

MINUTES OF A REGULAR MEETING OF COUNCIL

CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO

Monday, September 8, 2014

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

INVOCATION BY: Clmn Tom Vaughn

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Roll call please.

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

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, I'd like to make a motion that we excuse Clmn Dudley from the evening's meeting.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion to excuse Clmn Dudley. All those in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed?

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

ABSENT: Dudley

READING AND DISPOSAL OF MINUTES:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Reading and disposal of Minutes.

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, I make a motion that we accept the Minutes from August 11, 2014 as presented.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion by Mrs. Marincic to accept the Minutes of August 11th. All in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed?

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

ABSENT: Dudley

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS TO COUNCIL: None.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None.

LEGISLATION OUT OF COMMITTEE: None.

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

REPORTS OF THE MAYOR AND DIRECTORS:

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Yes, Mr. Chair. Thank you. First off on a couple of personal notes. Judge Nicastro's father passed away about a week ago. I would like to, on behalf of our Council, send out our condolences to the entire Nicastro family.

Second of all, a long time resident, Larry Chapek, passed away about two weeks ago. Larry has lived in the city probably his whole life. He was a great resident. He was a great supporter of this city. He was a great supporter of mine and he was truly a great friend of my family and his family. Larry will be sorely missed and our deepest regrets go out to Elaine Chapek on the loss of Larry.

On a more pleasant note, I want to talk a little bit about the 95th Birthday Party. It turned out to be a huge success. We couldn't have asked for it to be any better. We were graced with a great day weather-wise. We had all the things that a birthday party should have, especially it was for the kids. It was wonderful. We had Mike Nenadovich, Matt Burke and the Chief getting dunked. They did a great job. I want to thank them for their enthusiasm to do that. It was really great. I want to thank everybody that had anything to do with putting it together. It's too numerous to name everybody. We had a great cast of characters putting it together and I thank them so much. We probably had about anywhere from 800 to 900 people show up that day and it far outreached our expectations and I thank everybody involved. Today I received this from the State Treasurer of Ohio. It says,

"It is with great pleasure that I, Josh Mandel, Treasurer of Ohio, extend my congratulations to the City of Garfield Heights in honor of the city's 95th birthday. The city of Garfield Heights's birthday is a momentous occasion and provides an opportunity to celebrate the history of Garfield Heights. All of the birthday celebration sponsors and participants, especially the Garfield Heights Historical Society, should be commended for their contributions and commitment to the community and to the State of Ohio. Therefore I send my congratulations to all of the residents of the City of Garfield Heights and hope you are enjoying your city's 95th year. I wish you many years of continued success.

Josh Mandel, State Treasurer of Ohio"

It certainly was nice of him to do that and we will put that up in my office. That will be great.

Next I wanted to talk about Marymount Hospital and the Cleveland Clinic again for a great donation to the city. I'll read this.

"For a second consecutive year a tremendous gift of generosity was presented to Elmwood Elementary School students on the first day of classes. At the hands of Marymount Hospital's Helping Hands Committee on Thursday August 23, 2014 members of this committee, led by Marymount's Michael O'Connell, Vice President for Clinical and Support Services, presented Elmwood First Graders with more than 75 fully stocked book bags including school supplies, tissue boxes, hand sanitizers and disinfectant wipes. Elmwood Elementary School Principal Gwen Abraham said that she is extremely grateful for the generosity and partnership that the school has with Marymount Hospital."

This was broadcasted by WJW Fox 8 News and once again this shows what a great partnership and a great relationship we have with Marymount Hospital and what they do for the city. I thank Marymount very much for that.

Next I wanted to talk about another successful event the city had. We started this summer a trial for the Boys and Girls Club.

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. President, could you please allow Clmn Dudley to take his seat please?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Dudley. All in favor of letting Mr. Dudley take his seat, signify by saying Yea. All opposed.

