

MINUTES OF A SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Thursday, September 19, 2013

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 4:05 p.m. by President of Council Nancy Marincic.

INVOCATION BY: President of Council Nancy Marincic

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: At this point I'd like to turn the meeting over to Sharon Hanrahan. How'd I do?

MS. SHARON HANRAHAN: You were closer than a lot of people.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you.

MS. SHARON HANRAHAN: Thank you.

(Ms. Hanrahan, Financial Planning Commission Administrator, opened the City of Garfield Heights Financial Planning and Supervision Commission Meeting at this time. She then turned the session over to Council.)

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: OK. What I would like to do is take roll call for City Council. I'll let our Clerk do that.

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

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I'd like to make a motion to excuse Michael Dudley.

All in favor say Yea. All opposed. The Yeas have it.

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

ABSENT: Dudley

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I would at this point in time like to know if Council Members have anything they want to say? Can we start with you, Tracy?

CLWN MAHONEY: First of all I'm very excited to be here and I'd like to thank everybody for all their well wishes while I was recuperating. The fact that we have come as far as we have since 2008 is amazing to me. This Administration, this Council and this Mayor have done a great job and it is with great respect that I say I am proud to be sitting here today.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Mr. Vaughn?

CLMN VAUGHN: 2009 when I first was elected we never thought we'd be able to come to this day as quickly as we have. This is a day of celebration. We've made a lot of cuts. We've done things that nobody ever thought we'd be able to and we've done with a lot of things also. The Mayor has done a great job and this Administration should receive all the accolades there are for what we have gone through. Thank you.

CLMN SUSTER: Mme. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion we let Mike Dudley take his seat.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All opposed. The Yeas have it. You made it.

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

ABSENT: Dudley

CLMN SUSTER: You're next.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Clmn Dudley, we were just going through Council and asking them to say a few words. Is there something you'd like to say?

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CLMN DUDLEY: First of all, I apologize for being a little late. I actually drive a truck for a living so it's pretty tough getting back in this area. I have to say honestly I've been never more prouder in my life and I believe it was the work of the collective group because it took the Mayor, the Administration and Council. No one individual could have done this. When I became a part of this Council I was shocked when I was so happy to win a position then they told me we had no money. So there was nothing to spend and all your promises go down the drain but you learned a lot for not having no money. I'm proud to say that the way the city is ran as a business instead of like some cities just floating money like it's a personal checkbook and I tell you Mayor, you done a great job. You're a good friend but you're also a great leader and my colleagues I couldn't ask for better Members to be as Council people and the Administration they've been great. With that, I thank everybody and I'm glad we are here to pass this tonight. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Mr. Glenn?

CLMN GLENN: There's a lot of people to thank here. Top of the list would be Mayor Collova for his leadership, the Council, the Administrators, all the Department personnel that took cuts, hits to get us where we are, but most important of all is the residents, the taxpayers and the homeowners of Garfield Heights who supported this city. Thank you very much.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you. Mr. Nenadovich?

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you. I echo Mr. Glenn's sentiments exactly from the Mayor to his Administrators who sharpened their pencils like never before and I bet they wore out more erasers than they did points so I thank them, but most of all the employees and the residents of Garfield Heights for bearing with us and seeing us through this hard time. I thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Clmn Suster?

CLMN SUSTER: I just say that it's a great day in the city of Garfield Heights. We've gone through a lot over several years and I think with the leadership of the Mayor and Council also Ron Tomola and I want to also thank all the city employees that probably haven't had a raise in awhile but we saw where we had to make cuts and the cuts were made and there were decisions that were made that were made that were hard decisions to make because we were affecting a lot of people's lives, but in order to get the city back on track we did that and that's all I have to say.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I would just like to say that I am so proud of our community, from the Mayor, the Directors and this City Council who worked so hard together, the Administration and the State. They helped us, they guided us, they put a city back together again and I can't thank you enough for everything you have done for us because you have been God sent. Thank you. And I know this city in the future is going to just be so financially secure and I am so proud of this community from every resident to every Administrator. Mayor, I know there's something you want to say.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Actually I'm going to hold my remarks until I'm sure the State Auditor does what I think he's going to do because my tone may be different. No, actually I will wait until the Commission speaks. Thank you.

