

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH CANTON REGULAR

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC. FORM NO. 10148

Held Monday, December 9, 7:00 p.m. 13
20**1. Call to Order:**

The council meeting was called to order Monday, December 9, 2013 at 7:00 p.m. by President of Council Jon Snyder.

2. Opening Prayer:

The opening prayer was delivered by Rev. Eli Klingensmith, Zion Church.

3. Pledge of Allegiance:

All present recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. Roll Call:

Mr. Snyder: Madam Clerk, please call the roll.

The following members of council responded to roll call: Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, and Werren.

Also present were: Mayor Held, Director of Administration Grimes, Director of Law Fox, Director of Finance Alger, City Engineer Benekos, Director of Permits & Development Bowles, and Clerk of Council Kalpac.

5. Consideration:

Council Meeting Minutes – November 25, 2013

Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion and a second to approve, as presented, the council meeting minutes of November 25, 2013.

Mr. Foltz moved and Mr. Peters seconded to approve, as presented, the council meeting minutes. All members present voting:

Yes: Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz

No: 0

6. Committee Minutes:

Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion and a second to approve, as presented, the Committee reports minutes for Community & Economic Development Committee meeting held 11/25/2013.

Mr. Foltz moved and Mr. Peters seconded to approve, as presented, the Committee reports minutes for Community & Economic Development Committee Meeting held November 25, 2013. All members present voting:

Yes: Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith

No: 0

Community & Economic Development Committee: Please refer to the minutes on file in the Council Office of the Community & Economic Development Committee meeting held November 25, 2013.

7. Recognition of Visitors:

Mr. Snyder: At this time the Council will recognize anybody wishing to speak. Please step forward to the podium, state your name and address for the record.

Melanie J. Roll: 308 Portage Street. Good evening. I'd like to commend the Administration, Mr. Benekos in particular, for the new signage on North and South Main. It's a vast improvement. It looks very good, and I thank you.

Mr. Benekos: Thank you.

Mayor Held: Good job Jim.

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Mr. Snyder: Thank you. Anyone else wishing to speak? Okay. Seeing none, we'll move to Old Business. May I have a motion and a second to read the third reading of Ordinance No. 75-13?

Old Business:

8. Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Peters seconded to **read by title only, the third reading** of Ordinance No. 75-13. All members present voting:
Yes: Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling
No: 0

Ordinance No. 75-13 – 3rd Reading – Finance & Property

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Canton, through the Board of Control, to enter into a contract by and between the City of North Canton and the Stark County Public Defender's Office for the purpose of providing legal counsel to indigent North Canton persons in Canton Municipal Court for a period of one (1) year beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014.

Mr. Snyder: Thank you. Again, this is something we have to provide. I think it's \$250 per case should the case arise and that's about it. There being no discussion, may I have a motion and a second to adopt the third reading of Ordinance No. 75-13?

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to **adopt the third reading** of Ordinance No. 75-13. All members present voting:
Yes: Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters
No: 0

9. Mr. Snyder: Okay. May I have a motion and a second to amend Ordinance No. 77-13? Prior - consequent to the meeting where we had the first two readings, Mr. Bowles received a check in the amount of \$199,729 of additional money that we have to pay back into the fund that we pay to the developers for the work that was put on in the Hoover Building. So the amount of the reduction in the appropriation will be \$1,136,471. This will correctly reflect the actual amount of appropriation versus what we've actually appropriated. So if I may have a motion and a second to amend this ordinance prior to its reading, the third reading. Also, we would like to include an emergency clause in this third reading, as it has to be done here by the end of the year so that the Finance Director can forward it to the County Auditor.

Mr. Griffith moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to **amend Ordinance No. 77-13 to reflect the additional reduction in appropriation and to include an emergency clause.** All members present voting:
Yes: Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion and second to read by title only, the third reading of Ordinance 77-13, as amended?

Mr. Griffith moved and Mr. Peters seconded to **read by title only, the third reading, as amended,** of Ordinance No. 77 -13. All members present voting:
Yes: Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren
No: 0

Ordinance No. 77-13 – 3rd Reading – Finance & Property

An ordinance amending Attachment "A" of Ordinance No. 7-13 Appropriation Ordinance of the City of North Canton, to reduce the appropriations in the 333 Hoover District Improvement Fund by \$1,136,471.00; and the 651 Water Exploration, Replacement, and Improvement Fund by \$100,000.00, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

Mr. Snyder: Again, these numbers we've discussed they are to set the books straight, they are housekeeping items. The money has been returned to the proper accounts. It's no additional revenue, new money coming into the City. It's just kind of a loan that we put out and we've been repaid for. There being no other discussion, may I have a motion and a second to adopt the third reading of Ordinance 77-13, as amended?

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Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Peters seconded to **adopt the third reading, as amended**, of Ordinance No. 77-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta
No: 0

10. Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion and a second to read by title only, second reading of Ordinance No. 78-13?

Mr. Cerreta moved and Mrs. Kiesling seconded to **read by title only, second reading** of Ordinance No. 78-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz
No: 0

Ordinance No. 78-13 – 2nd Reading – Finance & Property

An ordinance to make temporary appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of North Canton, Ohio, for the period beginning January 1, 2014 and ending December 31, 2014 and declaring the same to be an emergency.

Mr. Snyder: We've just discussed that item and there were no changes made other than there were marginal notes made to the two items that will be taken care of. And is there any other discussion or suggestions? If not, I'll entertain a motion to adopt the second reading of Ordinance No. 78-13

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to **adopt the second reading** of Ordinance No. 78-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: Since time is of the essence, we'd like to suspend the rules of council for Ordinance No. 78-13.

