

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, January 14, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:00 p.m. by Council President Nancy Marincic.

INVOCATION BY: Clwn Tracy Mahoney

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

EXCUSED: Vaughn

CLWN MAHONEY: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion to excuse Clmn Vaughn from this evening's meeting.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor of excusing Clmn Vaughn from this evening's meeting say Yea. All opposed? 6-0. The Yeas have it.

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Reading and disposal of the Regular Minutes from the meeting of December 17, 2012 and of the Special Council Meeting from January 3, 2013.

CLMN SUSTER: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the Monday, December 17, 2012 and of the Special Meeting of Council of January 3, 2013 as submitted.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All opposed? 6-0.

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn

ABSENT: Vaughn

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: There being none, we will move right on to the report of the Mayor and his Directors. Mayor? I'm sure you have a report?

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mme. Chair, thank you very much, I do. First off I want to welcome everyone here tonight and I want to apologize for the parking. Tonight we also have at our Rec Center just down the road the Cleveland Monsters Hockey Team that is doing an exhibition at our Rec Center so that took a lot of the parking. We apologize for that. I'm glad you're all here tonight for this very important event. I just wanted to get into a little bit about the K-9. A few months ago Chief Sackett and Officer Merchant came to my office to talk about possibly retiring police dog Major and bringing on an additional two dogs. I was very in favor of this, I thought it was a great idea. I also told them at that time I didn't know if the city's finances would allow it and they both told me at that time that they would go out, they would try to secure some donations, do some fund raising and try to raise the money at no cost to the city. They went out and did exactly that and lo and behold we're here today thanks to the efforts of many of the donors and thanks to the efforts of Officer Merchant, Chief Sackett and everyone else that was involved in that.

But before I get into talking about the new police dogs, Arlo and Rosco, I wanted to talk a little bit about Major. As I said part of the plan was to retire Major at a Council Meeting, this Council Meeting exactly and give Major his due. Unfortunately as most of you know, during the training processes of the two new dogs Major came down ill and had to be put down. He couldn't be saved. We certainly are sorry for that and Major may be gone but certainly tonight shows he will never be forgotten. A few days ago Officer Merchant dropped off a booklet of Major's history since joining the Garfield Heights Police Force. I knew that Major was a great asset to the Garfield Heights Police Force but I never realized what an impact he had. In approximately eight years of service Major was utilized in 535 activities and credited with 83 apprehensions. That is absolutely phenomenal. What a great job he has done. It's really amazing. At this time I would like to extend my and my wife, Jeanne's, personal condolences along with the condolences from the entire community to the Dale Merchant Family on the loss of Major and as I said earlier a loss but certainly not forgotten.

So now we will turn the corner on our K-9 Department and swear in our new K-9s, Arlo and Rosco who will be handled by Officer Merchant and Office Hace. Before I go any further and turn this over to Chief Sackett I want to thank all the sponsors who made tonight happen through their generous donations. We appreciate it very much. Chief Sackett will be getting into that during his report. I want you to know and I want the community to know that I pledge my full support to bringing in these two new dogs. I hope we can increase the number of two dogs to even further because they are effective. They do the job. I mean if you think about it when there's a suspect inside of a building and you yell into that building come on out. The police are here. He very well may hide and hesitate but when you yell in there come on out or we're sending the K-9 in they have second thoughts about hanging around the building and they come out. It is effective and I think they are going to do a great job for Garfield Heights and any surrounding community that we may be able to help. At this time I wanted to say before I turn this thing over as I said Major's gone but he's not forgotten. We would like to. This is for Officer Merchant and his family and we'd like to place it up on the easel here for everyone to see. Dave, if you would please? This is our thanks from myself and all of Council and the entire community for everything that Major did for us. We certainly appreciate the efforts of everyone that's in the K-9 Unit. We appreciate how valuable our Police Force is and this makes it even more valuable. So with that said again thank you everyone for attending. You're in for a really great event and Mme. Chair, you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Mayor. Any questions for the Mayor on his report? Now what I usually do is I go through every Director and ask them if they have a report, but I think they're all going to forego their reports this evening and let the Police Chief go directly into his

so let me just ask quickly. Is there a Director who does have a report? Something they want to say? Then we will forego all the reports and go straight to our Police Chief.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Thank you, Mme. Chairman. First I want to welcome everybody for coming tonight. I especially want to thank City Council for allowing us to do this event at your meeting. When we started planning for this evening we were going to retire Major and swear in two new dogs. Unfortunately as you just heard, we received terrible news. Officer Dale Merchant was away training with the new dog. Major developed a case of incurable cancer and had to be put to sleep on December 13, 2012. If we could, I'd like to have a moment of silence for Major.

