

November 18, 2009

City Council

Proceedings by Authority

State of New York  
City of Jamestown                    ss:  
City Council Chambers

A Public Hearing of the City Council of the City of Jamestown, New York was held on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 P.M.

Present:                    Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson, Council Members Dolce, DeJoy, Jones, Whitford, Ecklund and Spitale

Members Absent:        Council President Rabb, Council Members Szwejbka and Taylor

Others Present:        Mayor Sam Teresi, Police Chief/Director of Public Safety Rex Rater, Deputy Fire Chief Lance Hedlund, Director of Development Steve Centi, Director of Public Works Jeff Lehman, Executive Assistant to the Mayor Matt Hanley, Corporation Counsel Marilyn Fiore-Nieves and Youth Services Director Vickye James

Director of Financial Services/City Clerk James N. Olson called the Public Meeting in the absence of Council President Greg Rabb, to order and read the Public Hearing Notice.

Mr. Olson asked for a motion to nominate a President Pro-Tem.

Councilwoman Ecklund moved, seconded by Councilman DeJoy to nominate Councilman Dolce.

Councilman DeJoy moved to close the nomination and cast one unanimous ballot for Councilman Dolce.

Carried: 6 ayes, 0 nays

200911A00.01

### **LEGAL NOTICE**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that pursuant to Section C-39.E. of the Charter of the City of Jamestown, New York the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2010 is available for public inspection in the Office of the City Clerk, 200 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jamestown, New York, Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. (legal holidays excepted) and at the Prendergast Library, 509 Cherry Street, Jamestown, New York. A summary of the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2010 is as follows:

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**City of Jamestown  
2010 General Fund Budget**

Expenditures

Salaries	\$14,677,129.00
Benefits	9,181,000.00
Contractual	4,253,140.00
Debt Service	2,345,042.00
Agencies	400,500.00
Capital	855,000.00
Equipment	<u>107,300.00</u>
Total	\$31,819,111.00

Revenues

Property Taxes	\$13,944,603.00
Misc. Revenues	17,624,508.00
Appropriated Fund Balance	<u>250,000.00</u>
Total	\$31,819,111.00

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the City Council will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Municipal Building, 200 E. 3<sup>rd</sup> Street, Jamestown, New York on the City Council's Budget and Capital Improvement Program for fiscal year 2010.

Gregory Rabb  
City Council President

**OPPORTUNITY FOR PERSONS TO ADDRESS THE COUNCIL:**

200911A00.02

Andrew Jochum, 29 N. Main Street: I own 29 N. Main Street, downtown Jamestown. I was not really going to come tonight because I was frankly, afraid of what I might say and I have been told nobody is going to listen anyway, but I'm here sort of pouring my heart out to some of your guys so that you'll somewhat listen to us. I have been in the City of Jamestown for 35 years as a businessman and what I've seen in the last four months with the ticketing of cars (and it's revenue driven) is why I think I'm here tonight is so discouraging to all of the businessmen downtown and business women. We are fighting for our survival. I can tell you businesses that are ready to close their doors tonight, that are so close they're hanging on by a thread. I'm not going to try to

offend any of you if I could and I hope you'll understand that I'm trying to be kind, but your salaries are out of whack with what the private sector is making. We don't see \$70,000 a year in the private sector anymore than the man in the moon. We don't see pensions; we struggle day in and day out. Yet, when I am attacked by the meter people and they are doing their job, this is coming from the top – this is not coming from them – no disrespect to them – but four times in a morning coming down to ticket the poor senior citizen who's going into Van's Texas Hots to get a cup of coffee, and he's got to run out every 20 minutes and put quarters in there for a lousy cup of coffee so that we can pay your pensions; so we can pay your \$70,000 a year salaries. Parking meters should be a deterrent, not a Gestapo tactic and I used the word "Gestapo" in front of Greg Rabb on the phone and he was very upset with that. But I don't know what else I can say. What other word would you like that would make it more pleasant when you have to constantly look out the door. I have personally secured private parking, even though there's no ramp space right now, as we all know, we have nowhere to go. I'm not speaking on my behalf – I am speaking on behalf of the tellers at the various banks that I talk to every day; I'm speaking on behalf of the businesses that are downtown that see this happening. First of all, we've got these parking meters – where was it written in stone that they just have to be fed continuously to balance the budget? Now, let me give you some suggestions because that's what Mr. Rabb said. He said "well I want suggestions from you and I'm sorry he's not here to defend himself," but that's basically it. My answer is No. 1 is that's why you've been elected. You guys have to come up with that stuff and that's why we're here too; but I can give you some suggestions, I guess: (1) would be maybe that the Mayor and the Finance Director and some of them take a \$20,000 cut in pay. Maybe you give up your free space that you get in the parking ramp that we don't get. I don't know where else to go with this thing except to say that I am so sad. I brought in Covey Tree Service to rent from my building from Frewsburg – brought in a new tenant into Jamestown. They get ticketed left and right. You put the money in the meter – yes – but you have to keep going out there and double checking, double checking and bam – they got ya. First it's free, then it's five, then it's 10 and then it's 20.00. I might be wrong in the numbers – but I'm close. You are driving us out. Ten years ago, it was almost funny – in fact, it was. I was invited to a survey that all right, if I'm correct on the name – parking was conducting – and they brought us up and I thought it was funny that they (the Parking Commission was doing a survey on this – that's fine – and I started out the meeting and I said "you know this is really great timing because I don't know if you read the paper today, but Walmart is putting parking meters in their parking lot. And he says "really?" and I said "yea." And I looked and I said "of course they're not." Why would they put parking meters in – to raise revenue? Wouldn't that drive people away? And that's exactly what happens with parking meters. The point I want to make – I'm talking to the Finance Administration right now – is that this is not about nailing them and making money to balance your budget. It is to keep people moving so that there are some parking spaces. You've gone too far. And you're driving us all out. Let me give you another solution...

Mr. Dolce:

Mr. Jochum – you're almost done – wrap it up please.

Mr. Jochum:            Alright. Can I wrap then? Alright. Fine. Let me give you one more suggestion: How about if we not ticket people so often so that all the money that the Gebbie Foundation has put into this town and Lee Harkness and company have done such a wonderful job to try to build up Jamestown, how about if we let the people make some money so you can obtain sales tax revenues, that the buildings go up in value so you can get some decent tax revenue out of the downtown and we would be alive and well? I thank God for the Gebbie Foundation and I want to go on record for that for what they've done and I want you to support them because honest to God – I think you're kicking them in the behinds over what you're doing right now and I also thank God for Lee Harkness for all he's done, and Tiffany and the rest of the group and I would ask your support and please stop picking on the senior citizens who are trying to make a living in downtown Jamestown. Thank you.

200911A00.03

Etta Mae Young, I live at the dead end of Cross Street, 116: Whenever I see a police car go by, I say "hey – Jamestown's finest." I want to give the Police Department a commendation every night and every day. I hear police cars going where I live, I can look over and see the traffic going down. The firemen also. My buddy Tony Dolce up there, used to come in – he was our neighborhood watch captain at one time. We don't have neighborhood watch meetings anymore. Perhaps if we still had them, the street next to mine next to Cross Street is Franklin Street, and you've seen on Channel 8 and you've read in the paper where one of my friends who is handicapped on Franklin Street – she lived at 11 right across the street from her is No. 14. This is the house where people had guns and they had knives and they broke in and they had to stop, I think, the kids in the high school had to come out – what do they call it? They had the lockdown at the high school. Now to the Jamestown Police Department – I'm known as the Bat Lady. I was at a concert at the old Shea's several years ago – it was packed. I had to go I felt because it was a religious concert and I wanted to hear the people that were singing and people were flooding out of the front of it and they came out of the side door opposite the Fire Department and it was winter and I had a long cape on. And a policeman said "hey come here a minute." And I said "yes." He said "what have you got under that cape?" I said "this is my protection – it's my bat." It was a baseball bat. They said "don't you know you're going to be arrested and we can use that as a weapon against us?" I said "don't you know if somebody jumps over here, I'm an old lady, if somebody jumps at me with a knife or gun, don't you think I'm going to split 'em in the head if I can with this bat? I'm going to protect myself." Well, the Fire Department's doing a good job and I'm up here to tell you that when you're making cuts on your Council Board, please make sure that you have equal representation among all the people. My Mayor comes to my church in January when we have Martin Luther King Day; my Mayor was there when we dedicated the park on 11<sup>th</sup>, end of 10<sup>th</sup> Street, my Mayor showed up and congratulations – I saw in the paper where you...I was going to send you the picture, but your secretary said she thought you were out and she thought you had had enough of it...and so I know that there's many things that I see going on at the 2XL and the Mayor's there and supporting everybody. I want to make a public confession that I have a family. When Obama was running for President, I went street after street after street knocking on doors, knocking on doors. The same thing, I tell all the people in my neighborhood "be sure you go vote.