Mrs. Cerreta moved and Mr. Kiesling seconded to **suspend the rules** for Ordinance No. 78-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May we adopt under the suspension of the rules, Ordinance No. 78-13?

Mr. Peters moved and Mrs. Kiesling seconded to **adopt under the suspension of the rules**, Ordinance No. 78-15. All members present voting:

Yes: Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling
No: 0

11. Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion to read by title only, the second reading of Ordinance No. 79-13?

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mrs. Werren seconded to **read by title only, second reading** of Ordinance No. 79-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters
No: 0

Ordinance No. 79-13 – 2nd Reading – Finance & Property

An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Canton to enter into a Disbursement Agreement by and between the City of North Canton and the Stark Development Board Finance Corporation ("SDBFC") for the immediate disbursement of \$34,492.23 and further quarterly disbursements of \$11,432.96 from the SDBFC to the City in conjunction with the termination of the revolving loan fund program, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

Mr. Snyder: Somehow this was moved from economic development.
Mrs. Kiesling: I know.

Mr. Snyder: Maybe you should explain it.

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Mrs. Kiesling: I think it's pretty self-explanatory, we're terminating the revolving loan fund, and they're disbursing our money back to us. We just had to agree to accept it. I make a motion to adopt.

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Peters seconded to adopt the second reading of Ordinance No. 79-13. All members present voting: Yes: Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder No: 0

Mr. Snyder: Since they do want this cleared up by the end of the year, and time is of the essence, I would like to suspend the rules of council for Ordinance No. 79-13.

Mr. Cerreta moved and Mrs. Kiesling seconded to suspend the rules for Ordinance No. 79-13. All members present voting: Yes: Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May we adopt under suspension of the rules, Ordinance No. 79-13?

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Peters seconded to adopt under suspension of the rules Ordinance No. 79-13. All members present voting: Yes: Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta No: 0

12. Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion to read by title only, the second reading of Ordinance No. 80-13?

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to read by title only, second reading of Ordinance No. 80-13. All members present voting: Yes: Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz No: 0

Ordinance No. 80-13 - 2nd Reading - Personnel & Safety

An ordinance amending Section 20. COMPENSATION of Chapter 155 Personnel Regulations of Part One-Administrative Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of North Canton, as amended, to establish the positions of "Chief Building Officer", "Nuisance Officer", and "Laborer"; change the title of "Chief Operator - Drinking Water Plant" to "Superintendent - Drinking Water Plant", and the rates of compensation for same; and to delete the classification of "Director of Administrative Services" and rate of compensation for same; repealing any and all legislation inconsistent herewith, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

Mr. Snyder: Chairman Peters.

Mr. Peters: Yes, thank you. We covered this at length last week. Dan, you weren't here for the first one, right? When we discussed this originally?

Mr. Griffith: I don't believe I was.

Mr. Peters: Alright. I'll give a quick overview here: Changing the title, "Chief Operator" to "Superintendent, Drinking Water Plant". Addressing the same in the "Chief Building Officer" and creating the position of part-time "Nuisance Officer" to give Eric some help in his department. And adding the position under Part-Time General Laborer and addressing the salary ranges of all. One of the things that we talked about last week is that we wanted a position descriptions, and we have those for all three here. One - a couple of things to note: for the Superintendent, you know, you must possess and maintain a valid Ohio Class III license. I know that was a question that had come up prior to the meeting. And I believe everyone has these at their desk.

Mrs. Werren: Right.

Mr. Peters: Okay. Alright. So if there's any questions in regards to...

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Mrs. Werren: Well what would be the main difference between Superintendent and then was it called just Chief Building Officer? Or...

Mr. Peters: Chief Operator, Drinking Water Plant. And we discussed it. We touched on it a little bit, Jon did and so did Director Grimes. You know, by changing the name and addressing the salary range, it was going to address the added responsibilities that that position is going to carry. Some of the things that Jim takes care of now, as was eluded to, you know when Jim is, you know decides to move on, you know, all that stuff is going to fall on the Superintendent. I mean, if you want to add anything more to that Mike.

Mr. Grimes: No, that was it. And then we've used both titles over the years, and I do have a housekeeping thing that I would like to address to the Chairman if I get a chance on this one too. But it's, I think just the title itself is better. It's not going to change the money or anything. I just think that's just a more appropriate title for what we're doing with the person.

Mrs. Werren: Okay.

Mr. Cerreta: Especially if you have to go outside some day and advertise and everything, that is to me a better name for what that person does down there.

Mr. Grimes: Yeah, if I have a police sergeant call you, you're going to take his call. If I have a police major call you, you're going to pay a little more attention, even though they both may be making the same amount of money. So that's kind of some of it there, and then we are adding some more distribution responsibilities for that person.

Mr. Snyder: Do you have some additional comments, Director Grimes?

Mr. Grimes: Yes, sir. Just on the - I noticed - late actually, the Fire Chief noticed it late, up until February we had an Assistant Fire Chief at a certain rate, and we had changed that position way back from Fire Prevention Chief to Assistant Fire Chief, and then in July it somehow got changed back to Fire Prevention Chief. And it looks like it's carrying forward into this one. So I just want to make sure that we have an Assistant Fire Chief line, because that's what we've had throughout the years. So I think that's kind of how sometimes Superintendent and Chief Operator gets changed over the years. It's just semantics, but the Assistant Fire Chief, we have an Assistant Fire Chief pay in there, and we had changed that years back from a Fire Prevention Chief. We no longer had that. We changed that to an Assistant Fire Chief which is a part-time job. No money change. And earlier this year, we still had it in our ordinance as an Assistant Fire Chief. And I think the last time it got changed somehow it reverted back to the Fire Prevention Chief. So I just want to make sure we have this as an Assistant Fire Chief when we write up this new one.

