

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, April 9, 2018

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Matt Burke.

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Thomas Vaughn

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn

EXCUSED: Suster

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, at this time I would like to excuse Clmn Suster from this evening's meeting.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Vaughn to excuse Clmn Suster from tonight's meeting, all in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed?

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke

ABSENT: Suster

Mr. Suster is excused from tonight's meeting.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Sir.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. We move on to the Reading and Disposal of Minutes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we consider the Minutes as typed for the meeting of Monday, March 26, 2018.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Nenadovich to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for Monday, March 26, 2018 as written, all in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed?

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

ABSENT: Suster

The Minutes are approved with 6 Yes votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: I have a Committee Report for the Building Committee. We had a Building Committee Meeting last Monday and I just wanted to thank every member that attended, every Member of Council. I thought that was a really productive meeting. I look forward to some things that we talked about coming to fruition down the line. I do plan on doing a follow up meeting some time either the end of this year or the very first of next year.

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Chairman. Do you mean a Recreation Meeting?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Recreation Meeting.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: We will move on the Reports of the Mayor and Directors. Mayor, do you have a report for us this evening?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, yes, I do, but before I get into tonight's Council report, we have tonight all of us here the distinct pleasure of witnessing two of our fine firefighters being promoted to Lieutenant. This is always a big event. It is certainly a big event for these two young men but it is also a big event for the city. We are looking at doing this and there's a couple of reasons. We've got a Chief that is retiring and a Chief that is coming on. We will get into that in a little bit, but what I would like to do is just talk a little bit about when you become a Lieutenant or when you become a Chief or a Captain you are not just selected because they like you. It's a lot of work and testing that goes into it. There's a lot of dedication. There's a lot of commitment. These two young men finished on top and I'm very pleased to bring them up.

We're going to do it one at a time. If we can, can we bring up Scott Arcangeli. Can you come up first? And can I bring the Chief up along? If you have any family members that would like to join you, please join us. I told both of these gentlemen when I walked in that they didn't read the fine print. There was no pay raise with this promotion.

(At this time, Mayor Collova swore in Firefighter Scott Arcangeli as Lieutenant.)

CHIEF NEMETZ: Scott has come with a lot of experience. He has 15 years on the Fire Department, also on our HAZ-MAT Team. He definitely can make a great Lieutenant.

(Next, Mayor Collova swore in Firefighter Scott Garmen as Lieutenant.)

CHIEF NEMETZ: Scott Garmen is going to make an excellent Lieutenant. He was the first one that I interviewed and hired back when I was Chief. I knew back then that he was going to be good and he proved me right. I'm very proud of you. Congratulations, Scott.

Lt. Scott Garmen: Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Now, I want to talk to everybody. Last meeting we had, the Chief was here and he spoke to the Council and he mentioned that this probably would be the last time he would be at the Council. And he's here again. I wanted to announce the reason for this all to happen for those of you who don't know, we had a Chief's Test. Chief is getting ready to retire. Before I get into it and most of you here know of course who is the winner of that test.

I want to say a little bit about Chief Nemetz. He came on when I was Mayor. I have to say that we went through some rough times. Some real rough times. The Chief took a lot of heat for it just as the Police Chief. It was not a pleasure to be able to tell the firefighters you can't have another rescue squad; you can't have a new fire truck. There's a lot of things you can't have because the budget was so bad. Now I'm getting ready to announce the new Chief and all of a sudden, we have two new ambulances. What a great job you did. But seriously, I owe a lot of credit to both of these Chiefs because they hung on with me through the rough times. Times are getting better and I want to say how much I appreciate them. Let's bring Chief Nemetz up. I want to introduce to everybody the Chief is leaving in June. I really appreciate everything you've done. You've done a great job. We're going to bring you back before you leave totally.

We had a test for the Chief. It was a dual test. Who finishes first will be the Chief. Who finishes second will be named Captain on the Fire Department because of the people that are leaving. The test was very close. It was fractions of percentage points apart. We had a great group taking it. I would like to bring up the new Chief that is going to start in June. He will be Acting Chief shortly. Ken Strobe. He already hit the ground running. He's asking for five/six things. I told him no. He's got to get used to that. I just wanted to introduce everybody. We have a great Chief. I'm really impressed with everything he did. He certainly will do the job. Thanks very much.

I also will say for the firefighters that are here, the people that are here for the promotions, the Council Meeting is going to be a little bit lengthy today so I don't expect you to hang around. So feel free to leave and we will continue with the Council Meeting. OK? Thank you.

OK. I'll get on with my report, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Absolutely, Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I have some good news. I'm sure Mr. Dudley's going to be very happy along with the Ward 1. This is a letter I received from Armand Budish from the Cuyahoga County Executive.

Dear Mayor Collova:

Recently we revisited our policy relating addressing the roadway infrastructure needs of Cuyahoga County. Our programs focus on being pro-active in addressing the needs of the Regional Transportation System while partnering with cities and other funding partners to maximize the use of our resources. I'm happy to inform that East 131st Street from Miles Road to Forestdale in the cities of Garfield Heights and Cleveland have been selected as a 2020 Operations Resurfacing Project. The County is willing to complete the design of the project and contribute 80% toward the construction of the project. The project cost is estimated to be \$1,940,000.00.+

I told them I'm sure that Clmn Dudley would provide the 20% so we can get this accomplished. This is a really big thing to get the County to come up with \$2 million for us and the city of Cleveland for that small section. I wish it was going to be done quicker. It's not going to be done till 2020 but it's on their books and that's really great. I'm very happy to report that.

Next, I wanted to talk about the ice show. I know Mr. Dobies is not here tonight, but I got to tell you. We were at the ice show. I know Mr. Glenn was there; Mr. Nenadovich was there, myself. I'm not sure if anybody else was there but I have to tell you this show was unbelievable. I can't

believe the job they do. This is like a Hollywood production and I'm not kidding you. If you get a chance to go to one of the shows, you have to go. It's an hour and a half of unbelievable entertainment. The music is fabulous, the skaters are fabulous. We have an Olympic qualifier that's right from Garfield Heights that performed for us yesterday. It was a great show. The Rec Department and that staff did an outstanding job. I could not have been happier with the entire project. So I was very happy with that.

