

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, May 12, 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,
Suster, Mahoney, Abella

EXCUSED: Sarnowski

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Clmn SUSTER to accept the minutes of the regular meeting of City Council of April 28, 2008 as submitted. The minutes were accepted with six 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 Council. The first two pieces of legislation that are on tonight's agenda, Ordinances 12 and 13, are the average pay increases for the police and fire. They are based upon our Charter and taking a survey of the surrounding communities with 25,000 in population or more so we urge Council's approval. If you have any specific questions on how the average is taken our Finance Director Dick Obert can address that. Ordinance 14. This is the same agreement that we've had with other Jennings construction projects. I know that this has to be put into committee because we have to wait for the school systems, etc. to come on board but Martha Kutik from Jennings is here so if anybody has any questions concerning this worthwhile project, Martha will be more than happy to spend time with you either after the meeting or whenever. This concludes my report.

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: No report.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: The patch crews have worked Ward 1 through 4. There are a couple streets left in Ward 1 that they have to do. I don't know how well they did with the rain off and on today. They are partly into Ward 5 and will continue throughout Ward 6 and 7. Then we'll start over. The County Board of Health is putting out raccoon bait, which is for rabies, so they'll be in different areas throughout the City. They just called on Friday. They do that every year in areas where we have problems with raccoons.

Also I'd like to mention again about the paper shredding for which Iron Mountain Company will be in the Service Garage on May 31st from 9 – 12. Our residents will be able to bring all their private bills, etc. that they have accumulated through the years and be able to have them shredded so they don't have to worry. Other cities are doing that now and it's been popular. I know I have things to take out of my basement that I've been storing for years and it's a good way to safely get rid of some of your old papers. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: I have one question, Timmy, just so the folks know in the community. When they bring their stuff down there do they put it right in the machine? Can you give them an idea of how this process works?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: They lower it into a little container and flip it right in front of you into the machine. It doesn't go on the ground and you go out and leave it there. We'll have stuff from all over the place, including the police department, etc. The police department has done this stuff for years but they're going to be bringing some of their stuff down there too. It will be shredded in front of you. You won't leave it and go home. You'll know it's shredded.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: People will want to know for sure.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: I understand.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC: I want to announce that this month we are signing up for all our summer swim programs, I.D. cards, passes, etc. I encourage everybody to do it early to avoid the opening day rush. The pool will open on June 7th, which is the Saturday after school's out. Our softball program will begin on June 1st and our t-ball program will begin May 19th at the Garfield Park Reservation. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Any questions of the Park Director?

CLMN DUDLEY: Do they provide swimming lessons up there for children?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC: Yes, we have the Minnows Program, which is for pre-schoolers up to and including age 4. That's on Saturday and Sunday mornings where the parents actually go in the water with the kids to get them acclimated to the water. Lifeguards will be there to assist. For age 5 and up we have our regular learn-to-swim lessons which are Monday through Thursday mornings and evenings (depending which one you want to sign up for). We follow the American Red Cross Swim Program so we start out with Level 1 which is the absolute base I never swam before all the way up to and including lifeguard training. The lessons are at 11:15 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. in the mornings and 7:15 p.m. Monday through Thursday evenings.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Regarding Ordinance number 14-2008. This is in support of tax abatement for the next senior citizen apartment building on the Jennings Campus. It's a 63 unit building that is proposed. I urge Council to support that. We do have to have this go into committee during the notice period.

Also for your information next week is Seniors Week for senior citizens and we have lots of activities. You could share that with your residents. That concludes my report.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: No report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT: Ordinances number 12 and 13, by the way, average about 2.6% so they are right on schedule. That's where the other communities are also. Thank you

PRESIDENT WAGNER: How will this be paid for?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT: Last month I entered a request for tax budget. These numbers are taken and put onto the real estate bill and they will then be sent out in January of next year. So we're actually a year behind in the collection of these monies.

