

**EUCLID CITY COUNCIL MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 8, 2020**

The Euclid City Council meeting was held on Monday, September 8, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. using virtual meeting abilities via Zoom. President Mancuso presided.

Good evening and welcome to the Euclid City Council meeting, on this September 8, 2020. I will ask our Councilwoman Jukic to lead us in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Thank you.

Madame Clerk, would you please take the roll of Council members?

Members Present: Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, and Mancuso

Could I have a motion to excuse Councilman Wojtila? So moved by Councilman Epps; seconded by Councilwoman Caviness

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Others Present: Mayor Kirsten Holzheimer Gail, Law Director Sweeney, Planning and Development Director Holody, Director Smith, Community Projects Manager Allison Lukacsy-Love, Tax Administrator Caplick and Chief Haddock and Council Clerk Allen.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Thank you very much. Do we have communications at this time?

Clerk Allen – No, none at this time.

**COUNCIL MINUTES**

President Mancuso – We do have Council Minutes I will turn it over to Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness – Thank you Madame Chair. I moved to accept the following council minutes June 1, 2020 and June 15, 2020.

President Mancuso – We have a motion, can I have a second, please. So moved by Councilman Moore.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you, and before we go on to Administration Reports, I would like to read the statement that says our Euclid City Council meeting on this September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. is being electronically held which is permissive during the Ohio Legislative passage of HB 197 Amendment G -0351-2. The public shall have electronic access to such meetings. You may view the council meeting live through the following: Spectrum Channel 1020, U-Verse channel 99 and affective with tonight's council meeting residents will be able to live stream the meeting by going to the City of Euclid web site. There is a direct link in the

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middle of the page stating the City of Euclid meeting programming may be viewed here on ECTV LIVE. Click on this and it will take you to an updated screen that gives you an option to click on LIVE streams, there you can watch any LIVE Council or Committee meeting without having to go through YouTube with some of its past limitations. We are also currently researching and then we'll be testing with council members some updated statements and Live platforms to make resident participation better. And with that I'm gonna go to the Administration for Administrative Reports and Communications, Mayor Gail.....

### **ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Good evening Madame Chair, members of council. Good to see you all. A couple of announcements for you and the residents watching. Last minute push a reminder for the census, if you have not filled out your census, it's not too late, you do have about another month and so we wanna make sure that every Euclid resident is counted. That's really important for a number of reasons, primarily which is resources that come to us from the Federal Government, are usually based on population so it's really important that we count everybody who's here. You can logon and do it online at 2020census.gov or you can complete it over the phone, the number to call is (844) 330-2020, please if you have not done it please take the time to do it, it takes about 5 minutes there's nine questions, it safe and confidential and really important for the city and for our state that we make sure everybody's counted. It, it effects our CARES act fund so we, you know we're getting some CARES act dollars and the most recent proposal from the state senate would be based on population so please fill out the census. Just as a reminder we do have two programs available using our, COVID Block Grant dollars, that is a rental assistance program that is available through CHN Partners or Cleveland Housing Network Partners you can call them at 833-377-RENT, and there's a small business assistance grant program that's available by application on line, Cleveland neighborhood progress is facilitating that and that application is available true this Friday so it's a two week application process, if you're a small business and would like more information there is information on our web site and for both of those programs you can call the planning and development department as well for more information that's 289-2830. Election Day is November 3, so it's a little while, a little bit away but it's important if you have not registered yet, you still have time to register to vote or to change your address if you've moved, change your voter registration. That process is available through October 5<sup>th</sup> and you can also request a vote by mail or early apps, absentee ballot on you can request that now you may have received an application in the mail last week from the State Secretary of State, you can go ahead and send that in although just remember you will not see a ballot until after October 6 they will be, the Board of Elections will begin mailing the ballots October 6<sup>th</sup>. So please, if you need to register do that now, you can call the Board of Elections at 443-VOTE, you can also register online at voteohio.gov and I want to thank our Faith in the City Group, they will be hosting voter registration drive on Saturday, September 19<sup>th</sup> from 10 to 12:00, two locations one the church on the north side, Church of the Epiphany at 2102, 210 and Lakeshore, 21000 Lakeshore and also at Cathedral Worship at 21601 Euclid Avenue so two sites one on the north, one on the south again September 19 from 10:00 to 12:00 voter registration that you can do right there, drive through voter registration. Service Department has a couple of events coming up, both during the week, next week, the week of September 14<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup>, scrap tire round ups so you can drop off any old tires only passenger or light truck tires can be accepted and they must be off of the rims, and then there's also a household hazardous waste, so if you want looking to get rid of paint, varnishes, paint thinner, oil, pesticides, caustic household cleaner, etc. you can do that again next week both of those will be at the Service Center, Service garage at 25200 Lakeland Boulevard from

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8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. So again scrap tire or household hazardous waste next week September 14 through the 19<sup>th</sup>. And Keep Euclid Beautiful will be hosting two events we will be painting a mural and using a community paint process to do that on September 27 and 28 at the community part of that will be that Saturday, September 27 from 1:00 to 3:00 you must preregister. This will be on the wall that is just south of the freeway on Babbitt next to the Amazon Property so we're really excited we have a Euclid resident, who designed the mural and is a teacher at the Cleveland School of Arts so she and her students as well as community members will be painting this mural on that big wall there so if you would like to join us preregistration is required because we do have to limit the number so that we can do this safely and then Keep Euclid Beautiful along with the Memorial Park Community Garden will be hosting a plant exchange, this is not until October 3<sup>rd</sup> which is a Saturday that will be from 10 to 12:00 at the Memorial Park Gardens which is right here behind City Hall at Milton Avenue and 222<sup>nd</sup> Street. Plant exchanges is where if you have extra plants that you may be moving from your yard or transplanting you can come and share plants with others or pick up plants from somebody else it's an exchange and it's free, so if you're doing some gardening and cleaning up please save those plants to share with the community and trade with somebody else. That again is Saturday October 3<sup>rd</sup> at Memorial Park Community Garden. For more information about the mural or the plant exchange you can call Linda Beck in the Mayor's office and she and Keep Euclid Beautiful at 289-2786 and then lastly, I just would like to extend my condolences to the family of Lee Bauch. Lee Bauch was our former Service Director who spent 41 years working for the City of Euclid. He started, and served in probably every position within the Service Department, public buildings, buildings, engineering department and served as our Service Director for a number of years. He unfortunately lost a very quick battle with cancer and passed away, so my condolences to him, his family and the, you know, many people that he worked with and impacted here in the City of Euclid. With that Madame Chair, I will turn it back over to you.

### **COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION**

President Mancuso – Thank you and I neglected to, also say welcome to our directors that are with us tonight, our Law Director Sweeney, our Tax Administrator Nick Caplick, our Finance Director Smith I thought I saw Director Holody and our Project Manager Allison Lukacsy-Love and our Fire Chief Chris Haddock, thank you all for being here with us. We will now move on to Committee Documentation and we had several committees meet since our last session the first was the Council Work Session that was held on August 17<sup>th</sup> at that session our Finance Director reviewed with us our audit management letter and he went through some of the recommendations that were made by the auditors when they were here, we did not need to take any action that night but in my councilman's comments tonight we will be talking about the need to take one of the recommendations that was about city council taking the public records course or assigning a designee we will talk about that at our, as I do Councilman's Comments and that we should really discuss that at our next E and F meeting. So that was on the 17<sup>th</sup> on the 19<sup>th</sup> we did the second of our art, our RITA proposal discussion and we had representatives from RITA, we had our tax department and we had our Finance Director, Law Director, Mayor Gail and we continue discussion of recent RITA proposals and there was questions being raised by both council and the public at that time and we were looking forward at that time to seeing synced legislation come forward which we have on our agenda tonight, so that is the 8/19 Executive and Finance Committee Meeting, I will now turn it over to the Chair of the City Programming and Recreation Committee, Councilman Epps who will do a summary of his August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup> meetings please. Councilman Epps.....

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Councilman Epps – Thank you Madame Chair. The City Programming and Recreation Committee meeting was held, the first was held on August 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2020, the item on the agenda was the demolition discussion for the neighborhood pools we had Project Manager Marty Castelletti, Police Captain Houser and Recreation Director Stephens where all present. We, all committee members where present as well as the Council President and Councilman Wojtila who in which one of the city pools, the Willow pool is located in his Ward, he was present as well. Issues discussed Manager Castelletti brought committee members up to speed with the amount of an SP funds that we had slated for the demolition of the three neighborhood pools as well as the process of the demolition the time frames etc. Director Stephens explained the process a bit as well, he gave us a little background on pools as far as participation which he described has dwindled dramatically in the past two years of operation. Committee members were all in agreement with join the demolition just when was the question, when we would approve it and also we committed at that time to doing some site visits, so that we can talk about future development on those sites prior to demolition. Director Stephens gave us an update we also had a Recreation in general as well as Community Policing on the agenda, Director Stephens gave us an update on all the Recreation and programming during this pandemic, what has been done etc. you went into great detail as to what we're doing differently and how it's affected the Rec. Department in general, thanks again to him for joining us during his vacation time for that meeting. Captain Houser gave an update on the community Policing in general obviously in the midst of this pandemic and he explained that as well it's been an extremely difficult to execute many of the, the initiatives that he intended to execute and a lot of the suggestions that he had gotten from council as well as community members during this particular time but we did have a sense of discussion about our youth and about activity at the golf course in particular. We did not, we also floated some ideas but we did not, we're gonna keep all of these things obviously in committee for discussion as well as the community pool demolition which at that time we scheduled the site visits. That is for the, that's all for the August 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting. Then our City Programming and Recreation committee met again on August 31<sup>st</sup>, the neighborhood pool demolition was the topic, Project Manager Marty Castelletti was present as well as Director Stephens, all members were present as well as Councilman Wojtila. We as a committee decided after our site visit which went wonderfully that we focus on redevelopment on these sites prior to approving demolition, some great ideas were discussed and Manager Castelletti will be working with the Planning and Development Department team to draw up site plans that are inclusive of these ideas and then the plan is to submit the plans to the public in a survey form of some sort in order to be sure public approves with what council intentions and our ideas where and to include any suggestions that they may have in the final stretch in this process. The Chardon Hills pool site formerly known as Glenbrook, we will demolish with the others but we will do no redevelopment on that site, due to it being city owned property. I am excited about the work of this committee and looking forward to these projects moving forward and working with my colleagues in the next years to come in general. Thank you Madame Chair.

President Mancuso – Thank you sir. And I will turn it over to Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness – Thank you Madame Chair. I move to receive and accept the following committee documentations, the Board of Control held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, the 24<sup>th</sup> and the 31<sup>st</sup> of 2020; the council work session held on August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2020; the Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on August 19<sup>th</sup>, 2020 and the City Programming and Recreation Committee's held on August 3<sup>rd</sup> and August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2020.

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President Mancuso – Thank you I have a motion on the floor, do I have a second. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ONLY**

Thank you very much and now we will go to the Committee of the Whole for Legislative Matters Only. Just to review. For the Committee of the Whole for Legislative Matters comments need to be e-mailed or faxed to council, clerk of council Barbara Allen at [ballen@cityofeuclid.com](mailto:ballen@cityofeuclid.com) no later than 6:00 before the meeting, please include your name and address with your questions or comments if the name and address are not included questions or comments will not be read, all commentary will be limited to 5 minutes per our ordinance 121.28 and Madame Clerk if you would begin.

Councilwoman Caviness – Madame Chair, point of order.

President Mancuso – Yes, ma'am.

Councilwoman Caviness - I'm receiving a text stating that the YouTube, ECTV channel is not working today. They can't be viewed in the livestreaming is not available tonight, just Spectrum, I know that Kelley might be working on it, Kristal knows about it but I just wanted to bring that to everyone's attention. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Thank you, thank you but we have this wonderful new streaming that has a, Law Director Sweeney.....

Director Sweeney – I'm on the live stream on my phone so I can see everybody and it's working fine, so through our website, not through YouTube, it's working fine.

President Mancuso – Okay, so I think some people may still be going directly to YouTube, and that's where we have been having our difficulties in the past, so if they go to the website and click, it will be easier and hopefully we won't run into the same difficulties. Okay, best laid plans, ladies and gentlemen. Okay, I'm sorry, our Council Clerk please go ahead and start with our commentary for the legislative portion of the meeting.

Clerk Allen – Thank you Council President. Our first comes in from Dana Showalter 326 East 241<sup>st</sup> Street, on September 6<sup>th</sup> at 11:05 am. Mayor, Madam President, Council, Citizens All, Once again we are addressing RITA coming to Euclid. This time we are being told that the main reason RITA was turned down was "to save our tax department ", This is revisionist at best. From talking too many during that election the OVERWHELMING reason given was people did not want RITA. Saving the city TAX department was a distant second if mentioned at all. Once again we are spending time and money on deciding something that was already voted on and rejected by the voters of Euclid. Time and effort that could be better spent working on how to get more police in our department, or doing something about the future firestorm that is Pla-Mor.

Clerk Allen – Shall I continue?

President Mancuso – Please.....

