



**MINUTES  
PROCEEDINGS OF THE COUNCIL OF  
THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY  
MARCH 9, 2011  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

**NOTICE OF MEETING**

Regular Meeting of the Council of the City of Perth Amboy was held on Wednesday, March 9, 2011 in the Council Chambers, City Hall, Perth Amboy, New Jersey at 7:00 p.m.

Presiding Officer of the Council, Kenneth Balut, advised the audience that notice of these meetings have been filed with the Home News Tribune, The Star Ledger, The Amboy Beacon and posted on the bulletin board in the City Clerk's office and on the City's website, indicating that today's meeting is being held at the Council Chambers, City Hall at 7:00 p.m.

Council President Balut: At this time, as a courtesy to the Governing Body, I would ask all individuals present, including members of the audience, to please turn off all cell phones and electronic devices. Should you need to make a telephone call, please go out into the hallway and speak in a low voice so as not to disturb the ongoing meeting.

Invocation was given by Council Member William Petrick who also led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Council President Kenneth Balut called the meeting to order with the following Council Members present: Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Joel Pabon and William Petrick. Absent--none.

Also present at this meeting were: Greg Fehrenbach, Business Administrator, Mark J. Blunda, Esq., Director of Law, and Elaine M. Jasko, City Clerk.

## PROCLAMATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

None.

## HEARING OF CITIZENS (10 MINUTE MAXIMUM)

None.

## AGENDA

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – Citizens may address the Council on any matter on the agenda which does not have its own scheduled public hearing. Citizens shall be permitted to speak once for a maximum of ten (10) minutes.

### **Communication #7**

Alan Silber, 244 Rector St.: We should draw up an ordinance to prohibit someone that is collecting a pension from getting a city job. We might be compromising ourselves by hiring someone at a reduced cost instead of getting the best candidate. There's a bill introduced in the Senate that will prohibit this. We should take a pro-active approach on this.

Council President Balut: I took this fight on 15 years ago against the police director. I am asking Mr. Blunda to see if this is legal to do.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: I requested a legal opinion from Mr. Blunda on this matter. Mr. Blunda has some concerns about this type of ordinance being discriminatory in nature. The intent was never meant to be discriminatory. The intent is to stop double dipping. It is happening all over. A person who collects a pension is not as motivated to do the job as someone who is just starting a new career. Retirement means just that.

Alan Silber: It's happening all over the State. It's circumventing the pension system which is going broke. The Council should be leaders in not allowing this. This is not discriminatory against older people. It's discriminatory against younger people.

Mark Blunda: The Senate Bill would prohibit someone from taking a job with the public sector if they were collecting their pension from having worked in the public sector. A municipality does not have the authority to pass an ordinance like that. That is a state pension. The state could do that. I was asked to look at the issue of "can the city pass an ordinance that would prohibit employment of someone already receiving a public pension?" There is no law that prohibits that. However, it is my concern that it might be considered age discrimination. The municipality would have to show there is a

legitimate non-discriminatory reason for doing it. That would be the burden on the city. This was done in the past because it allowed employees to be hired because of their experience and highly qualified people without having to pay their pension costs.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: I would like to formally request that an ordinance be drafted as originally requested to prohibit hiring anyone that is collecting a pension.

Council President Balut: We should have a resolution of support of the senate bill.

Mark J. Blunda: I will prepare it for the next meeting.

**R-95**

Stan Sierakowski, 679 Charles St.: Is this a tax appeal?

Greg Fehrenbach: No, this is when the mortgage company and the homeowner both pay the taxes. It is usually a duplicate payment.

**Communication #7**

Reinaldo Aviles, 16 Harbor Terr.: We should consider employees on an individual case by case basis. We should hire people based on qualifications.

Mayor Wilda Diaz: We hire based on credentials and qualifications. We use ethical methods for hiring people. Our Business Administrator and our City Attorney are perfect examples of experienced personnel.

Mark J. Blunda: I do not collect a public pension.

