

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, December 16, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Joseph Suster.

INVOCATION BY: Councilman Michael Dudley, Sr.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Could we please have the roll call.

ROLL CALL: PRESENT: Council Members Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Reading and disposal of the Minutes.

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we adopt the Minutes from the Regular Meeting of Council from November 25, 2013.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: All in favor of adopting the Council Minutes of November 25, 2013 signify by saying Yea. All opposed? It passes with 7 Yes votes.

AYES: Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: The reports of the Mayor and Directors starting with Mayor Collova.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you, Mr. President. A couple of communications I'd like to read to you today. From the Cuyahoga County Vocational Career Center:

"Hello Mayor Collova,

I am looking for assistance on a service. CVCC provides high school students and businesses in our eight school districts. Every spring CVCC hosts a Student Job Fair to link students with employers who are looking for part-time and/or seasonal employees. The year the Student Job Fair will be held on Wednesday March 19th from 3:30 to 6:00 p.m. This event has always been very successful. We usually have between 900 to 1,000 students in attendance. We have a group of employers who consistently attend this event because they have so much success with their hiring needs. But I am sure there are others who could benefit, but are not aware of the event. That being said, I was

hoping you could assist us by getting the word out to businesses in your city and the residents in your city.

Darden Blank, Community Liaison
Career Development Department of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center”

This is a great job fair for the students. This is a great thing for Garfield Heights students and if anybody needs any information on it please contact my office.

The next notification I have is from School Supt. Terry Olszewski. It says:

“Dear Mayor Collova:

This past fall Garfield Heights High School conducted a Senior Exit Survey among Garfield Heights School Seniors who will graduate this coming spring. Typically we ask questions about their academic experience and advice they would give to incoming Freshmen. We intend to use this data to help structure decisions for the future. In total approximately 181 Seniors took the survey. This year because of our school district’s heightened focus on safety and security, including the meaningful partnership we have with the city of Garfield Heights, our Guidance Department included a question about this topic. Specifically we asked them, do you feel you are learning in a safe and secure environment in Garfield Heights High School? To our satisfaction the Garfield Heights City Schools are happy to report that nearly 97% of all respondents answered Yes. They feel safe and secure in the learning environment the high school provides. In addition, nearly half of those who responded are respondents who answered Yes handwrote a note suggesting Officer Seawright’s presence makes them feel safe and secure. I send this memo to you so that you can know that the joint undertaking between the city and school through Office Seawright serving as our Student Resource Officer clearly appears to be making a difference. If you have additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.”

I wanted to read this because this is a venture that we got into earlier this year. We all felt comfortable it was going to work, but this is really working when you have 90% of the students talking about how safe they feel. That was great. I appreciate that coming from the school. That’s a tribute to Officer Seawright and what he’s doing there.

Now I want to get into tonight’s legislation.

Ordinance 70-2013 is the ordinance involving a dispatch center. This is a tough decision that this Council is asked to make. The dispatchers have been with us a long time and they have done a great job. For the most part they do an excellent job. This isn’t an easy decision for anyone to make. We had to look at the financial part of it. We had to look at the safety part of it. We did a lot of research with other safety departments and as you know other regional dispatch centers. We checked to see that everything would be safe for the residents, we checked to see that everything would be safe for the safety forces and although we will be losing a few people, which is very sad, we’re going to try to do as much as we can to try to help anybody exiting. But I have to say that this is the right thing to do at this time for the city and I’m urging Council to go forward on Ordinance 70. Ordinance 72 and 73 is appropriation ordinances and Ron is going to get into it in his report.

Resolution 33 is a resolution ratifying an appointment of Louise Triptow as a Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals for the term commencing January 1, 2014, ending December 31,

2018. Louise has done an outstanding job. She actually chairs the Zoning Board. She does a great job and we're really looking forward to her coming back. So I urge Council to pass that also.

With that said, I want to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a very Happy New Year. With that said, Mr. President, you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Mayor. Does anybody have any questions of the Mayor on his report?

CLMN DUDLEY: We got to get you something for Christmas. On the regional thing one other question I had is if it goes through when do they actually switch and go over to Bedford Heights? What month is that?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: The projected date is July. Personally I think it will be later, but that's my own personal thought. It is projected for July 1, 2014.

CLMN DUDLEY: Did we ever come up with an exact number of how many dispatchers there was actually going to be? Another day we said it might be no more accepted in that round.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Actually there's nothing that's said yet. The Administrator will make the final decision. We certainly are recommending as many as we can get. I believe the number will be the minimal and this is just my belief, don't hold me to it, but the minimum allowed will be four and the maximum would be six. We're probably looking at five. That's my thought from the meetings I've been at. That decision has not been made on that.

CLMN DUDLEY: So about five or six of ours would go?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: That's my guess, yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: What is the total number of dispatchers we have?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I think we have seven full-time dispatchers and four part-times.

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Any other questions of the Mayor on his report? There being none, we will call on Law Director Tim Riley.

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: Thank you, Mr. President. No report tonight.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Next is Police Chief Robert Sackett. Do you have any report this evening?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Yes, I do, thank you. I want to give you an update on the Diversion Program. That was mentioned several times at the Safety Meeting back in October. So we thought we needed to make some adjustments to it, if you will. We worked with the Mayor and the Director of the Diversion Program and Judge Nicastro. These ideas are not solidified yet, but they are in the process and they are going to take effect in January. We're going to add a fine or a Court cost to the participants in the Diversion Program and that fine will be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$25.00 to \$50.00. We're also going to supplement the

Community Service because a lot of people think it's a good thing to get these kids doing Community Service. Part of the problem with that is there's not that much Community Service to be done and when you are talking about buildings like the police and fire departments it comes with a lot of restrictions. So sometimes you wonder who is it causing more trouble to? The kids? Or the people that supervise them?

So what we decided to do, for lack of a better word, it's called Saturday School. I personally refer to it as detention, but it does make the kids give up part of a Saturday as a sanction or punishment if you will for what they did wrong. That is going to be held two Saturdays per month. It's going to start January 11th of next year. So like I said those ideas will be solidified in the near future but that's our initial plan. I just wanted to keep you updated.

Also in regard to the SRO letter that the Mayor read, I want to thank you for reading that. It was good to get that letter. I want to thank Council for their part in allowing us to have an SRO. I think that this is a very impressive letter that was written but I think you're going to see just as many benefits from this program in the years to come. So be patient and good things will happen with this program. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Chief. Anyone have anything?