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

Mr. Dudley may take his seat.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Thank you. So we had a summer program for the Boys and Girls Club. It couldn't have worked out any better. We had anywhere from 65 to 75 children each day from Grades 6 to 8 attend this. This shows a great partnership with the schools. It shows a great partnership with the city along with the Courts. I want everybody to know that there was a lot of people involved in this too, but without the funding and the determination of Judge Nicastro this would not have ever happened. We owe her a lot of thanks for putting this thing on, especially for the funding and since I was so nice to her I hope she funds us again next year. No, she really did do a great job and I thank her very much for that. Talking about the success of a program like this, at the end of the program they asked the kids that were there to fill out a survey about what type of things did you learn? What would you add or change to the program? I just wanted to read a couple of these things because I'm very proud of it.

It says we learned how to challenge our brains. We did the things that helped us whether on the court or on the classroom. I learned about teamwork. I also learned how to do hard math problems. I learned how to listen and cooperate. I learned how to do multiplication better and become better in variables and exponents and become better in mental math and thinking in my head more than looking in a book or a calculator. I learned more about Presidents. I learned that you have to be on-time for things. I learned that you should always be thankful for what you have. I learned how to avoid drama and fighting. I learned how to cooperate with other people and how to shoot the ball better and dribble better. I learned not to bully and when I have something to say if it's not something nice, keep it to myself. I would not had to change anything. I like it here. I learned responsibility. I learned self-respect. I learned support. I learned how to respect myself and other people. We learned words. We learned how not to do bad things like stealing. We learned that being bad does not get you anywhere. I learned not to disrespect adults. I learned to add in math including multiplication and division. I learned to be a leader and not a follower. I like how the teachers inspired me and they taught me how to be a young mature lady. I learned how to have sportsmanship. I learned how to be nice and share with other people. I learned how to be nice and show respect and help. I learned about leadership. I learned about good values and bad values. I learned about focus. I learned about going on the right path. I like the man code. I learned that to be successful you have to focus. I learned that violence is not the answer. I learned how to make my own decisions. I learned about decision making and values, going to college and not fighting, never disrespect people, not being a follower, but being a leader and to be fair to people even if we don't have the same gender or race.

This goes on and on and on. I could read for a long time, but this is a group of Garfield Heights' young people Sixth to Eighth Grade going to a Boys and Girls Club and coming up with answers like this. This shows me that this was a very, very successful program and I'm hoping that we can get some sponsors to turn this into full-time program, at least full-time for the summer if we can't do it every day. So I want to thank everybody involved with the Boys and Girls Club.

The last thing I wanted to say before I get into tonight's legislation. Is I get a kick out of this. Didn't know if I should read it or not. But I get quite a bit of fan mail every week and much of the mail I get is very colorful about things that I do and things that I should do and things that I don't

do. Color my hair and the suits I wear. People are very colorful about how they talk about what I should and shouldn't do, but this one really got me. A couple of years ago we had the second time out we voted on the red light cameras the residents of Garfield Heights and that was turned down by a large margin. From that time I have told everybody that we will not put the cameras back on because the residents spoke loudly and did not want it. Over the few years since that happened I've had residents come in, Mr. Halan has been on the mic and other residents talked to me; we need to get these cameras back. We need to do this for safety, along with any money it would bring in. We didn't go that direction and I personally did not go that direction for a couple reasons, but I was opposed to it, but because of Ron, my Finance Director, we put it as part of the survey. Without a doubt it was the number one pick out of every one when we did the survey. OK? Because the survey wasn't very large it did not say a whole lot but that was the number one and yet myself and Council still decided not to go with the cameras because for the most part I am opposed to them at this time so I received this letter, very short, very direct. It said:

"Vic,

We voted those cameras out. We don't want them. Don't want them. Don't want them. You're elected to represent us--not to rob us. Those cameras are robbery without a gun."

I just want to say it was unsigned and I just want to say to the person who's watching I'm going to make a promise today. That I guarantee them that if I do rob them I'll use a gun from this point forward. But this shows that people say what they think is happening without any idea or any clue what's going on. I'm the person that probably was most responsible for not putting the cameras up. Yet I'm the one that's robbing them, so. Anyways and that's one of the nicest letters. Most letters I can't even read in here, but that was a nice one.

