

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the Syracuse City Council held on February 2, 2012, at 7:00 p.m., in the Council Chambers, 1979 West 1900 South, Syracuse City, Davis County, Utah.

Present: Councilmembers: Craig A. Johnson  
D. Matthew Kimmel  
Douglas Peterson  
Larry D. Shingleton

Councilmember Lisonbee was not present.

Mayor Jamie Nagle  
City Manager Robert Rice  
City Recorder Cassie Z. Brown

City Employees Present:

Police Chief Brian Wallace  
City Attorney Will Carlson  
Information Technologies Director TJ Peace  
Recreation Director Kresta Robinson  
Acting Fire Chief Joe Hamblin  
Human Resources Specialist Monica Whitaker

Visitors Present:	Larry Waite	Tekla Waite	Danny Hammon
	Courtney Hammon	Robin Chase	Kathy Lewis
	Lisa Jamison	Lance Call	Rich Campbell
	Jeff Nielson	Phil Mickey	Travis Ashdown
	Wendy Wallace	Melissa Wallace	Aaron Harris
	Aaron Byington	Jerry Guffey	Diane Peterson
	Bob VanVelkinburgh	Jeanne VanVelkinburgh	Mark Becraft
	Steph Peterson	Alan Clark	Julie Clark
	Holly Craythorn	Joe Levi	Natalie Levi
	Rory Jackson	Philip Rogich	Stephanie Rogich
	Randy Miller	Andrea Miller	Scott Bohn
	Jan Callister	Lurlen Knight	David Goodsell
	Bruce Lewinsky		

### 1. Meeting Called to Order/Adopt Agenda

Mayor Nagle called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. as a special meeting, with notice of time, place, and agenda provided 24 hours in advance to the newspaper and each Councilmember.

### 2. Public Comments

Mayor Nagle stated that she has heard from a lot of people today and she understands there is a lot of emotion in this room tonight. She stated that everyone will have the opportunity to be heard, but she asked that everyone be respectful. She stated there are going to be things said that some will agree with while others disagree, but she asked that everyone hold their applause. She stated this is a time for the City to try to move forward. She stated she wanted the citizens to have the right to be heard, but to be respectful.

Larry Joe Hamblin, 684 W. 25 N., Clearfield, stated that he is the Acting Fire Chief. He stated he wanted to ask that the Council move forward with this process. He stated the last two months has been a trying time for the Fire Department and he is humbled at how they pulled together to protect the citizens of Syracuse and the surrounding communities. He stated he agrees with the Mayor about the importance of keeping emotions in check this evening, though he pointed out that the emotions surrounding this issue have been high. He stated that he would like for the Council to authorize the appointment of a new Fire Chief so that the City can move forward and let the Fire Department protect the citizens. He stated he would like to thank everyone that has offered support to the Fire Department.

Mayor Nagle thanked Mr. Hamblin for agreeing to act as the interim Fire Chief at this time.

Zachary Fountain, 2173 S. 1375 W., stated he is grateful for the opportunity to address the Council and those in attendance this evening. He stated that since Tuesday evening the City has been consumed by the inaction of this body. He stated the unflattering images of public officials unwilling to work together have been a point of consternation with the Federal Government for quite some time. He stated it is unfortunate that local public officials are also falling pretty to the same petty, territorial fights that are unfitting of public office in this community. He stated that Tuesday night the Council had the opportunity to focus on the future of the Fire Department after weeks of careful review and no public discussions of

alternatives. He stated there are always ways to improve policies, but this community will never get stronger with the acidic ineptitude that stems from public officials' unwillingness to work together. He stated that as a resident he hoped these situations can be avoided in the future and the attention of the Council can be turned to bigger issues impacting the community. He stated Syracuse City residents, the City Council's constituents, deserve better.

Roger Bodily, no address given, stated he is the Fire Chief for the North Davis Fire District (NDFD). He stated he is present this evening to pledge his support for the candidate that has been chosen and he hopes that the Council can move forward with appointing him so that the Syracuse City Fire Department can continue to be the great department that they are.

