

A special meeting of the City Council of the City of Newburgh was held on Monday, November 20, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the third floor Council Chambers at City Hall, 83 Broadway, Newburgh, NY.

The Prayer was led by Councilwoman Rayford followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Present: Councilwoman Rayford, presiding; Councilwoman Abrams, Councilwoman Angelo, Councilman Harvey, Councilwoman Mejia - 5

Absent: Councilwoman Holmes, Mayor Kennedy – 2

COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

Gabrielle Hill, City of Newburgh, thanked Councilwoman Abrams for the tickets to the Atlas Jazz last Saturday. She took three City of Newburgh youths to that Jazz Concert and they had an awesome time so she hopes this is something they can continue in the future. She asked about the development on Montgomery Street as people are concerned because that was the former location of Urban Renewal and the City should have conversations with the families that were affected by that. Our City Government hasn't done anything for those families that were removed from their homes and promised certain things that never took place. If we are going to build something there, we should really look at the families that were affected by that because it has a great deal to do with what is going on in our City now. Some families never recovered from Urban Renewal and some moved out. There is also concern about not having a Police Chief so she asked if there is any word on when that will take place because it has been going on for about eight months now. She was a member of the Police Community Relations Board and her term ended on October 31st but she is still a concerned citizen. She noted that the next Police Community Relations Board meeting will be on Wednesday, December 6th at 7:00 p.m. Back in March she brought to the attention of the Committee that her daughter was partially pulled out of her car by a City of Newburgh police officer and because we didn't have a Police Chief that case still goes on. Her daughter has not heard from the Police Department regarding their findings and her family has been very patient. At the time that this happened, Carrion was the investigator, then it went to Cortez and she is not sure if Weaver has done his own investigation or not. It is time for answers and for those to be held accountable for their actions. We are not going to be in a community where our residents are going to be assaulted by Police for any reason. We have to hold our Officers to professionalism, compassion and respect which we deserve and demand. She is talking about a seven and a half months pregnant woman who was not being combative so she is going public now because she has been quiet long enough. We will not tolerate our Police Officers putting their hands on innocent residents. She and her husband have put together a list of questions for the City Council and the Police Department and they expect some answers.

There being no further comments this portion of the meeting was closed.

COUNCIL COMMENTS REGARDING THE AGENDA

Councilwoman Angelo said that the property on Locust Street in her Ward has been vacant for quite a while so she is happy to see that it was sold. It's a cute little house. Ms. Hill spoke about her Committee and she is glad they are keeping the public relations going.

There being no further comments this portion of the meeting was closed.

CITY MANAGER'S REPORT

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel noted that there will be no voting items tonight. The general idea was to hear any additional comments on the Proposed 2018 Budget and to also hear from the City Council regarding further discussion of the 2018 Budget.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON THE 2018 BUDGET

Gabrielle Hill, City of Newburgh asked how much is the Police Department's Budget for 2018? The salary amount and the overtime amount.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said the total proposed salary is \$14,559,444.00. The salary is \$7,519,796.00 and the benefits are \$6,453,646.00 so the total for salary and benefits is 13.9 to 14 million dollars which includes a decrease of overtime between \$300,000.00 and \$400,000.00 thousand.

Ms. Hill asked how much is allotted for overtime.

Ms. Mack said the total amount allotted for overtime is \$680,660.00 which is a decrease of about 1.1 million from the previous year's Budget.

Drew Kartigner, 30 Meadow Street, said the City of Newburgh is broke. He heard the City Manager say that they are 10 million dollars short from what they want to do. Our police are working at about 75%

capacity and the Fire Department is working on Grants, which if lost will reduce the Fire Department. Our DPW is working on keeping things together with rubber bands and paper clips. The Council has a tough task and they need to figure out a way to increase income and control expenses. You can increase income with properties under your control to attract businesses. Deirdre Glenn is putting a lot of buildings back on the tax rolls and that's good. Mid-Broadway is not the kind of project you want because it will cost more money than it brings in. We need assets that will pay taxes not suck the taxes out of the City of Newburgh. His point on the Budget is that they need to be more focused on ways to develop more income. Any properties the City owns that they are putting back on the tax rolls we need to make sure they will pay taxes.

