

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, March 26, 2012

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Nancy Marincic.

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Thomas Vaughn

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Reading and disposal of the Minutes from the Monday March 12, 2012 Regular Meeting of Garfield Heights City Council.

CLMN SUSTER: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Garfield Heights City Council dated Monday, March 12, 2012 as submitted.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All against say Nay? The Yeas have it.
AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: This would be a good time to waive the 72-Hour Rule on something, wouldn't it, Mr. Suster?

CLMN SUSTER: Hint, hint. Mme. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we take Ordinance 17 and 18 and waiver the 72-Hour Rule and put it on this evening's agenda.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the motion to take Ordinance 17 and 18 and waive the 72-Hour Rule and place them on the evening's agenda. All in favor say Yea. All opposed say Nay.

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: The Yeas have it. Ordinance 17 and 18 will be placed in order on the regular agenda tonight.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: We will move on to the reports of the Mayor and his Directors. Mayor Collova.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mme. Chairman, thank you. I have a short report tonight. First of all, I would like to welcome a student from Garfield Heights High School. Jackie Prokay is joining us tonight on the panel and will have a report for us shortly. Thank you, Jackie, for being here.

The first thing I want to talk about today is I want to share with you an article that was in The Plain Dealer in case you missed it.

“Cuyahoga County offers scholarships for residents. Residents in Cuyahoga County who are unemployed or who are looking to advance in their careers may soon receive some financial help from the County to assist with their education. Cuyahoga County Councilman Julian Rogers has recommended that \$500,000.00 of required scholarship money go toward workplace development. The scholarships are designed to help County residents obtain post-secondary education including job training programs, vocational school courses and to get residents employed in area industries with the goal of improving the local economy. To be considered for this scholarship program County residents must be at or below 300% of the Federal Poverty Level. For example, a resident from a family of four making \$67,050.00 a year would qualify. Rogers said the program could be ready to go within a month after the Council’s approval and we will keep you notified as this transpires.”

The next thing I wanted to talk about is the Youth Community Services the Juvenile Diversion Program. They gave me a report today of some of the things they have done recently and I want to share it with you. For the first quarter of 2012 thirteen out of fifteen youths completed the program for 336 total hours. There was an 87% completion rate. There were three different groups, nine youths presently are in the program. 336 total hours have been completed making a huge difference in the community. During the summer months outside youths work at the Civic Center, Debelak Park, Fire Station No. 1, Historical Society and the Veterans’ Memorial. In the winter they worked inside. They worked at the Civic Center, Justice Center and Fire Station No. 1. Some of the services provided. They clean the parking lot, pull weeds, pick up debris, sweep walkways, rake leaves, clean inside of buses, vacuum, clean windows, clean the kitchen at the Civic Center, wash tables, shovel snow, wash and wax vehicles. They also were involved in some shredding, some envelope stuffing. They really do a great job. They’re headed up by Vince Liotta and Lenny Piazza. They do a wonderful job and this is a great asset to the community. As long as we have these young juveniles getting into just a little bit of trouble we can use it as an asset, so that’s a good job.

Couple other things I want to talk about is the skateboard park. Recently we went over and inspected the skateboard park and the damage there is unbelievable. What they are doing to that skateboard park is atrocious and we’re looking at anywhere from \$7,000.00 to \$10,000.00 to repair it and the problem with repairing it for \$7,000.00 or \$10,000.00, money which we don’t have and desperately need for other things, is we don’t know how long it will be before they ruin it again. So I want to say that we’re looking into our options right now but for all of those who may be watching on TV or anybody in the audience right here, if you know of anybody that uses that skateboard park it is a skateboard park. It is not for bicycles. Bicycles are causing the damage. When one of those pieces of material that looks like slate (I don’t know what they call it) they are so expensive and these kids are just destroying it. So I don’t know if we are going to be able to repair this or not. Mr. Dobies has been getting some different quotes. We may be able to repair part of it. Maybe not some of the other parts. I’m just telling you one last time. It was closed once before. If it closes this time it will not open back up. So please cooperate with us. That’s a place we want the kids to be able to go places. We want them to be able to have things to do but they got to respect it a little better.

Also I want you to know that the skate park where we went over there the other day I guess it's being kids that do this, but we have about four rubbish cans in those cement block enclosures. They were completely empty. What they did is they kicked in the ramps and filled it all with their garbage. Was totally filled with garbage. There wasn't a thing in the garbage cans. So the Juvenile Diversion Program yesterday or the day before went in there and totally cleaned it all out. It's perfect. Tomorrow the Service garage will be there to try to put the boards up again where the holes were but this is lot of time that our guys are putting in. They should be out there patching streets. We got them fixing holes in the ramp. Again let's try and take better care of it.

The last thing I have is today the library opened at its new temporary location at 5400 Transportation Blvd. I understand that obviously Noreen was there. They must have been able to find it OK because it was jammed. It was packed. That's great. So if you get an opportunity, take a ride over and look at the library at 5400 Transportation Blvd.

I'm going to get into tonight's resolutions and ordinances, Ordinance 15-2012. This is an effort to promote business. We would like to allow businesses to use A-frame signs outside their locations. This has been prohibited in Garfield Heights for a long time. Many businesses have come to the Mayor's office and talked to Council about asking for ways to advertise because some of the stores are pushed back in. You can't see them. Businesses are having trouble right now like everybody else is with the economy. We think this is a good idea to help promote business for the businesses. There will be a very strict code on what size sign, what sign and how it looks. It has to be professionally done. It can't be a couple pieces of cardboard hanging but we think this is a good effort and we think it's a good thing for the city and the businesses. Ordinance 16-2012 is an ordinance to vacate a portion of the street known as Andover Blvd. This isn't any of the three Andovers that we are regularly seeing. This is the Andover when the city hall was first put in when the Civic Center was first put in there was actually a street dedicated that was Andover. Although we don't use it. You can't see a sign. Bill could get into it a lot better. Because of the library coming in to this new location we need to vacate that portion of the road so we're doing something that we legally have to but in most cases nobody ever even knew that this was in fact Andover including Joe Suster who asked me where that was today. And I knew where it was, Joe. Ordinance 17-2012. We're applying for a CDBG Grant. This is a grant we applied for about a month ago. We made some changes in it and we're reapplying.

Resolution 13-2012. This is a resolution proclaiming the month of May each year as Multiple Chemical Sensitivity Awareness Month in Cuyahoga County. Basically the County has asked us to do this. They're asking all municipalities to do it to promote the awareness of the potential dangers of some of the common chemicals that are out there. Many people suffer from this. There's not a whole lot known about it so we're going to at least let people know more about it and be a little bit more aware of it. With that said, Mme. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Mayor. Any questions or comments for the Mayor on his report?

