

COUNCIL CAUCUS MEETING MINUTES

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, October 26, 2015

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

Members Present: Mike Dudley, Sr., Councilman Ward 1
Nancy Marincic, Councilwoman Ward 2
Mike Nenadovich, Councilman Ward 3
Gene Glenn, Councilman Ward 4
Joseph Suster, Councilman Ward 5
Matt Burke, Councilman Ward 6
Tom Vaughn, Councilman Ward 7

All Council Members were present.

Clwn Marincic would offer the invocation and lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

There were no communications to Council.

Clwn Marincic moved to accept the Caucus Meeting Minutes of 10/13/2015 as presented. The Minutes stood approved by 7 Yes (Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley) votes.

Clmn Burke would dispose of the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting of 10/13/2015 as written.

Ordinance 47-2015: Clmn Nenadovich advised that he would move to consider by title.

Ordinance 48-2015: Clwn Marincic advised that she would move to consider by title.

Ordinance 49-2015: Clwn Marincic advised that she would move to consider by title.

Ordinance 50-2015: Clmn Vaughn advised that he would move to consider by title and request two Readings.

Resolution 28-2015: President Suster advised that he would move to consider by title.

Resolution 29-2015: Clmn Vaughn advised that he would move to consider by title.

Resolution 30-2015: Clwn Marincic advised that she would move to consider by title.

CLMN DUDLEY: I want to let everybody know that on this recent thing filed in Cleveland that I am in support of the school. We have approximately 18 kids that go to that Eagle Academy up there and we have more kids that will be going next year. See, you don't know and I didn't know. I had to get it from the principal in Cleveland on a conversation. I was disappointed that I got it through a conversation with an individual in Cleveland. But I am in support that that school do not be closed. You saw the young man that was killed in the streets of Cleveland--15 years old. If we close that school we're going to be sending approximately 30 some kids who will be attending there next year. You will be telling your kids who go there now that you live in the city of Garfield

Heights, but you have no right to attend an education offered in Garfield Heights. Tell them I'm going to Garfield Heights School District and I'm within the Cleveland School District. Forty good paying jobs, good taxes, they spend their money plus we get our big taxes on the building in the city there. So I do not want to see us go into some type of pseudo whatever with the city of Cleveland. I believe Cleveland didn't put up the pods when we didn't ask them to.

They provide adequate security up there. Let me tell you, if I'm not mistaken, there's more security at that one building than we got in the entire city of Garfield Heights School District. When the kids leave that building at the end of the day 300 of them is getting on a bus as promised. There's approximately 100 kids left but the whole 100 is not walking to the bus stop. There's two let-out times: 3:30 and 4:00 p.m. Most of the kids are being picked up by their parents out of that 100. If you go up there you will see 20 kids walking at 3:30 approximately with one of the principals. At 4:00 you would see some more walking home. If you go down to 131st CMS has their own police department. You will see a police vehicle parked at 131st and Maplerow. They are down there almost until 5:00 something every day. You will see another police vehicle parked down there across from Open Pantry. We can't ask for more than that. We have had really no skirmishes. The complaints that was made by Ms. Jackson about the street we have addressed her issue and the school has made sure everything was done to make her happy.

We talk tax dollars like we talk about we need the money. I don't want to see us turn around and push 40 good paying jobs out of our city. They send their kids to some of the daycares, they fuel their vehicles, they can't go far so they have to spend money to eat our food in this city. They can only drive so far. I am totally against that and I don't support it because I call them all my children. My sons Isaiah and Elijah are slated to go there. I do not want to see Isaiah and Elijah catching no bus riding through the streets of Cleveland. I will not do that to my children. I will not do that to somebody else's children. But I just feel disappointed because I wasn't told about it and when I was talking to a principal it's the principal who told me about this. I did mention it to the Mayor at a meeting the other night that I heard this through this principal. I don't know whether what's going on is true or not but he told me that the paperwork has been filed and what's going on. Tim, you can add anything you want to add to that but that's what I was told, but I'm disappointed because we jumped a Cleveland case for not keeping us up to date and coming into our city and we want to do something and not make us aware and I just feel the same disrespect to me because that's on the very next street to me. If anybody should have known somebody could have picked up the phone and gave me a courtesy call and said well Mike this is what we're going to do. If I'm against it, I'm against it. I made that clear and I've mentioned it to you before, Tim, that I'm against that. I've told Tom. I've told Burke. This is not about us grownups. I don't care if we don't get along. This is about children. These kids are safe in the city of Garfield. It's a safe city to be in. A lot of children say they feel safe when they come into our borders, etc. They are not scattered throughout our city. They are back on the bus and they take them back into Cleveland to different locations. We don't have no incidents up at the corner of the streets. It's pretty peaceful. I'm going to tell you when I do call Chief Fultz's office we had an incident at the Miles School, not in our city, where a young kid felt he was being intimidated, within about an hour they had security up there on top of security and next morning they had a task force making sure that this child was safe who actually lives in our city but felt he was being threatened up there. The incident was taken care of. I just say, you know, I believe we are asking Cleveland to help us out with our water issues, our streets, etc. We are hoping they support us. You can't ask for nobody's support when you turn around and you go take them through the system, etc. It doesn't work like that. Those are our neighbors and I do want to work with them. If they doing something wrong that is jeopardizing the safety or they doing anything wrong outside of the norm, I'm more than willing to line them up, but they have done everything that I've asked them to do, Mr. Chairman.