There being no further comments this portion of the meeting was closed.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business to discuss.

NEW BUSINESS

Councilwoman Abrams noted that the N.F.A. Goldbacks won Section 9 again so she hopes the Council will recognize and honor them in the near future.

Councilwoman Rayford said she would like to make a motion to put something on a future Agenda to protect the newly elected coming on stating they will be covered with health insurance. They spoke briefly about it before the Executive Session but she thinks it should be put on the table to establish that.

Councilman Harvey thinks they need Corporation Counsel to put it on the Agenda for the next Work Session to discuss when and where we will start drafting up the new protocol for health insurance so that the City Manager and our Comptroller don't leave that out of a Budget without a resolution being proposed and voted on.

Councilwoman Rayford said that is what she would like to establish tonight.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel said they can add an item to establish policy and procedure on how newly elected officials are covered and how the health insurance benefits may apply to future elected officials. We will do some more research and see what resolutions have been adopted in the past to see if we can come up with something that this Council may want to consider or even defer to the new Council in the coming year.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel added that they want to make sure that any other issues or concerns the Council has related to the 2018 Budget are relayed to Ms. Mack, City Comptroller because after tonight we have to establish the base proportions, certify the levy and prepare the resolutions for the Council to vote on for Monday night. If there are any other issues or concerns about how the 2018 Budget is being prepared and modified from the City Manager's Proposed Budget, this would be your golden opportunity to get that out and make sure that everyone is clear.

Councilwoman Rayford had a question concerning our Fire Department. She understands that there is a possibility we may lose a few firefighters so how does that work with the Budget?

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said that the SAFER Grant is ending and it is highly unlikely that it will be renewed. We anticipate it ending in July of this upcoming year but there may be some payouts with accumulated time. They have worked with Civil Service to identify a list and some firefighters may have some veteran's credit so it won't necessarily be that the last in is the first out. There has also been discussion regarding some who may be looking to retire. They have not received any solid answers so right now it's a waiting game to see how many we may be losing.

Councilwoman Rayford said that during her time on the Council she has stated that they need to make sure these Grants are looked after. Do we have someone who keeps an eye on them?

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel noted that we applied for the SAFER Grant a number of times before it was actually granted and she believes we were also granted an extension. We did submit an application for a new Grant which, as of today, has not been awarded or denied but we have to anticipate that if it's not awarded, it's going to be denied. Yes, we are monitoring all of these Grants and we have made every application we could make to secure additional funding so we are not taking this lightly.

Councilwoman Rayford thanked Ms. Kelson for that and said we really need to find out what we need to do. Is there a Lottery? How does it work?

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said from what she understands it usually is given once for a two year period to struggling cities to try to come up with funds during that two year period so you can actually retain the firefighters at the end of the Grant. Unfortunately it's a little over one million dollars for twelve firefighters which grows each year as the benefits go up. When the first one was expiring they gave us another one good through 2018. We are concerned that this is the second year we have gotten it and whether or not we will be able to get a third one is what we are not sure about.

