wanted to use the Community Center, to which Ms. Elmer answered Thursday nights from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Kerry Logan, 582 W. 3750 S., stated he has lived in the City for nine years in what he feels is the best neighborhood. He stated he agrees with everyone that has spoke against raising taxes; there are many things that can be cut back and one thing that can be cut is the benefits being provided to elected officials. He stated some of them are receiving benefits as if they were a full-time employee; there are at least two of them taking advantage of the opportunity. He stated that serving on the Council should be more of an honor than a job and he does not think elected leaders should receive any type of compensation. He stated that if elected officials donated their wages back to the City there would be a good amount of additional money available for the other things. He stated that he is running for a seat on the City Council and he will not accept more than \$1.00 per year for serving in that position. He stated that in order for the City to save an additional \$5,000 a

year the life insurance for part-time Fire Fighters was taken away and the Fire Fighters were informed of that by a note that they received in their paycheck. He stated that Fire Fighters go into people's homes to save lives, but they would not be able to provide for their family in the event that they get injured or killed on the job. He stated that the City Council is not putting their lives on the line and they should not receive benefits. He stated they need to think of how money is being spent in the City.

Matt Kimmel, 1218 S. 4050 W., stated that he is also running for City Council and he was in the work session earlier this evening when the statement was made three times that citizens are asking for taxes not to be raised, but they want the City to provide them with so many things. He stated that he does want some things from his City government; he wants responsibility, he wants fiscal discipline, and he wants accountability. He stated that he does not think that those things cost a lot of money. He stated he wants people who are principled and not people that do things simply because they are politically expedient. He stated he wants the City to have the community in mind rather than being concerned about individual corners of the City. He stated he has talked to a lot of families and he has come to realize that there are a lot of elderly people in the community that are on fixed incomes. He stated that there was a tax cut put in place by the previous federal government administration and that will probably not be continued by the new administration. He stated that a City tax increase added to previous property tax increases is absurd. He stated he wanted to talk about the cost of a 20 percent tax increase; it is gracious of the City to break it down into a per-month fee, but he would recommend that it be broken down into a per-minute fee or a per-second fee so that it seems even smaller to the residents. He stated that is ridiculous. He asked why the City needs to tax residents in order to save money; that does not make any sense to him. He stated that if people are allowed to keep their money they will reinvest it in the community. He stated it is not government's job to overtax its citizens. He stated that a government that rules best rules the least and he urged the Council to vote against raising taxes. He stated that he will never stand for a tax increase.

Karianne Lisonbee 4334 W. 1700 S., stated that she has noticed that even though people do not want their taxes increased they do want government to take care of their wants. She stated that when citizens ask the government to do things for them that cost money it will be necessary for the citizens to provide the funds. She stated that she understands it is necessary to provide funding through taxes to pay for things. She stated there are many things that citizens can volunteer to do in order to help improve the city. She stated that new vehicles, new buildings, art programs, work shops, theatrical productions, recreation programs, pristine parks, and bicycle trails are all nice, but they are not necessary. She stated there are many things that citizens can do as far as volunteering their time and coordinating their efforts to improve the City themselves. She stated that last year her husband lost his job; fortunately he was able to find new employment, but he took a cut in pay. She stated that she went to work as well. She stated they have reviewed their personal budget and they have trimmed it drastically. She stated that for many in Syracuse the job prospects are very stark; many people are hurting and people's need for money is not decreasing though her income is. She asked when the City's need for her money will be satiated. She asked the Council to decide against raising taxes.

Honorato Aostri, 3065 S. 800 W., stated that last year he received his tax notice for his residential property and his taxes increased by over 61 percent. He stated that his monthly mortgage payment increased by \$100 to cover the increase in property taxes. He stated that as Mr. Glauser pointed out earlier, Syracuse City is the only City that is considering an increase; the numbers presented by the City tonight look fine, but he is still aware that the increase is 22 percent. He stated that Syracuse City will have the single highest rate increase in the County in 2009. He stated that people have talked about the City wasting money; parks have not been completed, but wasteful projects are being completed such as the roundabout project at the intersection of Gordon Avenue and 1000 West. He stated the four-way stop sign that was at the intersection before was just fine. He stated that he was recently sitting at a traffic signal next to a police officer and when the light turned green the police officer squealed his tires; he could have at least disguised that by turning on his emergency lights. He stated that he is required to account for his expenditures and living in the City he is now required to pay additional utility costs such as a street lighting fee and storm sewage fees. He stated that \$3.81 per month looks great on paper, but his utility bill went up over \$8.00 a month recently. He stated that he owns property in Layton City and he has not experienced that type of increase; he is opposed to a tax increase in Syracuse City.

