

EUCLID CITY COUNCIL MEETING

MINUTES FROM APRIL 18, 2022

This regular Council Meeting was held in Monday, April 18, 2022 at 7:00pm in the Euclid Municipal Center Council Chambers.

President Mancuso presided.

President Mancuso

0:09

Good evening and welcome to the Euclid City Council meeting on this Monday, April 18 2022. If able, please rise and join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

All with the Chambers

I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America and to the republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all. Thank you. Madam Clerk, would you call the roll?

Clerk Laboda

0:36

Caviness, here. Tolton, here. Epps.... Jarosz, here. McIntosh, here. Wojtila... Jukic, here. Steele, here. Mancuso, here.

President Mancuso

0:56

Councilman Epps just walked in. And could I have a motion to excuse Councilman Wojtila? So moved by Councilman Jarosz. Second by Councilwoman Steele. All in favor, "Aye." Thank you.

COMMUNICATIONS

We will now go to **communications** and there are **none at this time**.

COUNCIL MINUTES

Okay, and **council minutes**. **None at this time**.

ADMINISTRATIVE REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Okay, now we're down to Administrative Reports and Communications, Mayor Gail.

Mayor Gail

1:23

Good evening, Madam Chair, members of Council. Just a couple announcements to get started. I would like to start by thanking Steve the mayor of Jellybeanville for his wonderful display on Zeman Avenue. I know many have been by, but for 61 years, he has decorated his front yard for Easter and I want to thank him for his community spirit and for bringing

positive press coverage to the City of Euclid. It was nice to see his house and his display on several of the media stations and newspapers, so appreciate his hard work and his really commitment to both the neighborhood and the community. Also, would like to thank that Euclid Recreation Department and Living Waters Church who hosted an Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday. It was at Sims Park behind the Henn Mansion. It was a little bit wet, but still lots of kids who were happy and collected a lot of eggs and treats. April is recycle your computer month. Items can be dropped off at the bin at the service garage, which is located at 25200 Lakeland Boulevard. Computers are recycled by RET3 Job Corps, which is a local nonprofit. And the bins will be there through the end of the month. Just a reminder, the Big Clean is this Saturday, April 23. They, we ask that you do please register ahead of time and you can do that through the city's website. And you can show up and pick up supplies at VASJ between 9 and 10. And this is a friendly competition between Euclid and Collinwood. And I must say Collinwood won last year so let's get, double our efforts in Euclid and make sure we win, once again, although we are all winners when we help beautify our community. On Sunday, the Euclid Symphony Orchestra will play at Shore, three o'clock, and this is the Young Artists Competition Showcase. So, there are two young musicians who will be showcased at the concert. Tickets can be purchased ahead of time through the Euclid Symphony Orchestra website. Or you can purchase them at the door they're \$8 if you buy him ahead of time, \$10 At the door. Friday, April 29 is Arbor Day. We will be celebrating at six o'clock here at City Hall. This year the Shade Tree Commission chose to honor Paul Beno. Paul is our former Zoning Commissioner who passed away this year. He had long impact on the City of Euclid and specifically the Tree Canopy in the city, so very deserving. And I, would invite everyone to come out for ceremony and to plant a tree in Paul's honor, again, April, Friday, April 29th at 6pm. Saturday, April 13 Is the Lake Erie Folk Festival. That is at Shore Cultural Center. There are workshops throughout the day from one to six, those are free and there is an evening concert that starts at 7:30. There is a fee for the concert in the evening. You can get tickets at Lakeeriefolkfest.com, Or they are available the day of as well. And then the last announcement that I have tonight is this Thursday will be a joint meeting of Planning and Zoning and Architecture Review. Planning and Development and various consultants will present to work that's been happening and present plans for the Top of the Tank which is the area at Lakeshore Boulevard and East 222nd Street, above the wastewater treatment plant tank, equalization tank. The upland part of the end of the Waterfront Trail, and then the upland Sims Park expansion. So, some exciting projects. That, again, will be this Thursday, April 21 at 7pm. With that, Madam Chair, that completes our announcements this evening.

COMMITTEE DOCUMENTATION

President Mancuso

5:26

Thank you. And we will next go on to Committee Documentation. And there was an Executive and Finance Committee meeting held on April 6th. At that committee, we discussed three agenda items. One where, one was possible amendments to the Committee of the Whole definition, and to discuss possible changes to public speaking segments in order to be more efficient with our residents being able to speak earlier in the agenda. We were also discussing

the ability to contemplate changing the verbatim minutes that shall be taken for all regular and special meetings that are now in our council ordinances. We are also gonna, we've looked at other communities to see what they're doing and we may be changing that also during our discussions. And then we did a review of a recently completed salary survey. That sets job classification. And we put that part of it in the committee and part of it you will hear tonight. So, with that, I will turn it over to Councilwoman Caviness.

Councilwoman Caviness

6:30

Thank you, Madam Chair. Madam Chair, I move to receive an accept the following committee documentations. The Board of Control dated April 4th, and April 11th, 2022. And the Executive and Finance Committee held on April 6th, 2022.

President Mancuso

6:49

Thank you. I have a motion on the floor. Do I have a second? So moved by Councilman Jarosz. All in favor? "Aye". Thank you.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ONLY

And we will now go to our first committee of the whole for legislative matters only Anyone wishing to speak. Please come to the microphone. Give us your name and address and limit your comments to five minutes.

Law Director Sweeney

7:07

Madam Chair, can you please note Councilman Wojtila is here?

President Mancuso

7:17

Thank you. We did. We've got him.

Director Sweeney

Just for the record.

President Mancuso

I don't see any speakers. Okay with that we will move on to our Legislative Agenda. Madam Clerk, please read the first agenda item into the record.

LEGISLATION

Clerk Laboda

7:26

Ordinance 04-22. An emergency ordinance amending ordinance 20-2022 authorizing the Mayor of the City of Euclid to enter into a final resolution with Ohio Department of Transportation for the rehabilitation of East 185th Street

between Pawnee Avenue and Lake Erie for an additional amount not to exceed \$616,860.

