

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, March 25, 2019

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

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Michael Dudley, Sr.

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

EXCUSED: Vaughn

PRESIDENT BURKE: At this time, I would like to make a motion to excuse Clmn Vaughn from this evening's Council Meeting. All in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed?

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

PRESIDENT BURKE: Clmn Vaughn will be excused.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT BURKE: Let's move on to our Disposal of the Minutes of our Council Meeting for Monday, March 11, 2019.

CLMN SUSTER: Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: I'd like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Garfield Heights City Council, of Monday, March 11, 2019 as submitted.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Suster to accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Council for the City of Garfield Heights, for Monday, March 11, 2019, as submitted, all in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed?

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

Absent: Vaughn

The Minutes will pass with 6 Yes votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

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

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. Yes, I do have a small report. First up, I do want to remind everyone that this Friday, March 29th is the Viet Nam Veterans' Meeting, right here. It's in honoring all the Viet Nam Veterans. This is a huge event. This is about the 5th or 6th year in a row we've had it. More and more people come. It's really a great place to be. They have a social hour from six to seven. At seven o'clock the program begins. They have unbelievable speakers from not only the United States, but they have speakers from Viet Nam that were supporting at that time the United States troops. It's really an interesting event. Like I said, great speakers. It's really a good place to be. It touches home. It really does. So I would suggest that everybody show if they can. From six to seven social hour and 7:00 p.m. the program starts.

I want to talk a little bit about the rubbish ticket program that we started a few months back. It has decreased somewhat, but surprisingly not as much as I thought. Just to give you an idea, we issued 329 tickets. That's after the warnings. We average about 130 warnings/week. Usually after that first warning they stop, but we still wrote 329 tickets, 213 were received one ticket—one-time offenders, 77 people were two-time offenders, 26 people were three-time offenders, nine people were four-time offenders, three people were five-time offenders and one lucky grand winner has six tickets. This is amazing to me. It really is amazing that they don't learn. These tickets are being issued to them and they're not cheap. They go about \$280.00, right in that range when you talk about the fine and the Court cost. Hopefully this thing will die down a little bit, but we have made quite a bit of progress from the time we were issuing 700 and some warnings in the beginning so we're down to about 130/week. So that's the rubbish tickets.

The other thing I wanted to talk about briefly was I talked about this in my State of the City. I think it's important enough that we talk about it a little bit today or at least I talk about it a little bit today. The way that you can see if in fact, a city is doing well or a city is not doing well, the direction they're going in. The biggest indicator, in my opinion, is the real estate. How is the real estate going in your city? I have some numbers here and these numbers were brought to us by the Northeast Ohio Real Estate Exchange. This is out of the State Realtors' Program. In 2017, the average sale price was \$58,541.00 in the city of Garfield Heights. In 2018 we increased that average by 11%. The average home now is selling at \$64,957.00. The expected year over year increase in value of homes in any community is usually around 3%. We over tripled that. In 2017, the total volume sold was \$28,743,690.00. We increased that total volume sold by 11%, \$3,146,310.00 over the previous year. Over the last five years, in 2013 the average sale price was \$40,427.00. In 2018, we increased that average sale price by 61%. Over the last five years in 2013, the total volume sold was \$14,311,397.00. We have more than doubled that. In 2018, we sold nearly \$32 million, an increase of 123%. Over the last five years, we also cut down more than a month in market time. In 2013, we averaged 133 days collectively that it would take to sell a home in Garfield Heights. In 2018, we cut that average down to 90 days collectively.

These are true numbers. This is not fake news. These are true numbers right from the Realtors' Board. I got to tell you what—the numbers are staggering. It shows us that Garfield Heights is

really on the incline. I'm really happy to see that and I know it's going to continue. We're looking at some brand new homes being built in the Valley Ranch area. So I think real estate wise Garfield Heights is really on the incline. I think following this will be businesses. I surely hope so. So that's good news that I wanted to share with everyone.