Jamie Nagle, 773 W. 2400 S., stated that she wants to echo what everyone else has said so far. She stated that she agreed that when one first hears the dollar amount of \$3.81 per month for a tax increase the first thing they might think is "that is not such a big deal", but it is a big deal when considering the number of families that are struggling financially and all of the other rates that are being increased. She stated that Sunset City is the only other city in Davis County that is considering a tax increase and they are considering increasing taxes by 21 percent. She stated she does not know the specifics of what is happening in Sunset, but she does know the specifics of what is happening here. She stated she knows there are businesses that are struggling and some are finding it difficult to open their new business. She stated the City is not developing a tax base and instead it is necessary to continue to ask for more money from residents. She stated she would ask the City to be more aggressive in streamlining the business development application process and discontinue the practice of

raising impact fees and taxes applied to businesses. She stated that is not the answer. She stated that if residents do not want their property taxes increased it is necessary to look at increasing revenues in other areas. She stated that she has been attending City Council work sessions prior to City Council meetings and it has been interesting to listen to some of the discussions that are taking place. She stated that in tonight's work session the discussion centered on outsourcing the Human Resources Director position. She stated that she thinks that now is the time to look at efficiencies and some times City employees may be asked to do more. She stated that as a State employee she has been asked to do more as it has become necessary to make cuts. She stated that she no longer receives personnel training from a person; rather she watches a training video on her computer. She stated that it has been possible to make cuts on a State level and it should be possible to make similar cuts on a City level. She stated that she also hoped that those in City government could break away from holding private meetings and keeping secret alliances and simply do what is best for the citizens, not what is best for one group of people or a special interest group.

Joannie Panucci, 2480 S. 2000 W., stated that she would like to talk a little about being fiscally responsible. She stated that it has been mentioned that the City Council approved a 48 percent tax increase two years ago and most of the money, if not all of the money, generated by that tax increase was used to create new employment positions in the City and raise wages for existing employees. She stated the Council at that time created a new structure for wages. She stated that now, two years later, the Council is asking for another 20 percent tax increase. She stated that she did not believe that is an example of being fiscally responsible. She stated that when the 48 percent tax increase was approved the majority of the money generated should not have been spent in just one area. She stated that she knows that Mayor Panucci and past Councilmember Wally Peterson were opposed to the restructuring of wages. She stated that she knows that the Mayor presented an alternate wage scale that was far more conservative, but four Councilmen would not even consider it. She stated she will never forget her husband walking in the door after the Council meeting in which the increase was approved and saying to her that what the other four Councilmen had done that evening will cause the City to suffer for years to come. She stated that is evidenced by the fact that only two years later the Council is asking for another tax increase. She stated that over a two year time frame, from 2006 to 2008, the salaries have increased in Syracuse City by \$1.4 million. She stated that she believes in a fair wage for the City's great employees and she even recognizes that the City has some Police Officers that are underpaid, but the fact that wages escalated in such an alarming manner was a red flag to her. She stated that she is concerned by the fact that when staff originally proposed the budget for the coming fiscal year they recommended a 40 percent tax increase. She stated the proposed budget included a Christmas bonus for employees. She stated this is a time when citizens are experiencing wage cuts, loss of overtime, and loss of jobs and homes. She stated that she feels that there is a disconnect somewhere in the City staff as they are not aware of what is happening in the municipality. She stated that recently the Fire Department grounds were landscaped to the tune of \$49,500; she has great concern that an expense like that was not brought before the Council and Mayor before it is authorized. She stated that even though the landscaping cost was included in the total package for the Fire Station an expenditure like that should have been brought before the Council and Mayor considering the current economic climate. She stated that she expects the Council to review the budget and look thoroughly at all expenses included therein and decide to adopt a balanced budget without a tax increase. She stated that this is a great City to live in and she loves Syracuse and the people here. She stated that she has confidence that better decisions can be made.

John Booker, 574 S. 3000 W., stated that he has lived in Syracuse City for 22 years and he has raised three boys here; it is a great City and he has loved it, but he feels the tax increases are totally unwarranted. He stated the City needs to be fiscally responsible and the staff and Council do not seem to be getting that. He stated that the elected officials should look long and hard at this issue because the citizens will be watching. He stated that if elected officials vote for a tax increase the citizens will not be voting to re-elect them.