Now let me talk about our street repair. This winter, as everybody here knows, was an unbelievable winter with the freeze. It was tough all year long because we were never at a break. In this weather, a couple of things happen. First, there are potholes everywhere. The seams all rise. Everywhere you go, it's a rough ride. Nobody is happy, including myself. Every day for about the last two weeks, I received three /four calls a day and I'm sure the Service Department gets the same calls about how their streets are so bad and with all the taxes they pay, we should be able to pave all the streets. Let me tell you folks, in the last few years we have talked about we are able to resurface over 100 streets. We have 250 streets. We have another 150 streets that need to be resurfaced. All of them are bad. The majority of them are bad. For us to do all the streets would probably cost us a guesstimate of about \$30 million. That's all. Just \$30 million. We probably if we had our backs against a wall could come up with maybe \$2 million. Where do we get the other \$28 million?

People keep saying how much taxes they pay and I agree we pay a lot of taxes in Garfield Heights. But there are two sides to this. In Cuyahoga County, we're like the second highest millage in taxes. Second highest. Outrageous. In collections of money out of 59 communities, we are number 57. The least amount of money coming in- 57--Garfield Heights. I know we pay a lot in millage because of the business. That's what we're trying to improve. Bringing business in to pick up the taxes. We don't have the money coming in that many of these newer communities do. So we don't have this bundle of money that's hidden in the drawers just waiting to spend. It's not there. So be patient. We're going to get out to the streets. The other thing they say is I bet you Mayor, your street isn't that bad. Take a ride down my street. I don't even want to see my neighbors because you know what they tell me? We live on a street with the Mayor. Why isn't our street nice? I say because if we fix our street everybody in the city's going to say sure, you're got yours done, not ours. So my street is horrible, but it was because of the winter.

The asphalt plants are just opening up. We're going to start filling the holes and we got some creative ways to fill some of those holes in some of the streets, but folks it's impossible to pave all the streets. It's just impossible. So I don't mind you calling my office and I don't mind you telling me that you pay a lot of taxes if that makes you feel better, please do, but the crazy thing is I know how much taxes everybody pays. I understand that. I know how bad the roads are. If I could fix them all tomorrow, they'd be fixed. We're doing the best we can and actually, considering where we were the last few years we're doing pretty darn good. We're going to do another 10/12 streets this year. Hopefully you're on one of these streets. If you're not, you'd be calling again. But we're going to do the best we can as far as patching. I just wanted to get that out there because we are receiving a lot of calls about how bad the streets are. We're not the only city. I go to the Mayor's Meetings and everybody, especially the old communities, all have the same problem. It's because of the crazy winter that we had this year. It just got that much worse.

So with that said I'm going to get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance 25. Amending our Codified Ordinances on income tax to comply with the Ohio Revised Code. Ordinance 26 is to purchase salt in the 2019 season.

Resolution 8 is a resolution appointing nine members to the city of Garfield Heights Charter Review Committee. I'm going to name those nine people: Doug Piascik, Joshua Crayton, James Grenig, Christine Spisak, Dan Baillie, James Feeney, Jason Blake, Patricia Wasilkowski, and James Joyce. Those are the nine members that will serve on the Charter Committee. It's something we do every four years. They will go over our Charter and see if there needs to be any changes. With that said, Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mayor. Does anybody have any questions for the Mayor on his report? Does anyone have any questions for the Mayor on his report this evening? Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: It's a comment. Hey, I'm happy to hear the news about 131st. In all honesty, two years is worth the wait. We been waiting 20 something years for it to get done. Maybe when Tim come over could you have mention about the holes and stuff he might be able to explain the difference between hot patch and cold patch. When I'm trying to explain to people some time that cold patch and the last minute toward the end of the year you don't want to throw and waste your time. So maybe get a chance. Take a picture too, Mayor, we got to realize within the last eight years or so we probably had more streets done than we'd had in quite a while. It's going to take time, but it's not going to be so long as some people expect it to be but you got to do the best you can do with what you got. That's what we're doing right now. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Does anyone else have any comments or questions for the Mayor on his report? OK, we will move on to our Law Director Tim Riley. Tim, do you have a report for us?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: No report tonight, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Tim. We will move on to our Police Chief, Chief Byrne. Do you have a report for us this evening?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE: No report tonight, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: We will move on to our Service Director Mr. Tim McLaughlin. Tim, do you have a report for us this evening?

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes, I do, Mr. President. Thank you. In answer to Clmn Dudley's questions. Cold patch costs \$100/ton versus \$30/ton for hot patch. Cold patch is temporary. In the 40 years I've been here I've heard of every new evolutionary new style of cold patch from California, Texas to everywhere else. It's all the same. It lasts for a while. With this winter, like the Mayor said, freeze and thaw, there was a tremendous amount of damage. One of the other things too is you know in the last three years that the Mayor brought up, 100 streets. We went seven years without paving a street. If you took one street from each Ward in those seven years there's 49 streets right here that didn't get. They didn't get better as the years went on because we couldn't fix them. So you start behind the eight ball. Some have a lot more damage to them than other ones do. Traffic, different things that go on. I know some of the streets when you look at them they have not been repaved in 30 years. I live on a street that wasn't repaved for 32 years. It's there but we're working at it. The reason that I want to keep throwing on the cold patch is for one, the cost and for two, you get the regular hot patch in here. It's more permanent. Problem is that we can only get patch loading today. Two days in the last two weeks because the weather. It starts out

snowing, 32 degrees. They choose not to open because of the cold. You buy it and it's this cold. You really got to move it fast or else it's going to cool off and you'll be wasting it.

We had four crews out on Broadway today. Broadway is a main problem right now. It's really falling apart. I've talked with Mr. Krock the Engineer. That's one of the streets we're going to push for to get paved by the County, the State or whoever will help us out with that as soon as we can. It's great that 131st is on the repave list. We can hold it together for another two years but that street gets a lot of traffic. The holes develop. The patch I have four crews of four guys. I guess 16 guys out there. There's no other crews out on the road unless there's an emergency other than doing patch so. We will get to it as fast as we can. Usually every year by June we been through the city one time and pretty much caught everything up. Then I have some areas that are marked down to go back and take a bigger look at them and try to do more extensive work but right now we're trying to get as many holes filled as we can to make everybody happy. I don't know if you make everybody happy but.

Actually again we put on six temporary laborers for the summer because if you didn't have them. When I have 12 guys that's the whole road crew that there is for everything. I started using maintenance guys and actually the maintenance guys are still out there too. I'm using everybody I can. Once we get to like June/July it kind of folds off and like the Mayor said we are going to be in the process of putting together some streets to take a look at paving and we'll see where we go from there.

I also have the Hazardous Waste Roundup Monday April 23rd to Friday April 27th and then again Monday April 30th to Friday May 5th from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. You can bring the stuff to the Service Garage 13600 McCracken Road. Also on that Saturday May 5th we have the first paper shred. We have two/year. This is the first one. From 9:00 a.m. till 12:00 noon. That's also at the Service Garage.