Larry Waite, 1541 S. 1250 W., stated that he wanted to echo the comments that were made by Mr. Fountain. He stated that he, like many other people, were concerned as he read some of the comments that have been published in the Standard-Examiner regarding conversations that were or were not held between Councilmember Lisonbee and Davis County Officials, specifically County Commissioner Petroff and Davis County Sheriff Richardson. He stated there seems to be quite a disconnect in the recollection of those conversations, namely the conversations between Councilmember Lisonbee and Commissioner Petroff and it would be interesting to know what really happened and whether there was ever a discussion about the County having interest in providing oversight of the Fire Department of this City. He stated that it sounds to him like there was never any discussion in that regard. He stated that if there have been misrepresentations made, the people that misrepresented need to stand accountable for that. He stated he wants to see the City move forward in a dignified and orderly manner and appoint a Fire Chief. He stated he fully supports the City's Fire and Police Departments; they have been outstanding and he looks to the Council to continue to support the public employees that have done a wonderful job for the City.

Mark Becraft, no address given, stated he is the Deputy Chief of the NDFD. He added that he is also the current President of the Davis County Fire Officers Association. He stated he is here to inform the Council that the Association met in total support of the Syracuse City Fire Department and the reason members of the Association are here tonight is to support the City and the Fire Department. He stated he wanted to make the Council aware that the Association has every intention of continuing with auto, mutual aid, and tactical advantages that are shared between the City and the NDFD. He stated he wanted to reassure the City that the Association supports the City is going in hiring a new Fire Chief.

Dan Yeaman, 1386 S. 2375 W, stated that he has worked with Eric Froerer for many years and the City could not have made a better choice in selecting him as the new Fire Chief. He stated that Mr. Froerer is a man of integrity and humility and he will lead the Fire Department well. He stated that he also supports the Police Department and Chief Wallace; he has worked with every one of the Fire Fighters and Police Officers and they are well trained and he wants them to know that. He stated that he works for the Davis County Sheriff's Office; he can not speak for the County, but individually he supports what the City is doing and he supports the hiring of Mr. Froerer.

Danny Hammon, 3803 W. Hammon Lane, stated that he served on the City Council for a period of years and he has enjoyed the time that he has not been a Councilmember. He stated that one of the things he came to know and appreciate as a Councilmember was that there are great people working for the City. He stated what he has seen over the last few months that causes him the most concern is that he has not seen the support from the elected officials for the employees, who are what makes this City such a great place to live. He stated that he would hope that moving forward the Council can start working together and putting the employees and citizens of the City first. He stated he feels the problem that has manifested here today is part of a larger problem that has been going on in the City for a while. He stated he feels the decision to appoint a Fire Chief is a "no brainer". He asked where Councilmember Lisonbee is this evening. Mayor Nagle stated that Councilmember Lisonbee could not attend tonight's meeting. Mr. Hammon stated that she is probably busy soliciting bids. He stated that he would hope that moving forward people will "step up", show some integrity, take the actions that are necessary – not for their own personal agenda, but for the City – and do what is right no matter what the issue at hand is. He stated it is time to put personal issues aside and stop doing things that are bringing bad publicity to the City, and move forward.

Alan Clark, 624 W. 2300 S., stated that he finds it interesting that he has many of the same thoughts and comments as Mr. Hammon. He stated that in his opinion, each of the members of the City Council were elected to govern the City as a body, not as individuals. He stated that he is very disappointed in what he has seen from them over the past month. He stated that he does not feel they are making decisions that are for the benefit of the City; rather they are benefiting their own personal agenda or the purposes and beliefs each of them have. He stated that it is time to put aside individual beliefs and ideas and determine what is best for the citizens. He stated there are only six members of the Governing Body, but there are over 24,000 residents in the City. He stated that the decision to replace Councilmember Peterson as the City's representative on the North Davis Sewer District (NDS) Board is not a benefit to Syracuse City. He stated he can not imagine how the Council thought they should remove Councilmember Peterson and replace him with someone else purely for that person's personal benefit. He stated what would benefit Syracuse City is to have someone assigned to that position that is experienced and knows what they are doing. He stated the decisions the Council made and the discussions they had regarding that issue