President Mancuso

7:58

Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Jarosz. Seconded by Councilman Epps. All in favor, "Aye." And we will go to Director Knecht.

Service Director Knecht

8:09

Thank you, Madam Chair. When bids came in to ODOT for this project, it came in \$616,860 above what we had previously passed for payment on this project. Bids during this time with supply chain issues, and the industry trends, especially the rise in petroleum costs are what attributed to this difference. The City of Cleveland is responsible for 47.5% of that amount. So, \$293,008 is their portion of that that they will be reimbursing us for, if we decide to pass this. This project has been in the works for quite a while, as we discussed previously. As we've gone through it, he'll it's definitely a project we would like to see move forward. And I'd be happy to answer any questions that I can this evening.

President Mancuso

9:06

Thank you. Discussion by my colleagues. See, oh, Councilman Tolton, sorry.

Councilman Tolton

9:16

Thank you, Madam Chair. Just a couple of quick questions. Um, so when your legislation and, and I know this when it reads "not to exceed", and we put our bid in for not to exceed, I'm trying to formulate my question here. So, if it goes over, every time, not to exceed, you're saying we're not going to go over when we when we bid out. So, if it goes over, then we just always have to come back when there's legislation in order to amend that correct like we're doing tonight.

Service Director Knecht

Yes. That is correct.

Councilman Tolton

Okay, so just I understood that, but what make sure that you know, people at home can understand, so when you're reading that, you know, why are we going on over, we say not to exceed. And I know, Mayor, you talked about, you're getting funding from other entities. But what happens if they don't come, you know, ODOT or NOACA will not increase their funding? Can we use some of that... ARPA fund to do that? And just if we get back from them, then we can just reimburse our coffers that way?

Mayor Gail

10:27

Thank you, Madam Chair, Councilman Tolton and council, we have, when we, when the bids came back for both Euclid Avenue and 185th, we were surprised, well, surprised or not surprised, we already had expected higher costs, this was even higher than council had authorized. So, I did reach out to NOACCA, who is a part funder on both projects, to see if they can increase their contribution. We have to go through a process with them, which we've applied for. Has to go to their Finance and Audit Committee and has to go to their full board in order to get some of them to increase their funding. We're hopeful that that happens. But ODOT cannot proceed without us authorizing them to do that, which means we have to pay up front. So hopefully, NOACCA, or the state ODOT, through the state, through ODOT did increase their contribution on the Euclid Avenue for the portion that they could. That's been taken into account already. We're having some conversations with the county public works department, as well. The hope is that we will not be responsible because we've already increased the amount we were going to pay. So that would just go back, this will most likely come from the General Fund. As you know, we did transfer some of the rescue funds to that. Roads in and of themselves are not eligible expenses for rescue funds. We'd have to see if we can, but, you know, we both, I think we all know how long we've been working on Euclid Avenue and 185th Street. We can't change, ODOT bid the project, so, we can't change the project without having to rebid the whole project. And I think we're not confident that even if we had to rebid we'd get lower prices. So, we really are committed and I think, you know, all of us, this is unfortunately the cost of things today. Everything we're seeing is going up. So, we feel it's important and you know, asking council to authorize the additional money so both of these projects can get going.

President Mancuso

12:32

Other discussion? Councilman Wojtila

Councilman Wojtila

12:34

Thank you, Madam Chair. Are we confident that City of Cleveland will reimburse us for the difference?

President Mancuso

Director Smith

Finance Director Smith

12:44

Madam Chair to the councilman, they already have reimbursed the first portion of the project in a very short turnaround time. So, I feel confident they will reimburse us the same as this one. And I also will just say quickly that if this passes, I will have there will be a budget amendment that will come back to council within the next two meetings, most likely, that it will appropriate these additional funds at the full amount and then anything reimbursed to the city will go back into the general fund.

Councilman Wojtila

Thank you.

Council President Mancuso

13:12

Other discussion? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Jarosz. Second by Councilman Tolton.

All in favor, "Aye."

I'll also entertain a motion to suspend the rules to forego the second and third reading. So moved by Councilman Jukic. Second by Councilman McIntosh. All in favor, "Aye." Any opposed? Seeing none, Madam Clerk, please call the roll on the merits of the ordinance

Clerk Laboda

13:41

Roll Call:

Steele, yes. Caviness, yes. Tolton, yes. Epps, yes. Jarosz, yes. McIntosh, yes. Wojtila, yes. Jukic, yes. Mancuso, yes.

Motion passes.

President Mancuso

13:59

Thank you, Madam Clerk, would you please read the second agenda item into the record?

Clerk Laboda

14:04

Ordinance 045-22. An emergency ordinance amending ordinance number 19-2022 authorizing the Mayor of the City of Euclid to enter into a final resolution with the Ohio Department of Transportation for rehabilitation of Euclid Avenue, between the western and eastern Corporation limits for an additional amount not to exceed \$283,230.

President Mancuso

14:34

Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin the discussion. So moved by Councilwoman Jukic. Seconded by Councilwoman Steele. All in favor, "Aye."

And we will go once again to Director Knecht.

Director Knecht

14:44

Thank you, Madam Chair. Similar to the last project, again, this was an ODOT bid project that did come in over what we hadn't had anticipated and approved in an earlier meeting. ODOT was able to contribute some more money to this to bring our total portion that is over the bid down to \$283,230. Again, I think this is a big impact project that will really help the Euclid Avenue corridor. And I would like to, to say that, you know, I definitely support this. And I would hope that council would, too. And I'd be happy to answer any questions.

President Mancuso

15:22

Thank you. Discussion. Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

15:26

Thank you. I just wanted to say thank you to Mayor Gail. We did receive an email when these bids look like they were going to be too high. Umm, and I definitely appreciate you responding to, or responding to us directly, immediately, once you knew that happen, I, umm, once I saw that immediately responded back with an email to you just stressing the importance of making sure that we move forward this project, you mentioned in the email you sent to us that, as you mentioned here tonight, you started to reach out to some of our partners to find out who can help us with this costs. I'm always in favor of that, too. So also, thank you for that. Umm, but we, I wanted to make sure that we shouldn't be waiting for this. And so I appreciate all of council support tonight with the last piece of legislation as well, and making sure that we go ahead and foot the bill for what we need to do. And given that we still have the opportunity to go out to be reimbursed for these funds. So, thank you for letting us know. And I was happy to see this on the agenda after our conversation as well. Thank you. Thank you.