Councilwoman Mejia said that we knew from the beginning when the SAFER Grant was awarded that it was not going to be a permanent revenue resource so we need to continue to be aggressive on alternative funding resources for these positions. Today we had an example of how crucial the City of Newburgh Fire Department is as it is not just a service for the City of Newburgh. Her suggestion would be to reach out to the SAFER Grant individuals who are managing it and alert Congressman Maloney to the fact that we had seven firefighters injured today because they provided crucial and lifesaving services to our area. We are a vital City for Orange County and this Fire Department demonstrated today exactly what the SAFER Grant is meant to do, which is save lives. This has to be put in the file as an example of what we cannot articulate when the Grant application is submitted because today we have a case study proving that this department needs to continue to function at this level. We can also add what we are doing with the Code Enforcement portion of it and what we are planning to do with the EMS as a potential source of revenue. This will demonstrate to the Government that this City is proactively looking at ways to make sure we keep that department at that status. We have to reach out to the Federal agencies responsible for this Grant and send them a copy of the article on what just happened today. If they cut this SAFER Grant and this happened next year with a shortage of staff in the Fire Department, we would be looking at greater fatalities. To show that the City of Newburgh showed up in full force to this incident demonstrates how crucial we are to the area. To the Firefighters who put their lives on the line today and were injured she sends her deepest gratitude.

Councilman Harvey said that Councilwoman Mejia talked about the importance of public safety with our fire and police and he too wants to thank those who put their lives in harm's way to ensure safety to the individuals involved in the explosion that happened today. Our City Manager missed the meeting last Monday and he missed this meeting when we came in early today to specifically address these budgetary issues and concerns. Katie is here and he appreciates her hard work but we really needed our City Manager here today. We specifically allotted this time so the Council could address the Budget issues and concerns that we have before we vote next Monday on the 27th. For him not to be here last Monday and tonight is very disappointing to him because we don't have a Fire Chief or Police Chief. When you look at the command staff in our Police Department, we used to have a Chief and two Deputy Chiefs so Acting Chief Weaver is doing the job of three people. When it comes to public safety, that is our number one priority. Ms. Hill came before us asking for updates but we don't have them either. Our Comptroller made us aware that the health insurance for the incoming newly elected Council people was not in the Budget so he asked Katie for the updates on that. We need to see the numbers and what adjustments have been made for the Council members starting in January, 2018 because the numbers don't lie. It should not have been taken out of that Budget without an official resolution. There was a resolution in 2009 offering the health insurance to the City Council and the Mayor so for

that to not be in the Manager's Proposed Budget was disrespectful. To take out the health and dental insurance for the incoming elected officials coming on to this Council to serve this City speaks to how people look at this legal body. We are going to move forward and establish a protocol in the new coming year when those Council members are sworn in and seated but for the City Manager to not be here to address these budgetary issues is not fair or professional. He asked Ms. Mack again to go through those numbers and show them the adjustments.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said that she does not have a slide prepared but noted that they have made changes to health insurance numbers because final numbers and retirement have come in. There is a multitude of changes because we have final numbers. She said to keep in mind that in October when they provide the Manager's Proposed Budget there is a lot of guess work. Being involved in the Budget she said that it was never meant as a disrespect or slight.

Councilman Harvey said, *"But it was"*. He and the Mayor made a proposal to give this City Council a raise and that didn't make it into his Proposed Budget. They were talking \$1,000.00, which would have been \$20.00 per pay period and then they took out the health insurance for the new Council members coming in. *"That is not intended to be disrespectful?"*

Councilwoman Mejia said we then accepted a symbolic \$1.00 so her disappointment is not that the \$1,000.00 was not included but that the symbolic \$1.00 inclusion was not made. She gets all of this but her thing is about getting this City's business done. Feathers get ruffled in the process but we have to continue to move on. Major policy decisions like the health benefits should have been one that needed to be discussed in this type of forum because it is a policy decision and for that not to have been flagged is what she takes issue with. They are looking for recognition of the amount of work that goes into the commitment we all have so that \$1.00 symbolic should have been included as part of the Proposed Budget. She wants to focus on being able to provide updates on things that are at the forefront for our families going into the holiday season. We need to know what the status is with our Police Chief search and our Fire Department so she is looking forward to when the City Manager will be here to give those answers.