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Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Kathleen Rossmann, Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 12:08 p.m., The voters, including me, turned this proposal down. I will back any recall effort for my councilman if he should vote to move forward on this again.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in also Sunday, September 6<sup>th</sup> at 3:32 pm from Cynthia Rosa of 25870 Farringdon Avenue. She writes “The citizens of Euclid have VOTED AGAINST switching to RITA for our city taxes. Why is the mayor still trying to push this through? NO. STILL MEANS NO. This is like a child going to one parent. Not getting the answer they want, then they go to the other parent. WE WANT OUR TAX DEPT TO STAY IN EUCLID. Thank You, Cynthia Rosa”

Clerk Allen – The next comes in September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:29 am from Daniel and Nancy Heikell at 27150 Farringdon Avenue. We all spoke on the tax issue and it’s not right what the mayors doing there will be some sort of consequences for these actions ignoring the voters not right no means no.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in at September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 6:33 pm. From Theresa Carlson, I’m sorry it’s Timothy and Theresa Carlson at 23301 Blackstone Avenue. Dear Mayor and Members of Council, we are writing this to say we are ADAMANTLY against bringing RITA into our city! Mayor Gail, how dare you??? How dare you negate the voters? You work for US the voters, residents of this city, not the other way around! So, instead of honoring and respecting the wishes of the citizens of Euclid, who took the time to vote & successfully voted RITA down, you choose to do a backroom deal to utilize them anyway. This is NOT the action of a responsible mayor but a dictator! Your time, Mayor, would have been better spent addressing the rampant crime in our city. This is not helpful to the City of Euclid financially! If you also took an OATH TO UPHOLD THE US CONSTITUTION & THE CONSTITUTION AND LAWS OF THE STATE OF OHIO, AS WELL AS THE LAWS AND ORDINANCES AND CHARTER OF THE CITY OF EUCLID! How dare you trample over them!! There was a reason the city got rid of RITA in the first place. Any council member who is okay with the voters voice being silenced & thus negating this issue, which remind you ALL, THE VOTERS SPOKE AND SAID NO, it will be remembered when election time comes. Members of council, remember YOU WORK FOR US!! REMEMBER YOU TOOK THE SAME OATH AS OUR MAYOR DID! If you go along with you, may God have mercy on you for betraying the Constitution of our country, city and state? Thank you.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Laura Herbst at 20531 Wilmore Avenue, she wrote “We voted against Rita for a reason and won... You can't just go against the people like that...we have a voice that matters. Please just leave it the way it is.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Daniel Rhamy of 339 East 250<sup>th</sup> Street on Monday September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:02 am. MAYOR Kirsten Holtzheimer Gail I Am rather embarrassed that I ever suggested you run for mayor. You have totally dismissed the people who voted you in to this administration. You seemed to be seem to surrounded by a small group of people that you believe SPEAK for the people. I challenged you to join Facebook group EUCLID police scanner and updates for your safety so you could read how EUCLID residents feel about many different topics in EUCLID BEING it CRIME, RITA, or OUR police officers and many different areas. You chose not to do this but some council people feel it a responsibility to know how people feel and joined this group. Your secretary conveyed To me it is a negative group. I never thought CRIME to be

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positive. Since we are on the subject of crime LET'S talk about R.I.T.A. we the people of EUCLID voiced our opinion of this organization in our vote. You seem to think you can have back door meetings and ignore the people. You seem to do this in many areas where the MAYOR is a leader for the people. You seem to be able to persuade other members of your administration to side with you and your small circle of friends. The voters overwhelmingly said no to RITA. For the same mayor and council to consider the same issue months later means that they DO NOT represent their voters and they would need to be removed.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Mike Rossi, of 19475 South Lakeshore Boulevard. He states “Dear Mayor Holzheimer-Gail, The solution to this dilemma is simple. Euclid voters have spoken with a resounding "NO" vote to RITA. We prefer the present tax collection system. Human brain power and contact with citizenry is preferable to computerized RITA "robo" answering machines. Honor our democratic voting process. This is also a "NO" vote for your oligarchic disregard of the voters” and that came in at September 7<sup>th</sup> at 6:58,

Clerk Allen - The next comes, came in at September 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:39 from Shirley Woods at 427 East 272<sup>nd</sup> Street. No to this tax proposal. We voted this down and now you are trying to get it passed from the back door. This is not right. We voted no the first time and will vote no the second time. I urge you not to get on our mayor's band wagon and not support this. Thank you.

Clerk Allen – The next came in from Maureen Kolenc, of 27261 Forestview on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 8:59 pm. To the mayor and all of council. We the citizens of Euclid do not want RITA in this city. The citizens voted it down once, I don't understand what you people don't understand. I did not vote it down just to save our tax department, I have to deal with RITA at work and it is not fun. Our accountant advised me not to over pay them because you will never get a refund. We do not want to have to deal with them. For all the council, shame on you if you allow this to go through knowing it failed in all precincts when put to a vote of the people. Do you honestly think that all the rentals here that have one or two people living in a house on the lease will tell you when their son, daughter, grandkids move in with them and yet you expect RITA to know this? You need to listen to your constituents.

Clerk Allen - The next comes from Shannon (Should be Sharon) Kazusky, 26250 Mallard Avenue. And this came in on September 7<sup>th</sup> at 10:55 pm. To the Mayor, Madam President, City Council, Residents, Voters, etc: I can't believe after all the people that voted NO on RITA, and won, that we are (1) rehashing this issue, (2) having to vote NO on RITA again, (3) having to listen to the Mayor and city council twist around what the residents said NO to and be insulted as a resident of Euclid since 1957 as well as a voter of sound mind and body who is not stupid. I voted NO on RITA for a reason and how dare you Mayor and city council take my vote and voice away from me when I pay the salaries around here and have never been delinquent in my taxes. You council members and Mayor make promises to get elected and swear to listen to your wards and the residents when they vote and you pull a stunt like this, again. Well prove you are listening to the voters without twisting my vote to fit your agenda. We said NO how many times? I don't appreciate you making me have to revisit this dead issue 3 times to get my point and vote across. If you, Mayor, and city council would put this much energy into real important issues in Euclid that needed attention we would be a city once again that could be admired instead of mocked. I'm going to vote down every levy and every issue

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you present that has a hidden agenda, that's a waste of my tax dollars and that only benefit a privileged few including council members such as that boardwalk you pushed through. How dare you assume I am too stupid to know where you are going with this RITA ploy after I already voted no and our voices were heard that made it not pass. If I bother to share my thoughts to you of your plan to get RITA into my city you will only deny again what I see coming and know what you all are up to. I feel very sorry for our city tax department and how they are being treated knowing what their fate is in your collective hands. RITA has a proven record in cities of nothing but problems not to mention other issues, but you already know that. How dare you ignore my voice and my vote when you are all sworn by law to represent the residents and voters? I am ashamed of this current council and Mayor. A recall is way past due. How, now how many of you elected members, by the residents, have the morals and guts to listen to the residents that already said NO to RITA?

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Anthony Romano at September 7<sup>th</sup> at 2:53 pm. I am a Euclid resident since 1996 and from 1959 to 1967 also. I came back to this city in 1996. Last year I voted AGAINST the RITA proposition and I also supported Mayor Gail in her election. I am very disappointed that the city council and the mayor want to override what we the citizens voted on. Shameful if not illegal!! Please reconsider your position city council and Mayor Gail! You have no right to cancel our votes!

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Sandra Webber, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:24 pm and she's at 2070 Miami Road. I am STRONGLY against, I'm sorry. Good Afternoon! I would like my following comments read into record for agenda item #4 City of Euclid Council meeting Sept 8, 2020. I am strongly against the the "backdoor" approach to once again, include RITA tax in the city of Euclid. I was the will of the voters, it was the will of the voter who unanimously voted 63/37% AGAINST Rita last November. So why is Euclid's Administration going against the spoken will of the voters, yet again?!? This shouldn't be happening! Our Council works for the residents, not the administration so ANY council member this evening who votes in favor of this "elaborate scheme" is WILLFULLY ignoring their constituent's wishes and should be immediately recalled! NO TO RITA!!!!

Clerk Allen – Next comes in from Sandra Zubek, September 7<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 p.m she's at 281 East 216<sup>th</sup> Street. As a long term resident of Euclid, with family that has participated in the development of the structure of our community, I am distressed to see that the voices of the citizens have been set aside for an agenda that makes no sense to me. Improvements and updating our current tax department which have served us well seem to not only make sense but also reflect the voice of our voters. Reverting to RITA and keeping our current tax department is in effect charging twice. I can only hope that common sense will prevail and there will be a light bulb moment for those that have been entrusted with our tax dollars. May you see the light, may you pull your legislative ideals into reality with consideration that we are now in an economic crisis all over this nation. The only way to effectively legislate now is to pull in the belt and pick the priorities...Adopting RITA back into the mix has been turned down by the voters, please listen.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Jeff Beck, 25540 Chatworth Drive, September 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 4:47 pm. Please read this at the Tuesday 9/8 council meeting. To the mayor and council. Few things have polarized a community as much as this RITA legislation has. It hasn't been a year since the voters

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soundly rejected RITA at the polls as a result of the successful referendum drive. And here we are again with the Mayors smoke and mirrors trying to negate the voter's mandate. Yes, one focus was to save our tax dept. but the main focus was and still is we don't want RITA! The Mayors lame attempt to refocus the issue to just saving our tax dept. will not work. There is no reason to re-litigate the RITA issue. That was settled. The mayor and many on council who Last year stated that the deal we were getting from RITA was the best we could do now say what they did was wrong. So why should we believe that we will now pay RITA and a tax dept. and that's a fiscally responsible solution? The mayor knows that's just a temporary solution which she will eliminate our tax dept. once RITA is in. So now we ask that if council passes this it goes to the voters for approval. Barring that we will now turn our attention to the very people who will slap the voters in the face by voting for this. Anyone who makes the decision to negate the will of the voters no longer represents the residents and will face recall. So do what the voters demand. Reject this legislation and let the mayor turn her attention to beefing up our Tax collections capability and finding a new finance director so this ugly mess never surfaces again.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Barb Hatch of 924 E. 237<sup>th</sup> Street. Arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 9:23 am. Council and administration. First I would like you to know that I am sorry for all of the hateful emails that come in. These emails come in from a select group of people and not the majority of Euclid. I am in full support of going ahead with Rita. It is what is in the best interest of our city. Please do not feel bullied by the people who threaten your seats. You were voted in to make the best decisions for our city based on the information you are given. This system cannot work if you do not go with what you feel is right. Again, the majority of Euclid support their council and administration. You cannot please everyone so please rely on your own judgement. It is a shame that my fellow residents feel they must interfere and threaten recalls and call the news with everything instead of trusting the people who were voted in. Let's move Euclid forward. I encourage anyone with questions related to RITA to go straight to the source and talk to the employees in the tax dept. Thank you

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Christopher Allen at 19831 Upper Terrace Road arrived Tuesday, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:25 am. Please read my e-mail at the virtual council meeting this evening. I am a 25 year resident of Euclid and I'm very disappointed in the mayor bringing up a vote on RITA during the pandemic and after voters had rejected RITA in November of 2019. If council approves the legislation, I will work with my fellow Euclid residents of like mind to recall council members who vote for the RITA tax proposals. If it passes I will work to bring a new vote to repeal it. If the Euclid voters themselves decide to finally approve the change to RITA, I will be moving from Euclid. Everywhere RITA collects taxes, taxpayers are not treated well. Look at the reviews on social media and you will see the complaints of mistreatment. Thank you.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Carol Pile of 2106 Glenridge Rd, arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:45 am. To the Mayor Council President Mancuso, Members of Council, Euclid Residents Last November, a clear majority of Euclid residents voted against RITA coming in to the city and taking over our Tax Department. Now the Mayor and her administration are trying to do an end run around our vote by bringing in RITA along WITH keeping (for now) our Tax Department. The contract is the same, so we'd be paying the 3% for funds collected with the once-per-year rebate along WITH continuing to pay for our Tax Department. That doesn't make a whole lot of sense for a city that's

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already strapped for cash. The referendum vote was pretty clear, Euclid residents do not want RITA in our city! Any elected officials who prides himself or herself on doing the will of the residents should know from that referendum that we do not want RITA in Euclid! Council members, if you cannot bring yourself to vote against this attempt to override the referendum vote, at least insist that it be put it on a ballot for Euclid residents to vote on this new plan. Thank you!

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Belinda Fulton of 27113 Shoreview on September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:05 am. We the people voted and now you want to overturn our votes. It is, is the plan really to ignore the people and force them to go back to ballot? Why is the matter being brought to the table? If the plan is to ignore the people then please continue to exclude us from Council meetings and we know this because it's simple to share the link to let the people come to the Zoom meeting. I lecture livestream on Zoom and it's usually hundreds in the room so no reason why you can't. Secondly, we already deal with RITA but you want to go over our heads with the people as in We The People. That makes this council a dictatorship, instead of we the people being a voice we are silenced and you try to rule. I think our corrupted Mayor should step down my ward 6 representative is working against us. He has not spoken to anyone in his district not even to campaign he just expects people to vote for him. Reconsider this violation of the constitutional rights given the people. Give us the user and password to join the council meeting.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Teresa Chounet, 2120 Brandywood (should have been Brandywine) Drive arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:16 am. We all voted on this issue so why does the mayor think she has a right to overrule the city of Euclid taxpayer's opinion. I had nothing but issues with RITA when we originally had to pay them .Why ask for trouble by going back when the citizens of Euclid are against it- let's stick with a system that works for us and isn't a headache to deal with.