CLMN DUDLEY: On the diversionary program because it's going to be like a Saturday School, say like we got things around somebody's houses that don't need no equipment, but they could just pick up this dry brush and put it in a pile or something for Service to pick it up later, would they still be able to utilize the children for that?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Yeah, Vince Liotta takes care of that part of it. Our initial plan was maybe use the Auxiliary Police when the weather gets warmer to try to implement that. Part of Saturday School Auxiliary Policemen would take them to do chores like that. We got to check with the Law Department on what juveniles can and can't do, etc. That's certainly in the backs of our minds.

CLMN DUDLEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Chief, what happens if the kids are supposed to be there on a Saturday and they don't show up?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: It would be like any other sanction that's imposed now. Probably they'd get a follow up phone call from the director. Let's face it. It could be a reason why they're not there and they'd be given another chance, I would suppose. At some point if they don't complete any of the process of diversion the alternative is always what it was from the beginning. Go to Juvenile Court and answer for your delinquency matter there.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Anyone else have any questions of the Police Chief? There being none, Service Director Tim McLaughlin.

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Thank you, Mr. President. On Friday December 6th we completed the leaf pickup. The trailers have been cleaned out and the trucks have been turned over to snow plows. In the last week or so with the cold weather and the snow we've developed some potholes. We're trying to take care of those the best we can in between the snow.

During the month of November the snow plows were out five times. There was 5.1 inches in November. This weekend the snow plows were out most of the weekend. Thirty hours they were out. They cost (and I just want to throw this out there because sometimes we don't realize what the cost of a storm is) but just the salt and the employees out was \$16,564.00, not counting the gasoline, oil and some of the damage that we had to some of the equipment. I just wanted to throw that out there for you to get an idea what it cost. We still are trying to conserve salt. It's not just throw it out there. We got it this year the cheapest that we've gotten it, me and Ron were talking today, in probably 20 years. It's under \$30.00 and that's like unheard of. We're trying to conserve the use. In order to maintain safe streets we will adjust everything but the days of streets just being wet all the time I got some calls today why the plows don't get down tighter to the ground? Why we're not putting out more salt to break up the streets? But as I said a few years back when we started the sensible salting practices that were given to us by the County we were looking at still continuing that program. It seemed to work out. We'll adjust it depending on how bad the storm is.

I'd like to thank you for the cards and candy. I'll make sure that when I go home I have to take extra Metformin to push my sugar around. It's everything I like, but that's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Does anybody have any questions of the Service Director? There being none we'll go on to the City Engineer, David Krock.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Absent

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: Thank you, Mr. President. No report tonight. If you have any questions on the written report I handed out I'd be happy to answer those though. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Anybody have any questions of Mr. Krock?

CLMN DUDLEY: I don't want to miss nobody before Christmas. Is there any updates on the possibility of grants coming our way for street repairs?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: We do have an application into Public Works Commission right now and we'll know in another month or so on those. We've submitted seven streets for resurfacing with the water lines for that program. We won't know for another month or so.

CLMN DUDLEY: OK. Are these just streets with the water line or streets outside?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: These are just the streets with the waterline. That's the way that program was set up. We put those two together.

CLMN DUDLEY: What about like the grant from last time? You remember the one we put in for a couple hundred thousand and got several streets done in the areas? Did anymore of them grants come up here? For like several streets in different Wards, etc.?

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: They are probably deferred but I think it will be close to another year before we'll be able to submit on that again.

CLMN DUDLEY: OK. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Anyone else? Anyone else? Next we'll have our Finance Director, Ron Tomola.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like everyone to consider passing Ordinances 72 and 73. Ordinances up tonight. 72 is the final appropriation ordinance for this year 2013 and making changes to the existing budget. 73 is the start up appropriation ordinance for 2014.

I also would like to inform Council of some information that I received from the County Budget Commission on Friday in regards to our estimated property tax collections for 2014 next year. According to the information the County Budget Commission sent me on Friday the city is going to lose a little over \$8,300,000.00 in gross property valuation again for the upcoming year. On top of that they've reduced our collection percentage from 84.15% (which it was last year) down to 84.48% collection. The combined effect of these two reductions is going to equate out to a little over \$255,000.00 reduction in property tax collections next year and each year into the future. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Anyone have any questions for the Finance Director?

CLMN GLENN: Ron, how will this budget deficit affect our overall yearly budget?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Well it's going to have an effect on every budget that receives property tax dollars, which is going to be your General Fund, the Pension Funds, Street lighting, Recreation, anything that gets property tax dollars is going to have a loss of revenue. The biggest part of that will be in Average Pay and General Fund. As far as what the actual you know I've gotten Gross figured out--the \$255,000.00—I don't have it broke down into the fund figures yet. I am in the process of updating the forecast and as soon as I have that complete I will get it out to you. Any fund that gets property tax dollars is going to be down.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Ron.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Any other questions for Mr. Tomola? Next we will have our Economic Development Director, Noreen Kuban.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I have no report, but I would like to respond to Clmn Dudley's inquiry. When we apply for CDBG Funding for street repairs we cannot just do street repaving. It has to be complete street renovation, which includes curb cuts and more than just a resurfacing.

CLMN DUDLEY: As an example we have streets around Turney Road, York over here is real bad and then I got what I like, Cranwood, Cranwood Drive and Rexwood. Would those streets have qualified to be resurfaced with the curb cuts, etc. because of how bad condition? You can't even patch the holes in those streets. They been patching them on patches.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: One of the major factors with the CDBG application is whether it is in an improvement target area, in a low and moderate income area so those two factors would make the application more successful. So without seeing them on a map I couldn't respond to your question without you know seeing a map so I can identify those streets.

CLMN DUDLEY: You know where Rexwood is and definitely Cranwood Drive and that's right on the Cleveland border.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, probably. Regarding any streets to the south I would really have to refer to maps.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Anyone else?

CLMN GLENN: Noreen, I already talked to you privately on this. Has Ward 4 been updated for the blight area?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Yes, that was the inquiry I made to all Members of City Council to include more areas to the ITA. I submitted that application last week. We will hear about it whether they will respond to our inquiry in a positive manner.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Noreen.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Next we will have our Building Commissioner, Bill Wervey.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I don't have anything new this evening, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Since he didn't have a report we don't have any questions. Next we'll go into Comments by Citizens on the Agenda. The Clerk will please read the rules.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments shall be strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to legislation on the current evening's agenda. No citizen shall speak more than once.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Halan.