Councilman Harvey said that he would still like to see those numbers from Katie.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller put a page on the screen and noted that the insurance has been put back into the Budget. Under Health Insurance there is a retiree line and a regular line for the policy making body. In October she didn't know who was going to be elected and whether they would want a family or single plan. She has since found out that they will all be taking single plans so the difference will be \$7,000.00 more that the City will incur. She finally got the final health and retirement projections from the State last week so when it all shakes out with the numbers she gave the Council last week on the interest to the tax levy we can keep the health insurance for the newly elected Council members coming

in and the \$35,000.00 for the Grant Contract people that we want to look at Grants and opportunities for us. She has been crunching numbers since they spoke last Monday to make all of the changes and make them as accurate as possible. She understands how this was taken as a slight and she was not aware there was a 2009 resolution but she certainly received calls on it and tried to look back. The only thing she can think that happened was that there must have been a number of years where the Council members, for whatever reason, didn't need it so it looked like it went away but it didn't. We called around to the other communities that neighbor us to see what they are doing so for her this was a learning curve in terms of how we present legislative policy changes that affect the Council. She wants them to know from herself and the City Manager that at the time of the Manager's Proposed Budget the idea was that we could get three new people all at \$28,000.00 a piece on health insurance plus another \$1,500.00 on eye and dental so rounding really quickly was \$100,000.00 plugged into a Budget that we were already suffocating with. When it came to the \$1.00 increase, Councilwoman Mejia is right, we didn't think about it. All we were thinking was that we can't do it, we can't even hold on to some of these jobs. When it came to the Manager's Proposed Budget, our main focus was how do we not increase taxes and the balance everywhere else that didn't make it.

Councilwoman Rayford said that when it comes to our City Manager, she understands he knows numbers and satisfies three but could care less about the other four because we need five votes to hire or fire the City Manager. We must remember he is an acting City Manager as well and when it comes to the Council and our business it seems like he does whatever he wants. Remember he wiped out the iPads of the City Council and nothing was done to him. Remember he also created a lawsuit against the City which he didn't pay back for yet and now he is attacking us again by taking away the health insurance so there is a problem. This is how he manipulates the system and she sees in his work that he takes a back seat on the hot topics or doesn't show up which is not management to her. Many who are working under him can't say anything or bring situations up because their livelihoods could be at stake but we as a Council have traded in accountability for stability.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel asked if there are any other comments.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said that the health insurance is in, the Grants Contract is in and no layoffs. The Account Clerk in the Comptroller's Office will remain part-time and we are still not allocating funds for the Records Manager or the IT Specialist specifically at the Police Department. Our goal with those two positions is that if there are other positions not filled throughout the year and there are some budgetary savings then we may be able to reallocate for them. She wants to confirm the tax changes for the homestead and non-homestead with the tax levy. The State Comptroller reviewed our Budget and found that our expectations were reasonable. The taxes have been being paid at a much higher rate than in the past so the only thing they commented on is bringing the tax levy as close to the tax cap as possible.

Councilman Harvey noted that President Trump is saying that he is hoping for a proposed new tax code from our Federal Congress for the United States. Homeowners will no longer be able to write off their insurance, property and school taxes when they file. People aren't going to be able to do itemized deductions so is there anything that the City should be concerned with if and when this is passes?

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said it seems like it's more of a personal situation versus the City being able to do anything to offset that. She is not aware of the City being effected but she will research and reach out to the State Comptroller's Office to be sure.

Councilwoman Angelo said that she never has to pay N.F.A. or Heritage for their Bands to march in the Parade so she asked if she can transfer the \$2,000.00 dollars for that over to the Festival.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said that we have budgeted funds for 2018 for all of her items and if she wants to move from one to another they can always do that.

Councilwoman Angelo told George Garrison that there is money allocated for the tree, decorations and lights.

George Garrison said we have money for that already.

Councilwoman Rayford asked Deirdre Glenn about the Street naming for this Wednesday, the 22nd at 2:00 p.m. Is there a program?

Deirdre Glenn, Planning & Development Director said that she is not doing anything that she knows of with that street naming.

George Garrison, DPW said it's going to be on Wednesday at 2:00 p.m. on the corner of South and Johnston and he spoke with Ms. Jones today about chairs and tables.

