

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, November 24, 2008

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

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Elving Otero

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

PRESIDENT WAGNER: If there are no objections from the Council, Mr. Paul Marshall, who is the Chair of the Fiscal Emergency Commission and is with the Governor's Office of Budget and Management is here tonight. He'd like to address the Council briefly on Friday's meeting if there are no objections because he has to drive back to Columbus.

Paul Marshall. Thanks very much. I appreciate this opportunity and I will be brief. Those who observed Friday's meeting know I had faults. I just want to talk about the process. The way this works is once you're in fiscal emergency you have 120 days so this Council has until March 23rd to put together a recovery plan. The recovery plan purpose of that is to get the City out of fiscal emergency within a reasonable period of time. The process is that the Mayor will propose a plan, working with Council I'm sure and staff, and also the Auditor of State's Office. Local Government Services will be very helpful to you in this process. They've been through this a number of times. They have a very experienced staff so they can work with you to put together a plan and then Council will approve a recovery plan, present it to the Commission and we'll consider it some time in March. If you get it done earlier that would be great. One of the things the Commission can do is offer suggestions. We have local members that are appointed by the Governor, Mr. Wayne Williams is here this evening and we have other members that I think will be productive on the Commission. Once you adopt your recovery plan it comes to the Commission and it's an up or a down vote. We don't get to look at it and say we think you should ha

MR. MARSHALL: Yes.

CLWN MARINCIC: Thank you.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Are there any other questions?

CLMN SUSTER: On Friday you had mentioned a timeline that you thought the City of Garfield Heights would be in fiscal emergency. What was the timeframe that you said it could possibly be?

MR. MARSHALL: All I did was give an average. An average is four years and I think I gave the variance that there was a village that was able to get out in less than a year and a quarter and then there was a city very close to here that was in fiscal emergency for 17.5 years. There are reasons for that which I can tell you about later. I think we'll be a lot closer to a year than 17.5 years, but part of it depends on how aggressive you want to be and what your options are. Frankly I don't know about your operations at this point yet to give you an informed guess but the Commissions that work the best are very cooperative. Most of these commissions work very well because nobody likes to be in fiscal emergency. Everybody works hard to get out. Once you're in it we're here to help. I feel that way. The Auditor's Office feels that way. We are here to help any way we can. It's good to have a third party take a look at things. I know that the Auditors of State's office will do a performance audit on the City. I think those are typically helpful. A third party looks at your operations. Any of us can spend our money differently. I could do that in my personal budget. I don't need to have all those cable channels and HBO. I do that but I could probably benefit from somebody looking at my personal expenditures.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Any other questions? There being none, thank you.

MR. MARSHALL: Thank you very much. Appreciate your time.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Have a safe trip back home.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Clmn SUSTER to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council of November 10, 2008 as submitted. The minutes were adopted 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. Mr. Paul Marshall went out of his way to be here tonight so hopefully we're slowly getting some sense as to how this process is going to work. He alluded to and mentioned that the city has asked the State Auditor to do a performance audit. This is at no cost to the City. They literally have carte blanche. Do whatever they want. They have requested a lot of information from all the departments. They'll be meeting with department heads. They have all the Union contracts, personnel manuals, everything's on their radar screen. It's on a fast track. Normally it takes them about six months and as they start getting into this if there are some areas that they want to bring to our attention they will call a meeting with the Mayor and Council and bring you up to date. For example if they decided there is something they want to present on the Building Department they would call a meeting and they would get into what they have found so far with the Building Department. So we'll see how it goes. They'll do the digging and they will come back with whatever recommendations and input from us that they deem pertinent so there are no restrictions on them. They have everything that you could even imagine and a lot more. Things are still being provided to them, even down to the miles of streets that the Service Department takes care of.

In referring to tonight's agenda, Ordinances 48, 49 and 50 have to do with inspection fees, permits and occupancy fees. These are upgrades. They have not been upgraded for a good number of years. Our Building Commissioner, Mr. Wervey, has put this forward. We tried to keep it reasonable and we think we are right on a par and not excessive and below the median on what's being presented here. So we urge your consideration.