(Moment of silence.)

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Thank you. Major joined the department in 2003. During his nine plus years of service he performed 127 tracks, 143 searches for narcotics, 68 area searches, 54 building searches and arrested 10 people by force. That means that 10 people didn't believe the dog would bite them. These are only stats and impressive as they are they only begin to describe what the K-9 Unit brings to the city and the Police Department. Dale and Major also participated in over 100 public relations events and demonstrations. Wherever our most popular and decorated police officer is, he or she is a distant second to a K-9. Now with two dogs it will be a distant third. People simply love the dogs. Another benefit is officer protection. In areas of building searches, crowd control, dispersions, large fights, there's nothing like a K-9. They perform these tasks faster and more effectively and keep the risk to officers to a minimum. This is not a luxury since we're often operating at shift minimum.

The other thing I want to talk about is the bond that develops between a police K-9, his handler and his entire family. Imagine working with the same person in a car every single day for nine years. They develop an interdependency that we could never experience. Dale and Major also won numerous awards from The German Shepherd Club of Northeast Ohio in areas of tracking, apprehension and outstanding K-9 service. Dale, you and Major made a great K-9 team and I want to thank you for your years of dedication and service to this city, the citizens and the Police Department. I want to present you this plaque as emotional as this moment might be I hope you'll keep it for years to come and it will remind you of all the success you had with Major.

Amanda, you've known Major your whole life. Maybe Major was more like a big furry brother than a pet. I want to give you this heart-shaped keepsake so you can see it every day and it will remind you of all the fun you and Major had together. Michele, I can't overestimate your part in our K-9 Program. A K-9 officer is a special kind of person whose wife is doubly so. Without your acceptance, patience, kindness and support the whole K-9 thing simply doesn't happen. Caring for Reno, Major and Arlo for over 16 hours when they're not at work or full-time when Dale was away at S.W.A.T. training. You've been through a lot of heartbreak with Reno and Major and I can't thank you enough for all you've done. On behalf of the department I'd like to give you this token of our appreciation and thank you for all you've done for the past 13 years.

As the Mayor kind of touched on, we decided that Major needed to be retired, but we had to find a way to purchase at least one dog. I figured a way with our loss of manpower we could use two dogs but I knew we could not do it. I also knew the Finance Director didn't have that kind of money to hand out. Dale came to me with this crazy idea to raise money by donations from local businesses. We've always been supported by the Block Watches but this was a whole different thing. Needless to say I was skeptical. In reality it worked out better than we could have ever hoped. Due to Dale's hard work and the generosity of many companies in Garfield Heights, we

quickly raised more money than we had anticipated. We have two dogs but we're well on our way to buying a third. In order to recognize those that have supported our efforts as well as those who have supported us through the years we're going to hang this plaque in the lobby of the Police Department with the name of every organization and individual that has shown us support. Some companies we're going to mention shortly, but I'll read the other names now: Ward 3 Block Watch--they were one of our earlier supporters; Ward 4 Block Watch; the Mayor and Mrs. Collova; Ward 7 Block Watch; the Group Block Watch of Wards 2, 4, 5 and 6; the employees of the City of Garfield Heights; Wayne and Sue Williams, Dennis Lynch; the Garfield Heights Historical Society; Clmn Michael Dudley.

There are several companies I want to talk about individually. Some have representatives here. Some may not be here but I want to mention them nonetheless. Bill Baumann is the owner and President of Baumann Enterprises on Chaincraft. What they do down there is they take entire houses that get torn down and they separate the various materials and they re-use every single piece. It's kind of an amazing operation. After the fire on Chaincraft most of us thought it would all be a wasteland but Bill has changed that. I think our favorite part of the fund-raising activity was when we went down there and met with Bill Baumann and after the meeting he gave us a tour of the recycling operation. I thank him for his contribution.