With that, I want to move on to today's legislation. Ordinance 18. We're purchasing rock salt for next winter. Resolution 6. We are applying for a fire prevention grant. That includes training and some other miscellaneous items. With that, Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

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

CLMN DUDLEY: It says not FN. I don't repeat that phrase. I call that FN. On the fines being collected from the rubbish. I know Court gets the Court costs. Who gets the fine costs? Do that come back to us at the city or do we give it to the Court?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: We get the fine. There's a \$65.00 Court cost and a \$15.00 service fee because they have to send out registered-certified letters. So it turns out to \$180.00.

CLMN DUDLEY: All right. We do get the fines?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: We do—if they pay it

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENDOVICH: Mayor, on that assessment, when they go to Court and they are deemed that they owe the money, is the fine being forgiven or is the fine being actually assessed?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: It depends on some circumstances and that is up to the Magistrate who handles the cases or the Judge who may be handling them. At some times they may charge \$68.00, \$74.00. It all depends on the circumstances, but if you just call up and waiver the ticket it's \$180.00.

CLMN NENDOVICH: Thank you, Sir.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Does anyone else have any questions for Mayor Collova this evening? If not, we will move on to our Law Director for this evening, Mr. Jeff Jerome. Jeff, do you have a report for us this evening?

STAFF ATTORNEY JEFF JEROME: I do not, Mr. President. Thank you.

FIRE CHIEF KENNETH STROPE: Absent.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Fire Chief Strobe is not here so we will move on to our Police Chief, Chief Robert Byrne. Do you have a report this evening?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE: No report tonight.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY MCLAUGHLIN: Absent.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Absent.

PRESIDENT BURKE: No report from Chief Byrne. We'll move on to our Finance Director, Ms. Barb Biro. Barb, do you have a report for us this evening?

FINANCE DIRECTOR BARB BIRO: Thank you, Mr. President. I have a real short one. We're asking for Council's support this evening for Ordinance 18-2019 in regards to the purchasing of rock salt for the city for the upcoming 2019-20 season. This is allowing us to go into a purchasing agreement and the ODOT will be dealing with the bid process. Hopefully by July or August we will know what the cost of salt is going to be for the next winter season.

In addition, we are asking support for Resolution 06-2019. This particular grant is going to be to assist our Fire Investigation Unit and either purchase supplies, computers and training for our fire inspectors. With that, you have my report, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Ms. Biro. Does anybody have any questions for Mrs. Biro on her report? If there are none, we will move on to our City Engineer, Mr. David Krock. Dave, do you have a report this evening?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: I do. I want to report on Canal Road. We're going to be repaving that this summer in combination with Cuyahoga Heights and Valley View. It's primarily the section between Granger and Warner. The section we have, but it's a little bit from the other communities. The city did receive 50% of the funds from the County for this project. I didn't know if I'd be given a schedule on that or not previously, but it will be done this summer.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Krock. Does anyone have any questions for Mr. Krock on his report? Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Dave, will that be a complete grind down or will it be just a layer put over?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: We're going to grind down the pavement, fix some of the underlying concrete and repave. There's some sections that are concrete now that will probably remain concrete but we'll do some fixing of the panels.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you.

SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSON: Absent.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Is there anyone else that has any questions for Mr. Krock? If there are none we will move on to our Economic Director, Mrs. Noreen Kuban.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to make a couple of comments. I received a couple questions about an article that was in The Plain Dealer about Opportunity Zones. This is a program that was created under the

Federal Tax Code. It's offered to revitalize communities that are in economic distress. It's limited to certain Census tracts and there is qualifying criteria. The way it works is that we have to nominate the district and then it has to be approved by the Governor's office. We do have one opportunity zone that encompasses the area between Transportation Boulevard and Granger Road north of 480. The purpose of this is to incentivize the private sector to invest in an area. In exchange, they get tax benefits for deferring tax benefits. There is no public money involved. The purpose of the program is to get some investments throughout the country.

Second, I just want to mention as we are all working on our houses and looking at projects that we could be working on, don't forget the Cuyahoga County Board of Health has a Lead Abatement Program. Paint that was processed before 1976 has lead in it and that's very harmful to young children. Often you see lead paint or dust from lead paint on doorways, windowsills or porches. Children touch it. They lick their hands and they ingest the lead. So their contact information at the Board of Health is (216) 201 extension 2000. If you have young children at home, it's worth looking into. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Noreen. Does anyone have any questions for Noreen this evening? Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: No. First I want to say the lead program; I know you worked together in the past. That's a great program. People had they windows, they doors they had all of that replaced. So that's a great program.

