

# MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

## CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, May 9, 2016

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

**INVOCATION BY:** Councilman Michael Dudley, Sr.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Roll call please.

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

### **READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** The reading and disposal of the Minutes of April 25, 2016.

**CLMN BURKE:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion that we accept the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of City Council of Garfield Heights for Monday, April 25, 2016 as written.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On the motion made by Mr. Burke to accept the Minutes of April 25, 2016 as written, all those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed?

**AYES:** Burke, Vaughn, Dudley, LaMalfa, Nenadovich, Glenn, Suster  
That passes with 7 Yes votes.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL:** None.

**LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE:** None.

### **REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** There being none, we move on to the reports of the Mayor and his Directors. Mayor, do you have a report for us this evening?

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Yes, Mr. Chairman, I do. Thank you. First, I want to read a letter that was sent to me by the Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center.

**%Dear Mayor:**

The Cleveland Hearing & Speech Center is dedicated to helping people hear better so that they can fully enjoy the people and activities that bring meaning to each day. CHSC is fortunate to be a recipient of funding from the Cuyahoga County Health and Human Services budget for Audiology Patient Assistance (APA) Program. This program provides hearing aids, assistive listening devices and hearing aid repairs to low-income qualified individuals at a reduced cost. Eligibility for the program is based on the completion of the APA application along with proof of income. Patients can be seen at any of our three convenient locations: University Circle, South Euclid and Broadview Heights.

In addition, CHSC can provide educational talks and hearing screenings free of charge in the community. Examples of educational talk topics include how to communicate effectively with someone with hearing loss, myths about hearing aids and hearing and hearing loss. If you have any questions or would be interested in scheduling a talk, please feel free to contact me at (216) 325-7585.+

I don't know how this program would go over. I ask people to contact my office if you'd like me to schedule a community program together. I hate to bring in a group and only three/four people are going to show up so please contact my office if you have any interest in this. If we have a relatively good crowd, I will certainly schedule this.

Next, I want to talk about our 102<sup>nd</sup> Street flooding issue. We are going to have another meeting with 106<sup>th</sup> Street residents that are directly affected by the flooding. Not everybody from 102<sup>nd</sup> Street, as has been in the past. We're going to deal with the people that are actually getting flooding. This meeting is going to be held on May 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 p.m. upstairs in the dining room. This is important. We're going to go over all the issues as we've researched them. Dave Krock will be heading up the meeting so if you get a notice (we will be notifying the people affected) if you get a notice, please show up. It's going to be a very important meeting.

The next thing I wanted to talk about is it's the spring season again, when the grass and weeds are growing at an alarming rate. Let's try to keep the community looking good by keeping up on the mowing of the lawns. I know it's not easy to come from work and the grass is high, but we got to help the community out. We have people that really take care of their lawns and then we have lawns that the grass is two feet high. We need to get some cooperation from the residents.

We have our crew out there. They started in Ward 1. They're completing Ward 4 as we speak. They have Ward 5, 6 and 7 to go. It's a long process, but any help we can get from the residents in keeping those grasses mowed would be greatly appreciated.

I'll get into tonight's legislation. Ordinance 20 is the second reading. We discussed this last time. I'm sure Barb will get into this in her report adding up to an additional \$500,000.00 for road improvements on our notes. Ordinance 21 regarding the purchasing of salt for the winter season. Hopefully the winter's as good as it was last year and we won't need to use as much salt as we have in the past. That was a great help to the city. Ordinance 22 regards the sewer replacement project for East 135<sup>th</sup> Street. I'm sure Dave Krock will get into that in his report. Ordinance 23 among other things this is an opportunity to get Warner Road Hill repaved. This money will be going for that along with other things that Dave will also get into in his report. Ordinance 24 is not coming up tonight. Ordinance 25 is regarding a grant for the Court for technology projects.

The last thing I want to say is I know everybody in the city is very excited about the Cleveland Cavaliers. We wish them well and hope the next time we're here that we're talking about a championship run. With that, Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you, Mayor. Are there any questions of the Mayor on his report? Are there any questions of the Mayor on his report? There being none, we'll move on to Law Director Tim Riley. Do you have a report for us this evening?

**LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY:** No report tonight, Mr. Chairman.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. We'll move on to Police Chief Bob Byrne. Do you have a report for us this evening?

**POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE:** No report tonight.

**PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES:** Absent.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** OK. Service Director, Tim McLaughlin. Tim, do you have a report for us this evening?

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN:** Thank you, Mr. President, I do. The Household Hazardous Waste Roundup will begin on Tuesday, May 31<sup>st</sup> through Friday June 3<sup>rd</sup> from 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Service Garage. It will also be the second week Monday June 6<sup>th</sup> through Friday June 10<sup>th</sup>, also from 7:30 a.m. till 3:00 p.m. and on Saturday June 11<sup>th</sup> will be the shred program that will go from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.

I'd also like to talk about paving, asphalt on the side streets, patching the potholes. We're probably about 70% through the city. We have some Wards that are complete. Ward 1, Ward 7, Ward 3 are complete. Ward 2 is 90% complete. I was hoping that we could knock out a few of these this week, but it looks like the weather may not cooperate. It shows rain every day. Ward 4 we're about 85% complete. Ward 5 is about 50% complete. Ward 6 about 40% complete. I do have crews in those Wards, but I have three crews out and it's going to be a slow process. We've gotten this far in a month/five weeks. You know all the repaving that we did really helped out quite a bit. The total tonnage we have used like I said being 70% done with the mains done except for Antenucci and 135<sup>th</sup> from Granger to York, we have not done, but with all the mains, etc. being done we've used around 300 tons. In the last year, we used 2,000 tons. Coming back to workable numbers and hopefully, we can build on this in the future and try to get the roads back into good shape. That's the end of my report.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Are there any questions of Mr. McLaughlin on his report? Mr. Dudley.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Tim, can you throw out some examples of some of the stuff that you all collect on hazardous waste day that they can bring down to you?

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN:** It's just about anything anymore. I mean from paints to we've even gotten mercury delivered there.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Lead paint is good also?

**SERVICE DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN:** Latex paint you can put in your trash. Everything else you can bring there. There's turpentine, thinner- all kinds of different things plus the old gas tanks for your propane tanks. We take all those things there. There isn't anything that the County really does not take. We've even had mercury, which I did not even know was there. Somebody brought it in and just shoved it. It's not something you want to play with, but they even take that. Yeah, mostly any kind of household sprays, ant, etc. We take all that stuff.

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Anybody else have any questions of Mr. McLaughlin on his report? We'll move on to City Engineer, Dave Krock. Do you have a report for us this evening?

**CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK:** I do. Thank you, Council President. First of all, I want to report on Ordinance 22. This is the East 135<sup>th</sup> Street and sewer improvements between Broadway and Dressler and the issue here is we've had a collapsed sewer here recently in three different locations where we had sinkholes. So far we've put together about half of the funding that we need to do the project and we're going to keep working through some other funding sources to get it fully funded. Right now, we need to get the design moving and that's what this Ordinance 22 is all about. If this proceeds, it will likely proceed later this summer and the fall.

Ordinance 23 has to do with the Warner Road paving project and this is to authorize some additional inspection costs for the project. I also want to report that tonight the Board of Control approved the Dressler Avenue paving and that is between East 135<sup>th</sup> and Osborne. That will be repaved and that work will occur between May and July of this year. That's funded 100% by a CDBG grant that we received during last fall. That's my report.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Are there any questions of Mr. Krock on his report? Are there any questions of Mr. Krock on his report? There being none, we'll move on to Finance Director, Barb Biro. Do you have a report for us this evening?

**FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO:** Yes, I do, Mr. President. Thank you. In regards to Ordinance 20-2016, we are asking Council to place this ordinance on second reading. This is the re-issuance of the original \$2 million that we borrowed last year for the 2015 paving program with an additional \$500,000.00 to cover the cost of Warner Road project and also the East 135<sup>th</sup> Street project.

Ordinance 21 is the yearly salt agreement that we enter into with the Ohio Department of Transportation. With what we have stored this year, we've reduced our request down to 3,000 tons for the upcoming winter season.