Clerk Allen – The next came in from Maurice Woodmansee, 20341 Blackfoot Avenue, arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 11:52 am. It is with utter dismay that I view this attempt of the mayor to dismiss the will of the Euclid voters and resurrect or reestablish a plan to incorporate RITA into our city tax department. I call on the Council to view this proposal as an affront to the citizens of the city and reject it immediately.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Maureen Sandor, of 23681 Greenwood Road arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:42 pm. To the Mayor and Council. I am writing today because I am appalled that you would think of merging with RITA. The residents voted against RITA. I know it was said that the approach was wrong and that the residents vote against it was to save our in house tax department. I would like to know how you came up with that. The voters did not want RITA at all. Nothing to do with RITA. I have not heard from my councilman since 3-5-20 and that was an email saying he was going to tour the new school. I would like to know how you came up with this the voters just wanted to save the tax department. All the people that I had interaction were against anything to do with RITA. Had terrible reviews and terrible customer service. Many council meetings people were reading the negative with going with RITA from people that have dealt with RITA. I would like every council person that voted for this to tell me how they came up with that the people want anything to do with RITA. I know people that moved into Euclid so they didn't have to deal with RITA. A clear vote for this is showing you don't care about what the voters said and you clearly are showing people why they don't want to vote because their vote does not count. I can't believe the time and

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effort you have put in on RITA when the City clearly has many other issues that need to be addressed that are more important. Our tax department will be gone with a yes vote in time. Look what we are in now since we let the County take over our jail and now they closed it. Do not outsource another service of our City. The residents want to make this City great again and are more willing than this administration to do whatever it takes to have this happen. What happened to the last meeting when there was supposed to be an open meeting for residents that would be communicated to all residents to discuss this proposal? You voted last year to spend \$3,000.00 to make files for RITA before the residents turned this down. This truly shows that RITA was something that was never going to stop even though the residents said no after you spent the money on the files. Just that proves that the residents cannot believe that this is a joint adventure with RITA and that RITA will not take over our taxes at some point and time. This should be voted no tonight and put to rest and concentrate on the good of the City and what the residents have concerns on.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Beatrice Kaufman, of 24 East 221<sup>st</sup> Street, arrived today August, I'm sorry September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:50 p.m. Dear mayor and council; Once again, the powers that be don't respect the tax paying citizens of Euclid. We overwhelmingly voted down having RITA in the city, but again, you are trying to go around the will of the people with this backhanded attempt to have them in the city. NO MEANS NO! And doing this in the middle of a pandemic...where citizens can't speak, it's ridiculous. The zoom meetings don't work.....this needs to be tabled until true council meetings are back in place. LISTEN TO THE WILL OF THE CITIZENS OF EUCLID.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Ed Webber of 2070 Miami Rd Euclid Ohio, arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:29 pm. I am responding to the RITA issue once again. I voted no last November along with 63% of the residents. So why is this presented again for approval? It seems to me as you are trying to go around to another entrance for the same thing. We voted no with an overwhelming majority. No means No! Stop patronizing the residents of this city and listen to their will. I sure hope council listens to the will of the 63/37% percent and votes against the issue. If you don't vote No, you do not represent your people and you should, oh I'm sorry if you don't vote no, you don't represent your people and you should step down or be recalled. No to Rita!

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Beth D'Arcy at 27700 Gilchrist Drive arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:18 pm. Last fall, a small, but very vocal group led a campaign against RITA. They issued flyers, newspaper articles, and emails listing several reasons to not switch. Their Facebook page was literally called "Save Our Tax Department". They wanted to retain local jobs and access to tax assistance. They also attempted to make the case that RITA could not possibly increase revenue. Residents I spoke with shared similar reasons and concerns. In addition, I found some folks were completely confused and therefore hesitant to change. Some residents thought RITA was a new tax (we know it is not). A few were afraid they might be the ones to somehow get a RITA letter. I think it is important to remember that the anti-RITA group spread a lot of misinformation. Among other things, the anti-RITA group claimed that Euclid tax department received the same federal data as RITA. Despite the evidence that this is not the case, the anti-RITA folks continued to publish letters, blast emails and to the entire city, and spread this false narrative up until Election Day. ALL of these things influenced voters. And now ALL of these issues have been addressed. Everyone who has objectively researched RITA process concludes it is better than what we can do on our own. Real world data from other cities that switched to RITA backs that up. Our own tax department

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recognizes RITA will increase revenue. Its clear RITA will more than pay for themselves. The tax department has been saved. Local tax assistance will continue. Residents won't have to deal with RITA directly if they don't want to. Yet those who *want* to e-file and access their account information online would be able to do so with RITA. I don't understand why this group continues to fight so hard against a proposal that will increase our tax revenue. Residents deserve assurance that ALL residents are paying their fair share of the income tax. We need to use RITA. Thank you.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Regina Hauck at 116 East 197<sup>th</sup> Street arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 4:45 pm. I don't even know how to convey how I felt when I saw this ordinance on the agenda. I felt disgusted. I felt lied to, I felt used. I was lied to and used for my vote by the director of the tax department. I am not talking about the Finance Director, but the director of the tax department. Last year this man stood in front of all the voters and swore up and down that his department could do anything that RITA could do. They could even do it better and cheaper. So we fell for his lies and voted to keep the tax department. Now, he is singing a different tune and saying we should partner with RITA if we really want to get things done correctly. Translation: this way he gets to keep his job and RITA has to do the work. Oh, yeah, let's not forget that the taxpayers will end up paying twice for income tax services under this scenario. I am just livid that this man lied to all of us. So, I have a solution. If we are going to partner with RITA, we should have a contract where they do the work, but they have to keep an office in Euclid. Our current tax clerk or clerks should be the people that fill these positions. Under my scenario we will not need the position of tax director in the city of Euclid, since RITA will be doing the work. Let's eliminate the position of the liar. We do not need employees that lie to the taxpayers on the payroll.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Jan Gajda, at 421 East 257<sup>th</sup> Street, arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:05 p.m. Not quite a year ago, the voters of Euclid said NO to going to RITA for our tax collection. Not maybe, not with conditions, but NO. And now you want to bring RITA in to “help” our Tax Department. This is a slap in the face to the Tax Department, as well as the citizens and voters of Euclid, who have voiced their wishes - NO! You are supposed to be working for the citizens, but clearly you're working toward your own agenda. Shame on you! Please reconsider this issue, as it is totally unnecessary. Thank you.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from David Hiscott of 1970 East 244<sup>th</sup> (Should read 224<sup>th</sup> Street), arrived today, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:17 pm. This is in regard to item 4. The services offered by RITA are the same services voters turned down previously. RITA will charge Euclid 3% on all taxes collected regardless if collected by the Euclid tax department or through RITA direct. Our cost is 2.41% to collect taxes. We will also pay RITA the 3% on the \$6 Million dollars that goes straight to Euclid Schools that are not available to the City for services. Although this measure was voted down previously as voters did not want to lose their tax department and the tax workers most, as well, did not want to have our taxes collected by RITA, CCA or any other large tax machine entity. Although this legislation says you will continue to fund the Euclid Tax department the CITY always has the ability to reassign, layoff or terminate employees or not hire replacements should employees pass, quit, retire or become incapacitated. In checking with a representative number of cities currently on this same program with RITA, all contacted have reduced the number of workers in their tax departments with one having their Finance Director also serve as the remaining tax department employee only working

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several hours a week as Tax Manager. Although we are told there is a million dollars or more out there in uncollected taxes there is no guarantee of any meaningful additional amounts to be had. For these reasons and as the voters turned down similar legislation this present proposed legislation must be voted down by Council.

Clerk Allen – The next arrived from Mr. Lew Milner, at 19711 Edgecliff Drive arrived today, September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:20 pm. Dear Council, Mayor, other City Members and those listening...My family, many of my friends and neighbors and I fully support moving to the proposed hybrid model retaining our Tax Department and using RITA and its services where appropriate for the following reasons: 1. It is apparent that not all income is being claimed and RITA can provide access to these monies where our Tax Department cannot. It is irresponsible not to go after these monies. RITA is able to make some projections based on known past historical data. It is unreasonable to ask RITA to guarantee a specific amount. 2. The citizens of Euclid previously voted to not close down our Tax Department and switch to RITA. The argument for the vote was to keep our Tax Department to serve the residents of Euclid. This hybrid model does exactly that. Now some want to indicate that the purpose of the vote was to remove the possibility of our Tax Department to use some RITA services. This is misrepresenting what the vote was all about. 3. Our Tax Department was asked to research how collections, including software, could be updated and their suggestion was this hybrid model. It needs to be clarified that our Tax Department is in charge of the daily functioning of this hybrid model. Our Tax Department is not working for RITA, rather RITA is ancillary to our Tax Department. Please consider moving this proposal along so that it will be in force for the 2020 tax returns. Thank you for your attention.

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Alisa Boles, 35 East 202 Street, arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:59 p.m. LEGISLATION Item 4 - The Voters of Euclid initiated a referendum the last time you wanted to enter a contract with RITA You said you believe that this was because you wanted to keep the local service of the tax department. Who's to say what each voter's motivation was? The ballot language mentioned nothing about the tax department. It simply asked if we objected to Council's vote to enter into a contract with RITA. Some who have lived or worked in other communities who used RITA just don't like dealing with RITA based on past experiences. Even if it is true that some voted against RITA last fall with the main motivation to save the tax department, it is a stretch to say they would now want to pay for BOTH. Who much does that cost? Why aren't these cost comparisons in the legislative "fact" sheet? Personally, my biggest issue was that you never presented all of the information required to make an informed decision. You said you learned from last time, yet your legislative fact sheet for tonight's meeting doesn't even have a copy of the contract you want Council to vote on attached to it. I certainly hope Council has seen and read it at least! I made a public records request for a copy of the contract and have yet to receive it. It would also be nice to see more of a professional analyses comparing the relative disadvantages of each course of action. You have had almost 2 years now to create a better executive summary. Members of the Administration make full-time salaries that are often higher than the average Euclid citizen and certainly more than what the part-time Council members makes. The least you can do is put together a comprehensive and organized presentation. Members of Council also work full time as do residents. Frankly, it is disrespectful of everyone's time for the Administration to not to be better organized. All this legislation contains is speculations unsupported by documentation. I will hold

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the Mayor to her word at the E&F meeting where she said she will not try to rush this process and that you intend to have 3 full readings and I would expect that some documentation be made available for public review before then. Finally, RITA should be aware that these meetings are taking place in violation of the Euclid law. Council never voted to accept a format and they are denying the public's right under local law to speak before and after the legislation. Any legislation that is passed in violation of local law is subject to be held up in litigation. And then she has another section but we'll read that later because it's for general for later in the meeting.

Clerk Allen – The next comes Dea Walker of 2044 Miami Road, arrived September 7<sup>th</sup> at 3:09 pm. We don't want RITA. Keep RITA out of Euclid.

Clerk Allen – The next comes from Latoya Andre', arrived September 8<sup>th</sup> at 3:51 pm. My name is LaToya André my address is 625 Voelker Ave. If Euclid Tax dept. works with RITA, what happens to the positions once our Euclid Tax dept. retires? Will we be fully, I'm sorry, will we be full converted to RITA? Will the positions be fulfilled? Please advise.

Clerk Allen – Council President that was my last reading.

### LEGISLATION

President Mancuso – Thank you. Alright we will now go to the legislative agenda for tonight, council clerk would you like a drink of water before you get started? And if you're ready would you please read the first agenda item into the record.....

Clerk Allen – Thank you.

**1. Ordinance 91-2020 (097-20) Euclid Fire Department Grant**

An emergency ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Ex-Officio Director of Public Safety of the City of Euclid, or her designee, to accept and expend a grant in the amount of \$163,045.45 to the Euclid Fire Department for new exercise equipment in each firehouse, cancer screenings for each member and professional education for two members to become certified peer fitness instructors.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin the discussions. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilwoman Caviness.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you and we will go to Chief Haddock to begin discussion this evening, Chief.....

Chief Haddock – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council and those streaming. The Euclid Fire Department was very fortunate to receive this assistance. The firefighters grant, and if I can I'll do a little reset, we'll do it quickly though. Next, next month I'll be with the Euclid Fire Department for 30 years, and my first day that I walked into the station 30 years ago the smoke, the cigarette smoke was banked down probably 3 feet off the ceiling and the kitchen table, there may have been one or two people that exercised out of the whole entire department and we had a leftover, a secondhand stationary bike in the basement, maybe some, some weights. Well and 20

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years ago the Fire Department applied for assistance a firefighters grant and we were successful in receiving exercise equipment and establishing our health and wellness program which included baseline physicals for everyone and we really took that to heart and really it is a priority on this fire department. So here we are some of that equipment that we purchased way back when, we've gotten some new stuff in between there, but there were some major things that needed to get replaced and this grant would do that as well as there's a cancer screening now that will go from the next to the groin and every organ, this is a new screening that we've never had so we'd really like to go forward with this and you know the side note with this that Assistant Chief Will Anderson has just been amazing with his grant writing ability and his dedication to this, this initiative we also had Lt. Billy Masteronly helped out with this too so we're trying to break in new people to get into the grant writing process and we were successful with this so we're, we're real excited and I'll answer any questions you may have.

President Mancuso – Thank you Chief, my colleagues, discussion?  
Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair, I would like to and I'm that my colleagues would like to put their names on this legislation. Thank you.

President Mancuso – By a show of hands would all of council like their names on the legislation? Seeing everyone. Okay. Council Clerk can do that. Thank you very much, any other discussion? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate by Councilwoman Gorshe, seconded by Councilman Moore.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll also entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any opposed: Seeing none.

Madame Clerk would you call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Mancuso

Thank you.  
Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you Madame Clerk would you please read the second agenda item into the record.

**2. Ordinance 92-2020 (100-20) Annual appropriation through Dec. 31, 2020**

An emergency ordinance which makes the annual appropriation for all expenditures for the City of Euclid for the period ending December 31, 2020

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Epps; seconded by Councilman Jarosz.

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All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we will begin with Director Smith please.....