Councilwoman Rayford said for future reference the Council needs to be kept abreast of what is going on and not left out of the loop.

Ms. Glenn said that she has been involved in a few of them but normally she wouldn't be doing the street naming ceremonies. They should be handled by the Executive Office and if a Council Member has nominated someone and is in touch with that family it would be a good idea to put them in touch with the Executive Office. She received a call very last minute from Rev. Jone's Widow so she is assisting with that one by doing an invitation and a program but the family needs to get in touch with staff to let them know what their desires are.

Councilwoman Rayford said she is concerned about the expectations and the demands from the family so we need to know what is available.

Naomi Fay, Executive Assistant, said that the Executive Office can help coordinate with the Council Member who contacts the family. We will help coordinate that there will be chairs or a podium there and if they need a sound system. In terms of having a press release or invitations, that was only done for Dickie Peterson because Deirdre Glenn did that but it is not her role to do all street naming's.

Councilwoman Rayford said that needs to be communicated across the board. Not all street naming ceremonies should be the same.

Councilman Harvey asked if there is going to be police presence.

Naomi Fay said that we never had that.

Councilman Harvey said he received a phone call from the granddaughter of the honoree for the street naming ceremony with concerns that there may be a need for a police officer there. Is it possible to have one officer at the ceremony?

Councilwoman Rayford asked if that would cost us overtime or can we have the Police Auxiliary help with this?

Lt. Weaver said they can reach out to the Police Auxiliary to see if they are available. He can't promise that a Police Officer will be there unless they are not scheduled for regular police work which then would be considered overtime.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller said in regard to the tax rate changes that she watched the last meeting and realized that they never got past the homestead. She can't walk away without the Council knowing exactly where those rates are going and she wants to make sure there is not a misunderstanding about how that plays out before Monday night. When she watched the taped meeting the change in the rate was going down by about .04 or .05 cents on the Homestead but we never talked about the Non-Homestead.

Councilwoman Abrams said we did speak about it and it was going to be zero.

Ms. Mack said it is not zero it is 0.33 cents.

Councilman Harvey said that's fine.

Councilwoman Abrams and Councilwoman Rayford both agreed they didn't talk about that.

Ms. Mack said this is the change to keep the positions. We discussed that the Homestead would go down by \$5.00 for the year and the Non-Homestead would go up by \$88.00 for the year. She needs that to be clear with everybody. In the original Budget it was zero and negative 0.33 cents.

Councilwoman Abrams said that is tough because it went up 0.31 cents last year. On one hand we tell our businesses that we want them to stay here and on the other hand we are saying we are going to lower the Homestead rate by .04 or .05 and we are going to raise theirs by 0.33 cents again.

Councilwoman Mejia said we can't do that.

Councilman Harvey said this goes back to the debate they had a year ago when we said businesses have the ability to make adjustments for that increase but homesteaders may not, especially our elderly community. This is what we went over last year. We said that the elderly community in our City who have been here for generations cannot afford the tax levy as it stands whereas a business can make that adjustment. It is not just businesses but rental properties too but they also have the ability to make adjustments to incur that extra expense.

Ms. Mack reiterated that there will be a \$5.00 decrease for the Homestead and an \$88.00 increase for the Non-Homestead for the year. The average tax evaluation of a Non-Homestead is approximately \$267,000.00 which equates to an \$88.00 increase for the year.

Councilwoman Mejia said there are people who will be above that and people who will be below it. She would add that one of the things we have been doing is encouraging local people who live here in the City of Newburgh as owners to also open their businesses here. Just like Hale's Hardware. They own a business and live here in the City of Newburgh. Also Café Macchiato. She has businesses here and also lives here in the City of Newburgh. She doesn't want us to say that all businesses are not also homesteaders because it is a deficit. We are more of a complex City than that and she thinks that when we are speaking from this table we need to represent that as well. If that is one of the things that we are encouraging then we don't want to double hit them.