Ordinance 25 is an ordinance asking Council to approve and accept allowing the presiding Judge to accept a grant made through the Supreme Court of the State of Ohio to help local Courts with technology projects. The Municipal Court did not receive the funding last year. They reapplied again earlier this year and they received approximately \$62,000.00 to help upgrade the technology in the Municipal Courts. That's all I have, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. Are there any questions of Barb on her report? Are there any questions of Barb on her report? There being none we'll move on to Social Service Director Kathy Rush-Parssons. Kathy, do you have a report for us this evening?

**SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSONS:** Yes, I do, Mr. Suster. Thank you. The Senior Center will be honoring the Nationally Recognized Older Americans Month by celebrating Senior Week from May 23<sup>rd</sup> until May 26<sup>th</sup> this year. We have four days of free activities planned for our Seniors, including a breakfast buffet on Monday, followed by a day of games and trivia, a nostalgic movie with popcorn and finally a Senior formal dance with DJ Jason Atkins. If anyone would like more information or reserve your free tickets to any of the events, please stop by or call the Senior Center. We do this every year and it's to honor our Seniors. The United States does do a proclamation every year honoring and recognizing the contributions that Seniors make. So we like to do that on a smaller scale here at the city.

Also, I just want to thank the Garfield Heights Women's Club for their generous donation to the food pantry. The women's club has been a very generous organization over the years. They consistently donate to the food bank so I just wanted to publicly recognize them and thank them. It's a great group of women and they really are very generous so just wanted to thank them. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. Are there any questions of Kathy on her report? Are there any questions of Kathy on her report? Next, we'll have Economic Development Director, Noreen Kuban. Do you have a report for us this evening?

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN:** Yes, I do. Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to announce that the Weatherization Program has been refunded. They receive more funding in the fall. Cleveland Housing Network is operating the program. Income eligibility is applied and with the program you can get a furnace, insulation, hot water tank, refrigerator and light bulbs. This also applies to renter-occupied units and in that case, the renter would apply with the approval of the property owner. I'm going to pass out some flyers to City Council and that concludes my report.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Are there any questions of Noreen on her report? Are there any questions of Noreen on her report? There being none, we'll have Building Commissioner, Bill Wervey. Do you have a report for us this evening, Bill?

**BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY:** Just a bit. The Land Bank continues to take houses down for us. I know some of you have gotten calls about lots where the houses are down because of maybe the unevenness of the grading. The Land Bank is holding back payment to the contractors on any of the houses that had uneven grading, ruts, etc. That will get fixed probably within the next month or so. Some of the properties it was tough to grade and reseed because they were doing it in the middle of winter, but it will get taken care of. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Mr. Chairman, before you close the reports, there's one thing I neglected to say. I need to ask Council. The food bank, as you know, about two years ago we went from one day/month, which was in the afternoon, to two days: one in the afternoon and then Thursday evening. It takes about an hour. We are having a problem staffing that program for that hour. I talked to Kathy. We wanted to reach out to Council. This goes on one hour/month. I would love to see Council and I certainly will go with it, too, but if you could schedule just one hour it will help us not to close down that evening. How many people do we get in the evening, Kath?

**SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSONS:** We usually get about 40 families, so depending on the size of the family, it could be 40 up to 100 people, but it's usually about 40 families.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** If we can't staff it, we're going to have to shut that down and that's really going to hurt those 40 families. So I would ask Council to get a hold of Kathy. She's demanding this from Council. It's not me. It's Kathy. I'm just kidding. We should all chip in and try to make sure that this thing continues. I would appreciate all of Council giving Kathy a call and scheduling. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** What was that word you used? Demanding?

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** She is a very demanding little lady.

**COMMENTS BY CITIZENS ON THE AGENDA:**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Next, we'd move in to Comments by Citizens on tonight's agenda. Would the Clerk please read the rules?

**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:** Do we have anyone in the audience who would like to speak on tonight's agenda?

Bob Halan, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. I talked to two Councilmen about this. Ordinance 24, an emergency ordinance amending Section 7 of the Charter of the City of Garfield Heights to increase Council terms from two to four years. Does that come under the Charter Review Board before it comes to Council?

**LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY:** No, it doesn't. Section 52 of the Charter says 2/3 of Council Members can put up a Charter change. It does not have to go through the Charter Review.

**MR. HALAN:** I thought the review has to come through them to the Council?

**LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY:** No, the Charter specifically states 2/3 of Council can put up a Charter change.