Resolution 41-2008. The Service Directors in the Cuyahoga County Mayors' and Managers' Association have endorsed the practice of clearing the streets of snow. In fact in this past week or more our Service Department has implemented this procedure and we'd like to have your input and concurrence. So there has been a savings already of salt use and Mr. McLaughlin can bring you up to date. There's a shortage of getting the salt out to everybody. Some communities are paying up to \$100/cubic ton and ours is like \$41.00. In the past we put down 5,000 to 6,000 tons in a normal winter, you can figure out what the costs are. If we can take that down 30% – 40% it would be a real godsend. It also saves a lot of wear and tear on our streets. Resolution 42 is at no cost to the City. These are Federal earmarks that Congressman Kucinich got for us. They can be utilized for trails and sidewalks and would allow for the extension of the sidewalks from Turney Road into the City View and Bridgeview areas. If you have any questions on this our City Engineer, Dave Neumeyer, can address your concerns. We have to go through NOCCA, our Northern Ohio Agency, to get permission to do this. Resolution 43. I know we've all had instances where we had problems or we know people who suffer from dementia or Alzheimer's and this is a request going out to the State of Ohio that they have in 10 other States to put up a Silver Alert which parallels the Amber Alert. It has proven very effective and we're asking the State to look at that. If somebody wanders off from the hospital or from home they put this out and it brings a heightened awareness that someone's missing, somebody's wandering and brings the forces of the City and all other agencies and the general public to help find the individual. Resolution 42. First Energy is undermining the successful consortium created by many communities (about 115 communities) involved in NOPEC, including our community. We're in it. To reduce energy costs for our constituents. Now they want a transmission cost added to each kilowatt hour that we get, which literally licks any chance of being competitive on the open market, so we're asking that you send a message to the PUCO to say hey, come on. These are hard times. This is not the time to be playing with the energy supplies

I just wanted to make a comment about Bridgeview. Their opening has been delayed. They won't open up until spring of 2010 and so they're holding off going to the market for the bonds because right now is the worst time in the last 30 – 40 years to go on the bond market and they'll be going out after January 1st. If you hear anything that's what's going on there

And as a reminder, this weekend is the holiday craft fair on Saturday followed by the City's lighting ceremony at 5 p.m. on Sunday. Of course everyone's invited including Members of Council and staff. I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving This concludes my report.

CLMN SUSTER: Mayor, with the delay of Bridgeview, is there any chance that that will have any effect on the TIF?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: No. Wait a minute. the answer really is the effect that it would have is that hopefully the markets would stabilize and when you go out for selling the bonds, which is on a competitive bid, the interest rate would be lower therefore you get more money from the bond proceeds which could be plowed into the project. We're not just talking a few thousand dollars. This could be several million dollars. But here again no one can really predict what's going to happen. Right now it's a very bad time to sell bonds. January 1st the forecast is that things should settle down and the market should be back where you get competitive prices.

CLMN SUSTER: OK.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Any other questions of the Mayor?

CLWN SARNOWSKI: When we were talking to Mr. Snider before he was saying three major stores were signing in November? Did they sign? Do you know?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: You have to ask Mr. Snider that.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: Also I've heard. Did Lowe's pull out or are they still one of the?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: You have to ask Mr. Snider that.