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It's time to vote. Time to vote." It's important if you're an American to vote. Think of all the people that get killed because they can't vote. I'm a senior citizen, I may eat spaghetti two or three days a week, but I'm still eating; and I think about and pray for all the people who went to bed hungry last night. It's so nice that the Salvation Army. It's so nice that the Marines...doing things for the children for Christmas. We have a good community. We want to keep it that way. When you're downsizing- think of me what I'm saying because I'm an older senior citizen. I pay my taxes. I scuffle to do that. I applied for CHRIC for some help. Some children had broken my cellar window so we've just got it taped over with a tarp and it needs to be fixed but they helped me 4, 5, or 6 years ago so they couldn't help me again. There are other people that needed help. I want you to know that we're depending upon you to be fair with all people and to run our government good. We don't want crooks in the government like we're seeing and people have to resign in Buffalo and you know, so we want you to be honest – that's what we vote for – we believe in you. Believe in us. Thank you.

200911A00.04

Helen Peterson, 8 Whitehill Avenue: For most of my life, I was an elementary school librarian in Jamestown and while I was working in the school library, I had lots of opportunities to work alongside the people at the Prendergast and they were such a good resource for us. We worked together. While I was a school librarian, I didn't use the library as an individual very often because I had the resources right at my fingertips in the school library. Since I've been retired, I go to the Prendergast a great deal and I use so many of their resources. I use their audio books; I use their computer lab; I use the regular books there; I use the videos; and it has really been a good experience for me as an individual using the Prendergast Library. Several years ago, it was called "A gem of our community," and I have found it to be a real gem of the community. I don't envy you people trying to create an equitable and fair budget in these times and I give you my great admiration for the work that you're doing. I would just like to, as a part of the Friends of the Prendergast Library group, and as an individual, ask you to do all that you can to support the Prendergast Library. Thank you.

200911A00.05

Paul Mancuso, 235 South Main Street: I have a few other properties in town that I pay taxes on too. I'm here for more than one reason. One of the reasons is I can be here which is a great thing. That's something we have in this country, this City, we have a chance...we can voice our opinions. I'm going to start with the Police Department. I'd be a lousy cop – I'll tell you that right now. If you cut down on the police, and I have to start being a cop, I think Lind's Funeral Parlor's going to be real, real busy. I'm being real honest with you because I can't go out there and start fighting with all these drug dealers and their families and their pit bulls and all that. I just can't do it. I wouldn't be a very good fireman because I can't climb very high and I can't stay up long hours. So if you cut those two, now I've got to be a policeman, a fireman, now they go to the Youth Group. I don't really like kids all that much. That's no joke. Being 62 years old, I like it when they come...and I have a lot to do with kids at my church I'm around kids; I have three grandsons; all the kids in the neighborhood all come and talk to me. I do quite a bit with the kids. If you start cutting down on the Youth Bureau, now in four or five years

we'll have No. 1 – no police; No. 2 – no fire department; No. 3 – no Youth Group. Where are we going to stop? There's got to be an end to this. I'm not going to say "look – you're making too much money 'cause I don't care how much money you make." God Bless you if you make a lot of money. But it's got to be cut back in the right places. If you take all my services away, I don't have a fire alarm on my house – some of the people sitting here have a fire alarm – I know you do. If the cops come – the alarm goes off – I'm sorry – if a crook comes the alarm goes off and the cops are on their way. I don't have that stuff. I have to defend for myself. I'm not going to be a policeman, I'm not going to be a fireman, and I'm sure not going to sit down and try to help some kid figure out which college he's going to go to – Vickye James does a great job. The kids open up to her better than they do the school, the guidance counselors, that I know because Vickye's the kind of person that you can sit down and you can talk forever with her. I mean- she's just so intelligent. If you cut that out, we're going to have a bunch of people with canes, walkers, wheelchairs – no youth. My grandson just graduated from college – well, will be in January – he's down in Florida – he's trying to get a job around here – there's nothing for him. Let's chase all the kids out of here and in 10-15 years – we'll have nobody. I'm 62. I don't know how many years I've got left. I'm looking at some people up here that are coming up on me. Right George? Okay. I just can't say enough that – I don't want your job. I also don't want to be a fireman, I think I already said that. If we have to cut – let's cut everywhere. Let's not just pick one department and cut. Let's start on top. Tell the Mayor he's got to take three days a week off and get unemployment for those three days. You think that's going to work? I don't think so. Sorry Sam, I didn't mean to pick on you. We could also turn the heat down in here because I think it's about 80 degrees. You guys are drinking water by the gallon up there and you know it's hot in here. And that's a good place to start cutting. My house is 62 right now. I can't live this way. I don't know. Maybe I'm talking out of turn. I hope not. But I know private companies – I won't name any companies – but they're laying their people off three days a week, they collect unemployment for two days – maybe some of that's got to happen with the City. I don't know. I'd hate to look up there and only see three people sitting there because the other two are laid off this night. You've got to be reasonable about it. I'm maybe going from one spectrum to the other but there's got to be a reasonable answer to this; and getting rid of the Youth, the Police, the firemen, you're going the wrong way. I'd rather have a police officer than four guys digging a ditch in front of my house. I'm not saying cut them either. You've got to think about it. Thank you.

200911A00.06

Joyce Mallare, 28 Warwick Rd., West Ellicott: I came here as a member of the Friends of the Library, but I'm not really speaking to that right now because I'm not really allowed to speak on that issue and I support everything that Helen Peterson just said. But the reason I thought I would say something before I leave is because of what Mr. Jochum said. My husband and I returned to Jamestown for retirement in 2000, but my family moved here in 1951 when I was eight years old and I had most of my education in Jamestown. But when I came back here and began living in West Ellicott, I heard many people in my area and Lakewood say that they don't like to come down to Jamestown shopping because of the parking situation so that's been going on for the last

nine years since I've been in town – I've been hearing that kind of talk. Then I had an experience last week that kind of really brought to light what Mr. Jochum was saying. There is a yoga class for senior citizens over at the Ice Arena and many ladies that go there are older – they're in their early 80's even, some were even in their high 80's and this one yoga class ran over about 10 minutes. This one lady came out of the building and I was going toward my car and she was in tears by her car – this older lady – because she'd never gotten a parking ticket in her life and the class had just gone over 10 minutes. So a couple of us said “well, you know, probably if you take the ticket over to City Hall and explain the situation, they may forgive it or something.” But I think that there may be many good reasons why the ticketing is as it is, but at the same time, I think there has to be a little bit more humanity about all of it. I just wanted to let you know that story. Thank you.

