

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL
CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO**

Monday, April 11, 2011

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

INVOCATION BY: Councilwoman Nancy Marincic

ROLL CALL: **PRESENT:** Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich,
Sarnowski, Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Clwn Marincic. Roll call.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: All present. The Reading and Disposal of the Minutes.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

Moved by Clmn SUSTER to accept the minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council of March 28, 2011 as submitted. The minutes were adopted with seven YES votes.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

CLMN SUSTER: I would like to make a motion at this time that we take Resolution 24-2011 out and put it out on the floor right now so that we could vote on it.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Roll call.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: Motion to suspend the three reading rule. No. Consider by title.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: Before we do that do you want to allow the Mayor to speak on it?

PRESIDENT GERACI: Mayor Collova, do you have something to say in regards to this?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, the Ordinance that we're talking about right now is honoring the Garfield Heights Bulldogs basketball team for an outstanding season. They've accomplished something that hasn't been accomplished for, somebody told me since Frank Petrancek played back in the '50s or '60s. It's been a long time. We can't tell you how proud we are as a city that you represented us the way you did. Sonny Johnson, all the players, all the coaches. We're as proud as can be. This entire city is in awe of everything you did and I've received numerous phone calls at my office trying to figure out different ways to honor you guys and I just want you to know that everybody in this city really appreciates what you did and I also want you to know that you set a standard now that we're expecting from the wrestling teams, football teams, baseball teams. You

set the standard we want everybody to follow. I want to thank you guys. I can't tell you how much we appreciate it. Thank you, guys. You did a great job.

CLWN MARINCIC: I'd like to make a motion if anybody from the audience wants to speak regarding this resolution that we allow them to speak at this time.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Roll call.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: Anybody interested in stepping up to the microphone?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Mr. Chairman, I just wanted to add my congratulations to our basketball team. I wanted you to know that I believe you converted me into a basketball fan. It was such an exciting season for all of you but I wanted you to know your achievements brought a community together with your achievements this year. I wish you good luck on your future endeavors to those seniors who are moving on and we'll be looking for another exciting season. Thank you, gentlemen. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Anybody else willing to speak?

Mr. Sonny Johnson, Garfield Heights Head Basketball Coach. I just want to introduce some of the players. Personally for me this has been an unbelievable year. Not just because of what they did on the basketball court but also because of the character of the kids that we have. These seniors were unbelievable. You win with great kids. There's really not what I'm doing. That's what I tell my kids. The players I have. It's really what they're doing with each other. How close they were in buying into the team concept. We had 15 points from a senior that didn't play a lot. The ones that did each one had a big part of it. Three of them is not here. I'm just going to mention to let you know. Lloyd Henry. He'll be going to Findlay College. He's not here right now. Durant Phillips who will follow his education and basketball career at Teal University. Adam Barbour who has a decision to make. He just got accepted to LaRosa College to continue his basketball career.

I'm going to introduce David Wright. Stand up, David. He's a sophomore, a huge part of our season this year. He really didn't play as much on the varsity level, but was a huge part of what we do in practice preparing the guys so, David Wright.

Richard Parker. These two guys right there I want to say one thing. I've had these guys since they were in the 4th Grade. They're kind of special. They're pretty special to me. David and Richard I called them early in Garfield Heights. Richard Parker was one of the top sophomore shooting guards in the State of Ohio, had a knee injury this year he had but was always at practice carrying about a 3.7 GPA. Just an unbelievable kid in honors classes and we look forward to him and definitely coming back next year. So Richard Parker here.

Marquis Jackson, come up. He's another one of our guys on the injuries list this year. A great kid, a great shooter, has about a 3.7 GPA, is a junior right now and I'm looking forward to him coming back after a knee injury. I think he played about two games this year but just an unbelievable kid and leading us next year.

Ronald Morgan, come on up. Great kid. Nice looking young man I can tell you that. Great kid. We look forward to him contributing a lot next year and just getting better. Ronald Morgan.

Tyler McConahan, come on up. My sophomore sensation. Been looking forward to him and Jermaine. We have some good battles coming up between him and Jermaine this year. Carries

about a 3.7 to 3.8 GPA. Very smart. A lot of these kids are doing an unbelievable job in the classroom . We preach that a lot. You know he just one of the kids that we looking to forward to contributing a lot in the future. So Tyler.

Tony Farmer, come up, Tony. This is our sophomore here. He's really taken to doing a good job in the classroom. He's trying and pushing himself to another limit and I expect more out of himself in the classroom. He's done a unbelievable job of working with the kids. Tony Farmer, who is one of the top 50 sophomores in the country, has about 12 Division I offers from Cincinnati, from West Virginia, I mean a ton of schools right now and we're looking to him to do big things next year. Tony Farmer.

Jermaine Davis, come on up. Big young man: 6'9", 270. We expecting big things from him. I know he got a lot of shoes to fill. We might be hopefully starting right at the end and perform. Jermaine did a good job in the classroom. I think he had over a 3.0 the first quarter. I think a 2.7 or 2.8 the second and just a smart young man that we're looking for great things for him next year. Jermaine Davis.

Kenny Simpson. I been knowing him since he was in the 6th Grade. Unbelievable kid. We have a different kind of relationship. He laughs at me sometimes and sometimes I get on his nerves. He really a great kid. We look to him stepping up next year and performing at a high level of which I think we will. We got some really good guys coming back. Kenny Simpson.

This kid I'm calling might be the story of Garfield Heights from Ms. Reid, from every teacher from the bus drivers to everybody. Mike Davis, come on up. He's been causing a lot of problems in Garfield since he was in the 1st Grade. But he's made it up and he's a special kid, I can tell you that much. We look forward to him next year. He should be a big contributor. We'll let him step in and really carry the role next year. Mike Davis.

Also I want to say to Terrell Byrd is not here. He has something to do with his mom, but he's an unbelievable kid, a great defender and worthy contributor. Coming back as well.

William Dayse, BJ Dayse. I been knowing him since he was in the 4th Grade so he used to be in my games cheering with pom poms and things like that back in the day, but he's one of our coaches' nephews and he's going to Defiance College to continue his basketball career and his education which is brilliant so BJ Dayse who we're going to miss a lot.