Greg Fehrenbach: After 34 years of service, I collect a pension.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: The best qualified person should be the person the city considers. We need to tread softly on this issue.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**January 26, 2011 - Regular**  
**February 9, 2011 - Regular**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to accept the minutes and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick, and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

## BIDS

Bids were received on January 26, 2011 for the following:

1. Road Improvements to Center Street

- |    |                           |               |
|----|---------------------------|---------------|
| a. | Lancha Construction Corp. | \$106,783.91* |
| b. | Z Brothers                | \$112,729.70  |
| c. | S. Batata                 | \$113,813.50  |
| d. | Mark Paving Co., Inc.     | \$115,831.40  |
| e. | Fischer Contracting       | \$116,703.73  |

Bids were received on February 2, 2011 for the following:

1. New Brunswick Avenue Gateway Enhancement Project

- |    |                           |                |
|----|---------------------------|----------------|
| a. | Helios Construction Inc.  | \$155,798.58*  |
| b. | Buckler Associates, Inc.  | \$147,147.99** |
| c. | Berto Construction        | \$171,573.50   |
| d. | Lancha Construction Corp. | \$192,617.56   |
| e. | Al Noto Contractors Inc.  | \$203,242.00   |
| f. | Z Brothers                | \$222,753.25   |
| g. | Black Rock Enterprises    | \$236,968.00   |

(\*) Recommendation of bid award

(\*\*) Deemed incomplete

## SUPPLEMENTAL DEBT STATEMENT

None.

## LIQUOR LICENSE – NOTIFICATION

None.

## SOCIAL AFFAIR PERMIT

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima Church  
188 Wayne Street  
For: Barbeque/Dance  
Dates: April 30, 2011, 12 noon – 12 am  
May 1, 2011, 10 am – 8 pm  
Location Church parking lot, Wayne Street

Motion was mad by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to grant the social affair permit and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

## **REPORTS**

### **1. Middlesex County Health Department – January 2011.**

**Jill A. Goldy, CFO/Comptroller submitted the following:**

- 2. Investment Report – January 2011.**
- 3. Water/Wastewater Utility Reports – January 2011.**
- 4. Payroll Disbursements/Deductions – January 2011.**
- 5. Check register in the amount of \$3,395,527.26 – February 2011.**
- 6. Report of Bond Anticipation Note Sale held on March 4, 2011.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to accept reports #1 thru #6 and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

## **ORDINANCES – FIRST READING (NO PUBLIC DISCUSSION)**

### **1. AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE EXCEEDING MUNICIPAL BUDGET APPROPRIATION LIMITATION AND PERMIT "CAP BANKING".**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, and seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Ordinance on first reading and public hearing for second and final passage be set down for the meeting of the Council to be held on March 23, 2011 at 7:00 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**ORDINANCES – PUBLIC HEARING  
(5 MINUTE MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER/PER ORDINANCE)**

**1. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC (ORDINANCE NO. 194-78 AS AMENDED)" ADOPTED SEPTEMBER 19, 1978, ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 414 ET SEQ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY.**

**Re: No Parking Portion of Ogden Place**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to open public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to close public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Ordinance on second and final passage and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**2. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED "AN ORDINANCE DESIGNATING RESTRICTED PARKING SPACES FOR USE BY HANDICAPPED PERSONS" (ORDINANCE NO. 380-85 AND AMENDMENTS) ADOPTED JULY 2, 1985 ALSO KNOWN AS CHAPTER 255A ET SEQ OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF PERTH AMBOY.**

**Re: Deletions**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to open public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to close public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the Ordinance on second and final passage and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**3. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
"INSURANCE FUND" CHAPTER 59 OF THE CITY CODE.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to open public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to close public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the Ordinance on second and final passage and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**4. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
"STREET AND SIDEWALK OBSTRUCTIONS" ARTICLE  
II OF CHAPTER 386 OF THE CITY CODE TO ALLOW  
FOR SIDEWALK CAFES.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to open public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Council President asked for comments.

Mayor Wilda Diaz: We've been waiting for this for a long time. However, I think we should limit this to certain streets. This should not be allowed throughout the entire city. We should limit it to Amboy Ave., State St., New Brunswick Ave. and Smith St.

