

**Council Committee Meetings  
August 18, 2020**

Present: Council President M. Harwood, Councilmembers L. Carouse, D. Caruso, L. Redinger, K. Veras, Mayor Jerry N. Hruby, Law Director D. Matty, Assistant Law Director S. DiGeronimo, Engineer G. Wise, Fire Chief N. Zamiska, Police Chief Goodrich, M. Rapkin and Clerk of Council T. Tabor.

Via Teleconference: Councilmember A. Koepke, Finance Director L. Starosta, Service Director R. Weidig, Gretchen Corp Jones.

Absent: None.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting:** Motion by Harwood, seconded by Carouse, to convene a Committee of the Whole meeting at 6:00 P.M. Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. Nays: None. Motion carried 6-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Approval of the August 4, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes.** Motion by Harwood, seconded by Carouse, to approve the August 4, 2020 Committee of the Whole meeting minutes as submitted. Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Koepke, Petsche, Redinger, Veras. Nays: None. Motion carried 7-Ayes, 0-Nays.

Council President Harwood: be the interview of the eight applicants for the vacant (City council position to fill the unexpired term of John (Jack) Petsche for the term ending January 1, 2022. Each of the names of the applicants invited to interview are in a bowl. Clerk Tabor will pull the names in the order in which the applicants will present. Thomas Collin, Arthur Gamin, Matthew Garito, Gretchen Corp Jones, Daryl Kingston, Randy Stephan, Frank Talerico, and Michael Ziegler. All invitees are present, Gretchen Corp Jones is present by teleconference. It has been confirmed with the Law Director that Having Ms. Corp Jones present via teleconference does not present an advantage or disadvantage to the other applicants. Each applicant will be given five (5) minutes to make a statement and introduce themselves. After which a question and answer session will take place. City Council will be able to ask individual questions or ask a question that all candidates answer. Council President Harwood asked the applicants to come to the podium and to speak louder so that the audience can hear the presentations and answers. Applicants may take their masks off if they are more comfortable. After the discussion portion, the next step would be a motion to nominate, a second to that motion, and a roll call vote will take place. Council President Harwood said four votes, which is a majority, are required to fill the position of Councilmember.



**Presentations:** Clerk Tabor pulled names to determine the order in which the applicants will proceed. 1. Randy Stephan, 2. Daryl Kingston, 3. Gretchen Corp Jones, 4. Thomas Collin, 5. Arthur Ganim, 6. Frank Talerico, 7. Michael Ziegler and 8. Matthew Garito.

**Randy Stephan:** Mr. Stephan thanked Council for the opportunity to present his interest in potentially filling the vacant council seat. Mr. Stephan said he is applying as a call to service. as almost a call the circumstances that led to the vacancy or are those that no one would have scripted or hoped for. Nonetheless here we are and not knowing necessarily what the community response would be and being in a position to potentially contribute, he has stepped forward. I have no self-interest, no parochial interest as corny and as sappy as it may be the community's best interest is essentially what would be my north star. My interest so like many people who chose to live in Brecksville we were drawn here by the fantastic schools the wonderful parks. The geographic location, the safety of the community, and then we came to discover the warmth and the hospitality so we moved here in 2001. I had been in the military for 18 years, so my last two years in the Army were my first two years in Brecksville. So I had the unique opportunity before retiring to be assigned to the Cleveland Recruiting Battalion in Downtown Cleveland and I led the recruiting efforts throughout northeast Ohio. So I'd say we were drawn here by logic and we stayed for emotion. When I retired from the military my sons were six and nine. They went through the wonderful matriculation of Highland and Central School in the Middle School in Brecksville-Broadview Heights. It was a wonderful place to raise our family and then of course while we were drawn here by logic we stayed by the combination of logic and emotion. My motivation and my path I would suspect is no better or worse than anyone else. But I do share with you what brings me here tonight. In terms of my strengths I might bucket them by capacity, versatility, and adaptability. What I would say by capacity, I've been fortunate in my career to be afforded in certain audiences, I say this with a smirk, be afforded a number of challenging positions in dynamic environments with high impact and high potential consequences. I've been fortunate to be the senior most security or risk management officer for four outstanding organizations. The Cleveland Clinic, Sutter Health, Kaiser Permanente and New York University In that role with complexity and impact and dynamic change I think I was able to demonstrate the types of specific strengths and attributes that I would not want to necessarily chronicle or laundry list here, but they include things like analysis, measurement, problem solving, decision making, project management, course of action, comparison and certainly collaboration in team building to ultimately serve a company's best interest and of course that's transferable, That can be a team or a city or community's best interest in terms of versatility. I would say that while I led a certain discipline I also had responsibility for other logistical elements like parking, transportation, fleet management emergency preparedness and crisis response for all of those organizations and the only reason I cite that is you can't be effective in a role like that without a good understanding of other functions. Legal, finance, IT, supply chain, construction, real estate, facility operations, and I don't intend to laundry list it, like this is everything I could think of. But to be effective at an enterprise level one has to be proficient and and be able to interact and contribute in all those domains. And the last thing i would offer as it relates to adaptability, is I've had 14 jobs in the military, six in the private sector and to add that up and say I've had 20 jobs doesn't mean I was any good at any of them necessarily but what it does mean is that it necessitated the need to quickly onboard, listen, learn, understand the issues bring to bear what knowledge and experience I might have for those solutions that fit and then learn and collaborate and co-create new solutions. One cannot be effective in either the military or the private sector without that adaptability and the sheer number of jobs I

think is relevant here in so far as I would imagine Council is looking for someone who can contribute on a fairly short horizon, The last thing I'd speak about is fit. And that's the easiest thing for me to discuss and the shortest thing for me to discuss. Because it's not by prerogative so I view Council kind of like, as a metaphor. You're a you're a seven-person basketball team and you have six members. You're in the unique position. Although you may not have wanted it, you're in the unique position to pick your own seventh player and I think out of misfortune comes this fantastic opportunity. So you know your collective and individual strengths you know what you want to shore up. You know what you want to reinforce, you know the city's agenda you know the Issues and I would take the step of saying my fellow citizens that have stepped forward and if I get the opportunity to present they all have great motivation and they all have great strengths to draw from and whatever Council determines is the best fit I would simply leave you with the thought that I would be privileged and honored to serve if selected and I look forward to answering any questions at that point. Thank you.

Council President Harwood thanked Mr. Stephan. Council President Harwood said he will let the applicants know when they have one-minute left in the presentation. Mr. Kingston was asked to present.

**Daryl Kingston:** Mr. Kingston thanked Council for the opportunity to present. With the support of my family I'm here seeking appointment for the vacant council seat, and I thank you for your consideration. My wife Nancy and I have been married for 18 years and have lived in Brecksville for the past 12 with our three boys. We chose Brecksville for our forever home for the same reason that many have before us. It's quaint charm, great schools, proximity to MetroParks, and like I tell everybody, we're (20) minutes from everywhere. It's a type of bedroom community that I grew up in where neighbors become like family. My wife and I have worked hard on becoming part of this community, and although we are a first-generation family in town our roots are deep and strong. Buying local is very important to us and we almost exclusively shop at local businesses, grocery stores, and restaurants are given but also Vertical Runner for shoes, Larson's for building supplies and local tradesmen for work on our home. Nancy frequents all the local fitness studios and salons and we like being on a first name basis with many of the business owners in town. My family participates in all the city-wide events with Home Days and Memorial Day weekend festivities being our favorite. We're active parishioners at St. Basil. I believe in this community and my family is here for the long haul. For the past three years I've served our city as a citizen member of the Board of Zoning Appeals. Through this service I have demonstrated the ability to work with both our residents and city officials. My voting record shows a strict adherence to our city's Charter and the zoning laws that are in place to help maintain the traditional values that Brecksville is built upon. I stay current with what's going on in our city and have been to many City Council meetings over the past five

years. I also follow our Planning Commission and whether it be the development of Valor Acres or discussions of the Central School property or more recently the Bailey Development subdivision off Miller Road. We have several major projects which are setting up to be big wins for the city. I have no agenda or preconceived notions on these or any other projects that may come before Council other than they follow our Charter and benefit Brecksville. I decided to seek appointment very simply because I wish to contribute to the continued success of our city in a bigger capacity. Brecksville is fortunate to have been steered by excellent leadership over the past generation and in recent years has shown his commitment to growing its infrastructure in a financially sound way

while still continuing to maintain the highest bond rating possible. We continue to be one of the best places to live in Ohio and 97 percent of our residents are happy to be living here, these things don't happen in a vacuum. I will be another voice helping Brecksville continue down this path of success. Brecksville has again earned the distinction in 2020 of being one of the safest communities in Ohio. I will make sure that both our Fire and Police Departments have all necessary equipment they need to maintain their high level of service. For the record I unconditionally support our Police Department under Chief Goodrich's leadership. One of the most important things in future councils will deal with is finding a way to bring the city's many voices together and find common ground. With three young children I feel I will be an added voice representing the younger families who reside here and for those who are thinking of moving here. The needs and wants of this younger generation are often very different from the more established residents who live here. And while I am a traditionalist I am also open to listening and learning about many of the issues that have bubbled up over the past few years. Some of which have polarized the city at times. I am willing to discuss with an open mind concerns such as walkability and connectivity, bicycles or new ideas for green space. Though I would be opposed to anything that would fundamentally change this city. I will bring a fresh perspective to Council and a willingness to try to marry some of these ideas if possible, into the existing fabric of Brecksville. I take this opportunity to potentially serve on Council very seriously and I pledge my honesty transparency and humility. I look forward to working with all

members of our community from millennials to seniors, who all contribute in their own way in making Brecksville so unique. I will serve all of our residents regardless of neighborhood. With the professionalism and compassion that is required to represent them successfully. I will work side by side with my fellow Councilmen and collaboratively with Mayor Hruby to maintain the high level of expectation that he has set for this city. Finally, I understand this appointment is only for a short time. Campaigning for 2021 will already be starting in about eight months when petitions become available. I did run for City Council back in 2017 and while the number of votes I got that year might have earned me a spot-on Council in other years, I came up short in that competitive field, I know what it takes to run a campaign and I know the hard work it requires. I have spent the last three years staying involved and doing whatever I can to help promote this city. I'm committing here today that I will seek re-election next November to defend this seat if I'm lucky enough to get appointed. Thank you.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Just so you know I'm standing up so you can envision that. I want to thank everybody and thank you especially for letting me do this remotely. I thank you and I appreciate this opportunity to share my thoughts on the position of City Council Representative and my qualifications. As a member of City Council, I will bring a unique experience and valuable perspective combined with extensive professional expertise and community involvement. Aside from my long career as a tax attorney and a fundraising professional, I have been active both in the Brecksville community and throughout Northeast Ohio. I am currently a member of the Resident Recommendation Committee. I'm part of the Windward Hills Condo Association Leadership Team and a member of Bike Brecksville. I've been active with the Brecksville Broadview Heights High School Athletic Boosters. I founded and led, and eventually was the High Commander of the Multi-City Lake Erie Basketball League of which Brecksville was a participant. I have lived in Brecksville for 20-plus years and owned two homes over that period. All three of my practically perfect children were graduates of the Brecksville-Broadview

Heights High School, but most importantly I enjoy living in Brecksville. It's a wonderful community and it has the potential to be even greater. I would like to see Brecksville continue as a leading community in Northeast Ohio. Now as you know I ran for City Council last fall and over the course of my campaign and then throughout my enduring involvement following that campaign with a Better Brecksville. I have talked and more importantly I have listened to hundreds of Brecksville voters from all over the city. All different ages, different backgrounds, different political parties. I have asked residents what they liked about our cities and what they would change. I repeatedly posed the questions how can we be a better Brecksville. Some answers surprised me despite me being a 20-plus year resident. I discovered that a family who lived in Echo Hills had a very different concern than an elderly couple on Oakhurst Circle who had an even different set of issues from the young couple that just moved in on Box Elder. All from the same small community but all very different concerns. The job of a Council Representative is to represent and I am prepared to represent voters after having talked and listened to hundreds of voters from all over town. I listened to those who shared my concerns and more importantly I took seriously the views of those voters who did not. There's a reason, in our country in our democracy, that there's an election process requiring candidates to go among the Electorates and listen to their concerns. If you've ever actually run for office you cannot truly understand the vitally important and unique knowledge that campaign provides the prospective candidates. I never realized it prior to last fall but after running my campaign and after going door to door, I now know so much better how to be a leader in this community and how to respond to the needs of the residents and truly it was an honor to walk to many neighborhoods and talk with so many different people. I know I'm preaching to the choir here because I know everybody sitting up at the dais there has walked door to door and they know what I'm talking about. This was an eye-opener to me to be able to talk to so many people and hear their concerns about the city and that as the Council Representative is what we're there to do is represent those concerns and try to make this a better community for all of us. Following last fall's election, the Better Brecksville coalition of voters has actually doubled in size. It's become a vehicle for people to express their concerns and talk about issues that matter to them and for (10) months. I've been a part of the team monitoring and guiding this group one minute and listening and talking. I bring to the table much of what my fellow applicants do. Expertise in the business sector collaborating with various people. Amenities I've led and been part of many successful teams. But the big difference, the elements separating me from the other applicants is that I ran for office less than (10) months ago. I received a yes vote for 1999 people just 38 folks shy of getting elected. And I had the support of a large portion of the electorate. Many people have written or called City Hall on my behalf and you've seen the spreadsheet. And if City Council is looking to fill the vacancy with someone the people support, I'm the top candidate. I bring their support. I can be their voice on Council and I can represent the people of Brecksville. Thank you very much and thank you again for allowing me to do this remotely.