MS. SHARON HANRAHAN: OK. Thank you so much. Thank you all for being here and thank you for all

your hard work.

(Ms. Hanrahan, Financial Planning Commission Administrator, returned to the City of Garfield Heights Financial Planning and Supervision Commission Meeting at this time.)

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Are there any dignitaries here who would like to say something?

MS. SHARON HANRAHAN: I thought they all were.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I actually have two coming up at the same time. I'll let the Judge go first.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE SANDRA WILLIAMS: Good afternoon, everyone. I've actually been the Representative for Garfield Heights for the last nine months and so I'm very happy to be here. It's unfortunate that you all had to go through what you did, but I am glad that you were diligent in making sure that you did what you needed to do to get on the right track and just know that for anything you need from the State level I will work directly with Auditor Yost to make sure you have what you need. Thank you very much.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: I just wanted to respond. Sandra, thank you for all you do for us. We appreciate it and we will keep knocking on your door.

JUDGE DEBORAH NICASTRO: I'm one of the Judges at the Court and I want to take this opportunity to thank Ron Tomola also. Everybody here worked hard, but we know nobody worked harder than Ron Tomola and this is my twentieth year as a Judge here in Garfield Heights and I've never met a fellow official of this city with such high integrity and commitment. That's the kind of integrity we need to bring Garfield Heights back, so thank you.

MS. GABRIELLA HUSZARIK: Hello, everyone, I am the Executive Director of the Garfield Heights Chamber of Commerce. On behalf of my Board of Directors and myself, we'd like to wish the city of Garfield Heights all the best in the future. Congratulations.

COUNTY COUNCILMAN PERNEL JONES, JR.: Good afternoon, I would just like to congratulate our Mayor and this Council and all the Commission for your hard work and leadership to bring this city out of fiscal emergency. You've done an incredible job and I just wanted to congratulate you all.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you and I just wanted to add. Pernel is our Council Representative from Cuyahoga County. Every time we need funding we go to Pernel. He does a great job getting us funding and he's been a big part of us getting out of this fiscal emergency, too. We appreciate it. Thank you.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Does Council have anything that they would like to say?

CLWN MAHONEY: I would like to say on the way over here I received a phone call from Bob Reid who was going to try to be here. Obviously I don't see him. I just wanted to let everybody know, especially the residents and the Commission and the Council and the Administration from the bottom of his heart he wants to congratulate everybody and say how sorry he wasn't able to be here.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Thank you, Ms. Mahoney. Clmn Suster, you have something?

CLMN SUSTER: I have several things. Starting on October 2nd, now this is only tentative, we're going to have our Finance Committee Budget Hearings. We will pay attention to Five Year Forecast. We'll start on October 2nd. We'll have Bill Wervey, Chief Sackett and Chief Nemetz. On Monday October 7th (now these are all at 6:30) we'll have Noreen Kuban and Kathy Rush-Parssons, 7:00 will be Parks and Recreation with Robert Dobies, 7:30 will be Service Department, Tim McLaughlin and on Tuesday, October 8th at 6:30 we'll have the Project Engineer Dave Krock, 7 p.m. will be the Municipal Court Judge Weiler, Nicastro and Donna Marcoguiseppe. How do you say it? I never took languages.

Wednesday October 9th at 6:30 we will have the Law Department Tim Riley, 7:00 will be Mayor Collova and at 7:30 we'll have our overview wrap up with Ron Tomola.

Mme Chairman, I'd like to make a motion. In talking to our Law Director, I heard that we have no legislation for this Monday night's meeting. I would like to make a motion that we do not have a Council Meeting on this coming Monday evening.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I'm going to ask our Law Director. Can we do that?

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: Yes, we can. We can do it by motion, resolution or ordinance.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Because we're still having two in September? On Clmn Suster's motion all in favor say Yea. All opposed. The Yeas have it. We're off on Monday.

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

LAW DIRECTOR TIM RILEY: You have to do a vote.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: We have to do a roll call individually? OK. I'll have our Clerk call the roll.