Director Smith – Thank you Madame Chair to council. So as this will be our first budget amendment for the 2020 budget year. We only have three amendments that this time, I'll go through each one there pretty simple, two to the general fund and then one to the Cares Act Fund. So the first budget amendment that we have tonight is the \$10,150.00 to the planning and developments budget line item, what this is for is the incentive grant that we pay, there's three companies in the city right now that are receiving payments from this grant, simply we just under budgeted at the beginning of the year, two of those, two of those companies are based on payroll and one of them is a set payment so like I said it was just a, we just short changed the budget a little bit this year, the second general fund it for \$32,433 and this is simply too appropriate the DWC grant that the city received for the fire department back in April. For the other fund the CARES ACT fund, as you know council has recently passed a piece of legislation accepting the funds, this is simply appropriating them in fund 258 we're going to appropriate \$1.2 million dollars into personal services and then \$560,185 into other expenses. As of right now this could, we may amend this at the end of the year as we get closer to, you know, like I said, closer to the end of the year we see what the allowable expenses are for this grant there's still some questions regarding personal services as to what we can appropriate to their or to allocate to that grant when we, when we get a make a decision and, and hear from some other communities how they're doing it and from the budget management office itself we'll have a better idea and then along with our Law Director Sweeney as she sees fit speaking with other Law Directors really on how to allocate there was no audit direction given to this fund so if for right now that's the breakout that we have and that's it for the amendments this year, or for this budget amendment, like I said towards the end of the year there will probably be most certainly be other amendments coming.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Discussion from my colleagues.  
Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair. Director Smith, on fund 258 I had a quick, conversation with the Mayor last week regarding some of the Covid funds and some of the allocations for that, I do believe I asked before if we could have a occasional if not monthly breakdown of how that money is being distributed obviously, you're moving to personal services and you're looking for more of how this is appropriate, \_\_\_\_\_ happens and I know we're all hoping and praying that we get other funds from other sources Covid related, just kind of watch where, what we're doing and celebrating some of the successes that we've used some of this money for. So can we get a monthly update perhaps maybe in our E and F meeting when we have our financial update? Or in our monthly updates that you give us in a session.

Director Smith – Madame Chair to the Councilwoman. Absolutely, I intended on doing that at our next E and F meeting just to give you a brief update now as, as of today, we've spend about \$120,000 of that money only, we have about \$280,000 encumbered so and also we did put into place based on a recommendation by the budget management office of ways we have another

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step we have a pretty intensive purchase order process that we follow in the city but we also put added additional step to that as far as some of the, the compliance side of spending this money that we're doing within our, within the city itself so, I will certainly have that for all of council at the E and F meeting.

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you very much, I appreciate that.

President Mancuso – Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness - Thank you Madame Chair. To Director Smith, I just have a question about the general fund 213 for Police Corrections. Is this figured in for the rest of the year the amount that we pay for our inmates to be in to be taken to the Cuyahoga County Jail? Is that something that we're looking at on a monthly basis, and you've figured all of this into the end of December or how was it calculated?

President Mancuso- Director Smith.....

Director Smith – Madame Chair to the councilwoman. I believe at the beginning of the budget process, we talked with a, I don't want to say detective, Sargent Roller or Roller and he gave his best estimate at that time if I, I believe we're doing pretty well right now and we shouldn't need to come back for an amendment but if we will you know, if it's, if it's you know for whatever reason picks up and we have to spend some more we will be back but I don't think that's in any that's gonna be an issue this year right now.

Councilwoman Caviness – Okay, okay. That's what I wanted to know. Thank you.

Director Smith – Your welcome.

President Mancuso – Other discussion? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilwoman Caviness, seconded by Councilman Epps.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilman Moore.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any opposed: seeing none

Madame Clerk would you please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Mancuso

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you Madame Clerk would you please read the third agenda item into the record.

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**3. Resolution 93-2020 (101-20) Adoption of Tax rates inside and outside the ten mill limitation**

A resolution adopting the rate of each tax necessary to be levied both inside and outside the ten-mill limitation, as certified by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we go to Director Smith once again to begin the discussion.....

Director Smith – Thank you Madame Chair. This piece of legislation is one that the City passes every year. It's the same thing that was in the prior years it will only change if we levy a new tax on the residents. That is not the case this year so again the county just needs this passed by council, nothings different from last year it's kind of a boiler plate piece of legislation it does need to be passed this evening, so that it can be at the county by September 30<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Thank you, discussion by my colleagues? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Epps, seconded by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Jarosz; seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any nays: seeing none

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Mancuso

Resolution Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Madame Clerk would you please read the forth agenda item into the record.

**4. Ordinance 106-20 RITA Partnership**

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of Euclid to enter into an agreement with the Regional Income Tax Agency (RITA) and their Regional Council of Governments for a partnership which includes both RITA and the Euclid Tax Department collecting municipal income taxes while still maintaining a City of Euclid tax department and current staffing levels.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Jarosz; seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

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All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you and we will go to Mayor Gail to begin the discussion.....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Thank you Madame Chair. This is a first reading tonight so we're not asking for, action tonight we have had two discussions on this and I expect we will continue to have more discussions on it but just to provide a brief overview, last year council passed an ordinance to join regional income tax agency 5 to 4 and then the residence passed, put that on challenged that ordinance through referendum petition and put that particular ordinance on the ballot to ask residents whether they approved of it or not. The question was not yes RITA, no RITA it was to over, turnover that particular ordinance. After that failed we went, worked with the tax department to look at what do we do now how do we give you the tools that you need tax department to collect the money were not collecting and I wanna be very clear at the root of this all is how do we collect the tax dollars at this city is owed. There are a lot of people that do not pay their property tax. Our tax department does a good job with the resources that they have and with the people that they have. So we asked Mr. Caplick to go out find us an online filing system, help us modernize our tax department, tell us what you need to collect the dollars that we need so desperately to provide the services here in the city. Mr. Caplick went out looked at different, available resources came back to us, we've had conversations, at the end of the day, we've raised the conversation of the residence, why did the residents say no to RITA, and how do we know this, we looked at the we, of course we heard what the residents said through the campaign, of course we saw the literature. It was save our tax department. The primary really reason that we heard from residents why they did not support that, was they wanted the tax department to stay local. They wanted they did not want to lose our local service here they also did not want our local employees to lose their job, so we looked at how can we continue to, what can we do to solve those issues so we guarantee we will keep a local office, we guarantee nobody will lose their job, what else, what can we do is, is RITA a possibility in a different way to partner in order to get the technology, the data and the security that we need to do the jobs, give the tax department the ability to do the job, they need the tools to do the job. So this is not the same proposal, we listened to the residents and we brought forward a new plan, that plan includes using RITA as a partner it does not mean giving up our local tax department, it includes taking advantage of the proprietary technology that RITA has developed by working with more than 300 communities to collect their municipal income tax, it includes providing updated technology, updated digital equipment, digital, a way that people and especially today during COVID we've learned that people need to be able to file online. Many people want to use, do things over the phone, they don't want to have to come but we heard loud and clear the residents want to be able to come here and talked with and work with our local tax department. So this proposal is brought forward as a compromise as an alternative to the first proposal, and so we presented that to council. What is different and I will walk through this and I will, remind folks that this information is on the city's web site, under the new section of how to improve our tax department, is the PowerPoint and a frequently asked questions sheet and we will add the contract in any other information that council has so that everybody has the same information and of course yes, we will be happy to have public hearings, wanted to make the legislation got introduced. We are working to understand Zoom, Zoom Webinars so that we

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can use that as a platform to allow residents to both either call in if they would like to use their telephone or get on themselves through their computer, but what's different, we went back to the drawing board we did not just back door a lot of words that were presented earlier, you know, I think are inaccurate this is not a back room deal, this was not any kind of stunt or end run this was government in action, this is taking a proposal, people said no. How do we do something different, how do we make it better, bringing back a new proposal. So we explored different ways to improve our tax collection, we let the people who are doing this every day lead that process and do the research. Our tax department was involved, they were not and that was in error the first time. This was their recommendation. We heard from the residents so this, this plan includes a full commitment to retain a Euclid local office, as people retire we will continue to operate a local office if that means, if we need to rehire we will rehire, the commitment is there to retain a local service that residents need. It includes, it includes keeping our local staff and that's written in the ordinance and it's also, I've offered to put that in writing to the tax department staff. What's different, I think the COVID pandemic has shown us virtual services are more important than ever, we need online filing and there is not a system that compares to what RITA offers. It is a partnership, the first proposal include basically had us turning over our operations of our tax department to RITA, we did not anticipate keeping the local office, we did not anticipate, we talked about keeping one staff person. This is a partnership RITA will provide their online services, the services that they provide but we will continue to do local service, we will continue to work with our residents we will not in the first plan we would use them for delinquencies, for collections, for their subpoena program, which cost extra. We will not do that in this plan our tax department staff will handle the subpoena program, a similar program of collecting delinquencies and going after none filers, and really it, it is, you know in our opinion that this provides the best of both services it allows us to retain our local service it allows us to retain and commit to retaining our local staff but it allows us to modernize our tax department with increased technology, better data, better security and more efficient processes so that our tax department at the end of the day what this is about as collecting more tax dollars so we can do things like everybody said why don't we spend more time addressing crime or addressing police, why don't we hire more police, why don't we do other things. This will give us the ability to do that. We need resources in order to provide those services. So at the end of the day my job is to represent the 48,000 residents who live in this city, I heard you all tonight and I understand that you don't agree with this, it doesn't make it wrong, that doesn't make it immoral, it doesn't make it illegal. We can have a difference of opinion let's have a civil discussion about it, we don't need threats, we don't need calling people names let's have a civil discussion and I'm happy to do that, I've extended that offer and many people have taken me up on that. The people who I had spoken with, the people who I seek out as I'm out an about in the community and have the chance to talk about this proposal see it as a good compromise, that's a better plan. Yes, we need to collect this money. I want to be confident that I'm paying my taxes, my neighbor is paying their taxes. That's what this is about. I would ask anyone who has a better way to do that share that with us we can amend this proposal and plan if to meet some of those instead of saying no, tell us how to make it better. You've heard from the tax department more staff alone will not do it. We can have more staff and more staff, they still do not, that does not give us online filing, does not give us a 24 hour hotline or service or, for you to be able to do stuff from home, it does

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not give us the security and most of all it doesn't give us the data, the Federal income tax data is what we need to make sure we're going after the people who are not paying their taxes. This will not cost, if you're paying your tax like you should be, this plan will not cost you another dime. It's not an increase it allows us to collect more money without, with only the people that owe. We are leaving money uncollected and my job as Mayor is to make sure my departments have the tools they need to do their job. The Tax Department needs not just more people, the tax department needs better technology, they need better data and more efficient processes. That was not available in other places that Mr. Caplick and his department researched. So I'm happy and understand this is a first reading I'm not asking for a decision tonight, I would ask anyone who sent in that letter, you know there's some misinformation in there, we never have been with RITA before so you know, we, people, a couple comments were made when we were with RITA before we have never use RITA before the city used CCA way back in the day and we've been collecting your own tax since then. So, you know I am happy to take questions tonight, I am, we are working towards and I'm happy to have a town hall meeting, I think a town hall meeting will be productive if people are coming to listen or to share you know, their thoughts and their ideas. Simply criticizing or simply, you know, having threats because you don't, I, I understand you don't agree. I understand that, I represent 48,000 people and it's my job to make sure we have the resource, our staff have the resources and our residents have the service they need. More people than I've heard from tonight want to be able to file online, want to be secure, want to be confident that their information is secure, we cannot do that on our own. So you know, we bring this proposal forward for council's consideration, again I offer to meet individually by appointment with anyone if they would like to do that, I will you know, RITA has extended the invitation to council members who would like to come to visit, and I think there's again we'll make sure, at the end of the day it's about collecting more money so we can do the things that people really care about which is making sure our streets are safe, making sure we could pave some streets, making sure our fire department has adequate staffing all of those things we cannot do without the resources and so I will not stop looking for ways to improve it, I'm open to your suggestions if you have others if this, if this plan is not for you, let's talk about what is because that's where we'll move forward not just no, no, no. So I'll be happy to open to questions, Mr. Caplick is on, Finance Director Smith is on, and again we are working to plan a public hearing of some sort we want to make sure we understand the zoom webinar so that we do, we can allow residents to get on and participate themselves, we want to make sure then you have enough notice you know, so we're not doing that in just a day or two.

President Mancuso – Thank you.

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Thank you Madame Chair.

President Mancuso - Thank you Councilman Epps.....

Councilman Epps – Thank you Madame Chair, I just have a couple of really quick questions, Mayor Gail you mentioned in your statement that if you, if we need to hire we will rehire but considering this legislation actually says, makes mention of keeping our tax department current staffing levels, wouldn't there be a period of time or some sort of in which you had to rehire to replace that position if we pass this as is?

President Mancuso – Mayor Gail.....

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Mayor Holzheimer Gail – My point, in my commitment I to keep our local tax department and the three people that we currently have working there.

Councilman Epps – So, so then Law Director Sweeney then, can you address the fact that the legislation reads keeping our tax department at current staffing levels, if someone was to pass away, lord forbid, retire, whatever the case may be wouldn't if, if we passed this legislation as is wouldn't the Mayor or you all be required somebody to replace that position in order to keep us at current staffing levels?

President Mancuso – Director Sweeney.....

Director Sweeney – Thank you, Madame Chair to the Councilman. As I mentioned last time yes, this would keep current staffing levels and then we would revisit that every year during budget time and it also does put an obligation on council to continue to fund those three positions. If council doesn't any longer fund three positions, and they only fund two, the Mayor would be obligated to fill those two positions, if council decides to fund 4 positions we would fill 4 positions.

Councilman Epps – Okay, okay thank you and then the next question is one of the residents asked about the 3% been paid to RITA on the shared portion with the schools, will be, will we still be subject to a 3% the pay on the 3 to 3% based on the 6 million dollars that goes to the schools?

President Mancuso – Mayor Gail, or Finance, Directors, Finance Director Smith, I'm sorry Mayor.....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – You can answer that.

Director Smith – Madame Chair to the Councilman. There would be a 3, the original 3% would be withheld from their portion and they would reconcile that portion of the end of the year but that, those would, those expenses would be charged to the school, they'll pay that portion of it, not the city.

Councilman Epps – Okay,

Director Smith – That would come out of their collection not ours.