are completely inappropriate and do not benefit Syracuse. He stated that he has reviewed the decisions that were made by the Council recently. He stated that leadership means making decisions with incomplete information; all of the information needed to make a decision will never be available, but when the decision is right and it benefits the City it is appropriate to make that decision and change it in the future if necessary. He stated each Councilmember should be able to make hard decisions rather than putting them off just because someone may say that there is more information regarding the issue at hand. He stated he is very disappointed as a result of conversations he had with Davis County officials today. He stated the information provided at the last meeting was inappropriate, misleading, and – in his opinion – blatant lies to the residents of Syracuse City. He stated he would like for there to be comments or responses made to retract that information and correct it. He stated he knows it is wrong; he listened to the entire recording of the January 31 meeting and he knows what was said. He stated he also followed up on conversations that were cited during the meeting and he would be glad to share the information he has, though he has been asked not to do it in a public setting. He stated that there were lies spoken to the residents of Syracuse City and that really disappoints him. He stated that he loves and believes in this City and he really hopes that the Councilmembers can pull together and work as a body rather than as individuals.

Lurlen Knight, 400 S. 2000 W., stated that he too loves Syracuse City a lot. He stated that he served on the Council with both of the gentlemen that spoke prior to him. He stated that people still call him and ask him what is going on and he is troubled by what he is hearing. He stated he feels the credibility of the City has been damaged and Davis County's reputation may have been damaged as well. He stated that if he was a County Commissioner he would be worried that cities may not want to work with him if they believed that the County was actively reaching out to city representatives to seek to assume leadership of various city departments. He stated he was disappointed in the vote of the Council on Tuesday night relative to the appointment of a new Fire Chief. He stated the action really bothered him. He stated the City has a very good Fire Department and he was very sad when former Chief Cottrell resigned. He stated that he felt very close to Mr. Cottrell when he was a City Councilmember; he personally visited with him during training sessions at least once each month. He stated he thought Mr. Cottrell was an honorable man who did an honorable thing; he made a mistake and he resigned. He stated there have been other mistakes made and he addressed Councilmember Kimmel and suggested that he consider resigning. He stated he has caused a lot of damage to the City, to himself, and to his family. He stated "it has hurt us and it is time to clean this up and quit being so ornery about it". He stated he hears a lot of excuses made and members of the Council often say that they do not have enough information to make a decision. He suggested it is time for the Council to "get off their can and get the information". He stated that when the Council comes to a meeting they need to become a unified body, share the information they have, and make good decisions. He stated the City needs a Fire Chief and an Assistant Fire Chief. He stated he knows that former Assistant Chief Peterson has been struggling, as have many of the City employees, while they are waiting to see what is going to be done. He stated that in the last two years, all City Departments Heads except for two are gone. He stated he feels like the City is imploding and he asked if that bothers the members of the Council. He stated it bothers him a lot. He stated the City has got a good staff and they have hope, but that hope is going to be damaged if this continues. He stated it is time to "clean this up" and appoint a new Fire Chief. He stated that he does not know anything about the candidate, but he has spoken to many that do and he thinks that those that participated in the recruitment and interview process have made a good choice. He stated that when a choice is made it is necessary to follow through. He stated the City Council put Mr. Froerer in a bad position and they owe him an apology. He stated the City has a great Fire Department and many other great employees and he asked them to move forward with the appointment.

Brad Beck, 2348 S. 950 W., stated that he has two opinions that he wants to share; one is that the City needs an active Fire Chief; it is important to have someone in that role and the City should not be sharing with Davis County. He stated that his second opinion is regarding Councilmember Kimmel. He stated he wonders if Councilmember Kimmel should take a break from being a member of the City Council until his legal problems are taken care of. He stated he understands that Councilmember Kimmel is not guilty until that has been proven, but the situation is a shame and the Governing Body needs all its members present. He stated that he also noticed that another of the Councilmembers is not present this evening and that is sad; it is sad when there is one with legal problems and one that is not present at all. He stated those things need to be taken care of.