CLMN SUSTER: Yes. Mayor, if I recall several years ago we put about \$20,000.00 into that skate park because they set it on fire. At that time it was closed. We said if we ever got to the point where again we'd have to put in major repairs, we'd never open it again. We've had many meetings with the kids that say they use it and we've asked them that if they see things that go on there that shouldn't be that it should be reported. I guess they are not reporting it and all this damage has been done. If we take the attitude that we should just go ahead and close it it's not

going to be anybody's fault but theirs. Because the city cannot continue not that we don't want it. Everybody says that we need recreation for the kids which is true and I agree with that but they also have to be responsible and police the areas that we have recreation for them. If they see something wrong I don't see what's so bad about calling and telling something that has happened there or who's doing it so that we can eliminate those people out of there so that they can enjoy this, because I know a lot of kids like to skateboard. Not me, anymore, but I don't know if we were to pay a lot of money for this if I would be in favor of it now or not.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Joe, what we're going to do is Mr. Dobies is going to get those pieces. We're looking at some sufficient ways to try to make it less expensive. At that point in time we'll bring it to Council and let Council make that decision. The only thing the sad part of this is it's the same old story. It's just a few that ruin it for the majority. I know the majority of those skateboarders love that. They look forward to it every day. It gives them something to do. There are always those few that want to make it bad for everybody and that's what we have to put up with.

CLMN SUSTER: The other thing, if I recall didn't we have cameras over there?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Those cameras are inoperable.

CLMN SUSTER: That's exactly what I'm talking about because I know I had talked to Bob once and it was a lot of money and the kids busted those cameras. That's all I have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Skateboard? You used to skateboard, Mr. Suster?

CLMN SUSTER: Yeah.

CLMN DUDLEY: I did want to mention one thing, Mayor and I'm happy that I get to chair the Recreation Committee this year and I think that we really have to revisit how we are setting up recreational programs for our kids this year versus previous years. Not that we have the money to do a million and one things, but I think we got to go back and we got to look and consider probably making some changes because the way it's sitting now I don't really think it fulfils. It's not really fulfilling the needs of the youth because when we look at some of the programs we do provide there's nothing wrong that we get a hundred and some kids but I'm looking at the other 4,000, 5,000 children that we are not attracting into these programs. So I wanted to mention that maybe we go back to take a second look at some things and that's all I have, Mme. Chairman.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Anyone else with questions for the Mayor? There being none, our regular Law Director is not here and sitting in we have Kevin Weiler. Do you have a report this evening?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: Thank you, Mme. President, I do not.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any questions for the Assistant Law Director? There being none we'll move on to Police Chief Robert Sackett. Do you have a report tonight?

POLICE CHIEF SACKETT: I do not. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any questions for the Police Chief this evening? There being none, we will move on to Service Director, Tim McLaughlin. I know you have a report.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mme. President. The last couple weeks of great weather we tried to really get things out of the way so that when we finally get hot patch we can get right into the streets. We've had the sweeper out and the second sweeper's probably going to go out tomorrow. The first sweep of the year is always so heavy with everything in the curbs, etc. but the second sweeper needed some repairs and we got those done. Hopefully we'll get the second one out tomorrow and see if we can back up the whole city for a first time through.

We are still cold patching. I'm trying to limit that to large holes and I got calls they went down the street and didn't do every hole but at \$100.00 a ton which is over half what it usually costs for hot patch I try to limit that. I don't want Mr. Tomola chasing me down the street. We tried to start fixing some of the street repairs for the water breaks but we've been doing the ones that are concrete only because we don't have the hot patch. We've got about eight or ten of those going and I don't know how many more we got to start doing them with the hot patch. The asphalt plants won't give us an exact time. They're saying that within the second week of April they're hoping to be open. Wait and see what happens. The Court Community Service, also run by Vince Liotta and Lenny Piazza, again they had the crews working out here and they picked up 44 bags of rubbish on various main streets in Garfield Heights: Warner Road, Rockside, Antenucci. Sometimes we could pick up those streets everyday with stuff that gets thrown out of cars, etc. I also want to tell you in the three months time they picked up 174 bags of rubbish around our streets just in a three month period. It's another great program. We've had it for a lot of years and it does help us out.

Starting on April 1st we'll go back to rubbish cannot be put out until 6 p.m. We're having some problems with that. Last weekend I had to call the Police Department for people that they didn't think that my foreman handled things right. They closed the door in his face but when the officer showed up the materials left the lawn and were in the back yard very quickly. Just something that we're working on. It's not perfect. Chief's had auxiliary out but we've still get some of the things going on. It's 6 p.m. the night before your scheduled pickup and no later than 7 a.m. in the morning.

The Hazardous Waste Roundup, I gave you guys all a copy of that release. That will be April 16th till April 20th, Monday thorough Friday, 7:30 to 3:00. The second week April 23rd through April 27th same thing and on April 28th we'll be open for half a day on Saturday. Oil-based paints, pesticides, batteries, antifreeze, household products, motor oil. We do not want latex paint except for the Chief wants some white latex paint because he's using it to paint the jails and he's short. We can use white latex paint but other latex paints can be disposed of in the regular rubbish.

The last thing that I have is I don't know if you saw it in the paper the Attorney General of the State of Ohio is going after the two salt companies for collusion. I don't know how that's going to work out. It says for the past decade we've been buying from the State for that long so I hear it was \$50 million what he was looking for but I don't know how much or what we would get back from it for our participation in the State bid but I got one of the releases from the Service Directors' Association so that I was aware of what was going on but it was in the newspaper so possibly in the long run we may get some money back from the purchase of salt. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Questions for the Service Director? Mr. Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: The Mayor could tell me where Andover Blvd. was but he couldn't answer this question so I figure I have to ask you. The street lights inside of Garfield Park. Who's responsibility is that?

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I know the answer to that.

CLMN SUSTER: You do?

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Yes.

CLMN SUSTER: Well I'm asking him.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Garfield Park.

CLMN SUSTER: OK. Thank you.

CLMN DUDLEY: Mme. Chairman, a quick question. Was that on the first Monday of April we're going to go back to 6 p.m.? Correct?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: What are we going to do about notifying the people to get the word out quick enough that this change is coming? Because a lot of people have the cable station and watch it and we put it up on the bulletins, some people see it, some don't. What are we going to do to try to get the word out quick to them?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Only thing I can do is put it in the Neighborhood News and on the scroll on TV. There's no other avenues that I have. The Website.

CLMN DUDLEY: Like I say the Neighborhood News is not really affluent in every community and a lot of people are not getting the word quick enough so we're probably going to be giving quite a few warnings before we actually start tapping something on to that, correct?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Good enough. Thank you.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: This is the first time we're going through this. it was always 6 o'clock and then got changed to 4 for the winter time but this is the first time we're approaching this so we'll try to deal with it as lenient as we can until everybody gets into the flow. I'll make sure the avenues that we have will be up. I can't go house to house.

CLMN DUDLEY: All right. Appreciate that.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Does that answer your question, Mr. Dudley?