Anyway to tonight's legislation. Ordinance 53. When two fences are erected back to back this allows a manageable space between the fences for maintenance. This legislation changes the previous legislation to allow for maintenance between the fences. That's why it's three feet apart. As far as Ordinance 54, Resolution 11 and Resolution 12. Those are financial ordinances that Ron will get into in his report. Mr. Chairman, you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Mayor. Does anybody have any questions of the Mayor on his report? Does anyone have any questions of the Mayor on his report? There being none we'll move on to Law Director Tim Riley.

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Moving right along, Police Chief Bob Sackett. Do you have a report for us this evening?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Yes, just one thing. Most of you are probably aware that the Cleveland Public School District has a building in Garfield Heights. 136th and Christine. It was Cranwood Elementary School. It was open for many years. A few years ago they closed it. The building was vacant. Then they used it temporarily for a couple years while they were building another school. We thought it was going to close again and be vacant. This year they opened it as kind of two schools. It's called the Eagle Academy and PAC School. They house, this year at least, only Ninth Graders there, and it has to do with John F. Kennedy. I don't understand their plan, but I do know that it's open and it's a regular Cleveland public school district. Naturally any time you have that many middle aged students you have the potential for

some complaints, I suppose. But we were in contact with Cleveland School District Police Department. They have their own separate police department. They right from the very beginning had a large presence, but I just want to let everybody know if there's problems you can certainly call us. We will respond. We have a working agreement with that police department and we will assist each other with any problems the kids may cause either in the school or on there way to and from. I just want people to be aware of that. With that you have my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you, Chief. Are there any questions of the Chief on his report? There being none we'll move on. Our Service Director is not with us this evening nor our Parks and Recreation Director Bob Dobies. So we'll go to Dave Krock our City Engineer. Do you have a report for us this evening?

SERVICE DIRECTOR TIM McLAUGHLIN: Absent.

PARKS AND RECREATION DIRECTOR BOB DOBIES: Absent.

CITY ENGINEER DAVID KROCK: I do. Thank you, Council President. I want to report on a couple of construction projects. First of all the Granger/Transportation Project is ongoing. They're working on the North side of Granger Road there and things are progressing. We'll see them work for the next couple of months and when winter time comes they will pull off there until spring to get restarted. So that one's moving along.

The good news. Turney Road waterline has been delayed a couple different times. Where we are at right now it's my hope and I certainly believe it's going to happen next week. We should be getting started finally on that project. It seems as tough the hardest thing to do is actually get one of these large projects going to get all the equipment and personnel from the contractor on-site. But once it gets going they are going to work straight through the winter, weather permitting and in about 12 months be completed with that. Just today we started dropping off letters to businesses and residents on the North end of town to let them know of a little bit more information. In your packet you have a copy of that as well as a copy of the letter that went out on Granger/Transportation. So those two projects hopefully will be going next week some time. So that's kind of an update on that.

Regarding East 102nd and the flooding issues there, we're still waiting on three pieces of information that the County just picked up for us some additional videotape they had not done before. I talked to the County today. That is in. So we expect to have that information some time this week. That will help sort of be the last piece of the puzzle we needed to understand a little bit more about the system. Then I'll have a report for the Mayor shortly thereafter. That's my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Are there any questions of Mr. Krock on his report? Are there any questions of Mr. Krock? There being none we'll move on to Finance Director, Ron Tomola.

FINANCE DIRECTOR RON TOMOLA: Thank you, Mr. President. Just a couple of quick notes on the legislation. 54 is just an authorization to sell some of the old vehicles that are piling up at the garage. I believe there's like nine of them right now. We'll probably have a few more coming, but they wanted to clear these out and make some room down there so we'll get rid of these. The sale will be through govdeals, the on-line auction like we did a few years ago. Once that information is out there will be a public notice posted in the Neighborhood News and I'll put it in our Website as to the actual timing of the sale on-line.