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: No report.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: The Mayor has already mentioned about Resolution 41. That was put together at a meeting with 34 Service Directors. It broke off into a committee of 10 that set these guidelines. One of the problems was that at the time there were 30 cities that had no salt contract whatsoever and there was a problem (and I've still been hearing it) that probably by January or February we may have a hard time getting salt delivered to us. In order to put all those things together and to make everything on a level playing ground because you always turn around and people call you and say Independence's streets were better than yours, etc. So what they're trying to do is they get everybody to follow the same program and it all ends up being the same. One of the things that everybody's asking me is is it etched in stone? If we have problems and the police find problems with certain areas or my foremen then we'll make the adjustment. It isn't etched in stone, but we're going to try to follow. This week we followed it and it worked out pretty well. What happens if when you drop it on a side street, if we drop it every fifth house, every 200 feet, the cars strike it and it starts opening up. The days of down to the pavement are pretty much gone with the away things are. We're trying to do this so that we do have salt to make the whole winter. I keep calling people. The head of the Service Directors' Association was on TV on Thursday and he can't find out anything more. There's something going on that we have no control over. There are still cities that have no salt contracts. We went in on a State contract so far we didn't get a delivery but that does not guarantee us because we're on a State contract. They got to get it delivered. This is one of the things that we're reviewing and this week so far it worked out pretty decent. What I figured out with the amount of snow and how many times there will be ice and re-freezing we probably, by taking this other approach, will save 125 tons of salt we would have normally used. So as to how it adds up for the whole winter, we'll have to wait and see.

We're still trying to pick up leaves. The crews are out. It's a tough battle with the machines because they're vacuums and they freeze up so I've kept them out as much as I could. They're back out again today. When they freeze up they start hearing the propellers colliding inside and they bring them in. We'll continue to try to pick them up as much as we can. My understanding is it's going to start snowing again tomorrow for a couple days so we'll have to see what happens

We're still working on putting the finishing touches on Christmas lights and getting ready for the lighting ceremony this weekend.

One other thing I wanted to touch on is I got some calls about streetlights and there's a process to getting street lights fixed. One of them is we spent 2.5 hours the other day getting all the numbers off of the poles. You have to have the numbers off the poles because if you put the third light on the corner of the street or that, they're not going to find it. What happens is we get the numbers off the poles, we fax it into CEI's engineering and they send us back proof that they got it. Usuaused. Sothey say 10 days to take care of it. But I turned in a list of 65 of them last week. I think everybody's kind of confused. They're calling people and doing things. It will slow down the process. So if you call my office or the Service Garage tell them what street and if there is an address so they can get the number and take care of it. That's all I have.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Mr. McLaughlin, if you could, for the benefit of everyone in the audience, give a brief synopsis of Resolution 41, particularsed. Soand23, the first three points, the timeframe, etc.?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We're going to be plowing all the time. If there's not enough to plow. Between 11 o'clock and four in the morning we plow before there are problems, I mean we still have to keep the roads open for the police, around the hospital, etc. because everybody comes into our City from different directions, out of Cleveland, the suburbs, east side, west side, so there's certain areas that we particularly check and salt. Hills like Granger Road Hill, Warner Road Hill will probably always be totally salted. But between 11 and 4 we're just going to try to plow all the time. Then between 4 and 6 we'll put down the salt where the traffic breaks it up, when the rush hour starts. On the side streets, etc, we're going to try like every fourth or fifth house laying down a little bit of salt. I know this does not adhere to the intersections, etc. but I think it's going to work out. We're going to adjust the situation but we will always plow. Our amount of trucks won't change. When there's a big storm we're going out and will put out everything we can. Some of our trucks don't salt. They just plow. They don't have salt beds on them, etc. Anything that becomes a problem we'll address that right away. If the police say Turney Road is slick and everybody's into accidents, etc. we're going to try to do is limit the amount of salt and do more plowing to get what they consider an open roadway, you know, free of drifts, etc. The other day when I checked the streets after we plowed and we salted very little. For a 12-hour period we used 62 tons of salt. Usually during that time we would use 150 tons. Things turned out right by the next morning when traffic started, but people called and said my street still has snow on it. That's going to happen. We can't afford to take the chance of running out of salt and putting everybody in jeopardy. We want to make the streets as clear as possible. The schools will still get salt, the hospital zones, the hills, etc. but on the side streets every house has about a 40 - 50 foot frontage so we blast the salt every four or five houses. The traffic will track it.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Thank you. That's a good synopsis. Any other questions?