Councilman Epps – Okay, thank you and then just a quick comment and many of the residents mentioned something that I mention at every meeting that we've had and that's the fact that you know, I don't like that it's seems, like we're making an assumption that even if it's based off of data, we're making an assumption as to what each individual person that voted against RITA voted against RITA for, whatever my claims are, whatever the claims the folks were who put out literature or you know made phone calls or whatever the case may be it, it still does not go to the heart of the reason in the ballot box that the voter made the decision and you know I talked in our last committee meeting Councilwoman McIntosh suggested a survey for tree that, tree's that we were talking about planting, then I think this if we're going to suggest a survey for tree, I think this would be another way to at least go the extra mile to try to give voters the opportunity people outside of the regular folks that participate an opportunity and an opportunity to actually tell you the reason they actually voted against that it just makes this process longer and then if I'm allowed, I don't know if this is the time to be able to do this I have a \_\_\_\_\_ that actually is before we even continue any further discussion on this Madame Chair, I'd like to make a motion to amend this legislation to send this to the ballot for the voters to decide.

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President Mancuso – So you have a motion to send it to the voters by ballot.

Councilman Epps – Correct

President Mancuso – Am I understanding you correctly?

Councilman Epps – Yes

President Mancuso – Okay, thank you. Is there other discussion?

Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – I don't have any discussion at this time, but I would like to second that motion from my colleague Epps.

President Mancuso – Okay, so we have a motion and a second, to amend the legislation to send it to the public for vote by ballot. Correct. Alright, any further discussion on that motion. Seeing none. Madame Clerk would you please call the roll on amending the current legislation.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –

Yes: Gorshe, Caviness, Epps

No: Jukic, Moore, Jarosz, McIntosh, Mancuso

Motion fails.

President Mancuso – Thank you. So let's go back to the piece of legislation as it is for further discussion by my colleagues. Councilman Jarosz.....

Councilman Jarosz – Madame Chair, I think in light of the questions and, and the input that we've received tonight from residents and what the Mayor said and the ability to answer as many questions as we can I like to make a motion to send this to the E and F committee.

President Mancuso – Okay, we have a motion on the floor further discussion?

Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair, I would second that motion and I'd also like to know when we're having a zoom town hall for the residents to be able to weigh in on this as well.

President Mancuso – Okay we will deal with the motion first and then we'll get to that question, okay, alright so we have a motion and a second on the floor, any further discussion on the motion? Seeing none. Madame Clerk would you please call the role on sending this legislation to the E and F committee?

Clerk Allen – Roll call –

Yes: Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Mancuso

Motion approved to go to the Executive and Finance Committee.

President Mancuso – Thank you and now Mayor Gail did you want to address a specific town hall date or we don't have one yet for Councilwoman Gorshe?

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Right, thank you Madame Chair. We don't have a date yet and it's not because we are you know, trying to drag our feet, we want to make sure we understand the zoom webinar, we've had several vacations so we want to make sure and I think we just got access to it so we want to make sure

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we have the ability to practice, make sure we understand how to use it so we're not kicking somebody off making sure we have you know have the ability to allow people to call in video in you know get in through their computer. We also are cognizant that this is different so it will take some time we wanna give enough notice to people so I, you know, I would love to say we could do it Monday but once we figured out I don't think that's gonna have enough time to give adequate notice to the public to we will, have the, we could have the committee meeting first and announce it at that point, but as soon as we get the date set we hope to be able to practice or you know kind of do a trial run of the webinar this weekend or I mean this week the rest of the week and then hopefully have a date we can announce by the end of the week. So we'll make sure council has it, we get it out the public and again with adequate notice and the ability to give detailed instructions for people who may not be used to using Zoom or may not have the technology we want to make sure everybody has accessed. I will say you know, given that you don't have to wait for a town meeting if you have questions, if you would like to share your opinion you can do it a number of different ways you can call me, you can call your council person, you can send us an e-mail, send us a letter whatever is appropriate for you there's many ways people share their public opinion, share their opinion or get more information a town hall is one, e-mails, phone calls, come meet with me, read the information that's on the web site and look and you know look for that date of the town meeting we'll make sure it's on the website we can send about through a the e-mail blast as well.

President Mancuso – Thank you, Madame Clerk would you please read the fifth agenda item into the record.

**5. Ordinance 94-2020 (105-20) Shoreline Special Improvement District (SSID)**

An emergency ordinance to approve a petition for the creation of a Shoreline Special Improvement District and for the levy of special assessments for Shoreline Improvement Projects.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman McIntosh; seconded by Councilman Jarosz, Councilman Jarosz, sorry.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you, and we will begin with Director Holody.....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council. I believe Allison Lukacsy-Love from my staff is on the call and I'd like to ask your permission that to have her say a few brief remarks on this piece.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Ms. Lukacsy-Love.....

Mrs. Lukacsy-Love – Thank you Council President. Good evening all. So for some background on this piece of legislation, on July 8<sup>th</sup> a council committee meeting was held with special guests from ODNR and Coastal Strategies to discuss a potential Lakefront Special Improvement District or SID a virtual community meeting attended by more than 30 Lakefront property owners was later held on August 4<sup>th</sup>. The significant of a Lakefront SID is that it allows Lakefront property owners to undertake shoreline improvement projects for

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their properties and to finance shoreline improvement projects through voluntary special assessments on their property tax bill over time. The financing mechanism is optional for each property owner located within the Special Improvement District and in this case the Special Improvement District if approved by council will be the entirety of the City of Euclid Lake Erie Shoreline as well as the entirety of the Lake County Communities Shorelines. As of last week's deadline for our petitions we've received 21 petitions including from 3 Beach Club properties only one petition was required to advance this legislation to council for your review. The large response indicates to us that there is a need for financing our residents to move forward with their Lakefront projects. Our outside counsel in the SID creation reported to me that things are also moving along well with the Lake County communities, only two more communities in Lake County are needed to pass legislation this week and after that time the shorelines special improvement district will be created. Should Euclid move to approve this legislation tonight we would join the lakefront communities and lake county and to create a larger SID, and likely the first SID in this, and the first Lakefront SID in the State of Ohio. The size of the special Improvement district is important with the potential to attract large dollars, from investors and potential grants for us. There is no financial impact to the City at this time and as you'll see in the legislation, the Mayor or her designee which could include a lakefront property owner in the city may serve on the newly created SID board. This is written as an emergency as we would like to join in with the Lake County communities and make sure that the SID can be created in the month of September such that financing may be available as early as October 2020.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Discussion by my colleagues? Councilman Jarosz.....

Councilman Jarosz – Thank you Madame Chair and thank you to Ms. Lukacsy-Love for her presentation as well as the presentation that was made in our committee meeting back in July. This is an emergency tonight but frankly it's been an emergency for over a year. This is something that is very important to the Lakefront community Euclid has shown I believe great leadership in terms of securing shoreline with our Lakeshore Development or our Lakeshore Development plan and as well as measures such as this to, to make sure that we preserve the value that we do hold within our lakefront and as a lakefront community. I urge my colleagues to to pass this, this evening so can, kind of get the ball up and running. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Councilwoman McIntosh.....

Councilwoman McIntosh – Thank you Madame Chair, Councilman Jarosz you took the words out of my mouth. So thanks to him as well and I really want to applaud the administration for getting ahead of this particular issue you know, the Lake County SID, as soon as you all heard about it, you were talking with them about how we join on and I know the boardwalk you know is a, is a primary motivator for doing so as our, you know, the residents within the city and everybody who ones lakefront property within the city of Euclid. So I also wanta you know commend the residents who reached out to their council people and to the administration and really, really helped to push this along. You know, the support is just pouring out from the community and this is a really, really good thing for us moving forward and to preserve the lakefront.

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So thanks to everybody involved and I hope my colleagues support this as well. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Thank you, Councilwoman Gorshe did you have your hand up, yes?

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair. I am also in support of this, it's a long time coming I've been asking and asking and asking for it. I do have a couple questions of course no one wants to lose their bluff and it's been happening and there has been some that have already tackled this on their own out of their own pockets upfront so this is another way that they can afford to do that. How, Ms. Lukacsy-Love how would the Beach Club upset, be assess with this, so there's many members that pay dues and the ownership of property. How would each member of a Beach Club property be assessed, I know there's a larger one I believe Utopia was interested, Arcadia and others, how does that work?

President Mancuso – Ms. Lukacsy-Love.....

Ms. Lukacsy-Love – Sure, to the Council President and the Council member, that has been a frequently asked question in addition to the retroactivity which you touched upon it's ultimately going to be up to the SID board which will be a new nonprofit that's created amongst all of the communities, and the Mayor or her designee will sit on that board to decided how the assessments are handled. But it can go in one of two ways they can either be assessed on the real property that sits on the lakefront that is that private park, or it could be assessed over the properties that participate in that private park, I think that ultimately in addition being up to the SID board it will be up to the individual park structure, if you recall back to this summer we had an assessment with Luikart which is the Beach Club that participates in the Euclid Waterfront Improvement Plan and they had the option of assessing it on their park property or individually amongst the 20+ properties that participate in that park property for recreation, and chose the latter.

Councilwoman Gorshe – And a follow up question to that, so in some Beach Clubs some people pay their dues and some people don't, so would they be well of course up to the SID board, would, would they be included if they hadn't but if they paid for the last 5 years but this year they missed it, I mean there's a lot of things to really iron out and I'm always mindful about what's been going on especially without boardwalk and Council President and there's a lot tennis going on with lobbying the ball back and forth and have any of my council colleagues will have a direct benefit should they, and maybe this is Law Director Sweeney, should they recuse themselves from any vote on this legislation just as a point of order and knowing and again I am fully in support of this just looking at how we're going to make sure that their no problems with somebody having a direct benefit. Thank you very much.

President Mancuso – Director Sweeney.....

Director Sweeney – Thank you Madame Chair, I didn't bring the Ohio Ethics Opinion with me but I'm happy to share it with the councilwoman tomorrow, but this is for a project that is for the benefit for the good of the community but also this doesn't effect, this is to create a district, this is not about any individual parcels right now, there's one particular gentleman who is the, as Allison mentioned I think there's 21 or 22 people who want to be a part of this special permit district, but right now, you just have to have one parcel owner who files the petition to create this special improvement district and we are

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joining lake county and that person is not a council person he is a resident so, none of the council people should be effected with this.

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you very much.

President Mancuso – Thank you and I know there was a question earlier today, by council colleague asking about the funding Ms. Lukacsy-Love, so if there are grants that Lake County gets, is Euclid privy to those funds and if there's money that Euclid gets, is Lake County privy to those funds?

Ms. Lukacsy-Love – Certainly to the Council President. So in our agreement with Lake County should the Lake County Port Authority designate funds those funds will only be used for communities within the boundaries of Lake County. I would assume that the same would go for if the Cleveland Port Authority designated funds for this improvement it would stay within Cuyahoga County. In the future we look forward to operating, this nonprofit, the SID board that would be formed would look forward to operating as a new unit and seeking funding on its own, already there are preliminary conversations about going after a new FEMA brick grant which would be applied for being a SID and its related municipalities and therefore disbursed amongst the properties, we do have quite a few Euclid property owners who are shovel ready which means they have the full shore permit structure, the submerged land lease has been amended and they have the engineer and contractor on retainer or their work is already from the engineer perspective is already complete. So really financing is the last piece of this and for those property owners it may be there maybe funding available from private financiers such as Morgan Stanley available as early as this fall, future funding will be potentially from granters looking at a social impact investing dollars, public access is a component of this SID, but also again from the private sector this is a unique way to finance something that traditional lenders have struggled to be able to finance and the real carrot here for those financiers is that this is a guaranteed return on investment with the 30 year property tax assessment being again a tax on the property that runs with the property and not with the homeowner.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Other discussion by my colleagues? I, I would like to be, just make a comment I think it would be wonderful if our Euclidean's who have already come forward and want to be part of the SID if they see the entire council's support of this along with Mayor Gail, would you please raise your hand if you're willing to be a sponsor on this particular SID, so I have everyone, so Madame Clerk if you would add everyone's, all of Council's names to this seeing no other discussion I will ask for a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilwoman Caviness.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I will entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman McIntosh; seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Those opposed: Seeing none

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

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Clerk Allen – Roll call –

Yes: Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Mancuso

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Madame Clerk would you please read the sixth agenda item into the record.

**6. Ordinance 95-2020 (102-20) Sale of PPN 644-29-066, 23316 Williams Avenue**

An ordinance authorizing the sale of Permanent Parcel Number 644-29-066, vacant land at 23316 Williams Avenue, from the Euclid Land Bank, to Adam Metz, Property Improvement Specialist LLC, for the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) as authorized by Ordinance Nos. 98-2010 and 101-2011.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor

Yeas: Unanimous

And we will begin discussion with Director Holody.....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council. The reason for this sale is to support Mr. Metz and is a construction of one new single family house on this lot. That will be offered for sale council will recall that Mr. Metz and his company purchased four lots in 2018 in Ward 4 and they successfully sold two new homes already and on two of those lots and are proceeding on construction on the other two in this second round of applications, Mr. Metz has already been approved by council for the purchase of two additional lots and this will be the third. Those two additional lots included one on Williams Avenue which is just immediately adjacent to this lot that we're asking for your approval for this evening. So with these two lots right next to each other and the construction of two new houses, we expect there to be a very significant impact on this street, these, these properties do still have to be presented to the architectural review board for final approval of the design and style of the home, but as reminder our master plan strongly supports the construction of new housing and we're thrilled to see that the market is improving to the point where developers are successfully redeveloping these lots and attracting new residents to the City of Euclid. So I encourage your support this evening.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Discussion, Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair. And Director Holody we've been talking a lot lately about many different plans and projects in the works and so I'm excited that this is another project again in Ward 8, I still do want to meet with Mr. Metz and yourself when we can get that together, definitely if it's later in the afternoon it would be easier to meet but we do want to talk about the esthetics in this area. But I hope that my colleagues do support this initiative and get the new \_\_\_\_\_ up and running as soon as feasibly possible. Director Holody, you know how to get a hold of me so let's do that sooner rather than later please.