But on that other program you speak on the investment program, we don't qualify up in Ward 1 up on East 131st for that investment program?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: This is limited to commercial projects, not residential projects. We had to have areas that have significant acreage for development. We were competing with all the communities in the County and throughout the State. There is only about 60 qualified areas within the State.

CLMN DUDLEY: I wasn't talking about the residential. I know that part. We're talking about commercial as on 131st commercial. Or are they talking about commercial on Transportation they talking about because are they looking at acreage or are they just looking at store fronts and stores running down the streets?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: It's primarily focused on new development. That would be the Bridge View, formerly the bridge view site acreage north of 480.

CLMN DUDLEY: All right.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Are there any more questions for Noreen this evening? If there are none, then we will move on to our Building Commissioner Mr. Mark Moro. Mark, do you have a report this evening?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER MARK MORO: No report this evening.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mark. That concludes our reports of the Mayor and Directors. We will move on to communications from citizens on tonight's agenda. Would 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 in the audience tonight wishing to make a comment on any of tonight's legislation?

(Someone in the audience was speaking to the Chairman, but was inaudible.)

PRESIDENT BURKE: Is it on tonight's legislation, Sir? We do have a Miscellaneous Comments by Citizens later on after the agenda. The procedure is you need to speak to either the department involved with your situation or your Councilperson and then you can come up and speak about it. What I could do is get in touch with somebody after the meeting and bring up your issue.

So, let's move on to our Ordinances and Resolutions beginning with Ordinance 18-2019. Will the Clerk please read the title?

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2019

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 2019-2020 SEASON.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

PRESIDENT BURKE: Ordinance 18-2019 passes with 6 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 06-2019

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE AT THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS FIRE DEPARTMENT TO APPLY FOR THE FM GLOBAL FIRE PREVENTION GRANT.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

PRESIDENT BURKE: Resolution 06-2019 passes with 6 Yes votes.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

PRESIDENT BURKE: That concludes our Ordinances and Resolutions for this evening. We will move on now to Miscellaneous Comments by Citizens. Will the Clerk please read the rules.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to his/her Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a city hall department or a Councilperson is made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, the problem may then be presented during Comments from Citizens at a future meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature is presented on the floor at this time. Comments shall be limited to five minutes. No citizen shall be heard more than once.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Is there anybody out there in the audience who would like to make a comment to Council that has already discussed their issue with somebody in the city or with their Councilperson? If there are none, we will move on to our Miscellaneous Business.

CLMN LAMALFA: Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes.

CLMN LAMALFA: Did they? Were they looking for?

PRESIDENT BURKE: Yes. Tonight would have been a first contact.

CLMN LAMALFA: All right.

PRESIDENT BURKE: My recommendation then is that you just talk to somebody after the meeting about your issue and see if we can get that resolved before you. Where do you live?

(Inaudible response from audience member.)

I would talk to Clmn Nenadovich. Will the Clerk please read the Miscellaneous Business rules?

CLERK: This involves the business of Council in the legislative function; any other problems should be directly dealt with by the department involved. This area of the agenda shall be limited to legislative business, Ward business, lack of attention toward problems, etc.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT BURKE: OK. Tonight's Miscellaneous Comments we will start with Clmn Dudley since he had the invocation.

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, and I'm quite sure people watching TV been seeing a lot of conversations and many shows talking about what's going on with human trafficking today. I just wasn't aware how big and how bad it had become. So at Christian Kingdom Assembly, which is located at 12700 Broadway. That's on the corner of 131st and Broadway. They going to have a speaker there going to be addressing some concerns about human trafficking. That will be on May 4, 2019, 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. That's going to be on May 4th from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m. They will have refreshments. That's 12700 Broadway Avenue. They going to be talking about human trafficking. It's all over TV. You take a look. It's sad what they done now to some of their young ladies and even older women. Even young boys has fallen prey to them. So if you have availability to be there I think it would be a good program. I'm planning to attend myself.