I'd like to take a couple minutes and I know that Bob's not here so I'd like to take a couple of his minutes. I know I've had discussions before about the rubbish. The rubbish pickup in this community is out of control. We've sat down and I don't know where we're going with this yet. We're trying to find some solutions to the problems I'm going to go through.

Rubbish cannot be put out till the night before your pickup day at 6:00 p.m. I get the calls and you know, I pay my money for the rubbish. I can put it out any time I want. Sometimes they'll put it out on Friday for the whole weekend for a Monday pickup. The weekends are a tough time because people are home and they just pull it out to the front.

Your rubbish must be out in the morning by 7:00 a.m. on the day of your pickup. Kimble trucks usually get the rubbish picked up and they're out of the city in 4:00 p.m. on the days of pickups. They have 2,000 pickups a day so they send in whatever they think like in the summer pickups get heavier. People are not using rubbish containers. Your rubbish container is a large dark green 95-gallon one is to be used for refuse only. The 65-gallon light green container, which is the recyclable container, is also just to be used for recyclables. That does not include grass. It does not include rubbish. If there's rubbish in your container it will stay because they do not want to contaminate their load by picking up garbage and pouring garbage into their load of recyclables. I see this more and more. It says right on top of the can what's recyclable. I don't know what the answer is here. You can also put out rubbish bags along with your cans once they're full. You can put out rubbish bags in a neat and orderly fashion. Kimble is not contracted to clean up people's front yards. Some of these are people that just take stuff out and throw it all over. I know some of them you have people that dig in the rubbish and they throw stuff all over

too. I know and I've seen it. That again, you know, you're not supposed to be able to do that in the city but you still have people that fly in and fly out of there. When you tell them about it and they say OK they're going to leave and then you catch them a couple days later doing the same things. It's hard to do because some times they're out at 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning going through people's garbage.

No containers used by the city if you don't put out a container at all they're not going to pick up your rubbish. I don't know where some of these containers go. I do have another problem with people burning their containers. It's getting to be more and more. I have no idea why. I don't know if they're pouring their grilled stuff in there or what they're putting in there hot but it's a \$100.00 container. It's funny. This one here did not even belong at the house. Somehow this one came from another house than this one. The containers are \$100.00. I myself being a resident here I don't feel that I should pay for other people's ignorance to doing things. These cans are I think tremendously built for all the years we've had them now. Once in a blue moon, you'd have a tire fall off them, etc. but this is getting out of hand and the city should not have to pay to replace these people's cans. Like I said, people are taking cans from other people's properties. We go through a couple of them a week. There's a number on the front. Conveniently, this one burned in the front so I could not find out where it was from, but there's a number on the front and the number tells you what house that belongs to. We've found city garbage cans in Sagamore, a few other places outside the city that renters just took them with them when they moved. People called us and told us that they were there. We looked up the number and found out where they were.

The rubbish pickup consists of household waste. That's what the rubbish pickup's for. It's not for private property trees. Last week I had a couple where people took down whole trees and just covered the whole front yard. That's their responsibility to remove that. It's not the city's responsibility to move it. And the rubbish staff is definitely not going to pick it up. That's a one-man truck. Construction debris. This is getting to be worse too. People have somebody come over and take the roof off. They just put it out on their tree lawn. That is not part of the rubbish pickup either. It's getting out of hand again. You're going to start with the spring now (if it ever gets here) and that is what we go through. I've been taking pictures of it and showing the Mayor and talking with the rubbish company. Jen keeps a list every day of all the things that we do. We have a stack of all last year's rubbish every month of what we had to do pictures of them, etc. People don't want to follow the rules and it's getting worse. I don't know how to take care of it. We've had some conversations. I had for two weeks my foreman. I have a foreman go out every morning and he checks the rubbish run. He reports to Jen and whatever pictures he took, etc. and then Jen checks with the rubbish company. Then she has to go to the process of trying to hunt down who owns the house, who lives in the house. We get people who own and live in China. We get people that we call that tell us that we've called the wrong number and it's them. In the last couple weeks we picked up 10,000 pickups/week. Maybe some of it does not seem like a lot but we see it five times a week. Now we probably get 15/20 a day. It's trying to get somebody to come forward to take care of it. People say well you ought to send them down there and have the police write them a ticket. We were chasing one person that we went to their house at 7:00 a.m. There were people in the house. They would not answer the door. I know in the past when you try with the police, when somebody sees a police car they're not answering the door either. So I don't know what's everybody's ideas. Let's get the police there all the time.

But anyhow, my last thing in the last two weeks we took an inventory every day of rubbish cans that were left out. In one week there was 437 cans still out the next day 15 hours after rubbish was over. The second week there was 340 cans left out the day after rubbish was done. We have an ordinance that says empty waste containers shall not be permitted to remain in front of

any house or any other building by the owner, agent, lessee or occupant of that building for a period in excess of 12 hours from the time of collection by this city. That was passed in 2006. Like I said, rubbish even if I give until five o'clock if they're in town they're usually gone by then. We went to these houses 15 hours after their rubbish was done and it was all still out there.

I don't mean to start this week. I started writing out notices of leaving them on the door and after 200 some I stopped doing it. For one, I mean, for every day we are spending seven/eight hours just playing with rubbish. It was not making a difference. Actually, some people who got the notices called back and wanted to fight about it. They thought it was OK to leave the garbage cans out there. But anyhow, one of the things is whoever violates the penalty for it, whoever violates this provision can be fined for up to \$150.00. So I don't know where we're going. I've had a conversation with the Mayor. We're trying to figure out where we're going with this and trying to run this around but it very much gets deeper and deeper out of hand. I have never seen anything like this. It's not like we have 600-foot deep lots. You pull in your driveway at the end of the day. I know I go out, I'm walking up the driveway and put it behind the garage.

That's one of the other things too is we are starting to get people that leave their cans out in front of the house all the time. It says in here that cans should be in the back out of view. We're starting to get that. I don't know what is causing everything to go this way other than that people don't care. We're going to try to do something about it.

I know some of you have concerns that you've called me too or called Jen and talked to Jen. Jen handles the rubbish every day. She has the procedure to go through and she's handled it for the last eight years every day. She gets mad at me too because people yell at her. They're not happy when they get a notice, etc. but we're trying to handle this. I just want you guys to know that too. Maybe in your Block Watches you can talk about rubbish. It has become a very big problem. With that, you have my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Tim. Does anybody have any comments/questions for Tim on his report? Mr. Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Mr. President. Tim, I concur with all the problems you have. It's overwhelming. To me, my opinion, which is not the Mayor's opinion. I speak for myself. I do believe that it is a problem that we need to talk about. Maybe it's time to have a Service Department committee meeting so we could all get together and talk about not only the problems that we already know we have in regards to garbage collections, but how to resolve the problems. We need to talk about maybe we can address it.