Mr. Snyder: Do you want to amend this piece of legislation to include that?

Mr. Grimes: I would like to make sure it includes that title, sir.

Mr. Snyder: Chairman, would you be good enough to do that?

Mr. Peters: Yes, I'm fine to do that. I'm wondering, was it an act of council to go back there? Or was that just a typo?

Mr. Grimes: No. No, I think it just changed.

Mrs. Kiesling: Yeah, somebody just looking at an old ordinance and threw it in.

Mr. Peters: Okay. I got you. Okay. Alright. Okay. So, yeah we'll do that. And, also to note too, we're also striking Director of Administration Services out of this Section 20. also.

Mr. Snyder: Right.

Mr. Peters: So okay, so...

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Mr. Snyder: You also have to proffer an amendment to ... classification of Assistant Fire Chief, and strike the Prevention Chief.

Mr. Peters: Okay. I'll motion to amend this to include Assistant Fire Chief from - what was that again?

Mr. Grimes: Fire Prevention Chief.

Mr. Peters: Fire Prevention Chief.

Mr. Cerreta: So moved.

Mr. Peters: Okay. And I motioned - seconded. Okay.

Mr. Cerreta moved and Mr. Peters seconded to amend Ordinance No. 80-13 to delete the classification of "Fire Prevention Chief" and add the classification of "Assistant Fire Chief". All members present voting:

Yes: Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith
No: 0

Mr. Peters: Alright, if there are no other questions or comments, I'll motion to approve the second reading of Ordinance 80-13, as amended.

Mr. Snyder: That's correct.

Mr. Peters moved and Mrs. Kiesling seconded to adopt the second reading, as amended, of Ordinance No. 80-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: Again, the time is of the essence, this has to be implemented prior to this next pay which we will not be here to meet before, so I'd like to suspend the rules of council for Ordinance No. 80-13.

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to suspend the rules, as amended, for Ordinance No. 80-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May we adopt under suspension of the rules, Ordinance No. 80-13?

Mr. Peters moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to adopt under suspension of the rules, as amended, Ordinance No. 80-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder
No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May I have a motion and second to amend the agenda to include Item No. 13, Ordinance 82-13 and waive the rules of council requiring a committee report?

Mr. Griffith moved and Mrs. Werren seconded to amend the agenda to include Item 13, Ordinance No. 82-13 and waive the rules of council requiring a committee report. All members present voting:

Yes: Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren
No: 0

New Business:

13. Mr. Snyder: Now, may I have a motion to read by title only, first reading of Ordinance No. 82-13.

Mr. Griffith moved and Mrs. Kiesling seconded to read by title only, first reading of Ordinance No. 82-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta
No: 0

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An ordinance authorizing the Mayor of the City of North Canton, through the Board of Control, to enter into a Jobs and Commerce Economic Development Agreement ("Agreement") by and between the City of North Canton ("City") and the State of Ohio Department of Transportation ("ODOT"), for the purpose of funding the East Maple Street (from Main Street to Taft Avenue NE and to realign McKinley Avenue SE) Improvements Project, in an amount not to exceed \$150,000, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

Mr. Snyder: Chairman Griffith

Mr. Griffith: We had a good chance to chat about it and I would move its adoption.

Mr. Griffith moved and Mr. Peters seconded to **adopt the first reading** of Ordinance No. 82-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Griffith, Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz

No: 0

Mr. Snyder: Again, they want to go to the Board of Control this evening, so time is of the essence. So may I have a motion to suspend the rules of council for 82-13?

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to **suspend the rules** for Ordinance No. 82-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Kiesling, Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith

No: 0

Mr. Snyder: May we adopt under the suspension of the rules Ordinance No. 82-13?

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to **adopt under the suspension of the rules**, Ordinance No. 82-13. All members present voting:

Yes: Peters, Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling

No: 0

Reports – Council:

Mr. Snyder: Okay, reports. Mr. Foltz

Mr. Foltz: Just a quick question of Karen Alger. When you, and I'm just looking over this financial report for November and year-to-date. And I apologize, I should of asked this earlier, but the inheritance tax, do we receive a residual? Is it like a last year for that, or what does that actually mean ...

Mrs. Alger: Correct.

Mr. Foltz: A residual. We got a payment in May and November, I believe.

Mrs. Alger: Many times those estate taxes go into probate, and it takes a while to get resolved ...

Mr. Foltz: For us to get our funding.

Mrs. Alger: So we are not expecting any, so any of those that may have been in probate before the - and that's why we're getting residual.

Mr. Foltz: So, we don't really have a line item for next years' budget.

Mrs. Alger: Correct.

Mr. Foltz: It's just a follow up. That brings me to my other point. We're looking at the park levy, and we're going to do capital. But I think you also have to understand, and Jon you alluded to this earlier, I mean we're down 183,000 on our real estate taxes overall, 183,000. Just because of a decrease in property values that we've all seen, and we're trying to come back, hopefully by creating new amenities and improvements we are doing that. Income tax, we're down obviously from 2010, we're down \$330,000 since 2010. Local government funds, we're down \$330,000 from 2009. I mean you start adding that up, we got a million dollars we're short.

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Mr. Snyder: And actually local government funds from the inset, we're down about 870,000.

Mr. Foltz: Right. So I'm just looking at this and doing some quick math. Inheritance tax, yeah we've received \$487,000 but, we planning on maybe zero or very little next year. When we had banner years of 1.8 million.

Mrs. Alger: Right.

Mr. Foltz: Jackson went on a levy because that's the only way they could keep their parks open. And I mean we're going to do some nice capital improvements, but we also need it just to facilitate good government for all of our departments. So I don't want to mislead anybody saying we're going to develop a plan and spend whatever the figure comes out of 1.5 million, I mean 1.5 mils. Jon, you had some rough figures, I think, 300,000.