Bob Halan, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. I'm still upset about the regionalization. Now with the information given out about the reduction in real estate tax income isn't the County doing this to the cities? Pushing you against the wall? That you have to go to regionalization? It seems like it is blackmail. I'm sorry, I do not trust the county. They hold the purse strings to our real estate taxes, evaluation of the homes. Also on that same idea what is the income coming out of R.I.T.A.? Are we getting 100% of that money? Regional income tax money? I question that because are we getting our money from the people paying their income taxes besides the reduction that we're losing in real estate taxes? We're going to be back in the hole like the Mayor said in two or three years if we don't join regionalization. I still say it's blackmail. Intimidation. We're going to hold back money to you so you have to join us. I really don't trust them. I'm sorry. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Halan, if I could respond, Mr. President? Bob, first off the County's not blackmailing anybody. I can tell you this. From the time we started discussing just a short period in the last three or four weeks we were discussing saving \$160,000.00 with regional dispatch, we probably since that time have lost \$400,000.00 in other areas. It's almost impossible to keep on top of this thing. I don't know what the answer is. I know that that's why we have to really look hard at who we're electing to these County positions because the inner ring suburbs like Garfield Heights, Maple, Bedford, Cleveland Heights, we're getting beat to death and I'm going to be very honest with you as much as I hate to say this. We could be looking at fiscal emergency not too far down the road if things don't turn around. We're pushing hard to get business here. Pushing hard for everything, but it's very frustrating when I get a call

that we're losing this much from the property taxes, we're losing this much from the health care and we just keep paying. You try to squeeze. You try to do things to catch up and you keep going backwards. It's not that I don't trust the County but I think we have to be real smart when we start voting for who goes into those positions.

MR. HALAN: I'd hate to be in each of your seats because you got a tough decision because us as your constituents have to go with what you say. I'm so afraid of what the County has done to us. I think that's my opinion. Since the reorganization of the County it seems it's gotten worse. That's my opinion, but I'm sure everybody here has the same idea and opinion. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Anyone else have anything on tonight's agenda?

Rebecca Burkey, 8304 Vista Avenue. I'm sure you're tired of me up here with my same stance but you stated there was more negotiations as to where there would be more people on shift at the new center?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: What took place, Becky, is that I informed the Mayors and talked to one of the fire chiefs that's very instrumental in this thing and told him that my position would be once we get on it and I'm now part of the position I want more staff.

MS. BURKEY: They gave you no idea they would seriously consider this? Or just blow off what you're asking?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: They seem to think that this was not official but they seem to think that the staffing is very adequate, but they would look at what I had to say. But understand that I'm not a part of the meeting so all they're getting now is a phone call.

MS. BURKEY: How do we intend to be more a part of the meeting and encourage they're not understaffing a major emergency center?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Once we say we are in and put up or share of whatever we have to put up and this legislation goes through, if that's what takes place then we will be a part of those meetings.

MS. BURKEY: I had another thought. I was a little confused. Did I hear right that you mentioned that there might be more of a negotiation that more of the Garfield Heights employees would be optional for the jobs? Or is this still at where everyone has to apply and be on the bottom scale?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: My understanding is that the Administrator, once they hire him, will select from a group of dispatchers from the four cities.

MS. BURKEY: OK, so it would be their personal selection who they wanted?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: It's going to be the four Mayors who are in a COG and eight chiefs that are on the board. They will certainly have strong recommendations.

MS. BURKEY: OK. The only thing that confuses me a little bit still. If there's that many chiefs why so little Indians? Why aren't they considering. You mentioned eight chiefs and that's still the center will operate itself on a very low minimum of people.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I looked at the report. Chief Sackett put a report together about the calls that we are getting. We should be the only community that's not complaining. When I look at the calls we get compared to what they get you'd think every one of those communities would say we don't want you. But we're going to sit down as a group of Mayors as the COG, eight chiefs as the Board and try to work all of these things out, but when they hire an Administrator he is going to run the center. Even though you have eight chiefs, would you feel better if we only used four of them?

MS. BURKEY: That's the part of the whole thing I don't understand. I don't understand how they're all going to merge together.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Each community has their own procedures. So they are going to have to get together and decide one basic plan that they're going to use. Maple Heights has different procedures they follow than we do. Same thing with Bedford. They are going to sit down and they are going to work this thing out. If you don't have representatives from your own community at the table, things won't work in your favor I'm sure of that. But it's a good thing that we have two chiefs just like each city.

MS. BURKEY: I will state my thought of it. I worked at the desk many years. I've worked at several police departments before Garfield, East Cleveland being one of them and when I look at the List at the desk. What's being looked at is on paper as percentages. When I'm sitting there doing my job I still think that the staffing part of having five or six is a danger to this city. We get a couple emergencies going. It takes a lot to do as in reference to the calls having the automated systems that will deter the administrative calls this way, the 911, a lot of people do it now. 911 is the local number. They don't want to hear the automated system. They're Senior citizens. They don't understand the automated system. They're just rude. They don't want to deal with it so they call 911.

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, she only has half a minute left.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you.

MS. BURKEY: I think we should all reconsider it all in general. I do have great concern for our jailers also.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you for your comments. Is there anyone else that has comments on tonight's agenda?

CLMN DUDLEY: Mr. Chairman, can I get one question in to the Mayor? I wanted to ask you this earlier, too. In this piece here that we voted on for the regionalism what was the date that we decided down the road the final date that we got an opportunity to opt out?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If we decided we don't want in?

CLMN DUDLEY: When is the final time that we can opt out?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I think it's June or July.

CLMN DUDLEY: When is the final month when you can say I changed my mind. We don't want to be a part of the program.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: The day after, the day before, whatever we want. There's no final day I believe.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: We'll move on to.

