

COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, August 11, 2014

Council President Joseph Suster called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Members Present: Matt Burke, Councilman Ward 6
Eugene Glenn, Councilman Ward 4
Nancy Marincic, Councilwoman Ward 2
Joseph Suster, Councilman Ward 5
Tom Vaughn, Councilman Ward 7

Others Present: Vic Collova, Mayor
Pat Dovac, Member of Charter Review Committee
David Mays, Member of Charter Review Committee
Robert Sackett, Police Chief
Ron Tomola, Finance Director
Kevin Weiler, Assistant Law Director

Mr. Kevin Weiler, Assistant Law Director, opened by saying that he had handled the Garfield Heights Charter Review Committee, which had reviewed the Charter for changes. Secondly he advised that he was sitting in for Mr. Tim Riley, Law Director, who was out of town.

Mr. Weiler said that the main matter was very simple. The Committee Chairman had assigned different Committee Members to review different sections of the Charter. They discovered that there were only two sections of the Charter that raised concerns.

The first section is Section 41 which deals with the wages of the Safety Department (police and fire). The Mayor, Finance Director and Police Chief have discussed the issue with the committee. The committee determined basically that the wisest thing to do with this section of the Charter was to change the formula by which one determines the minimum amount of pay according to the numbers of the Police and Fire Departments. Presently, the Charter takes into consideration all cities with a population of 25,000 or more that are contiguous with the city of Cleveland, Ohio. The proposal was, if the Mayor and the committee approve it, to knock that number down to 15,000. The main reason for that is the demographics of the contiguous towns have changed over the years so that as the populations have lessened in those towns Garfield Heights was only left with five towns so when one calculates the average minimum pay for those five towns Garfield Heights is not getting the full compliment of what was originally intended when that part of the Charter was written.

Mr. Weiler said he would be remiss if he did not state that some people in the County feel that it should be done away with entirely because of the complications of that. There is also a provision in the Charter to fund the safety forces from the property taxes. There is a provision in the Charter to allow outside millage to be increased so that City Council can from time to time increase the property taxes in order to handle whatever changes there are in the rate of pay. The committee went through the history of how this came in. It antedates the State Employer Relations Act (the

SER Act). It came at the same time as the Ferguson Act which prohibits public employees from striking. It was put in to give some consideration to public employees. The Administration decided to enact an ordinance to put before the City Council to change the Charter to reduce the population sample size from 25,000 to 15,000.

At the Charter Review Meetings they considered the issue of red light cameras. There was an ad hoc survey taken of the public regarding funding the infrastructure of roads. Mr. Weiler said that the traffic cameras came out on top followed by taking no action. The proposition was made by the committee to recommend merely a repeal of the traffic camera section put in by petition by people a number of years ago. They are aware that it is a controversial issue. If the law was enacted it would not automatically put traffic cameras back in town, but it would remove the prohibition from the Charter so the Council could do that if they decided to do it. There was some discussion about that and the Committee voted to recommend to City Council that that section of the Charter be repealed. Most of the rest of the Charter was fine. The Committee now was ready to present their recommendations to Council for their consideration.

The Mayor then thanked Mr. Weiler. He said he had made Council aware of both of the issues that were presented that night. There would be a Special Council session to go over them. The Mayor emphasized that it was important to know that the money that would be saved from it could be \$200,000.00. The savings would be directly for the residents. It's a savings to residents and he applauded the committee for bringing it up. The residents need a break. He supported the recommendation.

Mayor Collova thanked the Assistant Law Director for his presentation and said that that concluded the meeting.

Mr. Weiler moved to adjourn the meeting and it was adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

President of Council Joseph Suster called the Caucus Meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

All Council Members were present.

Clmn Burke would offer the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

Clwn Marincic moved to accept the Caucus Meeting Minutes of 07/14/2014 as presented. Clmn Nenadovich seconded her motion. The Minutes stood approved by a vote of 7 Yes (Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley) votes.

Clwn Marincic would dispose of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 07/14/2014 as presented.

Ordinance 44-2014: Clmn Burke advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 45-2014: Clmn Nenadovich advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 46-2014: Clmn Vaughn advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 47-2014: Clmn Dudley advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 48-2014: Clwn Marincic advised that she would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 49-2014: Clmn Suster advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 50-2014: Clmn Nenadovich advised that he would move to consider by title.
Ordinance 51-2014: Clwn Marincic advised that she would move to consider by title.

There were no communications to Council.

Chairman Suster said that he had recently attended a meeting of the Zoning Board of Appeals, where some matters of concern arose and recommended that all Council Members attend Planning Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals Meetings whenever their agenda items concerned their own Wards in order to give their opinions.

Mayor Collova announced that he would hold a Special Planning Commission Meeting on Tuesday, August 12, 2014 to discuss the matter of a restaurant using an outdoor barbecue.

The Mayor informed Council that two people were going to speak on two rewarding programs designed for the community during the Council Meeting.

Clwn Marincic moved to adjourn, Clmn Nenadovich seconded her motion and the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:43 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph M. Suster
Council President

Barbara Molin
Council Clerk