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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
SPECIAL CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**TRANSCRIPT OF
JANUARY 13, 2020, MEETING**

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Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the North Canton Civic Center, 845 West Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio, on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 6:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

- Daniel Jeff Peters, Council President, Ward 2
- Daryl Revoldt, Council Vice President, At Large
- Doug Foltz, Ward 1
- Stephanie Werren, Ward 3
- Dominic Fonte, Ward 4
- Mark R. Cerreta, At Large
- Matthew Stroia, At Large
- Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration
- Timothy L. Fox, Director of Law
- Marge Loretto, Interim Director of Finance
- Jina Alaback, Finance Director
- Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services
- Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Benjamin R. Young, Clerk

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1 MR. PETERS: Okay. I'd like to call to order
2 the North Canton special council meeting January 13,
3 6 p.m.

4 Opening prayer, Cara Stultz-Costello.
5 Reverend. Welcome.

6 REVEREND STULTZ-COSTELLO: I am going to
7 leave my box and pass it around and hope that the
8 audience members, so to speak, will also take one of
9 the pieces that's in there. What's in my box are
10 pieces of softened glass. And Harold Kushner, who's
11 a rabbi, tells a story about how the tablets, when
12 Moses came down from the mountain having interfaced
13 with God, met the people and they weren't doing what
14 they were supposed to do. Anybody here ever
15 encounter people who are doing what they aren't
16 supposed to do? And Moses got so mad that he broke
17 those tablets. And Rabbi Kushner tells the story
18 about Moses gathering up those shards of the covenant
19 with God and putting them in the arc of the covenant.
20 And as the people traveled in the wilderness, they
21 carried these shards with them so that they could
22 remember that God was with them.

23 So when you do your work and when the people
24 don't do what you ask them to do, and when you do
25 what is asked of you, know that our covenant God is

1 with you and loves you and guides your work.

2 Let us pray. Lord God, we give you thanks
3 for all of the ways in which you call your people
4 into service in this world. You have in mind for us
5 perfect community and beautiful relationships with
6 one another. But we're not very good at going along
7 with your plan, so we ask, God, that you would guide
8 these leaders of ours to be wise and prudent and
9 prayerful and thoughtful and cooperative with your
10 plans so that our community might more fully reflect
11 the kingdom of God, your perfect desire of good,
12 healthy, life-giving relationships with one another.
13 Amen.

14 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

15 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

16 Ben, would you please call the roll.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt?

18 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte?

20 MR. FONTE: Here.

21 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters?

22 MR. PETERS: Here.

23 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz?

24 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

25 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren?

1 MRS. WERREN: Here.

2 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia?

3 MR. STROIA: Here.

4 MR. YOUNG: Member Ceretta?

5 MR. CERRETA: Here.

6 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

7 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very much.

8 For your consideration, I need a motion and a
9 second to approve as presented council meeting
10 minutes December 9, 2019, special committee of the
11 whole minutes December 9, 2019, special council
12 meeting minutes December 16, 2019, and financial
13 report November 2019.

14 MR. FOLTZ: Motion to approve as presented.

15 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

16 ("Aye" in unison.)

17 MR. PETERS: Motion carries. Thank you.

18 All right. At this time if you wish to
19 address council, step forward, state your name for
20 the Record, and just a friendly reminder, we have a
21 five-minute time limit.

22 MS. ROLL: Melanie J. Roll, 308 Portage
23 Street, Northwest, North Canton, Ohio.

24 Happy new year, everyone. I always like to
25 be upbeat the first public speaks. I don't know if

1 I'll end up being upbeat but I'm attempting.

2 I'm speaking again about the clerk of
3 council. I think I've spoken about that prior. I
4 believe on the agenda tonight the clerk is listed,
5 Mr. Young is listed as the clerk of council. I
6 believe on a prior meeting Mr. Peters told me that he
7 would be listed as an interim because he has not
8 been -- the process has not been completed as far as
9 interviewing and posting things.

10 What I want to bring to your attention is
11 your first document, which is when the codification
12 of the -- all the ordinances was done, I believe it
13 was the July 8 meeting, I believe the law director
14 was involved on this process as well as the finance
15 director and probably some others. As you can see,
16 it was passed on emergency. It was signed August 26
17 by then-mayor David Held and then-director of finance
18 Laura Brown. It was submitted to Drane, which does
19 the -- is the entity that holds the codified
20 ordinances. I think it's now American Legal but it
21 was Drane for many, many years. And the third
22 document on that first set is what was submitted to
23 Drane with the mayor then and the clerk of council
24 then, which was Miss Brown, and then you also have
25 the roster of officials. I assume this roster of

1 officials accompanies this because it's a permanent
2 record of the people that were in place when this
3 legislation was passed and when it was sent to Drane
4 as the legal document. You can see that director of
5 finance was Laura Brown, clerk of council was Laura
6 Brown, mayor was David Held.