Eva Brettrager, 8304 Vista. I'm not necessarily looking for answers to any of my questions. It's just things to think about. In terms of what she was saying I also worked in dispatch not in these cities but I'm very curious where your researches are coming from because if it's not directly linked to the city and how the statistics are going to equate to what's happening here? Also you're thinking about the projected hypothetical five people per shift. That's 1 ¼ persons per city that's going to be involved and I think that's incredibly dangerous because having one dispatcher running fire and police for multiple emergency calls that's ridiculous to ask of anybody. Do you think this is going to go through? There needs to be say more people on shift because that's not enough. That's too much to ask of the people that are involved. A ton of people are going to lose their jobs not just from Garfield, but from those other cities and that's all really and that's what I would say. Think about how it's going to affect everybody in the long run.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On that note we'll move on to.

James Rankin, 14209 Pine Forest Drive. I don't know a lot about this and I don't know a lot about Council stuff but I know a fair amount about people. I'm pretty sure most of you have made up your mind about this? Right? I'm pretty sure it's happening. Right? Like it's going because I've heard a lot of positive statements throughout this whole thing and people keep correcting themselves and a lot of people won't make eye contact at the people out here so I think you guys are doing it, right?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If I remember in my opening statement I said that I urge Council to pass it and thought it was the right thing for the city. I don't think I've hid any facts.

MR. RANKIN: OK. I wasn't saying you did hide a fact. I was just saying I think that's where you're going. What will you guys do if it doesn't work?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If it doesn't work we would restart ours up.

MR. RANKIN: OK. How much more money would that cost?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I don't have a clue. Let me just respond a little bit. It seems to me that everybody gets on the mic, except for the dispatchers that work on a daily basis, act like we just decided to do it because it was a novel thing to do. We spent months on research. We looked at dispatch centers not only in the State of Ohio, but throughout the country. Regional Dispatch centers. We contacted them and asked do you have any safety concerns? How does the staffing work? We have asked all these questions and nothing has come back negative. Just like the young lady before you she said she thinks that more people should be staffing the center. But what would be the proper number? If they're saying six, would the proper number be eight, ten, twelve? You have to rely on what the experts do and that's where the research comes up. We just didn't pull number six out of the air. We didn't just say let's do this in Garfield Heights because it seems like a great thing to do. We did lots of research on this. We have how many calls are taken at every hour of the day from the city of Garfield Heights, what time the calls come in, what time they go out. Other cities have done some more things. This has been researched. Other than the fact that our people are losing their jobs, which is sad for me and everybody else, this thing should work and it should work very well. It should actually be a

positive to the city. But there's no denying the fact that some people are getting hurt. There's no question, but that is right now after all the research the only question I have is what can we do for the people? Because I am totally convinced it is a safe operation.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: I just want to reiterate that by going with this now that we can get more of our dispatchers hired in the new center. If this is something that we join after it starts the numbers go way down. If you're not one of the ones chosen that's not going to do you much good to hear that right now, but that's a big part of this, too.

MR. RANKIN: OK. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. I'll ask one more time.

Pat Chizek, 8233 Vista Avenue. My question's directed at Mr. Sackett, Mr. Riley and the Mayor. I'd like to know if this is a law of Ohio that we have to join this? The great State of Ohio. Is this the law that we have to join this dispatch center?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: No, ma'am.

MS. CHIZEK: It is not a law?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Absolutely not.

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: No. There's no law that requires us to join. That's why we're up here requesting Council.

MS. CHIZEK: Is it a stone that eventually this will happen anyway?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: No.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Not written in stone, no.

MS. CHIZEK: I have found some evidence that it has and it comes from the State of Ohio that it's a law and it's going to go into effect all over Cleveland, Garfield, everywhere and youse haven't heard of this at all?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Are you referring to the fact that only five dispatch centers in any given County will be funded? Is that what you're referring to?

MS. CHIZEK: Yes.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: That's not a law.

MS. CHIZEK: Is it going to happen? We're voting something that's going to happen anyway. Nothing was said to the public or residents anything that this is eventually going to happen because of the way everything's going.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: There's been talk about it here at these meetings that the idea of the Governor and our County Executive is to regionalize. This is a trend that's going throughout the State and they are talking about regionalizing a lot of things, but there's nobody forcing us to do anything. There's no law whatsoever at all.

MS. CHIZEK: So we don't have to do this at all?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: No.

MS. CHIZEK: There's a date that we have to get in by, right?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If we want to come up on the ground floor we have to be in by January 1st. If we wait till February, March or April we can still get in. We can wait. This Council can choose to wait. The difference is that the center will be staffed and there will be less Garfield Heights people coming in plus we will not be in on the ground floor to make the decisions for the center.

MS. CHIZEK: All the money that's involved us putting into this fund to run the center is going to be there. It's ours. Why wouldn't we have any say in it?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Because it will already be established.

MS. CHIZEK: Who's going to establish it?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: The three cities that are part of it right now.

MS. CHIZEK: Who runs it after an Administrator takes over?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: You got me.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: As it stands now there's three Mayors in charge of it. The Board is the sixth Chief of those three cities. That's who will oversee it. The Administrator will run the day by day.

MS. CHIZEK: This just started up and other people are going to get voted into positions?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: It's already been established that anybody that comes.

MS. CHIZEK: We're kind of out of it anyway after the other people get voted into it. The chairman, etc.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Our deadline to be in that group of cities which would increase it from three to four is January 1st. After January 1st if any city joins it there's going to be a buy-in fee and you're not going to be party to the decision-making process.

MS. CHIZEK: There's only going to be four cities in our zone so who else would be coming in anyway?

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, she has half a minute left.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Many cities could conceivably come in.

MS. CHIZEK: I believe there will be. East Cleveland will probably be with us as it looks in the future. So eventually things are going to happen. I think I know more than what I'm trying to say because I read a few things.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Before you run out of time, let me ask this question. What are you asking? What is the question? Are you saying why get in it because it's going to happen anyway? Are you saying don't get in it?

MS. CHIZEK: No, I'm saying we're going to get in it eventually anyway because you're not saying it's a law, but it's a law from Columbus. I'm done.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Is there anyone else?