Jimmy Chadbourne, 2344 S. 2000 W., stated that he has lived in Syracuse for almost 50 years and he has enjoyed living here very much. He stated that he thinks that the City is headed in the wrong direction and it is time to make some serious changes. He stated the rainy day is today; the City is talking about a 10 or 20 percent increase, the Sewer District will not be far behind, and one of the other utility companies has already discussed increasing their rates. He stated that the increases of all the entities are adding up and soon people on fixed incomes will be taxed out of their homes. He stated that he agreed with Ms. Panucci's recommendation to put a cap on wages for City employees and tell them that the wages that they are currently receiving will not be increased for a while. He stated that he would bet that the City would not receive one resignation from a City employee because times are tough. He stated that he walks through Jensen Park almost every day and there is a section of the trail that the Sewer District tore up during the winter; the section was finally replaced and the City has now drove a large mowing machine on the trail and damaged the shoulders of the trail. He stated that the Council should take a hard look at those types of things and consider making better use of City equipment. He stated that he has heard that some volunteers in the City are getting more than Fire Fighters and that is a shame because Fire Fighters put their lives on the line; they need the best equipment and the best training. He stated that the Fire Fighters need to be taken care of

before the City worries about paying volunteers. He stated a little more volunteerism without pay is what the City needs. He stated that he is on a fixed income and he spends his time at a mechanic shop and he mows weeds; his compensation is free oil changes and the inspection of his vehicles. He stated that the City needs to take a good hard look at everything before raising taxes. He stated a short time ago the City had the opportunity to get some sit-down restaurants and due to fights over alcohol that never happened; the City Council said that businesses could not sell alcohol. He stated that some of these types of decisions need to be put to a vote of the people; the people should be making the big decisions and the Council should be making the minor decisions. He stated he is opposed to a tax increase at this time.

VeAnn Bean, 1509 S. 2600 W., stated that one of the ten planks of the communist manifesto by Carl Marx is the evolution of private property. She stated that one way he proposed to do that is through property taxes. She stated that our founding fathers wanted to make sure that our life, liberty, and property were secure and they did not approve of the idea of property taxes. She stated that because of property taxes citizens can never really own their property. She stated that each time property taxes increase it becomes harder and harder for citizens to secure their property. She stated that she realizes that the fight against property taxes is for another day; she also realizes that the City can not dictate that Syracuse City will not collect property taxes, but the City can do everything possible to use taxpayers' money more wisely and decide against raising property taxes unnecessarily. She stated that all government entities can only tax citizens up to 100 percent of their income; at some point it has got to stop. She asked that the Council oppose the property tax increase.

LaVell Sackett, 3384 S. 1000 W., stated he has been a resident of the City for 42 and he is very proud to call himself a resident of this community. He stated that he does not believe there has been enough done to reduce the budget this year. He stated that his son and grandson are nearing the end of a two week furlough from Williams International. He stated they received notification that they would be furloughed a significant amount of time in advance so that they could prepare for a two week period with no wages. He stated that at the end of the two weeks they were 'damn glad' to have a job to go back to. He stated that he feels the City could do that same thing. He stated that he does not want to put the problems of the City on the backs of the City employees; the City has some great employees and he is proud of them, but a furlough of some sort would help to reduce the budget expenses considerably. He stated that a two week furlough would not need to be consecutive; rather employees could have the option of taking one day at a time until that added up to two weeks. He stated that he is very much opposed to a double digit tax increase. He stated that he realizes that some times taxes need to be increased to cover expenses, but another double digit tax increase on top of the tax increase that was approved two years ago would be way too much.

Kathy Lewis, 2336 S. Doral Drive, stated that many comments have been made about how individuals need to look at their own budgets to see what reductions can be made and eliminate expenses that are more of a luxury than a need. She stated that recently she attended a meeting that a Councilmember was at and she asked a question about the post office located in City Hall knowing that the United States Postal Service is considering closing several post offices across the nation. She stated that the location in Syracuse City was not listed as one of the locations to be closed. She stated the Councilmember told her that originally the federal government had implied that they would pay a set amount of money to fund the post office, but that has not happened and now the City has spent \$16,000 this year to fund the post office. Mayor Panucci stated that information is incorrect. Councilmember Knight stated that he wanted to respond because he is the person that gave Ms. Lewis the information. He stated that the USPS pays for the employee in the post office, but the City pays for the supervision of employees and oversight at the post office and that costs the City money that was not calculated into the contract. He stated the City does spend about \$15,000 a year. He stated that the contract is up for renegotiation again this coming November and hopefully the USPS will agree to pay the costs being incurred by the City or the City should decide to close the post office. Ms. Lewis stated that was the information that Councilmember Knight shared at the meeting she attended. She then stated that her point is that as an average citizen of the City she has found an expenditure that can be cut from the budget and she is wondering why the Council can not see the same things. She stated she would like to know how to access past budgets of the City. She added that it is obvious that the proposed tax increase is bothering all the residents in attendance this evening and she would like to be able to review the budget to see if she can further help the Council.