Mike Gervasi. Mike owns Sager Company on Midwest. They are a personnel recruitment company and have been in business since 1984. Mike also grew up in Garfield Heights on Sladden and he and his five brothers graduated from Garfield Heights High School. Mike was very generous and did not hesitate to donate.

I'll ask Danielle Palusek from the Jennings Center for Older Residents Council and her friends if they want to step up. We were speaking to the Residents Council for Older Adults. The group was very enthusiastic, maybe more than anyone else we visited. We had a good time and they really came through. Thank you, ladies for your donation.

Dave Salina is the Head of Security at Marymount Hospital. Although Marymount had already given a sizable donation, Dave took it upon himself to give even more. He organized a fundraising lunch at the cafeteria. I can tell you two things about the lunch. At \$5.00 it was a bargain and it must have been extremely successful because Dave presented us with a very nice check.

From Marc's we have Tim Reese and John Slutz. Marc's has been in Garfield Heights (as everybody knows) for more than 25 years, going back to when it was known as Bernie Shulman's. Under Marc Glassman they have always supported K-9 Units throughout the entire area. They actually have a program called Dog and Kitty Rewards in which all the profits on these products go to various animal causes. We went to their headquarters. There must have been a dozen or more plaques for various K-9 Units up there hanging in the lobby. The only thought I had was I hope they didn't give all the money away. They were very, very generous. They gave us \$7,500.00

I'll call Dave Salinas up again for representing Marymount Hospital. When we went to Marymount we met with Bill Kekin, the Executive Director and Joanne Zurowski who is the President for about the past year of Marymount. Joanne actually grew up on 135th Street in Garfield Heights. We went to Marymount. This is the one place I thought I really messed up. We had an appointment to go meet Bill and Joanne and Dale kept telling me we got to take the dog. We got to take the dog. I said are you crazy? These are the two top people at Marymount

Hospital. This is a major hospital. They don't want a dog traipsing through the office. Dale kept insisting. We got to take the dog. I said listen, I'm the Chief. Leave the dog at home. Dale did what he was told. Sure enough first thing we walk into the meeting and Joanne says why didn't you bring the dog? I do what I do best. I looked at Dale and said I told you we should have brought the dog. They overlooked my mistake and gave us a \$14,000.00 donation.

Chart Industries, I want to call up Mike Oldfield and Beverly Simpson. Chart Industries occupy the entire third floor of the building on Infinity Way off Antenucci. Their office in Garfield Heights is their world headquarters. They are a \$1.2 billion company that supplies equipment to the natural gas industry. Before I get to thanking them I want to mention one thing. Mike Oldfield is the CFO of Chart Industries. He was recently named CFO of the Year by Crain's Cleveland Business Magazine for 2012. Beverly has become a great friend of the K-9 Program in a short time. She has a true passion for these dogs. When we got the new one she came up to the station on a Saturday morning just to see him. What I'm concerned about is if we get a third dog she's going to put in a bid. When we met with Mike and Beverly they donated \$10,000.00. In addition to their donation they had a great idea. They would match the next \$10,000.00 that we raised. This challenge idea really jumpstarted the entire fund raising program. I want to thank them for the \$20,000.00 donation.

Barry, you've been a great supporter since you've been elected. Never hesitated when it came to the K-9s. You've been great and we just want to present you with this plaque.

The last person I want to thank is Dr. Rick Thompson. I don't believe he's here. Oh is he here? Great. I'm sorry. Dr. Thompson, will you come up? Real glad you're here. Dr. Thompson owns the Family Pet Clinic. He provides vet service to all our K-9s and has never sent us a single bill. He also provides vet care for 40 other K-9s. Doctor what you do for us goes beyond words and without you our K-9 Program would not exist. Thank you very much.

We're going to get to the swearing-in now. They had to go out and grab the dogs and we'll get right to that. Once we get done with the swearing-in Council has a little business to attend to and then we're going to meet in the room right behind you and everybody is invited for light refreshments.