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President Mancuso – Thank you. Other discussion? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe, seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Those opposed: Seeing none.

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Moore, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Mancuso  
No: Epps

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you Madame Clerk would you please read the seventh agenda item into the record.

**7. Ordinance 96-2020 (103-20) Sale of PPN 641-11-086, 19500 Meredith Avenue**

An ordinance authorizing the sale of Permanent Parcel Number 641-11-086, vacant land at 19500 Meredith Avenue, from the Euclid Land Bank, to Robert and Kathi Belviso for the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) as authorized by Ordinance Nos. 98-2010 and 101-2011.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Director Holody.....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council. This proposed sale was reviewed and recommended for approval by the planning and zoning commission at its meeting in August the perspective buyers the Belviso's live next door and they seek to acquire this property for yard expansion the parcel is under 5,000 square feet so the sales price is \$1.00 in accordance with the guidelines of the land bank program and there is a requirement that the buyers consolidate this lot into their primary residence parcel and that is included in the legislation this evening. I believe that the applicants are on the call and available to answer any questions that you may have and I encourage your approval of this item this evening.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Would you like to suspend the rules and bring Mr. & Mrs. Belviso on? Anybody want to suspend the rules.

Councilman Jarosz – you know Madame.....

President Mancuso – Yes, Councilman.....

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Councilman Jarosz – Madame Chair, this is a Ward 4 property, it is not necessarily a buildable lot, we encourage yard expansion for adjacent neighbors and God Bless the Belviso’s for waiting this long, but I don’t know if there’s necessarily a whole lot of questions or that they need to go through, I hope my colleagues would just support this and, and move forward.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Other discussion? Seeing none. I’ll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Jarosz, seconded by Councilman Epps.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I’ll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Jarosz; seconded by Councilwoman Caviness.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any opposed: Seeing none.

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Mancuso

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – And congratulations to the Belviso’s. Thank you very much, Madame Clerk would you please read the eighth agenda item into the record.

**8. Ordinance 97-2020 (104-20) Sale of PPN 644-22-009 AND 010, 238 EAST 238<sup>th</sup> Street**

An ordinance authorizing the sale of Permanent Parcel Numbers 644-22-009 & 010, vacant land at 238 East 238<sup>th</sup> Street, from the Euclid Land Bank, to William and Michelle Abram for the amount of One Dollar (\$1.00) for each parcel, as authorized by Ordinance Nos. 98-2010 and 101-2011

President Mancuso – Thank you. I’ll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we will move to Director Holody once again.....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council. This proposed sale was also reviewed and recommended for approval by the planning and zoning commission at their last meeting. Mr. and Mrs. Abram are currently Euclid residences and they’re seeking to buy these lots to build a new single family ranch style home that they can move into and live in for many, many years to come. There will be a requirement that they consolidate these lots as part of the building process it will also be required to go to architecture review board, before they can begin construction but in general I think this is a very exciting project, it’s always great to see a new Euclid residence build new homes and stay here in the City of Euclid and I definitely encourage your support, your support this evening I believe that the couple

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may be available here to answer any questions that you may have. And I'd be happy to answer any as well.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Discussion by my colleagues. Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness – Thank you Madame Chair. To Director Holody, do we know if the Abrams have already consolidated the 09 and 10 because when I went on the, the County site can you hear me, I'm sorry, when I went on the County site it indicated that 10 was already consolidated into 9 I don't know if that was just in preparation for it, or, or what? Do you know anything about that?

President Mancuso – Director Holody.....

Director Holody – Madame Chair to the councilwoman. What you maybe referring to is the parcels maybe consolidated for tax purposes which is a process that the auditor's office occasionally does but in this case my understanding is the parcels have not been fully consolidated and that, that will still have to happen once the Abrams take title to the property.

Councilwoman Caviness – Okay, I just wanted to make sure that it was not done yet because then we have might have to amend the legislation, and my next question would be do we have to amend the legislation, thank you.

President Mancuso – Thankyou. Other discussion? Does anybody want to suspend the rules to hear from the Abrams? Or can we proceed? Okay, hearing no further discussion. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Epps, seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll also entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman McIntosh; seconded by Councilwoman Gorshe.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any opposed: Seeing none

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Mancuso

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Abrams looking forward to seeing a wonderful home on that property. Madame Clerk would you please read the ninth agenda item into the record.

**9. Resolution 98-2020 (107-20) Euclid Community Reinvestment Area E**

A resolution amending “Euclid Community Reinvestment Area E” to permit real property tax abatement of commercial and industrial structures thereby supporting increased economic development activity in the district.

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President Mancuso – I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe; seconded by Councilman Moore.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we will go once again to Director Holody .....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair, members of council. The need for this legislation came to our attention in some discussions with the developer that's considering a very exciting project in Ward 6 and what we heard was that property tax abatement would really help him move forward with this project given the significant investment that he's looking to make, and when we looked at the district that he was located in CRAE we found that commercial and industrial tax abatement was not provided in that district. So we reached out the State and had a conversation with them. CRAE is probably our largest district of the CRA districts is was created in 1992 but it's been amended many times, so it's what we consider a post 1994 CRAE area, what we're proposing tonight is that the district be amended to be able to provide up to 50% tax abatement for new construction or remodeling of commercial and industrial properties for up to 10 years. Now because this a post 1994 CRA any actual abatement will have to come back to council and be approved on a case by case basis, but this is the first step that's needed in order to be able to consider those types of assistances to developers in this area, I'll mention that the district includes areas on 200<sup>th</sup> Street, East 222<sup>nd</sup> Street, parts of Lakeshore Boulevard and most of the Southern side of Euclid Avenue. So some areas that we're really trying to support increase investment and economic activity. Procedurally if council approves this this evening we have to put a notice in the paper and then submit the actual application to the State of Ohio for their approval and then as mentioned come back to council for approval on a case by case basis of any abatement that we'd like to grant under this. But happy to answer any questions that you have this evening and I appreciate your consideration of this new tool that we're trying to add to our programs here.

President Mancuso – Thank you, discussion by my colleagues? Councilwoman Gorshe.....

Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you very much Madame Chair and Director Holody, this is in Ward 8, unless they redid the boundaries but it's, it's getting late so I did meet with the business owner who did purchase a property in Ward 8 and went and spent quite a bit of time as the Mayor and the Director did reviewing the business plan and his dreams and desires for this area, and so I would just like to read to you somethings that he provided for us he was not able to make it this evening but so, there will be, if this E goes through which I suggest and really hope that my colleagues will support me on so we can continue to highlight Euclid in a positive way, using this tool to energize the entire area with this new guiding option that's going to be coming in play. So there, proposing to develop a property into an upscale chef inspired boutique/restaurant with el fresco dinning and a garden like courtyard patio. The fresh kitchen will feature locally sourced product partnering with provayers who offer the highest quality product in the industry. The menu, menu items will be paired with \_\_\_\_\_ recommend wine or craft cocktail Vegan and gluten free items will be available to all guests. Our focus will be on the dining experience as a whole. We will be targeting couples and small intimate groups as well as individuals looking for a unique dining experience.

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And here's where it really gets when it really gets good, our projected impact on the city will not only be the beautification of the property but our business plan is to have 8 to 12 full time employees and 4 to 6 part time employees.

Projected sales based upon our first years at our other entities is approximately \$600,000. We've submitted plans to take part in the storefront renovations program as we have at all of my locations. We plan on being a partner in the community and supporting local organizations, first responders, local school programs, educators, City Hall and the Chamber of Commerce. Thank you for your continued support with this project and let me know if you need anything further for the upcoming hearings. So seeing this project come into play and see it through fruition will be fantastic later on this evening I will be forwarding out this entities business plan for you to review, if, if I can make it work I'll do it on my phone, but this community reinvestment area is just the injection of new life that we need to really bring Euclid up and have another dining option and give them an opportunity. The investment that this gentlemen and his business are making is upwards of hundreds of thousands of dollars. So I will appreciate all of your support this evening in supporting this business owner. Thank you very much.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Other discussion? Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness – Thank you Madame Chair. I would like to have my name added to this and I would ask for my colleagues on the south side because the CREAE includes all of Wards 1, 2 and well the majority of wards 1 and a portion of two and some of 3 as well and that I'm very excited about this because I think that the existing businesses would benefit, I know of some right now who have begun some reconstruction and, and improvements in there, on their property and, and to that question to Director Holody, since they have begun this process can they still benefit from this program?

President Mancuso – Director Holody.....

Director Holody – Yeah, they would, they would not be able to submit the improvements that they've already started, but I would encourage them to contact our offices as soon as possible so we can see if there's any additional improvements that they have planned that they could get in the pipeline for the program.

Councilwoman Caviness – Okay. Thank you so much. Thanks.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Other discussion? Councilman Jarosz.....

Councilman Jarosz – Thank you Madame Chair. I'd like to just see if all my colleagues also like to sponsor this legislation, I know the, I know the developer well and we've showed him several sites throughout the city and I'm glad that he's found one very conducive to his needs and, and definitely look forward for a continued presents here in our community and hopefully as one becomes successful another one pops up and we just keep expanding and we can take advantage of this throughout the city.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Can I see a show of hands would all of Council like to put their names on this. Madame Clerk could you take care of that please. So it would be sponsored by all of council. Thank you, any other discussion. Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Jarosz, seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor

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Yeas: Unanimous

Madame Clerk please call the roll on this resolution.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –

Yes: McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, Mancuso

Resolution Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you, Madame Clerk please read the tenth agenda item into the record.

**10. Ordinance 99-2020 (93-20) Update to Codified Ordinances**

An emergency ordinance to approve the editing and inclusion of certain ordinances and resolutions as parts of the various component codes of the codified ordinances; to provide for the adoption and publication of new matter in the updated and revised codified ordinances; and to repeal ordinances and resolutions in conflict therewith.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor

Yeas: Unanimous

And we will go to Director Sweeney to begin discussion.....

Director Sweeney – Thank you Madame Chair. We updated our paper and online code, we now do it every year, just because it's easier than every two years and we want to make sure that we're updated online especially for the folks at home that want to look up our code, so now every year AM Legal gives us a summation of all of the ordinances that have been amended or repealed or, or new pieces and gives us a list and council just approves this, just a housekeeping matter, but I'm happy to answer any other questions you might have.

President Mancuso – Thank you. And I will say this is one of councils goals to make sure that we are reviewing, updating or deleting ordinances so that they stay in mainline practice of what we're seeing on day to day. So any other discussion on this? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Moore, seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor

Yeas: Unanimous

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilwoman Gorshe.

All in favor

Yeas: Unanimous

Any opposed: Seeing none.

Madame Clerk would you please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –

Yes: Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Mancuso

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Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you, Madame Clerk please read the eleventh agenda item into the record.

**11. Ordinance 100-2020 (98-20) Amend Ordinance 45-2019**

An emergency ordinance to amend Ordinance No. 45-2019, passed by Council on May 6, 2019, in order to change the local fund from which the project is paid from the Waterline Replacement Fund to the Peterson Fund.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic; seconded by Councilman Moore.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we will go again to Director Sweeney.....

Director Holody – Thank you Madame Chair. This is just another housekeeping matter, council passed this piece back on May 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 ordinance 45 – 2019 and the wrong fund was listed in order for this project to paid from, we would like to change that from waterline replacement fund to the Peterson fund, please.

President Mancuso – Okay, discussion from my colleagues. Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilwoman McIntosh, seconded by Councilwoman Gorshe.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

I'll entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forgo the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Moore; seconded by Councilwoman Gorshe.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous  
Any opposed: seeing none.

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Gorshe, Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Mancuso

Ordinance Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you, Madame Clerk would you please read the twelfth agenda item into the record.

**12. Resolution 101-2020 (86-20) Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education**

A resolution announcing September to be “Prostate Cancer Awareness and Education” month and recognizing ZERO – The End of Prostate Cancer, a national nonprofit with the mission to end prostate cancer.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic; seconded by Councilwoman Caviness.

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All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you and Mayor Gail.....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Thank you Madame Chair. This is a ceremonial resolution, just wanting to do recognize September as prostate cancer awareness and education month and also recognizing zero which is a nonprofit with the mission to end prostate cancer. I won't read the full ordinance but just or resolution but a couple of facts for those who may be watching, prostate cancer is the second leading cause of cancer death in American men, only behind lung cancer. Men with relatives such as your father, brother, son who have a history of prostate cancer are twice as likely to develop the disease. One in, one in nine men are diagnosed with prostate cancer in his lifetime and African American men are at higher risk for the disease and a ratio of one in six, which is 2.2 times more likely and 2.2 times more likely to die from the decease. Prostate cancer screenings work to help identify early and that makes a difference so we just want to encourage, all of the men out there get your regular screenings, learn about the disease, educate yourself, talk to your doctor about it and to get screening for prostate cancer. So Madame Chair I appreciate council's support and encourage all of our residents to learn more and take the necessary precautions.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Discussion by my council colleagues? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe, seconded by Councilman Moore, sorry.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Madame Clerk please call the roll on the resolution.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Caviness, Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Mancuso

Resolution Passes.

President Mancuso – Thank you Madame Clerk please read the final agenda item into the record.