Paula Tighe. I'm a dispatcher for the city of Garfield Heights. I'd like to reiterate what my co-worker Becky said about the minimum amount of dispatchers working there. There should be at least two persons per shift. I have worked in Bedford. I worked there for nine years so I do know that they usually have two there and they are the slowest of the cities. Right when ideally staffed there are two per city working that means eight. We're trying to do it with four and five? That's not possible. I know that our Chief has said that there's times when there's one dispatcher working in our city right now, but I'm here to tell you I been here 23 years. I have experience. I'm very experienced. You never know when you're going to get that call and you're alone and you cannot give the person that you're trying to help the attention they deserve because you're distracted to other calls. That's the huge liability issue. I just wanted to say I fear for the liability if we do do this and I don't want to argue with what the Chief says. I apologize, Chief. We agree to disagree on this. It's really hard for me to talk to the Chief about this because a year ago he was dead set against this.

I also have read the consolidation plan and I would like to know. There were three plans. Why did we choose to go with this one? We could have chosen the employees of Garfield Heights and use the equipment there?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: I'm not sure of that plan. The way it's set up it's been decided that everybody will be an employee of the COG as opposed to any particular city.

MS. TIGHE: As far as the Regionalization Plan is dated March 2013 and it states there is three plans. The first plan is what we're trying to do right now. The second plan would be where the employees of Garfield Heights would still work at the COG, however your pay, etc. would still come from Garfield Heights and if you are so eager about doing this for the equipment why didn't we choose that option and we'd still have use of the equipment and have Garfield Heights employees? We'd also be accountable to you and not the COG. You are very close to everything goes on in the department. I just can't see you giving up your control over the dispatchers.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: As far as the plan. Keep in mind I believe in that plan and that's when we were completely uninformed was presented by the County as three options. The six chiefs and three Mayors chose the option they wanted to choose. We were not part of that.

MS. TIGHE: We could still be employed by Garfield Heights.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: I assume (even though I wasn't there) I would assume that they would have to accept that proposal as opposed to the one that they did accept and

we're trying to pass here. I can see many problems with each dispatcher being an employee of a different city and under the control of a different Chief or supervisor. You have to admit that would cause some problems also. It would not truly benefit from the economy as a scale if you did it that way. I do want to mention one other thing about what you said about one dispatcher working. That's part of it too, that we do it whether it be one jailer at a time or one dispatcher, we never used to do it that way for a number of years. We had two all the time except in the rare emergency but we did it because we had to. It's not a good feeling. You fear what might be coming or what might happen in a larger center and what might happen in Garfield Heights with only one dispatcher working, so there's a little bit of a Catch-22 in that regard, too.

MS. TIGHE: I understand that, but what if something big happens in Garfield Heights and there's something big going in Maple? You're not going to have our undivided attention.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: No, but you're going to have five dispatchers working.

MS. TIGHE: Sometimes you could have five and still be inundated. You know that.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Absolutely. There's times we could have 12 policemen working and not have enough. Obviously no one can afford to always be staffed for the ultimate. That just cannot happen. You know yourself. There's certain incidents that come up that four dispatchers would not have been enough, but because that happens every so many years no one could afford to do that.

CLWN MARINCIC: Half a minute.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you.

MS. TIGHE: Since he took some of my time. I just want to say I think this might look nice right now but in the future you're going to have a hard time staffing the center and I think there's going to be a lot of overtime paid and it's going to wind up costing more and more as the years go on. It's not going to be as pretty as it sounds right now.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you.

Tony Kastelic, 6302 Dunham Road, Maple Heights. I work in the jail of Garfield Heights. I would just like to touch on the County aspect of things which I think a lot of the residents are really frustrated as to what Clmn Dudley touched on at the last meeting. We have an entity that's basically swooping in and taking over part of what each individual city runs now. It's another form of government taking over a form of government. Garfield Heights is one of the highest taxed cities in the State of Ohio. Cuyahoga County is the highest taxed county in the State of Ohio and the residents are wondering what are they really getting a bang for their buck for by all this happening? It may save \$150,000.00 now or in two or three years, but eventually down the road it's all going to come back. The County's not Santa Claus just passing out presents. You're going to get your present today that doesn't mean it's going to be there in the future.

Clmn Dudley touched on the fact that everything seems to be geared towards Bedford or Bedford Heights. You know, the building. Maple Heights with all the empty buildings Maple has. With all the empty buildings that are in the city of Garfield Heights, was that ever a consideration? I don't think that was looked into as much maybe as would have liked to have been looked into, but after talking the Mayor had said that he has talked on and off since the last time we discussed this a year ago. A year ago then it was pretty much said that this was going

to occur in Bedford, which is kind of where all the corrupt people from the County government started out at. So it's almost a continuation in what our people's minds is the corruption of the County government and now we (meaning the city of Garfield Heights) is associating with that corruption. That's the perception. It doesn't mean it's true, but that is the perception. The Jimmy Dimoras, the Russos, the Klimkowski's, everybody who's in jail or going to jail. That stigma is still there. That did not occur 10 years ago. That's still going on. For the County to dangle that little carrot in front of the poorest cities is a form of bullying, which none of us in this room agree that should occur in any form of society but that's exactly what they're doing. That's how they're going to get them to go in. I think that is what upsets a lot of the residents. I live in Maple Heights. I see it from a citizen's view in that city not just from a jailer's perspective in Garfield Heights. I can't believe that the city I live in wants to go to bed with one of the most dysfunctional forms of government in the history of the entire State of Ohio. That's a fact. Whether we have a say in things or not the bottom line is it's the County running the show. At some point these cities got to stick together between themselves and stop letting these other entities come in and dangle that little magic carrot because we all know we're in a financial bind and the poor cities are the ones that are going to take it. That's a fact. So that's something to think about.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman, may I respond? Couple things, Tony. First off you live in Maple Heights. Did you go to a Council meeting to try to stop that Maple Heights joining?

MR. KASTELIC: Not in Maple.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Not in Maple. That's where you live. Not that that matters. Let me ask you this question. Why is the corruption of the County where people went to jail supposed to stop us from dealing with the County? Do you have any idea where we would be if we severed ties from the County?

MR. KASTELIC: I'm not saying it should stop anything. That's why I used the word perception. I think that's what a lot of residents are frustrated with is the perception that we are joining hands with the County. It doesn't mean that.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: If we were to--if Council was today to decide to turn it down and we continued to go just as we are and we absorb that \$160,000.00 along with everything else we're absorbing, what could the County do to us?

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, half a minute.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you.