Let me ask you one question, Tim. When some of these garbage cans at residents' homes are left two/three days after collection date, do you guys send out notices to the homeowners or how is that handled?

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: As I just told you, we just did 247 houses. Those handwritten, hand delivered, driven to the house and like I said you know what? I'm getting now where I'm taking two employees and we're understaffed. I'm taking two employees to spend their whole day on the rubbish. It does not seem to be having any results. First thing everybody says is go get the Police Department. Start writing tickets. Would you like to take a policeman off his beat for seven/eight hours/day with people who are not going to answer the door? This isn't the start of this. I can go back 10 years ago, but it's just come to a point now where it's just way out of hand. Before you'd have a little bit or a renter that did not

care, but now if you would see some of these lawns of how people throw things out and they don't care. They won't come out and pick it up.

The rubbish company--I think they've been very good with us. They're coming to a point where they're telling us now that they really don't want to come back. They even came a couple times on Saturdays to pick up things. That's not what we contracted for. They're not there to clean up. A one-man truck is not there to clean up the people's front yard, but had a conversation with the Mayor, my foreman that's out there every day and Jen. We understand what is going on. We're just trying to find the easiest and the best solution with what we have to work with. Again, everybody's always sending the policemen. If we sent a policeman for everything that goes on in the rubbish, etc. Chief Byrne needs 10 more policemen. I'm serious. Every time that somebody dumped in a lot, etc. it's pretty wild, but we are working on it.

The Mayor said he'd get back to me. He had some ideas already of what we could do. We will continue to knock away at it. I'm hoping that the people see the Council Meeting or you get guys talking at the Block Watches so it spreads the word. Maybe what it is, is there's a bunch of people get tickets one time because I think the word easily spreads around fast that way. I've seen it 30 years with parking on streets, etc. But we have to address what's going to be the easiest way to take care of it.

CLMN DUDLEY: Mr. Chairman. You did eat Bob's time. I agree with you, Tim, but I say one morning the second time you fine him because I been to a lot of houses just like you, I knocked on the door and done it on Saturday. Garbage collection is on Wednesday. They throw the mattress out. They block the sidewalk and every body else knows that. You got to look at it till Wednesday. Then by the time you get in touch with the homeowner becomes Monday but like you said it's the leasing. They the ones living there. The first time if you go to warn them you got to write them out or something. The second time they should be cited.

When you are taking money from people's pockets that's the only thing you're getting their attention. It's like beating a dead horse in a wagon. They don't care because nobody's doing nothing to them, not that we aren't doing nothing to them. It's so many of them out there. At some point if we can actually start holding them accountable and say how it has to be done. It be done collectively because I don't have the answer on the top of my head, but it's getting old. You're not ignoring it. I'm not ignoring it. I'm quite sure other members have knocked on doors, but at some point we got to draw some type of line. We have to. It's getting ridiculous. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Absent.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Does anybody else have any comments or questions? OK. We will move on to our Finance Director, Ms. Barb Biro. Barb, do you have a report this evening?

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO: Thank you, Mr. President. I do. This evening I'm asking for Council's support on Ordinance 25-2018. It is the second half of the House Bill 49 in regards to our income tax collections. Back in December, we passed the first half of the requirements of House Bill 49 to be in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code. We are now asking for your support for the second half of it in regards to the net profits tax, which will be managed by the State of Ohio Department of Taxation.

Also, we would like your support of Ordinance 26-2018, which is the agreement with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of rock salt for the 2018-2019 season. We have, due to the close shortage and a lot of usage that we have of this year we have increased our requirement 4,500 ton for next salt season.

I'd like to make a comment as Finance. The last couple Council Meetings people have talked about things that they want or things that they need. To put into perspective, you know, there is only so much to go round, ladies and gentlemen. There's only so much real estate taxes we collect and there's only so much income tax we collect. We have Police and Fire, Building, Economic Development, Engineering, streets, rubbish, everything else that goes along with it. Chef Byrne would love to have 10 new officers. Each police officer costs \$100,000.00/year by the time you hire them, pay them, health care, give them the equipment that they want, it's \$1 million.

Where does the city get an additional million dollars? You either increase your income tax or you increase your real estate tax. The real estate tax is when you pay your bill the whole amount that you pay does not come to the city of Garfield Heights. I realize that the majority of the residents understand that because you have the schools, which take up a majority of it, our tax. We get about 22% of that tax rate. The rest is taken up by Health and Human Services, Joint Vocational School, libraries, etc. If you pay \$2,000.00, the city of Garfield Heights does not get \$2,000.00. We only get a portion of it. We can only make so much to go around. Tim wants streets done, Mayor wants streets done, we want to increase our recreation budget, we want to get more police officers, we want to get more firefighters. On a constant daily basis we are asked to come up with more money.

The Mayor and I sat in his office the other day thinking of other ways without having to raise taxes. How do we come up with revenue? We are still trying to figure that out and we are not alone. All the other communities are. I was taught by Ron Tomola to first (and Mayor Collova knows this, too) first thing we do is we pay our debt. We came into fiscal emergency. Our debt was \$30 million. We are now down to \$19 million and it's going lower and lower. Several years ago, we borrowed \$2.5 million. We are going to be coming back to Council with legislation to renew the note and pay it down by \$200,000.00. We have to show that we can pay down our debt. We cannot get back to the position that we were when Mayor Collova came into office. That just can't happen. Our income tax is steady right now. It's actually a percentage point down in our collections so we are at a minimum where we were a year ago. I don't see any influx of money coming in there. Our collections are at, as the Mayor said, you can tax all you want, but if we can't collect it, I can't book it.

Courts. I understand your frustration. You want to fine people regarding their cans, etc. The problem is how much are you going to collect? Judge Nicastro will tell you the same thing she tells the Mayor and I all the time. You can fine all you want, but if you can't find them, you can't collect it. They are indigent. You are not going to get the money. We have, as Tim said, he's got a one full Service Department foreman. He costs the city money. That individual has to be paid, has health care, has benefits and he has to be paid. He can be utilized in so many different areas than worrying about whether somebody took back their garbage cans. Until there is a lifestyle change people are not going to pick up their cans and take them back. They have to change and they have to realize that everyone else in this city of Garfield Heights is going to pick up the cost for that.