Resolutions 11 and 12 are standard every year. Eleven sets the actual millage rates for the different funds that gets the property tax money. This was a process started in June with the tax budget and the County has now certified that those numbers are in line with their estimates so now we needed to formally certify back to the County that these are the numbers to post. Twelve allows the city to participate in the advance program. It's a standard thing every year. By getting advances we get the property tax money as it's collected. If you don't participate in the advance program you only get the disbursement twice a year at the settlement date. If anyone has any questions, please ask.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Are there any questions of Mr. Tomola on his report? Are there any questions of Mr. Tomola on his report? Thank you. Moving on we call on Social Services Director Kathy Rush-Parssons. Do you have a report for us this evening?

SOCIAL SERVICES DIRECTOR KATHY RUSH-PARSSONS: I do. Just a few announcements. The Senior Center will be hosting an Ice Cream Social on Monday September 22nd from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. The cost is \$3.00 and tickets must be purchased in advance.

Also in September our Food Bank distribution will be on Wednesday September 17th from 1:00 to 2:00 p.m. and Thursday September 18th from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m. Pre-registration again is always required.

Also I was contacted by the Cleveland Clinic Center for Brain Health a few weeks ago. They are looking for individuals between the ages of 60 and 75 years old either with or without a history of Alzheimer's Disease in their family to participate in the study. They're looking to examine the sensitivity of MRI tests to detect brain changes in participants while taking a study drug. The study drug is currently approved for use in patients with Alzheimer's Disease. Alzheimer's Disease is currently a disease that can currently only be diagnosed after a person is deceased. So there's a lot of research being done trying to get early diagnosis so that Seniors can get drug treatment as early as possible. So they're looking for participants. The study will last approximately seven months and there will be financial compensation. So if anybody knows of anyone between the ages of 60 and 75 that might be interested, please have them contact me and I'll put them in contact with the Cleveland Clinic. That's my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Are there any questions of Kathy Parssons on her report? Are there any questions of Kathy Parssons on her report? Next we'll move to Building Commissioner Bill Wervey. Oh, Noreen. I didn't see you. Did you just sneak in?

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: No.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: I think you did.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Maybe you could help Joe with that last thing you were talking about?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Economic Development Director Noreen Kuban.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR NOREEN KUBAN: Thank you, Mr. President. I just wanted to make note of the new ESOP program. They assist property owners with maintaining their houses either keeping them out of foreclosure or dealing with property tax foreclosures. This program is focused on Seniors. Often we've seen some issues where Seniors are behind in their property taxes. This applies to Seniors age 55 years and older and it *is* a loan program.

It's operated between Third Federal Savings and Loan and the Faith Community Credit Union. It offers affordable loans and the ESOP will provide the outreach and underwriting. The phone number is 361-0718.

Second I would like to make a comment about our Green Up Project. As many have noticed our landscaping around all our city buildings is improved. The project has been led up by Chris Piazza. There is a board right outside the door that show you the after pictures. I don't think we need the before pictures because everyone has seen and witnessed the condition of our landscaping. That concludes my report.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Are there any questions of Ms. Kuban on her report? Do we have any questions of Ms. Kuban on her report? There being none we'll move on to Building Commissioner Bill Wervey.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I don't have anything new this evening, Mr. Suster. I would, however, urge passage of Ordinance 53. It puts back in place legislation that had previously been there and somehow or another got lost and one of the updates of the Zoning Code. That's all I have this evening.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you, Mr. Wervey. We'll move on to Comments by Citizens on tonight's Agenda. Would the Clerk 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: Is there anyone in the audience that would like to comment on tonight's agenda? There being none we'll move on to Ordinances and Resolutions.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: We'll begin with Ordinance 53-2014. Would the Clerk please read the title.

ORDINANCE NO. 53-2014

AN ORDINANCE CREATING SECTION 1155.09 OF THE GARFIELD HEIGHTS CODIFIED ORDINANCES PROHIBITING THE BUILDING OF FENCES PARALLEL TO ONE ANOTHER WITHIN THREE FEET OF SPACE.

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

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

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 53-2014 passes with 7 Yes votes.

ORDINANCE NO. 54-2014

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE SALE OF MUNICIPALLY OWNED PROPERTY WHICH HAS BEEN DETERMINED TO BE NO LONGER NEEDED FOR MUNICIPAL PURPOSES PURSUANT TO SECTION 129.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS.