MR. KASTELIC: I believe the County could in a roundabout way hold up road projects, hold up any type of monies that they would distribute to cities. I believe it's possible. Would it happen? I don't know but it is a possibility. I think that perception of that possibility exists out there and it is part of what the frustration is and it is part of what these cities would have to overcome to the residents that they are not associating with the County with the best reputation out there.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Unfortunately, Tony, this is the County we're in. We can't change it. I got to tell you that I think the corruption is for the most part over. I think people right now are afraid to even make a phone call to say hello for the fact that they might go to jail and we got a prosecutor that's not blinking any eyes about getting people in trouble. I feel very comfortable that the County is working corruption free, at least as far as we can see. Believe me, there's

nothing that this city or this Council or personally I am going to do that's even going to look like corruption. It's not going to happen. The County is not dangling anything to us. If we walk away and leave right now there's nothing the County can do to us. Would we fall into the bottom of the hole should they decide to do something? Possible. Very possible, but that did not come in the decision that we're making right here.

MR. KASTELIC: I'm not trying to insinuate that. Like I said the key word is perception.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I understand the frustration. I understand everybody's frustration and I appreciate the concern.

MR. KASTELIC: Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Is there anyone else before we move on?

David Mays, 8250 Green Drive. Council, from what I understand according to the Finance Director, we're going to be back in the hole again with taxes in 2014? Is that correct?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: To the best of my estimates right now, it's probably end of 2015. It won't be at the end of 2014 yet.

MR. MAYS: I don't think you have any choice but to pass this. If you let this go down and you don't pass it you're not doing what you're elected to do. Take care of the city business. Because if we go back into financial emergency again more than half of these people or all of them will lose their jobs to start with so what have you accomplished if you don't pass this ordinance? You've accomplished nothing at all.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. One more time. Is there anybody else?

COMMITTEE REPORTS: There being none, we'll go on to Committee Reports. Do we have any Committee Reports this evening?

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none we'll move on to Ordinances and Resolutions beginning with Ordinance 70-2013. If the Clerk would please read the title.

ORDINANCE NO. 70-2013

(SECOND READING)

AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION OF A CENTRAL SAFETY FORCES DISPATCH CENTER TO BE KNOWN AS THE SOUTHEAST EMERGENCY COMMUNICATION CENTER ("SECC") THROUGH THE SOUTHEAST REGIONAL COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS ("SRCG") IN COOPERATION WITH THE CITY OF BEDFORD HEIGHTS, THE CITY OF BEDFORD, AND THE CITY OF MAPLE HEIGHTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by MARINCIC to CONSIDER BY TITLE

AYES: Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn

NAYS: Dudley

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley

Motion to ADOPT:

CLWN MARINCIC: Before I vote, I would like to say that this is one of the toughest decisions I have ever had to make as a City Councilperson. I had to research, I had to weigh the odds both ways and to me right now the city needs to try this. I have asked their reasons and if the city feels they need to back out of this there's no problem that we can. I really feel the best thing to do is give this a try. I vote Yes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Before I vote, the decisions that I make here tonight are for Garfield Heights. The Garfield Heights budget. For the citizens of Garfield Heights. This is a tough job, like everybody said. We have to do it. We have to move forward. It's not a pleasant thing we're going to be doing, at least my vote is, but we have to do what's best. That's what we were elected for. With that I vote Yes.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you. I do want to make a statement here that this is not an easy task to perform here. It's very emotional. Jobs are at stake. I do want to say that I have sympathy for any worker that gets laid off. My main concern is that if we go through with this vote the Administration that is organizing Regional Dispatch I hope they have consideration for the people that get laid off and be first in line and get called back. It has to be talked out between the Mayors and the Administrator. I hope they do the right thing. That's all. I vote Yes.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Before I vote, I just would like to say that I echo what Mrs. Marincic and Mr. Nenadovich and Mr. Glenn have said. My thinking behind all this, and we've talked about this for quite some time and we heard your concerns, etc. My thing is that I want to see you people at least have some jobs before you get done, not whereas if we wait later and then we have to get into it and where nobody would have the job. I don't want to see that to happen to anybody so that's what I have to say about that. I vote Yes.

CLMN BURKE: Before I vote, I just want to say that being new, since the day I got elected I had to really spend a lot of time to do research on this and I made a lot of phone calls to a lot of regional dispatch communities that actually use this type of technology and I will tell you that the technology (talking to some of those dispatchers) the technology is by far better than what we're using. I'd hate to see anybody get laid off. Unfortunately we are in a position where we have to take our emotions out of this. We have to look at what's best for the city of Garfield Heights and what's best for our residents. When I go around and I talk to the residents in my Ward and the residents in general of Garfield Heights a lot of them tell me they're taxed to the hilt. They do not want to see any more taxes, but unfortunately you heard the evidence tonight. We're losing money on property tax income. If we don't stop the bleeding somehow it's going to get worse. This is one way to put a band-aid on it. Most of the residents I talk to have told me they would like to see us give this a shot. So therefore I vote Yes for this.

CLMN VAUGHN: Before I vote, I have taken the time to research this. I have talked at great lengths with police chiefs, fire chiefs all across the country that do this. I've spent a lot of time talking to the police chief and fire chief of Fairfax, Virginia, where my son is also a fire fighter. They have benefited greatly from doing this. The fact that we're going to have state of the art facility and equipment, we know we can't get parts anymore for our equipment. It's going to be safer for the residents, for the police, for the fire and if we don't get in now we can't protect the jobs that we can. So with all those recommendations and the recommendation of the Mayor and our own Police Chief and Fire Chief, I have to vote Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, I already said it's a tough decision to make and we knew there was no more reading but we knew that it was going to come to that and from talking to the Finance Director, things isn't getting better even cuts from the State and the County cuts and anyway you look at it, etc. My biggest concern is you all employment. I know what it is. I had to live off a Council pay for three years and I tell you I almost lost my home twice. I'll try to get as many of you over there as possible but at the same option they said we have until June. Maybe we discover it's not going to work right for the city as a whole then maybe something would change? But the most important thing is to try to get as many of you all feet in the door as we can get in the door as possible unless you all will take the impact because for three years it was rough for me and my family. You can't believe. The white car that I drove and I'm serious about that and you all can imagine my wife and me just living off the little money here and the part-time job she had. I don't want to see some of you all go through that. I want as many of you all as possible. I love you all and I'm not saying that just to use words. I'm looking forward to as many of you all getting a spot over there. That's what I'm hoping and not to come in on the tail end and they say instead of five only three of you all get a job, hoping some numbers going to change between now and then. It's not so much trust in the County but trust in what Ron tells me, the State on down has not been generous to us. Some other entities ain't been generous to us. I want to wish you all the best and I'm still going to do what I can try to do, but it's for your benefits. I wish you the best and keep you in our prayers and I might have to go ahead and have to vote Yes tonight. It's not over till it's over. I vote Yes.