CLWN MAHONEY: Is every community in Cuyahoga County using this program as well?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: My understanding is that the last time I spoke to the head of the Service Directors' Association he had 30 people signed on.

CLWN MAHONEY: How much salt do we have in our salt bin?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: About 1,500 tons.

CLWN MAHONEY: We got it n July? Is that correct?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: No, we had 900 left over from last year and I had 1,000 delivered the first day that they would allow delivery. I kept calling and the first day we had 1,000 tons delivered. I'm hoping that things go right but we started out pretty bad with the weather in November. I was hoping to get through to January with that amount. We'll see what happens?

CLWN MAHONEY: Thank you.

CLMN SUSTER: Two things. You say you checked the light poles? Did you check the ones along Turney Road? Say everything south of Granger? Because there were quite a few in through there?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: We did all the main streets. Like I said it took me two hours, there were 65 out just on main streets.

CLMN SUSTER: OK. You said there's a possibility that in February or sometime in there that we wouldn't be able to get salt? Would there be a possibility that because we're only paying \$41.00 per ton versus another city paying \$100.00 that they'd rather give it to them versus us because of the difference in price?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: There is another consortium. Dick has this. We've been in that a number of years now. Dick could tell you that. There's a group that we're in another consortium that we're the ones that didn't get a contract. Another group of cities was in a consortium that put out a bid and nobody bid on it. I've had companies already call me and that's why I say I feel uneasy. I've had companies call me from Akron and Fairview and say we have salt. I said yeah. They said you want to buy some? I said I have salt right now, etc. They said you better take our number because in January or February you're going to be calling us. I took one of the company's numbers and said by the way how much are you willing to sell for? It was \$110 per ton. I took his number, but that's a pretty scary situation. There are people who are stuck paying this. I have a list of small townships, etc. who are paying \$100.00 per ton. That's why we're trying to watch it. We don't know what will happen. I keep trying to find out. Everything I hear is negative. That sometime in January or February we're going to have problems. I hope not.

CLMN SUSTER: They started back in August saying there was going to be a salt shortage.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Some people went with a salt company out of Canada but the problem was they can't deliver it over here. Their barges and trucks are locked up so that didn't help them either. They said we'll go to this group and get it over here. I called in to get updated but so far we're just being told to watch it and see what happens.

CLMN DUDLEY: I'm glad that you observed it, like I say, being with ODOT the sore thing is when we can watch the salt truck coming down the road, drop the salt, you got no traffic going over it to break it down and they come back later and all they're going to do is plow their own salt back up, you know? That could be a big money saver for the City right now. As long as you keep the hills and intersections cleared at all times. We don't need to plow up our own salt on these side streets. Some times when I work at night I see them drop the salt and nothing is melted so you could save some money and stretch it out.

CLMN OTERO: I have a question regarding the numbers on the poles of lights. Isn't that the way they repair the poles? The energy company?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: Yeah.

CLMN OTERO: Can't they give you those numbers instead of you going out?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIMOTHY McLAUGHLIN: No, as long as I've been here we have to go out and give them the numbers and they schedule their truck to come out there. Sometimes they can't find the poles because somebody gave them a wrong address, etc. They usually want the pole number.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC: This coming weekend we will have our annual Gold Cup Youth Hockey Tournament which will begin Friday and run through Sunday afternoon. It still remains whether the larger kids' hockey tournaments will play Northeast Ohio so we'll be doing that again this year and Sunday night in conjunction with the lighting ceremony we'll have our skating over at the recreation center from 6 o'clock until 8 o'clock and Santa Claus also will be there entertaining guests. That concludes my report.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: I don't have a report. I would however like to urge passage of Ordinances 48, 49 and 50.