Sandy Jensen, 1452 S. 1250 W., stated that she lives in the older section of the City and when she heard about the proposed tax increase she became very angry. She explained that she works for Davis County and many of the people that she works with have told her that the new Fire House is a state of the art building and is more than the City needs at this point. She stated that her complaint is that many of the residents that have lived in the City for a long time are not seeing improvements made to the neighborhoods they live in; there was a large pot hole in the road near her home and it took many calls to the City to get it repaired. She stated that when she walks into the new City building she is very angry knowing the amount of money that was spent to build it while the pot hole in her street was ignored. She stated that she does not believe that City employees should be asked to take a cut in pay, but she does believe that the City should be careful with the raises they are offering to employees. She stated that people that are doing the same job for the City that she does for the County

are making more money than her. She stated that as a citizen she does not want to see a tax increase; she does not see an alternative to raising taxes except for that the Council should go through the budget line by line and make additional cuts. She stated that everyone is doing that at this time and it is time for the City to do the same.

Alan Mullenhaur, 444 S. 3000 W., stated that he has lived in the City for 26 years and he sees the street sweeper sweep the 107 feet of road in front of his house on a regular basis, but he could do that himself. He stated that he drives a school bus and he recently received information from the School District that he would no longer be receiving his pay stub in the mail and he would need to instead view it electronically. He stated that step increases were eliminated as were cost of living increases. He stated that everyone knows that District employees will only work 178 days this year instead of 180 days. Mayor Panucci asked if that is a two-day furlough, to which Mr. Mullenhaur answered yes. He stated his hours would be cut from eight to four and a half each day and his insurance costs would increase from \$78 to almost \$400, which required him to cancel his insurance. He asked that the Council decide against raising taxes.

Richard Bassett, 2125 S. 3400 W., stated that all the commercial development in the City is coming to fruition as it was planned, but the City still wants to raise taxes even though there is new money coming into the City. He stated that his wife is a stay at home mom and they spend their money in Syracuse, yet their taxes are still increased. He stated that they have watched as beautiful parks have been built throughout the City, yet they have a 'rinky-dink' park in their neighborhood. He stated taxes continue to increase; the residents are being taxed left and right. He stated that he earns \$32,000 a year and he asked when this will end. He asked if things are going to get to a point where he will be forced to move. He stated he did not know where he would move to. He stated that the proposed tax increase is unacceptable; he has watched as the City has grown and he has seen the beautiful City buildings built next to his modest house. He stated that he has cut costs and he asked to City to see where they can cut costs instead of raising taxes.

Adam Bennett, 1189 W. 2700 S., stated he has been a home owner in Syracuse City for four months. He stated he is still in college and when he sees that the City is considering charging him an additional \$3.81 per month in taxes he is insulted. He stated that a 20 percent increase is totally outrageous and irresponsible of the City. He stated that the same thing will happen to the City that happens to people that end up having more money than they know what to do with. He stated it is unacceptable for the City to not be efficient; the money generated by the tax increase will be spent irresponsibly by the City. He stated that he prays that the Council will listen to the comments of the citizens and see what reductions can be made to reduce the impact on the community. He asked the Council to try to make Syracuse a place where everyone would want to live.

Wally Peterson, 2401 S. Bluff Road, stated that he was late to the meeting and he hoped that he did not repeat the comments made by those that came before him. He stated that he feels he is partially to blame for some of the things that have been discussed tonight, such as salaries. He stated that he does not want to pick on the Fire Department, but an expense of \$50,000 for landscaping and 50 inch televisions in the Fire House are not necessary. He stated that someone needs to be in charge. He stated that he hopes that it is not a four to one vote to not increase property taxes this year. He stated that he got a letter from the government regarding his annuity; he is sure that it cost the government \$.42 to send him the notice. He stated that his annuity is cut \$.03 per month this year and he asked how people are expected to pay for a tax increase. He asked the City to tighten its belt just as it is asking citizens to do the same.

Neisha Bennett, no address given, stated that her husband spoke for the, but she wanted to speak for her parents, who live at 2456 S. 2050 W. She stated they have lived in the City for 14 years and her dad is pretty upset about the way things are going. She stated that both of her parents work for the School District; her mom has been a teacher at the Junior High for almost 30 years and her dad works very hard and has several other obligations besides being a teacher. She stated that her parents' retirement dates keep getting pushed back because they can not afford to retire and the District keeps changing the rules to make them work longer to be eligible for retirement. She stated this is not the City's fault, but it is reality. She stated that she would encourage the City to prevent putting more strain on the residents and instead work towards bringing everyone together to try to figure out how to solve the problems of the City. She asked everyone to work together so that there is not one person that feels they are to blame.

