

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Monday, January 28, 2008

**MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m.** by President Frank J. Wagner.

**INVOCATION BY:** Councilman Joseph Suster

**ROLL CALL:**                   **PRESENT:** President Frank J. Wagner  
Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Liotta,  
Sarnowski, Suster, Mahoney, Abella

**READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:**

Moved by Clmn SUSTER to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of City Council of January 14, 2008 as submitted. The minutes were accepted with seven YES votes.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:** None.

**LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE:** None.

**REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:**

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** Good evening, Mr. Wagner and Members of City Council. Let's just refer to tonight's agenda. Resolution 3 is for a public awareness grant for recycling. It promotes recycling. If you have any specific questions of the nuances of that, Ms. Kuban can address them. Resolution 4. Jimmy Dimora, the County Commissioner, lost his father and the funeral was today. His father was always outgoing. I've known him for a number of years. He was always in his wheelchair. He was a lot like his son. Or his son is a lot like him. He never had a bad thing to say about anyone. This family of course was very close. Our sympathy to the Dimora family. This concludes my report.

**LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK:** No report.

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** We have been working on the streets with the cold patch, trying to get the big holes out of the way. Just seems like when you get going it snows again and you start all over. The Christmas decorations are pretty much cleaned up and put away now. We've started working on some of our inside winter projects in the building, washing walls and doing some different maintenance.

I also have the snowfall report for you. Last year at this time we had 12.75 inches, we'd used 2,631 tons of salt and the high overtime was 40 hours. So far this year it's been 26.9 inches, we've used 2,488 tons of salt and the high overtime was 43.25 hours.

One of the other things that I'd like to talk about is rubbish pickup. We've had our share of problems in the last year. Maybe for a little longer than the last year? I get some calls from the Council people. It starts with people putting the rubbish out early. Some Wards are affected more than others because they have the weekend attached to the start of rubbish, which is on Monday. I've had my foreman go out and give these people notices about putting it out as recently as a week ago, he was out, and there were about 20 of them a week ago. Overall, for the whole year, we've given out 800 notices for the year of 2007. That just isn't for putting it out early. That is for putting it out not bundled properly, when people decide they'll just throw things all over the lawns and the rubbish man is not there to clean up their lawns, they're supposed to be in the correct containers. We've given out notices when people don't take in their rubbish containers for days

after and I just wanted to let you know, I mean, last year it was 800. It was 760 plus notices that were given out. I've been asked why they're not cited. We do work with the Building Department and the Police Department and one of the problems is you have to (in order to give somebody a ticket) you have to see somebody. You go to the door, they see a police car or a city car, etc. and nobody answers the door. It's gotten to be a problem. Like I said I've heard from some of the Council on it. We're trying to address it. We usually get about eight to ten complaints per week about rubbish and I think that's a pretty good (as far as residents complaining) I think that's a pretty good average considering that there's 11,000 pickups per week. Again, I know that you guys get some calls and without seeing it, these calls are not always telling you the truth. Whenever we do get calls, a foreman or myself, we go out and check to see what the problem is. Also the rubbish company tags the stuff and then they notify us. Every morning the day after rubbish, I have a foreman that goes through the previous day's rubbish to check it out and see what's out there to see what wasn't picked up and try to find a solution to the problem. I just thought that I would bring that out here; bring this information out to you because I know there have been some calls in the last couple weeks about rubbish. We're trying to straighten it out but again it's too much. I have copies of all the citations or warnings that were given out if anybody wants to look at them. I have them up in the office. We keep a record of them. It's getting to be almost a full-time job. I mean the foreman having to go out and look. I don't know what other steps we have to take. I just wanted to let you know that there is a problem with it.

One of the other problems too, and I don't know what else we can do, is where there's a holiday? It is in all three newspapers. It's on television and we put up signs that say, "Rubbish is a day late" or "Rubbish is on schedule" and yet we still get 20 or 30 homes that put it out late or don't put it out and then they call in complaining. That's always been a continual problem. I don't know what else we can do to change it? I just wanted to make you aware that we're trying to make some changes and hopefully it will work itself out. That's all I have.

**PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC:** I'm sure everybody wonders how our groundbreaking futsal sign-up is going (our indoor soccer). I am happy to report that we have created some excitement. We already have 172 kids signed up for indoor soccer. So we'll be starting practices on the night of February 9 and competition starts on the 19<sup>th</sup> and runs through February and March. The kids get something different and it gives them something to do in the winter months. So 173 kids and there are another five days of sign up. This is unbelievable for a first-year program.

I am also happy to report that today our contractors were out and they are starting to put the framing up for the aluminum panels on the outside to replace the beat up fiberglass windows over at the Rec Center. That concludes my report.

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY:** No report.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN:** No report.

**CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER:** No report.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT:** No report.

