

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL**

**CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Monday, December 21, 2009

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

**INVOCATION BY:** Councilwoman Debra Sarnowski

**ROLL CALL:**                   **PRESENT:** President Frank J. Geraci, Jr.  
Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich,  
Sarnowski, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn

**READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:**

Moved by Cllm SUSTER to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council of December 14, 2009 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:**

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** We will now move on to the reports of the Mayor and of his Directors. Mayor Collova, please?

**MAYOR VICTOR COLLOVA:** Thank you, Mr. Geraci and Members of Council. I want to start by talking a little bit about RTA. RTA has reported they will be cutting out some of their bus services in Garfield Heights. We will be being affected. There's a meeting with RTA to discuss some of the affected routes. The meeting will be held at the Maple Heights Library on Thursday, January 7<sup>th</sup> from 5 to 7 p.m. I urge Council to attend. I know we're going to have a resident today speak on this a little bit and I also put some information in the packet for you. This is very important to Marymount Hospital, which is also losing some routes that have been going to them. They're very interested in this too. So I urge everyone to attend this meeting.

Just a couple things before I get into legislation. Jim Bukac, on my left, this is going to be his last Council Meeting. Jim is retiring. He's done a great job. He's been here for 22 years. Everybody knows Jim Bukac. Everybody appreciates him. The city appreciates him and actually on behalf of Mayor Longo, I want to tell you thank you. We wish you well in retirement.

Next I'd like to talk a little bit about the City Architect, Dave Spehar. Dave has been with us also for a long time. He's done a great job. Due to some of the cutbacks and some of the conservative approaches that we have to take with the State, we're going to take Dave off as an everyday person—not an everyday person so to speak--we're taking him off the retainer, but Dave will be here when we need an architect. He will be the guy that we go to. So I want to thank you, Dave, for all you've done. We appreciate it. Thank you.

Getting into tonight's legislation we have Ordinance 68-2009. This is a transfer ordinance to reset the appropriations to reflect the actual operations. This is for the State. If you have any questions, Mr. Ob elaborate further.

Resolution 61-2009. We're asking to appoint Robert Dobies as Recreation Director to replace the retir Bukac. Bob is a longtime friend who I've had the opportunity to work with him on many youth progr is presently Vice President of the Garfield Heights School Board. Bob has also been a coach to the yo Benedictine High School. He has also coached and helped the wrestling program in Garfield Heights. been involved in many youth programs and I believe he will be as big an asset to Garfield Heights as Mr. Bukac, so I urge Council to pass that. Next on Resolution 62-2009 Brendan Manor has done a gre in our city, housing many of our Seniors. They are in the St. Tim area. They, like everyone else, have on hard times and will be facing closing their doors as of January 31<sup>st</sup>. We're asking the community to support Brendan Manor by attending their Chinese Auction on January 10<sup>th</sup> from 3 to 6 p.m. This is a that's done a great job. They really got their back against the wall so anything we could do to help the appreciate. Next, Resolution 63. We are asking Council to re-appoint Sam Bucher to the Planning Committee. Sam has done a great job and he will continue to do a great job for the city. Resolution 64 We're asking Council to appoint Scott Piazza as a member of the Zoning Board. Scott is a young man Garfield Heights that wants to be involved, has been involved and takes on this challenge. I appreciate he's going to do for Garfield Heights. I urge Council to vote for that one also. Next, Resolution 65-20 we're asking Council to appoint Gene Glenn to the Recreation Board. Gene Glenn, who attends all the meetings, who may want to stand up now so everybody can get a look at him. I'm sure you've all seen around here. Gene is very involved in the city; very involved in the School Board. Does a great job. A think he will do a great job on the Rec Board. Thanks, Gene. Resolution 66 is regarding CERT. I don't I have to tell anybody in the room the importance of CERT. What a great job they do and I'm sure we no problem with Resolution 66-2009 and with that you have my report.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Any there any questions for the Mayor?

**CLWN MARINCIC:** You were smooth, Mayor, you were good. You fit right in. On Resolution 61 appointing Mr. Dobies (good choice by the way) on the salaries since he's going to be Level 9 he's got come in at the very first one at \$69,000.00?

**MAYOR VICTOR COLLOVA:** Range 9, Step 1.

**CLWN MARINCIC:** OK. Do you see in the immediate future raising any of these? Or are you going hold off for a year or two until you see the city's financial?