Mr. Snyder: Well one mil is about 330.

Mr. Foltz: Okay.

Mr. Snyder A mil and a half is a little over 500,000.

Mr. Foltz: It's a matter of allocating resources to the parks, including personnel. I think that's what we're going to ...

Mr. Snyder: Well, at least in general...

Mr. Foltz: So that's the point that has to be made, just to make sure we maintain our good parks and improve on them, we really got to look at this park levy. I mean we can develop a plan for capital, but personnel has to be a part of this equation...

Mr. Snyder: Oh, yeah.

Mr. Foltz: Because we can't have count on these other dollars. Even though we're doing great things across the street, we're developing a new business on Portage, as we all know with some property tax abatement. This is a necessity. This is something that if it's near and dear to your heart in North Canton, you've got to vote for it, because it's going to ensure that we continue to have good parks, and be able to spend the capital. We're looking at full expenditure for a liner alone of about \$300,000, and we need to create new amenities there with the bathrooms, and whatever else we can do. We've, we used to spend money on curb and gutter because we had it. We no longer have it. So we're lucky if we get one small job in a ward every couple of years.

Mr. Snyder: Right.

Mr. Foltz: That's a reality. So, I think we're very, very prudent just to discuss this and develop a comprehensive plan that's going to include more or less operating expenses. Not just capital.

Mr. Snyder: Well, you know, I think if you look at it the way we have proprietary funds now in water and sewer, where that - those monies are used strictly for those - they're self-sustaining.

Mr. Foltz: Right.

Mr. Snyder: Water stands on its own income. The parks will be able to stand on its own. People can't say, well, you just repaved that tennis court. Well yeah, that's because the people of North Canton paid us to do that. It's all a little profit center.

Mr. Foltz: And, to our credit, we did play catch-up for the last couple of years. I don't want people to be misled to think that well, we have that kind of money every year.

Mr. Snyder: No.

Mr. Foltz: No, we don't, because something else wasn't taken care of whether it was roads, or whatever, you know, amenities we have in the City. So I welcome the discussion, but I think it really is important that we all understand why we have to go ahead with this. This isn't just a luxury as we all ...

Mrs. Werren Right.

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Mr. Foltz: you know, are all going to vote for it. This is a necessity to make sure we have strong vibrant parks in our community. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Snyder: Appreciate your comments. Thank you. Mr. Peters.
Mr. Peters: No Report.

Mr. Snyder: Mrs. Werren
Mrs. Werren: No report.

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Griffith
Mr. Griffith: Pass

Mrs. Kiesling: Pass, are you sick?
Mr. Cerreta: Are you playing a game here? Is that a pass? You don't get to pass.

Mr. Griffith: Just for the one time.
Mr. Cerreta: He's been out of the state.

Mr. Snyder: Are you having -- one privileged question. Are you giving Iglo building lessons right after ...

Mr. Griffith: No. but I'm happy to show pictures for all of you who'd like to see them.

(Laughter)

Mr. Griffith: I'm glad to be back.

Mr. Snyder: Well, it's nice to have you back. Mr. Cerreta.

Mr. Cerreta: I've got a couple things. First of all, nice job to both the Chamber and Administration for our Christmas gathering yesterday, last night. Nice job with all of that. I think that's a great reflection on our City all the time. All the time.

Mr. Griffith: It could be warmer next year though.

Mr. Cerreta: It's part of our community and that's just what makes this one of those unique things and makes us, you know, say who we are. Now on the other side of things, I've got some, some residents have called me in -- and we got a letter. First of all, and Eric I want you to hear this too, and maybe chime in on this, our post office parking lot. Is there, I know that's been going on around here for a long time. But I've had people bring it to my attention. You know, we talk about housing and rentals and keeping all that up. I mean that thing is like the worst rental in the - and so we need to look at that. Is there - what can we do about that, Eric, or do we have anything that we can do about that?

Mr. Peters: I can shed a little bit of light on that.
Mr. Cerreta: Please.

Mr. Peters: I'm sure and the Mayor and Mike, they've dealt with it. We've been dealing with this for the last...
Mrs. Kiesling: The last ten years, at least.

Mr. Peters: Yes, it's been forever. I always thought it was U.S. Government.
Mrs. Kiesling: Yeah.

Mr. Peters: You know, the post office owns it. Well they leased that property, and that lease-holder, and I'm not sure who the...

Mr. Snyder: Chicago. Chicago. They lease post offices all over the country.
Mr. Peters: Yeah.

Mr. Snyder: That's all they do.
Mr. Peters: They're based in Chicago, right?

Mr. Snyder: Chicago, I think it is is where it's at.

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Mr. Cerreta: Well if that that was a rental compared to other post offices, we would have that thing, we would be all over that thing. So we need to do something with that or try to maybe push that along a little bit.

Mr. Peters: No, you're right.

Mr. Snyder: Well, last Christmas it was evidence - it looked like a land mine hit it.

Mr. Peters: It still does.

Mr. Snyder: And Eric got hold of the guy, because I - he was standing next to me when the guy returned his call. And Eric had to threaten him with a potential court action and he did patch it. I think they have about nine years left on the lease, don't they Eric?

Mr. Peters: Here's the problem, Jon. The past four years they've waited until and they've used a warm patch, they used cold patch this year if I'm not mistaken. So it didn't hold up as long as it has in the past four years. I mean am I right on that? They patched earlier this year than ...

Mr. Grimes: They did because they were under threats. They patched it.

Mr. Bowles: Well yea, yeah.

Mr. Snyder: What are the subdivision regulations? Do our subdivisions require maintenance of commercial parking lots? I don't remember if that's in there or not.