Council President Balut: We should hold this off until we review it some more.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: This should just be allowed in the UEZ/BID area. This way we can control it.

Council President Balut: Some taverns may create a problem for us.

Mark J. Blunda: If you limit this, you will have to re-notice this. It is a substantial change and you wouldn't be able to adopt it.

Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez: We should hold it for a meeting or two.

Greg Fehrenbach: Should this be adopted and a new ordinance can be amended or should it be defeated and re-introduced?

Mark J. Blunda: A new ordinance needs to be drafted and it will need to be re-advertised because the changes are substantial. We can hold this until the meeting of March 23.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to table the Ordinance until March 23 and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**5. AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED  
"PEDDLERS, SOLICITORS AND TRANSIENT  
MERCHANTS" CHAPTER 317 OF THE CITY CODE.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to open public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Council President asked for comments.

Virginia Morales, 745 Barry Ave.: Does this cover solicitors and non-profit organizations?

Council President Balut: This Ordinance does not address solicitors. We didn't change the existing ordinance. This is only changes to the peddlers part of the ordinance.

David Kups, 32 Erie Ave.: I know there is a limit of 14 truck peddler licenses. Is it first come first serve?

Mark Blunda: In the event there are more applicants for the type of license than licenses available, it will then be done by lottery.

Reinaldo Aviles, 14 Harbor Terr.: Will it be a lottery every year?

Elaine M. Jasko: Yes.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to close public hearing on the above Ordinance and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the Ordinance on second and final passage and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

## RESOLUTIONS

### **R-93-3/11 Authorizing emergency temporary appropriations to extend CY 2011 temporary budget in the amount of \$1,653,450.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

### **R-94-3/11 Authorizing the Tax Collector to cancel any property tax credits or delinquencies of less than \$10.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-95-3/11 Authorizing a refund to Wells Fargo Home Mortgage LLC for tax overpayments on Block 85, Lot 7 (188 Sheridan St.), Block 163, Lot 1 C0503 (503 Hidden Village Dr.) and Block 394.02, Lot 15 (764 May Ave.) in the total amount of \$4,256.04.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-96-3/11 Authorizing a refund to The Landings at Harborside, LLC for tax overpayment on Block 136.01, Lot 1 CB520 (368 Rector St., Unit 520) in the amount of \$4,882.53.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-97-3/11 Extending the contract with Hoagland, Longo, Moran, Dunst & Doukas, LLP to represent the City on tax appeals before the Tax Court of the State of New Jersey until June 30, 2011 in an amount not to exceed \$60,000.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-98-3/11 Authorizing a contract with STTC Service Tire Truck Centers formerly known as Perth Amboy Tires & Tubes under State Contract No. A61418 in an amount not to exceed \$53,690.00 and rescinding R-15-1/11 to conform with correct vendor business name.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-99-3/11 Authorizing the Tax Assessor to settle tax appeals up to \$5,000.00 and to institute counterclaims on behalf of the City of Perth Amboy.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-100-3/11 Accepting the bid and authorizing a contract with Lancha Corp., for road improvements to Center Street in an amount not to exceed \$106,783.91.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-101-3/11 Accepting the bid and authorizing a contract with Helios Construction Inc., for the New Brunswick Avenue Gateway Enhancement Project in an amount not to exceed \$155,798.58.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-102-3/11 Authorizing a contract with Kologi and Simitz, to represent the City of Perth Amboy in the matter of Antriz Baez v. City of Perth Amboy et al in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-103-3/11 Authorizing a contract with Mitzy Galis-Menendez of the law firm of Chasen Leyner & Lamparello, to represent individual Perth Amboy Police Officers in the matter of Antriz Baez v. City of Perth Amboy et al in an amount not to exceed \$5,000.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-104-3/11 Authorizing a contract with Melick Tully and Associates for a soils and foundation investigation of the proposed Brighton Avenue community building in an amount not to exceed \$5,200.00.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-105-3/11 Authorizing Accelerated Tax Sale for  
2011 and future years.**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council  
Member K. Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-106-3/11 Approving Local Municipal Budget for  
Calendar Year 2011 and setting the date of April 13,  
2011 as the date for public hearing on the budget  
(including current fund, capital improvement  
program, water and waste water utility and parking  
utility).**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council  
Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

**R-107-3/11 Authorizing substantial changes to prior  
years consolidated plans, community planning and  
development annual plans and City of Perth Amboy  
authorizing resolutions. (reprogramming CDBG  
Funds)**

Motion was made by Council Member Petrick, seconded by Council  
Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adopt the above Resolution.