President Mancuso

16:23

Any other discussion? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman Jarosz. Second by Councilman Caviness.

All in favor, "Aye."

Thank you, and also entertain a motion to suspend the rules and forego the second and third reading. So moved by Councilwoman Steele. Second by Councilwoman Jukic.

All in favor, "Aye."

Any opposed? Seeing none.

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

Clerk Laboda

16:49

Caviness, Yes. Tolton, Yes. Epps, Yes. Jarosz, Yes. Macintosh, Yes. Wojtila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. And Mancuso, Yes.

Motion passes.

President Mancuso

17:07

Thank you. Madam Clerk, please read the third agenda item into the record.

Clerk Laboda

17:11

Resolution 043-22, a resolution recognizing Friday, April 29 2022 as Arbor Day in the City of Euclid, and encouraging all residents throughout our community to appreciate the beauty, value, benefit and significance of trees in our city.

President Mancuso

17:31

Thank you on entertain a motion for passage to begin the discussion. So moved by Councilman Wojtila. Seconded by Councilwoman McIntosh. All in favor, "Aye."
Thank you, Mayor Gale.

Mayor Gail

17:42

Thank you, Madam Chair at this Resolution just recognizes Arbor Day in the City of Euclid. As I said earlier, we will be celebrating Arbor Day on April 29 at 6pm here at Euclid City Hall. I would like to thank the Shade Tree Commission who puts together the Arbor Day Program. Greg, Greg Lawrence is currently serving as the Chair and the committee includes residents Charlene Joyce to Taneika Hill, Dr. Roy Larick, Paul Kovalcik, Jody Lathwell, Alyssa Zearley, Councilwoman McIntosh, Andre Trapp is our arborist, is a staff representative, and Linda Beck serves as the secretary. They have really re-invigorated themselves and working on a very exciting program both for Arbor Day and others and really looking at how the city can continue to grow its tree canopy and I do want to thank the Service Department and Planning and Development Department. Both have sought grants. Both have done a lot of work to increase and improve our tree canopy. And we know trees are important for a number of different reasons. Not only are they beautiful, but they help clean the air. They help provide stormwater management, they help with habitat for wildlife, many different things that I won't go into tonight, but this Arbor Day resolution is also important because it does, it is one of the requirements as well to be a Tree City USA City. So, which we have for 35? 35 years in a row. So, I want to thank the Shade Tree Commission and the Service Department particularly for their hard work and encourage all residents to plant a tree if you can, and help us take care of your tree if you have one on your tree lawn.

President Mancuso

19:32

Thank you. Any discussion, for the discussion by my colleagues? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion to close debate. So moved by Councilman McIntosh. Seconded by Councilwoman Jukic. All in favor, "Aye."
Madam Clerk, please call the roll on the resolution.

Clerk Laboda

19:48

Tolton, Yes. Epps, Yes. Jarosz, Yes. Macintosh, Yes. Wotjila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. Caviness, Yes. Mancuso, Yes.
Resolution passes.

President Mancuso

20:05

Thank you, Madam Clerk, please read the fourth agenda item into the record.

Clerk Laboda

20:09

Ordinance 05, I'm sorry 035-22. An emergency ordinance setting forth the amended list of holidays and amended vacation policy, and setting the benefits and compensate, compensation to be paid city of Euclid personnel other than employees of a collective bargaining unit and rescinding ordinance number 170-2010. And all amendments thereto. And all other legislative enactments or administrative directives, inconsistent hereto, and enacting in lieu thereof, the within ordinance to be known and cited as the 2022 Consolidated Compensation Ordinance.

President Mancuso

20:59

Thank you. I'll entertain a motion for passage to begin discussion. So moved by Councilman Tolton. Seconded by Councilwoman Caviness.

All in favor, "Aye."

And we will go to Law Director Sweeney.

Director Sweeney

21:09

Thank you, Madam Chair. As Madam Chair pointed out earlier in part called the committee talking about the Executive and Finance Committee in the documentation. The entire piece was before the Executive & Finance Committee on April 6th, and it was recommended to send back, just a portion of it, to Council and you have that tonight. One portion is about adding June 19, or Juneteenth, as a holiday for the non-unions. And the other portion is to amend our vacation policy for the non-unions. Basically, right now we can carry over two years into the third year of vacation time to reduce that to just a one week carryover of vacation time. So, the Juneteenth is in the Juneteenth amendment is on page five in Section 12. And the holiday is in Section 13. Vacations. That is there. And there was an amendment that it was changed from December 31 2023 to 2024. So, any time on the books has to be used up by that time, but for that one weak carryover into the following year. Council did not want to address tonight the salary study and the compensation chart. So, to try to make this easy, the amendment would be to undo what the change was with the new salary study chart and put back in the old salary chart. Did that make sense in the email that I sent? Okay. So those are the two things that we're asking for today with an amendment, again, to undo the salary study portion. And then we intend to bring that back to counsel at another E and F and discuss that part. Hopefully, within the next couple of weeks, we can schedule an E and F and then have it before counsel. Hopefully, that second meeting in May. And I'm happy to answer any particular questions that you have.

President Mancuso

23:14

Okay, let me ask you a question. Can we just amend it as a whole? With the Juneteenth, the vacation and undoing? Can we amend it that way? And just leave it here? Or do we have to put it back into committee with the one that's there?

Director Sweeney

23:30

Madam Chair, you do not have to go back to committee. So, the piece that's still in, is carved out of this amendment that I provided to you by email, and I'm sorry, you got a copy, but it wasn't a colored copy.

President Mancuso

23:43

Okay. So, we will just we'll just pass the amendments, and it'll lay here until we bring the other one.