**MR. HALAN:** OK. I just wanted verification. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Is there anyone else that has any comments on tonight's agenda?

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

**ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** There being none, we'd move on to Ordinances and Resolutions beginning with Ordinance 20-2016. Would the Clerk please read the title?

**ORDINANCE NO. 20-2016**

AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE ISSUANCE AND SALE OF NOT TO EXCEED \$2,500,000 OF NOTES, IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ISSUANCE OF INCOME TAX REVENUE BONDS, TO PAY COSTS OF IMPROVING STREETS AND ROADS IN THE CITY BY RESURFACING, GRADING, DRAINING, CURBING, PAVING, AND IMPROVING, RE-CONSTRUCTING AND CONSTRUCTING CATCH BASINS, AND MAKING OTHER IMPROVEMENTS AS DESIGNATED IN THE PLANS APPROVED OR TO BE APPROVED BY COUNCIL, TOGETHER WITH ALL NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by VAUGHN to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

**CLMN VAUGHN:** To adopt the Second Reading please.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On the motion made by Mr. Vaughn to adopt on the Second Reading, all those in favor signify by saying Yea.

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

**LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY:** Point of Order, Mr. Chairman. I believe it was discussed at Caucus it was going to be passed for a Third Reading? The motion should have been to pass for a Third Reading.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** This one we were doing on two, I thought.

**LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY:** I don't know. Barb, from your standpoint did you want?

**FINANCE DIRECTOR BARBARA BIRO:** We asked that it go to the Third Reading at the end of the month.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** We will back up and go to Mr. Vaughn again.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Mr. Chairman, to go for Three Readings please. Motion for Three Readings please.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On the motion made by Mr. Vaughn to go for Three Readings on Ordinance 20-2016, all in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed.

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

**ORDINANCE NO. 21-2016**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A PURCHASING PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT, ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, WITH THE OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE PURCHASE OF SODIUM CHLORIDE (ROCK SALT) FOR THE 2016-2017 SEASON.

Moved by SUSTER to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On its adoption, beginning with myself.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Ordinance 21-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 22-2016**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING DAVID KROCK, CITY ENGINEER, TO PREPARE THE NECESSARY PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, PER THE OHM ADVISORS PROPOSAL ATTACHED HERETO AS EXHIBIT A, AND COMPETITIVELY BID THE EAST 135<sup>TH</sup> STREET SEWER REPLACEMENT PROJECT, AND AUTHORIZING THE PAYMENT OF COSTS FOR THIS PROJECT, WHICH COSTS WILL BE REIMBURSED

THROUGH THE COMMUNITY COST-SHARE ACCOUNT WITH THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT AND ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL FUNDING TO FUND THE PROJECT.

Moved by DUDLEY to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Dudley.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Before I vote, I'd like to say I'm really glad that we got the grant money and I'm glad that this had been done because I believe honestly, Tim, you all could have built a new street all the time you was filling in the holes that was sinking. Literally I drove my SUV up there the other day and I parked by one of them and I could kind of feel a tire sinking down in the hole. I'm glad to see this go forward and with that I vote Yes.

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Ordinance 22-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 23-2016**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AMENDMENT TO ORDINANCE 24-2015 WITH DAVID KROCK, CITY ENGINEER AND OHM ADVISORS PROPOSAL WITH RESPECT TO THE 2015 PAVING PROGRAM PURSUANT TO THE AMENDMENT ATTACHED HERETO AND IDENTIFIED AS EXHIBIT A.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Ordinance 23-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

#### **ORDINANCE NO. 24-2016**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 7 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS TO INCREASE COUNCIL TERMS FROM TWO YEARS TO FOUR YEARS.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Mr. Chairman, I would like to make a motion at this time to place this in Legislative Committee until the next Council Meeting.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Mr. Nenadovich has made a motion to place Ordinance 24-2016 into the Legislative Committee. All those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed.

VOTE TO PLACE IN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** That passes with 7 Yes votes.

**ORDINANCE NO. 25-2016**

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE PRESIDING JUDGE OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT TO ACCEPT A GRANT MADE AVAILABLE BY THE SUPREME COURT OF OHIO TO SUPPORT LOCAL COURT TECHNOLOGY PROJECTS FOR THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT.