**Thomas Collin:** Mayor Hruby, members of Council, it's a privilege to have the opportunity to talk with you today and I thank you for it. I want to briefly explain first why I'm interested in serving the city as a member of Council and second why I'm qualified to serve. My wife Victoria and I have been the beneficiaries of good government in Brecksville for 36 years and I want to contribute my time and effort now to give back for some of that good government. That's why I ran for Council last year and that's why I've asked to be considered for the open seat on Council now. The city faces significant opportunities and challenges and I would like to be playing a role in decisions that will be needed as it navigates the challenges and takes advantage of the opportunities here

what I see is the major issues facing the Council and the city. Number one adjusting the city's budget to account for reduced tax revenues resulting from the pandemic while at the same time making sure that city services from streets and roads maintenance to police and fire protection to human services continue to be delivered effectively. 2. Ensuring the continuing strength and stability of the city's finances. 3. Closely monitoring development of

Valor Acres and the adjacent Dalud property to achieve controlled growth in the Miller Road corridor east of I-77. Next, overseeing development of the Central School Property to keep the downtown vibrant at the same time the retail development grows along Miller Road to serve Sherwin-Williams and other new businesses. Next, monitoring new residential construction including the Hidden Hollow project in order to guard against compromising the quality of residential development in the City and finally, and certainly by far, the most important remaining sensitive to the interests of all Brecksville residents in good government. Now, why am I qualified to how am I qualified for this position? Like Gretchen I ran for office last year. She got a few more votes than I did but I also talked to hundreds of our residents and I learned a great deal in the process. If appointed to Council I pledge to remain sensitive to our resident's concerns and interests and I think I have a good understanding of what they are. Although I have not served on any City board or commission, I've attended Committee meetings and Council meetings for the past year and a half in an effort to better understand the City's governance and operations. It's been an education and thank you. You have my resume and I will not repeat the details here. My background and experience give me a skill set that will benefit Council and the City. If appointed to Council I would bring sound judgment, objectivity, and valuable experience to bear on service to the City. As a 36-year resident of Brecksville I understand the issues facing the City and the opportunities before it. As a lawyer with decades of experience counseling clients and often litigating, I understand how to approach and solve problems as a former President of the Citizens League of Greater Cleveland I understand good government. As a footnote, I remember interviewing Mayor Frank Jackson for the Citizens League when he was running for election to Cleveland City Council, we all thought he showed great promise. As former Secretary and member of the Board of Trustees of the Cuyahoga Valley Scenic Railroad I understand the fiduciary obligations an officer or elected official owes to the individuals he serves. As a member of Kiwanis, I understand community service. If appointed to Council I will devote the time needed to serve effectively and prepare for and attend all meetings to the very best of my ability. Thank you for your consideration. It would be a great honor to be able to join you and serve the city. Thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** Mr. Ganim thanked Council and Mayor Hruby for the opportunity to present. I've been called AJ my whole life. I'm a second-generation owner of a family business that started in 1975. It has grown to four locations throughout Northeast Ohio. I've been married for 10 years, happily for seven of them. I'm the father of three children ages 4, 2, and 3 months. My wife Lauren and I moved our family into Brecksville in 2016. Although, less than my time at the Ohio State University or young adult life in Tremont, this community has been a part of my entire life. I come from a large Lebanese-American family that has a history in municipal leadership along with deep roots of community ties and involvement. Growing up here I've had fond memories of being dressed up as an elf tumbling down Route 21 for the holiday parade. Performances with bee-tots or my first kiss on the paratrooper at Home Days to now watching my kids take swimming lessons at the Rec or play at Kids Quarters. This community has provided the framework and opportunities I've had for my life and I want to do my best I can to ensure that it continues to do the same for

my children and into the future I take great pride in the opportunities I've had to represent our community. From the record-setting State titles the Brecksville Broadview Heights Lady Bees Gymnastics team continues to bring home along with the dozens of athletes we have sent from the chalk-filled paradise that is gymnastics world to compete on scholarship in the NCAA. Or having teams compete on the national and international level in competitive cheers. They are introduced as world elite from Brecksville, Ohio. Or when my business had the opportunity to be a part of this historic Cavaliers Championship parade getting to explain why a gem from Brecksville got to march in front of almost (2) million citizens and fans that consume the streets of Cleveland. I'm currently serving on Governor Dewine's Responsible Restart Ohio Task Force working with the Organized Youth Sports Advisory Group. We had to come together quickly, establish rapport and policy that ensured the safety and well-being of everyone involved. As we learned during the shutdown, pivot quickly and innovate as needed. I found this experience extremely rewarding and it leaves me yearning to do more to support my community and continue serving for a greater good. As I finalize these comments prior to the press conference today I was lucky enough to receive insight yesterday in a conference call with Lieutenant Governor Husted. I am expecting a strong response to their decision of leadership. In fact they are all giving us a chance to make a safe and responsible decision to allow the youngest of our citizens to have the outlets and pathways they need to grow the healthiest versions of themselves, mentally and physically. This entire process has solidified my understanding and belief that as a leader it is the role to make decisions, not friends. To understand the greater good versus an agenda. Although a forced life experience in this global pandemic was the impetus to this understanding this was certainly a silver lining or as my brother would say a COVID positive. I previously considered running for City Council next November. However, while attending a recent City Council meeting and observing a vacancy I became motivated to pursue this position immediately although I will miss the opportunity to campaign for this role beyond the soap box, I stand on now. After a deep review of the City Charter, I am confident that I can parlay my ability to work with the families of my businesses to provide policies for the betterment of the families and citizens of our community. I would recognize the limited experience I have had in city government but I am a quick study and I know I would have resources to utilize that will allow me to learn and grow to be best serve the people. Although business has been minimal since my appointment for Mayor Hruby I participated to the best of my ability for the Civil Services Commission. As I do have the opportunity to publicly acknowledge I would like to thank Mayor Hruby for the chance to serve on the commission impending the outcome of this decision look forward to continuing my role if not transitioning to a seat on Council I have dug deep into the minutes and agenda of Council meetings of the past year and I see the need to serve and care for people as the main objective. While having to have the discipline to lean on our values and the Charter when making difficult decisions. These are the same guiding principles that I run my business and live my life by. If appointed I will take the recent experiences in my life of growth and evolution and apply them to this transitional time for the city. My agenda and priorities are simple I am here to help see and create the continued path of successful and exemplary management of the City. Brecksville has a rich tradition of excellence that has grown from a farm community in the Western Reserve to municipality that provides safety comfort and a great school system. I would be honored for the opportunity to uphold the City Charter and continue the best practices that have gotten us to where we are today. I look forward to answering any questions that you have and thank you again for the opportunity to present and your consideration for this position. Thank You.

**Frank Talerico:** Good evening everyone. First of all, I'd like to thank you for giving me the opportunity to be considered for the vacancy on the Brecksville City Council. I always felt that serving your community in this capacity is both an honor and a privilege. You all have my resume in front of you so I'm not going to go over that. But I want to just tell you a little bit about myself. I've had a good record of community, professional and civic services throughout my life. I've served my previous city and community for nearly 40 years, serving on nearly every board in the City I lived in before in Margate, Florida. Prior to coming to Brecksville, I was retired as an audiologist and moved to Brecksville. The reason I moved to Brecksville was my wife, we came here and she fell in love with the place. I grew up in Parma so I always knew that Brecksville was very nice. A nice city to live in. Unfortunately, when I graduated from the University of Akron as an audiologist it was in the middle of a recession in the mid to late 70s. I had a wife and two kids under the age of three and I had to get a job so I moved to Florida, there were a lot of opportunities down there. I tell everybody they said I said when I retired, I'm gonna move back up north and they said why would you leave sunny Florida for Ohio. I think the first thing they said is we have a good psychiatrist we can recommend to you. But probably one of the best moves I've made is moving back home. This is home, I've been a resident of Brecksville since 2016. I'm one of the new kids on the block. In in that time I've been very impressed with the services here. The Community Center, Police and Fire and Fire Rescue, the roads, a great job that they've done in Brecksville, I'm very happy with that. The overall appearance of the city is phenomenal. You've all done a great job in our city, you should be very proud. Initially I accepted retirement with open arms for about two years, and I said now what do I do, So I got involved in community I'm in Grand Bay Villas and I'm a Vice President of the Homeowners Association. I also was honored by this group to be appointed to the Valor Acres Central School Committee in addition I recently got my license to be a substitute teacher for the Brecksville Broadview Heights School System. If I'm given the honor and privilege to serve on the City Council and based on my past 22 years serving on the City Commission in Margate, Florida. I believe we can make a difference and make Brecksville even better. In the City of Margate we had a very diverse population of over 55,000 people. We initially ran at large then the voters decided we should run for seats. However just like Brecksville, the Councilmembers, we represent all of the Citizens. Not one unique community group so we had to be responsible every neighborhood, every citizen. I'm a team player but I'm an independent thinker. I face my votes by listening to both sides of an issue, asking questions, and getting all the facts together before making my decision. If i don't have an immediate answer to a question I will be up front, I don't know and I will do my best to find out and get an answer to the questions. I believe in community involvement by creating neighborhood outreach programs and listening to the concerns of citizens for their particular neighborhood. I believe in public private partnerships

similar to what Valor Acres is and grants like Community Redevelopment Block grants to improve neighborhoods and programs like the like OPRA the Ohio Parks and Recreation Association.) Similarly, the same will be applied to our downtown area. Beautification projects, we get landlords, tenants, and chamber of commerce together. I know it's been hard from what I've heard in the past. But we can get some beautification programs, maybe facade improvement programs. As a City Commissioner I helped create a City Community College in the City of Margate where citizens attended, something similar to what you have with your citizens academies. Where every group would go to each department every week and they got the whole inside story up to how it runs. And they made it very important because they finally figured out how our city does run, they didn't take it for granted. We provided the citizens a city code book and permit manuals so they

knew what was going on. How to apply for permits, what the codes of the city were in the late part of my career I was chair of the Community Development Agency and prior to my retirement I signed off on a project similar to Valor Acres. We had a budget of approximately 90 million dollars in our city that included our own water and wastewater department. Unlike Brecksville that relies on city income tax it's about 54 of your income. Our primary funding service sources was property taxes 28% and service fees 31% as Florida does not have state or local income tax. I'm sure that other candidates in this position have impressive credentials and are qualified to serve. All I can promise you as a member of the Brecksville City Council I will work hard for all of the citizens in all areas of the city. The goal to continue the excellent work that you have all done and bring about additional programs to improve our city and benefit our businesses. Projects such as national night out field of flags started a fund to provide funds for retired canine dogs to name a few. Today we cope with the possible effects of COVID-19 on the City Income Tax. With some of our citizens having big losses of their income and we must be aware of that and find out how we can plug the gaps. You don't want to dip into your fund balance unless you absolutely have to. But we don't know for sure if these are going to. This possibility exist again it would be an honor and privilege to serve my community. In closing I like to illustrate how humbling it is to serve in public office. A few days after I was first elected as City Commissioner my wife told me to take out the garbage. I said the president doesn't take out the garbage, she replied you're not the President. So, when I leave here, I have to go take out the garbage. Thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** Mr. Mayor, Council Members I'd just like to add my thanks to those of the rest of the other candidates for the opportunity to speak with me this evening and express my interest in this position and talk a little bit about how I believe I could add value to your efforts. First a little bit about my background. I'm a native Clevelander born at Fairview Hospital. I spent almost 64 of my 67 years in Northeast Ohio gradually moving south southern suburbs out of Cleveland. We moved to Brecksville my wife Kathy and my four children in April of 95. We planned to stay here after that and it's been three years in Chicago which really made me appreciate once we were back here how nice this area really is. Well some of my time here has been a little bit strained. I had three kids in college at the same time for three years. But our experience with living here and the relationships that we've formed have been really important to our family. This is going to be our home. In fact so much so that when we moved from our home on Timber Trail when it no longer met our needs my wife gave me a one-mile radius to find a new home. Which fortunately I was able to find one in Hunting Valley. Brecksville is definitely home for us. I've been very involved with St Basil the Great Church I've taught ninth grade PSR for five years. Which if anybody needs to develop your patience that's one good way to do that. I also am very active in adult formation programs there. I've also been active in the CAPA organization (Community Awareness and Prevention Association). Then for a number of years served on the executive committee with Chief Goodrich. I'm a firm believer that everyone has been given talents in order to serve others and I do have a sincere interest in being able to work to make my community better by taking my specific talents and abilities and trying to apply those to problem solving. Adding perspective to issues I was fortunate enough to sell the company that I was running in 2009 in the middle of all that disaster which gave me a lot more time to be able to spend with church and community. I interviewed for the Brecksville Broadview Heights School Board back in 2010 when Mrs. Neff left the area. A little bit similar to the what we're doing here tonight, under much better circumstances, obviously. But I was not selected that evening. So as a result, and due to the research, that I had done to prepare for that interview I was convinced that I could add value to the