Come on up Mike. Mike McQueen. He's pretty special to me. We kicked Mike off the team about five times when he was a freshman. Twice when he was a sophomore. Him and my brother used to go out a lot and he's really matured as a young man and is just a special kid. Got great parents which a lot of them do. He's going to Ohio University on a football scholarship and just a special kid and a special leader on our team. Mike McQueen.

I can start crying when I introduce this one here. No, I'm just silly like everybody. Come on up, Trey Lewis. When I say that it's because I've had of course in my six years a lot of great players but he just has it. He has everything you need to be successful, just not on the basketball court. He's smart, he cares about the community, he give back to the community. He's somebody I know if I need him like to read like a I got a call about want to read a couple of daycares now I know he'll be willing to do that. He just does whatever it takes just to give back. I think that very special when you get a young man like him and I'm pretty sure he's going to be doing big things and represent Garfield Heights very well. Trey Lewis.

Last I want to say just when you have a successful program it always starts at the top with Ms. Reid, Mr. Hartman you know who supports me to the fullest, Mr. Hartman I came at you know I'm getting emotional a little bit because I'm a crybaby so for me to work here and have the support that I have it's pretty easy for me to do what I do pushing the kids and coaching them when you know you have good people behind you and I just want to thank you all because we couldn't do it without you. I thank everybody who support us. It was amazing to go to the games and really from my heart see a community come together like it makes me want to push these kids even more. I know it make them want to give back and be more successful because you really saw a community come together and we want to thank you because I think by your encouragement, by you supporting us, that made the kids want to go farther and push and they know what it's like for people to come together and I want to thank all of you. OK. Thank you so much.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Sonny. We appreciate all the kind remarks you made and the introduction of all the students this evening. We congratulate each and every one of you. Would you like to have the resolution read in its entirety?

CLMN SUSTER: Yes.

(The Clerk read Resolution 24-2011 in its entirety.)

Motion to CONSIDER THIS RESOLUTION IN ITS ENTIRETY:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN SUSTER: Before I vote I'd just like to say that I congratulate Coach Sonny Johnson and also all the players' families. I went to both games at the Wolstein Center. I came home with laryngitis. I'll have to be honest. I never attended a Garfield Heights basketball game, so this was a first for me. I even took some alumni from Garfield: my sons, my daughter to the games and we also went down to Columbus to watch them play in the finals. They did an outstanding job and if you listen to Coach Johnson giving the GPAs of these guys, these guys have a great future. The first time I saw Jeremy Davis on the basketball court I said he's in the wrong place. He should be on a football field, not here. Trey Lewis. I've seen kids shoot a ball before. He was outstanding and I would just like to say you've done Garfield Heights proud and we thank you very much because we're going through a trying time and these are the kinds of things that we need to keep people interested in our community and I thank you very much. I vote Yes.

CLWN MAHONEY: Before I vote I would also like to congratulate you. I don't think I've ever seen such tall boys before in my entire life. Congratulations on your achievements on the court and also off of the court and thank you for giving Garfield Heights a little boost. Congratulations and I vote Yes.

CLMN VAUGHN: Before I vote I'd like to first of all congratulate you and thank you all for what you did for the city and I hope again to see you again next year down in Columbus. Let's hope it's not another 60 years since Vic was in school at Garfield. So I look forward to that and I vote Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I do want to say I'm really so proud of you all, you know. I got to say I lost a couple of friends because of you all. I bragged so much to some of the colleagues in other cities and stuff like that, but you all done the city justice, you know? Like one of the colleagues just said during the troubled times that we are going through with such a positive note

you know? I never doubted you all. Just seeing you all and hearing about you all you were just like an icon in the city here and I'm just so proud of you and words can't explain it, but I vote Yes and I'm so proud of you gentlemen.

CLWN MARINCIC: I know you're all on top right now, but you're all going to go higher. There's no doubt in my mind. Remember this day, but there's even better days to come. What you have done is a major achievement. God bless you all. I vote Yes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Coach, team, very good job. You made the city proud. For the time that you were playing these games and stuff you made the city stop talking about the negatives of the children in this city and you brought out the positives and it was good to hear that for a change. I stand by the convenience store in the morning and that's all they talked about. Every customer that came in. Basketball's doing great. I congratulate you for the accomplishment you made. The grade point average I wasn't aware it was that high but it's fantastic to hear some positives about our school and the children that play in it and our coaching staff. I commend you on that and I vote Yes.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: I echo my colleagues' comments exactly. Congratulations. Thank you for playing so well and giving us something to cheer about and get excited about. Also I love to hear about the high GPA averages that you have and I wish you the best of luck in the future years in school and also those that are going to college, I know that you will do well and make us proud also. I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: That passes 7-0. I would also like to make a comment. Sonny, why did it take you so long? I was on that Board for 14 years. You could have gave me a little bit of recognition. You could have helped me along. I appreciate it. Thank you very much.

(The basketball Head Coach and team shook hands with the Council and Administration.)

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT GERACI: Now we will move on to the reports by the Mayor and his Directors. Mayor Collova.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Mr. Geraci, Council. Let me start off by introducing our students on the panel today and in the audience, our key speakers. On the panel with us we have Emily Kosuda. She's going to be doing some speaking very shortly and I believe we have Ta'Metria McGee in the audience. Thank you. Thank you for being here. We're looking forward to hearing your report.

With that said I want to mention to Council and any residents that I have been receiving many phone calls. I'm sure all of Council has, about the televised Council Meetings and there's a problem with the hearing portion of it, the audio portion. People are saying that they can't hear and I've been receiving quite a few phone calls so I'm going to ask everybody that speaks to speak a little bit louder so that everybody can hear and just so everybody understands, when this idea first came about we went out and we talked to some professional people about putting in some audio systems with cameras that are voice monitored. I mean really nice and it only costs about \$20,000.00. We decided to buy a \$119.00 camera with a microphone and hopefully in the future when things are better we will make this a little bit more professional, but right now please bear with us. Turn the volume up a little bit and everybody will speak a little louder.

With that said I want to talk a little bit. About two or three Council Meetings ago we had a resident get on the microphone and ask a question about the Rec Center and the amount of residents that are participating at the Rec Center. There seems to be this contention that more non-residents are there than residents so we put his together for you and just so you know girls' softball 95% residents; t-ball 95% residents; soccer 98% residents; hockey 54% residents; futsal 97%; many figure skating 80%; learn-to-swim 98%; I.D. cards 88%; water acrobatics 100% and aerobics 88%. This shows you these are accurate percentages. This shows you that the large majority of people that use that Rec Center are in fact our residents and that they are very pleased with the services that we offer.