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 its adoption, beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Ordinance 54-2014 passes with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 11-2014

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR.

Moved by NENADOVICH to CONSIDER BY TITLE

CLWN MARINCIC: Mr. Chairman, I would like to second the motion.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK, under Title Consideration it's been seconded.

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

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, beginning with Clmn Nenadovich.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Resolution 11-2014 passes with 7 Yes votes.

RESOLUTION NO. 12-2014

AN EMERGENCY RESOLUTION REQUESTING ADVANCE IN TAX SETTLEMENT.

Moved by MARINCIC to CONSIDER BY TITLE

CLMN VAUGHN: Mr. Chairman, I second that please.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK, Resolution 12-2014 under Title Consideration has been seconded.

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

Motion to SUSPEND THREE READING RULE:

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

Motion to WAIVE RULE 24:

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On its adoption, beginning with Mrs. Marincic.

VOTE ON ADOPTION:

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

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Resolution 12-2014 passes with 7 Yes votes.

MISCELLANEOUS COMMENTS BY CITIZENS

PRESIDENT SUSTER: That is all the Ordinances and Resolutions. We will now move on to Comments by Citizens. 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: Is there anyone that would like to speak this evening?

Michael Humphrey, 4761 East 85th Street. How are you all doing tonight? Great. I have to congratulate the Lord first, Chief of Police, the Mayor, President, Mike, the Garfield Staff. I had a surgery on my back and I been in the house a week and a half so I decided to come out to get some air so I decided to go up to Happy Pizza. Went to see my buddy. That fight started and I'm in there seeing all the police cars coming out. I figured something wrong, but never knew what was going on. Then all these kids come around.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Excuse me, Sir. I don't mean to interrupt you, but that you need to take up with the school board.

MR. HUMPHREY: OK. I wanted to say outstanding job. That's what I mean. Outstanding job how Garfield handled that and nothing happened. I praise the Lord and thank you all. I don't have no complaints about nothing bad. I'm just saying I'm a happy camper and to witness that they get them kids and they're crying and begging for help and outstanding you all did call for help and handled that. Be there, see what's happening, minor injuries. That's a great honor. I'm happy. I'm satisfied because you all doing a great outstanding job. What more could I ask for? Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Is there anyone else that would like to comment this evening?

Bob Halan, 12416 Oak Park Blvd. Since the results of the survey, what proposal are we going to have? Help fix the streets or put that on hold another year? Inclement weather's coming.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Let me respond this way. The survey less than 1% of the residents of Garfield Heights responded to the survey so it was I don't want to say useless, but it was not enough of a response for us to make a decision so the decision we had to go with was do nothing at all. The County one of those things on the survey one of the options on the survey

was the sewers. We had to do that because the County informed us that we were \$200,000.00 to \$300,000.00 in debt or something and we talked about it at the last meeting. But that is the only thing we're going to do right now. We hope to get a little better break and hope this machine we got which we'll be getting out pretty soon. We hope that we catch a break and it's not as bad this year as it was last year. I would add this though, Bob, we had some bad news that the price of salt may be up three times what it was last year. So we're hoping that the winter isn't bad because we're not looking forward to purchasing salt at three times the normal price.

MR. HALAN: Add to that years ago in your reign a proposal was put a sidewalk on Antenucci Blvd. and that's been on hold for that length of time and the other day I was driving down and it was night and so he was walking in the street. That should become before it becomes a problem there should be some kind of resolution forthcoming on the sidewalks people could walk down Antenucci to City View.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: We have been looking at that. There is some funds that may be available for that. If we use the funds for that we're taking them from somewhere else, but we are aware of that and we are looking at that situation.

MR. HALAN: Thank you.