**13. Resolution 102-2020 (099-20) Welcoming Week**

A resolution recognizing the national event of Welcoming Week, September 11-September 18, 2020.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic; seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

And we will go again to Mayor Gail .....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Thank you Madame Chair. This is another ceremonial resolution council passed it last year I believe as well recognizing welcoming week, which this year is September 11 through September 18. This

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is an event Global Cleveland puts together every year and it actually is welcoming week but the activities go for the full month. Really recognizing and bringing the community together to build strong connections with each other really highlighting the benefits that we, that the City of Cleveland, our communities have received from welcoming immigrants, refugees, newcomers to the area. We all know it's added a much richness to our communities and this really celebrations and welcomes their contributions and really builds awareness, from a larger scale to, that Cleveland is a welcoming city so that we can continue to grow and build a strong diverse community, for those who would like more information GlobalCleveland.com or I'm sorry globalCleveland.org has a list many of the activities this year are being held virtually, there's a lot of programs available on there as well as, proclamations that many of the other cities around us have passed. So would appreciate your support.

President Mancuso – Thank you, discussion by my colleagues? Seeing none. I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilwoman Gorshe, seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Madame Clerk would you please call the roll on the resolution.

Clerk Allen – Roll call –  
Yes: Moore, Epps, Jarosz, McIntosh, Jukic, Gorshe, Caviness, and Mancuso

Resolution Passes.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE – PUBLIC PORTION**

President Mancuso – Thank you very much, we now come to the public portion of the Committee of the Whole and at this point anyone wishing to provide comments about any matter for the good of the city was able to mail to the, e-mail to the Council Clerk no later than the beginning of the discussion of the last item on the agenda. All commentaries need to include the name and address with questions or comments if the name and address are not included those questions or comments will not be read. All questions and comments are limited to five minutes per our ordinance 121.18 and I will turn it over to our Council Clerk to read into the record that commentary.

Clerk Allen – Thank you. The first came in today at 12:53 p.m. September 8<sup>th</sup> from Audrey and Victor Goodman, 20201 Glen Russ Lane. Good Evening Everyone. At the last E&F meeting, we watched one of the greatest hypocrisies in the City of Euclid's history. First, the Mayor took the hot potato and immediately threw it to the Council President. The Council President not wanting to touch the hot potato, immediately passed it and it eventually wound up on the desk of the administrator of the tax department. It is obvious that the Mayor and the Council President actually believe that their passing of the hot potato eliminates their liability. It does not! Now the hot potato as we all know is RITA. If this council does in fact vote out the vote that the people resoundingly already have made abundantly clear, that they wanted 100% no part of RITA, then those same voters will be forced to vote out one way or another those same elected officials that ignored their vote. Even if the redress of the people fails, the stain upon those elected officials will never fade out. It is sad to us that there is such utter contempt for the will of the people. Isn't it

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ironic that if there had been a viable alternate choice for the Mayor, perhaps she would not be sitting in her chair today? When we hear certain members of Council now say that the tax administrator is now in favor of partnering with RITA and so they lean toward his expert opinion to join them, they are the same council members who ignored his reasoning's for not joining at the time of the vote. With the fact that already the administration has bare boned the existing tax department, there is little doubt that RITA will enter into our City unless the Mayor and Council are willing to staff it properly. Mayor, Council President and Members of Council, can this City afford a second Hillandale disaster?

Clerk Allen – The next comes in from Jeffrey Beck at 25540 Chatworth Drive, came in this afternoon September 8<sup>th</sup> at 1:26 p.m. Council President Mancuso. The advent of these Zoom meetings has stifled public comment. No longer can we attend a meeting and speak on matters pertaining to the city. Now we have to submit emails and have them in no later than 6PM on the day of the meeting. You are attempting to use the same rules as if we are in person when we are not. It's like fitting a square peg into a round hole. ORD 121.18 allows for the public to speak up to 5 minutes on legislative matters appearing before the council. This is fine when you are delivering your comments in person but when they are read by someone else at a different pace it could go over 5 minutes. So the rule cannot be fairly enforced. The same goes for what could be considered inappropriate comments. These are outlined in ORD 121.18. When comments are delivered in person and a comment violates the rules you have every right to interrupt the speaker letting them know the violation and telling them to move on to finish their comments. This cannot be done under the present scenario. I bring this up because there are many angry residents out there concerning RITA who may write a letter to be read tonight. Many don't know the rules. You can state them before the comments are read but they aren't there to react. What they wrote is already turned in. So reading the rules under this electronic meeting is useless. Per the policy if someone gets "out of line" please announce that to Barbara so she can move on. Do not throw out the letter or if you get advanced copies do not tell Barbara to disregard it. All letters submitted must be read unedited. To not do so is not only a violation of ORD 121.18 but also a violation of the first amendment right to free speech. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Thank you and this I received this also earlier and all of my council members have my response and for the benefit of the residents who didn't receive that response by e-mail I will read to you what I wrote to Mr. Beck. Jeff, while I fully understand the limitations of "zoom" meetings and how one could conjure up Zoom limitations as some type of attempt to limit comment, you and I both know that the City is complying with current, safe, consistent processes for the public participation. It is just a forum we are not used to and therefore don't like or want to use. I am, at this point in time, working to make the "zoom" process for Council members and residents which seems cumbersome, less so. The City administration has been researching more direct avenues for folks to be able to convey to the Council and Administration their thoughts, and be able to ask their own questions. (I work with the limitations of safe zoom meetings in other areas of my professional career so I do understand.) I have been very cognizant of the five (5) minute rule and have stretched it when there is only one or two sentences left to be stated. I have also been more than lenient on folks who would have been called out of order as I truly understand the difficulty this manner of participation brings. I am not sure where you are getting the idea that any letters have been or will be "thrown out". That's false. The Council Clerk tries diligently to make sure all the necessary information is included so the writer

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can be assured that comments or questions are heard. I have also been receiving commentary asking me to more fully adhere to the five minute rule as some folks believe some “repeat writers just drone on” with no real purpose that is of “benefit to the Council discussion or community”, and believe if they can put their comments into a five (5) minute letter, others should do the same. I do appreciate your reaching out for clarification and please know City Council understands its responsibility and takes it seriously. Thank you for letting me respond, please continue Council Clerk Allen.

Clerk Allen – The next one came in from Maureen Sander of 23681 Greenwood Road, came in today September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2020 at 2:14 p.m. I would like to have a update on what is going on with PLA MOR. This business has been a nuisance to resident and also to businesses. Many residents have sent emails expressing the concerns of the violence, destruction of property, businesses having to close due to issues carrying over after events at PLA Mor. No updates at council meetings or out to the residents. Communication again is terrible from this administration. One thing that needs to be done and has been a concern for years with this administration. In conjunction with this what are our curfew laws and why are we not enforcing them? They are a lot of juveniles out late wandering the streets when they should be home. These parents/guardians and juveniles need to be fined and have consequences. The ones on the street are up to no good. The police know most of these people by name this is sad. With virtual learning are these curfews of juveniles during the day? I am just asking because I heard there was and I had never heard of that. This administration was so worried about passing RITA that the voters voted against and the board walk. The administration sure figured out ways to get money to build the board walk. I wish you would put as much effort in the Crime, safety and the absent landlords. What is the status of our apartment’s buildings and the crime and calls to the police department for these apartments? I am not saying all renters are not good residents but we have nuisance laws for houses. Are there nuisance laws for the apartments and rented house that are being enforces? With the amount of issues I would think that would be a good deal of money the City could be receiving for tickets/fines issued to these. We need to clean our City up of these residents that are the cause of our crimes. Wish we could go back to the years of Judge Niccum when people avoided our City because they didn’t want to face the consequences with Judge Niccum. I want to thank our first responders for everything they do. This is one of Euclid’s best assets. They are the best and I think about them daily and hope for their safety everyday so they return home safely. We have the best location in this City to access freeways and we have a hospital and the greatest first responders. Now is the time to work together to figure out how we can get property taxes collected from the County on properties that are way past due, fix the issues with absent landlords, help our business get customers and make our City safer. We the residents are here to do whatever we can. Now the administration has to start communication and listening to the residents and telling them what they can do to turn things back into a great City before we lose more of our best residents that care. Communication does not cost money and it a phone call away or email. Residents should not have to search websites to find updates. What does a rob calls cost the City? Either the mayor or the City Council should be updating people on things going on in the City such as council meetings and how they are being handled.

President Mancuso – Is that is, do you have more, do you want to respond?  
Mayor Gail.....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Sure there were a couple of questions there. One was curfew and I believe there’s a different curfew for your different ages so I think

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it's 12 year olds, 9:00, 12 to 15 is 10:00 and 16 and 17 is 11:00 o'clock, I'd have to check, there was daytime curfew during school time I don't know whether the online school has changed that but there used to be a curfew that during school time kids were supposed to be in, in school. I don't know that our police are, well we'll have to check to see if that is, if there's anything change because so many people are online. In terms of Pla-Mor I have provided updates at the council meeting, and I am not aware that are big issues over the last several weekends, early on yes there were and changes were made, Mr. Sanders is no longer hosting youth events, and the activities that are happening there, I don't believe we've had I will double check with the police tomorrow to see if there had been additional incidents, Director Sweeney may know but usually they make me aware of that if there was something over the weekend. They have been fined for nuisance, through our nuisance abatement ordinance, they also are in prosecution for building code violations, so we are working with, Mr. Sanders and Pla-Mor to make sure that the issues at Pla-Mor have been addressed and I'm, I'm not aware that over the last month since some of those things have been put in place that his is still operating it is his business, he has the right to operate, the problem is if there's negative impact on the neighbors around it and so I would encourage people to let us know if it's, if their experiencing issues I will double check with Captain Cutwright tomorrow to see if there had been additional police responses that have been necessary, am I forgetting some questions there were more comments than questions but I'll leave it there.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Next commentary, please.....

Clerk Allen – Thank you from Rose M. Allen, 26241 Lake Shore Boulevard. Arrived today September 8<sup>th</sup> at 2:14 p.m. I hope that all of you had an enjoyable summer and unofficial end to summer on Labor Day. Now as we move forward towards fall, I anticipate the beautiful days of fall. With fall, will come fewer hours of daylight and more early morning and late afternoon darkness. As I have had previously, I still have questions about safety for people especially children crossing streets, now that some schools have started in person classes. The area, between East 260th and East 266th streets on Lake Shore Blvd, is still of great concern to me. People existing RTA buses near East 262nd street still cross there, at times into with oncoming traffic on Lake Shore Blvd. In addition there is still no crosswalk on the east side of 260th at Lake Shore Blvd. Having a cross walk there could avoid pedestrians being at risk of being struck by vehicles. My own experience of being struck, at East 260th and Lake Shore Blvd, by a vehicle in the early hours of Labor Day just reminds of the lack of a cross walk there. Although I survived the accident without major injuries, I am even more motivated to continue to request a pedestrian crosswalk at that location. I have previously requested the information about the grant that DID NOT include the area on Lake Shore Blvd in front of The Vista Towers. Knowing that the other high rise apartments on Lake Shore Blvd were included and now have crosswalks that allow people to safely cross Lake Shore Blvd. Again, I am requesting information about what will be needed to have similar or even much simpler cross walks for Lake Shore Blvd between East 260th and 266th streets. Please do not ignore this request again. My recent accident will keep me asking about crosswalk qualifications until I receive the information that I have requested. Thank you and good night.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Mayor Gail did you want to respond to that?

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Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Sure, I know that Director Knecht has shared that with Ms. Allen in the past, 260<sup>th</sup> is a particularly difficult intersection because it's not only where 260<sup>th</sup> comes into Lake Shore, but if you can envision it there are driveways and regular on both sides of the street and on both North and South of the street which made it very difficult for a crosswalk to be implemented there safely. So I will ask Director Knecht to share that with Ms. Allen again, I know that we did have our engineers look at it, the grant that she was speaking of is the Safe Routes to School and there are guidelines that have to be followed from ODOT, Ohio Department of Transportation to safely put crosswalks in, we cannot put a crosswalk in where it cannot be safely maintained so but I will have Director Knecht share that information with Ms. Allen once again.

President Mancuso – Thank you. Council Clerk.....

Clerk Allen – Thank you, I have one more. Alisa Boles, Attorney and resident, 35 East 202 Street. Came in this afternoon September 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:59 p.m. In general, I am pleased to announce that I have launched a new website: [EUCLIDDIGEST.COM](http://EUCLIDDIGEST.COM). The mission of Euclid Digest is to provide well-researched information and commentary about affairs affecting the citizens of Euclid. Topics include Council issues, History, Parks, Trails and Election info. Check out the content now available and watch for more to come. If you are interested in being a guest writer, visit the "Contribute" page. She later wrote in she has at 9:20 during the meeting. One of the Mayor's responses to public outcry was that the referendum wasn't a vote for RITA or NO RITA, it was instead a vote for or against that particular legislation. There is NO DISTINCTION here. The ordinance was also exclusively about RITA! Here is the exact language of the referendum: "Shall Ordinance No. 13-2019 of the City of Euclid authorizing the Mayor of the City of Euclid to enter into an agreement with a Regional Council of Governments with the Regional Income Tax Authority (RITA) for the administration of the income tax laws of the City of Euclid and for the collections of said taxes be approved?" Ordinance No. 13-2019 reads in relevant part: ". . . be it ordained . . . (t)hat the Mayor be and is hereby authorized to enter into an agreement with . . . RITA for the administration of income tax laws of the City of Euclid and for the collections of said taxes. . . ." With all due respect, what big difference does the Mayor see there? Unlike the Mayor's contention, the referendum was INDEED simply about RITA on paper. It was not fair to suggest the public is being inaccurate. Taxes are complicated enough for folks without all of this extra. If the Mayor wants buy-in, she cannot ignore this. Please let's just talk numbers now. The Mayor sent me some information today and I will review. Thank you, Council, for not rushing this through tonight. Alisa Boles.

Clerk Allen – And Council President that was the last one that I've received today.

### **COUNCILMAN'S COMMENTS**

President Mancuso – Okay, thank you. Alright we will now move on to Councilman's Comments and tonight it was to be Councilman Wojtila, so we're going to move on to Councilwoman Jukic as our first commentary tonight.