Also on Tuesday, April 22, 2019 same location 12700 Broadway, because of a scheduling conflict, that will be the Town Hall Meeting. It will be April 27th, 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. It will be at the Christian Kingdom Assembly, 12700 Broadway. It will be from 6:00 – 7:30 p.m. I'm looking forward to seeing you there. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: One last thing. I do apologize for missing the last meeting. I was under the weather, etc. If you realize the flu that's been going around you get the flu shot. So my apology for not being at that meeting. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Dudley. Mr. LaMalfa, do you have anything you'd like to share?

CLMN LAMALFA: No, I don't have anything tonight. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. LaMalfa. Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, I have a few things. Number I as the Mayor alluded to, on Friday is the Viet Nam Ceremony. It's a very good ceremony. One I would encourage, especially a serviceman to come to that meeting. It's very well presented--the presentation.

It's getting into the good weather and already I'm seeing yards being cleaned. The street is not a catch basin. The leaves should not be out there. You got to pick them up. You got to bag them. Leaf pickup starts at the end of October. You put them on your lawn now they're going to stay there till October unless we have a good wind and they go to your neighbors' yard. That blocks up the streets and the sewers so please start cleaning your yard up, bag it or put it in the big dark green can and it will be collected.

Also when I try to again start a Ward 3 Block Watch. See if there's any interest. If there little bit of interests we're going to combine Mr. Burke's Community Meeting. If there's low interest, we'll see how it goes. If the Ward wants to go into this meeting, we will do that then. We're going to see how it goes. The last time we did this, I had three people that were apparently sent to solve all the problems. So they didn't want to come. We'll see what happens. It will be Monday April 1st, 6:30 p.m. at the Civic Center, Room, 108. I encourage all the Ward 3 people and anybody else that wants to come to come to the meeting. With that, Mr. Burke, you have my comments.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you, Mr. Nenadovich. Mr. Glenn, do you have anything you'd like to add?

CLMN GLENN: No, thank you.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Thank you. I just want to say that our next Council Meeting will be Monday April 8, 2019.

The Viet Nam Veterans' Ceremony on Friday. I regretfully will not be able to make it. My father was a Viet Nam Veteran. His grandson, my son, is gradating from basic training down at Fort Jackson in South Carolina and that's where I'm headed tomorrow morning to attend the graduation ceremony. So I will not be able to make it back for that. I really feel bad because my Dad, like I said, he was a Viet Nam Vet and I have the highest respect for the Viet Nam Veterans.

The Community Awareness Meetings—just want to bring you up to date. My Community Awareness Meeting is combining. We are actually getting bigger. We're having more interest with a lot of residents throughout the entire city of Garfield Heights. So our next meeting will be I believe, April 10, 2019, which is the second Wednesday of the month. We'll be combining with a few other people that have had meetings very similar to it.

The purpose of these meetings is for the residents to be able to come up and ask questions to the Mayor, ask questions to the Police Chief that they may not feel comfortable doing in here while the cameras are rolling. Also it's a great way to get some information for what's going on in the city. I know in the last four and a half years, five years, that I've been hosting this meeting, we've actually resolved some really nice things that came out in the meeting. So I really think the meeting is something that's very beneficial.

I wish it would be a little bit more attended and I welcome any feedback. If there's anybody out there watching and they want to e-mail me and just let me know maybe it's a convenience thing. Maybe they can't come to the meeting because it's too early or runs too late or maybe

you're just simply not interested? I don't know, but it's here for you. We put it on for you—the residents. So I just wanted to remind everybody April 10th will be that meeting. That's all I have. Mr. Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: The only thing I have is I want to thank the Mayor; I want to thank Mark Moro for getting that house on Granger Road cleaned up. I didn't check it this week yet, but I know quite a bit of stuff that was along the side the garage is gone and I want to thank you because it was some big eyesore. A lot of people coming out of Marymount that's what they came out to see, so. That's all I have this evening.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT BURKE: Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

PRESIDENT BURKE: On the motion made by Clmn Nenadovich to adjourn tonight's Council Meeting, all in favor signify by saying Yea. Any opposed? Meeting adjourned.

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

ABSENT: Vaughn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:29 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Matthew Burke
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council