Director Sweeney

23:49

Then you're, you haven't, you'll have a new piece in committee about the salary stuff. Okay.

President Mancuso

23:53

Thank you. Discussion. Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

23:56

Thank you. Similar to what the Council President was just saying. So, I just want to be clear, too, because I feel like you're not saying exactly what it is that she's saying when she says it's gonna lay here. Obviously, it'll be a third reading at the first meeting in May. Correct?

Director Sweeney

24:13

That that is not my intention, Madam Chair to the councilman. It is my intention just for council to address the Juneteenth and the vacation policy undo the salary study and chart. So, we're going to put the original salary study and chart back in we'll then have an E and F on the suggested amendments salary study. So, this will be done. We'll put a new piece before E & F on the salary study.

Councilman Epps

24:37

And that's what I thought that you were saying as opposed to it, I don't know what she meant by if it's, it's gonna lay here. But so that's why I wanted to clarify that, but can we wait and just do it as one piece at that second made an MA?

Director Sweeney

24:53

Madam chair to the councilman we could have but, but the E & F Committee chose to bring these two portions back, back to tonight.

Councilman Epps

25:02

But we could send it to, send it to a third reading. And we've done that before, even outside of a third reading because we had something else we needed to meet for. And then had that second meeting still pass it that night.

Director Sweeney

25:14

Correct, madam chair to the councilman? Yes, you could do that. Okay.

Councilman Epps

25:17

Okay. So, I'd like to make a motion to make this as a second reading and push it on to a third reading.

President Mancuso

25:24

A second reading? And what was the second?

Councilman Epps

25:27

For it to go on to the next council meeting as a third reading?

President Mancuso

25:30

As amended.

Director Sweeney

25:32

You have not amended you have not made a motion to amend your first.

Councilman Epps

25:36

Do we have to amend it first? Mayor is shaking her head no.

Director Sweeney

25:40

You don't have to, no, I mean, you don't have (Mayor: No, if it's going to be sent back) Right. You still have the original piece? (Mayor: On the Agenda) On the agenda? You have the original piece? If you wanted to amend it

Councilman Epps

25:52

Prefer, would you prefer that we amend it first, if we're going to send it to a third reading or...

Director Sweeney

25:57

Madam chair to the councilman? No, because if you accept our salary study, as we proposed, we wouldn't have to have all this amendments, we wouldn't have to do any amendments. Here's my only problem with logistics. If this is a second reading, and it's sent to a third reading, which is the first meeting in

May, I will not be there. And I would like to be here for that piece. So, the only other option is then tabling it at the next meeting for the second meeting?

Councilman Epps

26:22

Well, that's actually, that's actually what I was suggesting. So, you wouldn't matter that you're not there on the third reading, because we're going to wait until the E and F meeting after that in order to have this prepared for the second meeting in May anyway. So, we could just move this on as a third reading and continue to wait until we have it all as one piece, which is what I think she thought you meant in the first place.

Director Sweeney

Speaker 6

26:41

Madam chair to the councilman, we could do that. I don't know what you meant or intended. But we could do that.

Councilman Epps

26:47

So somehow. So, the motion is still the same? Because she doesn't think we should amend and then do it. So, I just motion we make it a second reading.

President Mancuso

26:54

We have a motion on the floor. Do we have a second? So moved by Councilman Wojtila, any discussion on the motion only? No amendment, just send it as it is to a second reading. (Director Sweeney: Third reading) Third reading, sorry.

Councilman Tolton

27:09

Okay. I'm just trying to be clear to the councilman. So, we're taking this piece here, and I'm trying to, you're saying to take this to a second or third reading. And then make a decision about all instead of just doing it piece piecemeal doing part tonight, take it all to the third reading. Okay. What's the what's the downside of...that you are? What's the objection that you have with, with doing this tonight, as opposed to sending it all, you know, everything to a third reading, I'm just trying to understand clearly.

President Mancuso

Councilman Tolton...or Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

27:46

Thank you. Umm, not so much as an objection. And I saw multiple people going into second. So, I think it just makes sense to wait a minute, we're going to amend this way. She's like, if we're going to support the next piece mean, we might as well wait, make this one amendment and vote for it at that second meeting. But obviously, I would have, if we could have met before that, before the first meeting in May, and she was going to be here and it was going to be on the agenda, we'd do that. But in the past, there have been multiple pieces in

which we've pushed it on to a third reading, knowing in lieu of another meeting or conversation. And then we just table it so that we can vote it all at once. Just things that make sense. I'm never a fan, if you're being honest with you, the piecemeal option and, and, and with some things, and I think that I watched that meeting. And so, to me, it makes sense to still wait and make this all one. So, it's my suggestion, or the motion. Thank you.

Councilman Tolton

28:37

Thank you. I was just getting clarification.

President Mancuso

28:39

Any other discussion? Councilman Wojtila.

Councilman Wojtila

28:41

Just a comment on the motion, then really the only change that would... the first change that would go in effect would be the, the June Seventeenth holiday. So, there's really if we approve it today or approve it a month from now, there's really no, it's no impact to the employees. Because June Seventeenth, isn't here yet.

President Mancuso

29:02

Thank you. Other discussion? Councilwoman Jukic.

Councilwoman Jukic

29:06

I would also like some clarification. We heard that law director Sweeney won't be here the first meeting in May. So, by approving the motion for a third reading, are we saying it's the second meeting in May?

Director Sweeney

29:21

Madam Chair to the Councilman... No, it'll submit that first meeting in May, I would ask you at that meeting to please table it so I can be here for the next meeting. And I'm hoping we will have the E and F. I'm gone that week, so it might be the week after and then we can put it on for that second meeting in May. But as Councilman Wojtila points out, as long as, if you're going to approve the Juneteenth holiday, as long as we have this passed by Juneteenth, that would be great.

Councilwoman Jukic

29:46

Thank you. I just need the clarification about when we would table it.

Director Sweeney

29:49

Yes, I would just ask you to table it at that first meeting. Thank you.