CLMN DUDLEY: That's the best we can do right now.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Any other questions for the Service Director? There being none we'll move on to Recreation Director Bob Dobies.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Mme. President, Council Members, good evening. Thank you. The last day for t-ball signups will be March 31st. Extended office hours will accommodate the last week Tuesday from 10:00 a.m. till 6:30, Wednesday from 8 a.m. till 8 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. till 6:30, Friday 8 a.m. till 9 and Saturday the 31st from 10 a.m. till 3. Girls' softball signups continue. This month it will run through April 20th. Not too late to sign up for the Spring Fitness Sessions. They begin tomorrow for the 10 week session. I'd like to remind all in attendance the Annual Ice Show will be held April 14th at 7 p.m. and Sunday April 15th at 2:30. This year's theme will be Adventures at Sea 2012 which features all of our figure skaters displaying their talent and gracefulness for all the hard work they put in this season. Mark your calendars and come out and join our children. Advance tickets are available as of tomorrow. Also if your party wishes to purchase a table for your group they are also available. If you need any information on those programs please call the Rec Office or visit our Website.

Some good news. I hope everybody read the Neighborhood News last Wednesday. Front page. Garfield hockey teams? Very happy to report our Garfield Heights Munny Hockey Teams traveled to the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana (beautiful place) to participate in the 2012 South Bend Cup Hockey Tournament. Our Bantam and Peewee teams went undefeated and came home with the gold. Our (*inaudible*) and (*inaudible*) teams both placed in their respective divisions. I'd like to congratulate our players and coaches for representing Garfield Heights in such a positive fashion. I'd also like to thank my Commissioner Mr. Doug Cimperman and Booster President Mike Aceito for the jobs that they have done all season.

Next I would proudly like to share a response letter I received on one of my employees, Mr. Ken Dillon from Mr. Kirk Carmen who represents and conducts CPL Certified Pool Operators classes for the Ohio Aquatic Council of Columbus, Ohio. He sent me this on March 18th.

"Mr. Dobies:

The sole purpose of this letter is to commend the recent performance of Kenneth Dillon in the National Swimming Pool Foundation's Certified Pool Spa Operators Course offered in Cleveland, Ohio by the Ohio Aquatic Council. Kenneth scored a perfect score on the course examination. This score ranks in the top half percent of all sports participants and is a clear indication that the health and safety of your patrons and guests are in very capable hands. I believe an effort to provide our citizens the best service and a healthy safe environment that this training is imperative and I have done this since I've been in office as to sending an alternate employee on an alternate year so everybody's trained in the same fashion. We continue to do the best we can. Thank you, Ken, for a job well done."

Last, I'm a little lengthy here this evening, with the warm weather impacting us these last couple of weeks I'm sure many of you have been out to do yard work. Yes, the grass is growing. I just want to go over a few things before some of our concerned residents begin making phone calls about the city vacant lots and homes. The grass cutting program is still in effect and has truly been a worthwhile program. There were a few changes during the last few months of last season as to how we handle regular routes and incidental call-ins. I just wanted to review that with you. I can tell you that when the total scheduling of crews came to my office it was in part done by somebody else before I tracked the last month and a half as to what work was given out versus what was cut by our crews versus what residents cut and what was needed to be (*inaudible*). I'm happy to report that out of 800 or so properties listed 73% on average of the whole community are being cut or maintained in some way by the owner. Our crews are cutting

27%. If we compare that to (the first year the Mayor initiated the program) it was truly the other way around, if not higher.

This is how the system works. The lists are (*inaudible*) by the Building Department for work to be done. The Building Department with the help from the Law Department will post the properties via public means either by newspaper or via individual letters to the properties concerned. This is in the works as we speak. Those properties have to be posted for 48 hours. 48 hours, OK? before any work can commence. My department then creates daily routes which normally can be created in a particular Ward for the amount of time determined to complete that Ward. We then move on to the next Ward when finished. Let me emphasize there are no particular days for any particular Ward. We basically go out and where most work is needed first then develop the next route by the remainder of the work to be done. We then turn over the completed properties to the Building Department, confirm the cuts, update the vacant house lot bank list of coming cuts, then go to Finance for billing, processing and then the process repeats itself. I would ask all and remind all our concerned citizens that we too observe properties on a daily basis from all the departments. I'm not only talking Recreation, I'm talking Building, Service, Police Department, the Council people. We always have work in progress. Always doing tasks besides grass. We do ball fields, pool maintenance, ice maintenance till April, etc. throughout the city and may not be able to take care of a concern that is called in at that point in time. This is done with two full time maintenance employees in my department. One less than last year. And a part-time grass crew that only works six hours a day, depending on weather. Sometimes one would believe that all should stop take care of the reported issue and then go on and do what you have to do for your scheduled day. Well that throws a wrench into things sometimes unfortunately because we have all the other things to do. Many of those concerns have been taken care of in a matter of hours when they are called in. We also try to coordinate with the work that is going on for the day by possibly doing a property first thing. In other words I'll coordinate if I get a call the very next morning that crew will go out and attack that property that was in question and then go on and do their route, allowing the rest of the schedule to go ahead normally in a normal fashion. I would ask if you do have a concern, do please call, but be patient and those concerns should be remedied within a couple of days. The need to come to a Council Meeting and report grasses usually is not necessary. A phone call will do it. Thank you. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any questions for the Recreation Director?

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Dobies, when do you plan on starting?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: We've started. I've got calls already. Basically we are working on city properties at this point in time. There are no residential properties because we are still under process of posting notifications before they can be cut.

CLMN VAUGHN: How many people are you hiring for the summer crew?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: I'm still debating yet. I got responses. I send out letters every year to former employees working here if they are still in interest. I want to probably maintain (I've talked to the Mayor) three crews, so that's six people.

CLMN VAUGHN: A lot of the college kids won't be back till the middle of May?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: That's the other side but thank you. End of April beginning of May and then so we have to wait for them to come in so basically I

have one crew working at this point in time because of the weather breaking and we try to just get ahead on the city properties so we don't fall behind there but basically that's what happens with the college kids that we do use. Some very good people come in and helped us the last couple years making some extra money for themselves going to school but their time is limited too.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Is that all you have Clmn? I really have a comment that I agree with you because I think in Ward 2 compared to four years ago the complaints have cut down 20% to 30% so the program is sending a message.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Yes, I think sometimes, Mme President, it's how people measure. If they go out and cut their lawn and all of a sudden the grass next door gets to four inches or five. I've done it a couple times because I've been busy during the week and have not cut my grass till the end of the week or the weekend. I think we try to be reasonable when we go out and we create these routes. They know when we stay in one area, say we do Ward 2? I condense those routes to maybe 65 or 100 properties. They are going up and down those streets. The people are seeing the trucks there they know they'd be at risk if they don't cut and that has forced a lot of people out because my crews come back and tell me we went down one street and coming back the other way and they are out there cutting so it enhances that part and people are taking care of the property. That's a good thing. Truly I tracked it for that last month and a half and you can see in every Ward the responsibility of the homeowners have come to be. I think that's what we need. There are 27% to 30% that are not doing it. We will cut it for them gladly.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I know it's a group effort between the Building Department and your department and even the Service Department to some extent and I really appreciate it. The program is a success in my opinion.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Thank you.