Alice Cain, 13614 Rexwood Avenue. I been talking with Mr. Wervey. I'm in between two vacant homes and the trees and the bushes, etc. is going wild. I'm afraid to really come out of my house at night because one house you can't see anything over there. The other house the garage is down, bushes is all over the place. I would just like to know can they cut the bushes and even the trees now? The Illuminating Company told me to check with Garfield to see if they could cut the trees in the back because it's on the wires plus it's hanging way down into my yard as well as the empty vacant home. So I just want to know when is something going to be done? Can they use Community Service or something to get some of this down before something bad happens? They hide stuff over there. Nobody can see it. I'm in my home basically most of the time alone. Now with the school open across the street from me I just need something done.

CLMN DUDLEY: She has brought it to my attention several times and I know I done brought it up and Reverend Dobson, including the houses that she set between. One of them we know the back porch is about to collapse. I done called that in several times. We done been through this bush issue and we still have not had the bushes cut down. We still have nothing done about even that back porch getting ready to collapse. It been a problem.

MS. CAIN: The front porch is really falling down. It's making my property values go down and it just looks a mess.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: Mr. Chairman. Let me ask these questions. Bill or Noreen, is this anywhere on the Land Bank? Is this anywhere to be torn down? These homes? Or can they be rehabbed? What's the story on that?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I would suspect that they wouldn't be high on our list for rehabilitation. I believe one of them is in stages of foreclosure. There's a tremendous amount of money in back taxes on one of them, but foreclosure is not complete yet so it has not transferred. I think they would probably be good candidates if the Land Bank got their hands on them for demolition. I did, however, the gentleman that was with me the other day when I stopped at your house, I talked to him this morning and he indicated (Vince Liotta) and I visited the property last week. He indicated to me this morning that he would be able to get the Court

Community Service people up there. He gave me a target date of the middle of this week but he did not want to swear to it and they could trim the trees and get the bushes down at least.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: OK. That's good. What about the Illuminating Company? The Illuminating Company just cuts around the wires, is that correct?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: They might cut along the back property line if the vegetation was affecting their conductors.

MS. CAIN: They told me to check with you all first. Because there was a guy outside Friday or Saturday cutting the power off to that house where everything is falling down. He cut the lights off or whatever from the main box outside and I went out and asked him and he said check with your community first and then go from there.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: If you want to get in touch with me after the meeting or in the morning and let me know who you talked to?

MS. CAIN: I don't know his name. He was on his truck and I just happened to come out like I did the other day.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: You see they're only going to cut along their conductors where they have a worry that their conductors are going to come down.

MS. CAIN: OK. Well I don't know how much time I have. What about the garage that you have seen now where the whole garage door is down, dust collecting, the skunks, the raccoons, etc.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: We're going to see if the core community service could take some of that trash out of there.

MAYOR VIC COLLOVA: And if I can add this, and I know you're running out of time, I would like to take some of this time to say this is a problem that unfortunately is right next door to you, but it's not just next door to you. We're had the problem in many of the areas of the city and it's because of these vacant homeowners who just let it go, the banks take them over, they go into foreclosure, there's absolutely nothing we can do except say as a city we're going to go out and knock all these houses down, which we certainly couldn't afford because there's over 100 houses. This is the biggest problem with that foreclosure deal and that's something we need to get something going on because what's happening at your place is happening more and more. Every time somebody leaves their home and walks away from their mortgage and stops paying taxes we're stuck with it in this city.

MS. CAIN: But the one lady has been deceased I know for like maybe eight, nine years so no one has even heard children or whoever. No one has claimed it so how do you all go about that?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: That particular house where the lady's deceased and nobody probated the estate it sits basically until the County Treasurer forecloses for back taxes and we push, believe me, not every day do we do it, but we write letters to the County asking them to fast track certain things so that they can get through that process, but this one is not.

MS. CAIN: I don't mean to be rude, but would it help if I contacted the TV station and had them come out and get something going with the County?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: Contact your County representative perhaps and tell them. This is all County business. The foreclosures, etc.

MS. CAIN: I'm just saying like I'm just going to mention the name Joe Paganakis. I see him on TV. If he comes out and puts it on camera, etc. Do you think the County will act faster if it's the County's job?

BUILDING COMMISSIONER BILL WERVEY: I wouldn't want to comment on that. I don't know.