Councilman Harvey said the vote will be on Monday.

Ms. Mack said to be clear, if we don't have a Budget that passes, we will revert back to the Manager's Proposed with the cuts in staff, a 0.29 cent decrease on Homestead and zero increase on Non-Homestead.

Councilman Harvey asked what does that do to the insurance.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel said the amount that was budgeted for health insurance would still be in that Proposed Budget. You would have to reallocate that family coverage for the individual coverage and then we would have to find that additional \$7,000.00 somewhere else. It would not automatically eliminate coverage for those newly elected officials.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller agreed with Ms. Kelson and added that the tax values still changed. Whether or not they decided to find funding to spend on it she would have to put the additional money somewhere. Most likely just to make life easy she would put it into the Contingency Fund which is another comment from the State Office.

Ms. Mack added that for Monday she doesn't want to print books and waste paper so she has to wait for the vote to happen and then she will finalize everything and get them made.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel said that in addition to the resolutions from the Work Session there will be two additional resolutions that are Budget based. One is to certify the base proportions for the assessment and taxation of the properties and the other would be to actually adopt the Budget with the rates in that Budget Resolution.

Katie Mack, City Comptroller asked the Council, *"With the rates that are proposed tonight to save the positions you will vote on that, yes or no?"*

The Council said they would.

Councilwoman Mejia asked the Comptroller to send those numbers to the City Council before Monday with the changes just so everyone is clear.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel said they will identify the rates that have to go into the resolution that they can translate into an e-mail to the Council.

There being no further comments this portion of the meeting was closed.

FINAL COMMENTS FROM THE COUNCIL

Councilwoman Abrams thanked Ms. Hill for her questions and said yes, the properties they are proposing to develop would overlap the old Urban Renewal area. She agreed that the community that was involved and uprooted should be involved in any discussions on how that area will be developed and that has been proposed. There are experts that will hold meetings with community members to decide what will be the best use of these properties. In regard to the City Police Chief, the City Manager conducted an interview today via telephone with one of the candidates and we should have news about that on Monday.

Councilwoman Angelo asked if the City is open on Friday.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel said that the City is closed on Friday.

Councilwoman Angelo said she will notify all of her people not to put their garbage out. She is happy that the Newburgh Ministry will be taking over South Lander Street for the warming center. She wished everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Councilman Harvey thanked Ms. Hill for her comments and questions. They too are looking for updates from the City Manager on the Police and Fire Chiefs which is a major concern and priority. He has received a few calls concerning allegations regarding our Police and interaction with our residents. There is a recent allegation from Federal Street and the allegation that was brought to his attention a few months ago regarding Ms. Hill's daughter. He thought that issue was resolved and it troubles him that it hasn't been. He asked our Acting Chief for an update on those issues.

Lt. Weaver said that with Mrs. Hill and her daughter it has been presented to the PCRAM Board and he will work on getting a letter out to the family by the beginning of next week.

Councilman Harvey said that their investigation has concluded.

Michelle Kelson, Corporation Counsel responded with a "yes" and said that PCRAM has reviewed and made their findings. It is a little bit time consuming to get the paperwork prepared and get the Chairman to sign the findings letters but she would say no later than the next PCRAM meeting it will be ready to mail out. The Board can also make that letter available to the Council at that time.

Councilman Harvey asked Lt. Weaver what the protocol is for the bodycams and when they are supposed to be used. When the Police have an encounter with citizens are they supposed to turn on the bodycams within a certain time frame? Who is allowed to view the videos?

Lt. Weaver said that the bodycams are issued to each patrol officer. Most of the time we have enough for every officer but when some are out for repair there is not enough. They turn them on at the call but don't turn them on if there is a sensitive situation such as a victim of a sexual assault. They are not on in the Hospitals on a regular basis because of HIPAA regulations and you can't film medical treatments for other people or the staff discussing someone else's problems. When they get out of the car they press the button and they are set up to go back two minutes without audio. That way if something happens instantly there will at least be video for two minutes prior. That is set in the cameras so it can't be adjusted.