board, to our school system and essentially to our children of this area. So, I ended up running in 2011 and I was able to win a seat on that board against incumbents. I spent eight years on the board during which time I did negotiate our last two contracts with our teachers and with our support staff. During my tenure our board reinstated busing service. We passed the first operating levy in more than 10 years for our school district and we passed a bond levy that is now building the new elementary school out on Oaks Road. These along with many more achievements were team efforts I mean I was part of that group but I would hope to be a team player with Council should you choose me to join your ranks. It is certainly appropriate to ask but what I bring selected for this role. I have extensive business, finance, and economic experience. Having run last \$500-million-dollar company and during my career I've run private companies, public companies, international companies it's given me a very diverse perspective on business and on economics and a very high respect for cash flow which I think is fairly important. I would just say that this background I would hope to be able to bring to give perspective particularly with the situation that's already been mentioned I mean we know that this covet is going to hurt the economics and the finances of many of our citizens and is going to have some impact on what we're going to be able to do and I'd like to bring my perspective to trying to look at those problems and trying to solve them I also think it would be a help in reaching out to local businesses with my background should we need to do more of that I believe also that I'd be able to restore credibility to this particular seat on the Council. I was able to convince Brecksville voters that I had a vision for our school board at the time I ran and the first four years that I was there they had an opportunity to witness what I was doing as well as the rest of the board and I won re-election uh then four years later again give me the eight years that I spent there again I believe our community really has approved of the progress that we've made and during the time that I was privileged to serve them lastly in respect for your time I do believe that I'd be a positive influence on the culture and the organization of this council you'd have to ask our school superintendent and the rest of the board members how well I you know play with others but I do believe that I have earned their respect whether they agreed with me or disagreed with me on any particular issue and to me that's important I do and will continue to be a strong advocate for the things that I believe in but I also recognize that the strength of a council is to be able to assemble enough perspectives to be able to look at a problem collectively and to trust that the majority is going to be able to get it right so again I thank you very much for this opportunity to commit myself to serving this community.

**Matthew Garito:** Thank you for allowing me to be here today. I'm very excited about this unique opportunity. I'm assuming that by now you've reviewed my professional resume and the cover letter that I was requested. So, you have a good understanding of why I'm interested in volunteering for Council and what my credentials and my accomplishments are and why I believe that I would be a good fit. So today I'll just simply expand on what you can't read about, what you haven't already heard. I've always been comfortable in my skin but have also always strived to keep learning, asking questions, staying informed and most importantly getting more involved. Things need to make sense to me and in seeking answers I've always felt that I can contribute more. I like to help others, provide guidance, and bring people together and a great way to do that is to volunteer and assume more responsibility. Whether it's coaching, planning, taking notes, coming in early to set up, or sweeping up after the parade. I like to make a difference. Frankly it's been hard for me to just show up when my talents and gifts that I've been given afforded me the ability to add more value. So again, I'm not going to recount all my accomplishments and all the things that I did and why I'm here and what I've done and what I've accomplished. You have all that. So,

from those materials that I've provided you'll see that given my professional roles I make decisions every day that affect my company and its employees. But all in all, as a corporate financial executive the best lesson that I've learned is that everything involves striking a balance. I believe that the same holds true in public service to quote a phrase you can't please everyone all of the time. As a decision maker I enjoy being able to deliver good news, to say yes. Who doesn't like hearing yes to that new project, yes to hiring that extra worker, yes to that promotion or raise, yes to expanding a product offering at a company, yes to a seafood tower and a live band at the holiday party? But as a CFO you can't keep the budget balanced by always saying yes. So, when at the voting table I look at the facts, consider the effort and the cost involved and the possible outcomes and benefits and sometimes in my role I'm required to say no. It's a balance so whether it's finance or HR or risk management or insurance or any of the things that I have to decide, the same rules apply. I take my roles very seriously because of the responsibilities that come with the territory and I've always been willing to go to bat for the team. Despite any obstacles good leadership demands action and communication often in times of crisis such as a pandemic in terms of action and continuing the baseball analogy as a leader you can't just stand in the batter's box and watch the pitches go by. You have to try to swing at the good ones. As we like to say when coaching over the years, I can confidently say that I've learned how to hit my fair share of curveballs I make my opinions known among the group and I vote based upon both facts and conscience. I like to converse and debate but I also realize that a time exists to just sit and listen. Whether as a husband or a Dad I have a responsibility to my family. As a corporate officer the same fiduciary responsibility holds true for my company its vendors, its customers, its employees. Suffice to say I would invest a similar level of passion in a role on council speaking and acting on behalf of our residents all said I'm confident that I can strike a good balance among all three and so I look forward to the outcome of this meeting today. Thank you.

**Council President Harwood:** The next component would be a question and answer session. In this case what I'll do is, I'll identify a couple questions just for general information for everyone, each candidate to respond to. We will follow the same order and if you could just keep it as brief as possible with a direct answer. The first question is two-part. I notice some have referenced the City Charter if you can comment on if you have reviewed and read the City Charter and if you understand and can provide your understanding of what your responsibilities as a City Council Representative would entail, on the night of Council Committee Meetings, City Council Meetings and any Boards & Commissions.

**Randy Stephan:** This is so similar to when Mrs. Fogelman called me to the chalkboard in third grade and I had no clue what the answer is. I will use that wonderful transition to say I have reviewed the City Charter, I'm familiar with it but not knowledgeable and what I had resolved to Do, was if selected for the role immersed myself in that and other documents.

**Council President Harwood:** And do you know what the roles and responsibilities are during Committees or at City Council what you'd be asked to do and what you need to do.

**Randy Stephan:** I do and I also know from attending just a few meetings and also reviewing meeting minutes but I would say that my knowledge is more superficial than detailed.

**Daryl Kingston:** I have read the Charter and I do have a general understanding of how the different boards and commissions work together. I do know that you know as per the Charter

Councilmembers main responsibilities are, you know, to draft and enact legislation and to represent the constituency of the City. I know that there you know there's a lot of different committees that are on Council and depending on when you get elected to Council you get appointed to different ones and that's what I know at this point.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Okay, so I'm gonna just sound like a broken record here. So, I've looked at the Charter many times over the course the past couple years and but I gotta be honest I cannot tell you exactly what you would do on the various committees. I'm assuming that something that's fairly easy to look up and find out and that we could get that figured out pretty quickly so that's my answer. Thank you.

**Thomas Collin:** I've read the Charter I understand that as a member of Council I'll be assigned responsibility for a particular committee. I'm not sure which committee Jack had responsibility for. I understand that I would have responsibility for attending the Council meetings, obviously after the Committee meetings and that as a member of Council I would have responsibility for convening whatever committee I've been assigned the responsibility for and conducting regular meetings as needed.

**Arthur Ganim:** I have read and reviewed the City Charter. I believe it is article four section seven that truly defines all of the specifications of Council but it though about eighty percent of the entire Charter there is a representation of council throughout the different commissions that are a part of it as Mr. Collin represent mentioned it is responsibility to uphold and hold those meetings and manage to make sure that they get done as well for the responsibility of the Council. So, thank you.

**Frank Talerico:** I have not read the City Charter I can tell you that I know it's recently you had a review of your City Charter the last few years a few years ago. City boards I know that different the board members, the Councilmembers are responsible for different departments within the City, and they not that you oversee them but they report different things to you. I would imagine and you make decisions on their needs and so forth. I know that's what's been happening. That I've seen in the past. Thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** I'll just say that I read the Charter and understand that there's a responsibility for specific committees as a Councilman. And essentially bringing from those committees some of the issues that have come up in your area for Council's consideration in general. I also believe that you're responsible for bringing to Council the opinions of many of the people who live in Brecksville who comment to you and I learned at board, on the board that certain people feel comfortable talking to certain Council people as well as board members. So, I believe one of the big responsibilities is to reflect that to Council. But I know that's not necessarily in the Charter but that's how I feel. Thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** I served on the Charter Review Commission several years ago. So, I the point of that was it's done every 10 years to review, it's basically our constitution. What guidelines we follow as a city. Every city has one. The point of the Commission was to evaluate the Charter to see if it needed any and to be changed because of changing times or other issues. One of the things

I was fortunate enough to do was to meet with the heads of each city department administration, each committee, and really understand what they do, how they do it, and what their concerns are. So it was a lot of listening and it was a good experience so I think I have a pretty good understanding of that.

**Council President Harwood:** The next general question would be also. So, to map it out every Council Representative chairs a committee and they sit on two other committees. And then some Council Representatives are also, there's a representative to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning. And so those meetings are equally important to the city because they're recommending bodies so my next question is, have you attended a Planning Commission Meeting, a Board of Zoning, Recreation Commission meeting. Have you attended any of those, read any of the minutes or gone online to see any information for those projects?

**Randy Stephan:** And so, in large part, due to the nature of my residency and timing I have not attended any of those specific meetings. I'm familiar with the Council structure, the Committee structure, the department structure. I understand that the seat vacated, I believe, had the Utilities Committee. And I think in the last meeting you had indicated that that would fall to your leadership for some period of time. So, um I have not attended planning, zoning, or any of the other meetings that you mentioned.

**Daryl Kingston:** I have attended several Board of Zoning meetings. I've been on that Committee for the past three years. I've also been to several Planning Commission meetings. I've been following planning more closely over the past couple months. Because as I now realize how our Charter has our Committees working together that a lot of the variances get worked out in planning before it comes to Board of Zoning for sometimes we have to have variances too like you know specifically that daily development that's you know that's relatively new after reading the minutes from planning it looks like there's you know still a couple variances that maybe need to get worked out. Whether it's, you know, with some of the shapes of lots or lengths of the street and you know maybe work out some of the variances there before they come to us so yes, I have been to both and have a pretty good idea of kind of how they work together. Thank you.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** You didn't you ask if we attended the meetings and stuff like that. Yes, this is for Planning Commission, Zoning yes. Sorry. Okay, so I'm a long-time resident. So, I've been here many a year and when I first moved here, I attended a number of meetings especially the Rec Committee meeting. Because we were talking about the swimming pool and have over the past course the past year attended some meetings. I unfortunately am, or fortunately was a history major in college so I have this awful habit of researching so instead of going to the meetings. I really have gone through all the minutes and agendas for the past however long you've had them online. I have pulled those off and read pretty much every agenda and every minute, minutes for all the meetings for all the Councils, Council as a Whole on the committee for what the past two, three years, four years you've had them online. So that's how I've opted to keep up to date on what's been going on.

**Thomas Collin:** I've attended Board of Zoning Appeal meetings from time to time depending on what's been going on among my neighbors. I have not attended the Planning Commission meetings

but I made a point of reading the minutes going back for the past 18 months before coming here tonight and I look forward if I'm appointed to Council to getting involved in the Planning Commission and I've also attended meetings of the Resident Recommendation Committee for Valor Acres and the Central School. Thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** In person I have not attended either one of those Commission meetings. I have attended thanks to Myles in the last two months, or three months. Quite a few meetings via Facebook live, and have been listening to catch up to speed. I as well have researched deeply through the agendas and archives of the minutes that are provided through the city's website and killed a lot of trees to make sure I could read them a little easier as well to get through that.

**Frank Talerico:** I've attended a few City Council meetings, sat outside here when you had your committee meetings and listened in on them. I've served on all these committees in my previous life. Planning and Zoning Board of Adjustments, Buildings and Records and so forth and I'm familiar with how they work. I'm assuming yours work about the same way. But you know what they say about assuming things, but I would have no problem jumping in and getting accustomed to these things. I'm a quick learner. Thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yeah, I have not attended any of the meetings in person I have read through some of the Planning Commission meeting notes a lot of interest rather than civic duty if you will. But I've had some interest in some of the projects going on so I have read some but I have not attended any of the meetings. Thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** Yes, over the years out of curiosity I've sat in on different Committee Meetings. I can't specifically tell you which ones. They tend to blend together but I understand the basic concept of a committee, decision making. I sit on several committees for my company. I've read the minutes over the years, I understand Robert's Rules, I understand how the proceedings work. I'm currently the President of the Brecksville Community Improvement Corporation, which is working to develop the Valor Acres site, So, I have interaction and hear different proceedings coming from different people. And will continue, assuming I don't get on Council, continue to work with those committees and here deliberate over decisions that are made through that process to continue to develop Valor Acres.