Shane Crowton, 2353 S. 3585 W., stated that he lives in the Tuscan Meadows subdivision. He stated that in politics it always seems that the process is to create a budget and then go and find the money to pay for the budget. He stated that process should be reversed; the City should look at the money they actually have and then decide how the money should be spent. He stated that several people have talked about how the economy has affected them. He stated that for most of this year he has been searching for a job and he finally found one, but it paid 50 percent less than his previous job. He stated that he seems to be doing o.k. at making his money fit his budget. He stated that he can show everyone how to turn \$3.81 into three meals for a family of seven people. He stated that if the government listens to people they can come up with ways to meet all the needs of the City.

Tom Mellars, 1833 W. 2525 S., stated that a lot of the comments made have been in opposition to increasing revenues via a tax increase, but there have also been comments about reducing the City's costs. He stated that there is one

small cost that he has noticed that could be eliminated. He stated that every Thursday the trash collection company drives their truck through is neighborhood and he must drive through twice because trash bins are placed on both sides of the street. He stated that residents could be asked to put all bins on the same side of the street so that the truck only has to drive through once. He stated that could save time and money. Mayor Panucci stated the City has looked into that option.

Mayor Panucci then stated that the Council has already thought about many of the things that have been mentioned by the residents. He stated that the City did implement a hiring and wage freeze late last year; no pay increases for employees have been included in the proposed budget. He stated that someone made the comment that the City will end up having more money than they know what to do with. He stated that he can make one promise to the residents and that is there are always more needs than money in City government. He stated that many people tonight have talked about the park they want the City to build, but the City does not have any money in its park fund. He stated the Council did elect to increase taxes two years ago and that increase did go largely to fund wage increases. He stated the City has already increased some utility fees. He stated there have been comments about putting money in the City's reserve fund; it is very important to have money in the City's reserve fund, but the City can find money to put in the reserve through making more cuts rather than increasing taxes. He stated that now is a very difficult economic time; people have mentioned that they have lost their jobs, overtime opportunities have been eliminated, and bonuses have been eliminated. He stated that in his private employment the company he works for has reduced wages three different times this year. He stated that there was a newspaper article today about the fact that Washington County has the highest foreclosure rate in the nation; people are losing their homes left and right. He stated that the highest foreclosure rate in Davis County is right here in Syracuse City. He stated that he does believe that the City can make further budget reductions and put money in the rainy day fund, but that will require some creativity. He stated that one thing the Council is currently considering is outsourcing City services; the Council received a presentation from a Human Resources company during their last meeting and there are potential savings associated with outsourcing. He stated that those types of options may require Department Heads to pick up a little more slack and take on additional duties that they were not previously responsible for, but with the proper training they should be able to do things right. He stated that the employees are great people and they do a great job, but sometimes it is necessary to step up and do more. He stated that it is critical that the Council recognize that now is not the time to raise taxes. He then stated that the Council makes the ultimate decision on the budget.

Councilmember Clark stated that he wanted everyone that spoke to know that he has heard what they said. He stated that by trade he is an accountant and he has looked through this budget very carefully and he has some significant concerns. He stated that he was the Councilmember that proposed that the Council consider a 20 percent tax increase and he did that for a couple of reasons; first, there have been a lot of requests for various projects or programs from citizens and those things cost money. He stated that City had to reduce the staffing level in the Parks Department by five seasonal employees and it is difficult for the 'skeleton' crew to maintain all the park ground the City owns. He stated that Ms. Jensen mentioned an issue with the road in her subdivision; this year the City's budget will only have \$78,000 for road maintenance compared to a budget of \$378,000 last year for the same purpose. He stated that means that \$300,000 in road maintenance projects can not be completed. He stated that at some point it will become necessary to complete projects and pay for them and he asked when and how that will happen. He stated that the City no longer has a reserve fund. He stated that he heard comments about the fact that other cities are not finding it necessary to raise taxes and he explained that is because those cities have money available in their reserve funds and they have something to fall back on. He stated that several people mentioned they feel that the City needs to be fiscally responsible and his answer to that is that he feels the most fiscal responsible thing to do would be to build up the reserve fund. He stated that he does not think that the economy has gotten as bad as it can get and he feels that things will be worse next year. He stated that he does not pay property taxes any more than any resident does, but he understands property taxes are the funding source cities are given by the State. He stated that sales tax revenues have decreased, which has contributed to this situation. He stated that the total expenses of the City have been decreased by 13 percent, which is a significant number. He asked if there is more that can be done. He stated he believes in being fiscally responsible, but he also believes in taking care of things when necessary rather than putting them off. He stated that at some point the City needs to fund the things that need to get done; people want their parks and roads maintained and there is not enough money coming from sales tax to take care of those things. He stated that if people want the City to 'tighten its belt', it will be necessary for the citizens to tighten their expectations in return. He stated that people can not ask for additional funding in any one place in the budget without expecting the need to generate additional revenue, no matter the source of that revenue. He stated the City has the responsibility to provide services to every resident equally. He stated that he has heard the concerns of the citizens and he reiterated that the reason that he proposed the property tax increase is that he understands the need to create a buffer for the City. He stated that sales tax revenues could continue to drop and the City has no control of that. He stated that if the Council does not raise taxes tonight everyone must understand that service levels may possibly be decreased. He stated that the City can continue to tighten its belt, but the residents will need to help by maybe lowering their expectations.