Phil Mickey, 3325 W. Fallkirk Road, stated he is a transplant to Syracuse City; he has lived here for a year and one half, but he grew up here and Syracuse City is part of him and he is disappointed. He stated he thinks "we" are all good people, including everyone on the Council. He stated he has talked to many of them in his own home and he knows them and their parents. He stated they are community leaders and to put the citizens at risk, or potential risk, by not appointing a Fire Chief is pretty irresponsible. He stated that there is nothing more that he can say that has not been said, but he wants the Council to understand they are taking responsibility for the 24,000 residents and they are also responsible for themselves. He stated they should understand that the citizens are watching and they understand what is going on. He stated that the citizens see when the Council is being petty and not working together; the citizens see when a member is holding to an ideology that is so iron clad that they are unable to accept the view of someone else. He stated that "we" get enough of that type of

behavior from national politicians and he asked why the Council would want to lower themselves to that level. He stated that it is February of the first term of some of the members of the Council. He stated they need to learn to work through issues and “get it right”. He stated that it is unfortunate that Councilmember Lisonbee is not present this evening. He stated he sincerely hopes that she has some other pressing issue that she needed to attend to; but, if not, that speaks volumes to her commitment to the City and to the residents. He stated that he applauds the rest of the Councilmembers for being present and taking care of this issue, even after some of them have had the spotlight on them. He stated that he would encourage the Council to work hard and respect government and the role of government. He cautioned them to not destroy it from within, even though it is easy to do. He stated that they are all Americans and residents of Syracuse City. He encouraged them to work together and he reminded them the citizens are watching them and hoping they can do things right.

Ryan Miller, no address given, stated he is the President of the Utah Fire Association. He stated he is here tonight to support the Syracuse City Fire Department. He stated that he represents 2,400 Fire Fighters in the State of Utah and over 100 Fire Departments. He stated the Syracuse Fire Department is a member of the Association and they have great Fire Fighters. He stated the City could not have picked a better candidate for the Fire Chief position. He stated he wanted the City to know that Mr. Froerer has all the support from the Association Board. He stated there are many people that are concerned about the Fire Department and how the Council feels about them. He stated he wanted the City to know that the Department has the support of the Association and other Fire Fighters throughout the State. He stated that the City should be proud of its Fire Department and the Council can be proud of the Fire Chief that has been selected.

Scott Maughn, 937 W. 2525 S., stated that he worked in Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for Davis County for 20 years and he knows that it is necessary to have someone to lead the Fire Department. He stated he wants to voice his support for the candidate that has been chosen. He stated Mr. Froerer was a great Deputy Chief for Roy City and he was a great mentor to him and other Fire Fighters. He stated that he will be a wonderful Chief for Syracuse City. He stated that he hopes that the Councilmembers that are present tonight will move forward. He stated he wants to echo the disappointment that others have shared that Councilmember Lisonbee is not present this evening, but he appreciates those that are present, especially the Mayor, for their leadership. He stated that he hoped that once the decision is made to appoint Mr. Froerer that the Council and the City can support him and possibly rehire former Assistant Chief Peterson and give him the respect that he so richly deserves for his 30 years of service in the firefighting industry.

John Rickie, no address given, stated that he is the Fire Chief of Roy City and he wanted to echo everything that has been said this evening. He stated that he is proud to say that Mr. Froerer is a man of impeccable integrity and honesty and the City could not have made a better choice in a Chief to lead the men and women of the City’s Fire Department. He stated the employees that work for the Fire Department are well trained and he would hope that the Council would empower Mr. Froerer to move forward with working with them. He stated such a vote would empower the entire Fire Department to continue to provide the excellent customer service that the citizens expect.