Our sewers. Let's go to our sewers. We have house calls. We have storm and sanitary. We have Cuyahoga County doing that for us. We're in debt to Cuyahoga County for that. How are

we going to come up with the money to pay the debt? The negative number that we have to reimburse plus the \$20 million that we have to invest in the future over the next 10 years to get our storm and sanitary sewers up. We can't cut a check for \$20 million. Ten years. That's \$2 million/year. I can't give the Engineer \$2 million/year to fix the sanitary sewers because we have other bills. First comes first is our debt service. Second comes our payroll. Third comes our pensions. Fourth comes our health care and everything after that is just miscellaneous.

I have tried to not say anything over the last couple of weeks. I understand that everything that everybody wants is important, but please realize we can only tax so much. We can only collect what we can collect. We can only pay what we can pay. And first and foremost, is our debt service. We have done a great job with that and we continue to do a great job with that, but we still have storm and sanitary sewers to take care of. We've got streets to take care of. We've got to stripe them. We've got to crack seal them because we've done a great job on them in the last couple of years but now we are on the maintenance mode.

I try to do our best to make sure . and we need equipment- we just bought a squad. We're looking to get a demo squad so our officers in the Fire Department can have new equipment. But that's not including the ladder and the tower and the other equipment that they're going to want. The Chief just got, I believe, four new SUVs. He's going to need new SUVs in a couple years. Our departments need cars. Our Service Department is going to need a leaf truck, a sewer-vac. They are trying to figure out how to put asphalt down sooner than waiting for the asphalt company. If I'm correct, Tim, there's a piece of equipment that you are looking at that we can hot patch?

SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: There is an asphalt trailer. One of the asphalt companies in Kent they're talking about staying open all year round as much as they can so some of the cities have gone down there and loaded up this trailer and brought it back with hot patch in the winter when they were open. I can't send a truck down there- just put a cover on it because that's going to be cold, by the time they get back to here so that's what Barb's talking about.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO: So I would love to be able to say every department, go ahead and do what you want to do, but I can't do that because there is only so much money to go around. So again, as administrators and along with the Mayor, we are not sitting here twiddling our thumbs and not making decisions. We just have to juggle which is most important, which is the right thing that needs to get done first and do it within the budget that we have. The city of Garfield Heights has never been in the position that it has been in for a long time fiscally. We have money in our General Fund, but it does not mean that we can spend it because we still have bills to pay. So I thank you for your indulgence. I've sat here. I know I've gotten into Mr. Dobies and everybody else's time, but I just wanted to reiterate we don't get all the taxes that you pay and we do the best job that we can with the taxes that we do collect. Thank you for your patience, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Ms. Biro. Does anybody have any questions for Ms. Biro on her report? Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: I agree with everything you say but one thing I would say even though some people don't have the means to pay sometimes just inconveniencing the individual and taking him into Court can make a difference. If you don't fear nothing else you fear going to Court and you going to walk up or you going to be arrested. Sometime even a juvenile we set a slap on the hand of a child so why should there be a waste of time when you make the mom and kid go

down and sit in that Courtroom with a kid sometime the inconvenience that she don't want to go down or he don't want to go down there another time some time it works. Some time it don't, but I will say still even if they don't have the means some time we have to drag them to Court just to tell the children that we are not playing with them. There's not going to be a second one and their actions might not be tolerated. You're right. It starts with the person individual.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO: I do agree with you, Mr. Dudley, wholeheartedly. I really, really do, but even with the juveniles that we see that come to our Juvenile Diversion Program (because we collect the money, you know, in the Finance Department) if we are given 10 juveniles the opportunity to pay a fee so their child doesn't have to go down to Court, if we get two out of those 10 parents that's about all that Jeff would get in a month. Then some parents come in and some parents don't. Two is better than none. I'd agree with you. I also agree with the fact that we should fine them, but I also know just by conversations sometimes people just don't show up. It's scary, Mr. Dudley, sometimes when you.

CLMN DUDLEY: On the juvenile part. Not to cut you off. I was talking sometime when you inconvenience the parent and make then go down there with that child it makes a difference. On the rubbish, I was saying make the inconvenience they may go to Court but don't happen to go down to that Courtroom and not get to sit at home like somebody saying we not going to hold you accountable to pay us but we going to hold you accountable anyway. I know we doing the best we can. Just to say that we going to hold you accountable hopefully it may work. It will work on some. One place they don't want to be and I don't like to be I don't like going to Court.

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO: I don't like the call from the Court. Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Does anyone else have any questions/comments? All right. Mr. Krock, our City Engineer. Do you have a report for us tonight?

CITY ENGINEER DAVE KROCK: Yeah, I would just like to add one thing. In addition to all the construction projects that the city has going on, we have seen an uptick in the amount of work that Dominion Energy is doing with their gas lines. They do have another large project starting up at the north end of Turney Road near Edge Park. So there's a group of streets in there on the east side of Turney Road that are going to be redone. So just be careful in the neighborhoods. Thanks.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSON: Absent.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Krock. Does anyone have any questions/comments for Mr. Krock? If not, we will move on to our Economic Development Director, Ms. Noreen Kuban. Noreen, do you have a report for us this evening?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, briefly, Mr. President. I have already announced this before, but I'm going to mention the Community Gardens Meeting coming up on April 23rd and April 30th here at the Civic Center at 6:00 p.m. I'm going to pass out the flyer to City Councilmen.

Finally, we have our Riversweep at the Johnston Mill Run. It will be on May 12th, 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. at Forestdale Park. So we're supporting maintaining one of our parks. If anyone has questions, you could call Ms. Pat Salemi at (216) 475-1100 extension 2425. I'm going to pass out flyers so Council could share with the residents. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Ms. Kuban. Does anyone have any questions for Noreen on her report this evening? If not, we will move on to our Building Commissioner Mr. Mark Moro. Mark, do you have a report for us this evening?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER MARK MORO: I do not have a report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. That concludes the reports of the Mayor and the Directors. We will move on to Communications from Citizens on Tonight's Agenda. Will the Clerk please read the rules.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON THE AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments shall be strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to legislation on the current evening's agenda. No citizen shall speak more than once.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Is there anyone wishing to speak on tonight's agenda at this time?

Norouz Dashtianpour, 6351 Meadowbrook Road. Regarding the garbage collection, I have an idea. Each Ward has a Councilman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Sir, that's really not on tonight's agenda. I can call you up later on. Does anyone else have any comments on tonight's agenda?