Councilwoman Jukic – I have no comments this evening. Thank you.

President Mancuso – Okay, thank you and then we will move on to Councilwoman Gorshe.....

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Councilwoman Gorshe – Thank you Madame Chair. I wanted to mention with the changing of the time and that it's darker earlier and not later, in the morning as you get up to read your paper your waiting until 7 or after, that this Friday is going to be September 11<sup>th</sup>, as all of us know exactly what that is and where we were at 9:46 am when that first plane hit our World Trade Center. So I just want to remind everybody that September 11<sup>th</sup> is Patriots Day and a National Day of Service and remembrance. On this day Americans across the country are called to volunteer for their local communities and contribute to the individuals lost and injured in the attack first responders and many who have risen in service to defend freedom, so please take a moment at 8:46 on Friday to reflect how our world definitely changed that day and also remember how everybody came together, now we're in another catastrophe of COVID and so my next thing is that the American Legion 343 is and hate to say it, looking to have the community donate for our Toys for Tots drive and yes it's coming, it's not too soon to start thinking about those children who maybe have lost a lot due to COVID or families have not the income that they would and that there is a definite need to give some joy to children to our community so they'll be collecting for the program again and there's a collection box, at the Legion in the basement or if anybody would like to donate I would be more than happy to come and pick those up and put them in the box for you so that we can take care of Euclid's children. \_\_\_\_\_ speaking about Euclid's children, there is going to be the Euclid Lacrosse, Euclid, Euclid Lacrosse again their a group of people wanting to offer another of course opportunity for our youth, they're going to have Lacrosse Day, Sunday, September 27<sup>th</sup> but don't worry it's be after the football game it's from 4:30 to 6:00 for boys in 5<sup>th</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> grade, you don't have to be a Euclid resident if you have friends, neighbors, cousins, bring them, bring them there to the field at Euclid High School. So if you want to just explore and see if that's for you and you know a young person who maybe a different sport, they want to try something different or between seasons of their sports, you can reach out to Euclid Youth Lacrosse all one word, at e-mail.com for information you'll see it on our webpage and you should be getting an e-mail you can share with your constituency just another option for our youth to get involved in team, being part of team so thank you very much and Madame Chair, that's all I have this evening. Goodnight.

President Mancuso – Thank you, and we will now go to Councilwoman Caviness.....

Councilwoman Caviness – Okay, thank you Madame Chair. The Results are in the deer survey was, ended on August 31st and we have, I want to thank everyone who participated in this survey as a result we are going to have a public safety committee meeting on September 16<sup>th</sup> at 6:30 PM via Zoom. Along with us we will be joined by the ODNR representative, Mr. Jeff Westerfield. So we will review those surveys, the results of the survey and then go to our next step from there. I'd also like to mentioned that there is a Euclid concerned group that will be holding voter registration at the Indian Hills Plaza on East 1961<sup>st</sup> and Euclid Avenue every Saturday in September. So they'll begin on the 12<sup>th</sup> and then on the 19<sup>th</sup> and the 26<sup>th</sup> of September from 9:00 AM to noon more information will follow but the, we will anticipate them being there on the 12th at 9:00 a.m. and I'd like to end with sending out condolences to the family of Lee Bauch, I know that he was one of the first persons I met when I was first appointed to City Council it is a very kind man and a very

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knowledgeable man and my prayers go out to them and that is all for this evening Madame Chair. Have a good evening everyone.

President Mancuso – Thank you – Councilman Moore.....

Councilman Moore – Thank you Madame Chair. To council to the administration and to all the Euclid residents that are watching, first I want to extend my thanks for the condolences for those of you who shared in regards to my Grandmother Mildred Marshall who passed away on August 18<sup>th</sup>. I have to tell you that COVID is real, we need to practice wearing masks, social distancing and washing our hands. Unfortunately on August 2<sup>nd</sup> I got a phone call that she was ill, she had been in a nursing home for the last 5 years, 85 years old, from the second I got the phone call she was ill, on the 7<sup>th</sup> she went to the hospital, on the 10<sup>th</sup> she was put on a ventilator on the 17<sup>th</sup> unfortunately we had to make the decision to remove her, and she passed away on the 18<sup>th</sup>. So unfortunately COVID made it into a nursing home in which she was locked down and she did not make it, so COVID is real, let's be careful, let's practice our social distancing and wearing the mask and again, thank you all for expressing your condolences. That's all.

President Mancuso – Thank you sir. Councilman Epps.....

Councilman Epps – Thank you Madame Chair. I just want to say to residents of Ward 3, we've still been working out the kinks of this communication issue, I appreciate Barb Allen, our Council Clerk for forwarding e-mails and calls that she receives that is still and okay way to communicate as well as my city e-mail at [MEpps@cityofeuclid.com](mailto:MEpps@cityofeuclid.com) please reach out to me there and also I want to just end with some comments about the RITA issue. I'm glad that we the motion was made or the suggestion to move it by my colleague Councilman Jarosz to move it to E and F, it's an appropriate place to discuss it for right now and I look forward to that discussion, I personally think and Madame Chair not telling you what to do at all but it would be nice if we have the public meeting with the public prior to that E and F meeting, I just think it's important that we hear from the folks before we go into the same Executive conversation that we've had prior as you guys have already acknowledged. It's time to hear from the folks and so all efforts need to be into doing just that, I was, I was a little disappointed tonight to see so many of my colleagues not support sending this back to the ballot, but I totally understand that you know we all make decisions the way that we make them and I get that, I, just was hoping that that was something that the folks were going to support, I want everyone to just know that I support the, I understand the, the collaboration and the presentation that is being submitted to us now with keeping our tax department as well as having RITA my biggest issue with this is that we the folks this was a particular issue that folks did decide, we don't take every issue to voters, we don't take every issue to the ballot and we should not and I understand that. That's why the voters vote for us to be here but this particular issue was already taken to the voters and if we're going comeback in less than a year and submit the exact same plan, with the exact same contract with just keeping our tax department for now as long as council keeps funding it, you know, it's just imperative that we go back to the voters again. I mean as many outreach, as many ways of outreach as we possibly can. The survey that was suggested by Councilwoman Mancuso, or Councilwoman McIntosh, surveying residents to get resident input before we make decisions, that's another way that we can do that as well as what was suggested by the Mayor and Council President immediately that we would have some type of forum for

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folks and that was cancelled and now we don't know when the dates are going to come about to do so. We just need to reach out to the folks in every way that we can and if we're not going to send this to the ballot, I can never in good faith support us moving forward, any type of collaboration or any type of situation with RITA, without hearing from the people again, if the proposal is different if the proposal is new give the folks an opportunity and educate the voters and give the folks an opportunity to weigh in on that new plan. And so I just want to make clear to folks that I stand with you with this issue, it is, and I also want to implore everyone to continue to push with the Council President about getting these meetings back open in Council Chambers, whether it be in Council Chambers or open the meetings up for residents to have input. We have great active folks in our community and we gotta make sure that we all was included. Thank you. Goodnight.

President Mancuso – Thank you sir. And we will now move onto Councilman Jarosz.....

Councilman Jarosz – Thank you Madame Chair. First condolences to the Bauch family as well as the Moore family. You know obviously between COVID and, and everything that's going on 2020 is one we'll happily look back in the rearview mirror on as we move forward. Just want to kind of comment on the Zoom meetings too, it was interesting this week I had a chance to talk to a Euclid School District Teacher and they went back and she was teaching via Zoom meeting and she goes well we had a little helpful tutorial so the short tutorial was 90 pages and what was interesting from her perspective was how much things can be manipulated by people in the green room, in the waiting room and it was just, it was just a real learning experience so I hope as we move forward we definitely want to make this anything we do as transparent as possible, and, and we always know, you're never gonna please everyone but as long as things are consistent and fair, as we move forward I, you know, I, I think for the folks who are concerned about this, you know, it's just not as easy as flipping a switch then everything's fine, there's a lot to it and my eyes are really open this weekend talking to a teach who just had frankly chaos in her class room because kids were able to even change other people's names which is, which is just kind of interesting so there always trying to work this out and, and figure it out as we move forward. Again as RITA, you know we will have this in committee and we will very likely go all three readings before any decisions are made and I encourage anybody for more, forward who has a real question, who wants a real discussion and wants to understand this issue please reach out to me. You know I, I've literally received zero correspondence from anybody in my Ward, about wanting to understand this issue and frankly even last year when this was discussed I might have received 1 or 2. You know, there's so anybody who is interested in having a discussion, anybody wants to understand my perspective and we move forward, please feel free to reach out and, and you know I'm happy to engage anybody that honest discussion of the issue and the facts of that issue. And then last for the Mayor it's a bit early but any idea about what's going on with Halloween this year? If you know and maybe too early but you know people are planning and they're already selling candy at Drug Mart so. I need to know.

President Mancuso – Mayor Gail.....

Mayor Holzheimer Gail – Thank you, it's funny we just spoke about this at directors meeting today because we did have a resident reach out and suggest or recommend that the city look to provide something in lieu of door to door

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trick or treating. So we began a discussion today we're going to be, I have not heard from other cities how they are approaching it, as we do with everything COVID related we will follow CDC, the Board of health guidelines, and as soon as we have you now, as we, we have not made a decision. So I, but we did begin to discuss it today, so. Open to feedback for sure, and we'll keep you, keep you posted.

Councilman Jarosz – Thank you.

President Mancuso – And then we'll move on to Councilwoman McIntosh please.....

Councilwoman McIntosh – Thank you Madame Chair. Thanks to all who have joined us this evening, in October I believe of last year we formally recognized Domestic Violence Task Force here in Euclid and I have not been keeping posted as well as I should have COVID put a little bit damper in our meeting schedule but I am happy to announce that we have some outreach going out community groups and social service organizations so that's in partnership with the domestic violence and child advocacy center we do have a task force member, Victoria Grant, she is our community rep for that organization and she's often here in the community working with the police department and the administration. So I just wanted to let any Church organizations, faith based organizations, social services organization to be on the lookout for a joint letter from the Euclid Domestic Violence Task Force and the Domestic Violence and child advocacy center regarding some training and technical assistance that the DVCAC will be soon offering and that's also has to do with a risk assessment training that the police department will be going through as well. So we're trying to get the police officers trained in how to identify you know a lethal signs of legality when it comes to domestic violence situations we all know that strangulation is one of those key, key markers of the legality and if somebodies been strangled then that's very possible that it could escalate from there so we are going to be doing our best to get that information out there about training to our police officers and then to these community members and these organizations so we put together a contact list I'm pretty sure, it's pretty throughout and we should be reaching everyone but if anybody is involve in an organization that maybe we don't know about, or doing something on their own, please reach out to me you can e-mail me, call me, [cmcintosh@cityofeuclid.com](mailto:cmcintosh@cityofeuclid.com) or 216-333-8601 and I can get you on that list or at least provide more information about it, so be on the lookout for that I believe it will be going out very soon if it's not out already. So feel free to contact me again with any questions or comments or if you'd like to join in that effort. Also want to echo Councilman Jarosz's sentiments regarding outreach for the RITA issue, I'm also happy to talk to any Ward 5 residents about the issue and my stance on it and have a constructive conversation about the facts involved and where this came from, the history and \_\_\_\_\_ see it move forward, so with that I will say, thank you and good evening.

President Mancuso – Thank you. I think we've hit everyone this evening. I will first address Councilman Epps wanting to get back into council chambers. Nobody wants to be in Council Chambers more than I, however as a RN I will tell you clearly as I possibly can and as Councilman Moore has already said, COVID is real, and right now if we were to hold a council meeting there are no fewer than eighteen of us in a room with nobody else in City Hall and I'm sure we have people on council and administration who would not be comfortable with that so as soon as it is safe we will go back to council chambers until then

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we will do what we can and we are proceeding to try to make processes better You've heard that several times tonight I am, I am committed to doing that as we have sent the RITA issue to E and F, I would like to be able to hold an E and F meeting hopefully on the week of the 14<sup>th</sup> perhaps the 17<sup>th</sup> I'm hoping that we can perhaps test a new methodology that goes along with the Zoom meetings that would allow people to more directly participate, I just need to know by a show of hands if people are available on the 17<sup>th</sup> before I go any farther, so if I can see who's available on the 17<sup>th</sup>, that's a Thursday. I know we have the 16<sup>th</sup> is Public Safety, okay so everyone appears to be available and I will check with Councilman Wojtila. On that agenda I would like to do three things, first Director Smith has asked if he can do rather than a separate Work Session, before our next council meeting if he could do our updated financials at that meeting so that would be our 1<sup>st</sup> agenda item, we did receive as your all aware at the last work session our audit management letter, if you would take that out from your notes and review the first recommendation which is about council actually either making sure that every member attends a public records session which is 3 hours long, once during their term or we designate somebody, we need to have that discussion if, if you as a group decide that you want to designate somebody, we would have that discussion and we have to have legislation as the council president I will tell you now I would rather each of you go, and take the course once a term, that's once every 4 hours, I will leave it there and we will discuss it once again so please look at the recommendation in that audit management letter that you received so you can see exactly what they're asking for and we can, that will be the second item and then our third item would be furthering the RITA discussion. That does not preclude any type of town hall or any other type of public participation but if we're going to have to do it by Zoom, I'd like us to kind of be the Ginny pigs and do it at the E and F first to see what's going on but I will leave that totally up to the Mayor if she wants to have one first I'm okay with that but right now I will hold the date of 9/17 and we will look at that to be the next E and F meeting with those three agenda items. Having said that is there, there is nothing else to come before this group, I will look for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Councilman Epps; seconded by Councilwoman Gorshe.

All in favor  
Yeas: Unanimous

Thank you, we are adjourned.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Attest:

  
Clerk of Council

  
President of Council

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