President Mancuso

29:54

Other discussion? Hang on, let me see if your colleagues have anything no other comments by anybody? Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

30:02

Thank you. And just to clarify for council Jukic, I, umm, she was already going to put the salary piece of this was not going to be on the agenda until the second meeting in May anyway. So it's not so much it's just want to push it out for that, but because that was going to go that far anyway, that would be the reason that we would table it just for the purpose of waiting for that meeting. So, I just want to clarify that for you.

President Mancuso

30:24

Any other discussion? Seeing none, I'll entertain a motion to send this to a third reading. So moved by. So moved by Councilman Epps. Second by Councilman Jarosz.

All in favor, "Aye."

Please call the roll on sending this to a third reading.

Clerk Laboda

30:48

Epps, Yes. Jarosz, Yes. Macintosh, Yes. Wojtila, Yes. Jukic, Yes. Steele, Yes. Caviness, Yes. Tolton, Yes. Mancuso, Yes.

Amended.

President Mancuso

31:04

No, no, that were just as is. Third reading.

Clerk Laboda

31:07

Passes, as is.

President Mancuso

31:11

Thank you. Seeing that as the end of our legislative agenda, we will now go the committee the whole the second portion, which is for anything for the good of the city. Anyone wishing to speak please come to the podium, give us your name and address and limit your comments to five minutes, please.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE - PUBLIC PORTION

Resident - Lou Melner

31:31

My name is Lou Melner. I reside at 19711 Edgecliff Drive. I have a couple items. The first one I noticed in the newspaper today or yesterday that with with Rita there that up someone that say for example, worked in Cleveland, but has been working at home in Euclid, for the year 2020, could, could still have to pay their taxes to Cleveland. But starting in 2021, that individual can

request a refund from the taxes they paid in Cleveland because they have not been at work in that city. And then it indicated that they would owe taxes to the city of Euclid. But it wasn't clear if that was automatic, that reader would move that money to Euclid or if Euclid had to ask for it. But I'm sure our tax office is on top of all that hopefully, as to how to get those funds. The second item is... I've always been concerned about handicap access, but never so much until I've had a grandson who's now three, who has very limited access because of spinal bifida, he does need a walker to walk around. And he can walk it's like on to stilts, for short distances, he loves to go to playgrounds. But if he goes to a playground that is on grass, or the woodchips he cannot maneuver, he can't use the walker, he can't walk. Plus, at many playgrounds, parents would have to help him get up onto the some of the slides and so on. And in many of the playgrounds, there's nothing low for him to play with, like wheels to turn things to bang. A few do have that. I would hope that council would be very aware, whenever we put in a new playground, or, or redo a playground, that it have that hard mat rubber surface and have items at hand heights that children can play with that can't access the higher slides. So, it's just a comment. The third item... can I refer back to an item of legislation? or not? (President Mancuso: Certainly) Yes? When I was administrator at a college in Mansfield, we did a study to classify non-teaching staff into various categories for pay grades. And the company that did that, they don't want a category that just has one person that or one position, they want to get bigger lumpings. The problem with bigger lumpings is, sometimes in those big lumpy things, there may be a position that really doesn't fit there. And it doesn't fit one above either. And looking at what was online on the positions, I think one, that I think maybe is not categorized, where it might be is the non-officer liaison in the police department. Just looking at what that person does, because I have a little bit of knowledge that, it doesn't seem to go in line with the other positions in that category. So, it's just a comment. But it's very difficult when you put those categories together when you have a position that's very unique, what do you do with it? So, thank you.

President Mancuso

35:06

Thank you, sir. Next speaker please.

Resident - Harrison McCrath

35:19

Hello everybody, Harrison McCray, 20709 Edgecliff Drive. Just wanted to come in to talk a little bit about a few updates from the Euclid Historical Society. We had a, one of our first public meetings of the year, open to the public presentation wise, last Tuesday, was fairly successful, at least in my opinion. We had a lot of new faces, come into our building, walk around, enjoy the time and enjoy some of the slides that we had in our stock. So just wanted to give up everybody updated on that. In terms of future programming that we have, we do have our general meeting, May 10. That's our next general meeting. That will also be our elections. We haven't had one last year, or I believe the year previous due to the pandemic. But we do, we will be having one this year. So, they're look forward to that. That'll be May 10, at around 6:30. And we will also be present at the Memorial Day Parade and the East 200th Stroll. So, look out for us. You guys. gonna do those functions. Thank you very much.

President Mancuso

36:42

Thank you, sir. Next speaker, please.

Resident – Laurie Russell

36:49

Hi, I'm Laurie Russell. I live at 678 E. 222nd Street right there at the corner of Westport and 222nd. And I have two comments. One is for the Euclid Fire Department. I just want to acknowledge them. They're absolutely wonderful group of guys. The firemen and paramedic were at my house. I don't even know how many times to pick up the homeowner and scoop them off the floor. And they are just a wonderful group of people. The Euclid police department, they do a very good job too, but, umm, last week, I had gunfire outside my house. Bullet came into the house that it landed on the kitchen floor. And I am really bothered by the gun violence that's going on in this city. I open up social media, Facebook, next door, I think it's Next-Door Neighbor, it seems every day there is gun violence. And I'd really like to know what the city is doing to help our policemen. I don't know if you guys need to throw more money at them. We need more policemen. But you're building this beautiful walkway down in front of the lake. I mean, the city of Euclid is a great city. But nobody is going to come here with all the violence we have. My, I invited my brother over for Easter. He said nope, I don't want to get shot. You come to my house. That's not good for the city. Something's gotta get done. That's it. Thanks.

President Mancuso

Thank you. Did you want... Mayor Gail

Mayor Gail

38:14

Thank you. Sure. Thank you, Madam Chair. I don't know if the Chief will want to comment as well. But we absolutely appreciate your comments. It's, I think it's shocking to all of us, the amount of gun violence we see. And, unfortunately the changes that they're making at the state level aren't going to help. So, there's a number of things that we are looking at, City Council has pledged their support to the initiatives that we bring forward. We're looking at cameras, we have added additional officers. The police department has initiated a community response unit that regularly is seizing guns getting guns off the street, looking at places where there is a lot of activity happening. We cannot do this by ourselves. We need, we need people all over and it's not unique to Euclid and I know nobody wants to hear that. And that doesn't help because it's happening right here and it is frightening. But our police do a great job. We have added officers we are at our highest level we've been at a number of years and are looking to add more. So, we are working hard. We're looking at initiatives. I know we've applied, the police department has applied for grants as well for violence reduction for gun interdiction. It's, it's a real problem. And we will continue to work hard and continue to do what we can to make our community safe. And I don't know if you want to if there's something you want to add...