Jim Rampton, no address given, stated he is the Fire Chief of the South Davis Metro Fire Agency and the Vice President of the Utah Fire Association. He stated he wanted to echo everything that has been said about Mr. Froerer this evening. He stated that he wanted to let the Council know that Mr. Froerer has any resource and support he needs from the Utah State Fire Association.

Joe Levi, 1844 W. 1975 S., stated that he attended the meeting held Tuesday, January 31 and he heard the things that were said at that meeting. He stated he has also read the newspaper articles about this issue and he feels there is a lot of confusion. He stated that the citizens support all of the men and women in uniform and he has no doubt that the Mayor and Council do as well. He stated that he is afraid that what is being construed is that there was not support of the Fire Department, the position of Fire Chief, or the person that was selected as the new Chief. He stated that is not what he understood from his position in the audience and he thinks that the issue has been blown out of proportion and he does not know if that is the fault of the media; he does not know where to lay blame. He stated that all he heard during the last meeting was that there was more information to be gathered about this issue and for some reason that information did not make it to the Council in a timely fashion. He stated there was a motion to table adoption of the resolution appointing the Fire Chief for two weeks so that the additional information could be provided and considered by the Council. He stated that Councilmember Lisonbee was not opposed to the position of Fire Chief or the person that was selected for the position; rather, she was opposed to being rushed into making a decision without all the information available to her. He stated that if the City is going to take the stance that two weeks is too long to wait and it is better to “push through” and make a decision with incomplete information he does not think that is the appropriate thing to do. He stated that rushing into decisions always causes problems. He stated that there was a former Councilman that spoke earlier in the meeting. He stated that the citizens made the decision to vote past Councilmembers out of office and instead vote for the people that are now on the Council. He stated the voting record speaks for himself. He stated regarding the attacks against Councilmember Kimmel, there are people sitting on the dais right now that have made unlawful orders; those orders were made minutes after the law had been read to the individual and that law was disregarded. He stated that personal attacks from either side of the podium are not

appropriate at any time. He stated he wanted to remind everyone on the Council that the decision was put off for a short amount of time to gather more information. He stated that four of the five Councilmembers voted in that manner. He stated that if the information is now available he would love to hear it, but if it is not available he thinks that it is still a good idea to wait.

Randy Miller, 1531 W. 2175 S., stated that Mr. Levi's comments are interesting considering Councilmember Lisonbee called for this meeting to be held last night; she did not end up waiting very long. He stated that he remembers when he was in Officer Candidate School (OCS) there was a fellow candidate running around their formation with an M16 over his head shouting "I lied and my integrity was questioned". He stated that he thinks that City Manager Rice can probably give a lot of lessons to the Governing Body based on his history as a military officer. He stated an officer does not lie, cheat, steal, or tolerate those that do. He stated that the Councilmembers have been elected to represent the citizens. He stated he personally did not support any member of the Council with the exception of Councilmember Peterson because he did not feel the other four were up to the job and now he knows he was right. He stated an officer does not tolerate excuses. He stated all members of the Governing Body are officers of the City and if there are excuses made by the individual that is not present tonight the rest of the members need to address that. He stated they need to stand up and be leaders and do what is right.

Josh Steele, no address given, stated that he has worked for Syracuse City for three years and he disagrees with Mr. Levi. He stated the position of Fire Chief has been open for more than six weeks and the City has the opportunity to get one of the best Fire Fighters in the State and instead the Council made a joke of it. He stated the Council should be embarrassed. He stated the City has one of the best Police and Fire Departments in the State. He stated he has worked with other departments, but he has never worked for better. He stated that it angers him that the Council could want to eliminate the Fire or Police Department. He stated the employees in those Departments have taken an oath to protect the citizens, including all of the Councilmembers. He stated there is negative press about the City in local newspapers on a daily basis, and that is a joke. He stated Syracuse seems to be running like the Federal Government. He stated that the Councilmembers have been voted into office to help the citizens. He stated that he has family that lives in Syracuse City and it baffles him that the Council could not make a decision. He stated this situation is ridiculous to him.