**CITY ARCHITECT DAVID SPEHAR:** Absent.

#### **COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:**

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** That concludes the reports of the Mayor and the Directors. Next we'll move on to Comments by Citizens on the agenda. Comments shall be strictly limited to a brief statement not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to legislation on the current evening's Council agenda and no citizen may speak more than once. Is there anyone wishing to address Council on tonight's agenda? There being none, we'll move on to Committee Reports.

#### **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

**CLMN LIOTTA:** On January 24<sup>th</sup> the Safety Committee had a meeting on police officers--if we need more police officers in the community. Chief Murphy was in attendance. At that time he told us that the police

department has an adequate amount of police officers. The City has 62 police officers at this point and he also maintained that City View is not a burden to us at this time. That concludes my report.

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** Thank you. Does the Council have any questions of Mr. Liotta? There being none, we'll now move on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**RESOLUTION NO. 3-2008**

**AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR A COMMUNITY RECYCLING AWARENESS GRANT THROUGH CUYAHOGA COUNTY SOLID WASTE DISTRICT.**

Moved by MAHONEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** Mr. Obert, there's no expenditure on this? We're just applying, correct?

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT:** Correct.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

**RESOLUTION NO. 04-2008**

**A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL, ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, HONORING THE MEMORY OF ANTONIO DIMORA.**

Moved by SARNOWSKI TO CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** I'd like to offer my condolences to the family and I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:**

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** That concludes the legislation on tonight's agenda. Next we'll move on to item number 10, Comments By Citizens. Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to his or her Councilperson or to the City department directly involved. If the submission of a problem to a City Hall department or a Councilperson is made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard the problem may then be presented during Comments by Citizens at a future meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature be presented on the floor at this time. Comments shall be limited to five minutes and no citizen shall be heard more than once. Is there anyone that wishes to address Council this evening?

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** There being none we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business. Under Miscellaneous Business I'd just like to make an announcement that on February 23<sup>rd</sup> I've organized over the last couple months a Foreclosure Prevention Clinic. I'd like to pass out an announcement to the Council, the Mayor and the Administration and encourage you all to attend. It's in conjunction with the Cuyahoga County Bar Association and Judge Nicastro. It will be held at the Garfield Heights Municipal Court on February 23<sup>rd</sup>

at 10 a.m. It's the first of three that I hope to have throughout the City this year. With that, we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** I just have a couple questions for the Building Department. Midwest Industrial Park. The road going in and all those other side roads. Who is responsible for the paving and fixing potholes, etc. there?

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY:** I'd like to defer to Tim McLaughlin on this, but I believe that's a dedicated street?

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** Sorry, I didn't hear the question?

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** Going into Midwest Park there. That street going in? There's potholes there. They fixed the road, etc. Is that a City property or is that zoned as an industrial park?

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** Midwest Avenue is ours to maintain, but there's a problem that somebody fixed at the easement going into their driveway the back of the building it's for us to patch potholes and it's not our property and so I don't know. Is there a specific area that you're talking about?

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:**

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** You're not talking about behind Nestaway?

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:**

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** We do have a problem with that, that they want us to patch their parking lot because they say it's an easement but it's not ours.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** No, it was the main street going in. So the City would be responsible for the main street?

**SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN:** Yes.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** Also, talking about streets, a question for the Mayor. Is the money in place to build the Transportation Blvd. all the way through? And who is responsible for paying that?

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** Transportation Blvd. all the way through?

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:**

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:**

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** Yes. Is the money in place to pay for that already?

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** Nothing they're going over a \_\_\_\_\_ and I believe it is, but I don't have the specifics. We had a meeting on that about a week ago and it has to do with the evaluation of the property because the property was sold about a year ago so that set the benchmark. Because the property was sold a year ago, for \$100 million, the big portion of it, there's more money available, so yes, I think there is money available, but I'd have to have one of the Finance people look at it. They're looking at it now.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** But the TIF that we had is only to pay the road up to where it's put in now?

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** No.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** Money in it to pay for the extension of the road?

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** It depends on the value of the property. The development of the property dictates how much the property taxes are. With that amount of money then that tells you how much money is available to use for the utilities, the roads, etc,

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** So you'd be applying for another loan or TIF for the extensions?

**MAYOR THOMAS LONGO:** They'd have to work that out, but I know from our side that at this point it looks like there's more than enough to do it.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI:** OK, no other questions.

**CLMN SUSTER:** The only thing I'd like to remind everybody is that tomorrow night at 7 o'clock we'll go ahead with some more of our Finance Meetings and also Wednesday evening at 7 p.m. That's all I have this evening.

**CLMN ABELLA:** Thank you, Mr. Suster, for the short report. That will bring us to my motion that we adjourn.

**PRESIDENT WAGNER:** Roll call on the motion to adjourn?

AYES: 7

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:21 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Frank J. Wagner  
President of Council

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Barbara Molin  
Clerk of Council