**Council President Harwood:** We'll go in reverse order. So, City Council meets every Tuesday Committees can start between 5:00 and 5:30 p.m. The agenda is set the Friday before so you receive your package. Committees go up until City Council. City Council goes from 8:00 P.M. as of recently they've gone a lot later and then if you're on then if you're on another Board or Commission, Planning Commission is every other Thursday, meets twice a month. Board of Zoning, Recreation Commission, Human Services. So, my question is, there's a lot more time than appearing at Tuesday at a meeting. If you're on Utilities Committee or you're on Streets and Sidewalks you have to visit resident's homes. You have to talk to residents there's a lot more time involved with that. Do you have any time commitment or by incorporating this in your life? Will that fit and will you be able to attend meetings regularly without missing?

**Matthew Garito:** I believe that you know aside from extenuating circumstances, I don't travel for work. I'm local, my kids go to the local schools you know and I work, currently working from

home. My office is in Independence so that's right down the street if I decide to go in, Which I do at least once a week to sign checks and do other things. So, as I mentioned during what I talked about earlier I've talked to my wife I've talked to my family I've looked at everything that I do and I think that I can achieve that balance so I believe that I'd be able to attend the majority of those meetings while I haven't talked to residents specifically about city issues as it relates to Council and representing Council, I'm very conversational so I've talked to a lot of people about a lot of different things over the years whether it's volunteering coaching doing other things so I think that as you mentioned Mr. President, I think that I'd probably relish that and certainly have the time to be able to do those things.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yes.

**Frank Talerico:** Luckily, I'm retired so I have nothing but time on my hands. But I've gone through all this before. I said my previous life our Commission meetings we've had to set a time limit of 11 o'clock because some went to 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning because we didn't have committees like you folks have, we had to address every item and every citizen got to speak for three minutes on anything was on the agenda. So, we had rather lengthy meetings so we tried to nip it in the bud a little bit because some will go until two or three o'clock in the morning. But no I don't have a problem at the time. Thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** I used to be in the scenario of life where I thought I had no time and then I had a child and then I had a second and then I had a third. So, I've learned that you can quickly adapt and find time to do what you need to do. I've also learned that our business has been a part of the village. We do and that that's important for this overall involvement you know to prioritize what parts of the community I need to be involved in so I know that I can schedule my priorities versus prioritizing my schedule. So yes, I would be able to attend all needed meetings.

**Thomas Collin:** There won't be a problem. I am at the point in my legal practice where I'm winding it down, and except when the judges tell me to be someplace where clients are unreasonable, I've got control over my time.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Like Frank, I am also retired so I got nothing but time on my hands so, it's not an issue for me. Thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** I will continue to attend Zoning and Council and any other commitments that may come about.

**Randy Stephan:** I'd be able to fulfill every aspect of the commitment.

**Councilmember Veras:** Mr. Collin, how long have you been on Kiwanis in Brecksville?

**Thomas Collin:** Two years.

**Councilmember Veras:** Ms. Jones, I would like to know as a member of Brecksville City Council, would you have voted to remove Councilman Petsche at the July meeting had you been a member of Council?

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Probably not.

**Councilmember Veras:** Do you then feel that you would be able to fulfill the oath of office of a Council person to uphold the laws of our City, our Charter, our Ordinances and Resolutions?

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Sure, I don't see how those two have anything to do with each other. My opposition to why I would have voted no on the removal of Jack was the procedure and the protocol. But I certainly have both, I hate to think that a vote no on that means somehow, I support violating the Charter. That seems to be rather a leap but yes, I would of course follow the Charter and the laws.

**Arthur Ganim:**

**Frank Talerico:**

**Michael Ziegler:**

**Matthew Garito:**

Councilmember Carouse: Mr. President, one general question, this would be, I'd like to ask each of the applicants to weigh in on. Many of you or most of you have had positions where you've had to make decisions, be in authoritative roles and so forth where it boiled down to you which is admirable. I would say in a body like Council it's important to be able to get through the information and form your own opinion but then beyond that what has been our success is our ability to come to consensus when we do have differences of opinions. I'd like to know how each of you feel about that and when you weigh that against your own Personal opinion on something.

**Randy Stephan:** Okay so, thanks for that question. I think it's a very insightful question and certainly in my personal experience I've had some balance of decisions where I was the delegated authority and I had the call and I've had somewhere I was a participatory voice and I think it's useful to be on sort of both sides of the table. You know to sort of have the gavel and be a voice in the decision-making. Security risk management in the corporate world is a support function and you typically are supporting the core business and at the risk of sounding wiffly- waffling oftentimes I was in a position of making recommendations and the burden was on me to make the recommendations. As compelling as possible evidence-based risk rationalized and sometimes you didn't always get the outcome you wanted. So, what I would leave you with is both in the military and in my private sector roles I've been informed by an African proverb which is if you want to go fast go alone and if you want to go far go together. And I really don't want that to sound cliché or trite but what it really means particularly on decision making, I think the most important thing is that everyone has a credible authentic voice and that it's heard and it's honored by the group and to me that's the most important ingredient towards working towards consensus and I'm impressed by Council's voting record in looking through and seeing how many times there's not only

consensus but unanimity in in the vote and some could look at that as a negative. Like it's a whitewashing or a rollover or a herd mentality. I could, some could look at that way. I took it as a very positive sign of unity and had always operated on the premise that each person had a voice and there may have been a descending voice in the discussion but you arrived at decisions that I thought reflected a unity of effort which I think is very important. Thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** Lou (Carouse), as I mentioned in my opening statements finding common ground, I think is very important for this Council and you know moving forward future Councils, I think what I would bring to Council and what Council needs right now is goodwill. This Council has traditionally had the reputation of working well together. Previous Councils have always been collegial. The last few years we've gotten away from that and I think we need to reunite again you know around a common vision and common goals that we all have as residents of the city.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** So, I'm gonna, maybe have a little different approach on it. I don't mean to geek out on you here, but I'm a lawyer and I see great value in having different voices and frankly a different vote rather than always a 7-0 vote and I go back to many years ago when I was in law school and we studied constitutional law and you looked at Supreme Court cases and oftentimes the opinions written, the dissenting opinions, carried much wisdom and much then legal precedence that carried our country forward and carried our democracy forward and if those dissenting opinions and views had been squelched and just rolled into a 9-0 vote we would never have the opinions and made the progress we did and I was always impressed. The reason I bring it up is I was impressed by that as a youngster in law school because I never thought a dissent could have a positive aspect to it. I just figured the descenders were always wrong because that meant they disagreed with me so of course they were wrong I was right and they were wrong but it opened my eyes to the fact that open honest rational descent has a place and that it should be part of the communication and it should be part of what we present. So if on Council we disagree with each other I think that's fine. We're not always going to agree and I think it's fine that we present ourselves and say that yeah, there's some difference of opinion because we've got a town of 13,000 to 15,000 people everybody's not going to agree so let's represent the people and represent their votes so you know you don't have to be a jerk when you disagree. RBG is not a jerk when she writes their dissenting opinions. But, and not that I'm comparing myself to RBG mind you, but you know there's a way to do it that it can be a positive force for the community and for the people, so thank you.

**Thomas Collin:** Yeah, in response to your question, Lou, I think consensus is important and I think you can usually reach it if all the information is put on the table. Everybody's got the same access to the data the information is understood by everybody and it's going to be the rare case where you can't reach consensus and you're going to have deep divisions and deep descent. So, I favor consensus.

**Arthur Ganim:** Again, the consensus on a decision doesn't mean that all opinions have to align in the same belief. But you have to be able to disagree and commit and I see as a leadership group, that is the role and responsibility at times to maybe put personal feelings behind to serve and to go along with what the decisions are of the group.

**Frank Talerico:** Our city slogan when I left was, together we make it great, and I know together you folks have been making this city great with consensus. Everybody can have different opinions

and you try to take from this one and give to this one. I know what consensus is you have to always vote for what's best for the citizens of Brecksville. That's the bottom line and if you all get together and get everybody who's on the same page it shouldn't be a problem. But you can have different opinions but then the consensus brings everything together and make every, you know, people, your residents may not like your decisions even though you built consensus. They may disagree with that. We've had that happen, in our city in the past. I'm sure that's happened here, but again the bottom line is you may not agree with something, but what's best for the city and the citizens you have to support your other Councilmembers.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yeah, Lou, (Councilmember Carouse) I mean I've served on a number of both commercial boards and

obviously, school board here. You know I believe that if you respect the other members of the organizations that you're part of this board, whether it be this Council or a Board at some point everybody brings their own perspective to a problem. Your job really is to present your view on it and whatever skills and knowledge that you have and trust the fact that the majority of the people that you're working with will make the right decision and if you're, again, part of an organization that you respect those people's perspectives. I was not always on the majority side in some school board decisions so forth. But you accept those because you respect the people that you work with.

**Matthew Garito:** I think that here, I think consensus is obviously important. First of all, and you know I served on juries. I was a jury Forman once when I was younger. I look at it as collaboration in business you may not agree I think everybody needs to be heard I forget to look at the facts I talked about some of these things when I gave my initial presentation but I think that you know at the end of the day you may not like each other all the time but you have to work together and you have to collaborate to achieve a common goal and that's really what it's about and I think if everybody's being heard if you're allowed to present your thoughts and I think the other part of it is if you're fairly representing the public that you serve then you know if a particular issue comes up and I query a thousand people from residents and 990 say no, I think I should vote no unless there's something significantly against my morals, my beliefs, the facts, the circumstances. I think you have to listen to all things and then you have to speak your mind and vote, represent the people who collaborate with the team to get things done. You know to not decide, to hit a stalemate, is to decide and you have to then keep moving forward. Thank you.

**Councilmember Caruso:** In the most recent election the discussion of TIF and using TIF came up quite a bit. I'd like to hear each applicant's opinion on the use of TIF's to fund projects similar to what we're doing with Valor Acres.

**Randy Stephans:** So, I have to start with a confession I don't know that acronym.

**Councilmember Caruso:** Tax Increment Financing.

**Randy Stephans:** I'm not in a position to comment on that

**Councilmember Koepke:** It's getting a little difficult to hear.

**Council President Harwood:** OK, thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** I'm not prepared to give an educated answer on TIF.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** I think financing, I mean almost every major development in Northeast Ohio and Ohio, really in the Midwest, uses some sort of TIF financing. Ohio has a number of different types of TIFs and I know we're utilizing some different ones. So, I don't have a problem with TIF financing. I mean you've got good legal counsel that helps in Squire Sanders, they're not called that anymore, that's unfortunate well it's not important. That's just the way stuff is built so I don't have a problem with it.

**Tom Collin:** I think it's perfectly fine. I think for a project like this it's the only effective way to fund the infrastructure investment that the City's got to make. And as long as you've got the prospect of a successful Commercial Development as we do here with Sherwin-Williams the risk to the city is minimal so I think it's a good idea.

**Arthur Ganim:** I will acknowledge I do have minimal experience understanding TIF financing. So, I don't want to speak to it.

**Frank Talerico:** I'm very familiar with TIFs. We financed our community redevelopment projects through TIF financing. We purchased a shopping center, 35 acres of land, that's how we did it and as I mentioned before about façade improvement programs. We did that for finally matching funds for our local businesses and TIF worked very well.

**Michael Ziegler:** I believe TIF financing is one tool and let's face it, the communities do, they have to sell themselves for some major projects. I think we did a nice job here for what it's worth being on the School Board. I think we executed a very good TIF because the School Board or the schools were protected by it. To appreciate that I know there's some situations where some TIFs are less beneficial to the community and perhaps you know take forever to pay back off but I think we've done you've done a very good job with what we're looking at here.

**Matthew Garito:** I do, I'm in favor of Tax Increment Financing.

**Councilmember Redinger:** You know my question really gets back to some of the challenges that we've had over the last couple of years. You know as, Lou mentioned, we really like to have a good discussion but come up with a decision that you know we're all supportive of. That doesn't mean we can't hear opposing views. But I'd like to understand if anybody, what everybody's thoughts are on utilizing the media to drive decision making that creates public opinion. What your opinions are and utilizing the media. I just think media and our social media, I think it is really just media I mean we've had some situations where you know, situations have been blown up because of the use of media and I'd just like to understand everybody's opinion on that.