I want to move on a little bit to another idea that we have. I think this is going to interest quite a few of the youth. We have, if there's one thing I think the city is really lacking in, and I'm sure that there's more than one, one is that we are unable to take care of the youth after school. It has a lot to do with the finances through the schools and of course through the city. My idea was to have a large youth center that the kids could go to after school, on weekends, summer vacation and we've checked into it. We've checked into grants. It is really tough to get that kind of money to put that together. So we're going to sort of crawl before we walk and this year we're looking at doing a couple of things that I think will be interesting to all. First off we're looking at doing a summer basketball league inside. We're looking at the possibility of doing it in the Rec Center. We're also looking at doing it possibly in the auxiliary gym if that's possible. We're trying to put a program together where the kids would come in, pay like a dollar to be a part of the program, sign off on the program as far as what we expect of them as behavior. We think we could put some leagues together with some teams, have some very good talented coaches in there, have some chaperones that will see this thing happen. If we can get some fundraisers involved, if we can get some sponsorship money we think we could pull this off. We think this will help as far as the athletic program goes for the summer. At least it's a start.

Another thing that I think is going to be a great idea and I'm going to pass this around to Council. We don't have enough copies. Please share them. We're looking at putting together a "Garfield's Got Talent Program". What this program is going to do. This is to bring awareness and establish a startup fund for the creation of the Children/Teen Centers in the city of our schools toward different activities. The program will be volunteer based fundraising efforts with the potential match grant money to allow for the event. Participants ages 8 – 18 may participate and be enrolled in one of the Garfield Heights Schools or be a resident of Garfield Heights. This is a collaboration of the schools and the city once again working together, we're going to put this talent contest on. First Place Winner will get \$500.00. Second Place \$300.00. Third Place \$100.00. It will be sponsorship money. We will get this money through sponsors so it's at no cost to the city or the schools. We will have tryouts on Friday July 15th here at the Civic Center. That will be for vocal. For dance will be Friday, July 22nd here and the miscellaneous will be Friday, July 29th here. Tryouts will all be held here at the Civic Center. We are then looking at going on to the Finals which would be held hopefully we believe we can get it worked out at the Fine Arts Center for the school. We would like to do that and we're looking for potential judges, music teachers, Garfield Heights Players Club, City Council Members, we'll be grabbing some judges. It's going to be a very minimum. We're going to have admission fees: students \$2.00; adults \$5.00 to come to this to help defray the expenses. We think this is going to be a good thing. I understand in Chardon they have a Chardon Idol instead of American Idol and it has attracted other cities involved. We believe we can do the same thing. So this is a start but I want you to look for this. We'll be advertising it. We're going to be passing this out to the schools, to the city and promoting it through all of our different Internets or anything else we have going on out there. We're looking forward to that.

The next thing I wanted to talk about is that we're working very hard with State Representative John Barnes and the other EPA officials on the Transportation Blvd. extension through to

Rockside. This is critical, I mean absolutely critical, to the city's growth. I have to tell you there has been many politicians and many civic leaders that have said they will help us do something and for whatever reason they were unable to accomplish it. Mr. John Barnes is, believe me, when I tell you he is really putting this thing together. I would have to say that very shortly this turned in before to one of my disappointments in the city. I thought it was something that wasn't going to happen in any near future and now I can see it happening very, very shortly. I'm waiting for some word. Anything can fall apart. We all know that but I feel very comfortable and I'm waiting for word to hear that it's been approved through the legislature in Columbus. This is the beginning of something that could be really big in Garfield Heights. Something that we very much deserve.

The next thing I want to talk about is you know many people have talked about we didn't do any patching this winter and I'm sure them same people now look at their tree lawns and see all that asphalt on there and they have to know we did some patching. We do have a problem. There's a lot of asphalt. It was a horrendous winter. The snow plows were patching one day, plowing the next day. There is asphalt on the tree lawns. I would ask you that if you can, pick up the asphalt, put it in a can and set it out for rubbish. If you can't, if you don't want to do that at least rake it to the curb into the street and we'll pick it up with the sweeper. I understand the inconvenience, but it would certainly help us out.

The last thing I want to talk about today is the school levy. Many of the school people are here today. You can see them with their bright green shirts on. They look great. I want to tell you the importance and I know how tough it is when people talk about asking for money. It's a horrible time, it's a horrible economy, but I have to tell you for the city to make it, for the city to get where all of us want it to get, we need the school to be functioning on top. We have to have them functioning the way we need them to function. We don't need 45 kids in a classroom. We don't need to pick up the paper and see that there's 30 or 40 teachers laid off. That does nothing to help our kids. It doesn't do anything to help the city because when people come to buy a house one of the first things they ask is about the school system. That's very important to them. If the school system isn't functioning the way it should, they're looking elsewhere. They're looking for a better school system. For this city to reach the potential that I believe it has and everybody on this panel believes it has, we need the schools to be able to do what they have to do and have the money to do it. I want you to know that I support the school levy 100%. Council has informed me tonight that they also support the schools in every way and I hope that all the citizens could find it in their heart to set aside this little bit of money because it would be a great benefit to the city.

With that said, I want to get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance number 16. There's a slight increase in the hockey fees and this is a very slight increase. It's just to keep up with the inflation that we're going through ourselves. Ordinance 17. We're changing some original language. We put this ordinance up. It's about the EPA and the leachate that's coming out of that mound. There was some additional language that Mr. Tomola and the Law Department felt should be in there and that's all we're doing is making some slight changes there.

We already did the resolution for the football—I'm sorry. Basketball. I'm hoping for football. I'm hoping, Kevin, for football. Resolution number 25. This is a resolution honoring and thanking the City of Garfield Heights Police Lt. Nick DiMarco for his years of service. There isn't anybody in this room that doesn't know Nick DiMarco. What an outstanding not only police officer, but an outstanding individual. There's nothing he wouldn't do for anybody. After 45 years of service he has decided to hang it up. I see him on Sundays. He was hoping that he would have 46 years. I still see him. Not only did he do outstanding police work over the years, he was a major factor in the Block Watches that were brought about in Garfield Heights and he also was a major factor in the Shop with a Cop that has helped hundreds and hundreds of kids. Nick Di Marco is going to be sorely missed by this city and I can honestly say that there's probably not very many residents, if

any, that don't like Nick and something he's done for them in the past. So it's an honor to be honoring Nick DiMarco. With that said, Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Mayor. Any questions for the Mayor?