Police Chief Meyer

39:51

Yes, thank you. Yeah, I'm, I'm absolutely disgusted by the gun violence that's plaguing America's urban areas. It's absolutely disgusting. The, the issue is, though, we're not going to legislate our way out of it with, with, with additional gun legislation. This is a problem that needs to be addressed at the family level. At the school level, the community level, this level of violence is absolutely unbelievable, we are seizing more firearms than we've ever seized, that still doesn't seem to make any difference. I'm not happy with the level of response that we get from the juvenile court, or many times from our adult courts. So, it's kind of a never ending, you know, kind of a revolving door, particularly with the juveniles of arresting these folks and then having them out again. So, it's, it's a combination of things. It's certainly not that our officers aren't out there trying to seize firearms. But we've got to get people to think differently in this country. The respect for human life is almost non-existent in some communities. And I find it to be absolutely disgusting. I'm pretty vocal about it, too. And I'm, and I'm not going to filter what I have to say about it. I've been doing this and I'm, I'm in my 27th year. And I've never seen anything like it. We had a, I don't know if anybody saw the news, but over the weekend, a series of very violent shootings around the country. And most of these are driven by gang violence by neighborhood beefs. And just a general lack of respect for human life and property. And that's about all I have to say on it.

Mayor Gail

41:43

Madam Chair, the other thing that I'll add is, there are community groups that are working on this as well. And just one example, there's a church, Church of the Epiphany is working is putting together a gun. It's not, I don't think the buyback, but a gun giving back guns and turning them into garden tools. It's a program that they're part of with other things. And so that's coming late, I think, I don't, forget the date, if it's May or June, but we'll make sure we get information out about that. So, you know, trying to get unused guns out of the house. You know, we are absolutely open to suggestions, if residents, community groups, neighborhood groups, I believe still be believe very strongly in the power of the block watch and the neighborhood groups. And, you know, again, as I said earlier, it's, it's going to take all of us and the partnerships and lots of, I will say our police department does an excellent job with what they can, but they can't do it all.

President Mancuso

Thank you. Next speaker, please.

Resident Victor Goodman

42:46

Victor Goodman, 20201 Glen Ross Lane. First and foremost, Chief Meyer and please express this to Captain Cutright. Congratulations to the both of you for a very positive story on TV. And I'm sure that the woman who was carjacked was most appreciative of dinner. So, you guys really put us in a good light. And that's something we need desperately. She's not here, but I want to thank Kristal, because just a wave of my hand and the toilet opens. So, thank you guys for coming to that thing. And I want to give a shout out, if he is listening,

to Chris Litwinowicz, who has been working almost non-stop up in the Indian Hills area, raking and bagging leaves. I mean, it's, it's been incredible. I do miss him here. I had to talk with him. But my main issue of coming out this night was because I had a dream that in my lifetime, I would see a city build something that would benefit its people. Now when I have now spent almost a half a century in the city, when I moved here, they just built this building. And this was the ultimate new thing in Euclid, which benefited the people who work here, not the people. So, I want to know what's going to happen. I watched on TV. And thank you Council President for at least attempting, but it was almost impossible to hear what was going on during that presentation. And it, it hurts me, that you took a presentation to build a possible desperately needed fire/police facility. At a cost of north of or south of, whichever the saying is, \$40 million. And if it's \$40 million today, that's \$50 million tomorrow, by the time you get it built. We don't have that money. And you certainly can't go back to homeowners, God forbid, and say, hey, we need a levy so we can get this modern facility built. I mean, we're only paying off 30 years worth of schools. So, you can't go back to the people. Now my wife and I, even though she let me come out or alone tonight, my wife and I tried to build a rec center here. We met for hours with the school in trying to save Central High. And had we known or had known him, thank God, you know, known that such money was coming the city's way. We could have saved Central and made it a rec center. But it was, at that point, unfeasible, but we tried. This city needs a rec center, a desperate rec center, I go to Collinwood. I've been going there 11 years since it was built. Now I check to find out that it costed \$11 million to build that back in 2011. Of course, that would be impossible to build at that cost now. Full-sized swimming pool, child pool, a kid pool, wonderful slide, a workout room, a track, a basketball, private rooms for, for, for meetings. It's a wonderful facility, one that we should be looking at built here. And unfortunately, we are and I hope I don't offend anybody, please. Dammit, stop asking for COVID money for everything, but what it is needed for. I don't need new carpeting, so, we don't need it or a new road built. We need that money to build a rec center of what we, we have already siphoned off millions of dollars. We have wasted an opportunity. And if this administration and this City Council does not finally achieve something then, you should be known forever as the city people who had an opportunity to do it right. And all you worried about was a bridge to nowhere.

President Mancuso

47:44

Thank you, sir. Any other speakers please? Seeing none, we will then go to our councilman's comments. And we start with Councilwoman Steele this evening.

COUNCILMAN'S COMMENTS

Councilwoman Steele

47:57

Thank you, Madam Chair. I want to first thank the residents of Ward 8, coming out to the ward meeting. I really appreciate you coming out. Also want to make a comment about the gun violence. It, it, it breaks my heart. And as I said to my, the members of Ward 8, if you see something say something. We cannot live in a community where we keep our eyes shut and our lips closed. We have to work together. This is our city. This is our city. And we, it is our duty to each

other to take care of one another. Whether you know it or not. We are our brother's keeper. Heaven forbid that gun went through that woman's window and killed her. I know too many people who have lost family members because of gun violence. If you know something, if you see something quit talking about us, snitches get stitches. No. guns kill people. They kill them. Thank you.