**Randy Stephan:** I would just say that in my opinion using the media as an outlet to inform or influence a decision, it represents a flaw in approach. Broadly speaking if Council as a body is

using the media to socialize with the community that we serve or to share opinions or share facts that's a healthy use of the media. But i don't believe it should be used as one of, by someone that has a rogue opinion or a renegade opinion or leaks an opinion to try to build some sort of goodwill, or influence that isn't healthy.

**Daryl Kingston:**

I definitely don't think that the media should be brought in by any Councilmembers to try to persuade on any issues. The media came to my neighborhood and they were filming a piece regarding, you know surrounding an issue a couple years ago in this city and you know obviously it was done before Council even met that night. So, you know there was a preemptive move to do it. I don't think it, it definitely should not be done.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Well, I don't think we can control the media. So, we have something called the first amendment and the media can write about whatever they want. I wish I could control the media but I can't. Frankly in this past election I wish I could have controlled what was said but I couldn't. So, I guess maybe I'm not understanding the question. If the media wants to come to Council meetings and write about it if they have their opinion. I don't think we can control it but that's what our first amendment provides in the country. So, I think we have to acknowledge that and work within the Constitution of the United States.

**Tom Collin:** Yeah, I don't think your question, Laura, was about the constitution, it was about Councilmembers leveraging their position by reaching out to the press. The proceedings of the Council are open to the public. There's nothing secretive about what goes on. That includes the Committee Meetings, all the Commissions, the Board of Zoning Appeals, so on and so forth. So, it seems to me that it's the responsibility of a Councilmember to sort of stay within the boundaries of the system and not to pick up the phone or send emails to third parties for the purpose of leveraging a particular position.

**Arthur Ganim:** I feel that media could potentially be a useful tool. To use as for Council as a whole to deliver a message or educational piece to society and our citizens. But to use as leverage to prove one point is certainly not in best practices of what makes a good organization.

**Frank Talerico:** You can use media as a group collectively it could be a good idea if you want to get a message out. I one Councilmember goes rouge, so to speak, and opens up a can of worms with the media, that's not, this defeats the whole purpose of, you know, your board here. And under the sunshine, so we've been discussing everything was out of the open. So, you know you couldn't discuss things you know between yourselves and find out how things were going and so on. And other things so everything was out there and sometimes it didn't go too well to be honest. But collectively you want to send a message to the media that's fine but there's one Councilmember going rogue, that is not.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yeah, I would agree as an individual Council person you can't try to use the media. I mean I've had enough experience with the media just sitting in a public meeting and reporting what happened and having them miss it by so far, it's unbelievable. So, believing that you can then manipulate them to you know win a point I think is a mistaken strategy anyway. But

it's absolutely wrong. I also would say that Facebook is dangerous because you're only seeing a very small segment of society and that the people who you know recognize your Facebook address and I'll confess I'm not on Facebook. But, I've seen experiences with that where you can fool yourself about what the community thinks based on 10 people at your Facebook site so I'm not a big proponent of a lot of that stuff. Thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** I think that if the media chooses to publish information about what we're trying to accomplish as a community to create awareness, education, communicate to the members of our community, I think that's great. I think that the more our community is aware of what we're trying to accomplish the more that they let us know how they want to be represented I'm very much in favor of that. But again, I don't think what you were talking about, I would not be in favor of using the media to influence outcomes, decisions related to Council vote.

**Councilmember Koepke:** And these are getting not necessarily to the role on Council but your role in Brecksville. For the candidates, I guess I have written on a couple different pieces of paper. Outside of your residential neighborhood, where is your favorite place to spend time in town or where and I guess where would you like to see improvements. This will help me to know how well you know Brecksville.

**Randy Stephan:** I'll cite two places one is specific and one is sort of generic. But at the risk of soliciting or advertising for a local business, I'll tell you, and I have no affiliation with them. 750 ml is a wonderful place to spend recreational time of one flavor. And then the other thing I'd say is biking the towpaths and through the parks is where I spent time and I think there was a second part of the question.

**Councilmember Koepke:** Aside from the ongoing Valor Acres project, where would you like to see improvement?

**Randy Stephan:** I think Brecksville has a number of pods that are just priceless community gems whether it's a lone business or whether it's a park and I think that connectivity between some of these assets to create more synergies. I think that's an area I don't I'm not trying to be with wishy-washy, I wouldn't call it an area of improvement such as I would call it an area of opportunity. Because in my time in Brecksville I've seen a lot of additional pods that are popping up in proximity to each other and creating some opportunities. But similar to downtown Cleveland which has these wonderful pockets but doesn't necessarily have the connectivity that some other cities do and I don't say that with city envy, I just think it's an opportunity for our community to create some synergies with some better connectivity.

**Daryl Kingston:** My family and I frequent a little spot down in the Metro Parks where the Kiwanis club has their horse show uh every year. There's a bridge and a creek that goes under it and we're down there a couple times a month either having picnics or wading through the water down there. So, we actually spent a lot of time in the parks as far as the area of development there's a lot of exciting stuff obviously happening in Valor Acres but I'd like to see the area between downtown Brecksville and Valor Acres. I'm curious on how you know we can kind of mention connectivity how to get from downtown down to the outer acres and you know there's a lot of opportunities down there we can try to try to connect them.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** So, I'm not I'm just gonna say generally my favorite part of Brecksville is the park um derelict trail and all, the trails within the park just fabulous. Summer spring winter fall. I'm going to point to one area that I think could be a particularly interesting area that I would love to see as work in collaboration with the National Parks with the Metro Parks with the West Creek Conservancy and with the City and that is the area by Riverview and (SR) 82. And so, now you know the dam has been removed. I think that was just last week it was officially removed and opened so there's now kayaking. The Brecksville Station there in the National Park. That's when things were running pretty pandemic. That was a big station for people to ride there but you know take the Viking Train thing, get off there and bike or walk or whatever back. I would love to see some sort of collaborative effort made to make access easy from that train station in the National Park to the intersection of (SR)82 and Riverview. There's a decommissioned road there, old Station Road, I used to drive it when I was in high school. That's how old I am because it used to be an operating road. You could do that, make it a nice walking path. You could grade it, put landscaping, so now you can draw people from the National Park into Brecksville. That could be a hub of commercial economic activity. We also already have Clippity Clop there. We've got a bike store there. You've got the County Line Saloon you can do other things. I'm not saying it's going to be easy and I'm not going to say it'll happen overnight. But, this is the kind of stuff where you could do a collaborative effort with a couple different organizations. The National Park is trying to work on this sort of stuff. West Creek Conservancy will help us. The Metro Parks and us, and you can then once you get people up in this nice little area with maybe a coffee shop an ice cream shop a bike shop blah blah blah and now with a multi-use path, they could then do the mile and a half trip into the center of lovely little Brecksville and also enter in our commercial activities. So, this is a great sort, this is a revenue builder this is an example of how multi-use paths can be economic generators and this is a way for us to tap into the economic stream that is the National Park. So, off my soap box.

**Tom Collin:** In terms of places in Brecksville I think are sort of treasures that I'd like to spend time, I'd point to the Giere Farm on Miller Road and I-77. I don't spend a lot of time there but Brent's a close friend and his mother is also. I think it's a part of the city that really provides value and needs to be Preserved. In terms of, sort of what I would like to see developed or whatever the second part of your question was, I think the most vulnerable and fragile part of the development prospect for the city is the downtown and what's done with the Central School. What kind of retail can be preserved in the downtown? I think that's where there's a lot that can go wrong and I think we need to pay close attention to that.

**Arthur Ganim:** As far as my favorite places to spend in our city, if I'm not losing golf balls over at Sleepy Hollow, certainly the park system has a ton of opportunity to provide recreational fun for my family as well as a good outlet for my own physical health and wellness. I am particularly I'm fond of Spice Acres and what they offer and what they bring into a whole eclectic side of the food scene which I'm a big fan of as well. So, it's great to have that. As far as areas of improvement I think it's the two largest areas that are visibly being improved right now and everything that's happening within Valor Acres and Downtown with the Central School and the taking over of the Old Stadium and the amount of opportunity that is presented to the city is tremendous for improvement there.

**Frank Talerico:** I'm a food guy. We like to go to I see most of the people and talk to them. We enjoy you guys in the supermarket that's where I meet all of the people in Marc's & Heinen's and even in Broadview Heights Giant Eagle. We have a round table discussion once a month, at the Creekside that's one of my favorite places to go to. One thing that needs improvement I know the Mayor, you had spoken about this a couple months ago at one of our Valor Acres meetings that it's hard to get the landlords on board with improving their properties. Maybe we can do something where we can give them more incentives to improve their things maybe with some matching funds. Somehow, we wouldn't even have to dip into their pockets and we could get some funding or some grants where they can improve some of these areas here. And there's one thing I think we need in Brecksville is an eat-in Chinese Restaurant.

**Michael Ziegler**

My favorite two places are at the Courtyard where my wife and I spent a lot of time in the park system. You know again I had four children and now I have just a wife and we like spending time there. I think one of the opportunities that we have going forward and now we're already addressing the Central School. But as everybody knows there's other properties involved with the other elementary schools that will be closing and I think working with the school board to take advantage of those and to develop them I think is a big opportunity.

**Matthew Garito:** Yeah so to plagiarize, maybe most closely with AJ, obviously the Metro Parks are our gem. You know no one community, no one restaurant. I think having been all over and having friends all over and having to run my kids all around what I've learned is that they're all gems every community every neighborhood. I don't have any particular agenda about specifically, what the next development or the next area of improvement should be. I think that we've worked very hard as a community to develop the things that we have. I think that the Community Center pool project, just starting to wrap up as a major accomplishment. Obviously, Valor Acres that was mentioned, K-5 school and the cafeterium. I think to AJ's point, I think there's a lot of opportunity and the school properties. Where the actual locations that are going to be vacant, I think there's a lot of opportunity and I think that we need to not try to bite off too more than we can chew right now, let's focus on the project particularly Valor Acres. Let's do them well, let's do them correctly and then let's look at some of the other opportunities that we have as well.

**Councilmember Koepke:** I'd like to ask all the candidates, to date, how they feel, what is the best way they have given back to the city and by asking this question I'm trying to figure out how involved they've been to date and how they feel they've given that.

**Randy Stephan:** So, Anne, I think the best way I've contributed to the city is through Recreation coaching and selfishly I probably gained from that more than I gave. But coaching rec softball or I'm sorry baseball and basketball for about 10 years has been in my in my view the best contribution I was able to make at that point in my life. If I could get extra points for naming my starting baseball lineup and the kids who turned into young adults and maybe been a positive reinforcing impact in terms of what they were also getting from their parents in their schools and their places of worship that's probably been my biggest give back to the community.

**Daryl Kingston:** When I ran for Council in 2017, and came up a little short, I was discouraged for about a day or so. But then I reached out to the Mayor's office by the end of that week and asked them is there any other place I can serve, I mean I want to do my part for this city. I mean is there any other spot available? You know because I have no agenda. I really just want to do my part. And fortunately, the way things work out, a spot opened up on the Board of Zoning and you know, I was very happy to volunteer my time for that work.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** Until two years ago I would have probably said my biggest contribution was the Lake Erie Basketball League. And that was a league for fourth through sixth graders. I spent way too much time on and we should have spent more time working and Brecksville was a big part of that and then Dan Hagen took over as High Commander after I left. He's also a Brecksville resident but I'm going to say it's really been in the past two years it's the creation of the A Better Brecksville group that started as just a random gathering of strangers in my living room. And I had no idea who any of these people were and it's just a people from every different political party you can imagine. A left, right, in between, that has one thing in common and that is just to make this town a little bit better and they all like this town they moved here for a reason, they're staying here for a reason. They want to raise their families here and this organization kind of grew against my better wishes and it has really, really become a force of people to discuss, to vent ideas, to bring up topics to share information, to just exchange ideas. And so, I think for the first time many people thought they did have a voice that they didn't have anyone that was listening. That they thought they were all alone and nobody was listening. I think it's given people a voice, I think it's given people energy, it's engaged some people; it's enraged some people and inspired a lot of people. So, I think in the long run I think A Better Brecksville is going to do just that. It's going to make Brecksville a better Brecksville and I'm very proud of that. Thank you.

**Tom Collin:** Well the question is how have I given back to the city. The first part is fairly pedestrian. I take care of our house; the lawn looks good the paint is nice that kind of stuff. I've had clients in Brecksville and I know something about representing individuals in this city and then last year, I decided to get involved in the political process and that I think is really where I've made a contribution so far,

**Arthur Ganim:** On a personal level I reached out to Mayor Hruby in 2018 and I was provided the opportunity and appointment to the Civil Services Commission. So that's been a great opportunity to volunteer and serve the community directly there. Likewise, we've also had the opportunity to build a business that has helped mold and educate young minds into how to continue to give back to its community and draw an altruistic approach to life. Which is something we take great pride in. In continuing to support the humane society over the holiday season and sponsoring families from Brecksville and doing everything we can to provide a happy holiday season amongst other charitable giving that we can do.