200911A00.07

Franklin Trusso, 1033 N. Main Street: I've been in Jamestown all of my life and for the last five years or so, I've been coming to the Council meetings on the budget. I'm not hearing nothing new. That's when everybody shows up when we have a budget meeting. Everybody wants this, everybody wants that. I think you people got to realize how bad Jamestown is off financially. We aren't the richest city in the County or the State – I think we're the poorest one. You people out here got to understand what's going on. There's people working two jobs just to make ends meet – not to get ahead and there's a lot of people on fixed incomes that are battling to stay in their houses because they can't pay their taxes. School tax – the school keeps going up. We just can't keep going on the way we're going. I think we should start to...everybody should get together in the County, the Cities, the schools – merge. I'm going to tell you – I'm going to predict in the next ten years if nothing is happening – everybody's going to go broke because there's not enough money in this County. Why aren't the kids staying here? I'll tell you why. There's a friend of mine – his son went to one of these schools to learn to be a welder and there was ten of them. They only took one. So what are you going to do with the other nine? Tell me. They aren't in Jamestown no more. They moved out. They say there's a lot of jobs down in Jamestown. I don't see where. How come the kids are moving out? They aren't staying in Jamestown. We've got a lot of older people. We've got middle income people and all that. And who's paying the taxes? And the neighborhoods are in bad shape and I'll tell you another thing I saw. If it wasn't for the stimulus money we would never have gotten all these roads done. A lot of stuff we got done thanks to the stimulus money coming in from the federal government. A lot of this stuff would have never been done. The City is broke. I mean you people don't understand. I respect the policemen. I respect the firemen. I think they're doing a good job, but there's a time, I think, when you guys are going to have to go to the table with the Mayor, sit down, say “this is what we have and this is what we're going to give you. That's all we can afford.” Otherwise we're all going to go broke. I agree with you Mayor. I think we've got to look at the Taylor Laws – reading something in the paper about that, study it or whatever. And the Council- I think you people up there got some good ideas and keep on going on with them from what I read in the paper because we've got to have leadership over the next two years. Your future is out here. You all got kids. I know Tony Dolce – he's been on a long time so he knows what I'm talking about. But I

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think over the next few years, these are important years and we've got to get this thing straightened out if we want to go in the right direction because if we don't go in the right direction, might as well close up shop. Thank you.

200911A00.08

Jeff Levandoski, 223 Elmcrest Ave., Lakewood, Jamestown Police Department:  
I have absolutely no idea what I'm going to say. I've kind of had a bad day and not feeling exactly too well right now because of the incident this morning. Obviously, you can tell I've had several injuries that occurred early this morning as I was working as a Jamestown Police Officer and I don't want to get into saying this is what we should do or this is what should be looked at or anything like that; but I just want to make you aware of the fact that my injuries are what they are, and they could be a lot worse if it wasn't for what we have right now. Other officers responded and because of their arriving at the scene, they probably ended up stopping the guy that was on top of me that unfortunately had gotten the upper hand on me and luckily I'm standing here instead of sitting in the hospital. Unfortunately, I do have to go and speak with a trauma surgeon tomorrow in regards to several fractures in my left eye orbit and figure out how they're going to try to fix that, but my squad and my platoon were there luckily to go ahead and stop this. We talk about statistics. We talk about numbers and unfortunately, nothing ever adds up and they can be interpreted thousands and thousands of ways; but I do want to make sure that everybody understands what happens in the City of Jamestown is not always put in the paper. What hits the paper, I think in my personal opinion, is 3-5% of actually what we do whether it's police or fire. The people that we deal with are what I would call frequent flyers. We deal with them day in and day out and unfortunately, we have that what I would call a fluid population. Many people that unfortunately come into our crossroads; for example the gentleman that was sitting on top of me, beating me repeatedly, was actually from Maryland or Georgia, one of the two. We have people from Buffalo, Rochester, Cleveland, Erie, Pittsburgh, all making a living, basically, out of our City. Those numbers aren't part of the census. Those numbers probably don't show up anywhere unless they get arrested and those are the people that unfortunately, somebody's going to get hurt with. Like I said earlier, if it wasn't for the people that we had last night and the calling for more cars – it was just us – it was just JPD. Several minutes after the incident, we did have a State Trooper that helped us out, but unfortunately, there was nobody else. If you cut numbers – and I understand that dollar signs and numbers have to equal – but if you cut numbers, the one gentleman's correct – you could end up with somebody sitting over at Lind's Funeral Home, or Powers, or what – whether it's one of us firemen, police, or just a citizen. If we're not there to back each other up, somebody's going to get hurt. Thank you.

200911A00.09

Patrick Bunce, 38 W. 10<sup>th</sup> Street: First of all, I would like to personally thank the Officer for the sacrifices that he makes to protect my street and my City. First and foremost on my mind is Public Safety. Jamestown Police Department cannot take any cuts in employees. Maybe they can take some cuts in pay and pensions and benefits, but numbers of cops – we cannot take. Same with the Fire Department. Maybe they can take

less pension, less pay. I look at it as a balloon – the City Government as a balloon. The balloon's about to pop. If we can just let a little air out from everybody, the police department, the pension – maybe they're not going to get what they want. Maybe the Fire Department don't get what they want. Maybe the senior citizens don't get exactly what they want. But don't chunk anybody. You know – don't kill anybody. Just let a little air out from everybody, make sure our numbers are in line; do we have the right number of cops for a city this size? Are we in line? I don't know. But if we're not – we should be. We really can't do with less cops. We really can't. And the Fire Department – the same. We really can't do without them. I rely on the cops a lot. A lot. And they help me out a lot. We can't go without less cops. We can't go without less cops. We can't have less cops. Period. We can't do it. I know times are tight. But the Fire Department, Police Department, Mr. Torres and Ms. James do a lot of good work. I hate to see them suffer. Mr. Torres and Ms. James – they do amazing work that might stem off a couple of kids from being drug dealers, but if their positions are eliminated, then here comes some more drug dealers right up the pike. Here they come. You can bet your bottom dollar on it. No cops to the cut. Mr. Jochum, I believe, was right to a certain degree about salaries and pensions and benefits. My job – the shop is freezing cold all day because we keep the thermostat down so the boss can pay the bill. We don't have endless money and you guys don't have endless money either. Everybody needs to learn and adapt to that. We need to just let some air out of the balloon. That's all we need. Thank you.

200911A00.10

Doug Champ, 225 Bowen Street: Everybody probably knows who I am, what I represent. The Police and Fire Department can't be said enough about in terms of what they do for this City and I will echo everybody's favors about trying to retain what we have; however, after saying that, 25 years ago, I was in charge of a study on Public Safety for the City of Jamestown and I hired a professional to come in and evaluate Public Safety – primarily the Fire Department. That was a blue ribbon committee which was shared with the Fire Department at the time the Chief that was here and myself and a bunch of citizens who were really advanced in the state of looking at what Public Safety was all about. That whole program was given to the City 25 years ago in terms of what could be done and how it should be managed. Nothing ever happened with that. Why? It was too difficult to deal with. However, after years and years of looking at that, things could have been done differently and what I think we need to do is seriously look at how public safety has to be maintained and afforded to this community. I'd like to have more police; I'd like to have more fire department – but it can't be done. It's going to reach a point where people will not be able to afford it any longer and then you will have to cut people. In addition to that, the City of Jamestown and the City Council has to look at what they individually can do with their participation as an elected official. Now, in the County Legislature, the advocacy there is to try and cut the legislature down. Well, how about the City Council taking a hard look at what we really need here. Now if you took a moratorium on your salary for two years – okay – and had a 10% decrease in the Mayor's salary, you could fund the Youth Bureau – no problem.

Mr. Dolce: Mr. Champ, I'm going to tell you, the City Council makes \$5,000 a year and hasn't had a raise in 26 years. We don't get raises; we have no benefits. We are part-time, basically paid volunteer employees.

Mr. Champ: Well, you know, these are....

Mr. Dolce: ...elected by the community to make decisions.

Mr. Champ: These are desperate times.

Mr. Dolce: I want to make it clear that there's really not...

Mr. Champ: I know you don't do it for the money...but let me just finish. I don't want to have this discussion...

Mr. Dolce: I just want to make that clear because...the comments about how much money we make...