And, maybe as an aside, I heard a bunch of numbers about how many vacant houses there are. I've heard numbers in the 1,200 range. Vacant houses have been holding steady in the low 900s for many months. They continue to be a problem but they're holding pretty steady. Foreclosures at the time hold steady in the low 500s. That's all I've got this evening.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: No report.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT: No report.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Dick, have you started working on as far as putting together the 120-day plan that needs to be put together?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT: I had my plan done two months ago, Frank. It works. It's done. I gave it to the (*inaudible*) downtown and I gave it to the State.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: All right.

CITY ARCHITECT DAVID SPEHAR: No report.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: 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 tonight's agenda. Comments shall be strictly limited to a brief statement not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to the legislation on the current evening's Council agenda and no citizen shall speak more than once. Is there anyone wishing to address Council on tonight's agenda? If you have anything different it's at the end of the meeting.

Jeff Weisbarth, 13520 Thraves Road. On the Ordinances 48, 49 and 50 are these proposals for a change in fees? Do you know what the new fees might become?

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Yes, Building Commissioner, do you want to go over those?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: Yes, the fees are part of the legislation. Do you have copies of the legislation?

MR. WEISBARTH: Just what was passed out?

PRESIDENT WAGNER: They just have the agenda. The legislation is on the bulletin board. He doesn't have a copy of the legislation.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: OK. It's a list. It's not something that's real easy to go over at this point but.

MR. WEISBARTH: May I, if I might, ask a question then with respect to building permits, structures, siding, windows, etc.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: Yes. Some are in regards to siding, concrete.

MR. WEISBARTH: Is the inspection fee with respect to home inspections prior to sale?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER WILLIAM WERVEY: Yes, Sir, that is also a piece of legislation. The fees will be raised from \$75.00 to \$125.00 I believe. And a second unit in a double house would be raised to \$40.00 and I believe now it's \$25.00 or \$20.00.

MR. WEISBARTH: The Mayor gave me copies of the legislation. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Is there anyone else wishing to address Council on tonight's agenda? There being none, we'll go on to Committee Reports.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT WAGNER: There being none, we'll move on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

ORDINANCE NO. 48-2008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1314.04 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS RELATIVE TO FEES CHARGED BY THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 5

NAYS: 2

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Waiver passes with five Yes votes, two No.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

ORDINANCE NO. 49-2008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1311.21 (g) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS RELATIVE TO FEES CHARGED BY THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 5

NAYS: 2

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Waiver of rules passes with five Yes votes, two No.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

ORDINANCE NO. 50-2008

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1413.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS RELATIVE TO FEES CHARGED BY THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 5

NAYS: 2

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Waiver of rule requiring three readings is passed by five Yes votes, two No.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION NO. 41-2008

A RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY SERVICE DIRECTORS SENSIBLE SALTING PRACTICES.

Moved by MARINCIC to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION NO. 42-2008

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS TO PREPARE AND SUBMIT AN APPLICATION AND ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO AREA WIDE COORDINATING AGENCY FOR THE ACCESS OF FEDERAL EARMARK FUNDS FOR THE DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION OF A MULTIPURPOSE PATH ALONG ANTENUCCI DRIVE AND THE EXTENSION OF TRANSPORTATION BLVD.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION NO. 43-2008

A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE LEGISLATURE TO ENACT A SILVER ALERT PROGRAM.

Moved by MAHONEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

RESOLUTION NO. 44-2008

A RESOLUTION URGING THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF OHIO TO ORDER FIRST ENERGY TO CONTINUE AND/OR EXTEND THE NOPEC GENERATION DISCOUNT FROM DECEMBER 31, 2008 UNTIL FIRST ENERGY'S PERMANENT RATE PLAN IS APPROVED AND TO ADOPT NOPEC'S RECOMMENDATIONS IN THE FIRST ENERGY ELECTRIC SECURITY PLAN CASE TO ELIMINATE THE ONE CENT PER KILOWATT HOUR DEFAULT SERVICE RIDER FOR NOPEC CUSTOMERS.

Moved by SARNOWSKI to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT WAGNER: That concludes the legislation before the Council. 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 this evening?