**Frank Talerico:** I was involved in civic community, I really enjoyed that. I was trying to get back and do some volunteer work with the Community Center until the COVID-19 pandemic. We have made a lot of friends here. We have a lot of things to do there to help people out there so I'm just looking forward to whatever I can do and serving on the City Council would really be involved.

**Michael Ziegler:** My biggest contribution to the city probably was the eight years on the school board which ranged from negative events like raw eggs in the mailbox and 50 people marching down from the school board down to my front lawn, to the elation of passing both the operating levy and the bond levy. So that's probably, certainly my wife would look at that as being my greatest contribution.

**Matthew Garito:** I was expecting this one and I thought a lot about it and you know I don't know that there's any one thing. But I know I'm also not allowed to say everything. But what I do know is this. As I thought about it, I realized that everything that I have done up until this point to volunteer and get involved and get to know how the City runs has helped prepare me for this moment right now. To be able to potentially serve on Council. So, to have to give an answer I think what I would say is getting to know the people of Brecksville, creating memories with the people of Brecksville with the kids, the kids who someday are probably one of them is going to be up here. By doing that, helping, to get people together. And if I do get to serve on Council, having known everyone and having built those memories and spent that time with them I think it'll help me better serve them.

**Councilmember Koepke :** This one would not have been on my list. However, due to what's happened in North Royalton, I guess I just have to ask the question if anybody feels like they have something in their past that is going to maybe make them step down once they get this position if they rethink it. I'm not exactly sure how to ask that question. I just personally don't want to see our wonderful city come in the same situation that North Royalton has come in so I guess this is just a standout move forward if you think that, now is the time to withdraw. does that makes sense?

**Council President Harwood:** It does and so I'll add a second piece to that. So, the Charter is very clear on ethics and our handbook is very clear on ethics and conflict of interest. So there's a number of people on City Council that have full-time jobs as well and the Law Department as well as previous law departments have been very clear on what we can and cannot do as City Council Representatives. So, to tag on to what Ann,( Councilmember Koepke) has asked if you have a business venture or anything that is a conflict if you took this position do any of you have that as well and we'll start with Randy Stephan.

**Randy Stephan:** I don't have any conflicts and there's nothing about me that you couldn't find out through a google search. Thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** I don't have anything in my, skeletons in my closet and no, no conflicts of interest of any business, thank you.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** No nothing, thank you.

**Tom Collin:** I believe my firm is doing some legal work for the CIC and obviously if there was any potential for Council action with respect to that representation I would uh have to abstain. Thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** I have no conflicts of interest, thank you.

**Frank Talerico:** My daughter has a catering business in North Royalton. So, I would not try to steer your business toward the City, thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** No conflicts and nothing in my past, thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** No conflicts, nothing to report. I'd like to add that I hold a certified public account license in the State of Ohio, I'm subject to ethics guidelines there, too. If certain things were to arise, I would have to report that. I would be subject to losing my license so I'm very familiar with the things that you mentioned Mr. President, thank you.

**Councilmember Veras:** I just wanted to thank everyone for being here because many of you have been just very impressive and I'm so happy that you want to give your time to our city and love our city so much. I just have one other question in addition to the qualities of integrity objectivity and trustworthiness and all the various professional attributes so many of you have I'd like to know what one personal characteristic that you would give to our city as a member of and you think that Brecksville City Council. Specific to our city and the way, the tone of our city, the tone of our Council. What we've recently experienced in our recent past that you would bring to Council in this position.

**Randy Stephan:** So, I'd like to answer it with an "A" and a "B". So, on a serious note, somehow, some way at every opportunity I would like to give my voice to ways to invest in our youth. Youth development, leader development, in any form and fashion and opportunity that we can piggyback to invest in our youth and that doesn't just mean financial investment. The second thing that is a personal thing I'm proud to announce that in 1979 I was elected class clown for my high school. It doesn't show up on my resume. I wear it as a badge of honor and I would hope with all the seriousness of the work that I could also contribute some levity appropriately with good judgment poised to Council proceedings. Thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** Kim (Councilmember Veras) I would say humility. And like I answered with Lou's (Councilmember Carouse) question, good will. Just a genuine willingness to work with other members of Council other city officials to try even though opinions may differ, to try to come to a consensus and work together. Thank you.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** like Randy (Stephan), I'm going to have a two-part answer one is I bring vision to the city vision of what we can do and be. I'd like to compete with Randy (Stephan) for that class clown spot. Thank you.

**Tom Collin:** I think I would bring patience and tolerance to the City Council proceedings, thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** My day job is to motivate and inspire on both adults and children and I found a way to work as a team and bring a team together in many different ways. Especially when there is disagreement so I do think that conflict resolution is a skill set that I take great pride in. Thank you.

**Frank Talerico:** Respect. Respect for the institution of the City Council, respect for the citizens, respect for each other, respect for all the department heads and all the people who work for the

city of Brecksville. And that's, I think that's very important. And humility I know better than anyone else here and you just have to take everything like that, thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yes, I would you say be direct and you won't ever have to question what I'm thinking, thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** Servant leadership, a collaborative mentality, and fun. Thank you.

**Council President Harwood:** Any further questions?

Several individuals reference reading meeting minutes. One of the hottest topics in all of our meetings comes through the roads and the Streets and Sidewalks Committee. It's how we determine our road program and budget for the year if each of you can tell me what your understanding is, how we determine that.

**Randy Stephan:** So, I cannot tell you how budgetary decisions are arrived at. From the massive amount of time that's invested in that, I will tell you that I just simply know it's a contentious issue among issues. It's a hot button issue, everybody has an opinion, but I can't specifically address the budgetary protocol. Thank you.

**Daryl Kingston:** Mike (Council President Harwood) what I do know about it is working for the city doesn't have any weight when it comes to trying to get roads fixed by your house. But from what I understand it's a there's a third party brought in. An unbiased group that analyzes the roads and it's done on an "as needed" basis like worse roads get done first. Now, how the money gets allocated, I'm not sure how much you guys have to work with each year. How far out it's planned, but that's my basic understanding. Thank you.

**Gretchen Corp Jones:** So, I know there's a standard budgetary process for how you determine what streets get treated you know with repairs. You drive around, streets are rated a., b., c., d., and allocate money. It's allocated that's all good. I think as a community when you look at our master plan and you look at everything that we have, what we need to do is now have some vision and go that step further to see where we can, where we can look, who we can collaborate with, what we can do to go that next step. And just like Independence did when they built that Hemlock Trail. They worked with the West Creek Conservancy, the National Park, the Metro Parks, the City, they took decommissioned roads and they created a beautiful path from 21 down to the towpath. So, it's these kind of things, collaborative ventures that involve money outside the standard budgeting protocol to build these connective pathways, multi-use paths. I'm not saying sidewalks I'm saying multi-use path because it's easier and possible to get funding if you look at what the City of Hudson has done it's a 10-year committee that they have used to try to find different ways to find budget money, funding sources to accomplish. What the people of the community get. So, it may not be in your standard budget protocol but that's what a city leader, a city leader with vision has to do. Thank you.

**Tom Collin:** Yeah, it's my understanding that separate from what I call long-range plans like the (SR) 82 resurfacing that was finished, I think our part about a year and a half ago, it's my understanding that each spring the head of the Streets and Sidewalks Committee in combination with the Service Director basically does an inventory of the streets in the city and makes forms of

judgment about what needs resurfacing and what is the priority for spending dollars on repairing the side streets. Thank you.

**Arthur Ganim:** I am not certain on the exact financial protocols of the city but I would assume in parallel that the due process is well defined and that I could see from the other examples of the other commissions that exist. Thank you

**Frank Talerico:** I don't know if they utilize any gas tax money for roads here. But I'm familiar with doing that and a big management program where you did prioritize your roads. You don't want to get a situation like we got into like 20 years ago. Not here, but where the roads were so bad and no money was put aside and you had to pass a bond to fix our roads. So, as long as you keep general routine maintenance and keep up the improvements that will be fine and earmark so much for your roads. Thank you.

**Michael Ziegler:** Yeah, I do not know the specific protocols I just know that you would want to prioritize any opportunities to leverage monies from either the state or the county and definitely prioritize the quality of the road where the work needs to be done. But I do not know the specifics. Thank you.

**Matthew Garito:** I too, can't quote the specific constraints or protocols regarding that but what I can, what I recollect is that it's done objectively. It's done based on budgetary constraints and based on need. Again, I think we talked about balance. So, we can't fix all the roads every single year, we have to pick and choose. We have to make decisions about that. So I'm sure there's an adequate efficient and cost conscience method to do that.

**Council President Harwood:** Everyone please bear with us. This is for most of us we've not gone through this before so it's a very important process this evening. I know we're coming up at eight o'clock so our next component, since there's no more questions, is we would have a discussion. Through the Law Department direction, that will be public. Our timeline for City Council was 30 days in which we need to make an appointment. If there's a nomination made, a second and we need a majority vote which is for Council Representatives to pick that position. If that is not done then it would move to the Mayor who would then select whoever that person may be so is there any questions that you or the administration would like to ask anyone. Hearing none Council President Harwood continued.

**Council President Harwood:** Okay so then I will open it up for discussion for Council. I would say that that we if we all work through who we believe are the highest candidates, if you will. However, we want to rate through I did a little rating system, but we need to come to some consensus on where we want to go with this. So, I'll open it up to whoever wants to start.

**Councilmember Carouse:** Mike, just a question for procedure, are we looking to come up with a new short list that we can talk about?

**Council President Harwood:** Not necessarily we took it to eight (applicants). I mean we can put it down to a number but we just need to hear what everyone has to say and I'm sure some of it will align and it'll come to whatever. If you want to call it a short list or not that would be the way we can go.

**Councilmember Redinger:** Mr. President will you just confirm we have to have this decision done by Friday.

**Council President Harwood:** Essentially yes, Friday.

**Councilmember Redinger:** So, I mean I think it's in our best interest. We have eight great candidates in front of us to try to get through.

**Council President Harwood:** Yeah, you know I would say to all those candidates you know through our discussion, do not take it personally we're just trying to make the best decision based on your resumes based on this discussion and knowing that we have a short term left we have new Council Representatives with Jack leaving. So, we have a lot of work ahead of us and experienced people are something that is very necessary at this point. So again, whoever wants to start.

**Councilmember Veras:** I'd like to say something Mr. President. I just want to say thank you again to the to the applicants. I just wanted to say to my fellow Councilmembers and the fact that our city's just been through such an unfortunate experience and what we all want to do is business for the city and get back to focusing on all the great things that are in front of us and all the great things about our city. I think tonight it's imperative to fill the vacancy with an individual who can hit the ground running immediately and represent all residents with integrity and has no agenda.

**Councilmember Carouse:** Mike, in line with Kim (Councilmember Veras) I would first like to thank all the candidates certainly. You made it incredibly difficult which I guess is a good thing for us to narrow it down to just a single candidate. Because so many of you really have the right components that we look for in you know other fellow Council people. So, I wanted to thank you first and then tell you that you've made this very difficult for us.

**Council President Harwood:** Do you want me to go, I have to break the ice, I guess. Because we'll just go that way. So, AJ I knew your father very well he was a teacher of mine. Dominic and I have talked, I believe that in in the future you would be a phenomenal representative for this community and I hope that you can get involved in some other things. I just don't necessarily know and I'm going to ask all you to weigh in. I don't know at this point in time for what our need is that that you would fill that slot. Again, I think you could be very good for this community. I applaud that you're here to participate but I don't know right now if this seat if that's the right applicant for that, everyone needs to weigh in

**Councilmember Caruso:** Mike, (Council President Harwood) I would agree. AJ, I was extremely, extremely impressed today at how prepared you are. I think that you would be a phenomenal Councilperson and I said this when we were doing the short list. I felt there were several candidates that applied that, and it's from my own personal experience, I didn't know what I didn't know until I had to go through that campaigning process. I think I would strongly encourage you to do that in this upcoming cycle. I was extremely impressed but I think it's not quite right, the right time yet.

**Councilmember Veras:** I have similar feelings to Dominic. AJ your Mom was my teacher. I have very fond memories of that. I think you're very impressive and I hope that you run for Council in the future.

**Councilmember Redinger:** AJ, I would echo the comments up here, your demeanor and your presentation this evening was excellent. But I encourage you to stay involved and hit the ground running on the campaign trail very soon.

**Councilmember Carouse:** AJ, I concur. One of the things, I think besides the comments that AJ made was he's pretty much homegrown and I've seen where that has been a real benefit to other members who have served on Council. So that certainly is to your credit. We look forward to you participating in any way even beyond Civil Service Commission and eventually on this on this board. Thank you.

