

## **COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES**

### **CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

**November 23, 2020**

***(Note: This meeting was conducted via Zoom due to the current Covid-19 outbreak.)***

Council President Matt Burke called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Jason Blake, Councilman Ward 5  
Matt Burke, Councilman Ward 6  
Shayla L. Davis, Councilwoman Ward 4  
Charles Donahue, Councilman Ward 2  
Michael Dudley, Sr., Councilman Ward 1  
Michael Nenadovich, Councilman Ward 3  
Tom Vaughn, Councilman Ward 7

President Burke moved to accept the Caucus Minutes of November 9, 2020 as written. The motion stood approved unanimously.

The Clerk stated that Council had received two letters and the President asked the Clerk to read them on Council floor.

President Burke next asked if there were any Committee Reports or other items.

Councilman Nenadovich advised that Council had received a proposal for Chapter 136 of the final draft that had come about from the Legislative Meetings. He wished to schedule a Legislative Meeting to ratify it.

The President said that a Special Council Meeting was coming up as well as a Communications and Technology Meeting. After some discussion, Council decided to hold the Legislative Committee Meeting on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at 6:30 p.m., the Communications and Technology Committee Meeting on December 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:00 p.m. and the Special Council Meeting on December 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 p.m.

President Burke said that Zoom technology was interesting and that he had been learning it for a year and a half through work. Now his work had moved to another platform called WebEx. At some point in

time, he thought all of Council would have to know how to get onto the Zoom and help one another out. It is not easy to run a meeting, handle the Zoom and concentrate on what's going on at the same time. So, at some point, Council might have to look at finding somebody that can run the meetings and pay that person. For the time being, all Council Members could learn it and help one another. That was in the best interest of the residents.

Clmn Blake had a report from Millette King of the school board. Ms. King wanted to give her report during the Council Meeting and the Chair approved.

Clwn Davis mentioned that during her Communication and Technology Meeting she wanted to discuss perhaps going to the Webinar form of meetings. That way only Council people would be on the screen and listeners could put comments in the chat.

Clmn Dudley suggested that President Burke take a break from introducing each piece of legislation and revert to allowing various Councilpersons do it so that they would all remember the procedure. The Chair was in favor of that.

ORDINANCE NO. 81-2020 Clmn Dudley advised that he would move to remove it from the Ways & Means Committed and consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 84-2020 Clmn Dudley advised that he would move to consider by title and ask for a Second Reading.

ORDINANCE NO. 85-2020 Clmn Vaughn advised that he would move to consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 86-2020 Clmn Nenadovich advised that he would move to consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 87-2020 Clmn Vaughn advised that he would move to consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 88-2020 Clmn Blake advised that he would move to consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 89-2020 Clmn Nenadovich advised that he would move to consider by title.

ORDINANCE NO. 90-2020 Clmn Dudley advised that he would move to consider by title.

RESOLUTION 20-2020 Clwn Davis advised that she would move to consider by title.

Mayor Collova stated that after researching Resolution 20-2020 in its present form, he could not sign the document. On the second page, the second paragraph, it says, "Further Garfield Heights City Council, believes the City should commit to eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting the minority to increased hardships by committing to making an effort to provide minority-owned businesses with opportunities to contract with the city." In his opinion, that implies that in the past, we as a city may or have had preferential treatment against minorities. That was absolutely not true and the Mayor could not support that. If that paragraph were taken out, he could support the resolution. But he thought that that implied something that this administration and Council have never done.

Clwn Davis replied that that was absolutely not what the intent was. The intent was to say that going forward the administration would look to be more intentional.

The Mayor took it to mean that we've been doing it, and it's not going to happen anymore, because we're going to eliminate that part of our city actions. However, he said that if Council wanted to go ahead and pass it, they should. Then he would have to do what he had to do at that point.

Chairman Burke asked Mayor Collova whether he would be in agreement if Council struck the second half of that paragraph where it says, "Further, Garfield Heights City Council believes the city should commit to eliminating preferential treatment for the majority while subjecting the minority to increased hardships by committing to making an effort to provide minority-owned businesses with opportunities to contract with the City".

Mayor Collova said that was correct. He believed that first sentence, where it says, "as well as small and minority owned businesses in the city" covered how we should take care of the small businesses in the city. He thought the second sentence should be removed.

Clwn Davis asked the Mayor if she could make it read, "Garfield Heights City Council believes the city should commit to making an effort to provide minority-owned businesses with opportunities to contract with the city". The Mayor was willing to compromise for that.

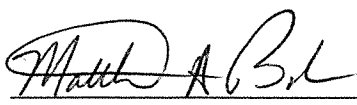
President Burke offered to make a motion to amend Resolution 20-2020 to read as follows, "Further, Garfield Heights City Council believes the city should commit to making an effort to provide minority-owned businesses with opportunities to contract with the city".

The Chair moved to adjourn the Council Caucus Meeting, Clwn Davis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Council President Burke adjourned the Caucus Meeting at 7:21 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully Submitted,

  
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Matt Burke  
Council President

  
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Barbara Molin  
Clerk of Council