Linda Eggles, 4975 East 141st Street. Have there been any decisions or anything being done about widening the street on Broadway and the sewer problem? Because basements are still filling up with water. Furnaces are burning out. Hot water tanks are burning out. It's really hard to live in that area. Has there been anything any decision made on improving that?

PRESIDENT WAGNER: I'll ask the City Engineer at this time and then the Mayor can answer after that.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: On what section of Broadway?

MS. EGGLES: Around East 141st. Right across the street from the License Plate Bureau.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: That's part of the Parkview Parkway widening project that is scheduled to go into construction in July 2010. That includes all new storm sewers going from McCracken all the way down to tie into that culvert that goes underneath over by the 480 ramp. Yes, there is.

MS. EGGLES: As far as the properties in the area, say directly on Broadway?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: Yes.

MS. EGGLES: There was a contract that the City signed to purchase some property there and it hasn't gone through. Is there anything going on with that?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID NEUMEYER: You'd have to talk to Council about that. I can't talk about that.

MS. EGGLES: OK. Who would I address?

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Mayor, can you answer her question?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: Property on Broadway?

MS. EGGLES: Yes. At 14103-07 Broadway.

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: That's in committee.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: I thought you withdrew that legislation, Mayor?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: No.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Which one did you withdraw?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: That was the \$600,000.00 for the show and fixing the roof. And there was like \$34,000.00. There was an agreement on the table, Council put the money aside and it's in committee and that property is part of the arrangement with so much for the property and a few extra dollars to pay off the back taxes, etc. As soon as Council passes it we can release the money.

CLWN MAHONEY: Do you own that property, Ma'am?

MS. EGGLES: Yes, I do.

CLWN MAHONEY: Do you have a signed contract?

MS. EGGLES: Yes.

CLWN MAHONEY: You obviously don't have it with you?

MS. EGGLES: No, I don't have it with me, but there is a signed contract from the City.

CLWN MAHONEY: Could we have a look at that?

MS. EGGLES: My realtor you could talk to.

CLMN SUSTER: Joe Feckanin.

MS. EGGLES: It's Rybka Realty and it's on Broadway. It's in Garfield and the salesman's name is Joseph.

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: Joe Feckanin.

CLMN SUSTER: Joe Feckanin

MS. EGGLES: Yes. Joe Feckanin. Thank you very much for your time.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Thank you. Mayor, Joe Feckanin, is that the same Mr. Feckanin that serves on the Planning Commission?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: No, he's no longer on the Planning Commission.

LAW DIRECTOR DAVID MACK: He moved out of town.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Anyone else wishing to address Council at this time?

David Mays, 8250 Green Drive. Mr. Mayor, this lighting ceremony and fireworks for the holidays. What's that costing the City? Approximately? Running the lights for the entire time, the fireworks and stuff?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: The ceremony itself is probably two to three thousand dollars. And we don't know what the electricity is.

MR. MAYS: And the fireworks?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: That's included with the fireworks.

MR. MAYS: Two or three thousand dollars?

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: Yes, for the whole thing.

MR. MAYS: Several people I've talked to in the City of Garfield feel that two or three thousand dollars, five thousand dollars, fifty dollars spent at this point with the amount of money that the City is owed and the State taking over is an absolute waste and disgrace to the City of Garfield Heights.

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: Wait a minute. We've had the conversation on the floor of Council before. We know times are tough. Times are difficult.

MR. MAYS: I can't hear you.