CLWN MARINCIC: Two things, Mayor. This talent contest? It's from 8 – 18?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: yes.

CLWN MARINCIC: You know, Mike, here, can sing. I think he's only 18. The second thing I have is in Caucus, Sister Joanne, she's over there in the corner. Would you stand up, Sister, so everybody can see you? She's collecting donations toward Harvest for Hunger and she has a little basket with her. In Caucus everybody was very generous to her and gave her a few dollars. I just want everybody to know that she is there and if you want to make a donation please don't hesitate to do so. That's all I have. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Any other questions for the Mayor? We'll move on to the Assistant Law Director Mr. Kevin Weiler.

ASSISTANT LAW DIRECTOR KEVIN WEILER: Thank you, Mr. President. I am Kevin Weiler. I am your Assistant Law Director. I am here for Tim Riley. I don't have any report tonight, but for anybody that doesn't know who I am that's who I am.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Any questions for Mr. Weiler? If not we'll move on. Our Service Director, Mr. McLaughlin.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. President. As the Mayor mentioned about patching hopefully by the end of this week maybe the beginning of next week the asphalt plants will be open and we'll be able to do more permanent repairs. We will be starting out right away on McCracken and probably go through the main streets first and then we'll go Ward by Ward. The streets are in bad shape. We're not the only ones in that position. I called around to check and everybody's had a tough winter. We're also in the middle of working on some tree lawn repairs from some damage from the snow plows on tree lawns and curb drain repairs. There is a drain that runs on the bottom of the curb. We have about 25 of those that collapsed for some reason during the winter and we're trying to get those picked up. We went around for 10 days and picked up the last of the leaves that were left out from the fall because of the way the snow hit and stuff. So if there's anybody has any leaves left out there I would ask them to put them in a bag and put them out for the rubbish because the leaf truck we're in the process of working on it changing it over to the street sweeper so I can get that out on the road.

Starting on Monday April 18th the Hazardous Waste Roundup at the Service Garage, 13600 McCracken. It will be Monday April 18th through Friday the 22nd and then it will also be Monday the 25th through April 29th and also on Saturday it will be from 8 to noon on Saturday.

Also in that same vein people have called me about document shredding. We did that a few years back and I know myself I spend a lot of time just cleaning out stuff that I have but the shredding company is in Valley View, 5840 Cloverleaf Parkway. On the first Saturday of each month from 9 a.m. to noon you can take your boxes down there. They want you to put it in a box, but for \$5.00 a box they will shred it in front of you. That's a pretty good deal, but I wanted to pass that out there. Their number is (440) 243-8500 in case anybody has any questions. That is the end of my report.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Mr. McLaughlin. Any questions for Mr. McLaughlin? Recreation Director Mr. Dobies.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Mr. President, Council Members, good evening. Let me begin by asking Council to support Ordinance 16-2011. This is being put forward as a modest increase for fees in the hockey program. After meeting with the hockey coordinator and Booster Club President we felt that this would not have a negative impact on our future endeavors for the program.

This past weekend the figure skaters finished with the annual ice show. If you didn't attend this weekend it's the 23rd Annual Municipal Ice Show, you missed out on a wonderful experience. What an outstanding performance by our troupe of skaters. This year's theme was Hollywood and I know it brought back a lot of fond memories and energy while our skaters performed their routines. This year's attendance exceeded last year's by 40% bringing in over 800 attendees for the two day event. Our municipal program emerged from the tireless efforts of Ms. Betty Bussell, who we all know as Ms. Betty and coach for 40 years. Her legacy remains strong and will continue well into the future. Mayor Collova presented Kaitlin Klimkowski with the 2011 Mayor's Trophy and I was honored presenting the 2011 Betty Bussell Outstanding Skater Award to Ms. Amanda Lang. I would personally like to thank Ms. Sarah Capitan, our head skating pro, for putting her first show together along with all of her talented skating pros, Ms. Diane Jelinek for the Booster Club and the Boosters for their help, the multitude of untiring volunteers we had this year to get the stage set so to speak and to my assistant, Ms. Mary Nichols and my staff for not missing a beat. As soon as we receive the disc from the filming company we will put the event on cable TV for all to enjoy.

This week we will continue the late signups for girls' softball. We're looking for a few more bodies. That will be occurring only during business hours this week. Even though Little League signups ended this past weekend they are still looking for interested players. If you have any questions please call Mr. Bob Merrick at (216) 990-8366 or Mr. Doug Placek at (216) 332-0408. If you need any more information you can call the Rec Center and we will direct you.

On a sadder note, I'm sure many of the residents know the decision of eliminating Trinity High School Hockey Program was made last week. While we all tried to insure our children have all opportunities the unfortunate happens. I'm sure the Administration had an arduous task in making this decision. Trinity has used our facility over the years to build a strong program and we are honored that the Trojans made Dan Kostel Recreation Center their home ice. I would also like to recognize Mr. Mark Ferfolia for establishing the Trinity Hockey Program and giving tirelessly for 32 years of service to the program and the successes he produced during his tenure. It truly was a program to be proud of for the school and our community.

On another note I will be closing the Rec Center for the first three weeks of May. This is something that has been done in the past but not done recently. We close the office from May 2nd to May 22nd and reopen on May 23rd. As I experienced last year this is a very slow time period with not much happening in the office. It will allow our department to incur labor costs by eliminating part-time hours along with utilizing my full-time labor efficiently during those weeks without any distractions. I do not foresee any inconveniences to our residents, being the office will still provide needed information. That concludes my report. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Mr. Dobies. Any questions for Mr. Dobies?

CLWN SARNOWSKI: How many skaters do you have in your skating program? Is that an increase from last year? I know you said it was 80% as residents but what's the number there?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: We had 179 skaters this year which was probably about a 25% to almost 30% increase over last year. It was really inspiring. It's neat to see.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Any other questions for Mr. Dobies?

CLMN DUDLEY: The only increase you said for recreation fees is only going to be for hockey, correct?

