

CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

-----X

TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

of the

COMMITTEE ON LAND USE

-----X

June 17, 2009
Start: 3:12 pm
Recess: 3:19 pm

HELD AT: Council Chambers
City Hall

B E F O R E:
MELINDA R. KATZ
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:
Maria del Carmen Arroyo
Tony Avella
Leroy G. Comrie Jr.
Elizabeth Crowley
Simcha Felder
David R. Garodnick
Erin N. Gioia
Robert Jackson
Jessica S. Lappin
John C. Liu
Rosie Mendez
Annabel Palma

A P P E A R A N C E S [CONTINUED]

William Martin
Committee Clerk
Committee on Land Use

Judah Felder

Mr. Deichik

Mr. Murnik

1
2 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Good afternoon
3 everyone. There is one item on the agenda that
4 had to be passed out of the next Council, for
5 Council meeting. It'll be very brief. I thank
6 everyone for coming in on short notice. This is a
7 Grace Asphalt Plant; it is in Julissa Ferreras'
8 District. It's a site selection and acquisition
9 for use as an asphalt plant by the City. Any
10 discussion? Council Member Avella.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: [Laughing]
12 First it's the microphone, then it's the chair.
13 You know, obviously I'm sure there was a lot of
14 discussion that went on at the Subcommittee
15 meeting but I'm just curious why does the City
16 want to acquire an asphalt plant? Did they ever
17 come up with an explanation as to why in this
18 fiscal situation we're spending millions of
19 dollars to acquire an asphalt plant? Did anybody--
20 --did they give an explanation at the--

21 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: [Interposing]
22 They did and it is not--I'll turn it over to the
23 Subcommittee Chair. My understanding from the
24 City is that they're arguing that it would in the
25 long run save money for the City. And there was

1
2 one other reason; I forgot it at the moment. You
3 want to answer that Council Member--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: well one to
5 secure the supply. There are--

6 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: [Interposing]
7 The supply.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: --only two
9 companies in Queens. One--the one that we're
10 acquiring that has been in bankruptcy in the past
11 and if we had to rely on one company for obvious
12 reasons that could be problematic. It will also
13 save the City, I think it's \$40 million once it
14 was amortized over even 10 years by recycling the
15 rap at a much greater percentage than the privates
16 do which they do at Hamilton Avenue, they can save
17 a considerable amount per ton.

18 And even with the expense of both
19 purchasing and retrofitting in three years this
20 plant, they provided very detailed numerical
21 analysis, some of which is in the MMR, some of
22 which is not, as to how they, at Hamilton, already
23 recycle more, already do it significantly less
24 than the privates and how they could do it in
25 Queens. That was the very, very brief summary of

1

2 the discussion.

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Yeah this was

long--we asked them for weeks for proof and

probably months at this point for proof that it

would save the City money. We questioned them up

and down about it. Council Member Lappin had

hours of hearings on this. And in the end of the

day it showed that it would save the City money on

the amortization.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: I'd just

appreciate getting a copy of that information.

I'm very curious about this.

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Sure. I

would think that the Land Use staff has copies of

that and could very easily provide you with a

PowerPoint presentation.

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: You want to

speak? Council Member Comrie.

[Background conversation]

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I'm not

cursing. You made me forget what I was going to

ask. Did the owner come to the final hearing?

COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Yes.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: And are
3 they okay with the--

4 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN:

5 [Interposing] The owner is "a business person
6 willing to negotiate and entertain discussions on
7 selling their property." It's not for sale but
8 they're very happy to discuss, since they're
9 business people, the sale of their property. I
10 think is a pretty brief summary of her last
11 statements.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: So this is
13 not an eminent domain. This is just--

14 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN:

15 [Interposing] No.

16 [Off mic]

17 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: The first
18 time. Well we won't go into that. Yes, their
19 cost savings estimates include a \$25 million
20 purchase price for this property which they don't
21 think they're going to end up paying but yes the
22 cost benefit analysis included a \$25 million
23 purchase. They're not discussing eminent domain.
24 Yes.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Okay.

1

[Pause]

2

[Off mic]

3

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: I could

4

ask--

5

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Any other
discussion? Okay call the roll.

6

7

MR. WILLIAM MARTIN: William
Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call on the
Committee on Land Use. Council Member Katz.

8

9

10

11

CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Aye.

12

MR. MARTIN: Avella.

13

COUNCIL MEMBER AVELLA: Aye with
reservations.

14

15

MR. MARTIN: Comrie.

16

COUNCIL MEMBER COMRIE: Aye.

17

MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

18

COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I pass.

19

MR. MARTIN: Liu.

20

COUNCIL MEMBER LIU: Yes.

21

MR. MARTIN: Palma.

22

COUNCIL MEMBER PALMA: Yes.

23

MR. MARTIN: Arroyo.

24

COUNCIL MEMBER ARROYO: Yes.

25

MR. MARTIN: Garodnick.

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: I vote
3 aye.

4 MR. MARTIN: Lappin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LAPPIN: Aye.

6 MR. MARTIN: Mendez.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER MENDEZ: Aye.

8 MR. MARTIN: Crowley.

9 COUNCIL MEMBER CROWLEY: Aye.

10 MR. MARTIN: Felder.

11 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: With
12 permission of the Chair, may I make a comment?
13 Thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Yes.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: Thank you.
16 I just wanted to welcome my son, Judah's here
17 with--

18 [Applause]

19 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: --no, no,
20 no... please hold your applause with two special
21 needs students from Venezuela who he's taking care
22 of. Can you stand up? Mr. Deichik [phonetic] and
23 Mr. Murnik [phonetic]. And if you could give them
24 a round of applause, I'd appreciate it.

25 [Applause]

1
2 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: And I vote
3 aye on all.

4 [Off mic]

5 COUNCIL MEMBER FELDER: My
6 daughter? We sold her.

7 MR. MARTIN: Jackson.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER JACKSON: I vote
9 aye.

10 MR. MARTIN: By a vote of 12 in the
11 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions
12 the item is adopted. Members please sign the
13 Committee report, thank you.

14 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: We'll leave this
15 open for ten minutes. Thank you everyone.

16 MR. MARTIN: Council Member Gioia.

17 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: Thank you.
18 I vote yes.

19 MR. MARTIN: Final vote on the
20 Committee on Land Use is now 13 in the
21 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER GIOIA: I'd like now
23 to adjourn this meeting.

24 [Gavel banging]

25 CHAIRPERSON KATZ: Great.

1

2

[END 1002.MP3]

3

C E R T I F I C A T E

I, Laura L. Springate certify that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not related to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that I am in no way interested in the outcome of this matter.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laura L. Springate". The signature is written in black ink on a light-colored background.

Signature _____Laura L. Springate_____

Date _____September 14, 2009_____