**MAYOR VICTOR COLLOVA:** I'd like to have the money to raise everybody to a million dollars e but the foreseeable future does not look that way.

**CLWN MARINCIC:** It's just that it is a very low salary and I appreciate you coming to work for the amount of money. That's all I've got. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Any other questions for the Mayor?

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Mayor Collova, on Mr. Dobies' appointment. Are we going to keep Mr. Bukac on consultant so that he can work with him?

**MAYOR VICTOR COLLOVA:** Actually, myself, Mr. Bukac and Mr. Dobies are going to sit down the meeting tonight and talk about it. Mr. Dobies is available the next two weeks to sit down with Mr. and try to get everything together and also Mr. Bukac has agreed to stay on, if needed, a week, two w whatever we may need so we're going to discuss that tonight.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Thank you very much. Thank you, Mr. Bukac.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Any other questions?

**CLMN DUDLEY:** If we can't get RTA to... Have them talk to the...

**MAYOR VICTOR C** throughout the commu that the routes that they feel--obviously they di with you that they sho it's important that as n has to say on the recor

**PRESIDENT GERAC**

**LAW DIRECTOR T** Happy Holidays and le speed on everything. T first of the year. Other

**PRESIDENT GERAC**

**INTERIM SERVICE**

**PRESIDENT GERAC**

**PARKS AND RECRI** last report, we'll make course Mayor Longo w the opportunity. I'd als us here at Christmastin Trinity High School wi your fix of varsity hocl Sunday night and you c

Regarding Resolution t he's a good choice. Alt approve Mr. Dobies' ap things run smoothly an telephone. Give me a c here, the Directors, to I questions that I can or

It has been an absolute I've enjoyed the Memb great team down in the hardworking people tha I got to remember to tai very much.

**PRESIDENT GERAC**

**CLWN SARNOWSKI** explain a little bit about

**PARKS AND RECRE** Garfield Heights put as percentage of tax dollar

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RICHARD OBERT:** This year it's \$64,000.00.

**PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC:** Which goes directly into Recreation. What they do with that money is generally oversee various programs that the Rec Department handles. For instance, the fireworks, Skate with Santa. Those are all programs that are sponsored by the Recreation Board. The Recreation Director does not work for the Board, but they work in an advisory capacity to the Director. They're his eyes and ears out in the city. They may hear things from different residents or things they want to get started, programs, problems, etc. They are a good crutch for the Director; people to lean on. They also give another opinion. There's three members of the Recreation Board as well as a Member of Council and a Member of the School Board. So you get five people that can. You know sometime I would look at things one way and we'd have a Rec Board and they would say maybe you should look at it this way or that way? So it's a real nice tool to have to have those people to work with. That's kind of in a nutshell. Years ago we used to meet once a month. We meet about quarterly. Any member of the Board can call the meeting if they see it necessary. So there's been times when we would meet five or six times over a period of three or four months and there's been times we'd go three months without a meeting. It's all a matter of if there's projects coming up, if there's problems coming up, if there's certain things that happen.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Mr. Chairman, I have a question. You said like there's three members of the Board and you said that you go work with them to get advice, etc. and maybe suggestions? Are they concentrated living in one area? Or are the members spread out through the city so they can get a fix on what's going on in the communities?

**PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR JAMES BUKAC:** One of the members was Joyce Hereford and that's the lady that stepped down. She lives in Ward 1. Paul Gutkowski lives over here in 6 right by St. Therese—sorry, 4, Councilwoman of Ward 4. He lives in Ward 4 right by St. Therese, and a School Board Member and a designee from Council.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Another question, probably for Mr. Dobies. If you're taking that position and you are already a School Board Member will that cut out another School Board Member from becoming part of the advisory board there? Or do you want to assume that position and you will be that School Board Member because you are already a Member?

Mr. Robert Dobies (*from the audience*): I'll be assuming the presidency next year (*Inaudible*) It's not cutting out anybody.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** No, I'm saying if you assume the President and you are going to be still sitting there is there going to be another School Board Member to make two School Board Members on the Board?

**MR. DOBIES:** No.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** And that's going to be you? OK. You will let us know if for some reason something changes and another person is appointed also?