Mr. Foltz: If not, we should add them.

Mr. Snyder: Yeah, it does require hard surface...

Mr. Peters: That's not a bad idea.

Mr. Snyder: But I don't know if the subdivision regs require maintenance of commercial subdivisions or not.

Mr. Cerreta: Eric.

Mr. Bowles: Just so you know, their lease goes until 2022. It's not a very good lease, which is the excuse for Ten Mile Creek Partners, the owners of the post office. That's their excuse for not repaving the lot. I got the complaints. Mike called me the other day. I went ahead and sent the email. Normally we don't send those emails out to them with the threats and violation until spring. As we all know, because with the freeze/thaw factor, that's usually when we see the cold patch. This past year, it was Good Friday. Jon remembers that. That's when I threatened the gentleman. But they were out there Good Friday making a permanent, I won't say a permanent patch, but they were using hot mix, and I think that the batch plant had just opened. So normally we don't see things get really bad until spring time. This year, whether it was the heavy freeze/thaw factor, I don't know, but I went ahead and sent them the email with the notice of violation letting them know. And Councilman Snyder's right, we do have a section in our code that requires them - people to maintain commercial parking lots. I cited them under that. I - earlier today I did get a notice back from them email that they've put a work order in and they're going to take care of that as soon as possible. But, you know, once again, you know, I think we're in a precarious situation with the post offices. It's not a very good lease. I used the strongest language possible in my email telling them to repave that lot because it's such a combination of patches over many, many, many years that there's no parking lot there. They just patch it every year because in their words, they can't seem have, they don't get enough money in that lease to basically justify their going ahead and putting a new parking lot in. But, you know we'll hammer on them. We'll continue to hammer on them. If they do patch the lot, and they maintain the lot, they're meeting the ordinance. Right now they're not. And like I said, we issued a notice of violation by email and we did get a response back. So we're just back to a situation normally we don't see until March every year when we fight the battle. I know Jeff and I, I don't know how many years we've had these conversations. One year Jeff was in the post office with people yelling at him. So...

Mr. Peters: Yeah.

Mr. Griffith: I do think there's a community issue here and that is we know the federal government is working hard to try to reduce the number of post offices. We've already seen one of our zip codes disappear from that post office. And I hear people all the time talk

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about, particularly more than residents, talk about going up to Greentown, because it's easier, it's less, not as difficult. People on the southern part of town go into some of the Canton post offices for that reason. So I think as a community, and obviously it's a private lease and we can do some subdivisions stuff, but as a community we need to make sure that we don't lose a post office. You know, I think that would be really bad, particularly for a community like North Canton. So...

Mr. Foltz: Well I think the State, well our federal government should get involved with this, our federal reps. If they're not fulfilling their requirements of keeping a decent parking lot, and it's terrible; I mean I drive by it and mail letters and bills. Then they should void their lease with this company if they can't handle it. I mean that's not a huge parking lot either if you think about it. That's not even half the size of this parking lot, maybe a third.

Mr. Cerreta: There must be glaciers under there or something.
Mr. Foltz: I don't know what it is.

Mr. Cerreta: Because no matter what they do, they just keep popping up, popping up.

Mr. Cerreta: Well they just – they use band aid approaches to it. They'll take it down and pave it on a Sunday. They'd get it all done on Sunday. Whatever it costs, they should do it. Well ...

Mr. Cerreta: Okay. Maybe we can push that a little bit. The other thing I'm going to just pass on, some of the residents, and these are some of the words that residents, we had an incident recently down at the Speedy Foods down here. And I've gotten several calls from those people on Cordelia that are concerned about that because that place down there has had several incidents over the past years on that. And some of their comments were that there are many times that only one person is working there, which, you know, that's up to the owner there. They're open until 11. They do have liquor license, now they want that renewed. And those people are really concerned over there on Cordelia. There are a lot of widowers over there and there are a lot of families. So I want that to be out there. I don't know what we can do about that, whether it's, you know, maybe do - what they can do to counter some of that with cameras or let people know that there are cameras there, but that's an incident that's becoming too repetitive for us. I think we need to maybe kind of address that before it gets out of hand.

Mr. Snyder: You know I think in the City of Canton, and I could be mistaken, but somehow I seem to think that they passed an ordinance several years ago, at least 15 or 18 year ago, requiring convenience stores to have two people in them at all times. I don't know if we're legally allowed to legislate that or not. But the problem is, you know, they're a sitting duck right there, there's not much traffic. That was Saturday evening, I think, wasn't it?

Mr. Cerreta: Saturday evening, right.

Mrs. Werren: How many times have they been robbed?

Mr. Snyder: I think this is the third time.

Mr. Cerreta: Depending on what their – I don't know, but from what the residents told me there have been several.

Mr. Snyder: I mean where they actually used, where they entered and used a gun. They tried to break-in and twice I think they caught them both times. And the funny thing is the police use that to fill their tanks of gas there, they're in and out of there all the time.

Mr. Cerreta: Well I think the fact that you have one person working there. Anybody that goes in there sees one person that's pretty susceptible.

Mr. Snyder: Yeah, it's a sitting duck.

Mr. Cerreta: But you know sooner or later they come up for liquor. And we look at those kinds of things when we look at it. And so, you know, they should be looking at...

Mr. Snyder: We've had a, I know sitting on the Tax Incentive Review Council, and Eric will tell you that we've had conversations with Mr. Althouse who owns that once before. And he came up and he was extremely cooperative. Possibly we'll call him and we'll get a hold of you and we'll have a little meeting. He's very, very cooperative as far as what he can do. And he's governed by the restraints of his income, but you're right, he wants to keep – to be able to run his place.