CLMN DUDLEY: I just noticed that you said that you bring basically the same people back every year. That's fine to a certain point but we utilize the same people then we are cheating other people out of the opportunity of becoming part time employees.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Who are we cheating, Clmn?

CLMN DUDLEY: You say you continue to bring the same people back but I don't never hear about any posting for the position. Maybe I'm missing it or something?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: I've followed procedure since I came into the office as it was done in the past. There's a courtesy letter that goes out to past employees to see if they are interested. If they've proved themselves why wouldn't they get a job again?

CLMN DUDLEY: It ain't a matter of they getting a job. I believe everybody in the city should have the same opportunity to apply for that position.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Anybody can put in an application.

CLMN DUDLEY: I am not even made aware of that position was open and available at this point and others aren't neither. That's all I have, Mme. Chairman.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: Absent

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any more questions for our Recreation Director? There being none, our City Engineer is not here tonight so. Mr. Tomola, I think you should be worried because I think since Mr. McLaughlin lost all this weight he could run circles around you.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: I ain't going to try and chase him nowhere.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Do you have a report tonight?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Yes, I do. A couple of things. I'd like to report to Council that over the past month I've been working with our bond counsel and underwriters in regards to a surveillance updating of Moody's Rating for the city. We had a conference call with Moody's on the 15th. I had a couple subsequent follow up calls with Moody's the rating agency. Since then I have given them some updated information. I can tell you now that as of Friday the report was released by Moody's and the city's bond underlying bond rating for outstanding debt which was BAA1 back in November, the last time we went to the market, was reaffirmed by Moody's. So they left it the same; didn't upgrade us; didn't downgrade us; just left us where we were. So that's a good thing for the city.

Out of the information I had supplied them, one of the interesting things I found that I think you will find interesting too. If you remember we had a \$456,000.00 increase in the city income tax in 2011. They asked me what made up that increase so I got with R.I.T.A. and we put some information together and we were able to determine that \$247,000.00 of the increase came from increased withholding taxes from the city's largest employers. The remaining \$208,000.00 was due to the ongoing construction at Marymount, Overdrive, other projects that were going on. So the good thing there is it shows the stability of the city's tax base of the largest employers. There again that's another good thing.

The other thing I wanted to bring up to Council I'm sure you are all aware of it. The last paper invoice for the rubbish collection fees went out last week. I know quite a few of you got a lot of calls about it. So have we. That is the last invoice that they will receive from the Finance Department. It was for the period October through December 2011. It should have probably gone out a while back but we decided to hold that bill off and let people recoup a little bit from the 2012 charges that were placed on the tax duplicate that were due in January. So that's why that bill came out a little late and why it just went out last week. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I got one complaint. It was from my husband, but I set him straight.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: I'm sure you did.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Mr. Tomola, very quickly, can you tell us what our bonded indebtedness is compared to a few years ago? Is it going down?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Yes, it is going down. Our total outstanding long term debt--the bonds--is at \$29.8 million. It's down.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: It's down. Any questions for our Finance Director? There being none, we'll move on to Noreen Kuban. Do you have a report this evening?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, I do, Mme. Chairman. I am referring to Ordinance 17-2012. That is for the CDBG application this year, which is to update our Master Plan. Our Master Plan has not been updated since 1999. It's to apply for \$30,000.00 in funds with no city contribution. Also Ordinance 18-2012 essentially replaces Ordinance 17-2012 which was passed at the last Council meeting and it limits the application to plumbing repairs on the first floor of the Justice Center, which is basically just the Police Department. We were unable to apply for the roof repairs at the Justice Center.

We applied for and also received a grant for recycling. I think two months ago we applied for the recycling grant and Pat Salemi will be working with the Garfield Heights Schools and the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center and she will be producing a commercial that we'll be able to place on our cable channel. That will be taking place probably in the next month. Probably will be ready by May.

I just wanted to point out an activity that's going on in April. It's the Earth Fest 2012 and that is on April 22nd which is at the Cleveland MetroParks Zoo. I have a little postcard. They also have a six month not a six month but a six mile walk that is associated with this. If you want to go on a six month walk you are welcome to, though. So if you want to take this information or pass it down to other people in the city I have the forms here and the postcards here as well. I'll be putting these at the front desk if anyone else wants them. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any other questions for our Economic Development Director? There being none, we will move on to Bill Wervey, Building Commissioner.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Good evening, Mme. President. I just have a couple things. I'd like to urge passage of Ordinances 15 and 16. Our vacancy count is at about 850 right now and there's about 590 houses in some stage of foreclosure right at the present time.

Ron, you'll be happy to hear that for all intensive purposes the surgery center at Marymount is complete. Now they have to renovate the inside that they are moving out of and that's going to be at least another year. Those of you that had any houses demolished in your Wards over the winter the non-growing months we are still holding security deposits on I think eight of the demolitions and we won't return any of those until the lots are seeded and graded and ruts gone, etc. to our satisfaction. I think that's all I have this evening.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Any questions for the Building Commissioner? There being none.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Noreen has one thing we'd like to add here. We're having a Foreclosure Seminar on ways to deal with that on Saturday March 31st from 9 to 12. That's all she had.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Now we will move on to our school representative, Jackie Prokay. You have a report this evening?

Jacqueline Prokay. Yes, I do. Good evening, Mr. Mayor, Council Members and residents. My name is Jacqueline Prokay. I am a senior at Garfield Heights High School. In the fall I will be

attending Ashland University for nursing. I would first like to thank the residents of Garfield Heights for supporting the school tax levy, Issue 10, which was successfully voted on earlier this month. With these added funds our school is going to be able to continue to offer high quality education to the youth of our city.

Our varsity basketball team had another successful season this year earning their fifth NOC division title but ended their post-season early with a loss to Shaker Heights in the district finals. They ended their season 17-5 and ranked 20th in the State.

On March 16th the high school concert band performed for judges in the OMEA Large Group District Competition in Mentor receiving excellent scores for both their performances. Our Music Express show choir traveled to Music and More Show Choir Competition this past weekend and placed first runner-up in their class and 3rd overall in the competition. Last month's Council representative, Tim Wright, earned his 10th Outstanding Individual Performer award and for doing this he will be placed in the school hall of fame. This Thursday the high school choirs and marching band will be traveling to Orlando, Florida for the Festival Disney Competition in the Magic Music Days Performance Program. This trip takes four years to plan and fundraise for and all the students are excited for the opportunity to perform for the world.

The spring is always a busy month for our Performing Arts Center. All of our district choirs and bands will be presenting their spring concerts and the high school theater department will be presenting several performances of the musical "Grease". The production will run from April 20th through May 5th. I encourage everybody to stop in for one of these performances to see all of our talented students. Finally, SOS is putting on our annual Dance Marathon next Thursday. This marathon raises money for the Kylie Jane Long Foundation and all the donations from the students who participate in the marathon will be going to the organization. SOS is also doing a curbside cleanup next month. They will be cleaning up the outside of two local nursing homes. Mr. Mayor, that completes my report. I thank you for inviting me.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Questions for our school representative this evening? There being none, that concludes the reports of the Mayor and his Directors and our school representative and now we will move on to Comments by Citizens on the evening's agenda. I'm going to have our Clerk read the rules.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments are strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to the legislation on the current evening's agenda.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I guess, Mr. Lamalfa, you are going to be the first one. Please give your name and address fro the Clerk.