Denise Taylor, 1639 S. Melanie Lane, stated that she has a question. She stated that Councilmember Lisonbee was quoted in the Standard-Examiner as saying "the reason I did not hire the Fire Chief" was because she wanted to gather more information. Ms. Taylor stated that she wanted to know when the hiring procedures of the City changed. She stated that City ordinance dictates that "there shall be appointed by the Mayor. . .". She reiterated she would like to know when the laws regarding appointing officials of the City were changed.

### 3. Proposed Resolution R12-06 appointing a Fire Chief for Syracuse City

Recently the Syracuse City Fire Chief position was vacated. Administrative Staff have been working with Mayor Nagle and available Councilmembers to interview, and eventually determine the candidate to be appointed to the position. Final interviews were completed on Friday, January 27 and an offer was extended to the successful candidate on Monday, January 30. During the January 31, 2012 Special Business Meeting the City Council voted to table the appointment of the Fire Chief until the February 14 meeting. After much discussion, it was decided that it was necessary to address this item as soon as legally possible.

COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON MADE A MOTION TO ADOPT PROPOSED RESOLUTION R12-06 APPOINTING A FIRE CHIEF FOR SYRACUSE CITY. COUNCILMEMBER JOHNSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR. Councilmember Lisonbee was not present when this vote was taken.

Chief Froerer received a standing ovation from the audience and was congratulated on his appointment by Mayor Nagle.

Chief Froerer approached the Council and stated that he has made a few notes and he has a few things he would like to say this evening. He stated that he too is disappointed that Councilmember Lisonbee is not present this evening. He stated that he would have liked for all Councilmember to have had an opportunity to vote on his appointment. He stated he wants to thank those present for their vote of confidence and let them know that he is excited to begin his work for the City and with the Fire Fighters in his Department as well as with the citizens. He stated he hopes to do that in the spirit of cooperation. He stated he is humbled by the comments of support that have been spoken this evening. He stated that he understands that he will not be able to please everyone all of the time, but he hopes to be able to please most of the people most of the time by doing the right thing. He stated there will be people that he will disagree with, but he will work in the spirit of cooperation in order to make things happen. He stated that there are a lot of great things that have been done in the Fire Department and that will continue, but the Fire Department needs the support of the Council if they are going to continue to be successful. He stated he is pleased and honored to have the support of the Davis County Fire Officers Association and the Utah State Chiefs Association. He stated they are his brothers and his colleagues and he looks up to them and respects them. He stated he is

honored to have the opportunity to lead the City's Fire Department. He stated the knowledge, skills, abilities, and professionalism of the Fire Fighters in the Department can be compared to Fire Fighters anywhere. He stated that he has 22 years of experience as a Fire Fighter and 13 years of emergency and critical care experience. He stated that he hopes that he can add to and reinforce the positive things that have been happening in the City. He introduced his wife, Michelle, who is also present this evening. He stated they have been married 25 years and she takes good care of him and he appreciates her support. He stated together they have three daughters; two are married and the youngest is a sophomore in high school. He then stated that he will do his best to serve the City and move forward in a positive manner.