**Councilmember Koepke:** Mr. Ganim I do not know you personally though my kids have come to your gym world in the past, your business it is impressive. I do want to say that I was most impressed with your answer to the question about the knowing the responsibilities for Council based on the Charter. I could tell that you really knew your stuff on that one so I do hope to see you in the future. I think that you definitely do care about Brecksville, that's very obvious so thank you for going through this process with us.

**Council President Harwood:** Mr. Talerico I've seen you at a number of meetings. You and your wife have come in and you've talked to me in the past about what you've done and I applaud your enthusiasm for the city and support. Again, I just think that some of the experiences I mean if we got into actually everything, we do I just don't think they're aligned at this point in time and I know again. I wish I wouldn't have to do this but that's where I stand with that as well.

**Councilmember Carouse:** So, additionally, Frank I think to that the role that you are now playing on the committee for Valor Acres and Central School is valuable given some of the history that you've had and I think that's an appropriate place at this point in time.

**Councilmember Veras:** Thank you for serving on that board. I agree with those comments. Nothing further to add.

**Councilmember Koepke:** I just want to say that, to verify for the people out there listening we need four people to vote for a person. So, if we get three people talking about why this person should you know maybe come for another try at the apple in a couple years. I'm just for the sake of time if we all tell people, you know our highlights and our thank you, how much time we'll take. Mr. Talerico I did appreciate how you talked about the answer to my question on where we can focus improvement in the city and I really did like how you talked about working with landlords and onboarding with incentives and really do think that you could make a difference in that and I hope that you keep on looking um for positions like the advisory committee for the VA because you would add a good asset for the city so thank you.

**Council President Harwood:** Do you want to propose one or two or three that you believe are the top.

**Councilmember Koepke:** Well, that's a tough one.

**Council President Harwood:** I know that's why I'm asking. I was going through each person to get to that point where I thought we'd be in alignment but we can go either way. Anyway, you guys want to go.

**Councilmember Koepke:** No, I appreciate maybe if we, I don't know, Mike (Council President Harwood). I'm sorry for changing up the plan that you had. I didn't mean to do that I just, I've been sitting here and I've taken copious notes, and I really I've come to know some of these people better than I did through their resumes and I appreciate that and I was just looking for time. So please go ahead I'm sorry to change.

**Council President Harwood:** No, you're not going to change our plan, I would like to get to the bottom line as well.

**Councilmember Redinger:** I think I'm going to try to skirt the way you were suggesting. Again, thank you everyone this is really hard for us to you know have to, you know discount everybody's willingness and experience and desire to be helpful. But I would just say my top three in no particular order. Mr. Ziegler, Mr. Garito, and Mr. Kingston. So, I would offer that up. I think all of them have, in particular, experience with knowledge of the workings of the City and can get up to speed. Mr. Ziegler in particular has knowledge and experience working on the school board which I think could be valuable for us here and just hitting the ground running. So, I appreciate everybody else's, you know, experience and highly urge everybody to stay involved and find other ways to be active so that would be my commentary.

**Councilmember Carouse:** I would also say that my top three or four were Matt (Garito), Mike (Ziegler), Daryl (Kingston) and Randy (Stephan). I do know Mike, Daryl and Matt. I do not know Randy. However, I was very impressed with your professionalism and the way that you approached things. That could go back to some of your military. I was very, very impressed with that and I commend it. But I think he would be in the top four but the top three I would agree with Laura. Mainly because you know these people have all had pretty significant roles with the community already and giving that we have as many qualified candidates I think that weighs heavy.

**Council President Harwood:** I would agree, Randy (Stephan), with Lou (Councilmember Carouse). I don't know you; I know I've heard you're involved with the youth of the community. I started that way I think it's absolutely phenomenal you were extremely professional as well as Tom (Collin). Tom has come to Council meetings since the election as well I really appreciate that somebody has put that kind of time in.

Some of our questions are directed to actually understanding what we do when so many people

(Councilmember Redinger) that I would, with the short list of those three from there but I really appreciate you submitting your resume and trying to be involved. I'm sure I know there's positions with the youth that I can put you in touch with some other people that I'm sure would be glad to have you along. So, I would agree exactly what you said about Mr. We're down to Mike Ziegler and we're down to the three. So, you guys if there's comments or opinions on that how you want to move forward.

**Councilmember Caruso:** Well, I feel like all three have strong backgrounds in finance and making capital expenditure decisions which is an important part of what we do. All three have had significant experience in different ways with the city. Daryl (Kingston) I know personally from having worked with him on BZA the last seven months he's an independent thinker he's not afraid to speak his mind he asks good questions. Matt (Garito), I was very impressed today I think your personality would gel well with the group and I would look forward to getting to know you better. Mike, (Ziegler) you know I met you campaigning. Obviously, your resume speaks for itself in terms of having the finance background to make smart decisions for the city. So, I would concur with this group of three. Mike (Ziegler) if I may ask a question. Just after the school board why would you apply for this?

**Mike Ziegler:** On a serious note, because well partly because the opportunity is here now. I'm off the board. One of the reasons why I didn't run for re-election on the board was two reasons. One is that I honestly believe in the origin of our government where people should come out of what they're doing. Spend some time in public service and then go back to their life. So, my school board tenure, as you know, two terms to me seemed like it was probably right. Anyway, I had some health issues with some surgeries that took place late. I wasn't sure how that was going to go, so I essentially had to stop serving on that but I do have time and I have skills and energy and I felt that this was an opportunity for me to continue to give to the city.

Then for each of you, if you receive the position, would you run in the next election and if you did not receive the position would you run for the next election.

**Mike Ziegler:** I probably will not run. After this, at least immediately what I'm speaking with you about now, is filling the interim time. It would depend on whether I was giving enough value to the Council. Whether you know it made sense once I was here for a while. I would have to say right now that it's not my definite intention to run. I cannot commit that.

**Matthew Garito:** I think to be perfectly frank; I haven't gotten that far. I'm thinking about it but obviously if it's a positive experience and I think if everybody else on Council agrees it was a positive experience for them and there was value added, yes. If I don't get elected or appointed, I would probably continue to do other things to serve to serve the city. I don't specifically know if I would run. I think I'd have to look at facts and circumstances up until that point but I'm here now and I'm interested.

**Council President Harwood:** I've worked with the CIC, you've done a phenomenal job. I was on the Charter Review and you were very integral with that as well.

**Daryl Kingston:** Well as I ended my opening remarks, yes, I would run in fact that was the main decision that I had to make before applying for this spot because I kind of view this if this appointment happens running in eight or nine months is kind of going to be a continuation of this. So yeah, it's a lot of work to run and we, my wife and I and my family talked a lot about if we wanted to do that again. We decided that we would so that's why I applied. So most definitely I would run.

**Council President Harwood:** I'm letting you guys if you want me to do it but I'm letting you guys have the three lists in front of you, I don't want to be the one, I know I'm the President of Council but it's up to all of us. So, I don't want to push anybody in a direction so I'm giving you guys the latitude.

**Councilmember Caruso:** I think we should also give Gretchen the courtesy of why we feel that maybe she wasn't in this bottom three. We kind of talked about everything else you know. I feel Gretchen (Corp Jones) brings a unique energy and a passion and similar to some of the others I think you know she decides to run again great. But to me I felt the skill set of these three is much stronger in terms of experience and background.

**Councilmember Carouse:** I would concur Mr. President with Councilmember Caruso's assessment there.

**Councilmember Koepke:** I guess Mr. President, I just want to point out that the year and a half, if Mr. Ziegler does not choose to run is close to a two-year term which we always have on Council so as far as I don't find it negative if he chooses not to run. Because we always do have to bring somebody up to date I don't find that as negative. I do find him to be a very strong candidate so I agree.

**Council President Harwood:** I was just asking for his what his rationale was.

**Councilmember Koepke:** I totally understand I was just you know if that was something that would short you know take him off the shortlist, I don't necessarily think that. I'm looking through my notes trying to see how I can narrow this three down to two or even one. I'm enjoying listening to other people's thoughts.

**Councilmember Carouse:** Well in that effort and just talking about these three the one that I have the most familiarity with is Mike Ziegler and Mike (Ziegler) is somewhat a proven commodity in that you know he has been elected. He's been in the public eye and he's had to make a lot of the same kinds of decisions that we make. I'm comfortable and I trust the way that he approaches issues and things. Daryl (Kingston) certainly has also been very active and has had a firsthand role now with the Board of Zoning Appeals which is always a great stepping stone to becoming on the Council and Matt (Garito) has certainly performed two of the more important roles being with our Charter Review and with the CIC in terms of really gaining a knowledge of the community. The only thing there is it hasn't had a lot of public interaction as a result of the two. Although Charter Review kind of does.

**Council President Harwood:** But, well you're right but some of it is with Matt (Garitio) and Daryl (Kingston) at the end of the day they both, well actually Matt (Garitio) holds the CIC position with Daryl (Kingston) on Board of Zoning that changes both of those groups. So, we'd have to reshuffle all of that which then we'd have to find other individuals to fill those and right now with everything that's happening with Valor Acres and with everything that's happening with everything. Some of these things you got to look at when we make the decision it impacts other committees' other commissions.

**Councilmember Koepke:** Mr. President I think that's a good point which in my mind brings Mr. Ziegler up to my top candidate based on that. I guess I have one question for him if, well for everybody, but him knowing that a board position takes a lot of time a Council position takes a lot of time are you willing to put in the multiple hours a week that this and I know you made that decision when you shortlisted but now it's the reality of sometimes it's 20 hours a week sometimes it's two or three hours here and there. But it is quite a commitment you never know when it's going to come and you have to make it a priority and knowing that you step down and you're enjoying the time without that. Are you willing to take that step into having yet another duty?

**Michael Ziegler:** Yes, I am.

**Councilmember Ziegler:** I'm not sure if we need, in my eye, I guess I don't know where our next steps are but I would maybe suggest Mr. Ziegler as my top candidate.

**Councilmember Veras:** So, Mike (Ziegler) I just wanted to say that I really respect you personally and professionally Mr. Ziegler. But I just feel in my mind School Board is a completely different thing than City Council. It represents Broadview Heights and Brecksville and schools and I think that it's important to really understand from my experience on Board of Zoning Appeals, attending frequent, numerous Planning Commission and how it all ties in together. And the direction, all the things that our city is facing right now, I think that Daryl (Kingston) 's at the top of my list because he's shown his willingness of the capacity to work with all of us. With all members for the betterment of the community. He's transparent he's willing to put himself out there. We all know up here how hard that is. We've talked to a lot of people in town so that would be my pick.

**Council President Harwood:** Kim (Councilmember Veras) I don't disagree with what you just said but right now Daryl (Kingston) has three years in. Dominic is a new City Council Rep who's on Board of Zoning. You take that experience away from Board of Zoning, I don't know if that helps us right now. I mean I think Mike's answer Mike Ziegler has answered his commitment to that. I think for the time that we have, he would have the best impact for City Council for what we need. Where we wouldn't, he would pick up, I know that school board's different, but he still has to deal with it's a hard job. We don't make many people happy and he's gone through that. He knows his decisions are based on the City versus somebody calling you know some of the misrepresentation that happens. Where we take a lot of that and we continue to march on. He would be right next to us marching on. I have a good feeling, not to say that the other candidates won or applicants won, but we also have to look at how it impacts what we're doing otherwise. Because we'd have to fill a Board of Zoning and I don't know how. I know we have people that have submitted resumes to the administration but that's a filled position that would finish his volunteer membership.

**Councilmember Carouse:** Well to that point I would say we certainly have multiple candidates in this room that we could look to fill some of the openings and we have looked to or we have appreciated the fact that people have served on a Board or Commission as somewhat a stepping stone for coming onto Council. So, I appreciate your point but I don't know that it's a deal breaker. I'm, this is very awkward to say. Out of the top three because any one of the three would adequately, more than adequately fill the role but I would say between Daryl (Kingston) and Mike (Ziegler), too.

**Council President Harwood:** Dominic.

Councilmember Caruso: It's a very, very difficult decision. I see your points about how it affects the Commissions. You know my original gut instinct would, knowing that this was a possibility was Daryl (Kingston) who was the first person that came to my mind. I think all three candidates would do a phenomenal job, I would have to probably put Daryl (Kingston) one, Mike (Ziegler) two, and Matt (Garito), three at this point.