President Mancuso

49:10

Thank you. Councilwoman Caviness.

Councilwoman Caviness

49:16

Thank you, Madam Chair. I'd like to thank everyone for coming out this evening and utilizing the opportunity to speak. I agree with my colleague that we have to do something. That gun, that bullet coming through your home could have killed you. We are going to have a public safety meeting this Wednesday at 6:30 here and we're going to be discussing the flock cameras. And flock cameras are basically license reading cameras, and they can actually help with the police when they're looking for a stolen vehicle or Amber Alert when someone's being kidnapped. So, this is this Wednesday, April 20, at 6:30. That's my comment there. I'd also like to thank Chief Meyer and Captain Cutright, for assisting the, the resident at Indian Hills after that disgusting carjacking incident there. I'd like to add that I've been in conversation with the Indian Hills management AIY for quite a while now. Before 2020 hit, I guess it was February 2020, we had our last building meeting. And we were having built, individual building meetings for two years. And it allowed us to meet with one particular building twice a year. And it seemed to help with diminishing some of the activity there at Indian Hills. But once COVID hit, then we were not able to do so. So, I've been kind of on them about meeting again. And we're planning on having our individual meetings starting up again, on, in the middle of May or the end of May. And that should help with our conversations. And I know I've mentioned that to you, Mayor Gail. I also mentioned it to Captain Cutright, who does a foot patrol, daily foot patrol at Indian Hills. And he said he will definitely be willing to participate in that and Madam President, you as well. So, I'm anticipating that this can help with that situation that Indian Hills so that we can, as my colleague said, when you see something, say something, and a lot of times, even in our individual meetings, we would hear snitches get stitches. And we have to get that out of people's minds. Because in order for it to work in a community, and Indian Hills would be one of them, to be successful, we have to get people to report. And so, I'm anticipating to have meetings again at Indian Hills on a regular basis. And I also want to add, thank you to Captain Cutright for the Grand Boulevard. situation, Grand Boulevard wall construction, and also Director Knecht. I know I've been a headache to you. But unfortunately, we had a situation where people were coming up the exit because the entrance was closed off. And we had pictures, videos of people coming up and one lady almost pushed someone off the edge. So, I got in touch with the police department, I spoke with Captain Cutright. He immediately put a barricade there, to close off the exit as well. And the headache came in, because we had detour signs and sign on, on Glenridge to have people detour from Glenridge to upper Delaware, to Upper Valley and everything instead of going to Grand. But past that we didn't

have anything. So, I was constantly in touch with Director Knecht until everything got straightened out. We do have some situations where people go down there and they have to back, back up. But hopefully, this project will be ended by the middle of May or end of May. And that headache will be gone. And we'll have a beautiful wall again. But I'd like to thank again Captain Cutright, and Director Knecht for all the help that you've given us during this situation. And that is all for me, Madam Chair and have a good evening, everyone.

President Mancuso

54:00

Thank you. Councilman Tolton.

Councilman Tolton

(Gesture that he has no comments)

President Mancuso

Thank you, sir. Councilman Epps.

Councilman Epps

54:07

Thank you. I briefly address the safety concerns of the resident. I'm so glad that you're here and all as well, with everyone in your family. I can just say that we are working and trying since I've been on council, a lot of conversations have been had about from everyone in this room about what we can do to strengthen our safety when it comes to our residents. And so just want to make sure that you know, and you can go onto our city's website and go to council meetings that look back at safety committee meetings and see some of the discussions that are happening and some of the things that are coming down the pipe, but we're very glad that you're safe. I also wanted to take time to discuss some things that I find extremely important about the process here. We all live in a city that for the last 20 years is governed in a way that ignores the changes our community is facing or about to face. I've spoken in these chambers for years about how ignoring demographic changes in our community and governing for one side At a town only will be catastrophic to our city's future and sustainability. We all live in a city that very often puts politics above community above compassion for mankind at times, and above all else puts politics above general respect for the public and the overall image of this city. What happened here last month was a coordinated effort on the part of folks right here in this room, and former council person posing as a concerned citizen. And what it did was just as I described previously, saying, screw our community, compassion for mankind, and which is ironic, as this concerned citizen also poses as a minister from time to time, and screw me, as our city, one of our city's top law officials said physically with her middle finger in that same meeting, at that same meeting in the hall, I was lunged at and spoke to an aggressive manner and called names that I won't mention here tonight by our law director. And I was wondering, as I know, this council is entertaining conversations and meetings with outside counsel as well. That if it's my passion for our community, public service, that has had me sit in these chambers for several years learning our community, its leaders, our laws, and volunteering in various capacities of service that makes me the piece of shit or a thug. Or if it's my 16 year marriage and commitment to my

family that makes her say those things to me a sworn elected official and public servant, that this community or in this community that employs her. While this council has meetings with outside counsel to figure out how legally to get rid of me, I'm wondering why council has done nothing to be sure that this city employee is dealt with appropriately written up or even terminated for her actions, once again, politics before community. Many reverent, residents have come to this podium to speak on how they feel about the city orchestrated events that took place that night. And to all those who feel in some way I did something wrong, I apologize to you again, I should have sat here and taken the attacks, I should have sat here and watched as the law is broken as a lawmaker, and at the very least exercise self-control in the face of adversity. I did not do that. And as your voice and an advocate who truly believes I work for you. I'm sorry. I also wanna apologize to folks who are speaking up also in support for not addressing this foolishness that night. Here it is, my home got burned down. Thank God, my family is okay. And thank God, the young woman who was staying with us at the time is okay, as well. We all lost a lot. Nobody seems to care. But I assure you that my family is emotionally connected enough to care for all of you. The taxes on that property was why I took over the house in the first place. Because my cousins were about to lose it. And it's been in my family for years. And I wanted to save it. That concerned citizen who was here was gifted her house, and I understand if she doesn't know anything about any of that. But I made 1000s of dollars worth of payments. And I'm now on a payment plan program with the county to pay off the rest of our taxes, as many residents here are as well. The clean out of our home has been completed and repairs are being made as we speak. Thank you to all the folks who helped out. As to repeating of accusations that were used to try and keep me from being elected three years ago in these chambers to insinuate I'm under some sort of investigation are completely false. And again, folks right here in this room, putting politics before community and the perception of our community as a whole. Knowing I am under no investigation. In fact, I'm only facing charges that are filed against me from this administration. And who don't, in fears of not wanting to challenge me next year on policy alone. I've stated time and time again. And I'll repeat again tonight. I'm not running for mayor in 2023. Listen, I know these folks very well. And that's why I invited Mayor Gail to Adams when I was first elected to make clear to her then, hey, I want to work together. I'm not running for Mayor in 23. So, let's work together disagree amicably on the issues that are important to Euclid. Because I am not running, let's move forward as partners without that political concern. Clearly, they didn't believe me. So, I've gone on to legislate in the best way I know how for all residents in Euclid not just a select few. I have gone on to sponsor very serious legislation to make a difference in our community. And yes, I've advocated strongly against those that do not. This has made me an enemy and my actions before being elected should prove that was never the goal. I will continue to serve until Ward 3 resident say otherwise, I will also continue to do whatever in my power to protect my family from the death threats and threatening actions taken by this administration or others. And I will continue to pray for you all as God continues to bless my family. Thank you.