Mr. Champ: You're not getting rich. But there's nine councilmen – that's  $9 \times 5 =$  is \$45,000 a year. Okay? So if you took a stipend of \$1,000 a year which would pay your expenses, some of the problems you're looking at now could be a little different. But that's just thrown out there in terms of not devaluing what you do, but these are desperate times. And in addition to that, we have programs for the City through the Public Works Department that is dysfunctional. You know what the leaf pickup costs the City of Jamestown? Almost  $\frac{1}{4}$  million dollars. And it's dysfunctional because the equipment's dysfunctional – so maybe it's time that that should be bid out to a private sector to see if there's an opportunity to lower that cost or create a regional authority that has seasonal implications like snow removal and leaf removal that would combine the districts around us using some of their equipment, taking a look at the private sector coming into play. Now maybe that can't be done, but we've got to take a look at different things. So, when we think about how we're going to maintain the city five and ten years from now, and everybody wants something – can we afford everything? I don't think anybody in this room believes we can afford everything. But we have to honestly look at a real umbrella approach as to how we're going to cut the cost of government and how we're going to cut the cost of services in the City of Jamestown. I believe that you want to do the same thing and the people in this audience want to see that done. You're vested with those hard decisions. So the audience that's here tonight and comes with suggestions and you go back and decide “are we going to have a tax increase of 5, 3, 2, 1%? It's going to depend on the priorities of what you feel and you're the managers. With this input here tonight, I hope that everyone will understand that we can't stay the way we are because what you do now is going to be building on our future and how is a tax increase going to be five and 10 years from now and what's the cost of government? But I want to thank the police and fire department for what they do every day. I wish we could have more of you, but I don't know that the City of Jamestown at this point in time can continue that. But thank you very much for all the things you do. Thank you.

John Berg, 203 Charlotte Avenue: What I've been hearing mostly and most of the applause is apparently is city workers and I can see why – they're protecting their jobs, their protecting their good pay. I work in the private sector. Our pay has been cut substantially. We don't have unions. The last union shop in my field was 25 years ago. We don't get protected like unions do. The fact is, we could have more firemen, more police, if who we had took less pay and benefits. That's certainly reasonable. If you feel your safety is in jeopardy and you feel that the City of Jamestown's safety is in jeopardy, then you would be more than willing to take a pay cut or a benefit cut. I mean, I've taken a cut – in ten years I've taken a 25% cut – not including benefits. That's the private sector. The public employees are out in nowhere's land, I think, in what they feel they should deserve. I'm not going to go into that anymore. This was supposed to be suggestions, I thought. I'm going to put in my two cents worth here. If you're spending a certain amount of money, you're going to have to have that money to spend, but the budget's not going to be balanced. I don't think that the City of Jamestown has looked into enough programs for very substantial tax breaks for housing, for new businesses, for remodeling houses – these are all things that I feel would cost the City of Jamestown virtually nothing, if not nothing at all, in the first year and down the road, we would be improving our neighborhoods by having tax incentives for remodeling, for new housing – I know there's not a lot of new houses in Jamestown, but there are a few locations people build new houses in Jamestown; if we can get a lot more people on the tax role with the same services we've got now because you know, people building new houses aren't going to be criminal element and stuff – we're talking people that can actually pay their taxes, actually serve a purpose in the City of Jamestown, and I think that with the right tax incentives, we could increase our tax base substantially. All I hear from the newspaper and everybody else is "we're losing our tax base – we're losing our tax base." Then, let's do something about it instead of trying to cut...if we're down to where we can't cut anymore, then we've got to find new places of revenue and that doesn't mean increase the taxes for who is here, that increases the quantity of people who are going to be paying taxes that isn't going to increase at all the amount the City spends for those same people. So the actual tax rate can actually go down with the increased taxpayers. I don't think we've approached anywhere near what we can on subsidies for new houses, for any remodeling – I mean, I'm talking something that's going to be substantial. Maybe no taxes for any remodeling project for five years. We're going to keep the housing market up there. People are going to want to do work to their houses – they're going to want to fix them up and not get taxed to death and we're going to keep those property values up and if the property values aren't going to stay up, we're going to be in worse shape in five or ten years than we are now. We've got to be concerned with keeping our tax base up and getting it up where it belongs. Why do we have to keep losing, losing, losing? A house burns down: why can't it be replaced with a new house instead of the cost advantage of just getting rid of it and having a vacant lot. And another thing there is the vacant lots – the City owns vacant lots all over, they own houses all over – I don't care if you have to give them away for \$1.00 – get them back on the tax roles. That's what I have to say. Thank you.

200911A00.12

Florence Hinson, 54 W. 14<sup>th</sup> Street: I just want to talk about the youth. We really need to keep the Youth Bureau. We don't need to get rid of them because look at what the young people are doing now. They need people to go to, they need places to go to. You have more parents that are working, are not home when the children come home; we really need people that can help them – places for them to go. And if you don't have that – what's going to happen? They're our future and I think it's very, very important that Ms. James and Mr. Torres that they continue with their jobs. They know how to work with the youth. The youth just wants to do...and if they don't anyplace to go that's going to help them, they're going to be out there doing things that they have no business to do. So, I feel that you really need to think about them. You say young people, when they graduate, they don't stay in Jamestown because there isn't anything – but there is things here in Jamestown, but we have to start them when they're young and we need this. We really need it. So I plead with you, please don't cut the youth activities. Thank you.

200911A00.13

Renate Bob, 571 Front Street: I'm President of Friends of the Library and I'm here to speak on behalf of the Library and am urging you to please continue your funding of the Library. It's much appreciated. The Library is right now working on a shoestring. They've had to cut hours and they are really doing the best they can with what they get. It's a wonderful institution and people are asking me right now "When is it going to reopen? We really miss it," now that the asbestos removal is underway. The Library has earned well deserved accolades from the public, from the State and even from a national...has gotten an award for being one of the very best libraries in the whole Country. So, it is a gem and I'm asking you to please not cut its funding. Thank you.

200911A00.14

Philip Hanlon, 137 Willow Avenue: I'm a Lieutenant on the Fire Department – not used to the public speaking so please bear with me here a little bit – I'm a little nervous. I've been involved in public safety my whole life. I come from a family of firefighters retired, a family of police officers, cousins, brother-in-laws, ex-brother-in-laws. I've done both. The fire service, we'll start with that...years ago fire departments used to be judged on how they would stand up fighting two fires at the same time. The fire department could do that – they had their things together. We've haven't been able to do that now for going on 25 years here in Jamestown. When I got hired, we had enough manpower, barely, to go to one structure fire and do it correctly. We're running ten now. We're hanging on – don't know how. I don't know where you plan on going, how far, how much lower you're going; but I guess what you need to figure out is – maybe you already know – what do you want the fire department to do? What exactly is their job? If we go below ten like we did a couple of years ago to nine, you saw where the injury levels were at; I myself missed almost a year and a half of work due to different injuries, shoulder reconstruction, fractured leg, all due to on-the-job injuries. I guess what people have to remember with police and fire – they're full contact labor-

intensive jobs no matter how you look at it. You can get the best equipment in the world, the best radar devices, the best training, the best fire trucks for a million dollars; unless you put the bodies on them that crawl through the hallway, down the hallway, stretching the line, opening the roofs, pulling the ceilings, being there for each other when something happens, being there for the brother officer when he went down the guys could help him – they're labor intensive. It's an unfortunate thing – nothing's changed with that throughout the years – the jobs have only gotten harder. I had a few thoughts, but I'm kind of rambling right now. How come fire based EMS hasn't been brought up? The numbers were there in the past. You could see where the numbers were, the funds that could be generated – now I guess it depends on who you go get your resources from to find out. You're going to get the people that are going to say "you're just going to lose money," and then you get the others who say "yes – you do generate money." I can probably guarantee for every naysayer, I can find two yea-sayers that say "yes – we have generated money for our municipality by doing fire based EMS." If anybody doesn't know what that is – we've got the records that go back years showing the numbers. I guess all I can say is we all love our jobs, we love the City, we do what we can do and we're always going to continue to do what we can do. But, you need to be aware that we're going to have limitations. There's going to come a time when we're going to have to stand there and put our hands up and say "we can't do what we used to do what you took for granted on a day-to-day basis. It's not going to happen anymore." You start cutting numbers and we've seen it – our EMS calls are up even though they have been screened and we're not running as many as we used to to try to keep us in the firehouse to go to the fires, but when we're running with less, what that does is that puts the ladder company out of service. There is only one ladder truck in the City. We've got thousands and thousands of feet of hose but we only have one 100' ladder. The more we go out of service, the lower we are in manpower. If you live above the third floor in the City of Jamestown, there's a good chance if you need us to get you out, we're not coming because we're doing other runs at that time. Ten guys is the bare minimum. We can't go any lower than that. When we start going lower than that, we start putting more companies out of service. Like I said, a fire department is to be based on being able to run two fires at one time. We can barely do one – a lot of times, we can't even do the one. That's all I have to say. Thank you.