Councilman Harvey asked if that is a discretionary decision or is it mandatory.

Lt. Weaver said they are supposed to turn it on when they get out on a call barring the situations he mentioned earlier such as privacy issues.

Councilwoman Rayford noted he said they are supposed to he didn't say it was mandatory.

Lt. Weaver said it is in the General Orders that they turn them on.

Councilman Harvey asked what the protocol is if constituents want to view that video footage.

Lt. Weaver said there is no real protocol so it is a case by case basis. He knows the incident that he is speaking of and no one has contacted him about it. He spoke with Councilman Harvey but he hasn't heard anything from the people who stated they wanted to view it. He said they can do that if they want to.

Councilwoman Mejia wished everyone a Happy and Collective Thanksgiving. It is a great opportunity to reflect on where we want to go in the future. This past Sunday We Are Newburgh hosted their Annual Thanksgiving Community Event which was greatly attended. Around the Police and relationships with the community she thinks the PCRAM is in place specifically to make sure we continue to shepherd the cases that get brought up. It is an important Committee and we have to continue to support it and have those lines of communication open. She asked if the City Manager or Lt. Weaver could circulate the policy associated with the bodycams so that everyone is aware what the protocol looks like in writing. Having the bodycams is something the Council should be very proud of as we were one of the first cities in Orange County to implement that. With a community like ours it is important to have things like this in place and even though no system is perfect it sets the ground for more concrete conversations about it. She is looking forward to Monday's discussions and approval of the Budget and to follow up on the items they have with the City Manager.

Councilwoman Rayford thanked everyone who stayed and came out tonight and wished them a Happy Thanksgiving. She congratulated Mr. Lujan and Jonathan Jacobson for winning the Election. She also welcomed the other new members, Ms. Sofokles and Ms. Monteverde. She wished a Happy Thanksgiving to our Mayor, Judy Kennedy who is not here tonight and thanked her for her diligence and hard work. Gabrielle Hill made some vital points about our Police Department and she thanked her and her family for being patient on receiving a response. She is deeply sorry about what happened to her daughter who was seven months pregnant and they pray that nothing like that will happen again. Thank God the baby is alive and well. She would like to hear from the families of the Urban Renewal

also because Urban Renewal didn't do their part and it left a lot of residents here baffled. In regard to affordable housing, she knows that the City of Newburgh has no legislation in effect to hold the landlords accountable on what amounts they can charge so she hopes that will happen in the near future. As for the Police Chief and Fire Chief, she is grateful for the men that are in place and thanked them for their diligence and tolerance. She asked Ms. Mack how things are going with our city celebration for next month.

Naomi Fay, Executive Assistant said they put a call out to City staff to see who is interested so we are each putting in \$36.00 per person and we had to have a minimum of thirty five people. It will be a buffet dinner with a cash bar and music on December 8th at Pamela's on the Hudson from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and all are welcome. We haven't had a Holiday Party here in the City of Newburgh in a very long time.

Councilwoman Rayford agreed and said it's worth going to so she is looking forward to it. If we reach our minimum, can people pay at the venue?

Anna Marie Calli, Sr. Account Clerk said no because they need a final count by early December.

Councilman Harvey asked if Council members are invited.

Councilwoman Rayford said yes, it was our idea.

Ms. Fay said that all are invited and Ms. Calli is collecting the money in the Comptroller's Office. You can pay with cash or check made payable to cash.

Councilwoman Rayford said they should take photos to put up downstairs and she is happy about this. To the families that suffered injuries today in New Windsor at the cosmetic factory her prayers are with them and our firefighters. In the event that we cannot keep our firefighters we ask that our neighbors can look at their Budgets and maybe they can hire the ones that can't be on for our 2018 Budget.

There being no further business to come before the Council the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

LORENE VITEK
CITY CLERK