MS. CAIN: All right.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Your time is up. Is there anyone else that has any comments this evening?

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

PRESIDENT SUSTER: There being none, we'll move on to Miscellaneous Business, beginning with Clmn Vaughn.

CLMN VAUGHN: Thank you, Mr. President. I really don't have anything to say tonight. I am just a little concerned about how fast I see traffic going through the school zones. Please ask everybody to slow it down. The kids are back in school. Let's be a little cautious and enjoy the good weather and we'll see you in two weeks.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Dudley, do you have anything under Miscellaneous Business this evening?

CLMN DUDLEY: I got two hours. No, but I understand what she's saying and we got quite a few houses especially up in the Ward 1 area and me and Bill I know we talk about it a lot. We do talk most every one day a week. We talk about the vacant homes and issues and some of these homes that is literally collapsing down. The one we talked about on Christine that we been trying to get something to do with. The vacant issue problem like you said, I wish some people would, in fact, call the County and there'd be notice on television. I said a lot of times call the County because I'm getting tired of them beating their chest talking about what they doing for us and the mass apologies and like I said they got the money down there and if you have to call them it would not bother me at all because I'm tired of looking at these houses. I can see the back of the house from my backyard because me and Reverend Dobson have got the same address. I can sit on my porch and look across and see the back of that home. I know how bad that garage looked you know? It's been open for we been through this conversation for over a year or so and we still got the same mission with the garage and it just can't continue to go on. It's a haven for rodents. Pick up the phone and call Parnell Jones and you can tell him I told you to call him because I have called him about that. I'd like to see some money flowing to us. We need something done. Maybe they get pissed off they move their bodies?

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Watch your mouth, please.

CLMN DUDLEY: OK. One thing I don't like to see too not just because of the incident with the kids, but I'd like to see security cameras put up in this city. I'd like to see them on Turney Road,

on 131st and with this new joint effort going on for dispatch that's on the County to provide some funding for it, but somebody could sit down and monitor some of this stuff that's happening on your main strips. You're losing a lot of mom and pop stores because a lot of things is happening in front of these stores to prevent people from wanting to patronize the businesses up there. Plus if a crime is being committed they can actually contact the police and tell them what's going on. I'd love to see it and I think the County should do something with that.

The last thing I have here. On the fourth Tuesday of every month at 7:00 p.m. the Ward Club has a meeting up here at 7:00 p.m. I want everybody to know that you're more than welcome to attend that and we do discuss some of the issues that was on the floor tonight. You don't have to be a member of the Ward 1 Club in order to comment. We talked about some good stuff there.

I tell you people I like to see more people come out and voice their concern because like you talk that the government is complacent people in this city is starting to be complacent. Saying nothing about things that is going on. You need to voice your opinion and you need to speak up. You got to open your mouths some time. That's it, Mr. President, thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Councilperson Marincic.

CLWN MARINCIC: I just have one question for the Chief. Chief, I've had a lot of residents call me lately about curfew violations and are they allowed to call the police if they don't know the children's age?

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Certainly they can call if they think they might be in violation. They can call and we can check. I mean I will say that we get many calls like that and oftentimes it's a young adult that is actually 18 so there's not much we can do, but certainly we will always check.

CLWN MARINCIC: OK. I've told them time and time again if you don't call up we don't know.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Absolutely correct.

CLWN MARINCIC: That's all I have tonight. Thank you, folks.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Thank you. Mr. Nenadovich.

CLMN NENADOVICH: Thank you, Mr. President. First off I want to thank the Mayor and his crew for putting on a great birthday party. That was a good time. It really brought the city together. A lot of people had a great time. People were friendly. They actually said hi to each other. Thank you again. We appreciate that and the crew. All you workers and there was nothing after 6:00.

I also want to let people know that the trail along Warner Road is coming along really well. I've taken a walk down there. It's interesting what they're doing how they're building a bridge and diverting the river temporarily to put this bridge in so they can get their heavy equipment in and they're going to bring the river back. If you do nothing go out There's a space across the street. One or two cars can park there. Walk across and see the work they're doing. It's phenomenal. It's a great project. It's interesting.