**Council President Harwood:** Laura.

**Councilmember Redinger:** I would probably rank Matt (Garito) Mike (Ziegler) and then Daryl (Kingston).

**Council President Harwood:** Ann.

**Councilmember Koepke.** So, my position now, I would, I hope Tammy's keeping tally here. Mike (Ziegler) as one and Matt (Garito) as two and Daryl (Kingston) is three. just because I was really impressed with some of his answers and different answers to different questions but I do I like the way that they're I guess Mr. Ziegler is coming out he's well experienced with public, with protocol with procedures he does not have anywhere that we have to pull him out and find a replacement. I know in some eyes you're right that there are wonderful candidates to plug in those places. I just find this just to be a nicer cleaner fit at the time. I liked some of a lot of the answers that Mr. Garito gave. I did like a lot of answers Mr. Kingston gave this. This is tough. I don't know if we all rank them maybe we can see where with most ones the most choose I don't know the answer at this point.

**Councilmember Veras:** What was your three in order it would be Daryl (Kingston) Mike (Ziegler) and Matt Garito. Sorry, Daryl. Matt and Mike.

**Council President Harwood:** Mike (Ziegler, Daryl (Kingston) and Matt (Garito).

**Councilmember Redinger:** Is someone putting the numbers together?

**Council President Harwood:** That's what Tammy's (Clerk Tabor) doing right now she's sort of putting them together finding our ones, and twos, and going from there,

**Clerk Tabor:** Daryl (Kingston) I have a one, a three, a three, a one, a one, and a two,

Mike Ziegler: I have a three, a two, a one, a two, a three and a one and four.

Matthew Garito: I have a three, a one, a two, three, two.

**Council President Harwood:** So, you guys heard. Daryl (Kingston) has (3) ones, Mike has (2) ones and Matt has (1) one. It's really simple so you know where we're at so does somebody want to make a motion.

**Councilmember Veras:** I'll make a motion.

**Council President Harwood:** Go ahead.

**Councilmember Veras:** Mr. President I move to recommend the Council appointment of Daryl Kingston on to fill the vacant Council office left by the removal of Jack Petsche for the term ending January 1, 2022. Seconded by Caruso. Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. Motion carried 6-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Council President Harwood:** Daryl (Kingston) this evening, we have the balance of committee, it's a short agenda and at Council Daryl (Kingston) will be sworn in at Council. So, can we take a five-minute break. We thank all of you very much you guys are absolutely phenomenal and I know Daryl you'll continue to do great work on zoning and Matt as I've worked with you on CIC you guys are very good candidates for this we wish we could work it out with everyone but we can't and we to be put in this situation is not easy but it is our job to represent the community so thank you very much. If we could take a five-minute break. Thank you.

**Committee of the Whole Meeting Adjourned:** Motion by Harwood, seconded by Carouse to adjourn the Committee of the Whole at 8:42 P.M. Ayes: Carouse, Caruso, Harwood, Koepke, Redinger, Veras. Nays: None. Motion carried 6-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Buildings & Grounds Committee**

Chairperson - K. Veras

Committee members – D. Caruso, L. Redinger.

Chairperson Veras called the meeting to order at 8:48 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Caruso, Redinger, Veras.

Absent - None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to approve the, August 4, 2020 Buildings & Grounds Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Caruso, Veras, Redinger. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0- Nays.

**Blossom Hill Roof Replacement:** Councilmember Veras said a requisition was submitted for roof repairs to be done to Building No. 1 At 4410 Oakes Road. Service Director Weidig said this project had been approved by Council as part of the Capital Budget. Service Director Weidig said many quotes were requested and Buehl Industries returned the best bid at \$1.56 per square foot.

- Motion by Veras, seconded by Redinger, to recommend to Council approval of a purchase requisition to B. Buehl Industries, Inc. In the amount of \$22,750.00 for the Roof Replacement at Blossom Hill Building #1 located at 4410 Oakes Road. Account # C490161 3202. Ayes: Caruso, Veras, Redinger. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0- Nays.

**Human Services Parking Lot Sealing:** Councilmember Veras said a requisition has been submitted for additional sealer for the Human Services Parking Lot. Service Director Weidig said the Service Department has been working on sealing the municipal parking lots. The age and condition of the Human Services lot is using more than expected to cover the area. Each barrel of material is covering approximately (1500) square feet of surface on the Human Services parking lot. When completed the Service Department employees will stripe the parking spaces.

- Motion by Veras, seconded by Redinger, to recommend to Council approval of an increase to Purchase Order #P200561 for an additional (15) drums of sealant material for the sealing of the Human Services parking lot. At \$267.99 each for a total of \$4,019.85. Account #110330 2603. Ayes: Caruso, Veras, Redinger. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Community Center Pool:** Councilmember Veras said an increase is needed to P.O. #BL205407 for Pool Maintenance and Shutdown costs. Councilmember Veras asked for any questions. Hearing none, Councilmember Veras continued with a motion.

- Motion by Veras, seconded by Redinger, to recommend to Council approval of an Increase to Blanket Purchase Order #BL205407 for Pool Maintenance and Shutdown at the Community Center in the amount of \$750.00. Account #240720 2601. Ayes: Caruso, Veras, Redinger. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0- Nays.

**Blossom Hill School & Fieldhouse Project:** Engineer Wise reported a preconstruction meeting with Shook Construction was held this past week. The public infrastructure work is expected to begin soon. The sanitary improvements will require closing Glenwood Drive for 2-3 weeks. With the school start date being later, the school is requesting the work be completed prior to school starting. In the event this is not possible, school transportation has been informed. Two-way traffic on Oakes Road will be maintained via one open lane and flaggers during working hours. Both lanes will be open each evening.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Veras, seconded by Caruso, to adjourn the Buildings & Grounds Committee at 8:57 P.M. Ayes: Caruso, Veras, Redinger. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Finance Committee**

Chairperson - Laura Redinger

Committee members - L. Carouse, A. Koepke.

Chairman Redinger called the meeting to order at 8:57 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Carouse, Koepke, Redinger.

Absent - None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Finance Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to approve the August 4, 2020 Finance Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Carouse, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Recreation Helmet Grant:** Councilmember Redinger said the Recreation Department has requested approval of a grant application for youth helmets. Councilmember Redinger asked for any questions or comments. Hearing none Councilmember Redinger continued with a motion.

- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to recommend to Council a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for a grant for helmets through the Ohio Department of Health's Save Our Sight Fund. Ayes: Carouse, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Fire Department Blitz:** Councilmember Redinger said the Fire Department has requested approval to submit a grant application for a Task Force BlitzFire Ground Monitor. Fire Chief Zamiska said this unit allows a fire hose to be used at a large fire without man-power. Fire Chief Zamiska said this type of equipment is used on industrial type fires. If received there is no-cost to the City.

- Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to recommend to Council a Resolution authorizing the Mayor to apply for a grant through the Marathon First Responder Grant for a Task Force BlitzFire ground monitor for the Fire Department. Ayes: Carouse, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Redinger, seconded by Carouse, to adjourn the Finance Committee meeting at 8:59 P.M. Ayes: Carouse, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Legislation Committee**

Chairperson- Ann Koepke

Committee members – D. Caruso, L. Redinger.

Chairperson Koepke called the meeting to order at 8:59 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Caruso, Redinger, Koepke.

Absent- None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Legislation Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Koepke, seconded by Caruso, to approve the August 4, 2020 Legislation Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Caruso, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Political Signs:** Mayor Hruby said in the Administrative report there was a reminder that the Legislative Committee will review and consider changes to the Political Sign Ordinance on September 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilmember Koepke said yes, the Committee will review.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Koepke, seconded by Redinger, to adjourn the Legislation Committee meeting at 9:01 P.M. Ayes: Caruso, Redinger, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Safety-Service Committee**

Chairperson- Dominic Caruso

Committee members- K. Veras, M. Harwood.

Chairperson Caruso called the meeting to order at 9:01 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Caruso, Harwood, Veras.

Absent: None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Safety-Service Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Caruso, seconded by Veras, to approve the **August 4, 2020** Safety-Service Committee meeting minutes as submitted. Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Veras. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Caruso, seconded by Harwood, to adjourn the Safety-Service Committee meeting at 9:02 P.M. Ayes: Caruso, Harwood, Veras. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Streets & Sidewalks Committee**

Chairperson Lou Carouse

Committee members M. Harwood, K. Veras.

Chairperson Carouse called the meeting to order at 9:02 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Carouse, Harwood, Veras.

Absent: None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Carouse, seconded by Harwood to approve the **August 4, 2020** Streets & Sidewalks Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Harwood, Veras, Carouse. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**OPWC/DOPWC-** Update: Engineer Wise reported the OPWC applications are not available until August 25<sup>th</sup>. After reviewing projects with Mayor Hruby, it is our recommendation not to submit for funding in 2021. Significant work is planned; however, most of our projects are not projects that would score well with the OPWC/DOPWIC system. Additionally, the City would like to focus on the roadway projects around Valor Acres.

**Miller Road Interchange:** Engineer Wise said letters of interest had been posted/advertised requesting Engineering Firms for the project for the Miller Road Interchange. The RFQ's have been reviewed and, interviews conducted and a design team of Euthenics and TransSystems has been selected. The City has requested a scope of services and associated cost which will be reviewed with the Mayor and ODOT. The City received seven (7) RFQ's from well-known firms. All firms seem capable of designing the project; however, the administration felt most comfortable with the background knowledge and connections to ODOT/ District 4 & 12 that the Euthenics/TranSystem team had. Focus on accelerating the design/construction schedule and obtaining additional funding is a focus of this team as well.

**Old Royalton Road:** Councilmember Carouse said an e-mail was received regarding traffic on Old Royalton Road. Council President Harwood said a response to the resident is needed. The resident said it has been difficult to use the roadway at times. Councilmember Carouse said he would ask Police Chief Goodrich about the issue. Police Chief Goodrich said he will put the radar sign out and put patrols on that area. Police Chief Goodrich said drivers usually obey the speed limits when they see a police car, but the officers cannot always be there. Councilmember Carouse said the request for sidewalks is also included, with the knowledge that the funding would be at the property owners' expense. Mayor Hruby asked that the e-mail be forwarded to him and said he and Chief Goodrich will respond.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Carouse, seconded by Harwood, to adjourn the Streets and Sidewalks Committee meeting at 7:27 P.M. Ayes: Harwood, Veras, Carouse. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

### **Utilities Committee**

Chairperson M. Harwood

Committee members L. Carouse, A. Koepke.

Chairperson Harwood called the meeting to order at 9:11 P.M.

Roll Call – Present: Petsche, Carouse, Koepke.

Absent: None.

### **Approval of the August 4, 2020 Utilities Committee meeting minutes.**

Motion by Harwood, seconded by Koepke, to approve the August 4, 2020 Utilities Committee meeting minutes as presented. Ayes: Harwood, Carouse, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

**10307 & 10317 Highland Dr:** Engineer Wise said the property owners and contractor are present. Councilmember Carouse left the meeting. Engineer Wise said the agreement for cost reimbursement to the property owners for the sanitary sewer line construction under Highland Road calls for a completion date of today. It is expected the project will be completed by the end of August and reimbursement by the end of September. Engineer Wise said additional equipment was needed to break through the bedrock which added to the project delay. Council President Harwood said the request is for a project completion extension. Councilmember Koepke said she was made aware that the delay was caused by Cleveland Water. Council President Harwood said the work shall begin and work shall not stop until completed. Engineer Wise said additional equipment was needed to break through bedrock. Council President Harwood asked if the property had been sold and the project needed to be completed prior to transfer. The resident answered that the property has transferred ownership, conditioned on the providing of water and sewer connection to the property. Councilmember Redinger asked if the project will be completed before the beginning of school. Engineer Wise said that is the goal. Councilmember Koepke said she has no objection to the extension.

Law Director Matty should receive documentation from the current owner directing the reimbursement to the previous owners if that is what is being asked.

The contract says the payment is made to the property owners. The property has been sold.

- Motion by Harwood, seconded by Koepke, to extend the completion of the 10307 & 10317 Highland Dr. project until September 15<sup>th</sup>. Ayes: Harwood, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carries: Ayes -2 Nays- 0.
- Motion by Harwood, seconded by Koepke, to extend the final payment for 10307 & 10317 Highland Dr. reimbursement until October 15<sup>th</sup>. Ayes: Harwood, Koepke. Motion carries: Ayes -2 Nays- 0.

Councilmember Carouse returned to the meeting.

**Whitewood Aerial Sewer Repair Project:** Engineer Wise said the Whitewood Aerial Sewer and Storm Sewer Repair project time limit will be extended, due to COVID related issues. Engineer Wise said he has requested the contractor submit a no cost, change order to extend the completion date.

**Adjournment:** Motion by Harwood, seconded by Carouse, to adjourn the Utilities Committee meeting at 9:57 P.M. Ayes: Harwood, Carouse, Koepke. Nays: None. Motion carried 3-Ayes, 0-Nays.

/tt

cc: Members of Council,  
Mayor Jerry N. Hruby,  
Law Director D. Matty,  
Asst. Law Director  
S. DiGeronimo,  
Engineer G. Wise,  
Department Heads