These are our two handlers, Dale Merchant and Pat Hace. Dale has been with the department since 1994 and this is his third dog. He's also certified as a Master Trainer by the National Organization of K-9 Handlers. Pat's been with the department since 2007. This is his first dog. Pat's dog is Rosco and Dale's dog is named Arlo. Just three months ago both these dogs were in Germany. In less than a month's time they were among 16 dogs that were selected in Germany, flown to Detroit, picked up and driven to Wapakoneta, Ohio and then selected by Dale and Pat. They were brought back to Garfield Heights for a few weeks and they and the officers went to Wapakoneta for a six-week training course. They both did extremely well and I think we got a couple winners here. We'll do the swearing-in.

(Chief Sackett first swore in Arlo and secondly, Rosco. He then invited their handlers to speak.)

Officer Dale Merchant: I want to thank all the donors because without them we wouldn't be here today. Thanks to Dr. Thompson for being here after year--a critical backup for us. I also thank you. I appreciate the opportunity here to continue on and do this again. Thanks to Council for your support over the years too. Mayor, thank you.

Officer Pat Hace: I also want to thank Council and everybody who helped make this happen. It's going to be a great asset to the community. Thank you.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Now we're going to get back to the Regular Council Meeting. It will be very brief. I promise. I hope everybody will join us across the hall. Thanks. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Chief. We will now move on to Comments by Citizens on the agenda. I'm going to have the Clerk read the rules.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON TONIGHT'S AGENDA:

CLERK: Comments are strictly limited to brief statements not to exceed five minutes with comments limited to the legislation on the current evening's agenda.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Is there any resident who would like to speak regarding the agenda item this evening? Just raise their hand.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: There being none we will move right on to the first resolution because there is only one. Resolution 03-2013. Will the Clerk read the title.

RESOLUTION NO. 03-2013

A RESOLUTION BY THE MAYOR AND COUNCIL ON BEHALF OF THE RESIDENTS OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS HONORING K9 OFFICER MAJOR FOR THE CANINE'S YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS POLICE DEPARTMENT.

Moved by MAHONEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

CLWN MAHONEY: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make motion to have this piece read in its entirety.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor of having Resolution 3-2013 read in its entirety say Yea. All opposed. I'll have the Clerk read the resolution in its entirety.

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

(The Clerk read Resolution 03-2013 in its entirety.)

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Roll call on the adoption beginning with Clwn Mahoney.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

CLWN MAHONEY: Before I vote, I'd like to say that I remember when Major got sworn in. He was getting sworn in right over here and no one had told me that you weren't supposed to look a dog in the eye. So needless to say he was not real happy that I was looking at him like that and he kind of like barked and he kind of like came towards me. It kind of scared me a little bit. Well after that meeting Dale Merchant, the handler, made sure that he waited after the meeting so that I could make friends with Major and Major became you know kind of a nice dog to me I

guess is the way to say it. So years later I was with Dale one time and he put me in a dog suit and Major attacked me and that dog was extremely, extremely strong and while he was attacking me Dale said one word and he came at me and I fell over instantaneously and I was laying on the ground and I could not get up because I was like a turtle in a suit and then as soon as Dale said something else to him then he was like a different dog and he came and licked my face and he was all like happy dog again. I know that the Merchant family went through a lot of heartache when Reno died and I know they went through a lot of heartache when Major died. I give to them my sympathies and with that I vote Yes.

CLMN DUDLEY: Before I vote, like I say, my heart go out to the family because when you have pets, especially dogs, and I'm a German shepherd lover myself, and they become a part of the family and especially the kids. The kids love them even though we know they are made for the protection of the community as well as families. I'd like to say I'm just so glad that we was able to get some more because like I say those dogs would give they lives for you without a second thought. You know when you go somewhere, you sit them in, if you ever had to be somewhere where you're in a tough situation I know the officers and them dogs probably save many a life by going in there because the truth is when they say dogs people ready to get out. They do not want to tangle with them dogs. With that I wish them the very best with they new pets and stuff like that and I vote Yes.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Before I vote, I would just like to extend my sympathy to the Merchant family and to everyone in this town at the loss of Major because Major was an officer. He was a member of our Police Department and he was also a family member and friend to everybody in this community. So my sympathy to the family but I know two wonderful dogs being trained right now who have some big paw prints to fill and I vote Yes.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, my sympathies go out to you, Officer Merchant. I know Major was a part of the family. One thing I do remember that you told us at one of our Block Watch meetings which is an advantage for the K-9 Units is he did send that dog after somebody and call him back. The bullet never comes back, so it's good that we have those dogs. With that I vote Yes.