Mayor Nagle thanked Mr. Froerer for his comments and then stated that she wanted to acknowledge the employees of the Fire Department. She stated they have gone through a rough couple of months and they have continued to rise to the challenge. She stated the City is fortunate to have the employees that serve as first responders. She stated she is grateful for their service and sacrifice. She stated that following the January 31 Council meeting she could not have been more pleased in the City's choice of Mr. Froerer to be appointed as the Fire Chief. She stated that he met with her and members of the Fire Department and City Administration as they discussed a temporary solution for the Fire Department. She stated the leadership that he brought to a situation that would have brought some people to their knees because of what many would consider a humiliating blow was an affirmation that the City absolutely made a right decision. She stated that his integrity and calmness was amazing. She stated that it is important for the City to know that the Fire Fighters had a great deal of say in this choice; it is important that they have confidence in the person leading them. She stated that she hopes the City can move forward and put this in the past. She stated there has been a lot of negativity in the last couple of days and she wanted to share a brief story with those in attendance. She stated that Nancy Reagan celebrated her 95<sup>th</sup> birthday last year and during the celebration Katie Couric sat next to her and she later recounted a story that Ms. Reagan shared with her. She stated that Ms. Couric was saying that she felt so fortunate to consider Ms. Reagan a girlfriend of sorts and Ms. Reagan had told her that if Ronnie [Ronald Reagan] were alive today he would be so sad to see the state of politics. She stated the disagreements between President Reagan and Tip O'Neal were legendary; they would be two inches from each other's face. She stated that one was a staunch republican and the other a staunch democrat, both fighting for middle ground, but when they were finished with their disagreement they would slap each other on the back and go "throw back a scotch" together. She stated that Ms. Reagan recounted that when President Reagan was shot, he was taken to a hospital for surgery and Ms. Reagan was the only person that was allowed to see him. She stated that Tip O'Neal, democrat Speaker of the House, came to the hospital and asked if he could see his President and he was told no. She stated that he then asked to see Ms. Reagan and when he saw her he asked if he could please see his President. She stated that Ms. Reagan told Mr. O'Neal that the President was resting and his rest was very important at this time. She stated that Mr. O'Neal said that he would not disturb his rest, but he really needed to tell the President that he loved him. She stated that Ms. Reagan agreed and Mr. O'Neal took his shoes off so that when he walked to the President's bed he would not wake him; when he got to the President's bedside he took the President's hand and began to recite The Lord's Prayer. She explained that President Reagan was not sleeping and he began to recite The Lord's Prayer with Mr. O'Neal. She stated that as they finished Mr. O'Neal stood, with tears streaming down his face and he kissed the President on the forehead and said "Mr. President, the country needs you, please get better". She stated that he then walked out of the room. She stated that is the kind of statesmanship that Syracuse City needs and that is the kind of statesmanship that she is going to try to offer. She stated that she has not always been the voice of calm, but she has made a commitment openly and privately to the Council that she is going to do her very best to try to restore that democracy and relationship. She stated she hopes every person on the Council will also commit to that. She stated that the Council is a body that has been elected by the citizens to serve the citizens. She stated they have been asked to provide for the resources of the community and to look out for the staff. She then thanked everyone for attending the meeting and for being respectful. She congratulated Mr. Froerer again on being appointed as the City's Fire Chief.

Councilmember Johnson stated that he also wanted to welcome Mr. Froerer as the Chief and he wanted to make everyone aware that he does respect the Police Department and the Fire Department. He stated there is much misinformation being spread through the City and he wanted to make sure that the employees of both public safety departments know that he respects them. He stated that he has gone on a ride-along with a Police Officer and he looked forward to participating in more of those types of activities in the future.

Mayor Nagle stated that she had one additional comment to make. She stated that prior to this meeting she was provided with some information about one of the City's Police Officers and she wanted to share that with the audience. She stated that she could read a story about every one of the men and women in uniform, but this is a short story about Detective Zeke Swander. She stated that on Tuesday, January 31 a frantic woman ran into the Police Station and said that her daughter was being choked by a seatbelt that she could not remove. She stated that Detective Swander ran to the parking lot and the child was turning purple; he took a knife and cut the seatbelt, freeing the child. She stated the Fire Department was called to the scene to check on the little girl and after receiving a stuffed animal and a lot of attention she seemed to be doing fine. She stated the mother had communicated to the responders that the seatbelt had been around her neck for nearly 10 minutes, but

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she was getting enough air to keep breathing until Detective Swander was able to cut off the seatbelt. She stated it was a close call and he saved a little girls life and made a mom really love the Police Department. She stated the instance shows the professionalism of the City's employees and she thanked everyone again.

At 7:45 p.m. COUNCILMEMBER KIMMEL MADE A MOTION TO ADJOURN. COUNCILMEMBER PETERSON SECONDED THE MOTION; ALL VOTED IN FAVOR.

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Jamie Nagle  
Mayor

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Cassie Z. Brown, CMC  
City Recorder

Date approved: February 14, 2012