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Mr. Cerreta: The residents mentioned that they're open from 10 to 11 which you know, they can do without that, and that there's one person working there. So, that's something we need to bring up.

Mr. Snyder: We'll talk about that. But that's a good point.

Mr. Peters: Another point to that. Have they caught the other guy yet? I know one of them got away.

Mr. Grimes: They will. That's the point that I think needs to be made. These folks weren't from North Canton. They came to North Canton and they're going to be arrested – and they were caught. So and the place does have cameras - it has some pretty good cameras.

Mr. Cerreta: Outside of that cheery stuff, happy holidays to everyone. And looking forward to next year and some good challenges.

Mr. Snyder: Thank you very much. Mrs. Kiesling, any report?

Mrs. Kiesling: No report.

Reports:

Mr. Snyder: I don't have any particular report. Director of Law

Mr. Fox: Yes, sir. Just to follow up, November 26th the Zoning and Building Standards Board of Appeals had its first every appeal hearing for a violation of a housing ordinance. And this involved when we had the photographs of the shipping container in the driveway. And the reason that they had an appeal hearing was because I believed it was necessary because it appeared that if the resident wasn't going to resolve the violation of the shipping container there, that it would result in a taking, as it appeared that the only outcome if they weren't going to remove it as it had been there for sixteen months, and they asked for another six months was for the City to impound it. And when you have a taking of that nature, there's a due process requirement that's necessary to have a hearing and before an independent body. So we had the hearing. It was sort of a mini trial where there was evidence presented, testimony taken, photographs entered into the record, and at the end of the evening, and I thank the Board for being there, that was the evening when we had all the snow, but the Board denied the appeal. And afterwards we spoke with the person that was staying at the property and we worked out a plan for them. And last Thursday they called and said that there would be no further requirement to follow the plan, that the container was gone. And Eric and one of the inspectors indeed drove by and said the shipping container has been removed. So that shows, you know, simply following the process, it was kind of attenuated, it was drawn out a little bit, but that was the minimum requirement necessary, because they very well could have appealed that to the Common Pleas Court. That would have delayed our process, but we wanted to simply follow the constitutional requirements for that. So I want to thank Eric and his inspectors for being out there, being so diligent, and certainly the Board for taking that on as kind of a new measure. And I don't think that we'll have them very often because it just doesn't happen that often where it results in a taking. These might be in situations where a property may need to be demolished because it's in such a state of disrepair. Those situations, it's a government taking of the property if you follow through, so that meets that due process requirement. The last part is, just to give you a final update, pretty much for the calendar year for 2013 for the income tax collection, we should finish with approximately \$200,000 that will be collected, and this is overdue taxes, you know, dating back to some of them 2006, where they haven't filed, they haven't paid. So this will cover the overdue taxes, the penalties and interest, the fines, and the court costs. So I want to thank Jane Housos and Gayle Bruce, that's the Mayor's Court Clerk and the Income Tax Department as well as Magistrate Nist, and then all the residents that were cooperating with us and understanding the requirements of their processing their income tax and getting those things paid timely. So that was, I believe, an overall success for the year. Well that's it. Thank you.

Mr. Snyder: Nice job. Thank you very much. Director Alger.

Mrs. Alger: Yeah, I always have bad news, so I have some good news for a change. The Ohio Bureau of Worker's Comp has given us a 2% bonus, performance bonus, for the year

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2012. And this comes from our decreased, our claims frequency, we met our eligibility requirement for safety council, and of course we kept current on our payments. So I just wanted to let you know that we got 2% performance bonus.

Mr. Snyder: That's a big number, because we pay a heavy Workers' Comp.
Mrs. Alger: Yes.

Mr. Snyder: Maybe it's those Stryker cots so we don't have too many claims for back injuries anymore, I think.

Mrs. Alger: And jokingly, but yes, some of that does have ...

Mr. Snyder: Yeah, that's true from EMS, but that's true. That was money well spent.

Mrs. Alger: And going to the safety meeting.

Mr. Snyder: Good job. Director Grimes.

Mr. Grimes: I just want to thank Council for approving the positions. And, you know, the Water Plant is out there, it's operating fine. Last week we had EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) come in, sit down with me and the Water Operators, go over all our things that we're doing, going to do and all that, because we just wanted to make sure that we were, you know, where we needed to be. And that meeting went well. They were out there for a couple of hours, but we thought we would do that just to make sure, you know, we're where we are supposed to be, and we were. The range, we do have a entity already that's contacted the Chief and I to sit down and meet with them. We're hoping to do that this week. And it's just preliminary right now, but at least we've got some people, you know, that are willing to do that.

Mr. Snyder: Good.

Mr. Grimes: So, we're going to meet with them and then we'll apprise you of that if anything comes of that. So...

Mr. Snyder: I was just going to say, would you be kind enough to let Member Werren know how that's going because she's kind of following that along.

Mr. Grimes: I probably can't get away from her. She'll...

(Laughter)

Mrs. Werren: It's Friday, I'm going to call you tomorrow, you know that.

(Laughter)

Mr. Grimes: And then if you noticed on our entry signs, we have some pretty nice Christmas wreaths and that. The City did not do that. Councilman Cerreta has gone out and did that, so it looks really nice. I had some calls on that.

Mayor Held: Very nice.

Mr. Grimes: I wanted to take credit, but I knew that he would find out. So, but no, it was really nice. I think they looked nice.

Mrs. Werren: Now were the calls from people wondering who spent the money?

Mr. Cerreta: My wife made the wreaths, by the way.

Mr. Snyder: They're very nice, I saw them on there.

Mr. Cerreta: I got a raise this year.

Mrs. Werren: Yeah.

Mr. Cerreta: Thank you, Mike, I'll tell them.

Mr. Snyder: Thank you, Michael. Mr. Mayor. Oh, excuse me.