MR. DASHTIANPOUR: I hear you are talking about this.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Come up later on in the meeting. We have to get this part of it. I will call you up. OK. Anyone else wishing to make any comments on tonight's agenda? If not, we will move on to Ordinances and Resolutions beginning with Ordinance 25-2018. Will the Clerk please read the title?

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. 25-2018

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 183 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS REGARDING MUNICIPAL INCOME TAX.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

ABSENT: Suster

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: Ordinance 25-2018 passes with 6 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 26-2018

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASING PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, ATTACHED

HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT) FOR THE 2018-2019 SEASON.

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke

ABSENT: Suster

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke

Absent: Suster

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: Ordinance 26-2018 passes with 6 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 08-2018

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION APPOINTING ALL NINE (9) MEMBERS TO THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS CHARTER REVIEW COMMITTEE FOR 2018. Doug Piascik, Joshua Crayton, James Grenig, Christine Spisak, Dan Baillie, James Feeney, Jason Blake, Patricia Wasilkowski and James Joyce.

Moved by DUDLEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn

ABSENT: Suster

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Dudley.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I would just like to say a quick couple words. My decision this year was to pick a young man who's here tonight named Joshua Crayton. I chose Joshua Crayton. He's a young man and seemed to be way ahead of his time as far as leadership ability and his ways of dealing with things in the community. He has shown an interest in our government on various levels. I think Josh will add not only youth but he's probably the youngest individual that I can think of that has ever been appointed to one of our committees at the age of 18. But he brings an opportunity and I feel with Josh that he will get the younger generation into what's going on and feel they are part of our government. I tell Josh. I mention quick how proud of you. I done known you since you was like about six years old and you had done nothing but great things in the community. He has never been a problem or a issue to anyone. I am looking forward to he is serving on this committee and I think you going to bring a breath of fresh light to this committee. Your smartness is going to be really come into play with this committee that is on the Charter Review Board. With that, I vote Yes and I wish you the best Josh. Thank you.

AYES: Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Burke, Vaughn

ABSENT: Suster

PRESIDENT BURKE: Resolution 08-2018 passes with 6 Yes votes.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

PRESIDENT BURKE: That concludes the Ordinances and Resolutions for this evening. At this time, I would like to invite the Executive Director for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission, Mr. Jon Reiss, to address Council. Mr. Reiss, thank you for your patience this evening.

Mr. Jon Reiss, Executive Director for the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission: Absolutely. Thank you for having me. Thank you Council Members and citizens of Garfield Heights. I was asked to come here this evening to speak briefly about benefits available to Veterans in your community as well as the County as a whole. So I am going to talk about what we do at the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission and how we can be of benefit to your community.

So the Cuyahoga County Veterans Service Commission was established in 1886 as an entity of the County government. We are an independent commission represented by a five-panel board appointed by the Administrative Judge of the Court of Common Pleas. Those individuals are representatives of your community or the County community Veterans at large. So our commissioners represent the American Legion, the AMVETS, DAV, VFW and Vietnam Veterans of America so we are advocates of Veterans in our community, not of the political structure.

Our funding is protected from the political budget process. It is a millage off the tax base that is guaranteed to Veterans Services as long as we request under a certain millage. That money is spent how we choose to spend it, meaning the representatives of our Veteran organizations. So what we choose to do here in Cuyahoga County is fulfill our Revised Code requirements. First and foremost which are to provide benefits for VA claims work, emergency financial assistance and transportation for VA medical. So we choose to do that in a couple ways.

One. We serve with the VA medical and it's pretty simple. They have a VA medical appointment and we will give you bus tickets or we use Para transit to get you to your VA medical appointment.

Secondary. We do our VA benefits work and while I don't have all the numbers in front of me, we see roughly 200 clients/day between our nine locations. It's nine locations now. It was three locations four years ago. We are at nine locations across the County throughout the course of a month where we provide assistance with VA claims works. Anybody who has done a VA claim understands it's a difficult process. A lot of paperwork. Sometimes a lot of communications back and forth to the VA and that communication is sometimes not as timely as you'd like. We ask our Veterans in the County to come see the Veterans Service Commission, County Veterans Service Officers because they can navigate the process. We do it on a day-to-day basis. We send out service officers through 18 month of accreditation. We get accredited at State level, national level and hold cross accreditations with the DAV, American Legion, VFW, Military Order of Purple Heart. You name it. We do it. So we believe in high quality service officers providing high quality services to our Veterans to insure the best potential outcome of claims work.

In addition, we do an emergency financial assistance program to help the Veterans who are experiencing emergency financial need through some sort of unexpected hardship. We do rent, utilities, mortgage, food, clothing, hygiene, home repairs, car repairs. Very much if it's a basic need, we do it. We do not help with property taxes or insurance or car payments. Those are pretty much our off limits areas, but everything else is kind of up for discussion. To give you an idea, last year that was in the excess of \$3.5 million to applicants applied for and were approved through us, which is roughly a 92% approval rate. Once it gets through all the appeals process.

We have three levels of appeal in case we deny it at our assistance and that's prudent structuring of our assistance programs.

Additionally in our County, we are going to start doing some things that are pretty cool for our County members. We are starting to issue a County Veteran ID card so you don't always have to go down to the County Recorder's office to do so. We're going to do that through our Library Outreach Program so we'll have one at the libraries Monday through Wednesday. Not every library. First week of every month we're in South Euclid-Lyndhurst Library. Second week of every month we're in North Royalton. Third week we're in Mayfield Heights. Fourth week of every month we are in Fairview Park. Those libraries have private space that we're allowed us to get in there. We partnered with them to get kind of on the outskirts of the County for those individuals who didn't want to traverse downtown. So Monday through Wednesday at 3:00 p.m. we'll have a card system in those libraries starting hopefully in May. We will post that on our Website when we're available.

Other things we're working on in a Veterans organization, is working with our community partners to serve homeless Veterans or in other capacities trying to streamline communication with all sources when a duplication of services and do a variety of other things as they become available. So we are here to help Veterans. They don't know where else to go, they call us. We'll do those referral things. We'll either refer them to the appropriate organization if we can't take care of it in-house. Hopefully there is an appropriate organization. If there's not, we'll help them identify the needs gap and that's where I can work with some of the other committees I sit on to help fulfill those gaps.

Additionally we do an education series for Veterans including financial literacy, every first, second and fourth Thursday of every month. We do nutrition education with a partnership through Ohio State's Extension Campus, which is the first, second and third Monday of every month.

And more programming to come. We don't stop. We keep going. It's the mantra. It's what we've been doing since we've been there for about 4.5 years. We expanded like I said from three locations to nine so including the libraries we pushed our services out to the community where they need it most rather than all downtown at the main office.