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Yes, Councilman, that only affects Section C, Items 1 and 2. I believe it was noted what the increases were. There is a \$15.00 increase for residents (depending what age group you were in) and a \$25.00 for non-residents. In talking with the Boosters hockey probably makes up 55% residents and the other 45% non-residents and they had no problem with that. We're still fairly reasonable, let's put it that way. I didn't want to discourage any new players coming in. We have a Spring Hockey Program going on right now that we'll finish up this week and it's promising that new players will be coming to Garfield for next season. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Any other questions for Mr. Dobies? Well move on to Finance Director Mr. Tomola.

ACTING FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report tonight.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Any questions for Mr. Tomola? We'll move on to City Engineer, Mr. David Krock.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: Thank you, Council President. We do have a number of construction projects going on, but I did want to touch on one. The Henry Street closure we have by Marymount Hospital they have run into some issues in the field and it looks like we're going to be closed/remain closed on Henry Street until June 1st. We had originally thought that we may see that open within the next couple of weeks but the latest estimate is June 1st. That's my report.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Mr. Krock. Any questions for Mr. Krock? We'll move on to Economic Development Director Ms. Kuban.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a couple announcements. There's going to be a Community Garden Meeting this Saturday at the building here at 11 o'clock. Becky Repasky will be running that meeting and that's on April 16th. The Senior Center's going to be having an Easter Candy Sale. They're making homemade Easter candy. I passed out some little flyers if you want to pick one up. It will be next Monday through next Thursday, which is April 18th through 21st from 9 a.m. to two o'clock.

I mentioned before previously that the Solid Waste District is having a Compost Seminar. I don't think I mentioned the phone number for RSVPing. You have to reserve a place. That will be on Wednesday April 20th at 7 p.m. and it's right here in Garfield Heights and the phone number to RSVP to reserve a space is 443-3731 and you have to talk to Kathleen.

Finally, on May 5th the library will be having a meeting here to talk about their plans for the new library. That will be from six o'clock to nine o'clock p.m. and that's a Thursday evening. We'll probably be meeting down here in Council Chambers. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Ms. Kuban. Any questions for Ms. Kuban? If not we'll move on.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Absent.

PRESIDENT GERACI: We'll move on to the representative from the schools, Emily Kosuda. What grade are you in, Emily?

Ms. Emily Kosuda. I am a senior.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Please go ahead.

MS. KOSUDA: I'm going to talk a little bit about what I do and what's going on at the high school, so I've been a tennis player for four years, I've been captain for the past two years, I've been in marching band and concert band for four years as well. I'm also a member of National Honor Society for two years. My first year I was secretary and my second year I was vice president. I am involved in the Spanish Club. We just recently took a trip to Chicago to experience the Hispanic parts of the city, which was really interesting and it was nice to see the culture. I'm part of Glass Ceiling Roundtable, which is a group to empower young women in like the career field and help them for their future. I am also involved as a volunteer with SOS and actually we are in the middle of our blood drive which will be coming up soon so it will be successful as always. Just this past fall I was named Homecoming Queen, which is a big honor and recently I was named the Salutatorian so I'll be making another speech soon.

This fall coming up I plan to attend the University of Akron, their Honors College and Business. So I'm pretty busy but it's hard not to be busy with all the great activities the high school offers us so that's why I really urge everybody to go out there and vote for the levy because without that levy some of our future students won't be able to have the experiences that I've had.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you. Are there any questions for Emily?

CLWN MAHONEY: Emily is also a very good volleyball player.

PRESIDENT GERACI: OK. Any other questions? Comments? We'll move on.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT GERACI: Comments from the Citizens on the agenda items only. The rules are this portion of the meeting is for residents' comments on tonight's legislation only. Comments are limited to five minutes. No one can speak more than once. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please raise your hand to be recognized. Please raise your hand to be recognized. We'll now move on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

ORDINANCE NO. 16-2011

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE 36-2010 RELATIVE TO THE GENERAL FEE SCHEDULE OF THE DAN KOSTEL RECREATION CENTER IN ORDER TO ADJUST THE MUNICIPAL HOCKEY PROGRAM FEES.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: It's adopted 7-0.

ORDINANCE NO. 17-2011

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR, OR HIS DESIGNEE, TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT, THE OHIO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, AND/OR OTHER NECESSARY ENTITIES FOR THE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF LEACHATE FROM CITY VIEW CENTER.

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLWN MARINCIC: Before I vote, I just want the people in the audience to know that the city will be reimbursed these funds that their Council is allotting here today and I vote Yes.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: That's adopted 7-0.

RESOLUTION NO. 25-2011

A RESOLUTION HONORING AND THANKING CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS POLICE LIEUTENANT NICK DIMARCO FOR HIS YEARS OF SERVICE.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

AYES: 7

CLMN SUSTER: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make an amendment to this resolution. In the third Whereas where it says "and is the proud grandfather of" put the name of Matthew and then go on with the Nicole, Sydney, Camille and Nathan.

Motion to AMEND THE RESOLUTION AS STATED:

AYES: 7

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: 7

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN SUSTER: Before I vote, I'd just like to say that I've known Nick for 50+ years and I've always enjoyed working with Nick no matter what we got involved in and he was always there to

answer your questions for you. He was with Block Watches. He was more than glad to come out and speak. So I had seen Nick two weeks ago at a dinner and I asked him how he was enjoying his retirement and as always Nick was involved in this Senate Bill 5 so he's been keeping himself quite busy with that and I would just like to wish Nick the best. I hope he enjoys his retirement and I vote Yes.

CLWN MAHONEY: I, too, would like to wish Nick the best of and a happy retirement. I vote Yes.

CLMN VAUGHN: Before I vote, I'd like to share a little story about the Lieutenant and I. When I was in high school the Lieutenant gave me my first speeding ticket on Turney Road. With all that said and done I wish him good luck, good health and I'll still vote Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I'd just like to wish him the very best, you know, in his retirement. May he be able to relax and enjoy and I'll just say he wasn't just a good officer or a fine officer in the couple years that I got to know him, but he was a good man, most importantly. He was a good man. He was very easy to talk to and no matter where I run across him he always had time to communicate with you. I wish him the very best and I vote Yes.

