

COMMON COUNCIL

October 28, 2008

Mayor Joseph Maiurano presided at a special meeting of the Common Council held at 7:00 p.m. on October 28, 2008, in the Common Council Chambers at One Court Plaza.

Present:

Mayor Joseph Maiurano
Ald. Terry Bresina
Ald. John Deierlein
Ald. Walter Schermerhorn
Ald. Paul Laughlin
Ald. Robert Jeffrey
Supervisor James McNeil

Absent

Ald. Robert Carey
Supervisor Linda Natoli

Also:

Clerk/Director of Finance William Roberts
DPW Superintendent Carl Ivarson
HR Director Deborah DeForest
Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo
Police Chief Joseph Angelino
Code Enforcement Officer/Fire Marshall Jason Lawrence
Youth Bureau Director Robert Mason
EMO A. Jones
Deputy City Clerk Brian Drake
Jeff Genug, Media Representative

Call to Order

The meeting of the Common Council was called to order by Mayor Maiurano at 7:03 p.m.

Public Hearing – 2009 Budget, including Proposed Ordinance (B) to Amend Water & Sewer Use Rates for 2009

Mayor Maiurano opened the public hearing at 7:04 p.m.

Jason Miller, 51 Front Street, thanked the department heads and Fire Chief Tracy Chawgo for their hard work on containing budget expenses. He noted that revenues were projected conservatively. He then commented that expenditures, particularly in Department of Public Works for snow and ice removal, seemed excessive. He noted that the economic climate in upstate New York is such that increases cannot be allowed, and raising the tax levy does not create an environment conducive to growth and job creation.

Nathan Busby, 64 Silver Street, expressed agreement with Mr. Miller's comments and questioned a projected expenditure under the Water Fund for Homeland Security costs. He urged the Council to make further cuts in the budget.

Mary Coe, 5 Waite Street, asked if non-profit entities within the City could be asked to contribute toward the costs of City services. Mayor Maiurano explained that a Fair Share program is in place and non-profit entities are approached annually with requests to contribute to the City, but most non-profits are unable to contribute. Ald. Bresina pointed out that Opportunities for Chenango has made contributions for many years. Mayor Maiurano added that several other non-profits also contribute. Ms. Coe suggested that the Mayor keep trying.

Hearing no further comments, the Mayor closed the public hearing at 7:13 p.m.

Mayor Maiurano stated that the City's goal is to reduce property tax rate increases over time in a stable, prudent manner, so that the City will not be surprised with shortages in the future, while maintaining services at levels City residents have come to expect.

Adjournment

Ald. Schermerhorn **moved** to adjourn at 7:14 p.m. Seconded by Ald. Deierlein, accepted ayes all.