AYES: Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 70-2013 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 72-2013

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 52-2013, AND ALL OTHER TRANSFER AND ADDITIONAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCES, TRANSFERRING AND ADDITIONALLY APPROPRIATING CERTAIN FUNDS WITHIN THE GENERAL; STREET LIGHTING; AVERAGE PAY; PERMANENT IMPROVEMENT; POLICE PENSION; FIRE PENSION; RECREATION; STREET CONSTRUCTION, MAINTENANCE; POLICE HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT; CITY INCOME TAX; MOTOR VEHICLE LICENSE TAX; STORM AND SANITARY SEWER CONSTRUCTION; WATER MAIN REPAIR; FEDERAL NUTRITION BUDGET; COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GRANT; LAW ENFORCEMENT TRUST; INDIGENT DRIVER ALCOHOL TREATMENT; ENFORCEMENT & EDUCATION; FEMA; DEBT AMORTIZATION; MUNICIPAL COURT PROBATION SERVICES; MUNICIPAL COURT SPECIAL SERVICES; MUNICIPAL COURT CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT; GARFIELD HEIGHTS RESOURCE CENTER; STREET IMPROVEMENT BOND 2010; GRANGER ROAD/TRANSPORTATION IMPROVEMENTS TRANSPORTATION/ANTENUCCI IMPROVEMENT 2004; BOND RETIREMENT; REVOLVING EQUIPMENT; AND RESTRICTED FUNDS.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

CLMN NENADOVICH: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make an amendment. To Ordinance 72-2013. I would like to amend the street construction maintenance repair fund on page 10 and supplies and materials the current is \$125,000.00. I'd like to raise that to \$155,000.00 specifically for salt purposes. To raise the bottom line of \$228,200.00 up to \$258,200.00. Changing the bottom line of the figure from \$1,753,675.00 to \$1,783,675.00. I would also like to amend the revolving equipment fund from supplies and materials from \$511,100.00 to \$563,500.00 changing the total expenditures for the revolving equipment fund to \$1,022,785.00 and that's for repair costs and then on the first page the total cumulated appropriation from \$52,333,493.00 to \$52,415,893.00.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Would the Clerk like to read that back?

CLERK: The amendment will be to on Page 10 to change the supplies and materials amount from \$125,000.00 to \$155,000.00, which would change the total of the capital outlay to \$258,200.00 and that would also change the total expenditures for the street construction repair fund from \$1,753,675.00 to \$1,783,675.00. And that would change it on Page 1 the street construction maintenance repair fund would now be \$1,783,675.00. Then, looking at Page 15 under revolving equipment fund the supplies and materials would be raised from \$511,100.00 to \$563,500.00 which changes the total expenditures of the revolving equipment fund from \$970,385.00 to \$1,022,785.00 and therefore the total cumulated appropriation on Page 1 has now been changed from \$52,333,493.00 to \$52,415,893.00.

CLMN NENADOVICH: That's my amendment. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the amendment given by Mr. Nenadovich all in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed?

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, starting with Mr. Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN GLENN: Mr. Chairman, before I vote on this here, because it's increased here, can we have some kind of explanation for the record why we're doing this here?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Tomola, would you like to answer that question please?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: The increase in the street construction fund is we had a stockpile of salt and we'd used about half of that already in November and December so far. We don't want to run short before the end of the year so this gives us the extra to buy additional tonnage of salt in case we need it. So that's the \$30,000.00 increase there. The revolving equipment fund. Part of that increase there was due to repairs we had two vehicles already, a couple of salt trucks went down, we had to put some repair parts in those. The other things I had to build a little excess into them in case a snowplow goes down. We don't want the trucks not being on the street and that's the increase.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Ron, for that explanation. With that I vote Yes.

CLWN MARINCIC: I have salt. Yes.

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 72-2013 is adopted with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 73-2013

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE TO MAKE APPROPRIATIONS FOR CURRENT EXPENDITURES FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, DURING THE FISCAL YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2014.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, starting with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

AYES: Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 73-2013 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 33-2013

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION RATIFYING AN APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF LOUISE TRIPTOW AS A MEMBER OF THE ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, FOR THE TERM COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2014 AND ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018.

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the adoption, beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLMN VAUGHN: Louise does a great job here in the city. She's an asset to the Zoning Board. She stepped in at a time when she was needed; took over the Board when Mr. Hanford had to step down. With that I vote Yes.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: I have attended some meetings that she had to run and since Mr. Hanford has been gone and I think she did an excellent job and I know she will continue that way and I do vote Yes.

AYES: Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Resolution 33-2013 stands adopted with 7 Yes votes.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: We will now move on to Comments By Citizens and these are the rules. Would the Clerk please read the rules.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to his/her Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If 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 from 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. No citizen shall be heard more than once.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Do we have any citizens that have any miscellaneous business? Things that they brought up to other people on Council? Anyone have anything to say?

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none, we will move on to Miscellaneous Business, beginning with Mrs. Marincic.

CLWN MARINCIC: Thank you. It was good to hear how Officer Seabright is doing. Thank you, Mayor, I appreciated that information. Finally, I'd like to wish everybody a blessed Christmas and the happiest of New Years. That's all I have tonight.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'd like to wish everybody a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. It's been one hell of a year. We got through it. Hopefully the upcoming year will be better. What's even better than that is that remember our Vets are overseas and not with their families. Say a prayer for them. Wish them all a Merry Christmas. I'd like to thank all of Council for the cards and candy they brought. My grandson will love every bit of it. I'd like to thank you, Mayor, all your Directors, all of you Department Heads, the Council itself and most of all the residents for standing by us this past couple years, especially this year. It's been very, very rough. You stay with us, please continue to. We really are working for your best interests. You may not agree with us now, but in the long run I hope we come out on top. Like I say I hope we do because everything we do there's always a chance of failure. Remember you guys stood here a couple months ago and applauded us for what a great job we did getting off of fiscal emergency. Especially our Mayor and Directors. Stand by us. We're there for you. We really are. Again, Merry Christmas. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you. I want to comment on some of the issues that happened tonight. It's a sad day for some of our workers here. It's not the first time this happened. Our job here at Council is the guardian of the checkbook. I feel we did our duty, not that we like to do it or take any joy in doing this here, but to keep the city solvent, we have to do this here. On the same day we approved the regionalization of the dispatchers and the jailers we also increased our budget because of increases in prices. This is the sign of times to come. We're in a bad position. We're at the bottom tier of the ladder. Everything trickles down and we by no means have the money to finance all these things. The Mayor's in a hard position, as is Council, so that we're going to try to work through and do the best we can for the city.

