

ANNOTATED AGENDA
CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF YONKERS
SPECIAL MEETING
TUESDAY, APRIL 08, 2014

TIME: 8:35PM

PRESENT: PRESIDENT OF THE COUNCIL
LIAM MCLAUGHLIN

DISTRICT
6 MAJORITY JOHN J. LARKIN
3 MINORITY LEADER MICHAEL SABATINO

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
DISTRICT:
1 CHRISTOPHER A. JOHNSON
2 CORAZON PINEDA
4 DENNIS E. SHEPHERD
5 MICHAEL B. BREEN

WE, THE UNDERSIGNED MEMBERS OF THE CITY COUNCIL, PURSUANT TO RULE 1.2 OF THE CITY COUNCIL RULES, DO HEREBY CALL A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL, TO BE HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014 IN THE CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS, FOURTH FLOOR, CITY HALL, YONKERS, NEW YORK AT 8:15 P.M, FOR THE FOLLOWING PURPOSE:

TO DISCUSS AND TAKE ACTION ON:

1. A RESOLUTION REGARDING DEFICIT FINANCING & SCHOOL FUNDING
2. ALL OTHER BUSINESS PROPERLY COMING BEFORE THE COUNCIL

COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN
MAJORITY LEADER LARKIN
MINORITY LEADER SABATINO

COUNCILMEMBER SHEPHERD
COUNCILMEMBER BREEN
COUNCILMEMBER PINEDA

A COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING WILL BE HELD PRIOR TO THIS SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING AT 8:00 P.M.

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COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY OFFICIALS

NONE

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COMMUNICATIONS - GENERALLY

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COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

SPEAKERS

	<u>NAME</u>	<u>ADDRESS</u>	<u>ITEM NO.</u>
1.	KEVIN GORMAN	YONKERS	1
2.	PAT PULEO	PRESIDENT – YFT	1
3.	BARRY MCGOEY	267 ST. JOHN'S AVE – LOCAL 628	1
4.	CHRIS JOAO	UNIFORMED FIRE OFFICERS	1

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RESOLUTION NO.39-2014

BY COUNCIL PRESIDENT MCLAUGHLIN, MAJORITY LEADER LARKIN, MINORITY LEADER SABATINO, COUNCILMEMBERS JOHNSON, PINEDA, SHEPHERD AND BREEN:

WHEREAS, the Yonkers Public Schools currently operate with a budget deficit; and

WHEREAS, our efforts to eliminate the deficit by requesting additional educational funding in terms of what is commonly called "spin-up" was rejected by the State; and

WHEREAS, the recently passed New York State budget provided partial relief to address the deficit by enacting the Yonkers School District Deficit Financing Act; and

WHEREAS, this act authorizes the City to issue \$45 million in serial bonds for the purpose of financing the education deficit; and

WHEREAS, the \$45 million in serial bonds is conditioned on the City of Yonkers agreeing to a new budgeting process for the life of the bonds where the state reviews, analyzes and may issue recommendations that must be incorporated into the final approved budget by the Council: and

WHEREAS, we strongly object to this draconian state oversight since it usurps the role and power of the legislature that is given in the City of Yonkers Charter; and

WHEREAS, the New York State Comptroller already is the Fiscal Agent for the City of Yonkers under the 1976 Budget Act; and

WHEREAS, we believe that additional oversight with the requirement that all state recommendations be incorporated into our final annual budget is unnecessary and duplicative; and

WHEREAS, we ask that the mandatory language should be replaced with permissive language found under NY Code Local Finance Law 1010 allowing the municipality to reject state budgetary recommendations if justifications are provided to the state in writing; and

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RESOLUTION NO.39-2014 (CONTINUED)

WHEREAS, we commit to explore every reasonable alternative way for the City of Yonkers to avoid issuing deficit bonds: and

WHEREAS, these alternatives shall include identifying additional state revenues, possible efficiencies, additional revenue sources and most importantly using the open and transparent city budget process to obtain input from all stakeholders: and

WHEREAS, this act also calls for the City of Yonkers School District to enter into an inter-municipal agreement with the City of Yonkers relating to assuming the non-educational functions of the School District, subject to the approval of the State Division of the Budget, in order to access an additional \$28 million in funds swept from the New York State Mortgage Insurance Fund; and

WHEREAS, even with the additional funding mechanisms, the Yonkers Public Schools still face a significant deficit; and

WHEREAS, the Council of the City of Yonkers has previously transmitted resolutions in 2011, 2009 and 2006 requesting that the inequities in the State education funding formula which affect the City of Yonkers be addressed; and

WHEREAS the State Education aid formula continues to shortchange the City of Yonkers and the Yonkers Public School System vis-à-vis the other three big second-class cities, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse by providing school funding for each student from Yonkers at a rate that is at least \$3,000 per year less than that provided to each student from Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse; and

WHEREAS, the State funding formula is clearly systematically unfair, detrimental, and disparate; and

WHEREAS, for the past four years, the State has under-funded the school systems through the Gap Elimination Adjustment, further compounding our current shortfall; and

WHEREAS, the situation has become so egregious, that according to *Buffalo News*, property taxpayers in Yonkers fund 41 percent of the school system's budget, while Buffalo taxpayers, by contrast, now fund only about 8 percent of the city school district; and

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RESOLUTION NO.39-2014 (CONTINUED)

WHEREAS, we owe it to our children to correct these inequities;
and

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Council of the City of Yonkers requests its State Delegation and the Governor introduce legislation to correct the inequity of educational funding by providing additional funding to the City of Yonkers on a comparable per student basis as the other three big second-class cities, Buffalo, Rochester and Syracuse; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies of this resolution, suitably engrossed, be transmitted to Governor Andrew Cuomo, State Senator Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Senator George Latimer, Assemblyman J. Gary Pretlow and Assemblywoman Shelley Mayer.

THIS RESOLUTION WAS ADOPTED BY THE CITY COUNCIL AT A SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 08, 2014 BY A VOTE OF 7-0.

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COMMITTEE REPORTS

THIS MEETING WAS ADJOURNED AT 9:00PM