CLMN DUDLEY: Mr. Chairman. You are a great organization. I know I been off for some injuries is why I missed considerable lot of time that you all have assisted me. You never knew the position that I hold in the city so you did not know I was a Councilman. I remember when I went down there for assistance. They always done everything they could to help me out. I missed extensive time for injuries some time. What I'd like you all to put out is where is a operation and also the closest location to us from the city that the Veterans may be able to go to?

MR. REISS: Right. So our operations are 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. and we will be looking in the next year to probably doing some sort of modified scheduling that allows at least one night that is early or we get in. We're still in the process of discussing that. As anybody has to manage staff knows, that can be some push back on us as a group on a staff finding people who are willing to work for us within those confines is a challenge. We're looking at that. We're 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. right now. Our locations are the libraries. We're also at 70th and Euclid, the Wade Park VA Hospital, the Parma Outpatient Clinic or downtown office. The closest by distance is probably downtown office at 18th and Prospect. Closest by travel or commute time is the Parma Outpatient Clinic. Jump on 480 and head down to Ridge Road, take a left on Ridge Road down

Brookpark about a ¼ mile, up on your left the Outpatient Clinic. I have two people that work there full-time. They would serve all your needs there.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Reiss. Your time is up. Mr. Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: I am a Vietnam Veteran.

MR. REISS: Thank you for your service.

CLMN GLENN: I am hearing impaired. I am receiving the benefits of the VA. I can't say enough for the County VA administration of personal help. I had previously gone through the Federal system. I did not get the help. The County administration has helped me, specifically one employee of yours, Larry Amato, did an excellent job as did the rest of your crew. I do appreciate you and applaud you for it. I made one note as I talked to you in the Caucus Room. One statistic I did not know. How large of an organization you have and how lucky we are to have a Veterans Administration hospital with other medical facilities which we have in this city. We are very lucky to have you. Thank you, Sir.

MR. REISS: Thank you. Chairman. If I can. I know I ran out of time. In our financial assistance, because you mentioned being hearing impaired, I would think it is of note to your people that we do do a vision program, a hearing aid program as well as a dental program for Veterans that are struggling to cover the enormous costs of those particular services.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Sir.

MR. REISS: Thank you for your time. Have a great day.

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. Mr. Dashtianpour, did you want to come up and address your question at this time?

MR. DASHTIANPOUR: Regarding the garbage problem that we have in the city. We already have a neighborhood watch. Maybe we can put together some people as a volunteer for each Ward so they can go in their own neighborhood, just walk around and taking a picture of the violators, take pictures of their houses, take picture of the violations and then on Monday they can just send it to the Building Department.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If I may, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Absolutely, Mayor.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I think that if neighbors wanted to mention to the neighbors that would be a good idea if they brought the rubbish cans in in a respectful way. I can see that. But what we don't want to do is we don't want to create problems between neighbors. I am worried even if I sent my Service guys up to a house to tell somebody that we're going to fine you \$150.00 because you didn't take your can in, because I don't know the response back they're going to get. They're not policemen. So I think that that's going to be a little difficult. That's what's making this process so hard. We need to figure out a way. Whether it's with the auxiliary police or however we can figure something out that someone in authority goes to the house and says here's the story. You're getting a ticket for \$150.00. Or if we can do something in that respect. But I am very leery of sending an individual, a regular resident, up to someone's house because I don't know when you're going to run across somebody and the problem's going to escalate.

MR. DASHTIANPOUR: If you take from somebody's house from the outside you can take pictures of their garbage that they left behind and the house. So this is evidence that they violated and then they can send that. Hopefully they have a cell phone so they can send the picture back to Building and the Building they looking at it. OK. Yes. There is a violation here at this time at this date. These people violated. Either they put their garbage when it's supposed to be there or they put it too late, etc. I don't say go knock on people's door.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I see what you mean. OK. That's something we can talk about certainly. Thank you.

MR. DASHTIANPOUR: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to make any comments this evening? Is there anyone wishing to speak tonight?

Rhonda Crayton, 4470 Martin Luther King Blvd. I have a concern for I guess, Service Department. Between Beechwood Avenue and Thornhurst there is a park area to the right and the homes stop at the top of Martin Luther King where Beechwood starts. Then there's a break before the houses continue south going towards Thornhurst. There are sidewalks on both sides; however, for the past few years our residents have not been able to utilize those sidewalks because of the overgrowth. We were wondering some of the older residents on my street asked if I could come and maybe request some assistance on getting the brush cleared back on both sides and there's some dumping going on in that park area. I think Cleveland actually takes care of it but on the western side of the street I believe Garfield kind of takes care of it even the whole area is the city of Garfield.

CLMN DUDLEY: You're talking about MLK right?

MS. CRAYTON: MLK between Beechwood and Thornhurst on the west side of the street at the break of those homes there's a lot of overgrowth. You can't even see the sidewalks. We have not seen the sidewalk in years, which creates not only residents walking down the street, but there's a lot of youth that go to a elementary school up on Robinson. They're walking in the streets in the morning because they can't use the sidewalk on either side of the street. The streets have been paved very nicely, but we still should be able to utilize the sidewalks. You can't even see the sidewalks on the west side of the street.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman, Rhonda, we'll take care of that. Tim and I just talked about it while you were talking. We'll take a look at it and see what we can do, but if they can get down the sidewalks, we'll take care of it.

MS. CRAYTON: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to make a comment?

Joshua Crayton, 4470 Martin Luther King Blvd. I want to take a few seconds to say thank you to Clmn Dudley and any other Councilmen who appointed me to the Charter Review Board. It's good for young people to be on this board so thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Is there anyone else wishing to make any comments this evening?

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: If not, we will move on to our Miscellaneous Business beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to wish our new Fire Chief Ken Strope the best of luck. It's been a pleasure to work with Mr. Nemetz over the past nine years. I hope our relationship continues. You know there's two jobs in the city I would definitely not want to have and that would be the Police Chief or the Fire Chief. You are damned if you do; damned if you don't. The two men we have are doing an excellent job. I'm sure this young man will do just fine.

I also want to congratulate the two gentlemen that will now be lieutenants. They will be handed out a lot more responsibility and it's not always as easy as we think it is, but I think they'll do fine.

Jen, I think you did a great job filling in. I want to thank you.

I'd like to mention that on Saturday at St. Monica's we'll be having a Health Fair between 10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. Last year's was a big success. We had people from Marymount coming. All kinds of interesting factors. Doesn't cost anything. Come on up. You can learn a little karate, you can get a massage. There will be all kinds of interesting things there. For those that want they can be entertained by Mr. Raffle. He will be there. So come out and enjoy it.