Councilmember Knight stated he also heard what the citizens have said. He stated someone made the comment that they are driving a 10-year old car. He stated that the newest car his family owns is a 1997 car. He stated he understands what it means to tighten his belt and live on a tight budget. He stated that he was part of the Council that voted for the tax increase two years ago and raised wages for City employees and he did that because the City found themselves in a position where employees were being trained to do their job and then they were moving to other cities that paid higher wages. He stated that many people have asked why the Council has not been raising taxes by small amounts over the past several years. He stated that the City has not needed to do that because there was sufficient money available in the reserve fund and there was enough money in the general fund to do the things that needed to be done in the City. He stated that there used to be an overwhelming amount of building taking place in the City, but the door on building has slammed shut during this economic downturn, which means the revenues the City was seeing from building have also ceased. He stated that the comment is always made that Syracuse City gets more done with less people. He explained that the City is approximately the same size as Clinton City, but Syracuse City has one-third the employees that Clinton has. He stated that Councilmember Clark just mentioned the fact that the staffing level of the parks crew is down this year; the City has tightened its belt to the point that it is not longer possible to maintain the level of service the residents are used to. He stated that he recently found out that West Point City received grant funding for roads and he asked Cindy Gooch, the City's past grant writer, how the City could qualify for similar funding and she told him that the City's roads are not on the State transportation master plan. He stated that he is working to get more grant funding coming to the City. He then stated that Sunset City did raise their taxes by 27 percent; they are the only other city in the County that was considering a tax increase. He stated that employee benefits costs have increased and those increases were passed onto the employees; the City employees did not receive a raise this year or last – though employees were given a cost of living adjustment (COLA) last year; and the employees' 401K matches have been eliminated. He stated that the City did need to replace some vehicles this year; one was a police vehicle that had a salvage title and it often broke down when being driven to a scene. He stated that the Fire Chief's vehicle should have been replaced because it no longer holds a charge. He stated that the City planned for the long term in relation to landscaping City buildings; xeroscape was used, which will save the City much money in maintenance costs over the years. He stated that if traditional landscaping would have been used it would have been necessary for Fire Fighters to maintain their yard rather than training and taking care of equipment. He stated that several years the City was being hit with growth and trying to meet the needs of the citizens at the same time. He stated that in the old City Hall there was not enough room for the number of employees that was needed to run the City. He stated that the Council followed the BYU study when building new City facilities that should last at least 50 years; several employees participated in the design and building of the new City buildings. He stated that he may have overlooked the cost of the landscaping for the Fire House and that was a mistake, but the overall Fire House project came in under budget. He then explained that if roads are maintained it is possible to double or even triple the life of the road, but if they are ignored they will deteriorate much faster and then it will be much more costly to replace the road rather than repair it. He asked if the City should maintain roads now to avoid more out of pocket expense in the coming years, or should the City remove road projects from the budget in order to make those in opposition to a tax increase happy. He asked where the City should draw the line; the Council must be smart about how they do things to make sure that foregoing a tax increase now will not cause more burdens for the residents in the future. He stated that he is willing to argue that the Council has been fiscally responsible.