AYES: Suster, Mahoney, Vaughn, Dudley, Marincic, Nenadovich, Glenn
Motion stands adopted with seven Yes votes.

CLMN SUSTER: One more thing and I'll be done. Everybody knows that October 14th is a holiday which is the night of a Council Meeting. We passed legislation in the early part of this year that if meetings fell on holiday evenings we should move it to the following Wednesday so our meeting will be on the 16th of October instead of the 14th of October.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: Want to make that motion?

CLMN SUSTER: I'm making a motion. That's all I have. One more thing if I might. This one here really gets my heart. I think all the city employees received an e-mail yesterday from Pat Salemi about a young lady over on Tonsing Avenue that's going to be selling lemonade? She has gone through cancer treatment and for right now she's pretty cancer-free, but anyhow her goal now she wants to help other children that have cancer so if you're in the neighborhood. It's on Tonsing. You'll notice it Saturday if you go down Tonsing Avenue that Emma will be out there selling lemonade and all the proceeds that she gets she's going to give to Rainbow Children's Hospital. The address is 11804 Tonsing Drive, Garfield Heights, Ohio.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: I think it's from like noon to two or noon to four?

CLMN SUSTER: Yes.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: OK. Is that all you have Clmn?

CLMN SUSTER: That's it.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: OK. At this point in time I would like to remind everybody that right down the hall we have refreshments. And Mr. Tomola?

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: I wasn't going to because I'm really not that good at public speaking, but I did write this up and I thought that maybe I should say it after all. It's been a long road for the city to get to this day. From my perspective as Finance Director there's a few people in the room that I want to thank for helping me decipher and work through in our city the quagmire that can be the Ohio Revised Code Chapter 118—Fiscal Emergencies.

Sharon, you, like Paul Marshall before you, always had your phone open, your door open. Any question I

ever had to help me through this process, you were always available. So thank you.

Tisha, the city's financial supervisor, worked with for five years on this problem, many times on a daily basis to help me through this fiscal emergency. Behind Tisha there was always Nita and Eunice. And Auditor Yost, between three members of your LGS staff that you have here today I believe that any local government that has a problem with any type of governmental accounting finance can have that question rectified with these three individuals. They are true professionals in this field. They know governmental accounting as it exists in the State of Ohio and they are truly an asset to your office. I can still remember the day I first met Eunice back in 1992 and I thought she might get a kick out of the first GAP Report that she put together for us. See, I kept it all these years. But after working with Eunice on that project and seeing the dedication she put forth I knew that she would be an asset that I would be able to utilize in my governmental finance career for the city. It's apparent that she requires the same level of expertise and dedication in her staff as I have realized from working with Nita and Tish.

To the local appointees on the Commission, Wayne, Martha, Matt, thank you for all of what you've done over the last five years putting up with a problem and helping us along the way.

I also believe that everyone in this room today and I know it's been done before but I'm going to say it anyhow. I need to thank the Mayor and this Council, because I can sit here and I can tell you the numbers, but it's them that have to pass and approve the legislation and enact what had to be done to get this here today. So thank you.

Now it's time to bring everybody back to reality. I have a last couple comments to the elected and appointed officials of our city so that you never fall again into financial trouble. Council Members, before you pass any legislation you should find all the knowledge and information you can because most legislation you pass has a financial impact to it.

To the Mayor and Directors, it's our responsibility and obligation to execute the legislation that's passed by this Council. However, we have to do it within Departmental budgets that we have assigned to us. It's through a concerted effort of all of us to maintain our Departmental budgets and keep this city on financially stable ground in the future. Thank you.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Tish, I want you to know I've had some colorful talks with Ron, too. The color went both ways.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: And just so you know how prudent Ron is I asked him if it's possible because the chairs we're sitting on are 25 years old to get a new chair and he said you know you can always buy your own. I'd like to entertain a motion to adjourn.

CLMN SUSTER: I'll make a motion that we adjourn.

PRESIDENT MARINCIC: All in favor say Yea. All opposed. Meeting stands adjourned.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 4:55 p.m.

APPROVED:

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Nancy Marincic
President of Council

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council