Joe Lamalfa, 13205 Silver Road. I want to ask the Mayor about Ordinance 15-2012. I think this is one time I agree with Nancy that it's hazardous for them to be on the sidewalk when people are walking. I know myself bumps into them all the time when they're out there and I think you should not allow them to put the portable signs on the sidewalk. Find some other way for them to advertise their business. Maybe extend the sign to the building? You know? That's about it.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Actually the Council has met with the Administration and came up with quite a few different variables on how the signs could be used, where they should be placed. We will not allow them to block the sidewalks. We will keep that. We will want to make sure people in wheelchairs can get around them. We're going to keep them as close to the

businesses as we can but by the same token we want them to be visible. We need the businesses to be able to advertise. This isn't something that Garfield Heights does. You see it in Independence; you see it in Brecksville. These communities use these A-frame signs. This is what communities do for the businesses and we want to follow suit but we went to make sure it's done under our Code and under our restrictions.

MR. LAMALFA: So like Turneytown or Garfield Mall they are able to put them all the way out on to the sidewalk?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: No. They are just going to be able to put them in front of their location.

MR. LAMALFA: OK. In other words right where their store is?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Correct.

MR. LAMALFA: All right then. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: You're welcome.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: So the general public knows, Council did discuss this and one of the major concerns I had was keeping them (*inaudible*) because I, myself, I know I'll trip over them and I didn't want anybody else to either so they have to be kept a certain length away from the building and there has to be at least five feet of space, isn't it, Mr. Wervey?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I believe they've got to maintain a minimum of five feet of clear sidewalk. They cannot be in the right of way. They cannot be in the city's right of way. I believe they need to be within 10 feet of the door, which would address Mr. Lamalfa's concern about them being out on the street in Turneytown and Garfield Mall.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: That was one of our concerns. Anyone else wishing to speak tonight?

Bob Halan, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. What I'm about to ask is about this chemical sensitivity awareness. I brought this up some time ago about the light bulbs is a hazard and I understand you are going to be collecting anything hazardous at the Service Department, right? OK. This chemical sensitivity I consider a big hazard with the curlicue light bulbs which has mercury vapor in it. People do not understand that it is a hazard. It's poisonous gas in it. You inhale it. Mercury vapor is a carcinogen. It can cause cancer if breathed in or touched. These bulbs are what has been recommended by the Federal Government. I oppose it. I asked Mr. Kucinich to speak on our behalf. He has yet to do so in Federal Congress, but I again approach the city since they are having this chemical awareness sensitivity bring that to his attention again. Thank you.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you very much. Anyone else wishing to speak tonight? There being none we will move on to Ordinances and Resolutions. First is Ordinance 15-2012. I'm going to have the Clerk read the title.

ORDINANCE NO. 15-2012

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1140.23 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS ALLOWING FOR THE PLACEMENT OF PROPERLY CONFORMING PORTABLE SIGNS.

MOVED BY NENADOVICH TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN VAUGHN: Before I vote, we brought this up about 18 months ago and I was in favor of it at that time. I think it's really important that we help out the businesses in this community to take some of the burden away from the homeowners and let these small businesses thrive in our community and it will help us all out so with that, I will definitely vote Yes on this one.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I wanted to mention that when you think about some of the businesses like on the main streets of Turney Road and also on East 131st when you drive down the street the way the signs are made to the building you don't know what business is there until you already drive by and a lot of people won't stop and turn around. I did agree that we didn't want them blocking. I'm glad that issue was addressed when Nancy brought that up, but at the same time like Clmn Vaughn had said Tom that we have to do something to help these businesses too. So I think the signs are going to be great because now when you drive down and you see something you want you'll probably stop in Garfield and you'll spend more money and that's what we want you to do. With that, I vote Yes.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I, too, think this is a great idea. I know it's going to help our Building Department because now they have some rules laid down and when someone puts up a sign that is not appropriate and does not fit into our Code they can go out there and cite them for it. I really feel this is going to be an asset to our business owners. I've driven through places like Coventry and Independence. I see them and if they are kept in line with these Codes the building owners it really ups their business so I am happy (*inaudible*) and I vote Yes.

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT MARINCIC:

Ordinance 15-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2012

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO VACATE A PORTION OF THE STREET KNOWN AS ANDOVER BOULEVARD GENERALLY DESCRIBED AS BEING LOCATED ON THE NORTH BOUNDARY OF PERMANENT PARCEL NO. 545-14-023.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC:

Ordinance 16-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2012

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS TO UPDATE THE 1999 GARFIELD HEIGHTS MASTER PLAN WHICH PROVIDES FOR THE INTEGRATION OF THE PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE CITY THEREWITH.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC:

Ordinance 17-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 18-2012 (AMENDED)

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO APPLY FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CDBG) FUNDS AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF CUYAHOGA DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF IMPROVING THE RAYMOND A. STACHEWICZ JUSTICE CENTER IN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC:

Ordinance 18-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 13-2012

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF MAY OF EACH YEAR AS MULTIPLE CHEMICAL SENSITIVITY AWARENESS MONTH IN CUYAHOGA COUNTY.

MOVED BY SUSTER TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

CLMN SUSTER: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make an amendment to the title. I would like to exclude the second word, *emergency*. That should be taken out entirely.

Motion to AMEND title of Resolution 13-2012:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clmn Suster.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC:

Resolution 13-2012 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: That concludes Ordinances and Resolutions on the evening's agenda. Now we will move on to Miscellaneous Comments by Citizens and I will have the Clerk read the rules.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to their City Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a department or a Councilperson has been made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, then the problem may be presented during comments from citizens at this meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature be presented on the floor at this time.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Comments are limited to five minutes and no citizen may speak twice. This is your chance, Mrs. Piazza. Come up, take the microphone, spell your last name.

Chris Piazza, 11004 Brunswick Avenue. I'm here to promote a new idea and to solicit your help. I've been told that I'm good at drawing others into having them freely giving their time and talents, so I'm hoping that some of you will be drawn in to this idea as well. The idea is called the "Green Up Project". It's a plan to improve, revitalize and maintain a number of public areas in the City. It's a total volunteer plan and best of all there's no cost to the city. We will need donations from community and we'll also probably end up having a fundraiser to purchase the needed supplies like plants and mulch. Details of that will follow as well as probably solicitation letters too. For this year, these specific areas will be the focus of our attention. They include the Clock Tower area at Turney Road, the grounds and flower bed at the Civic Center, the two Veterans' Memorials, the Safety Forces Memorial in front of the Civic Center and Tonsing Island which is at the corner of Turney and Tonsing.

Approximately 25 volunteers will be needed to carry out this plan but certainly any more helpful hands will not be turned away. Volunteers will be involved with planting and mulching and

maintaining an area throughout the summer. Maintenance will include weeding, watering plants and flowers and picking up trash in that area as needed. Your donated time is very flexible. You work at your own pace. You work in your own time frame and you use your own tools.