President Mancuso

59:22

Thank you, Councilman Jarosz.

Councilman Jarosz

59:25

Thank you, Madam Chair. Going back to the first agenda item on 185th. So, we are Pawnee north. Now, it was originally slated to take place roughly this time at this time. So, first question is did that bidding? Are we now kicking it down the road where you gotta go back out? And it's going to start? You know, June, July, August? Do we have any sense of that? And then I guess my other question would be and we don't if you don't know the answers right now, that's fine. You know, since we're Pawnee north and this is the project we're talking about, obviously the rest of the Street South is Cleveland only, do we have a timeline for when they are slated to start? And are we doing this in unison or did these costs, or did these bids and the inflation inherent in the in the bidding process kind of screw the whole timeline up a little bit?

President Mancuso

Thank you, Director Knecht.

Director Knecht

1:00:21

Madam Chair to the Councilman. We'll have a kickoff pre construction meeting in early May. So, the project will be moving forward from Pawnee north. As far as we know. I am not up to speed on the rest of the project. I know there were some discussions about trying to do it this year. But that also hinged around availability of waterline.

Councilman Jarosz

Speaker 18

1:00:44

Okay, Thank you very much, because we are getting quite a few questions. Thank you, especially from merchants on the street. Thanks.

President Mancuso

1:00:51

Thank you. Councilwoman McIntosh.

Councilwoman McIntosh

1:00:52

Thank you, Madam Chair. Thanks to everybody who's joined this evening and made your voices heard. And I think we have all heard everyone loud and clear. I do want to give a few more details regarding the Guns to Gardens initiative that the Church of Epiphany is organizing. It's, its part of National Buyback Day. And it is on Saturday, June 11. And they're looking to hold that from 11am to 1pm. And that includes, the premise is to take the guns, and they're working with some group or organization that safely dismantles them. And they'll have a metal forger, that blacksmith and old school, anvil style. That's what I'm imagining at least, and they'll have that available where they can take all the pieces parts and then make garden tools out of them. So, there'll be doing a demonstration there at the Church of Epiphany, which is 21100 Lakeshore Boulevard, I believe, and if anybody's interested in getting involved in that, Reverend Rosalind C. Hughes. She's the Rector at Church of Epiphany. And she could provide more information and I know that she is also looking for volunteers that day. Thank you.

President Mancuso

1:02:16

Thank you. Councilmember Wojtila.

Councilman Wojtila

1:02:18

Thank you, Madam Chair, Director Knecht I know we had a lot of areas where we had water line breaks over the winter that were the city's working on repairing the streets. I've seen some, some work that's done and no days like today don't help. But is it ongoing once the weather cooperates? And how long do you think it'll be before we get most of those taken care of?

Director Knecht

1:02:40

Madam chair to the councilman right now we have little over 100 holes that were done during the winter. We're actively working as quickly as we can to get those addressed. The asphalt plant just opened at the end of last week. That was the last piece of the puzzle we were waiting for. So, you should start to see some progress.

President Mancuso

1:03:01

Thank you. Councilwoman Jukic.

Councilwoman Jukic

1:03:04

Thank you, Madam Chair. I also for the citizen who had the bullet land in in her kitchen, I really feel for you. And I saw the emotion of what that was like. And you know, from your experience, and the Chief knows from daily situations for the police department. I wonder if we could consider having some type of a I want to say, symposium, but that's too strong of a word. But maybe we could come together so that some of us could learn what the factors are that the Chief knows very well related to the societal things that are going on in the schools and what we could all do, I think maybe that might be good for us, that might be helpful. I don't know if it would be Councilman Caviness, part of the Safety Committee, or if it would be, you know, more of a community type of meeting. I would just like to throw that out there. I think that would be helpful for all of us to understand a little bit more of what the Chief and the police are dealing with and what we might be able to do in the community. So, I would like to throw that out there as a suggestion. Thank you.

President Mancuso

1:04:17

Thank you. And I will, again, ask people to pay attention to our Historical Society, I was lucky enough to be able to see the first presentation that they did, where they they've actually gone through their files and link them up with some of the old slides. I mean, like really old slides, like none of us were here, old slides that were really pretty neat to see. And I think we get there's a new emergence at that society of people that are interested and want to move forward. I'm looking forward to them doing it again. So, if you get the opportunity you hear about another type presentation, please take the time

and go see it. I think you'll be well worth your while. And again, invite, I'm inviting people to go to the Lake Erie Folk Fest at our own Shore Center on April 30. There are things going on all day and there is an actual concert in the evening. And it's really fun and we're bringing in people from other places who really liked the place and like the activities. So, with that, I would ask for a motion to adjourn. So moved by Councilman Wojtila. Second by Councilwoman McIntosh. All in favor.

We are adjourned.


Clerk of Council

ADJOURNMENT


Council President