CLWN MARINCIC: I would like to wish Nick a happy and healthy retirement. He will be truly missed and I vote Yes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: I would like to wish Lt. DiMarco the best. I worked with him quite extensively with the Block Watches going through making all the meetings at the onset of this I believe what was it? Ten years ago? And he was very, very instrumental and he was at all the Block Watches. Anytime you called him for information he was there. He never said No and I would like to vote Yes on his resolution.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: I've worked with Nick DiMarco for many years with Shop With a Cop and also helping with the Block Watch and stuff and he's very involved in the community. I wish him the very best and I thank him for all his work that he's done with Garfield Heights. I vote Yes.
AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: That passes 7-0.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT GERACI: We will now move on to Comments By Citizens. The rules are you cannot bring up anything of a first nature. You must have previously brought the problem to a Councilperson or a City Hall department. You are limited to speak only once for a period of five minutes. Please raise your hand to be recognized.

James Fruits, 13600 York Blvd. I am the Chairperson for the levy campaign. This is my son, Malachi, and he wanted to speak tonight for a minute.

Malachi Fruits, 13600 York Blvd. My school is William Foster Elementary. I'm in 3rd Grade and the reason I want the levy to pass is so the Garfield Heights buses can be passed and we can all have stronger schools and our levy.

MR. JAMES FRUITS: I just want to take a moment tonight to thank all the people that came out in support of the levy. As you can see our numbers are growing in support for this levy. We had 300 people at our kick off rally a few short weeks ago and I wanted to thank the Mayor for your

comments about the levy and I join you and the Council as well in the belief in the potential that this city has. I wanted to thank the Council and the Mayor for your support and for your endorsements. I know you guys have fielded a lot of phone calls over the last couple weeks and I wanted to thank Mr. Evan for inviting me to the Block Watch meeting and Mr. Dudley for your e-mails and support as well. So I just wanted to thank you very much for your endorsements and for your support and urge the people of Garfield Heights to support and vote Yes for Issues 3 and 4 so that we can continue on towards a brighter future in Garfield Heights. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you. Is there anybody else?

Allen Sluka, Garfield Heights City Schools, 5640 Briarcliff. I'm really up here for informational purposes. Last Wednesday you'll see the Neighborhood News for those that had a chance to grab the Neighborhood News. There's an article about the school funding and it's also on our Website. I just want to really reiterate that. We see a lot of information in the paper about Governor Kasich's budget proposal, Senate Bill 5. What you really don't see in the paper is the full story. The full story is for the school district is that we're not making money on the Governor's budget. We are not going to see any realized savings or an increase of funding from the State. Because they don't tell you the whole story. The whole story is that the State is not replacing over \$1.2 million in stimulus money that we were receiving from the State two years ago. The State is not telling you that we are going to be cut from our tangible personal property reimbursement of \$600,000.00 next year and fully eliminate it in a year or two. What they won't tell you is we might see a small increase in the foundation funding of about \$300,000.00 and we might see a little bit more should the pension thing pass where it's 2% more for the employees and 2% less for the employer where there is a savings, but they don't tell you the whole story and what they don't also tell you is if this school district starts losing money and we start laying off people even the potential savings from the pension reform we're going to have less employees to increase for that savings. They don't tell you that. They don't do really the studies. All I'm asking you to do is take this information out to the community, ask them to get the real story about school funding and what the State is doing. You've heard me say this before and I'm reiterating myself but over 55% of our funding comes from the State so when the State starts making major cuts to school funding we get hit the hardest because we are more than 50% funded by the State. So when they start saying how school districts aren't getting hurt, I mean, the Solons and the Independences are getting hurt. We are getting hurt too. We're not immune to that. That is our bread and butter. We're going the wrong way and we need to stay strong and we really need to have the people of this community know the full story of where we're at with the school funding and what the State's doing to not all the school districts but just Garfield Heights schools so I urge you to tell them to grab a Neighborhood News or go to our Website to read the article and if they have additional questions on anything on the school funding and the levy they need to give us a call and get the right information, not just what you read in the paper. Thank you.

CLMN DUDLEY: Could you give your Website address, Mr. Sluka?

MR. SLUKA: www.garfieldhtscityschools.com

CLWN MARINCIC: Could you tell us how much money you will generate and what it will primarily be used for?

MR. SLUKA: The \$3.9 million is the additional and that will be generated to offset the reductions in actually we were going to try to maintain what we have. Now it's to offset the reductions we're getting from the State, which is a little bit different change and tack that we have to take. The other one on the levy is a \$2.85 million renewal and you've heard me say before no new taxes. Once again it's no new taxes for the renewal so did I say no new taxes for the renewal? And the other

one is \$3.9 million additional and it's to offset our real estate cuts and to try to keep us moving forward as best as we can.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you.

Linda Reid, Superintendent of Garfield Heights City Schools, 5640 Briarcliff Avenue. Good evening. Before I get started, I don't know Sonny Johnson. He had so many players he wanted to speak about. I want to congratulate the basketball team, but I don't know if he mentioned it. The last young man up here was Trey Lewis and he was the Division I Gold Player of the Year, the Division I's Gold Player of the Year, which is an outstanding honor. Trey this was also I believe a Cleveland Area Player of the Year and if you didn't read that article we do have it posted on our Website and the third thing again there was so many people he was going through I'm not sure if he mentioned it but if he did, I'll repeat it. He has a four year scholarship to Penn State University and you don't get into Penn State just for your athletic ability. Trey Lewis is a fine academic student and I believe I know it's above a 3.5, possibly a 3.8 so I wanted to mention we have some great kids and some great programs.

First of all, thank you for acknowledging our levies and for your support. I think we can all agree that schools play a significant role in a community being vibrant and connective. In Garfield Heights our community is so well established and well liked that generations of families have chosen to attend our schools in addition to working, living and retiring here. Over the years Garfield Heights schools have been fortunate enough to provide our students with the best education possible, even through tough economic times. The State has reduced funding for our schools and local property tax collections continue to decline for us. If you haven't heard over the past two years we have cut over \$4 million from our budget and 70 staff positions. I'd like to spend just a few minutes because of the time limits. I could probably read five pages of the cuts we've made over the past five to eight years, but let's just highlight a few. And I don't want to highlight the negativeness. I think the question was asked what would the money go towards. Obviously day to day operations, but I think some of us who just moved into the community don't even know what we used to have and you don't know what you don't know. I've been here 12 years and we used to offer a lot more to our students than we do today so I'd like to highlight a few.