200911A00.15

Billy Torres, 345 Foote Ave.: I'm here not to talk about my program, but to talk about Vickye James and the Youth Bureau. I mean, if it wasn't for the Youth Bureau – they're part of our success. It's just amazing the work that she does in the Youth Bureau for not just our program for just about everybody. She works with everybody, she's easy to work with and she's just awesome and I just wanted to say that and thank you Vickye for all that you do for the community especially. The Police Department – ever since Chief Rater took over over there, we've been having even a better relationship. We've been things together and for them to lose some people, that wouldn't be right at all. I just wanted to say those things and continue our work together. We've been doing a lot and we've got a lot more to do and to make Jamestown a better and safer place for everybody and I just wanted to say that. Thank you very much.

Richard Fleurant, 140 Euclid Ave.: Before I speak my own words, I'd like to read this, if I may on behalf of Patty Perlee, Exec. Director of Joint Neighborhood Project who could not be here tonight but wanted to come out and let City Council members know: Vickye James has worked with Joint Neighborhood Project for many years in her role as Director of the Youth Bureau. She has been instrumental in helping our summer day camp program develop from a drop in center to a fully licensed summer day camp program. She is also responsive to our questions and ready to offer guidance and advice, both on program development and contract interpretation and management. In addition to the summer day camp program, Vickye's active in the other youth programs we offer at JNP. She was instrumental in coordinating programs among youth servicing agencies including The Three Kings' Festival in February and Hispanic Heritage Celebration in September. In addition to her own work with these projects, Vickye has been able to obtain youth volunteers who have been very helpful in many of our programs. Vickye also has helped with and attended the various career education workshops helped by JNP for Hispanic youth. She has also represented the Youth Bureau as a member of the Hispanic Outreach Coalition, Hispanic Outreach Network and Hispanic Outreach Work Group. It was through these efforts of these groups that services to the Hispanic population in Jamestown has improved through implementation of the Hispanic Service Navigated Program. Vickye has a passion and dedication for her work with youth and the elimination of the position of Director of the Youth Bureau would be extremely detrimental to our agencies, our City and our youth. Thank you very much. Sincerely, Patricia Perlee, Exec. Director of Joint Neighborhood Project.

I myself have known Vickye pretty much ever since I moved to the City of Jamestown. We work together on numerous projects. Currently I sit on the Youth Services Board, President of the Youth Services Board and I've gotten a chance to see firsthand how we've been able to help a lot of youth service agencies in the City of Jamestown – Joint Neighborhood Project, Eastside Family YMCA being another one. We talk about that the youth don't contribute or the youth don't do anything positive in the City of Jamestown. Those that do go off to education leave and don't come back. Well, if we look at cutting funding to those services that provide funding to those current youth services now, what's going to happen to the youth that are here? It's not fair. We have to think about the ripple effect. I implore you. Look at the budget in any way you can; find a way to trim the fat someplace else but not with the Department of Youth Services. That is a service that is well needed, well deserved and I think that if we do cut that service out, we're going to be doing a lot more harm down the road. Please look and see what you can do. The other reason I'm here also is because I have a lot of friends that are police officers and firefighters. Again, you just can't justify taking those positions away. We already don't have a lot as it is and to reduce what we do have is going to make our city that much more worse. We see an officer that's sitting here tonight that spoke and talked about how if it wasn't for his fellow officers to come to his aid, that could have been any one of us. That could have been any one of us and this is a police officer. So I'm asking you – do what you can – find where you can to not take these positions away. Thank you.

200911A00.16

Rebecca Hemes, 354 E. 4<sup>th</sup> Street: My concern this evening is the Youth Department. I have three daughters: my oldest daughter started with the YMCA basketball program and continued on with the Project YES program and she will currently graduate with her Masters Degree in May. She's going to be a teacher. Thanks to the youth programs in the Jamestown area, she started on this path when she was seven years old when she started the basketball and got involved. I was a single parent at that time. She had looked to her teachers, she looked to Vickye through the Project YES, she got her own scholarships and grants for college because as a single parent I couldn't do it. Her specialty is literacy. She was always encouraged through these programs and it meant the world to her. Her two sisters did not go through either of these programs. They weren't going to do what their sister did. They are finding their own way in this world, but they don't have any of the opportunities that their older sister does. They kind of got lost. I pray daily for them; but they're surviving through welfare and public services. The Youth Department is desperately needed in this town. There are so many children that are lost and they're going to be the ones that the police are going to be dealing with daily. They are probably the ones that the Fire Department's going to be dealing with. Right now we've got an arsonist setting fires and we need this Youth Department to get our kids active and headed in the right direction and we definitely can't afford to lose our police and our firemen. I know you have a very difficult job. We've all had to tighten our belts. The public has learned to live on next to nothing. The City's going to have to find a way to do it, but please don't do it at the expense of our young people. Thank you.

200911A00.17

Phil Carcione, 530 Stowe Street: I appreciate what everybody has to say here at this time, but I thought it was going to be something that we could contribute to how we can control this budget in the City. I think we have to address all that the project managers, department heads, to really sharpen their pencils and just take a mandatory 3-5% cut across the board and adjust the overtime that the police department has, the fire department has; if we have to reassign different personnel at different hours, different shifts, whenever they need more men out in the field – I mean I really admire what they do for a living. There's a lot of people that probably do the same thing if the opportunity was afforded them. I'm amazed as to what the City's actually contributing when I listen to these people that come and want money from the City. I was unaware that the City of Jamestown was actually providing funding for some of these programs. I don't know if that's what the City of Jamestown was for – our tax money going for that. It seems that there are other ways of raising money for these people. I'm a firm believer in affording opportunity to youth. I think that the community they live in should be out there raising money themselves and there's other ways of getting that money through other grants other than through the taxpayers' money in the City of Jamestown. I mean everybody here so far is saying they want to maintain, maintain, maintain – we can't maintain any more. The taxpayers are leaving – I've got two years left here – I've been here for 60 years. When I'm 62, my feeling is I'm going to be moving out of Jamestown. My two sons just have no ambition to come back to Jamestown, they've both graduated from

college. They come on weekends and their friends aren't coming home. I don't know who's going to be coming back to Jamestown. I really think we're pushing the young people away and we just have to bite the bullet and enough is enough and try to do the best that we can with what we have. And right now – what we have is getting less and less. That's all I have to say.

200911A00.18

John Richey, 2 Arlington Avenue: He spoke softly, but I do hope...I paid special attention to what he said...he was addressing our plight, our situation, and it's quite a plight. Everybody can come and speak for their favorites and look to the City as a Nanny, but there are only some things that it is appropriate for the City to do. The Boys' and Girls' Club can do some things; the Y can do some things. But if the City is going to raise our youth and are going to make it their job through taxpayer money to occupy the leisure time of our youth so they don't get in trouble, then we're in trouble because we can't afford to do that. It's not a City job. It's inappropriate. It's an inappropriate use of taxpayer money. No community I've ever lived in has done as much for young people as this community does. If you made a list, you'd take two pages in the newspaper to list all the organizations and activities that are directed towards youth and that's appropriate; not the City as mama with taxpayer money. Somebody suggested as a way to deal with this was to cut the Mayor's salary. The City of Jamestown is lucky, lucky to have a Mayor like Mr. Teresi who will serve for as little as he gets paid; but he says it's not time to panic and he said that a few times in the newspaper and I understand his motivation. He wants to be a calming force and that's wise; but it's time to panic. We're in trouble. If you don't make tough decisions this year, next year's going to be worse. It will be worse. The state is a shambles and the cuts you're hearing about now are probably going to be bigger and more consequential next year. We've got to face it now. This is the budget. This is the time. Don't put it off. We need the cut. It's a shrinking city, the services have to shrink. I also want to agree with, I think it was Mr. Patrick Bunce – not sure of his name, and he was speaking for the Fire Department and Police Department and he said "don't cut numbers." I would support him in that if it were reasonable, if it were affordable, but I hope the officers of the Kendall Union and the Fire Union are here listening – are they here? The officers of the Kendall or Fire union? Could you raise your hands? We kind of forget some of those folks, the officers of those unions, because that's who you should be speaking to. They want to keep their numbers but they're negotiating with the City and they're playing hardball. They've got very nice salaries. By the way, I appreciate the job that they do, the hard work that they do, their professionalism – I truly appreciate that. But this City is in a bind. They get very nice salaries; they get great benefits; they've got a vesting retirement program that's very attractive – it's a Cadillac program and it's 20 and out so they often double dip or otherwise benefit themselves from a short, relatively speaking to other professions, short career. The overtime is incomprehensible in the fire and police department. So if citizens want to speak to somebody, the City Council is in a bind and one of the groups that's putting them in the bind and has for quite some time taking advantage of this situation and New York State is the Kendall Union and the Fire Union. Thank you.