CLMN GLENN: I do want to thank Dale for his service; Major for his service. You'll never forget that dog. You'll have a special place in your heart. I want to thank all the business people, the Dr. Thompson, all the block watches, all the individuals that partook. This is a proud day for Garfield Heights. The Mayor started this here program and it's a good community affair. Thank you Dale, thank you. I vote Yes.

CLMN SUSTER: Before I vote, I'd just like to say I'd like to thank Dale Merchant and his family because I know having the dog at home is a lot of work and yet he's still Dale's partner and as the Mayor had said you know we have two dogs to replace him and possibly a third dog and what I like about this idea and you hear it from other people is that when you tell somebody a dog's coming in that's when the whole situation changes and rather than having someone possibly get killed you send in a dog and he at least calms the situation down and Pat left, I guess, with the other dog and Pat, this is his first dog so he's going to be probably doing a lot of learning and he probably has one of the best or he does have the best handler that can tell him what to do with that dog. I definitely vote Yes.

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: OK. I'm happy to say that Resolution 03-2013 stands adopted with 6 Yes votes.

COMMENTS BY CITIZENS:

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: That concludes Ordinances and Resolutions on this evening's agenda. At this point in time we will move on to Miscellaneous Comments by Citizens and I'm going to have our Clerk read the rules.

CLERK: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a citizen has which has previously been submitted to their City Councilperson or to the city hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a department or a Councilperson has been made and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, then the problem may be presented during comments from citizens at this meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature be presented on the floor at this time.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Anyone wishing to comment tonight? Anyone? Just raise their hand. There being none we will move right on to Miscellaneous Business beginning with Clmn Dudley.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

CLMN DUDLEY: The only thing I'd like to say tonight is to thank the contributors and also Happy New Year to everybody that will live to see another year, and to say that the night really belongs to our new K-9s and also for Major who has passed to the handlers as well as they families. Keep them all in our prayers because I believe it's going to be a great access to the city. That's all I have Mme. Chairman.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Clmn Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Yes, again, my condolences to Officer Merchant and welcome aboard to the new officers and a special thanks to all the generous, generous donors that helped make this possible and made, like the Mayor said, another K-9 Unit. I appreciate it and thank you for putting your faith in Garfield.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Clmn Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: I, too, would like to repeat what I said before to that officer. I, too, had a big dog at one time—a Doberman—when I was younger. I still have that picture in a big frame. This picture here needs a big frame so he can find a special place for it. I thank you. God Bless.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I would just like to thank all the donors and this could not have taken place without all of you and your contributions meant the world to us and it meant safety to our city, so I can't thank you enough. I would also like to remind everybody there's going to be a few refreshments in the back when the meeting adjourns in a few minutes so don't leave without getting a cookie or something. That's all I have. Clmn Suster.

CLMN SUSTER: I, too, would like to thank all the donors. Without your help there's no way that the city could have purchased these two beautiful dogs. I'd like to welcome Arlo and Rosco and I know here again I'll say with the training that they've had they're going to do a great job for us.

On another note, anybody that's interested, we're having a Audit Committee Meeting next Monday evening, a week from today, 6:30. We'll be here in the Caucus Room if anybody wants to attend. I also want to thank you know you heard the Chief talk about Dr. Thompson. I don't think there's a better or anybody that could take better care of our K-9s than Dr. Thompson and the Family Pet Clinic. I, myself, am prejudiced only because I take my dog there and I know what a great job they do. I want to thank you for everything that you do for us, Dr. Thompson. That's all I have this evening.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Clwn.

CLWN MAHONEY: Not to be repetitive to all the people who contributed, we could thank you every day and never show our gratitude for how much you guys have done for the city of Garfield Heights and for the K-9 Unit. We appreciate it greatly. To Dale, Michele and Amanda, our sympathies go out to you on the loss of not only Major, but you've gone through this before with Reno and it's a hard thing and we thank you for wanting to continue to be a handler after experiencing such great losses. With that, that is all I have. Nice job, Chief Sackett and I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All opposed. Meeting stands adjourned. Thank you all for coming.

AYES: Mahoney, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster

ABSENT: Vaughn

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:43 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Marincic
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council