Councilmember Peterson stated that the first thing he jotted down was that no one will ever like a tax increase, even if it is passed during the best of economies. He stated that he works for the Davis School District and all employees were told that they would not be receiving raises this year and that they would be furloughed for two days. He stated that his family has looked at their budget and they have made some reductions. He stated that when he came here tonight he did not really want to vote for a 20 percent increase, but he thought he might be comfortable with a 10 percent increase since it would cost residents only \$1.91 per month. He stated that he has made notes as people have been speaking and he wanted to explain that one of the goals that he wanted to accomplish was to balance the budget without doing so on the backs of the employees; he did not want to cut wages or furlough employees. He stated employees will not receive raises, they have had their 401K matches eliminated, and increases in benefits costs were passed on to them. He stated that he is concerned about removing road project funding from the budget in order to balance it. He stated that there is about \$75,000 available for some minor maintenance, such as filling potholes and sealing cracks. He stated he is pleased that the proposed budget is balanced without a tax increase. He stated that when he came here tonight he liked the idea of increasing taxes and saving the revenues in the rainy day fund, but a couple of comments made by people tonight really made him think about his decision. He stated he thought about the increased cost each family would be required to pay and in his family that amount of money could make a big difference. He stated that if the tax increase is not approved the City will continue to tighten its belt; he hoped citizens and families alike will do the same. He stated his thoughts have changed since attending this meeting and he wanted everyone to know that he appreciated their comments.

Councilmember Shingleton stated it is not easy to be a Councilman. He stated he respects the thoughts of every Councilman, but it 'boils down to' listening to the people. He stated that he attended the cottage meetings that were held to talk to citizens about the budget; he has gone door to door and talked to residents; and he has listened to people that have spoken to him. He stated that is what it is all about. He stated the City may not be able to fund a new park right now, but it may be possible to make some changes to make it more tolerable. He stated the Council has talked about outsourcing and making efforts to increase volunteerism in the community and he hoped that some of those changes will help the City be more efficient and save more money. He stated that he is open to listen to the citizens and consider their suggestions; the City needs to tighten its belt just as the citizens have done. He stated he hoped the residents will understand that the service level may not be the same as it was two years ago. He stated that the City really does not need a tax increase at this time because the budget is balanced without one.

Councilmember Hammond stated that a citizen came over to his house before Council meeting this evening and gave him a miniature replica of the national congress in Brazil. He stated there are two towers in the middle of the monument and they are balanced; one can represent the government and the other the people. He stated that John Adams once said that the people's good is the highest law. He stated it is possible to balance the budget without the tax increase; no additional monies will be placed in the rainy day fund without a tax increase, but there is a way to increase the money in the rainy day fund by reducing costs. He stated that outsourcing is an option in some Departments in the City. He stated that some things can be done with staff similar to what has been done in the School District. He added that there was also an undercharge in the utility department and high water users were not paying as much as they should have been paying for their water last year. He stated that if that money is recouped in addition to outsourcing and a possible furlough it will be possible for the City to come up with \$256,000 to go into the City's rainy day fund. He stated the City does not need a tax increase at this time, 'amen'.

Councilmember Knight stated there is no guarantee that outsourcing will save the City money; services can be cut to save money, but he would be cautious about making the claim that outsourcing will definitely save the City money. He stated that the City could furlough employees, but the City is currently understaffed and a furlough will only reduce the service level more. He stated that if the City's infrastructure is neglected the residents will be forced to pay more to replace it in the future. He stated the things the Council is considering doing are similar to taking out a high interest loan. He stated that people keep talking about wanting the City to be fiscally responsible, but he felt that deferring a tax increase at this time if very fiscally irresponsible.

Councilmember Clark stated that one thing that is important for the residents to understand is that the budget is based on a guess relative to the revenues that will come in to the City. He stated it is very difficult to forecast sales tax revenue numbers, meaning the budget is based on an estimate. He stated that if sales tax rebounds the City will have the ability to put excess money into the rainy day fund, but if sales tax continues to decline it will be necessary to further reduce expenses. He stated he only makes that comment because he wants everyone to be educated about how the City functions; the City does not have a way to exactly determine how much money will be available for the budget in the next year. He stated that if it is necessary to cut expenses that means a reduction in service as well. He stated it may become necessary to eliminate the remaining \$78,000 budgeted for road maintenance, meaning that no pot holes will be filled and no cracks will be sealed. He stated he is not trying to paint a gloomy picture; rather he is trying to be realistic.

Mayor Panucci stated that residents may wonder why sales tax revenues are decreasing even though there are more stores and businesses open in Syracuse. He stated that the sales tax revenues are distributed to cities by the State and sales tax revenues are made up of two figures; point of sale revenues and state-wide sales tax revenues. He stated that point of sale revenues are remaining fairly constant while the reduction has been in the state-wide revenues.