I'm hoping that you are as excited as I am about this project. This is the one little step that we can do in helping to improve the image of Garfield Heights. This opportunity is being extended to all residents, to organizations and businesses of the city. That's my pitch. I'm asking that all of you please take a look at the sign up sheets which are by Noreen's spot right there. You can sign up for an area that you might be interested in helping with and I also want to mention that part of this program was really started on a very small scale last year with some of the plantings done around the Civic Center building. I was doing that as well as Mary Ryan and we are very happy to report that the things that we did transplant last year that looked a little iffy they are coming up again so the program's off the ground so basically what we want to do is expand it and we need your help. That's it.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Anyone else wishing to speak tonight? You don't have to spell your name again, Mr. Lamalfa.

Joe Lamalfa, 13205 Silver Road. I got a question for our Assistant Law Director. When you signed off on the gambling at the Knights of Columbus Hall, did you take into consideration the fact that it's 200 yards from a day care, a school and it's right next door to a nursing home? Or did you just sign off because you just bought the whole story about them? The second part of that do you have a financial commitment in that gambling house?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: Mme. Chairman, first of all, addressing the first part of your question, I am not sure what you mean by signing off. I provided some opinion work under the instructions of the Law Director to the proposed project to establish this particular program and whatever the opinion is it speaks for itself and I stand by the opinion. It's a project that is doable legally so long as the guidelines of the Attorney General are followed and the guidelines in the letter. Now, as far as the daycare is concerned I am not sure whether that issue came up at the particular time. I don't know that it even is an issue. If it is an issue and anybody thinks it's an issue of my clients, who are basically the Mayor and the Members of Council or the Department heads of this town, you know if they address that issue to me then I would look at it.

Addressing the second part of your question and I am not 100% sure what you are asking, if you are saying do I have an interest in it, the answer is no. I never did. I wouldn't have an interest in anything like that.

MR. LAMALFA: So when you looked at the law it's completely legal to have that gambling house there?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: The issue in the opinion work that I did was that there was a proposed agreement to operate what is known as a charity poker program and in order to conform with the law (and a couple of other municipalities have done this) the people who wanted to operate this project within the confines of the law had to have a venue and the only way that you can get the venue is either you have to be using your own venue if you are a charitable organization or I believe it's a fraternal organization or the government so what they wanted to do was basically establish this so that they could have a legal basis to have a proper venue. Based upon the facts as they were given to me, as how the project would run we approved the concept of having the venue. I might add, so does the Attorney General. The

Attorney General has a memorandum out on the thing and they agree with that as well. That's the work that I did. You have to be very careful about these legal things because it depends on the question that's asked. See, what you are really asking me is what is known as a compound question, which is you are saying when you "signed off". Well, I'm not 100% sure what you mean by "signed off"? But if that's what you mean the letter speaks for itself. I signed off, I continue to sign off; whatever that letter says, I stand behind it.

MR. LAMALFA: Would some people consider that a legal loophole? The way you had to rent the thing to the city, a for profit organization had to rent it back, you know?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: I don't know what some people would consider? First of all I don't know who some people are. There's a whole lot of some people out there, OK? I'm not privy to the way that they think about things any more than anybody else is so I suppose that's a matter of opinion as well. If you consider it a legal loophole you are certainly entitled to your opinion, but once again, you know, the letter stands behind it, OK?

MR. LAMALFA: I thank you very much.

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: You're welcome

MR. LAMALFA: Mayor, I want to apologize to you that I'm going around telling everybody that we have a ghost employee, but now I actually see him working so I can't say anything anymore. Accept my apology, Sir.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I certainly accept your apology. Once again you were wrong but I'm glad you've moved on.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Mr. Weiler, would you look into the fact that it's that close to a daycare for me and let me know if that follows the letter of the law?

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Anyone else wishing to speak tonight?

Leonard Leone, 11301 Briarcliff Drive. Good evening, Mme. President, Members of Council. Mayor, I'd like to hope that your brother-in-law Mr. Donovan is doing well. Your wife's brother. I understand he had a heart operation so please let the family know that I am concerned and hope he's doing well.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Lenny. He is, he's doing very well, thanks.

MR. LEONE: Thank you. Mrs. Piazza, congratulations to you as the Citizen for Garfield Heights. Mr. Tomola, I happened to be in your office last week paying my last tax bill and I want to commend you and your staff that are very very knowledgeable and short as your staff is you should be commended for the wonderful job that you are doing. Please inform your employees that some citizens are well aware of what you're doing. Council, you should be proud of Mr. Tomola as our Finance Director.

You, Mr. Suster, thank you for returning my calls expeditiously. You are a great Councilman. You too, Mr. Vaughn. And you too, Mr. Nenadovich. Mr. Glenn, I don't know you yet. Congratulations. I mean well. Mr. Dudley, you're doing a good job in the first Ward up there. You

should be proud of what you're doing and your citizens. You too Mr. Wervey. And Noreen. You're doing a good job in economic development. And you, too, Tracy, and all of you. Mr. McLaughlin, you should be proud of your staff, Sir. Doing a great job. I know Council, a lot of you are getting a lot of negative responses, but sometimes it's nice to hear good and all of you are doing. I'm proud to be a citizen of Garfield Heights. Chief Sackett, your department is doing a great job. You should be proud of your staff. Please let them know that some of us residents are proud of them. With that, you, Mr. Dobies, keep on skating.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: You left me out.

MR. LEONE: Nancy, I'm sorry. No really. Thank you for the beautiful job that you are doing as President of the Council. Thank you.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Mme. Chairman, can I just make a comment to Mr. Leone? I'd like to thank you on behalf of my staff for the nice comments that you made about them and I will let them know.

MR. LEONE: Thank you, Sir.

Bob Halan, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. This is spring. I'm waiting (*inaudible*) to turn over for the extension. How's it going, Mayor?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Keep waiting. No, actually we've been in talks recently with the EPA, with the prospective developer that is coming on to the site and also the Boyas family. It looks like it may be delayed. We're not sure at this time how long. There's a lot of legal issues that have to be taken care of so as soon as we find out more about it we'll let everybody know.

MR. HALAN: Should I grow a beard?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I would suggest you drive down Turney Road for a while.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Anyone else wishing to speak tonight?

David Mays, 8250 Green Drive. My question is for Mr. Wervey. Mr. Wervey, when your people are driving down the streets going to a house to look at it, etc. if they see a violation do they stop, look at it, write down an address and go back to the office and make a comment or fill out a form so this can be followed up or are they just simply wearing blinders and going down the street to do their job or what they are sent out to do?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: We're wearing blinders.

MR. MAYS: Evidently so.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: You know the answer to that. We frequently don't have a chance to stop right then, but we'll jot down an address and go back when you have the chance or go back to the office and check to see if the property's already been cited.