Everything. I do think we ought to keep them up there and I think if we going to do something like that in the future it should be brought to Council as a whole. We all should be able to sit down and say hey, this is going to be followed and how do you all feel about this, Members of Council? We should have had some input. I don't like anybody's second hand news, especially when it's on the next street from me. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Does somebody else have something?

CLMN NENADOVICH: I have some questions, but I don't believe it's appropriate right now because we're going into Council.

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: I don't think we should discuss an impending lawsuit here. We did call a public meeting on it and it was pretty clear that all Council Members were upset with the city of Cleveland for not following procedures they were required to follow. Every Council Member was upset about that. They basically did not follow the rules as required. The only option we had was we tried to work it out but it did not work out so now we are involved in a lawsuit. It was pretty apparent where we were going with this thing.

CLMN DUDLEY: No, that was initially when we had the meeting within Planning, etc. That was the only meeting I remember. I was even upset. That was the initial meeting, Mr. Chairman. When that meeting was over and they turned around and complied. Janice Tubbs and Ms. Jackson said they was absolutely going to have to walk to the building. They didn't have the pods. I don't understand. They took the 300 kids, they put them on a bus as agreed upon, we had a concern that the kids would not be bussed. The kids are being bussed out of there. My concerns have been met. Initially I was just as mad as the next person. Don't get me wrong, Tim. I was mad initially, but this didn't happen right after. This just got done the other day. That's a lot of time between your Planning Commission Meeting and the Zoning Meeting to come up to this timeframe here. If somebody would have got back with me and said how do you feel now I think I deserved that somebody just say hey, how's it working up there, Dudley? I live right on the next street. How's it going? Is anybody complaining up there? Somebody could have made a call. Everything that happened happened initially because they was wrong as to how they approached that. It was wrong how it was done here because it don't look too good when you're a Member of Council and they went behind us and that was wrong. But for this to be filed and, nothing wrong, Tim, you have to do what you have to do, but that was during a time that we had the problem since resolved concerns that I had. I had the concern about the kids being let loose in the city. Too many of them. You go up there and they not let loose in the city.

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: First of all, it was supposed to be for a year and you are talking about next year. OK? Number two they did not follow any of the rules and regulations and ordinances of the Planning Commission on how it should be done. What you're saying is that that's OK to ignore those laws and just move on. That was not what Council basically said at that meeting and what was discussed.

CLMN DUDLEY: Well, Tim, I'm getting the impression it was. I won't go into that. It was a security issue and I think in all honesty we said security and they got more than enough security up there than it was a matter of having a Garfield Heights off duty officer there. That's between them and the school. I'm saying no, that would be the same thing we got with the blinds. That's all, Mr. Chairman.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman, I think this should be tabled for discussion at a meeting. To discuss that issue alone.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK.

CLMN GLENN: What kind of meeting are you talking about?

CLMN NENADOVICH: To discuss this lawsuit. It's got to go into Executive Session. We can't discuss it here.

CLMN GLENN: I understand.

CLMN NENADOVICH: We have to drop it right now. We have to.

CLMN GLENN: Give me a chance to speak.

CLMN NENADOVICH: I'll give you a chance to speak, Sir.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you for your patience. Let's make a timeframe for a work session.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: That's up to the Law Department.

LAW DIRECTOR RILEY: I'll talk to the Mayor and we'll set something up.

CLMN DUDLEY: I got a feeling it's probably going to end up being possibly some protests about the closing of the school. That's what I'm talking about so we should make it as soon as possible.

Clmn Nenadovich moved to adjourn and the Caucus Meeting was adjourned at 6:45 p.m.

Approved,

Respectfully submitted,

Joseph Suster, Council President

Barbara Molin, Council Clerk