Council President asked for comments. There were none.

The above Resolution was adopted and carried by the following vote:  
Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon,  
Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

## COMMUNICATIONS

1. NJDEP submitted a No Further Action Letter and Covenant Not To Sue for the remediation of a 550 gallon #2 heating oil underground storage tank system at 338 Kirkland Place, Block 106.02, Lot 19. (2/22/11)
2. NJ Local Finance Board submitted a resolution adopted on February 18, 2010 and April 23, 2010, approving the City's application and granting the City a waiver from the limitation imposed upon increases in municipal purposes tax levies imposed to address extraordinary costs in the amount of \$11,171,780.00 to be incurred during 2010 fiscal year. (2/24/11)
3. PSE&G submitted a Notice of Public Hearings Concerning the Implementation of a Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program and Notice of Proposed Recovery through Rates of Costs Resulting from the Long-Term Capacity Agreement Pilot Program. (2/25/11)
4. TRC Environmental Corporation submitted a copy of the Initial Receptor Evaluation and Well Search Results on the Perth Amboy former MGP site. (2/25/11)
5. Mayor Wilda Diaz advising that she has nominated Deputy Chief Benjamin Ruiz as the 2011 Community Diversity Champion. (2/28/11)
6. Harbortown Sail, LLC submitted the results of the inspection of Unit 410 Great Beds Court by Frank H. Lehr Associates, Consulting Civil Engineers and Chester, Ploussas, Lisowsky Partnership, LLC, Architects. (2/28/11)
7. Alan Silber, city resident, asking that the City adopt an Ordinance that would prohibit retired public employees receiving a pension from being hired by the City. (3/2/11)

**PUBLIC PORTION  
(5 MINUTES MAXIMUM PER SPEAKER)**

Stan Sierakowski, 679 Charles St.: We hired a lobbyist from Trenton for \$100,000. Has a performance evaluation been done of his work? People should file tax appeals against the City. They will get a reduction in the taxes they pay. I'm glad the Beacon is being published again.

Greg Fehrenbach: The Ferguson group has not been employed by the City for several months, at least since September. They obtained a \$500,000 grant for sewer and water and \$200,000 for solar panels. Tax appeals may be filed once a year only. There is a fee associated with the filing of the appeals.

Mayor Wilda Diaz: It was worth having that group working for the city. We received two grants for the city.

Alan Silber, 244 Rector St.: I don't have a problem with hiring a person who collects their pension as long as they defer their pension. We should grandfather the people we have now. Former Sheriff Spicuzzo was indicted. Politicians are blatant in their actions.

Virginia Morales, 745 Barry Ave.: By not hiring retired persons, it may be a good opportunity to bring in new blood for the city. There are new hours at the animal shelter. I would like to see an animal adoption day.

**COUNCIL COMMENTS**

Council Member Petrick: The fire chief took care of the gas leak that I reported on during Monday's caucus meeting and I thank him. I commend Shoprite for putting money into their Perth Amboy store.

Council President Balut: We will have budget hearings on Friday, starting at 4:00 pm and on Monday starting at 4:30 pm.

Council Member Fernando Gonzalez: Are we going to have a budget review committee?

Greg Fehrenbach: If the Council wishes to have a committee you can do so.

Council Member Petrick: We should have the Mayor's budget and the budget message on the city's website.

Greg Fehrenbach: We'll try to get it up tomorrow.

## ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business to come before the Council motion was made by Council Member Fernando Gonzalez, seconded by Council Member Kenneth Gonzalez to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm, and was carried by the following vote: Yea--Council Members Fernando Gonzalez, Kenneth Gonzalez, Pabon, Petrick and Balut. Nay--none. Absent--none.

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Elaine M. Jasko  
City Clerk