**MR. DOBIES:** (*Inaudible.*)

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Any other questions? Before we move on I'd just like to make a comment in regards to Mr. Bukac. I worked for Mr. Bukac, I think, probably for 10 years on the Rec Board and sorry to see you go. Hope you enjoy your retirement. It was an honor being on the Rec Board. Mr. Dobies, good luck on your adventures. I don't know what else to call it, and we'll move on. Congratulations to Mr. Dave Spehar in regards to your leaving and good luck to you. And we'll move on. City Engineer David Neumeyer.

**CITY ENGINEER DAVID** report. I would just like to rem meeting on Friday. They are go and residents should probably month to their sewer bill.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** \$4.

**MAYOR VICTOR COLLO** Architect?

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** I wa Architect, Mr. David Spehar. I apologize.

**CITY ARCHITECT DAVID**

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** I kn

**CITY ARCHITECT DAVID** last nine years so we'll see how we'll get a chance to work toge

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Tha

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RIC** Happy New Year. I'll reiterate here a few weeks ago, they wa I would think on the 27<sup>th</sup> when start us off December 28<sup>th</sup> with that do show up) we could set t and all the capital requests for t this year. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Tha

**CLMN SUSTER:** In the past

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RIC** at the County by April 1<sup>st</sup>.

**CLMN SUSTER:** The reason losing about two months.

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RIC**

**CLMN SUSTER:** So as Dick we'll work diligently to get it d

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Any

**CLWN MARINCIC:** Mr. Ch tonight, would you let the peopl

**FINANCE DIRECTOR RIC** didn't know. It's \$1,300.00 a ye

**CLWN MARINCIC:** What is

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**CLWN MARINCIC:** Welcome aboard and Yes.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Welcome aboard, Mr. Dobies. Look forward to working with you. Thank you. I vote Yes.

**CLWN SARNOWSKI** Welcome aboard also and I vote Yes.

**CLMN SUSTER:** Before I vote I'd just like to say that I'd like to welcome Bob, now that I'm the last vote. I know Bob will do a great job and I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** That passes 7-0. You're lucky I don't have a vote, Bob. Congratulations to you. I mean that sincerely. Congratulations to you.

**RESOLUTION NO. 62-2009**

A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING BRENDAN MANOR ADULT GROUP HOME REGARDING THE NON-PROFIT AGENCY'S MISSION AND SUPPORTING ITS ATTEMPT TO RAISE FINANCES TO REMAIN OPEN.

Moved by DUDLEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

**VOTE ON ADOPTION:**

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Before I vote, For anybody who is not familiar with Brendan Manor, it's a nice place. It's a little different. Some of the people there need a little more assistance than your regular individual who lives like in St. Timothy Manor or either St. Timothy Park. There's about an average of 15 of them. They've been a great group of individuals. I go visit them several times a year. There are different themes for them. We give a pizza party or give them gifts at Christmastime. I'm definitely going to miss them and I wish there was something we could do and I thank the Members of Council and the Mayor and others for supporting this Resolution and if you get a chance do go up there on January 10<sup>th</sup> to support their Chinese raffle. They would be most appreciative and so will we. With that I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** That passes 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 63-2009**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF SAM BUCHER AS A MEMBER OF THE PLANNING COMMISSION OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO TO SERVE A TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2010, AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

Moved by SARNOWSKI to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

**VOTE ON ADOPTION:**

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** That passes 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 64-2009**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF SCOTT PIAZZA AS A MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, TO SERVE A TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

Moved by MAHONEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

**CLWN MARINCIC:** Well, if he's one of the Piazza's kids he's got to be good. I vote Yes.

**CLMN SUSTER:** Before I vote I'd like to say I've known Scott since he was about five years old and I know that he's wanted for a long time to get involved in the city. I think this is a great opportunity for him and I know he'll do a great job and I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** That passes 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 65-2009**

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF GENE GLENN TO THE RECREATION BOARD OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE TERM EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2010 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2016.

Moved by SARNOWSKI to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** That passes 7-0.

**RESOLUTION NO. 66-2009**

A RESOLUTION HONORING THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS COMMUNITY EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM.