Moved by BURKE to CONSIDER BY TITLE:

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On its adoption, beginning with Clmn Burke.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Ordinance 25-2016 passes with 7 Yes votes.

**MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** That concludes the Ordinances and we will move on to Comments by Citizens. If the Clerk would 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 anyone this evening that would like to make any comments?

James Jones, Warrensville Heights. I am a resident of Warrensville Heights, however I have some information that I want to pass on to the city of Garfield Heights and the Council. First of all, I want to thank Council for allowing me to take the time to do so. There were some brochures passed out, but I first want to qualify the organization that I work for is called Breaking Chains. We are a HUD-approved housing counseling agency and we are certified in all forms of financial counseling. Currently, we have been designated as the top housing counseling agency for pre-purchase counseling by the Ohio Housing Finance Agency. Just to give you a little bit about us and our experience.

My concern today is the inner ring Cleveland suburbs and the decline of property values and the number of stock that's of vacant properties. What we're doing right now at Breaking Chains, we're doing a homebuyer's education class. What does that do? That gives an intelligent homebuyer. We all want stable communities. So the program that we have goes from A-Z as to how to buy a house, how to deal with realtors, how to deal with mortgage companies and how to be a good homeowner. I think this is important for the inner ring suburbs because when you look at the property values of our properties in these areas, they are very low. It seems to me that most of the monies that are being invested by the banks and corporate seem to be on the West side of town so basically I wanted to inform Council that we are doing these seminars.

Now what will the seminars do? The seminars will put a first-time homebuyer in a position to get down payment assistance, which is huge. I mentioned Ohio Housing Finance Agency because we are the top first-time homebuyers' pre-purchase counseling agency in the State. It's very important. Our young folks that are buying properties now they need to be in position to take advantage of some of the monies that's coming down from financial organizations as well as the government. With mergers of banks like Huntington and First Merit, they have a CRA requirement so monies are going to be flowing into these areas and we want our community to be in position to take advantage of these monies. I thank you for your time. If anybody has any questions for me, I will be willing to answer it.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Mr. Chairman, if I may?

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Yes, Mayor.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Mr. Jones, it sounds like something that I would be very interested in for the residents. When you talk about these seminars, do we request you putting them on? Do you put them on at different times?

**MR. JONES:** We do put them on at different times. Currently we're doing a series of homebuyers' education classes in the city of Warrensville. I have talked to the Mayor and the Mayor agreed that he thought that was a good idea. Warrensville is still building homes and we have a nice stock of homes, but there are vacant homes as well so he thought it would be good that we would do this Homebuyers' Education Class there in Warrensville so he is allowing us to do it at the Warrensville Heights Civic Center. That is not to say that the people that go through the class has to buy in Warrensville, because it's about the knowledge and the information. So in answer to your question, yeah, we are open to do it in other cities and other areas as well.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** I would like to further talk to you about this. Certainly not tonight, but if you could contact my office I think this sounds like a great idea. I'd like to follow through on it.

**MR. JONES:** I appreciate it and I will do so.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Thank you, Mr. Jones.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Mr. Chairman.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Mr. Nenadovich.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Mr. Jones, good evening. I'm looking at this. It's a money management service. Is there any cost associated with this to residents?

**MR. JONES:** It depends on how it's done. The city of Warrensville is sponsoring the program that we're currently doing, but what we're giving is the one-on-one financial assessment at the end of the class. In answer, yes, it costs, but is a minimal cost. It would cost to put the program on because there's time and supplies, etc. However, what Braking Chains is investing is that one-on-one, that first time one-on-one assessment to find out where a person is.

Number one to find out if they are mortgage ready. If they are not mortgage ready, we develop an action plan for them in order to get ready. If you look at our Website, you will see a testimony of a young lady that had a 570 credit score. In less than a year with this action plan that we put together for her, she had over 700 credit score. So I mean that's the kind of information you learn. It's different from these debt repair places because when you do a debt repair you've done it for them the individual. Most of the times what you find is you find that they go back to the same kinds of things they were doing before.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Now this here program, this is for people ready to buy a home. Is this in any way connected with NHS for people who are already in the homes and ready to lose their homes?