7 If you currently go to the American Legal
8 site, which is on the city's website -- real handy,
9 you get to all kinds of things -- what's listed now
10 is that Mr. Stephan Wilder and Benjamin Young were
11 the ones that did this certification in July and
12 August of '19. I don't think Mr. Wilder was mayor
13 then; I don't think Mr. Young was clerk then. And
14 then also currently on the website is the roster of
15 officials. Which somehow got updated to currently
16 what you are. I believe that was an overzealous
17 intern that did that. You have Miss Alaback as the
18 director of finance. She was just recently hired.
19 You have Mr. Young as the clerk of council. Which I
20 don't think he has been appointed or selected to that
21 position. And you have Mr. Wilder the mayor. So --
22 and also I forgot Mr. Stroia is on there instead of
23 Miss Kiesling. So we have four things that are not
24 correct.

25 I think it was an oversight. If Mr. Young

1 were appointed assistant clerk to a seasoned,
2 qualified clerk that's employed by the city so he
3 could be mentored I'd have been more than happy with
4 that. I think that, once again, council needs to
5 supervise whoever's in place at the clerk position
6 and think about posting and hiring a permanent clerk.
7 Thank you.

8 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Melanie.

9 MR. FONTE: Thank you. Okay.

10 MR. TRIPP: Larry Tripp, 1127 East Maple,
11 North Canton.

12 Tonight you guys will vote on the second
13 reading of Ordinance 85-2019. This is already a very
14 important piece of legislation, one that will have a
15 lasting effect on this city and in particularly the
16 southwestern part of the city for years to come.
17 This, too, was a major issue on our recent election.
18 Too often I believe this council will vote on an
19 issue without really reading, understanding or
20 realizing the importance of that particular piece of
21 legislation. That was never more evident when you
22 brought the chamber forward legislation on Main
23 Street Business District, Ordinance 03-2019. This
24 after completely blotching [sic] Ordinance 63-2018.
25 Remember voting on legislation citing an intersection

1 of Portage and Main Street and then after this,
2 fixing this, voting on legislation citing Everhard,
3 Northwest, with South Main Street? Then this
4 followed a couple months, later, a blunder on
5 Ordinance 41-2019, rental registration. These are
6 just a couple of many.

7 I have expressed my views often as to why I
8 believe these blunders continue to happen. You see,
9 I don't care how you vote, that, of course, is your
10 decision, and while I mis -- may disagree, I am just
11 as much interested as to why and if you are prepared
12 to vote on important legislation.

13 Again, tonight you are voting on an important
14 piece. One that has haunted North Canton for the
15 past 17, 18 years. All of you, with the exception of
16 Councilman Stroia, have been on council for the four,
17 five, six years. Some, many more. I would expect
18 each of you have had dialogue with your constituents
19 on Arrowhead. Surely you had meetings prior to
20 committee of the whole meeting on December the 9th
21 when you cleared this subject council for on December
22 the 16th. So with that thought in mind, and again
23 since this is important, why not a roll call vote
24 rather than simple aye or nay? An excellent
25 opportunity for citizens to know their elected

1 representative's representative thoughts on such an
2 important piece of legislation.

3 We have heard of Arrowhead costing the city
4 hundreds of thousands of dollars for many years, and
5 we now know for a fact it will cost a bare minimum
6 another 400,000 and undoubtedly much more over a
7 five-year period. Why?

8 I would appreciate the chairperson and their
9 council president for the Record explain to me what
10 which is identified on the contract as the account.
11 Recently a letter to the editor submitted by a North
12 Canton city citizen included a quote from President
13 John Adams which reads as follows: "Facts are
14 stubborn things, and whatever may be our wishes, our
15 inclination to the dictators of our passions, they
16 cannot alter the state of facts in evidence." Think
17 of those words. So after the chairperson of Finance,
18 probably without an explanation as to contents of the
19 ordinance on Arrowhead, recommends a vote, I ask that
20 each of you remember the state of facts and evidence
21 of our important council votes in the past. Please,
22 before each of you vote, cite some fact that
23 influenced your vote. Remember, a vote for this
24 legislation already reflects a negative \$400,000 and,
25 again, undoubtedly much more.