MR. MAYS: OK. I'm a little bit confused. Everybody's saying we should get the city cleaned up and get things looking good. We got people working for us that drive down the street and they've only got one thing on their mind—four o'clock at night. They want to do one thing. What they were told to do. I can drive down the street in two hours and see more than your people

could do in week. I'm talking about a house on my street that has a broken picture window with plywood in it, picket fence busted up and two weeks ago they put a for sale sign up in the front of it. Since then I've seen your people drive by it, never stop. I'm sorry. To me, that is a disgrace to the city to allow something like this to happen. I've got two streets behind me, people are living in it. It's a duplex. Both picture windows are broken out. They've got plywood put up in the inside and they have garbage bags plugging the holes. There's people living there. That's been there for two months and I've seen at least two cars drive down the street and never stop. I never saw a car stop until I called my Councilman and he turned it in. I'm sorry. If they drive by something like that they should stop, take two seconds, write down an address and make sure they got a pen and a piece of paper. Then go back to the office and finish. If it's two or three days later, fill the form out turn it in to somebody that fills the form out for them to go back and check it. That's the only way this city is going to get cleaned up. By the cooperation and doing things like that. Because if you depend on the citizens to do that then I don't think we really need as many Department people as we have out there because evidently they got a lot of free time. Now you can speak all you want. Thank you.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: OK. Mr. Mays, why don't you stay there? I'm not sure that this is a conversation for this forum, but I already answered the question as to whether or not we would write down an address and go back to cite that property later. I'm not sure specifically what addresses you are speaking of here. I would be glad to have you come into the office and bring me the addresses of the houses that you have questions about and we'll go over them. You talk a pretty good game here, but come in. I'll be glad. It's an open book there. You're welcome to come and visit the office. I'll show you everything we have on any of the houses that you are concerned about. It's easy for you to say we don't cite them. We don't look at them.

MR. MAYS: I never said you didn't cite them.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: But you are implying it. Come in and see me.

MR. MAYS: I never said you didn't cite them. I said your people are driving down the street and driving by them, never taking two seconds to write down the addresses and going back to the office. I'm not going to give you the addresses here. I'll give them to you after the meeting.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I'm not sure I follow what you're saying.

MR. MAYS: To allow them people to drive down the streets with stuff like this going on, without ever saying hey, can you stop and write down an address? Give it to somebody when you go back to the office? Today, tomorrow or the next day? I don't think it's asking too much of your people.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: This is turning into a debate now. Why don't you stick around and talk to Mr. Wervey after the meeting?

MR. MAYS: I wanted to sit down and he started it.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Yes, why don't you come in and see me? We'll go over all these houses. You're implying that the guys drive down the street and don't cite anything.

CLWN MAHONEY: Twenty seconds left.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: For him or for me? Come in and see me.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Mr. Mays. Mayor, you wanted to make a comment?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Just a general comment. I hear this occasionally. People call up and because they have a house on their street and it isn't doing well and actually some of them are my friends that call up much like Dave and they call because they're upset about this one house. They say that the Building Department does not do their job, they don't do anything. But last year and I don't have the exact number, I'm going to guess. I know I'm close. They cited 1,600 houses. That is quite a few houses when there are 28,000 homes. So you're talking about 1,600 homes cited. Somebody had to do that. Somebody was working to do that. The residents didn't do that. The Building Department is as good as every other department we have, the Building Department is the one department that 95% of everything they do people are mad about. Because you may be happy because they came to see your neighbor. That neighbor's in the office the next day or on the phone with me because we're picking on him for whatever reason. The Building Department, I got to give them all the credit in the world because they take nothing but abuse, but they do a hell of a job out there and I mean it. 1,600 houses cited. Somebody was doing something. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Anyone else wishing to speak this evening? There being none we will move on to Miscellaneous Business from Council and I'll start.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I am going to throw out a question to the general public because I am having a tough time finding the answer to this question and I think there's an old-timer somewhere who knows the answer. If anybody knows the amount of houses that were removed when I-480 came through town, give me a call and let me know or shoot me an e-mail because I understand there were probably hundreds. It was in the '70s and if anybody has the figure on that I would really like to know.

Secondly I'd like to announce that on April 4th here at the Civic Center there will be a Group Block Watch Meeting and it promises to be a really good one at 7:00 p.m. in the main dining room. We are going to have an expert in self-defense and we all could learn a little bit on how to defend ourselves because you never know. It's always good to be prepared. Finally, I want to wish everybody a Happy Easter. I'll start with Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mme. Chairman. This Thursday evening at St. Monica's we'll have the Ward 7 Block Watch. Her Honor Deborah Nicastro will be talking. All are invited. We'll have refreshments as usual. We'll be meeting in the building for another month yet and then we'll move out to the pavilion as the weather gets better. I want to take this time now to wish everybody a Happy Easter, enjoy the holidays and time with your family. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Clwn Mahoney.

CLWN MAHONEY: I'd like to welcome Jackie Prokay. You did a good job. A fine example of the school. I would also like to comment, Nancy, talk about the Group Block Watch and also about the Building Department. Mr. Mays, a lot of times residents will call and they won't know if a house has been cited already or is in Court, etc. and we get a lot of calls from people who are complaining about a certain property and that house is probably already in the Court system and when we call the Building Department they will say it's in the Court, this is what happened,

etc. A lot of times just because they drive by does not mean that they are not aware. I've been guilty of that myself. I just wanted to say that because we don't know what houses are being taken to Court and what ones aren't. With that I'd like to wish everybody a very blessed Easter and I have nothing else. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Clmn Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: First of all, next Monday evening here at the Civic Center we'll have our Block Watch Meeting. We'll have Marian Anita Gardner and also Andrea R. Kinast. Marian is from ESOP and she's going to talk about free foreclosure prevention counseling and Andrea's going to talk about (she's a foreclosure mediator) she was the young lady that was here last week and I met Ms. Gardner at the Black History Month in Ward 1 and the minute I asked her to come out and speak as far as our foreclosures go, she jumped at the idea, she said because there's a lot of programs out there that people are entitled to that you really don't have to move out of your house on these foreclosures and she'll be very interesting. We'll have door prizes, we'll have refreshments. I want to thank the people that have been calling me to ask me to become street captains. I've had quite a few calls about that. This is really making me feel better. We've had this going on for about a year and half. We're getting a lot of people to come to the meetings. We've been having productive meetings and I think it's going along very well. Anybody is allowed to come. You don't have to be in Ward 5. You can be wherever you want but this is the Ward 5 Block Watch.

I want to thank the people that called me. A gentleman called me today with what I don't call it a complaint, I call it getting to know what's going on and after he had gotten all done and he talked to me I told him how much I appreciate it. He says I feel funny doing this and I said it's part of what we do for the citizens here in Garfield Heights. Don't ever be afraid. Nine out of 10 times I don't give anybody's name when I call in to the Police Department or I call the Service Department. I just tell them, tell them I called and we keep it at that. But people are appreciative of that fact especially the elderly people. They don't want to get involved if their neighbor's doing something. Don't be afraid to call. Please. Anybody wants to call me, just call. My number is (216) 475-5190. I'd just like to say everybody have a Happy Easter.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Clmn Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: I have a concern that it's getting to be a little bit warmer here. I had several complaints about fast food and fast food pizza drivers going through our Wards speeding. Going through stop signs. It's not going to get any better. We have a concern about that.

