

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

**Monday, June 8, 2020**

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

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

**ROLL CALL:**           **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake, Burke, Vaughn

**READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:**

**PRESIDENT BURKE** made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Garfield Heights City Council for Monday, May 11, 2020 as written. He then said on the motion made by myself to accept the Minutes of the Council Meeting for Monday, May 11, 2020, as written, all in favor say Yea. Any opposed?

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

**PRESIDENT BURKE** said that the Regular Meeting Minutes were accepted with 7 Yes votes.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** made a motion to accept the Minutes of the Special Meeting of Garfield Heights City Council for Wednesday, May 20, 2020 *as amended*. He explained in detail why the Minutes needed amending. The Minutes of this meeting in regards to Resolution 14-2020 were incorrect. The vote was incorrectly recorded. What was written was as follows:

“The *original* vote on the adoption resulted in 3 Aye votes, 3 Nay votes and 1 Absent vote. Therefore, there was a tie. The President made an Executive Decision and voted Nay in order to keep the Regular Council Meetings to their standard schedule. So the final vote was 2 Aye votes, 4 Nay votes and 1 Absent vote.”

What should have been written:

“The *original* vote on the adoption resulted in 3 Aye votes, 3 Nay votes and 1 Absent vote. Therefore, there was a tie. The President made an Executive Decision and said, ‘***If I had an additional vote as The President Of Council. Which I don’t believe I have, I would cast that vote as a NAY in order to keep the Regular Council Meetings to their standard schedule and resolve this issue.***’ So the final vote was 3 Aye votes, 3 Nay votes and 1 Absent vote. The Resolution stands as a tie.”

Section 111.05 Rule # 11 of the Charter of the City of Garfield does not allow for a Change in vote after the vote has been recorded.

Therefore, his vote needed to be recorded as an AYE vote and not a NAY vote.

The Chair next said, on the motion made by myself to accept the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting for Monday, May 11, 2020, *as amended*, all in favor say Yea. Any opposed?

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

PRESENT: Dudley

**PRESIDENT BURKE** said that the Special Council Meeting Minutes were accepted as amended with 6 Yes votes.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** began to move to accept the Finance Committee Meeting Minutes of May 7, 2020, but Clmn Vaughn (Finance Committee Chairman) preferred to do so during the next Finance Committee Meeting.

**CLMN BLAKE** announced that School Board Member Millette Tucker had told him that the Garfield Heights High School graduation ceremony would be televised on the District You Tube Channel on June 14, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

#### **REPORT OF THE MAYOR:**

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** began by saying that Garfield Heights would be getting \$1,346,000.00 from the State. He was waiting to receive advice from the State Auditor on how to spend it. He was sure this would help to minimize the debt accrued by the city during the Covid-19 quarantine.

The Federal Government was mailing out Economic Impact Payments in the form of pre-paid debit cards in plain envelopes. Four million people would receive such cards, rather than a check. The recipients may do one of the following with them:

- Purchase anything they like
- Use it in an ATM
- Deposit it into their personal account.

The Government fears that people would mistake the envelopes for junk mail and discard them. Therefore, Mayor Collova asked residents to be careful when sorting through their mail in case they receive one of the debit cards.

Moving along, Mayor Collova complimented Clwn Davis on organizing such a wonderful prayer vigil. It was very well attended and included Judge Deborah Nicastro and many local Police Officers. He felt she had done this to unify the city with the whole country and was very proud of the spirit in Garfield Heights. The Mayor thanked Clwn Davis and all those who attended for making the prayer movement a big success.

Next, the Mayor expressed his sincere thanks to all the members of the Garfield Heights Police Department for their outstanding work. During his 11 years as Mayor, he had only heard of two officers being accused of racial bias and the Department receives 30,000 calls/year.

On that day, Mayor Collova had received three phone calls from residents accusing him of racial bias:

1. The first caller claimed that the grass cutting crew had not mowed her lawn because she was Black.
2. The second caller insisted on having the city mow her lawn for free because she was Black.
3. The final caller claimed that the Building Department secretary, the receptionist and the Mayor's secretary had all been very rude to her. She came to city hall to have a document notarized to enroll her child in school and no one would do it because of racial injustice. Mayor Collova looked into the matter and found that her landlord had never told the Building Department that she lived in his building. Therefore, no one at city hall knew she lived there and could not notarize the document.

Regarding grass cutting, Mayor Collova receives about 15-20 calls per day complaining of high grass in addition to calls from Council Members. Unfortunately, the grass crews are still insufficient. They have completed the whole city once and would begin their second round with Ward 1 this week. The Mayor asked residents to be patient about this.

Getting into legislation, Mayor Collova said that Ordinance 56 amended the posting places. Resolution 15 provided for only one Council Meeting per month during July and August 2020. Resolution 16 urged the Governor and State Legislature to pass legislation limiting the monthly cost of insulin to no more than \$100.00 for Ohio residents.

That was the end of the Mayor's report.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** thanked the Mayor and asked whether anyone had any questions for the Mayor on his report. There were none.

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON THE AGENDA:**

**PRESIDENT BURKE** asked whether anyone on line wished to speak on the agenda.

Tanya Parks, 12511 Service Court, Garfield Heights 44105 posed a question.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** informed her that she ought to ask her question during the second Comments by Citizens part of the meeting. He then asked whether anyone else wished to speak on the evening's agenda. No one did. So he moved on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**ORDINANCE NO. 56-2020**

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 113.01(a), *POSTING PLACES*, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake  
Ordinance 56-2020 passed with 7 Yes votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 15-2020**

A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ONLY ONE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE SECOND MONDAY, DURING THE MONTHS OF JULY AND AUGUST, 2020.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake  
NAYS: Donahue

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake  
NAYS: Donahue

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Dudley, Nenadovich, Davis  
NAYS: Vaughn, Donahue, Blake  
Resolution 15-2020 passed with 4 Yes votes.