1 I feel you may have -- be aborting your role
2 as a council and merely passing this vital decision
3 to a future council. What harm would come to the
4 city if you merely closed the doors at Arrowhead? I
5 see another Dogwood swimming pool in the future. And
6 again, we just read in the paper Rosemont Country
7 Club, after a hundred years, closing its doors. And
8 you read of statistics, young people aren't voting --
9 aren't golfing today. So what is the real intent of
10 a five-year contract? Are you trying to build
11 something up? What is the intent? What would happen
12 if you closed the doors? That's, I think, all that
13 I'm searching for. Thanks.

14 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

15 MR. FONTE: Thank you, Larry.

16 MR. PETERS: Okay. Yes, ma'am.

17 MS. BENFIELD: I'm Karen Benfield, 915
18 Emerson Avenue, Northwest, North Canton.

19 I really didn't plan to speak, but after
20 listening to some people I just felt I wanted to
21 speak.

22 Number one, thank you for what you're doing.

23 Arrowhead. Yeah, everything I read -- I've
24 never been a golfer, I hear that golf is going out,
25 but whatever happens with it, it has to be used or

1 else it's just, you know, the city would have to
2 maintain it, something would have to happen. So I
3 don't have any, personally, any problem with trying
4 to get another vendor in there. Maybe they switch
5 things around and maybe those buffets will work out,
6 maybe they'll think of some ways to use some of their
7 property in a more creative way. So that's all we
8 can do is hope, you know, on that and see how the
9 businesses go.

10 I also want to thank you, the city, for -- I
11 don't often come to the meetings but I look at things
12 online, for that company that's going to come into
13 the Hoover Company, D-BAT. You know, I guess they
14 have one in Solon. It's indoor batting practice.
15 Well, personally I don't do that either. You know,
16 if I was living, which nobody is living there, it's
17 just other businesses, I probably wouldn't be real
18 happy. But I thought, man, they have all those young
19 people and college-age kids going in there and stuff,
20 what a great opportunity for other businesses that
21 are nearby to provide food, you know, drinks. You
22 know, I said that's a good thing.

23 The new car wash is going to go in, probably,
24 on Applegrove. I did watch the planning commission
25 information online. I watched it as close as I can

1 because it's really not that far from my house. And
2 I was really surprised at the reading that their
3 architect said he got of the road noise on Applegrove
4 of 87-something, which is way above the federal
5 highway, you know, mitigation for noise level.
6 Unfortunately, that's just going to increase as the
7 years go by, you know, and that's something the city
8 might want to think about in the future.

9 And the other thing I noticed about that car
10 wash, they're going to do -- looks like they're going
11 to do a beautiful job with the lot. You know,
12 putting in landscaping and the fencing, and he sort
13 of like wavered on, you know, the 20-foot height of
14 the lights that were there, maybe go higher, you
15 know. So it comes you to guys, you know, you may
16 want to look at that. They are going to have LED
17 lights but they're going to have dimmers and put it
18 on -- you know, dim it down after business hours
19 after eight o'clock. Other than that, I think it's a
20 great -- a great idea. You know, egress and ingress
21 is going to be okay. Everybody -- sounded like
22 everybody on the planning commission thought they
23 were just going to be turning a right-hand turn but
24 now because the architect said he had a hard time
25 making a left-hand turn but they're going to have a

1 left-hand turn lane, too. But people have always
2 been coming out of there, you know, left. You know,
3 who knows how much traffic they're going to have.
4 We'll see. Get a good rainy, you know, good snowy
5 day and the weather turns nice, everybody's at the
6 car wash when that happens.

7 But that's all. I'm just commenting. But
8 thank you. And have a good evening.

9 MR. FONTE: Thank you, Karen.

10 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Karen. She brought
11 the fresh air tonight. All right.

12 Chuck, you're up.

13 MR. OSBORNE: Chuck Osborne, 307 Fairview
14 Street, Southeast, North Canton, Ohio.

15 I'm here also to speak on Ordinance 85. The
16 five-year term that you're contemplating for this
17 agreement is very adverse to the city. It just
18 baffles my mind. We've had 17 straight years of
19 losses up there. We've been subsidizing that.
20 That's on top of the 2 million plus that you overpaid
21 for the property. I've given you a copy of
22 Environmental Designs Group estimate to bring the
23 property up to snuff. \$4 million. I mean, the
24 financial picture of Arrowhead just continues to get
25 worse and worse and worse.