**MR. JONES:** We also do that as well. We do foreclosure prevention as well as a post-purchase counseling as well, because once you move into a home, there are things that a person needs to know about maintaining the home. Again, stabilizing the community.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Thank you, Sir.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** Mr. Chairman.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Mr. Dudley.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** I want to mention that we do have a long history. I actually served on the Board of Directors with ESA empowering strength in Ohio people and honestly, not to put any of them that had to be the best. I mean ready to fight and open your face to the banks, all the way up to Chase Bank, etc. with Jamie Diamond that a lot of organizations do but it was a pleasure serving on the board with this gentleman. I tell you he was one of the best individuals who sat on that board, him and Barbara Anderson, etc. I appreciate the service you have provided and you have helped people in Garfield Heights during the foreclosure big crisis back in 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, etc. Mr. Chairman, I thank you.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. Thank you very much.

**MR. JONES:** Thanks again.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Is there anybody else that has any comments this evening?

**MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:**

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** There being none, we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business and tonight we will start with Clmn Dudley.

**CLMN DUDLEY:** First of all, I want to hope that all of you mothers had a great Happy Mothers Day. I actually took no calls on this Mothers Day and I made no calls on the Mothers Day and I did not entertain any social media. I spent it with my wife, our children and about 12 of our grandchildren. That was only one fourth of them could make it. So it was a great time.

I thank Mr. Jones for being here and the Reverend and Mrs. Dobson and Mrs. King and always Ms. Whitmore back there.

I want to tell everybody I am happy to see we're going to be doing something with Dressler. I appreciate the work on the grant and also 135<sup>th</sup>. I am glad to see that go forward.

We make it short. Remember summer is here. We want a safe summer. Watch your children. Keep them off the street. The sign said do not play in the street.

Also you notice that you has some individuals are turning up dead, etc. in the city of Cleveland very close to our proximity. That's why I'm so glad to see them vacant homes down. Kids walking home I can imagine just looking in a house and seeing a body laying there. That's why it's important to keep your kids safe, respect the curfew. There's no reason for no young lady to be out in the street and going to the corner store at 11 o'clock at night being 12 and 13 years old. If you love your children your job is to protect your children as the man of that household, you know? You got to look out for your family. If you don't raise your children I tell you a thousand times the streets going to raise them for you and you don't want the streets to raise your children. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Joe, do you have anything for us this evening?

**CLMN LAMALFA:** Yes, I got something for the Mayor. A lady called me today. She was going to come (apparently she could not make it) about the library being a lot of problems up there for kids, etc. I was just wondering if maybe you could organize one of those trips across the road there where we have the Council Meetings there one night to address some of this?

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** Actually, Joe, we had talked about having a Council session. Some of the Council people wanted to continue to have the Council Meetings in this location and so what I was going to do was have a Council session at the library and invite as many of the public there so they could see this new program they have. We will do that and I am more than happy to bring the library in to talk. I don't know of any new problems that are going on there. As you know, in the beginning we had our share of problems when they first opened up, but since then, as far as I know, and I certainly don't go there that often, but as far as I know we have not had many problems.

**CLMN LAMALFA:** She just called today so I figured I'd bring it up.

**MAYOR VIC COLLOVA:** OK. Thank you, Joe.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Is that all, Joe?

**CLMN LAMALFA:** Yes. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Mr. Nenadovich.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman. First of all, like you say, great job, Dave, with all the streets paved residents really do notice a big difference, especially over there. They're really happy about what we're trying to do with Warner Road. I thank you, Mayor, Dave and Council for approving the packages that are getting this done.

On another note, I was asked several times this week, what are we doing with all this here tax money we're getting. I had an answer for them. I really did. I told them I said when you hire that contractor and he blows the grass in the street, we're sending the sweeper down there and he should not go down there two/three times. Then we send the sweeper down to clean the sewers out that the grass is plugging. Then we send them down in the fall to clean the leaves you blow down the sewers. Then I says, we're really spending a lot of money when you stop for your stop signs and you open your door and you put your Burger King bag and McDonald's bag on the street. We pick that up for you. This is where your money is going. That's why your potholes probably aren't getting filled as fast because we're sending people down to sweep up the mess that you're making in our city. When you leave the store and you throw your cigarette pack on the ground we pick that up for you. I says that's what we do with our time. Then we send a foreman around to make sure that you put your trash cans away after they've been sitting out there four/five days. This is where your tax dollars are going. We're working for you.