**RESOLUTION NO. 16-2020**

A RESOLUTION REQUESTING COUNCIL'S SUPPORT IN URGING GOVERNOR MIKE DEWINE AND THE OHIO STATE LEGISLATURE TO PASS LEGISLATION LIMITING THE MONTHLY COST OF INSULIN TO NO MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100.00) FOR OHIO RESIDENTS.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake  
Resolution 16-2020 passed with 7 Yes votes.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:**

**PRESIDENT BURKE** next asked whether any residents attending the teleconference wished to address Council.

Tanya Parks, 12511 Service Court, Garfield Heights, 44105, a resident since 1972, complained that foliage falling down the hill was clogging her drain, scratching her cars and resulted in two feet of water in her basement. She wanted somebody to clean her drain. She felt as if the 44105 area was treated like Cleveland and her tax dollars were not at work. There are big potholes on Service Court. Water and asphalt run down the hill to her drain, which she has to have cleaned out annually.

**CLMN DUDLEY** said that he had never spoken to Ms. Parks and had been battling with Cleveland concerning the hill for a long time. Garfield Heights cuts the overhang. All of Ward 1

needs resurfacing. He wished that Ms. Parks had called him. Mr. Lewis complains about the hill too.

**MS. PARKS** knows Mr. Lewis. Channel 19 TV has run a story about her. She told Clmn Dudley not to say that he was unaware of her situation.

**CLMN DUDLEY** said that he did not say that he was unaware, adding that Ms. Parks had called the Service Department instead of him. He never saw the story on Channel 19.

**MS. PARKS** did not know whom to call.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** suggested that the two of them try to work together and thanked Ms. Parks.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** asked Ms. Parks what Cleveland told her.

**MS. PARKS** (*inaudible*).

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** said that Clmn Dudley would turn in a request to handle the overhang and have it done. However, Cleveland must take care of the wall behind it.

**MS. PARKS** liked that, but noted that only half of her block had been done.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** promised that Garfield Heights would take care of the other half of her block.

**MS. PARKS** then asked who would see that asphalt no longer goes into her drain.

**CLMN DUDLEY** said that he would call Clmn Bishop.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** thanked Ms. Parks again. He next asked whether any other residents listening to the teleconference wished to address Council.

James Fruits, 13600 York Blvd, thanked everyone who participated in the prayer movement meeting and hoped they would continue. He especially thanked Clwn Davis for organizing it. He wanted residents to continue to seek better understanding and not be afraid in Garfield Heights. He asked Council what they would do to achieve that.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** replied that it was nice to see Mr. Fruits at the meeting. He informed him that he sends the Garfield Heights Police Officers for diversity training. City officers are on top of this and do the right thing 99% of the time. They go to more training sessions than most Police do. He is very pleased with the Garfield Heights Police Department.

**MR. FRUITS** was glad to hear that the Garfield Heights Police Department gets more training than most police departments. He was pleased that Judge Nicastro had pledged to form a committee to review Court practices.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** advised that James Welden had tried to put together a program to organize city businesses. The Mayor intended to hold a Safety Meeting and thought Judge Nicastro might be interested in one. However, he is gathering input before scheduling such a meeting.

**CLMN VAUGHN**, Chairman of the Safety Committee, commented that he was waiting to hear from Ohio before calling a Safety Committee Meeting.

**MR. FRUITS**, a 14-year resident, said he would be willing to help. He wants Garfield Heights to look forward and make people of all colors feel comfortable here.

**CLMN DUDLEY** remarked that no committee meetings could be held at the moment because of social distancing. He had been talking on the phone about meetings.

**MR. FRUITS** proposed holding meetings outdoors and volunteered to bring any audio equipment necessary.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** thanked Mr. Fruits and asked whether any other residents listening to the teleconference wished to speak.

Kimberly Hortson, 4481 Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard, had spoken to Clmn Dudley during the prayer movement. She had never seen such a gathering before and enjoyed it.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** thanked Ms. Hortson.

**CLWN DAVIS** thanked Mr. Fruits and all the community members who attended her prayer movement. She planned to start a connection with the community. She apologized to Mayor Collova for not reaching out to him to invite him until the last minute. She would like to talk over her ideas with him.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** said that that was fine and he had gone to the meeting.

**PRESIDENT BURKE** thanked Clwn Davis and asked whether anyone else listening to the teleconference wished to speak.

Frank Tagliarini, 12404 Darlington Avenue, brought up the fact that many residents fail to put away their rubbish bins within eight hours of the day following pickup. In the past people did that promptly and everyone was happy. That has stopped, perhaps because there are not enough Service Department employees. He requested that Council do something about this.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** replied that now that the Courts are re-opening it would be easier to give out grass cutting and garbage fines, so that problem would be resolved.

**MR. TAGLIARINI** said that people on his street leave their rubbish cans out too long.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA** commented that the neighbors on his street do the same.

**CLMN VAUGHN** moved to adjourn the Meeting, the Chairman seconded and the President said all in favor signify by saying Yea. Anybody opposed? Meeting adjourned.  
AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, Donahue, Nenadovich, Davis, Blake, Burke

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:03 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Matt Burke  
President of Council

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Barbara Molin  
Clerk of Council