At the elementary level due to saving money our elementary buildings close at four o'clock. We have eliminated after school programs. We used to have science club. We used to have garden club and we all know at an early age this is when we instill the love of learning and the passion of what they want to do. For our parents we used to offer before and after school care programs. I used to be the principal of William Foster Elementary School. We had kids there from six o'clock in the morning till six o'clock at night. We can no longer operate our buildings that long. Intramurals. I am a four letter athlete myself. I learned the love of wellness in sports and activities at a very early age. It does not happen to you in 9th Grade. We no longer have intramural sports. Again having to cut back on certain areas. Traditional field trips as we know it are eliminated because of the cost of fuel and busing kids where they need to go. For some of our children it's the only time they get to visit the zoo and go to some of those places that we take for granted. Our music program at the elementary level has been reduced. Three years ago we eliminated our band program. I don't know if you've been to Friday night football but if you look at our band they're fabulous. Our high school band. That's the impact that you're feeling. I don't know if Mr. Olszewski is still in the crowd here but I think it's at an all time low and that's the impact of cutting a program at the elementary level and years down the road we're trying to rebuild it. I have to say last year we hired a dynamite teacher and her charge was to rebuild that program. We now have 80 5th Grade students playing an instrument for the first time. Why do I mention that? Because once again with additional funds these are some of those activities that will go to the wayside and it's pretty hard to continue to try to build programs when you don't know how you're living from one year to the next.

The Middle Schools. There's a lot more than I can mention. You know if you look at other middle school programs they have four languages and a lot of electives, besides music and art. Home Ec. We no longer offer foreign languages at our middle school. Actually our electives are practically non-existent. If you walk the halls and peek into the classrooms it's not uncommon to find 35 students crammed into a classroom. I know the Mayor mentioned 45. We actually have some high school classes where we've eliminated positions and we've doubled up classes and we do have 45 students in a class. Many of our after school activities at the lower levels have been eliminated. You heard Ms. Kosuda over there mention a lot of the things that she does. Many of it is volunteer work that she's able to experience that, but we're stripping away the very core of what we are as a district. If you want to participate in a sport or co-curricular activity at the middle school it is a \$175.00 pay to participate to offset costs and for many families where a child used to participate in three sports or three activities now they ask that you need to choose one. Once again it's those wholesome activities that we want to engage our students in beyond the school day that keeps them on the straight and narrow.

When I get to the high school, again the list would be this is just a few that I'm highlighting. This one is disturbing to me. For the second time in three years we have had to change board policy to reduce the number of graduating requirements. Garfield Heights City Schools is now at State minimum. We only require 20 credits for our students to graduate. You might ask yourself, why are we at minimum? We have cut so many staff back that we can no longer fill the courses that we need to have our students graduate with more credits. We are going backwards when we have three years ago students were graduating with more credits than they are today. We just don't have the staffing to offer more. If you look at Cuyahoga Heights next door they offer I think 23 credits. If you look at Westlake. I'm sorry Cuyahoga Heights is 22; Westlake's 23. If you look at Cuyahoga County some other ones at 20 but I guess my vision and our vision for Garfield Heights City Schools is not State minimum. We want to set the standard for excellence in education and we can't do that at State minimums. If you look at you might already notice when you're walking down Turney Road and it seems to be like the school hours we currently have about 225 students who come to school at a late start because again because of a number of classes that had to be cut. You might notice the students leaving school around 12:30 or 12:45. They are not cutting class. We have an additional over 200 students release that are being released early once again because we no longer have support staff for the study halls or we've cut back so much in the last few years that we don't have the courses we could offer so the students are released. If we continue to have to make more cuts then it's most likely when I talk to Mr. Olszewski it's not something we certainly want to do but students will go on a shortened schedule because we do not have the staffing to support those programs. And at that high school again, being a former athlete, this was a very difficult decision to make last year but our high school athletes and if you want to participate it's \$300.00 pay to participate for each sport so once again this one's close to my heart as a former track runner/cross country runner and we couldn't field a cross country team this year. Those are things that are so important. So eventually my fears of these things will actually eliminate themselves because people can't afford. So these are things that we can do as we generate more money. I think offering the minimum is we are short changing this community and our students.

Garfield Heights City School District is at a critical point. We can either regain the quality or in my opinion surpass the quality of education that our students deserve. Or we can continue to fall behind other school districts. We only need to look at nearby districts to see the real impact of drastic cuts and services. Our students' education is an investment and protecting education is vital to our entire community. With additional funds our schools would have to make cuts that would make our city less attractive for existing residents and businesses and most certainly for any new residents and businesses that wants to come into our city. Investing in our schools is investing in our future. Again I thank you for your support and your time.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you, Linda. I did let the Superintendent speak a little bit longer than we normally do at five minutes so I apologize to Council. Don't look with bad eyes at me. Thank you, Linda, for all that information. I appreciate that. Anybody else?

Bob Halen, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. People have the wrong information coming from out of Columbus. The Ohio legislation has done nothing but cut school money. For the past 30 years instead of subsidizing the government of Ohio the Ohio lottery was supposed to be an additional as a subsidy to subsidize additional money coming out of Columbus. But Ohio legislation has done the opposite. What money came from the lottery they deducted from the allotment coming out of Columbus. That's wrong. Pretty soon you're not going to get any money coming out of Columbus because it will be totally coming in from the Ohio lottery because each time this comes up the schools get bushwhacked. Something has got to be done. Again, the SB 5 is another addition to the education system because the bargaining chip for the teachers and the school workers are being cut back and dictated by Columbus. So Columbus is taking the burden of being the chopping block for our education. So I ask you to please pass this levy here because you're not going to get it from Columbus. They keep cutting, cutting cutting. Pretty soon they will have no money to give you. I'm inclined to question where did that money go that was supposed to go to the schools? I'd like to have an investigation of that aspect and then restore the money that was denied to the schools for the past 30 years. To me we had corruption in Cuyahoga County? Maybe there's some corruption in Columbus? I question it. I'm very dedicated to the educational system. Thank you.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you. Anybody else?

Ms. Ta'Metria McGee. Hi. My name is Ta'Metria McGee, future Mayor. 12324 Oak Park Blvd. I just want to say, Mayor Vic Collova, I believe this is a great idea with the Garfield Heights Got Talent and I just wanted to let you know if you need any help with publicizing at the high school, middle school or any school, I'm your girl. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you very much, and I'm looking forward to seeing you run for Mayor.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Thank you. Is there anybody else? We'll move on. Miscellaneous. Clmn Vaughn.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CLMN VAUGHN: You're starting at my end? I wish everybody working for the school levy the best of luck. We know that we need a strong school to have a strong community and we hope this goes your way in the next few weeks. Mrs. Reid, yes, you went over your five minutes, but that's OK. We're going to take it out of Geraci's pay.