Also Ward 3 Block Watch will meet this Thursday at the VFW 7:00 p.m. on Warner Road. I believe it's 4727 next to Golubski-Deliberato Funeral Home. We meet there every second Thursday of the month.

And last but not least remember the Vets. That number's up to 4,163. Five years ago it was 3,600. That's how many men and women we have lost. Always remember the Vets. Keep them in your prayers. There's what allows the meetings like this to happen. Thank you.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Mr. Glenn.

CLMN GLENN: Thank you, Mr. President. I'll start off by saying our Block Watch will be this Monday 7:00 p.m., Civic Center. We're having a cookout. You're welcome to bring a side dish for the Block Watch meeting. Mayor Collova, Police Chief Sackett will be there.

I want to mention the fact over the holiday weekend we had a concern about a dog that was in a yard, very hot and not with water. My understanding is the police went out there, checked the house out, contacted property owner. There was air conditioning in the house. I believe that problem has been resolved.

I'm looking forward for a final analysis from Dave Krock and the Mayor on 102nd Street in regards to flooding.

In regards to a resident who spoke here about a house that's in bad shape. Part of the process too is that I think Mr. Bill Werve in the city here we can condemn houses. It's paperwork that needs to be done and there's other properties in this city that need to be condemned so when the time comes when this city has money to tear down houses or gets a grant all the paperwork is done. Thank you, Mr. President.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. What day did you say your Block Watch is on?

CLMN GLENN: Monday.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: You changed it?

CLMN GLENN: I'm sorry, Tuesday. Tomorrow night.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. I just wanted to make sure.

CLMN GLENN: OK.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you. I have two things and both of them have to do. The one, Mr. Vaughn had mentioned it about speeding in the school zones and also, Chief, I don't know how many we can put on? I know there's a lot of police officers when the kids are getting out of schools, but this jaywalking is becoming ridiculous. If I go down Turney Road when schools are letting out I'll bet there's about 30 to 35 kids periodically just walking right across the street. I've seen a couple almost get hit by cars.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Everybody is working at the schools at those times and when they can I'll tell them to cite them.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Thank you.

POLICE CHIEF ROBERT SACKETT: Thanks.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Mr. Burke.

CLMN BURKE: Thank you, Mr. President. First off I'd like to say thank you to the Mayor.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Excuse me one moment. Trying to finish up business here, please? Go ahead, Mr. Burke,

CLMN BURKE: First off I'd like to say thank you to the Mayor and the staff for putting together the 95th birthday celebration. I had a great time in the dunk tank as I think Clmn Nenadovich did too. I look forward to doing it again maybe next year, hopefully.

I wanted to echo Clmn Vaughn's and Council President Suster's remarks about speeding in the school zones. Please be careful. The kids are back in school. Especially around William Foster there because I know it gets congested right there.

And then I, too, will have a Community Awareness Meeting on Wednesday right here at the Civic Center at 7:00 p.m. upstairs in room 118.

We had a pretty beautiful day today. If you looked outside it was nice and blue, blue skies, not a cloud in the sky. It reminded me of 911, which we'll be looking back on Thursday at 911. I remember after 911 the American spirit and how alive it was back then. We didn't bicker about too many things. We were united as a country. We went out and said hi to our neighbors and I would just hope that we remember 911 this Thursday and remember to keep that American spirit alive. Having said that, I make a motion.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: Excuse me. You're not going to make a motion to adjourn, are you? I have one more thing.

CLMN BURKE: OK.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: OK. Before we adjourn I would just like to remind everybody that our next meeting will be September 22nd. Summer session is over. We're back to having meetings on the second and the fourth Monday of the month and I just wanted to let you know. Go ahead.

CLMN BURKE: I'd like to make a motion to adjourn.

PRESIDENT SUSTER: On the motion from Mr. Burke to adjourn all in favor signify by saying Yea. All opposed. Meeting's adjourned.

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

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 7:51 p.m.

APPROVED:

Joseph M. Suster
President of Council

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Barbara Molin
Clerk of Council