200911A00.19

Etta Mae Young, 16 Cross Street: I've been to the microphone once so I won't go back, but it occurred to me that the City...I want to give the City credit for doing what they can. Within the last month, I have read where they have the opportunity to either cut at Christmas picking up the Christmas trees or they will have to stop gathering the leaves. I've been on 14<sup>th</sup> Street, I've seen my sister, now I've seen Mrs. Hinson, rake all their leaves to the side, all the leaves to the side. We have something called Neighborhood Watch Groups and once a year each group what we did on Chandler Street in our area, and I was the only one on the lower end of Cross Street – they said “Etta – you're responsible for cleaning up the leaves on Cross Street – we're going to give you Cross Street.” I didn't ask for it – they gave it to me. I went up to Value Home Center on the bus, I no longer drive, and I got rakes and I got those heavy push brooms and I said “boy I wish I could get some of those brooms like the City has.” I paid the children on the street last year and out of my thanks I got one rake stolen and one push broom stolen and the family that I know that stole them were working with me and they're no longer on the street; but I feel like I can at least get some more brooms, it's hard to carry them home on the bus, and take my time and push those leaves just like other people. If I can push the leaves...I have an artificial collapsible Christmas tree so I don't drag a Christmas tree up there...but I can be responsible for pushing the leaves up there on the corner and if they're on the corner, isn't it possible that somebody can come and get the leaves? I'm 80 years old, I'll be 81 on my birthday, and I have a lot of arthritis, but I love Cross Street. I've been there too long, I'm asking God for 100 years, so as long as I can move, I'm going to help Cross Street; and maybe somebody else can do that. Maybe somebody else can do that. Just get some of your neighbors, your relatives and stuff and get those leaves up in a pile where the City can pick them up easier. Thank you.

200911A00.20

Jeff Russell, 300 Lakeview Avenue: I'm a Police Officer here in Jamestown. I'm proud to say that I'm a City employee and I reside here in the City of Jamestown and own a home. I'd like to rebut Mr. Richey's comments about the Police Department, Fire Department. I had Mr. Richey as a Sociology teacher – excellent college professor. But I would like to say that I think a lot of people don't realize the...I posed this question to Chuck Cornell when he came around to my house when he was running recently. How many police officers do you think are going to be on the streets of Jamestown tonight? It was absurd – he gave me numbers like 12, 15 – they think that there's so many cops out there. When I was working last night when Officer Levandoski was assaulted, there was like five one-man police cars on the street. You cannot cut any more from the Police Department. It is unsafe now at times when we are out there. If you cut, you could run into a situation that he was into last night where this guy takes his gun from him, shoots and kills him, shoots someone else – this guy was not from Jamestown; people like that don't care about the citizens of Jamestown. They come here – they come here for one reason – and it's not employment, or legal employment. As far as the firemen go, I had a situation where a year and a half, two years ago, where I was at home and I had worked all night long and I was sleeping in bed and it was 11:00 or 12:00 in the afternoon – I work third shift so I just got off at 7 in the morning, and I would just like to say that my

neighbor's house caught on fire and the house is in close proximity to mine. If it wasn't for the Fire Department, they arrived, went through a two inch thick oak door in a matter of seconds it seemed like, and put my neighbor's house out that was burning on the second floor; and if it wasn't for them, that house would have been lost – there's no doubt it would have been lost – and I might have been killed, because it could have jumped over to my house very easily while I was in bed sleeping. So I would just like to say thank-you publicly to the Fire Department for what they did. But back to the Police Department, when I started here over ten years ago, we had a lot more policemen; and looking back on it, I can see where we've lost some numbers through attrition or whatever, but I just honestly don't see where you can cut any more. I mean, what's a safe number? I have gone to work at night on the third shift and worked with like two supervisors and two patrolmen. You're talking four policemen covering this entire City. That is not safe. It is not safe for anyone. It's not safe for me...Mr. Richey, I always work the North side, I'm driving by your house at 2:00, 3:00, 4:00 in the morning. There's just not enough numbers to keep cutting. I understand it comes down to dollars and everything else. But you have to accommodate for vacations – everyone gets vacations – you have to accommodate for officer injuries. I've seen officer injuries sky rocket since the numbers in the Police Department have gone down. We currently have an officer out who had shoulder surgery – blew his rotator cup out making an arrest. We've got Officer Levandoski out now who has multiple fractures to his face. Who knows how long he's going to be out for? We have another officer that was out because he fractured his ankle at a fire scene, slipped on some water, whatever, I was there, he broke his ankle. So you have to replace those people when they are hurt; but where do you replace them when you continue to cut numbers. People wake up. There's not 12 and 15 cops out patrolling your neighborhoods at night. You're going to go home and you're going to crawl in your beds, and there might be four cops in this entire City patrolling these streets. Do I agree that I make a good salary. I'm not going to deny it. I make a damn good salary for this area; but frankly, I busted my ass to get where I'm at. I came from nothing, a family of five, a single mother that raised me in this town. My brother and I were the first ones to go to college in my family. So am I going to sit here and say "take the punishment and say I make too much money? No – for what I do?" Do I go to work some nights and nothing goes on and I can leave at 7:00 in the morning – I can say "well, maybe I was overpaid last night." But then I can also respond and deal with the situation with him or deal with the situation where a cop gets shot back in '99 and an officer shows up there and sees the police officer's eye hanging out of his face – tell me how much that is worth. Is that worth 60 grand; is that worth 70 grand? What is that worth? You can't cut any more. I don't know what the answer is. There's no industry here anymore. Start working on getting industry. I said that ten years ago when we were here; and we're right back to the situation where we're at.

200911A00.21

Lamont Dominico, 115 Cole Avenue: On my last position – I've had a lot of jobs in my life where the companies go folded up – and I have had to leave the area. I've had to work in Erie – lost my job – have found another job, bounced back; and I bounced back in this town which I am thankful for. But the last position I had I was plant supervisor for a company in town which moved to Ellicottville. Being plant supervisor, I