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. Comments shall be strictly limited to a brief statement not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to the legislation on the current evening Council agenda and no citizen may speak more than once. Is there anyone wishing to address Council on tonight's agenda? (*None.*)

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Next we'll move on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT WAGNER: We'll begin with Ordinance number 12-2008. Will the Clerk please read the title?

ORDINANCE NO. 12-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 37-2007 TO REFLECT INCREASED SALARIES OF THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER AMENDMENT TO SECTION 41.

Moved by MAHONEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 6

CLWN MARINCIC: We didn't have to waive Rule 24 on this?

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: Yes.

ABSENT: 1

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

ORDINANCE NO. 13-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 38-2007 TO REFLECT INCREASED SALARIES OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CHARTER AMENDMENT TO SECTION 41.

Moved by MARINCIC to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Mr. Mack, it doesn't matter if we do the waiver or the suspension first? Does it matter?

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: I think under the rules it goes Title, 24, 3 and Adopt, but as long as you cover them.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: OK. Waiver of Rule 24. We'll do that one first.

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

ORDINANCE NO. 14-2008

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO EXECUTE A “COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT” BETWEEN THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS AND THE SISTERS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT AND THE JENNINGS SENIOR HOUSING PARTNERSHIP FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING INCENTIVES FOR RESIDENTIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE GARFIELD MALL REINVESTMENT AREA.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

Motion to PLACE IN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

PRESIDENT WAGNER: The motion carries with six Yes votes. Ordinance 14-2008 is placed in the Legislative Committee. The Legislative Committee is chaired by Clmn Suster. Members are Clwn Sarnowski and Clmn Abella, Jr. That concludes the legislation before Council this evening.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Next we'll move on to 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 Hall 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 is 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 wishing to address Council tonight? (*None.*)

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT WAGNER: There being none, we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business.

CLMN SUSTER: I have one thing. I'd like to commend the Mayor for notifying the STC that we won't be using them to transport our Seniors. We're going to go back to where we transport our Seniors ourselves. This program did not work out for us. It was a shame that one of the local newspapers had to put a big article in there only having one side of the story in there, which was from the STC. They took the report that was given to City Council and that was what was reported on in the paper. That reporter never attended the meeting to actually get the feeling of what was going on. Many of the Members of Council here have probably been taking a look at this for about a year or year and a half because of the way the program was running. We have a gentleman actually that has a motorized wheelchair and he got so disgusted with the program he takes the wheelchair and he goes to Marymount for his appointments by himself. We have a lot

of Seniors that were given an appointment, they were not picked up, they were supposed to be picked up after their appointment, they never showed up to pick them up afterwards, and the one thing that really concerned me more, as much as I'm concerned about the Seniors, is that the drivers we have that work for the City of Garfield Heights would have possibly lost their jobs and would not have worked for the City any longer. I commend the Mayor because he attended the meeting that we had last Tuesday evening with the people from the STC and he got firsthand what the Members of Council were talking about by the complaints that we told to the people from the STC. I know that I'm going to repeat myself, but thank you very much, Mayor, because, and I know for a fact from talking to Ms. Kuban, that there were a lot of concerned Seniors last Thursday morning when that article hit the front page of the paper because it was all one-sided. I, myself, I spent from 8 o'clock in the morning till 11:30 on the phone calling the Mayor; calling Noreen Kuban; I talked to Kathy upstairs; I called Councilperson Mahoney; I talked to Mr. Liotta; I started calling everybody because in reading that article I knew that the Seniors were going to be upset when they saw it. Now when they found out Friday, which I think the Mayor went downstairs at noon when they were having lunch and explained to them what was going on which put a lot of people's minds at ease. I'm grateful for what he did. That's all I have.

CLWN MAHONEY: Kudos, Mayor. I thought that was a good move also.

CLMN ABELLA: I'm always thankful for our Mayor. With that I make a motion that we adjourn.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: On the motion by Clmn Abella to adjourn?

AYES: 6

ABSENT: 1

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:20 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Frank J. Wagner
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council