1 Now, I understand we do have to do something
2 in the interim. I would urge you to limit this to a
3 one-year term and let's recalculate things and see
4 what the picture looks like a year from now. To put
5 in concrete and guarantee another five years of
6 losses just doesn't make sense. And as Larry pointed
7 out, and I've given you three articles out of the
8 Akron Beacon Journal about Rosemont Country Club, and
9 they're almost a mirror for mirror for what we've
10 seen over here at Arrowhead. It was a Jewish club in
11 existence for almost a hundred years and they have
12 thrown in the towel.

13 Golf no longer has the attraction and
14 interest of newer generations. When I voted on the
15 purchase of Arrowhead in 2003, I brought you an
16 article from April 2003 PGA Magazine and it was a
17 study of golf across the entire United States. And
18 golf club revenues were down billions of dollars
19 across the US. And I presented that to this council.
20 Mr. Foltz was here. He didn't care. We were going
21 to buy it. Billy be damned. We're going to buy
22 this.

23 We've had a horrendous financial toll on the
24 city. I've updated the spreadsheet that I passed out
25 back in December. I've added some additional costs

1 that I continue to try and get the city to pass on to
2 me and I also added on the \$25,000 to the June
3 revenues and expenses because that's an analysis that
4 was commissioned by Mr. DeOrio without any input from
5 council, cost \$25,000.

6 So as you see, we've had losses month after
7 month after month. Adding some golf or some swimming
8 pool revenue and a few additional golf club
9 memberships is not going to pull this thing out of
10 the fire. And it's guaranteed. Certainly within the
11 next five years, if you proceed with this agreement,
12 I'm sure there's going to be a request here in
13 another year to maybe spend this \$4 million. The
14 city financially can't handle it. And don't forget,
15 the Shroyer Group is leaving, latest word I got,
16 February 29.

17 So do what you would do in your own household
18 budget. Tread lightly. Let's try this for a year
19 and see where we are a year from now. Do not block
20 yourself in for five years. Thank you.

21 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Osborne.

22 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

23 MR. PETERS: Okay. Is there anyone else?
24 Yes, sir. Please step up.

25 MR. ARCERY: My name is Tim Arcery.

1 Unfortunately, I'm not a resident. I play golf at
2 Arrowhead, I've been here for 14 years and I'm a
3 league member. I'm the president for our league on
4 Thursday nights. I hear you saying Rosemont is
5 closing, this course is closing.

6 MR. FONTE: Can you move the mic in closer to
7 you.

8 MR. ARCERY: Anyway, those are country clubs.
9 Those are country clubs. Tam O'Shanter just closed
10 because the owner there decided he didn't want to do
11 the business there so he sold out to make money
12 profitably that way.

13 A lot of people do use the golf. We have 32
14 league members that come every Thursday, they play
15 golf, everyone comes in and eats afterwards. It is
16 an added commodity. The pool there is full all the
17 time. You have swim meets there. If you're not a
18 golfer, you still do see the use there. They have a
19 building just like this, they have weddings there. A
20 friend of mine was married there a couple years back.

21 You've got to look at the bigger picture.
22 You have to lose money every -- I work in the medical
23 field. We lose money day, but we don't say we're
24 going to stop doing medicine because we're losing
25 money. You've got to look at the bigger picture. I

1 understand people, you know, my taxes are coming out
2 of that, but you got to look at it over the long term
3 is it going to be well worth keeping this here?
4 Everybody wants to build houses, put in different
5 businesses and that stuff. That's really not the
6 answer. We're forgetting about all the stuff
7 everybody had before that.

8 So I'm an avid golfer. I didn't start
9 golfing until later in life. I have patients who're
10 87 years old who golf. You still have to -- you
11 can't take all the commodities away from everybody
12 just because it's cost and price of everything. You
13 want more people to play, you can do it that way,
14 too, but it is a needed asset to the community.
15 You're missing that point of it then.

16 I'm sorry, you know, your taxes might go up,
17 but there's got to be ways to look around it to how
18 can we help accommodate this. There's not just one
19 answer to a problem, there's many. Everybody here
20 looks at how can we handle it that way then. But I'm
21 voting for go for the five years because I'm an avid
22 golfer, so many courses are closing up people who
23 want to play can't go play because there's no place
24 to play.