You know you talk about the garbage can problem. Tim, this comes up every Block Watch that I have. Someone's got it. Back on Thraves, we've been having a problem with garbage cans being dumped over at night. I believe--at first people told me it was raccoons. I believe it's the garbage diving people that are causing it. It's not kids causing the problem. It's people going through these things. I thought those cans were a great idea and at times now I'm second guessing myself on them. I like it. I think it's great, but we've got to somehow or other curtail this problem.

I want to wish good luck to everybody on the Charter Review Committee. I hope that you guys are not angry with me for the person that I chose, but I do think Mr. Joyce will be a good job. Good luck anyways. With that, that's all I have this evening, Sir.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Vaughn. Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: First the good news. 131st. That's going to take a load off my mind. That got so bad up there. Appreciate that Mayor, the Administration and everybody that put that together because you could sit in some of the houses there when the trucks go by and you can see the stuff bounce around on the road. So that's great news. We appreciate that.

Congratulations to all the promotions that we had. All the lieutenants and the new captain and new Chief in the Fire Department. Chief Nemetz I would just tell him I remember when I first got elected and all the times I would forget to call him up. I called him on Friday night because we needed a truck for the kids Saturday at the Family Life Center and Community Center. It's no joke. Friday night at 10:00 p.m. I messaged him. He always sent the truck out and it always showed up. The Police Department was always tardy and they would always send the K-9 up there with an officer. We got some great guys in the safety department. We got some great chiefs and all the other officers as well.

This benefits the community. The Christian Kingdom Assembly at 12700 Broadway. We got a pastor, Monroe Johnston and Deacon Johnny. What a church is holding a cause and effect. What is going to be that if you go out to 24651 Cedar Road to the Chipotle between 4:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. The reason why I mention this is because on Saturday May 12th 50% of the money that is spent there is going to be used to help the Outreach Program of Garfield Heights in which they are going to be providing meals to the kids during the summertime in the area. It's not for Ward 1. It's for the city for the kids to be able to go and eat. That's May 12th from 4:00 p.m. . 8:00 p.m. I believe that that's in Lyndhurst at Legacy Village. I wouldn't know. I don't get to shop there. I will go this time. If you want to go out to support it. The money raised is going to be used to feed the children of the community no matter where you live in Garfield Heights. I really like what the Christian Kingdom Assembly is doing here. They're really getting involved in the community. They giving us a helping hand. So if you got some time. You got some change to spare, 50% of that money will come back into our city. With that, I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Mr. LaMalfa, do you have anything for us this evening?

CLMN LAMALFA: Not tonight. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Nenadovich. Do you have anything for us?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. First off, thanks Jen, for doing the job tonight. I appreciate it. You did well.

Second, the promotions to Chief, firefighters that man is going to be captain, great job.

Barb, that was an excellent report you gave. Very informative. Very concise. I thank you for it. Best report I've heard in a long time. Thank you.

Tim, you did a great job this winter. The streets were excellent. A lot of people complained but you took care of that problem and as always you did a great job, you and your crew.

Matt, you had an excellent recreational meeting. A lot of information exchanged. One of the best meetings I've seen in a long time for the Rec Department. A lot of ideas and all of Council sort of stepped up and took part in this.

Also, I thank Mr. Reiss from the VA for coming down and speaking. Information I will be using your phone numbers for some of my residents.

The skate program, as the Mayor said, it was fantastic. Katie McBeath, my God, she is fantastic. She went across that ice like a rocket and never made one flaw. What a hell of a program the Rec Department puts on and it gets better every year. I'm proud to say it's Garfield Heights.

Second to last, Turney is down to two lanes from the Boulevard to Plymouth so if you are planning your trips. It took me about 15 minutes to get here tonight, but I see a progress being made because they are going to start cutting on the side by the Speedway, etc. On that side of the road. I believe it's the west side. So that's happening.

I have nothing to say about the trash.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Nenadovich. Mr. Glenn, do you have anything to share with us this evening?

CLMN GLENN: I do, Mr. President. First of all, I'd like to mention Dan Baillie's name on the Charter Review Committee. We do this every four years. Some of the things that they can talk about is term limits. It runs the gamut. How the city's run. How our Charter is. They can review it. They make recommendations to the Council or to the Mayor. It's very important. If we want any changes they raise discussions to be talked about.

I'd also like to say our Fire Chief retiring is Tom, a personal friend. We have a new Chief coming in our Fire Department. He is very high on our standards they meet one of the best Fire Departments in the County. We're lucky to have them. Same goes for the Police Department. With that, I thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Glenn. I would just like to say congratulations to Lt. Arcangeli and Lt. Garmen on their promotion this evening. I'd also like to say farewell to Chief Nemetz. I can remember when I first got elected and there was a fire in Ward 6. He called me like on a Saturday morning to tell me exactly what happened. I was pretty impressed by that. Thank goodness, nobody at that time was injured, but it was a pretty rough fire. I just thought that the communication was just more than stellar on his part.

I also want to say congratulations to the incoming Chief, Mr. Strobe. I know he will do a great job. I already talked to a couple of the firefighters and they tell me he's really worth it and he's really a good guy so.

Charter Review Committee. I would hope that if you're a citizen out there or a resident of Garfield Heights that you would take the time to locate our City Charter. It's on the Website. You go into the city Website, go under Council, you can get to the Charter. But if you have an idea, go to one of the folks on this committee and share it with them. That's the reason why they're on this committee, because most of the people that are on this committee have communication with a lot of people in Garfield Heights. That's what we want. We want to see what the residents would want to see this doing. I just hope as a civil service, I believe in civil service, that you just take the time to review the Charter and get with somebody that you know that's on that committee and talk to them about maybe something you'd like to propose.

Then I have a Community Awareness Meeting coming up this coming Monday, a week from today; right here at the Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. We will discuss some issues about what's going on with the city financially. Maybe some of the things that we could talk about with these rubbish cans. Because I've been known to take a rubbish can in myself just because I think that the energy to try to track people down it's easier to pull it inside the road and walk that rubbish can up the side of the road even though that's probably not the thing to do, but I've done it.

Last but not least, I want to say Jen, you did a great job. I thank you for everything that you've done tonight. Coming in here, she has never done a Council Meeting before so.

And I would like to remind everybody that our next Regular Council Meeting will be Monday April 23rd right here at 7:00 p.m.

With that, if nobody has anything else, I would like to make a motion that we adjourn tonight's meeting. All in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed? Meeting adjourned.

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn

ABSENT: Suster

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:35 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Matthew Burke
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council