I, myself, don't think we pay these people enough to do that because they don't have time to do their regular job because we're taking care of the people who don't give a damn about this city. I watch every day people coming from pizza shops. They eat the pizza; the box goes on the street. There's a trashcan 10 feet away. They don't use it. Or they're eating something and they don't feel like finishing it. Out in the middle of the road for the cars to drive over it. The cars will smash it down or an animal will eat it or they throw it in their front yard. Then they complain about the ground hog and send the animal warden there to put a trap up because now we're feeding the animals. If you want to know where your tax dollars are going, just look in the mirror. They're going for you because you are not neat enough to clean up after yourself. That's my answer to where our tax dollars are going, Mr. Mayor.

Like I said I want to thank the people that did the work on the street, but this trash has got to stop. It has to, ladies and gentlemen. I know we have problems with parking, but I think we have a bigger problem with the people that are destroying our city.

I want to say go Cavs. With that, I turn it back over to you, Sir.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. Mr. Glenn. Do you have anything this evening?

**CLMN GLENN:** I think Mike said it all. Dittos, Mike.

**CLMN NENADOVICH:** Thank you.

**CLMN GLENN:** I think though, there should be some kind of enforcement with laws being broke, accountability, but that's my opinion. Thank you, Mr. President.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** OK. The only thing I have and I'd go over to Chief Byrne. Do we have anything on 10920 Granger? We had them classified as "a nuisance property". Is there anything new?

**POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE:** A letter has been sent out that they have been notified. We do not have any violations at this point that we can assess them on. We were there today for a domestic dispute. I don't know the exact details of it, but if in fact they are calling for a domestic, it's probably not something that we would charge them for. I am not sure of the yard. I understand that that may be an issue. It's not being cared for.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** But that has to do with the homeowner. I gave Bill the address again because that grass there needs to be cut.

**POLICE CHIEF ROBERT BYRNE:** Correct.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** OK. Thank you. That's all I have this evening. Clmn Burke.

**CLMN BURKE:** Thank you, Mr. President. I just want to remind everybody that I will be having my Community Awareness Meeting this coming Wednesday, May 11<sup>th</sup>, right here at the Civic Center. We are probably going to grill some hot dogs. I have Pat Salemi coming out to talk about recycling.

The only other thing I can really contribute is when I kind of go off of what some of the other Councilmen here said tonight. If you are cutting your grass, please don't blow it into the street. It really causes more problems for us. You know we have one resident call up and complain that the pothole is not being filled, but then you got crews out there having to clean the streets. So we all have to help one another. Take a little pride in our city. Take a little pride in your space and clean up after ourselves. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Thank you. Clmn Vaughn.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Thank you, Sir. All right, folks. Let's get our yards cleaned up. Get the dandelions taken care of. Boy, if anybody wants to make some dandelion wine we've got a bumper crop this year. Weed n Feed is not that expensive, folks. Feel pity on your neighbors who take care of their yards- the ones that don't want the weeds. Take a few minutes out. Fertilize your lawn. If you don't have a spreader, borrow one. I'm sure they'll let you borrow it. Let's bring some pride back to our yards. Used to be a time when in Garfield Heights everybody's yard was pristine. We need to get it back to that point.

Yes, let's pick up the garbage. Let's quit dumping it up at the Commons. The other day I was down there on the corner. It's like a vortex. Garbage is constantly blowing around. I know that the people up there are constantly cleaning it, but I've seen people just empty out their cars and leave stuff. Come on people. Let's have a little pride. Enjoy your neighborhood. Go Cavs. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** Before we adjourn, I just want to tell Kathy she can put my name down for Thursday nights. Mr. Vaughn.

**CLMN VAUGHN:** Mr. Chairman, can we adjourn this meeting please?

**PRESIDENT SUSTER:** On the motion made by Mr. Vaughn to adjourn the meeting. All those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed? Meeting is adjourned.

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

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:50 p.m.**

**APPROVED:**

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

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Joseph Suster, President of Council

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Barbara Molin, Clerk of Council