I wish everybody a Happy New Years and Merry Christmas for the year 2014 to be better for our city. Thank you very much, President.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and the Directors, all the city workers who helped us get through 2013. As everybody's been saying these are not easy decisions to make. It's a very hard thing to do. I know it's been playing on my mind for the last several weeks, but as Mr. Glenn has said, these are the decisions we were elected to make. Everywhere we can find somewhere to save some type of money we have to at least try. If this does not work out down the road I know that it would be up to us to get back and get into

our own dispatch center if we have to. Like I say it's not something we want to do. There's a lot of decisions we've made in the last four years that were very hard for all of us to make. Let's take the opportunity to wish the Mayor, all the Directors and my fellow Council people a very Merry Christmas and a Happy, healthy and prosperous New Year. And I would also like to wish the residents a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Next we'll move on to Mr. Burke.

CLMN BURKE: Thank you, Mr. President. I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the Mayor and the Service Directors and all the Directors for a job that is well done here in the city of Garfield Heights. I would like to take the opportunity to wish everybody a very Merry Christmas. Please be safe out there. Let's watch out for one another. Let's make sure that we're watching out for one another. If you see somebody in need make sure that if you have it, you give it and with that I just want to also wish all the residents a very Merry Christmas as well.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thanks, Joe. This decision was tough. I had my own cousin, Bonnie Hackett, talking to me and I looked at her and it's hard to do. It's the same thing when at work when you have to lay your own friends off. I consider these people friends, but I really felt we had to get in on the ground floor to protect as many jobs as possible. Whether we want to say the County's holding this over our head or not this is the wave of the future and we had to do this. I realize it was a terrible time of the year, but the best thing we can do now is get as many of those jobs there as we possibly can.

I want to thank everybody for the lovely gifts. Most of all the residents and everybody on Council, the staff, the Mayor, for the support that everybody has given to us throughout this year.

Tim, I thought your guys did a great job snowplowing this weekend. I was very pleased. Coming home from the TSO concert the other night it was really nice to hit Garfield Heights and everything be cleared. Thank you. Joe, you threw me off tonight, when you asked for committee reports. I was ready to give my report on the Landfill Committee so with your permission can I do that next month?

Block Watch Thursday night, December 19th up at St. Monica's. It's going to be just a fun night. We're going to have food, enjoyment so come up anybody that would like to join us. With that I want to wish everybody here in the city a blessed Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year and please be safe out there. If you had too much to drink get somebody else to drive or call a cab, but please be careful. With that, that's all I have.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Before we go on to Mr. Dudley, I'd like to say one more thing. As President of Council my first job is to assign people to different committees and I'll tell you what. So far I'm ecstatic because everybody that I put on a committee has called me or notified me as Tom did just now that we're going to have landfill meetings. We have not had a landfill meeting since I was Landfill Chairman six years ago. Mrs. Marincic announced last week that she's going to have a Safety meeting every other month. We've had two safety meetings in four years. Mr. Nenadovich called me and told me he's going to have building committee meetings every quarter. We haven't had these types of things before and I'm glad to see that this is going to happen. I just want to thank everybody that I gave the committee assignments to that they're very satisfied with the committees they were put on and I want to thank you personally for your cooperation. With that we'll go on to Mr. Dudley.

CLMN DUDLEY: I'll be working on recreation this year. I know we gave the Mayor a tough time and it will be colorful. We get in on the ground floor and hopefully fight for more positions and that's what I'm counting on. We ain't coming on last. I don't want to put my worst enemy out in this economy because it's not doing good. When I say that I don't say that cheaply that I do love you all and love to know you all throughout the years ever since I been here. It will be 20 years in 2005 and I raised nine children and there been several events where we went through up in Ward 1. The Chief personally knocked on some of these bullies' doors and went to these houses and identified where they coming from in the home. I appreciate everything you all doing for me as well as my family. We love you all. I discussed it with my family whatever decisions I make I didn't tell them my decision because I waited till the very end and I still do not believe we're out of the race, you know? I know the Chief's going to fight for you all. I got the confidence in him that he will try to keep as many of you all there and look for something for the rest.

Merry Christmas, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy Hanukkah. I don't want to leave nobody out. I want to cover everybody. This has been a good year and we got to keep everybody in our prayers. It's tough out there people. It's tough for those that lost their loved ones and people looking for different things. It's tough being a child growing up in society today. It's rough on these children. To Office Seawright, I'm quite sure them kids feel safe. If I had a flat tire he could lift the back of that car while I changed it. He's a good officer. He's got his body together. I love him to death. I got to know him ever since I been here and he been here.

I want to let people know that I'm going to be running for the 11th House District for the State of Ohio which includes the city of Garfield Heights, Newburgh, Cleveland's 2, 5, 6, 7 and 12th Wards. I will not move out of Garfield. I will not move from up there in the Ward. I love the whole city but I been in Ward 1 all my life. One reason I'm taking it is not to leave Council because I love this Council seat. I wanted it more than anything. That's why I left ODOT so I could sit in this position. A lot of our problems and issues is not because of something we do on Council but something from the State. The funding is cut to us and then we got to come back to you all. We're coming back to you in so many different directions it's sad now. You know the way I like to fight. I been fighting them for a quite a while. I do want to go there and try to bring something back to this city. This city is my heart. This is my final resting ground for me here and I hope that be a long time before I need that.

Merry Christmas to you all and I love you all. It's been good working with you all. My kids call him Uncle Joe. That's my twin brother. With that I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion to adjourn. All in favor say Yea. All opposed. The meeting stands adjourned.

AYES: Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster, Burke, Vaughn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:32 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Joseph M. Suster
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council