PRESIDENT GERACI: What pay?

CLMN VAUGHN: What's that? What pay? Everybody have a good two weeks and we'll see you after Easter. Everybody have a good Easter.

CLWN MAHONEY: I also would like to wish everybody good luck on the levy and thanks for coming and thanks for showing your support here. Also to Emily, great job. Ta'Metria, way to go you'll be Mayor someday I'm sure. I also would like to wish everybody a very blessed Easter. That's all I have.

CLMN SUSTER: I think it was several little meetings ago that I said that the Governor would be putting the burden on the cities and that's exactly what he's doing and there was a very interesting article in this morning's paper that someone had asked the question when are they going to cut his salary and the salaries of the legislators in Columbus because they haven't said anything as far as cutting their pay. Normally that's what happens in most cities or entities where they have a problem. They start cutting salaries. You haven't heard them give up one cent. You haven't heard of anybody down there losing their jobs or anything but it does flow back to the cities and it's not a good thing. The schools do need the money and that's why I think that the majority of Council went ahead and endorsed the levy because we know that good schools build good communities. I've had four children that have gone through the Garfield Heights School System. All of them are professionals and I'm proud of each one of them and they too, were down at the basketball games. But here again, you know, you have to have a solid footing and if we don't do this then we're going to lose big time and I would also like to wish everybody a Happy Easter and good luck with your school levy and let's just hope it happens. That's all I have.

CLWN SARNOWSKI: I'd like to wish everybody a Happy blessed Easter. The schools are very important in a community. At our Block Watch in May we are going to have representatives from the school there to answer any questions or to talk about what's happening also. First Tuesday in May. So hopefully you can come and join us at the Civic Center and we'll get some more questions and information like Linda gave to us today we can share with everyone else. That's all I have.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, I wish the schools luck with their levies. Again, it's a renewal of one of them so we are already spending that. Keep that in mind. I'd also like to remind that the 21st of this month Ward 3 is having their Night Out for Domestic Violence. It will be at Applebee's restaurant from 11:00 a.m. till 9:00 p.m. There is takeout if you go for lunch or something like that. If you need a flyer you can get them from Dale. His number is on the scrolls for Garfield and they are also in the lobby over here in City Hall. What will happen is Applebee's will donate 15% of whatever your check is (drinks included) to our Ward 3 Block Watch and the money will go to Karen Gordon for the Domestic Violence for Garfield Heights City Courts. So please participate. This will be one of the I think our 4th or 5th year that we've had this program going. With that I wish you all a Happy and blessed Easter. Stay healthy and summer's coming. With that I'm done.

CLWN MARINCIC: I only have a few things tonight. I would like to wish the schools good luck with the levy. I did spend a lot of time the past couple weeks walking and talking to my residents. I heard some good things about the school issue so I think this time you might really stand a chance here. Good luck with that. I want to remind everybody that Sister Joanne is still there (and I'm sure it's past your bedtime) and if anybody can, throw a dollar in her basket. I'm sure she'd appreciate it because she stayed through this whole meeting. God bless her. Finally I'd like to wish everybody a healthy and blessed and Happy Easter and that's all I have.

CLMN DUDLEY: Best for last, right?

PRESIDENT GERACI: Yes, Sir.

CLMN DUDLEY: I just want to mention this too, you know. I think the biggest mistake we made in the last election is that we didn't educate the voters the way we should have. A lot of voters turned around and they believed what they was hearing in the literature that was being put out by these individuals who are controlling Columbus right now with their right choice. What I want to mention right now is that I don't want them to fall prey to the same thing. I don't want it to happen in Garfield what happened in Columbus. In this case of Garfield right now I consider it to be like a relationship and you never know how good a relationship was until you lose it. When you're a fellow and you lose that girl and you cry over losing that young lady, you know, and she looks so good on

somebody else's arm. But you say to yourself had you treated her better; had you done the right thing you would have her now. What I want to mention to you all is you have a good thing right now. You have a good educational system right now and if you don't make the right decision in May you're going to lose it and when you look back you're going to wish you had kept it. Sometimes you have to give a little to get a little. You have to give a little couple of dollars but it's going to help you maintain some good neighbors. It will help you maintain your city. You don't want to lose it. Not during this time right now when it's hard enough to bring residents into the city as it is. Me, myself, like I say I'm one of the individual Members of Council who lives in a dual district so I'm pulling the pain from two cities right now. But I also reached out to Cleveland to let them know if there was anything I could do to help them I would. I don't want to see what will happen what I know is going to happen should this levy fail. Like Mr. Sluka said, don't mistake that mille as a tax increase. It's not increasing. It's something you're already paying anyway so you're not going to miss it because you been doing it for so long you probably don't know you haven't been doing it. But the most important thing is we have to support it. It's not about the teachers, it's not about anybody running the system. It's about the children. I always say, you know, either you're going to educate them or you're going to let the street educate them. So you're going to have to take your choice right now. I want you to try to remember that relationship. Don't lose a good thing. Just keep it in mind and that's why I support it and I support the kids and I support this levy and I wish it the best and I'm quite sure we are keeping them in prayer and like I tell people during election time, you can give them a sign but you can give me your prayer and we'll see who's going to win at the end. I wish you the best and I think we're going to pull it off. That's it for me.

PRESIDENT GERACI: I'd like to make a few remarks before this meeting ends. As Clmn Suster mentioned that most of the Council has come out and endorsed this levy. I don't know if you are aware of it but I don't have a vote on this Council, but I am endorsing the levy as Council President and I want you to know that tonight. I have not come out and said it publicly, but I am saying it publicly tonight that I am endorsing the levy. I notice all the information that's put on your literature-nobody's approached me in regard to this levy. I don't think anybody knows I don't have a vote on this Council. I just want you to be aware of that, that when I was on the Board for 14 years I was always in support of supporting the schools in regards to money issues or whatever. The bond issue—I was part of the bond issue along with not just myself but with other Board Members. I do want you to be aware that I am supporting the levy. With that can I have a motion to adjourn?

CLMN DUDLEY: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT GERACI: Roll call.

AYES: 7

PRESIDENT GERACI: Council is adjourned.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:24 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Frank Geraci, Jr.
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council