had to supervise a lot of people and it was very hard and I understand it. I got orders from my corporate office saying that we're going to have to tell everybody out there they're going to take a cut in pay. I had to too. I had to take a 10% cut in pay across the board like my employees did. I had to take a big cut in my insurance – the company changed insurance, I had a larger co-pay to pay. I still survived. I stayed in my job – there's a lot of companies in town – I'm not saying this is what you should do, but maybe this is in lieu of not cutting any employees. I don't want to see any more firemen lost; I don't want to see any more policemen lost; I'm for them. But also too, I understand that the City has a lot of problems, a lot of financial problems, and there's other things that could be looked at. Probably too is your insurance here. You have all these different groups, different unions within the city. Maybe you ought to look at trying to combine those, work really hard at it, study it and see if you couldn't combine something there to save some money across the board. The other thing is too is there's a lot of...when you've been with the City a long time you get little perks, okay, it just happens. I know I had it and I got told by my last company, I couldn't do this anymore. Fine. I had a car I used to take back and forth every now and then. No, you can't do that. You can take the car on business, but when it came back to work, you had to leave it and take your own car home. I had to drive back and forth to Ellicottville every day. I was not able to go down and get gas out of the pumps to run my vehicles and then take it home and then get more gas. I don't know if that goes on or not, but I think it does. There's another thing here too about...I'm hearing some stuff about property in town, I don't know if it's true or not, where people are buying property, they turn around and get the assessments lowered, then they turn around and do a little bit with it and they pay a lot less tax on it and they turn around and sell it for what it was appraised for before. This has been going on for a little bit too – I hear this through the rumor mills. I don't know how true it is but if that's happening, I think that's a little wrong because that hurts me. My property values – I can't get them reduced. I'm stuck where I'm at. Other people in town seem to get their property taxes reduced, and then turn around and put just a little bit of money into it or rent it out and make a lot of money on it. Maybe that's all part of business. I do appreciate what the City does for me as far as all my services, but I know we can't continue paying this. We can't. I don't know what the answer is, but I'm sure...I haven't seen the budget – I don't know where cuts can be made, but if we can keep everybody – that'd be great. Maybe we're going to have to look at taking a percent across the board, still keep our jobs; because like I said, I've had a lot of jobs in my life where I was hurt, where I had to stay out for a year to find another job. I worked my way up and I had nothing to fall back on except my experiences and my knowledge to acquire another job. And you can bounce back. My last thing is the parking meter situation. I do know that I myself come downtown every now and then, but I always look for a place where there's no meter because I cannot go in and do my business and come out and put a quarter in every thirty minutes. I can't. It's so hard – if I run into NAPA, the parts store, it's take a few minutes to order your part, come back, I'm getting a ticket. I talked to the gentleman, or the person there, and they go...I was just coming out...I've been fortunate. You can only talk your way out of...you know – just coming out the door – to say it – that only happens so much. When my mom lived down at Covenant Manor, I used to always put money in the meter. Now it's \$.30. I couldn't even go visit her if I wanted to if she was still living there. I couldn't do it in 30 minutes. I'd have to pay for

a parking ticket and go back down and hope I can get it. You're driving the little business out of town. You really are. I think there's other ways of doing it. Go back up to maybe two hours on the meter, or an hour. Not 30 minutes. That's a bad way to raise revenues. You folks have a good day. And Mrs. Jones – may I speak to you after the meeting if you have a few moments? Thank you.

200911A00.22

Peter Morgante, 134 Euclid Avenue: I'm a retired city resident and property owner and taxpayer. Mr. Rabb called for a public meeting – where is he? Where's the City Council members? Where's Mr. Taylor? Where is Mr. Szwejbka? They are the head of this Public Safety Committee of the City Council and they're not here. This is more like a union meeting with the firemen on one side, the policemen are on the other side and you're addressing your complaints and your issues to your two department heads who should be answering these questions and listening to you. This should be more up to an Executive Session because these people have got problems and they've got complaints. This is not a public meeting where we hear everything. Everybody says you do a good job, you do. I wouldn't do it. But you've got a great union that fights for you and you get everything you've got going for you. And they give it to you because they vote for you. But now, we've got a problem. The Mayor, every year after he's elected, the first thing we've got to do is see what kind of services that people want. This meeting should have been held January 2 after you took office and with your new administrators and your office here and your safety directors and say "what kind of services can we give the people of Jamestown on the amount of money that we're raising? But we don't do that. You leave these guys alone all year long and you wait until November to present your budget and you've got to have it ready by December 1<sup>st</sup> and it's too late. You've got to give them everything you've got in your budget. I don't know how we can do it. Now, there's a big difference – the tax rate and the tax levy. You can lower the tax levy but, you keep increasing the amount of money that we got to pay for our property taxes and this time we can't get it. We don't have it. Everybody's broke including you. Now, a new issue, and I was at the last meeting last Monday night and we find out the City is broke. They don't know how they're going to pay their bills – something like \$500,000 is reported that they need just to pay their bills and they want to borrow it from the BPU. Is this some kind of a joke? You've got to borrow money from the BPU to keep the City going? This is just unbelievable. That's why the BPU is separate from the City Council so you keep your hands out of their till. Same thing with the School Board. You don't put the City Council in charge of the School Board budget...where you can go and borrow money...and I don't know – you've got a fund balance – how much is that fund balance right now? Mr. Dolce?

Mr. Dolce:                   About 1.8 million.

Mr. Morgante:            A million two? Well, maybe I am hard of hearing, but maybe you should speak up a little bit more.

Mr. Dolce:                   ...one million 8 hundred thousand dollars...

Mr. Morgante: That's it – see you've got to put that microphone in your mouth Tony. Now how much is it?

Mr. Dolce: One million eight hundred thousand...

Mr. Morgante: Why can't you borrow the money for that? Why do you got to borrow it from the BPU? It's a surplus that you've got in there.

Mr. Dolce: Pete – you were there the other night. We can explain it later. It's not what you're saying...

Mr. Morgante: Well, I know that – I'm just saying...But this is one of the things that's going on – it's wrong, and I think it's wrong that you've got to take the money out of the BPU to pay your bills on the City Council and you know it's going to go through because you got enough votes on the BPU Board in order to let it go through. Now I know you City Council people work like hell and I'm looking up there today and we've got four of youse are new. This will be your second term and you're faithful to your job and you show up at least – most of them. But you've got three there that are not there anymore. Why don't we cut down the size of Council? Everybody talks about cutting down the County Legislature, maybe we don't need as many council people. We don't need that. And why do we need so many assistant chiefs, administrators and all this in our City Hall? Don't we ever see cuts? I mean we keep losing population; we keep losing property; taxes keep going up. It just doesn't make sense. We've got to do something. We've got to do something to control the amount of money that comes out of this thing and No. 1 – lights. \$450,000 electric bill in our city and our streets are in total darkness.

Mr. Dolce: Pete – your time is up.

Mr. Morgante: It's just unbelievable and you know it is. Something's got to be done. I think you've got to bring in efficiency experts on how to run our City. You bring them in for everything else; you go out and get money for grant money in order to make more studies; perhaps we should bring in consultants to see how to run our City Hall.

Mr. Dolce: Peter – done.

Mr. Morgante: Is that enough time? Okay. I'll let you off easy.

Mr. Dolce: Thank you – as always.

200911A00.23

Donald Moore, 506 E. 5<sup>th</sup> Street: I was here last Monday night in regard to Public Safety. Again tonight the Engine Company Five was closed. We don't have enough firefighters to maintain that place. We're operating on a shoestring budget – 10 firemen? Alright. And every time there's a general alarm, a second alarm, or whatever it's called, we have to call in the off-duty firemen. Now that is bringing more money, it's

costing more money, but that's their job because each time that fire whistle blows, you have no idea what they're going to find when they get there. They risk their lives to protect us, to serve us as the public. They put their life on the line. Let me tell you – fire is not going to take a holiday and neither is crime. When you start cutting back on the police and firemen, what do you think? Crime is not going to take a holiday – it's only going to get worse. We don't have enough police officers to go around, so if anything – we need more police officers. I don't know about “do you want to take a budget cut or take a cut in pay,” I don't know, but I know that if there's going to be cut, it cannot be for public safety. You're here to serve us – the public; because when we need the fire department and dial 911, we've got to be able to have the fire department respond. Sometimes Alstar is not on so we don't have nobody there. So they're going to have to take the ambulance out of the fire hall – who's going to drive the ambulance? We don't have enough firemen. We don't have enough policemen. If anything, let's be more concerned about public safety. We don't need no more cuts. Have you ever tried – any one of you gentleman or Council – next time there's a fire whistle that blows – why you go down and get on that fire truck and go where that fire is? Get an idea what they're going through. Each day they risk their lives. They don't know if they're going to come home or not. They don't have no idea. When firemen puts their lives on the line. The policemen – they put their life on the line every day. What thanks do they get? Okay. Leave 'em alone. Let's not think about any more budget cuts. We do need our police officers and we do need our firefighters. The public safety should come first. I mean, I know the public puts you here in office so think about us. Fire is not going to take a holiday and neither does crime. Thank you, I have nothing more to say.