Councilmember Clark stated that the City is anticipating receiving approximately \$2.6 million in sales tax revenue; \$250,000 of that will come from Wal-Mart; the portion that is budgeted to come from the state-wide revenues is a big portion, which is why the impact of the reduction of the state-wide revenues has been so huge. Councilmember Clark then asked IT Director Peace how difficult it would be to add a link to the City's website to allow residents to leave their comments or suggestions. Mr. Peace stated it would not be difficult to do that. Councilmember Clark stated he felt that adding such a link to the website would be very helpful.

COUNCILMEMBER HAMMOND MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION R09-22 ADOPTING THE FISCAL YEAR (FY) 2009-2010 BUDGET WITH NO TAX INCREASE. COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON SECONDED THE MOTION, WITH THE FOLLOWING ROLL CALL VOTE: VOTING "AYE" – COUNCILMEMBERS CLARK, HAMMOND, PETERSON, AND SHINGLETON. VOTING "NO" – COUNCILMEMBER KNIGHT.

Councilmember Clark stated that he feels this is the wrong vote for the City, but he voted in agreement for the residents that make up this City. He reiterated he feels it is the wrong vote for the City itself.

Councilmember Knight stated that he voted in opposition because the decision to not raise taxes will negatively impact the City over the next couple of years. He stated that there are some tough times ahead for the City. He stated that if there are more financial problems without a safety net the only other option is to begin laying off employees.

Mayor Panucci stated the budget has been adopted. Councilmember Hammond stated the budget is adopted without a tax increase.

COUNCILMEMBER HAMMOND MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION R09-23 ADOPTING THE FY 2009-2010 WAGE SCALE. COUNCILMEMBER CLARK SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

9. Authorize Administration to execute cooperative agreement with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) for the purpose of constructing a pedestrian safety sidewalk on SR-127 from 3450 West to 3600 West.

Syracuse City has been awarded, for the third consecutive year, a Safety Sidewalk grant from the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT). The project award was approved for \$38,262.00 of which UDOT will participate at 75 percent of the awarded amount for a total of \$28,696.88. These funds will enhance the pedestrian safety near the new Buffalo Pointe Elementary school. The area to receive the sidewalk is located along south side of Antelope drive east of Doral Street near the new school. The City has proposed to install approximately 900 feet of sidewalk from the Ranchettes Subdivision to the east boundary of Miller Springs subdivision where the new school is located. This new sidewalk will allow pedestrians to reach the new school from Ranchettes subdivision along the south side of Antelope drive (SR-108). Staff recommends authorization be granted to City Administration to enter into the Safety Sidewalk award agreement with UDOT. The 25 percent match amount will come from fund 20 (Class C roads) to satisfy the City's match portion of the grant. Furthermore, the bid for this work is expected to be favorable towards lower bid amounts. The match portion is \$9,565.00 which includes engineering and administrative costs for the project.

Mr. Worthen reviewed the staff memo provided to the Council regarding the cooperative agreement. He stated that the project is a very simple project and it may be possible to lower the project cost by performing as much work as possible in-house. He stated the sidewalk will dramatically improve the ability of the pedestrians to navigate to the new Buffalo Point elementary. He stated that the Police Chief received word that many students attending that school will no longer be bussed to the school. He stated that makes this project even more important at this time.

COUNCILMEMBER SHINGLETON MADE A MOTION TO AUTHORIZE ADMINISTRATION TO EXECUTE COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH THE UTAH DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (UDOT) FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTING A PEDESTRIAN SAFETY SIDEWALK ON SR-127 FROM 3450 WEST TO 3600 WEST. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

10. City Administrator Report.

Mayor Panucci reported that the City received a suggestion from a resident to install a crosswalk near Banbury Drive. He stated it would be a good idea to have a crosswalk there. Mr. Worthen stated it would be fairly easy to install a crosswalk at that location.

Mr. Worthen reported that he has been doing some research regarding conducting a cost-benefit analysis for the Shadow Point Shopping Center; the estimated cost to conduct the study is \$6,000. He stated he will forward the Council a copy of the estimate for their review and discussion. He then reported that the Antelope Drive road widening project is ongoing and the Council should be receiving periodic emails regarding the status of the project. He added that he meets with the Utah Department of Transportation (UDOT) every week to cover issues relative to the project. Councilmember Hammond asked if the City is being compensated for providing a police presence at the project. Mr. Worthen explained that UDOT is paying the City \$40 per hour per officer for the time they are contributing to the project. He stated the City is recouping the payroll costs for Police Officers assigned with that duty.

At 9:58 p.m. COUNCILMEMBER CLARK MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER KNIGHT SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

Fred Panucci
Mayor

Cassie Z. Brown, CMC
City Recorder

City Council Meeting
August 11, 2009

Date approved: September 22, 2009