Mrs. Werren: I'm sorry. I just wanted to say thank you for the lights, too. Please tell Jim Davis they look really nice...

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Mr. Grimes: Yeah, they do.

Mrs. Werren: and they just helped to light up Main Street. And they weren't so bright. I mean the bulbs on top still are pretty white, but those are nice, supplemental lights, so very good job.

Mr. Snyder: Jim doesn't have any lights at his house now, but his kids have to go without a Christmas Tree.

Mr. Grimes: I was concerned because the day we were turning them on somebody came by at night and knocked one of the poles down. And I was checking where the councilman was, but we got the pole back up.

Mr. Snyder: Good. Thank you. Mr. Mayor.

Mayor Held: Yes. Speaking of the lights, there was a funny story because Councilman Werren had mentioned about having blinking lights. So we had told our Street Superintendent, that if Councilman Werren wants blinking lights, to get out there and push and pull those lights. Just plug it in and pull it out during the Christmas tree lighting. We'll have blinking lights for a short period of time. But I'm just joking. But anyways, the park levy, just to reiterate what we've already discussed here, the park levy really is to maintain the parks. And then there will be some additional funds there, because as was discussed here this evening by the Council President, and also our Parks Chairman, Doug, it's - our property taxes have went down. I mean our overall revenue, our local government funds, have went down. And normally when you look at the historical budgetary process, we have worked very hard to maintain police, fire and EMS and one of the areas that always is the first to take a hit is the Park Department. I mean it's just the process. It's not that we don't believe that our parks aren't important, but when you're looking at a budgetary process that's usually the first area that takes a cut. And now we're getting to that point where there is maintenance that needs to be done. And we would like to also make improvements, but this is really for the most part, depending on the amount of the levy, to maintain and then also to have some extra for improvements. It's certainly not like we're going to have hundreds of thousands of dollars to add additional items to the park. Also, our Law Director, Tim Fox, it really is very impressive when you consider that you've clearly more than paid for your salary, at least probably the first two years, maybe even going into three years. When you look at how that's been done, historically the City would hire a collection agency at what 50%?

Mr. Fox: One third.

Mayor Held: One third of whatever they collect. But I can tell you, they have not been as successful as our Law Director has. I mean, this is the best collection that I've seen since I've been here. And you figure \$200,000 of revenue that was sitting out there in the form of unpaid income tax collections and now that's just additional funds. So very nice work on that. And also I appreciate Council passing the exempt ordinance this evening with all the modifications to the Superintendent of Drinking Water, the Chief Building Inspector. All of these adjustments really are going to allow the City to function much more efficiently; even adding a part-time labor position. Mike Grimes put a lot of time and effort into reviewing this, and also identifying those adjustments. But really ultimately, it will lead to a more cost-efficient operation here in the City. And lastly, the - Councilman Cerreta, those wreaths really do, they stand out, they look very nice. Very good work on those. And because when I saw them I had to call and figure out where we got those from. They did surprise me, because I know the City did not have those. So very nice touch. And the Christmas tree lighting, you know, it's been a long-standing tradition since - Dottie, since what year?

Mrs. McGrew (speaking from the press table): I don't ...inaudible...

Mayor Held: Long-standing tradition for the Christmas Tree Lighting dates back to, what was it, 1919 I think?

Mrs. McGrew (speaking from the press table): Oh, gosh ...inaudible...

Mayor Held: Yeah. So this has been going on for years and we...

Mrs. McGrew (speaking from the press table): Inaudible...

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Mayor Held: What's that? But no, but Dottie's historian. She usually has a lot of these answers. So - but the - yeah, it was a real nice event, and we're looking to, you know, we tried to consolidate it so that the kids don't have to run over to the "Y" or you know everything was right close quarters there. But it really went very well. And I appreciate everybody's support on that. And that's all I have.

Mr. Snyder: Mr. Engineer

Mr. Benekos: Just have two items. Thank you for the kind word on the signs. As you know, the directions were wrong, and we're still double-checking to be sure they're all right. I think there were one or two as of Friday, but we're getting there.

Mr. Cerreta: Duct tape is a nice feature.

(Laughter)

Mr. Benekos: Yeah, thanks.

Mr. Grimes: Stop my phone calls.

Mr. Benekos: hat was all I was worried about, so Mike wasn't bothered. The other thing, speaking of parks, we met at Stark Parks today. They have a grant to extend a trail from Stark State to the YMCA (where's the "Y"), Okay, I am terrible with directions.

Mr. Griffith: Inaudible...

Mr. Benekos: Yes. The route going from Stark State to Price Park is pretty much set. They're just going to come down Dressler and Glenwood to there, whether it's the north side or south side (excuse me) of Glenwood. Once it gets past Whipple, they're still going to look into that. The route from Price Park to the YMCA is still up for debate. They'll look at probably five different options, and then we'll be holding public meetings in the future to determine that, and get input from the residents. I'm sure they'll be going - some of the options will be going through some of the neighborhoods, so we want to hear from them. One of the options will be just coming up Glenwood and then trying to get over towards the "Y". So if any of your residents say, hey, there's people, you know, taking measurements, looking out in the streets here, that's what they are doing. So I think it would be about three months until they are ready for a public meeting, but we can look forward to that.

Mr. Snyder: Well you know it would be nice, since they're going to buy some of those homes, they can come up along the Zimber there through - meander through the back parts of those neighborhoods.

Mr. Benekos: They did mention that.

Mr. Snyder: And that would be cost-efficient and also good utilization of the land that's down there along the water.