MAYOR THOMAS LONGO: Is this on? We know that times are tough. Things are difficult. Everybody is having problems. The easy thing to do is to just turn around for the City and just say we're knocking all this off—fireworks—the whole bit—but it's a little something that we've always done in the City and I wasn't going to close it down. This was asked by, I think, Ms. Marincic brought it up once before and I made mention that we were going to go ahead with this and that is something that, yeah, if you really want to see us squeeze things down I won't do that. You can blame me for that, but I will not, there are people in this town, there are a lot of kids that come to this event that kind of kicks off the holiday season and I thought that was something that people look forward to and I made a decision that we were going to put this on. So if you want to blame anybody for that it is my decision. I'll never forget years and years ago there was a problem with the finances in the City and so they cut off the fireworks on the 4th of July. Hell broke loose in the city because people the one thing they look forward to in this City that was the one thing. They cut rubbish, they cut pick up, they cut everything. And I never forgot that. I said if I ever became Mayor and I'm going back to 1980, 1979, somewhere back through then and so here it is and I made the decision that we're going to continue with this. It's not an exorbitant amount of money but it's just one of those things that we as a City do. If I really want to save money don't put any salt down for the snowplowing. It's my responsibility. I take full credit for it and if somebody wants to criticize me for it, so be it.

MR. MAYS: It's amazing that there's cities out there that aren't in the financial situation that Garfield is that have cut their lighting displays for this year because of tight money and they are not in the financial situation that Garfield is. Maybe they have more insight of what's happening than this City does?

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Is there anyone else wishing to address Council at this time?

Jeff Weisbarth, 13520 Thraves Road. First, Mr. Mayor, with due respect to the other resident, I think what you're doing with the lighting ceremony is a benefit to all the children who come out and it's a kick off to the festivities and it's not that exorbitant a price. Thank you.

With respect, however, to the financial problem that the City is in, there's been some talk about perhaps modifying the credit on the income tax that is paid in a community where you work versus where you live. Several, maybe 10, 20, 15 years ago when Council was meeting at City Hall, we discussed an issue very similar to this. Some of you were on Council. Some of you were on the other side. I would urge Council that before any action is taken to modify the credit give the citizens a vote. Don't take the action upon yourselves. Let the people decide if they can afford additional taxes in the City where they live versus the city where they earn the money. I notice some of the fees here were increased only on the residents. I didn't notice a lot of fees increased for contractors—siding, concrete, etc. We're paying a little bit more on the permits. Don't take it out of our pockets by way of taxes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: Is there anyone else wishing to address Council this evening? There being none that concludes Comments By Citizens. We'll move on to Miscellaneous Business beginning with Ward 1 and Clmn Dudley.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CLMN DUDLEY: I want to mention, in case anybody didn't know, we had a really great turn out this past Saturday. We gave out turkeys and hams to about 270 people. This coming Wednesday at The Partnership of the Holy Spirit we'll be having a community meal. It's for everybody. It's not based on income. It's going to be served from 5 p.m. to 6 p.m. This will be an annual event for our community and the City as a whole. For those who would like to come out and eat with us, you can carry it out or you can eat it there. We look forward to seeing you there. That's all I have. The Holy Spirit on 131st. It used to be St. Timothy's.

CLWN MARINCIC: I received a very cute little poem regarding Thanksgiving so this is my Thanksgiving wish to the community because I think it's worth repeating. "May your stuffing be tasty, may your turkey be plump, may your potatoes and gravy have never a lump, may your yams be delicious, may your pies take the prize and may your Thanksgiving dinner stay off of your thighs." Happy Thanksgiving everybody.

CLMN LIOTTA: I'd like to wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving and enjoy it with your families. That's what it's all about.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: I, too, would like to wish a Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving to all from myself and my family.

CLMN SUSTER: On behalf of my family I would like to wish everybody a Happy Thanksgiving. If anybody is doing any traveling please drive safe and come back to the City.

CLWN MAHONEY: I'd also like to wish everybody a Happy, Blessed Thanksgiving from my family to yours.

CLMN OTERO: I'd like to just add that we have a lot to be grateful for and I think there isn't a business in the world today that isn't having financial difficulties. All we have to do is come together and try to find the best solutions. Hopefully we can do that. I want to wish you a very Happy Thanksgiving for you and your families.

PRESIDENT WAGNER: With that I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

CLMN OTERO: Yes.

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

AYES: 7

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Frank J. Wagner
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council