I see Chris Piazza here in Council Chambers today and she's doing a great job. I have one question for you, Chris. How's our flags doing? We going to have enough this year? OK. Thank you, Chris.

I'd like to point out that we're having Block Watch 4, Clmn Glenn's Block Watch 4. We're having our guest speaker, Ed Jamison, Animal Control. We're going to have a police officer there. We have many concerns in Ward 4. Our attendance is starting to go up and will continue to go up as the summer goes on. At that I wish everybody a Happy Easter. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Would you like to give the date of the Block Watch?

CLMN GLENN: It's the first Tuesday at seven o'clock, Civic Center, here. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: I just wanted to mention something I saw today. It's getting nice weather again and there is lot of litter on the streets. There's no crime in picking up what's laying on your sidewalk. The street is not the catchall. It goes down the sewers. The sewers get clogged and then we bother the Service Department to get the sewers cleaned out. When you cut your grass or you rake your leaves they don't belong on the curb. The street side. Maybe your tree lawn side in a plastic bag. There's nothing wrong with picking up the litter in front of your house. We did this for years. Even when I was growing up, we lived on rent, we cleaned up in front of our house. You got paper on the sidewalk? Don't blow it in the neighbor's yard. Don't blow it out in the street. Pick it up. This is all part of what we're talking about down here. Keeping our city clean. If you see a weed growing in front of your house by the curb pull it out. This is our city. We complain nobody's doing anything. Remember when you point the finger you got three pointing back at you. Nothing wrong with doing that. It's not against the law to pick up trash. If you see a neighbor do that and the kids too, pick it up. Don't go screaming hey, you, pick that up. Don't ask them to pick it up. Pick it up yourself. Put it in the trashcan. It doesn't hurt to do that.

As far as calls go, Dave, those houses were turned in. I know which ones you're talking about. We had discussed it. Bill did take care of them. He had them cited. He does have the one home in Court. We're not going to mention addresses, but they are being taken care of. Calls. Call me any time with stuff like that. Bill knows that I do go to city hall and complain about a few things, right Bill? For the most part they do take care of them. For the most part. Sometimes we have a little disagreement but that's Bill and me.

The other thing too I want to mention is on trash day the times are going to be changing as Mr. McLaughlin indicated. There's also a time to bring your trash can back in. We don't want to be waiting for the car to be coming down the street to put it back in your yard. This month's going to be pretty windy. When they're laying in the street we don't want to play dodge'em. If you see your neighbor's trashcan out there, be neighborly. Let's get back to the old values. Like I say don't point the finger because you got three pointing back.

And as always we want to remember the Vets. I talked to a young man who I hadn't 'seen for a year. He's in the Navy now and he's very proud. He's stationed in Japan. He used to work at the convenience store in the morning. He's gone up in rank quite a bit. He's a Vet now. He's over in Japan. He's having a good time, but he's serving our country. We can't forget that. We can never forget that. With that I'd like to wish everybody a Happy Easter. Stay healthy, don't eat too much and see you at the next meeting.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: First I want to start off by wishing everybody a Happy Easter and get that part out of the way. I will encourage anybody that's having a financial issue with your home to attend the Ward 5 Meeting with ESOP. ESOP is a great organization. I've been a Board Member for several years now and you can tell them people will actually fight for you to stay in your home. We have been out to banks where we walked in the banks 50, 60, 70 strong. (*inaudible*) They called the police to come and get us out of that place and when the police get there we said cops need a raise, cops need a raise and the police had to stay there a little longer. They have programs out there honestly that we're willing to pay. I met with the director the other day. They will pay up to almost 18 months in back mortgages. We'll pay half your mortgage for several months. We have some where you can get a couple thousand dollars and plus they do a

(inaudible) but most of all it don't cost you nothing. Don't let your pride cause you to be evicted from your home. Pride can turn around and cost you your residence. Put that pride to the side I tell people. Like I said once before when I first switched over to Council and my job didn't come through I found myself in a financial issue. But I didn't go back and sign a red line and say I'm going to go back to another job. But I went to ESOP and that's how I ended up becoming a Board Member. I tell you they are a great organization so I'm encouraging people to get over to that Block Watch Meeting and get some of those funds because if they don't use it they will lose it. So definitely come out for that.

Next of all I wanted to mention I like what my colleague Mike always says about your Vets. I am a Veteran. I am a one enlistment and two re-enlistments, so you say three times so that's nine years of my life that I gave to the military. I come from a military family. My father was 26 years in the military with the recruiter that put me and my brother in the service. He made his quota. He actually put us in. I'm proud to be a Veteran. We got quite a few Veterans like I said up there in my community, etc. but one thing that I have to keep saying that I really want to see changed in this city is that I served my nation. I served my country. I served every city that we went to in this country. And even when we set up a lot of us was still heartbroken because we done what we had to do to serve this nation, but still we seeing things. Like I mentioned, we saw the Berlin Wall come down. Anybody saw that wall? It was not built to keep people really out. It was built to keep people in. I saw it when I was in Germany. You go to (inaudible) and you say how can you sit at a little table and these guards standing four or five different directions while I was in Korea.

Like I say my biggest disappointment really hurts me and it hurt me bad and honestly it bothered me all the time, is when we can be Veterans of our country but we come back and our children, and when we mention education to all the youths in Garfield, all the youths in Garfield don't receive the same education. It is troubling. We can serve our nation but our children cannot go to a Garfield Heights school system. Some of the kids. And it's not a Black and White issue. Eliminate that out the door. We got kids not just in Ward 1. There's kids in Ward 3 who have never walked through that door. We see everything changing around this country and that's something that should change here. I still believe when people say they happy because the levy passed, I wish them the best--more power to them. I still say open enrollment could have filled that necessity and it could have prevented the taxes from being raised. But I'm not worried about the taxes. I wish them the best and I hope they take open enrollment and put that extra couple million on top of what they have and build us one of the strongest school districts there is in the nation. Once again I hope they see in they heart that they would do the right thing and they will allow every child within the city of Garfield Heights to receive the best education that can be provided possibly by the city. And I hope you all keep that in prayers and I hope one day you open your heart and let the past be the past.

With that I once again I say our departments are great departments and I won't cut Bill down nothing because I call Bill all the time and he does service. The Building Department and I won't cut none of those departments down. I think every department does a great job. From our safety departments even to our Recreation Department to our Service Department right down the list we all have something to be proud of. This is a great city and I'm going to tell you I wouldn't change it for nothing. I wouldn't move to another city, but I wanted to see that one change. I want us to open our hearts and do the right thing. With that I wish everybody a Happy Easter and thank all of you that came up tonight. Thank you, Mme Chairman.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Will you make a motion to adjourn?

CLMN DUDLEY: I'm enjoying it. Can we stay a little longer? I make a motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All opposed say Nay. Thank you.

AYES: Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Marincic
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council