Moved by SUSTER to READ IN ITS ENTIRETY:

AYES: 7

*(The Clerk read Resolution No. 66-2009 in its entirety.)*

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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**PRESIDENT G**

**COMMENTS I**

**PRESIDENT G**

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work with Vic. You get this call, "Hey, Buddy" and you know you have to do something, but I truly forward to doing the job for everybody. I want to wish Mr. Bukac the best in your retirement. He ha me the transition will be smooth over the next couple weeks and I've made myself available. I left n job this past Friday and I'm available over the next two weeks and I'll be starting January 4<sup>th</sup> so I lo forward again to working with everybody. Thank you very much.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Are there any other residents wishing to speak tonight?

Eric Kaegi, 12105 Valley Lane Drive. I'm here tonight because I want to ask Garfield Council for I regarding the RTA bus cut. In the past three years I've been a resident here I've watched bus cuts go dramatically. I've watched the 802 go from every half hour to every hour to non-existent. I have see go up as much as from 75 cents to almost \$2.00 for rides. Now again a couple months ago RTA they eliminated the 802 and they reduced the 76's times, particularly on Saturday nights. It used to be tha was the last run. Now it's 8 o'clock the last run and as far as that goes anything after that there's no south bus runs. Now RTA is proposing to reduce or eliminate a total of 50 routes in Cuyahoga Coun of those routes hit Garfield Heights real hard. The 88 is to be totally eliminated. The 76 Flyer they w totally eliminate, which I can't understand because I ride it both going to and from work and it's alw packed. The 76 north of the Warner/Ella circle there that is going to be eliminated after 5 o'clock I tl or 7 o'clock in the evenings. I tried getting hold of RTA confirmation of the times and they didn't qu when that was going to be. There was one other 76 I'm thinking of the flyer. Oh the weekend 76 the; eliminate that as well. Totally eliminate the weekend 76 so therefore we will not have any bus servi Garfield on weekends other than the 90 that goes east/west on Granger Road.

What I would like to ask Council is maybe if they could bring up another resolution. They had a resc couple months ago protesting the cuts in the 802s and the 76 and the raise of rates. I'd like to see anc resolution with some stronger language this time because I don't think this is fair to people that have losing their jobs and having to walk to work or having to walk three miles to catch a bus, particularly inclement weather. I think that is just ridiculous. We pay our taxes. We pay a 2% sales tax to RTA. I see why we even bother because we're not getting the service. I'd also like to urge Council to go to t meeting that they have coming up in Maple Heights Library and I'd also like to ask Council to get a the people at Councils and stuff like that, Mayors, etc. and see if we can get a united front against RT because these cuts are just too much. These are just way too much. I know that I talked to a former C President, Frank Wagner, a couple months ago when he was running for Mayor at the time and he m also that he had talked to several different Mayors and other Council people too and he said there wa strong consensus of interest and concern so maybe you folks could get a hold of him and maybe worl something or find out who exactly he talked to and who said what, but I really would like to see Cou push this issue because if we have any more bus cuts we're not going to have any more RTA in Garf Heights or not even in Cuyahoga County at this rate.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Could you wrap it up in about 30 seconds?

**MR. KAEGI:** OK. That's it then. Thank you. I appreciate it.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Thank you. Any other residents wishing to speak? Then we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business. Clmn Vaughn, we're going to start off with you tonight.

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Starting down at this end tonight, are we? Trying to confuse me, aren't you, Frai just want to take this time to wish everybody a Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. Please spend son with your own family. Enjoy them while you have them. It's a blessing and enjoy it. Merry Christma everybody.

**PRESIDENT**

**CLWN MAH**  
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**PRESIDENT**

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boxing moment for us though with that, that's all I have to say and I wish everybody the best Happy New Year too.

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Thank you, Councilman Dudley. Before I get a resolution for the adjournment I also would like to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and stay healthy, each and every one of you. Yes, Clmn Vaughn.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Can I make a motion now that we adjourn? Thank you.

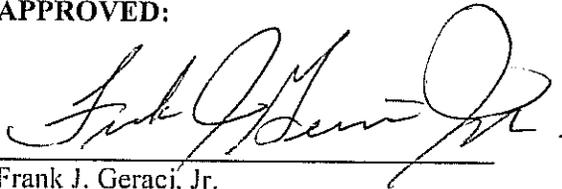
**PRESIDENT GERACI:** Yes. Roll call.

AYES: 7

**PRESIDENT GERACI:** The next Council Meeting will be January 11, 2010 at seven o'clock. I call this Meeting adjourned.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:48 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**



Frank J. Geraci, Jr.  
President of Council

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**



Barbara Molin  
Clerk of Council