Mr. Benekos: If they got all that, all the homes, it's a possibility. They talked about, you know, possibly going through Price Park, but I don't think we talked about it not allowing them to go through Price Park or utilizing the paths there because their path is going to be bicycle and pedestrian, and Price Park doesn't permit biking. So - but that will be one of the things that will be discussed. And we'll all have an opportunity to give our input on that. So...

Mr. Cerreta: Jim, do you know - oh excuse me.

Mr. Snyder: No, go ahead.

Mr. Cerreta: If it comes up, you know, Glenwood, is it, what kind of trail is it then? Will we have sidewalks or will it be either crushed limestone or - I mean ...

Mr. Benekos: That came up today. And we stated that, you know, anything in the City, our preference is going to be concrete. One of the options would be, you know, if you come up Glenwood, if it's wide enough, or they might have to widen Glenwood just a little bit at two five foot bike lanes, and then have a separate sidewalk installed. So those options are still to be determined, and we can give our input on that.

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Mr. Snyder: The best place would be is on the north Side of Glenwood, because it facilitates the pedestrian traffic that utilizes both the park and the school.
Mr. Benekos: Right.

Mr. Snyder: And as you know, I don't know ten or twelve years ago, we had sidewalks staked on that Glenwood on that north side and it - the residents kind of threw a fit because it was pretty invasive into their - one of the sidewalks was on a guys front porch, and he didn't appreciate that. It gets pretty far, because a lot of that the right-of-way has been eroded away. But, that would be interesting to see how that goes.
Mr. Benekos: Yep.

Mr. Snyder: One question I have. I know you and I have had a conversation privately about once the lights were timed on Main Street, that's getting closer done now and...
Mr. Benekos: It's getting closer.

Mr. Snyder: That we can look at two turn lanes north off Everhard. That traffic in the next 30 days or so, it's stacking almost all the way back to Salway.
Mr. Benekos: Right.

Mr. Snyder: And someone is going to get killed, is what's going to happen. I mean, if we can look at ...
Mr. Benekos: Yes.

Mr. Snyder: Of course I don't know if you can make that move during the wintertime. It may be a tough...

Mr. Benekos: Yeah. Well the plan was once the signals are in, the timing is set, we get a good feel for how the new timing works on there, then we'll look at how Easthill and Everhard both function. And if we do need to put in two left-turn lanes, we can address it at that time. But we wanted that new timing and the new system, because it's an adaptive system. If that does not handle the traffic, then we'll go to the two lanes.

Mr. Snyder: Because I notice, you know, was it last week or the week before, somebody flew right across went into the creek again, because I don't know that the people don't realize that that road ends there.
Mr. Benekos: Yeah.

Mr. Snyder: And they see the traffic backed up and drive - drove right in the creek. And there's nothing, there's no warning signal on Sablo's property to indicate that the right-of-way stops at...

Mr. Benekos: There's a sign with a double arrow.
Mrs. Kiesling: A big sign with the arrows, but...

Mr. Snyder: Well, I don't think most people pay any attention to that. I mean they ...
Mr. Cerreta: You're talking about coming down the hill?
Mrs. Kiesling: Yeah.

Mr. Snyder: probably think that's the direction to City Hall.

Mrs. Kiesling: They ...inaudible...

Mr. Snyder: It just said under there "home of Mayor Held".

"Laughter"

Mr. Snyder: They thought that was a directional. We have so many signs on the pole to send them to City Hall. No, but we'll look at that. But if you'd look at that I'd appreciate it.
Mr. Benekos: Certainly.

Mr. Snyder: Anything else?
Mr. Cerreta: Thanks, Jim.

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Mr. Snyder: We'll be back, we're in recess until the 6th of January. We will then start at 6:30 with a Council of the Whole and immediately followed by the Council Meeting. We'll try this out and see how it works.

Mrs. Kiesling: Then, we'll be off next Monday? Which Monday is the holiday?

Mr. Snyder: The holiday's, well I don't know, I thought that was the first.

Mrs. Kiesling: No, I meant for ...

Mr. Snyder: Oh for ...

Mrs. Kiesling: President's Day or ...

Mr. Snyder: Martin Luther King.

Mrs. Kiesling: Martin Luther King.

Mr. Snyder: Isn't it the 20th?

Mr. Griffith: Yes.

Mrs. Kiesling: When is it?

Mr. Snyder: The building's closed, isn't it?

Mrs. Kalpac: Yes.

Mrs. Kiesling: Right. So that's what I'm saying, we're meeting on the 6th, the 20th is Martin Luther King Day. So are we still going to meet the 21st which is a Tuesday or do another Monday in January?

Mr. Snyder: We'll do another Monday.

Mrs. Kiesling: So either the 13th or the 27th?

Mr. Snyder: Yeah, we'll let you - we'll work that out and we'll see what that is and...

Mrs. Kiesling: Okay.

Mr. Snyder: Rather than upset the applecart immediately and do that.

Mrs. Kiesling: Okay.

Final Call for New Business:

Mr. Snyder: Okay. I wish everybody a blessed Merry Christmas, Happy New Year. I'm sure I'll see some of you before then, but if I don't. Anything else to come before this body? If not I'll entertain a ...

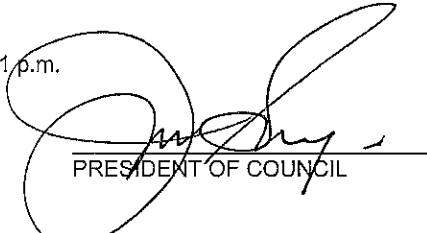
Adjourn:

Mrs. Kiesling moved and Mr. Cerreta seconded to adjourn the council meeting. All members present voting:

Yes: Snyder, Werren, Cerreta, Foltz, Griffith, Kiesling, Peters,

No: 0

The meeting adjourned at 8:11 p.m.


PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:


CLERK OF COUNCIL