200911A00.24

Chris Swanson, City Firefighter, 2365 Camay Lane: I can't speak on behalf of the Kendall Club, but I just want to let the city public know one thing – that out of the 48 lieutenant and firefighters that we have now, 19 of those 48 firefighters, through the Foster Agreement, are roughly...at very low salaries for eight years, and Mr. Ritchie – I don't know if you know this – but I've been one of the firefighters that have been struggling for eight years; I'm working two jobs. My first year on the job, I qualified for Medicaid. I don't know if you know that. So, a lot of these firefighters, for the first eight years, you have a very cheap department right now because we're held to the very low salary for almost half our career. So I want the city people to think and to know, that we are not making a lot of money. We have firefighters on their 5<sup>th</sup> year, 6<sup>th</sup> year, with a family of four and five that qualify for HEAP. So I want the City and the City's residents who pay taxes to know that the firefighters are not overpaid. We qualify for Medicaid and HEAP for a family of four and five. And I know that when I went to college Mr. Ritchie, I worked two jobs and I never once had a problem paying my tuition. Thank you.

200911A00.25

Jana McDermit, 1758 Park Meadow Drive in Busti, but I work in Jamestown: I'm glad he raised this. I agree with Pete – it's hard to hear if you don't talk into the microphone. I'm part of a collaborative program that does social work in Jamestown and

I'd like to speak in support of what the Mayor's Youth Department has done for children who have been physically and sexually abused by having his Youth Department very involved in what happens at our program. When it talks about the least of us in the community – these are those children. They're not “after school programs;” they're not additional stuff; this is basic protection and safety and not only does the Youth Department participate in this program, but the Jamestown Police Department does as well. If programs like this that are collaborative with State and National funding require collaboration with these different agencies and I feel that they leverage the money that the City puts in by adding on extra value. So I am hoping that the City of Jamestown has more policemen and women; not only the on-the-road people but the detectives who in my field are doing some really fabulous work. As a social worker, I look at systems and how do we get children that are in very difficult situations and getting into trouble and if you look historically into their lives, these are children that have been at risk, children who have been physically or sexually assaulted and didn't get the response they needed from the community because of the shame and the embarrassment, the kind of silent shame that they suffer so I really want to support the Mayor's Youth Department, the Police Department and really...I guess I would say, becoming their voice in their community. They represent the children – this Youth Department, so that they have a voice in our community and a place in our community where they are cared for and appreciated. I grew up in this community; I'm very proud of this community; I'm very proud tonight – this is the first time I have ever come to a public forum like this, and it's really hopeful. I mean to have a civil discourse like this and clapping and appreciation and differences of opinion – this is just a healthy community. I really want to emphasize that and I go away, not discouraged, but hopeful. Year after year, I hear that there are budget problems, but Joe Bellitto and Jim Olson – you guys work miracles and I don't know what happens, but this City is still surviving and I think it's a very hopeful time for us, even though there are difficult decisions to be made and I appreciate you all. Thank you very much for listening to me.

200911A00.26

Marcella Keith, 16 Richmond Place: I'm commenting on behalf of the Youth Department, but I also see the Police Department and the Fire Department, so if I can, I'd like to make a remark on all three. I've been working with youth for the last 22 years and be able to send people to the Department of Youth to have someone there who knows what she's doing...I work with a lot of troubled kids and when they get in trouble, I can send them to her and she gives them some kind of volunteer work – let them feel like they're a part of something. They need to believe they're something and I know someone said around here that the kids...Jamestown...our youth is our future and if we don't do something now, we won't have a future. Okay. We have to start when they're young and work all the way up and if we can keep this Department of Youth, we would have a chance with these kids coming up. For the Police Department – please – they're telling the truth. At nighttime, I ain't walking the street at night because I know there's not that many out there. Where I work there's a club down at the bottom of the hill that they have a fight every weekend. And they'll call every weekend. They put their life on the line for us so for us to cut them, have less policemen walking out there, I feel that I need to stay home, lock up – come on - I don't want to feel like this. This is Jamestown. This is

where I've been living for the last so many years. And then the firemen, like they were saying, my house – the next door neighbor house – were caught on fire – and this was a few years ago and they came and put it out. I didn't have to worry about my house, so if you're going to cut them, there we go. There goes someone's house. There's been a house burning, I don't know if somebody set it on fire or what, but in our neighborhood and it seems without them there, someone could lose their life. They are empty houses, but someone is starting them – there's houses next to them. I understand the budget – there is a budget that we need to control our budget, but let's look somewhere else. The youth is our future. Please do not mess with the youth. They're the future of Jamestown. People say "well there's a lot of older people." I'm old. But without the young people, Jamestown would be nothing. So let's try to keep them, have this department of the youth, because I'm on the Board and I'm learning so much I couldn't believe what's going on. Like the young lady said about the abuse. Where I work, I know these kids have been abused from a young age. That's when we've got to reach in and grab them and help them out. Without the policemen, please, we'd be a sorry town. We have them coming from all over the country coming to Jamestown 'cause Jamestown's the place to be. You can sell drugs, you can kill somebody and don't get caught. Come on. So if we can keep these police officers...don't cut them because we need them. Jamestown was a peaceful place at one time. I went to school from Euclid, that's no longer here, Euclid, Washington and Jamestown High School. We could walk back and forth to the Y. I'm scared now for my grandbaby to walk anywhere. But I notice as long as we keep the Police Department the way it is, I know you might have to cut, but you may not have to, but like you said at nighttime, there's not that many on the streets. I wouldn't want to walk on the street and I work on the third shift so sometimes I have to go out on the third shift. I might have to take a kid to the hospital, but when you step outside your business, you don't know what's out there, because there's so many crimes. We're not like Buffalo, praise the Lord, thank you Jesus, we're not like Buffalo; but we can be if we cut the budget for the Police Department, the Youth Bureau because the little kids out there are going to become adults and where are they going to go? Mayville. Thank you.

200911A00.27

John Panebianco, 108 Hunter Street: I've been a resident my whole life for 46, 47 years. Something like that. I work in the public sector also and we are probably at a historic time for our world, for our country, for our state and when I hear everybody talking about what we should be keeping, what I'd like to know is from...I was in the union, I was a union officer...what are unions offering? If we all love Jamestown and it's such a great place to be and we love working here and we love the support that we get from each other, what are people offering? Why should these folks that get paid \$5,000 a year sitting up here and a Mayor that gets paid a pittance of what most mayors get, to keep that job, why aren't people talking about what they're offering? I would love to know why the unions aren't saying "you know something – we're in the worst time that we could ever be at in this country;" and people are not coming forward to say "you know what? Our union will give you 10%. We'll take a freeze for two years or a year. We'll pay extra money towards our retirement." That's going to happen folks, whether you like it or not, whether it comes from the Governor or the President, it will happen if

we're in need; and right now, next year's worse than this year. So we have to make decisions. These folks up here have a tough decision to make. They're there, but no one wants that position. Did you notice how many people ran when it was time to vote? Not many. So they have to make tough decisions. There's going to be tears – no matter what on both ends. People get cut; there's tears. Programs get cut – there's tears. Taxes are increased – there's tears. Tough decisions. But I'd like to know from all the people that continually can get raises, what are they offering back to say we're going to help Jamestown because we care about Jamestown and when you hear about those companies that are out there and their boss comes to them that's making a lot of money and he says "I'm going to put my money on the table and I want you guys to take a freeze, but if I make it, you're going to get an increase." Those companies survive. We're a small town, we're a great town. But we have to do that. Everybody has to look with inside and do that. We have to look for more volunteers around the City to do different things. I know the Park & Recreation has their union and all that but we have to sit down at the table and say "what can we do? How can we clean up our community, make our community nice and have people that have skills to go out there and say yes – I'm going to help, I'm going to pitch in, I'm a carpenter, I'm some type of laborer, I can plant flowers – whatever it is, I'm going to do it because this is my City and I care." Thank you.

Mr. Dolce asked if there was anyone else to speak at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dolce asked a second time if there was anyone else to address the Public Hearing.

Mr. Dolce thanked everybody for coming tonight. As you can see, there's difficult choices on both sides and we have a difficult job up here and we will do the best we can. You can see it's very emotional. It's very emotional for us. These are decisions that we don't take lightly and they are decisions that are very difficult to make and whatever comes out from here, you have to understand the role that we play and what we have to do and what we feel is best for the community.

Mr. Dolce: Seeing no one else, I declare this Public Hearing adjourned.

James N. Olson  
Director of Financial Services/City Clerk