25 You know, I have young kids come in, North

1 Canton city kids come in there and play. So it's a
2 learned profession. It's expensive, but there's ways
3 to get around that too.

4 MR. PETERS: Thank you, sir.

5 MR. FONTE: Thank you, Tim.

6 MR. PETERS: Okay. Anyone else? Brad, you
7 got something? All right.

8 Okay. We will move on. At this time, first
9 I'd like to welcome Miss Jina Alaback to the first
10 meeting, our new finance director. At this time
11 we're going to formally appoint her, so I'll ask for
12 a voice vote and then afterwards I'm going to put you
13 on the spot if you have any comments or whatever,
14 anyone else has any comments we'll do it at that
15 time.

16 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. President?

17 MR. PETERS: Yes.

18 MR. REVOLDT: I would make a motion we
19 approval Jina Alaback as the City of North Canton
20 director of finance.

21 MR. PETERS: That's a great motion. Do I
22 have a second?

23 MRS. WERREN: Second.

24 MR. PETERS: Ben?

25 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt?

1 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

2 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte?

3 MR. FONTE: Yes.

4 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters?

5 MR. PETERS: Yes.

6 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz?

7 MR. FOLTZ: Yes.

8 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren?

9 MRS. WERREN: Yes.

10 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia?

11 MR. STROIA: Yes.

12 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta?

13 MR. CERRETA: Yes.

14 MR. YOUNG: Seven for, zero against.

15 MR. PETERS: Outstanding. Congratulations
16 and welcome aboard. Is there anything you want to
17 say?

18 MS. ALABACK: I'm happy to be here. I have
19 no report for you tonight. Just started today
20 working with Marge. I'm very excited to be here.

21 MRS. WERREN: Thank you.

22 MR. PETERS: Welcome aboard.

23 MS. LORETTO: Not as exciting as I want it to
24 be.

25 MR. CERRETA: I think we should continue to

1 thank Marge. Good to see you back, but I hope you
2 don't come back again in this manner. Come to the
3 meetings any time, Marge, and visit.

4 MS. LORETTO: I agree with that. You know,
5 it's a big joke to a lot of people. "I can't believe
6 it's you again." We just laugh about it.

7 MR. FOLTZ: Marge, was it four decades? When
8 did you start here?

9 MS. LORETTO: Beginning of 1980. January of
10 1980.

11 MR. FOLTZ: So you got into five decades.

12 MS. LORETTO: A little bit here, a little bit
13 there. 21 years and 3 months the first time.

14 MR. FOLTZ: Right.

15 MS. LORETTO: So then we chopped it up. We
16 asked three times.

17 MR. REVOLDT: Doug, she started when she was
18 12.

19 MR. PETERS: That's obvious. Welcome to you,
20 Jina, and Marge, thank you once again for helping us
21 out.

22 MS. LORETTO: Thank you very much. It really
23 is a love for me. I love North Canton and I've
24 always cared very much about it so I'm happy to be
25 here.

1 MR. PETERS: Well, thank you.

2 MS. LORETTO: And I'm happy to go.

3 MR. PETERS: Yeah, right. Okay.

4 Before I ask for a motion and a second for
5 Ordinance 85-19, there has been some questions that
6 have been raised regarding whether I or Member Fonte
7 can vote or even discuss this issue. So I'm going to
8 let Tim weigh in before we go there.

9 MR. FOX: Thank you.

10 I was approached by the two council members
11 that were just -- just mentioned, Member Fonte and
12 Peters, that a person had alleged that they have a
13 conflict of interest, they have an interest in the
14 city contract; that according to Ohio ethics law that
15 person believed that they had a conflict and then
16 were not permitted to participate in the discussion,
17 debate, voting on this issue.

18 So after speaking with each of those
19 individuals, understanding the situation and the
20 allegations, I conducted my own research and then
21 contacted the Ohio Ethics Commission Friday afternoon
22 and spoke for about a half an hour with one of the
23 officers there and explained the scenario. And was
24 assured at that time, with the information that I had
25 passed on, that those two individuals, in fact, did

1 not have a conflict of interest and are immune for
2 prosecution from allegations and so forth that they
3 have a sort of conflict of interest in participating,
4 deliberating, voting on this issue. So I contacted
5 those individuals to make sure that they could sleep
6 easy on that and rest assured that this has been
7 vetted out and we do have the assurance from the Ohio
8 Ethics Commission that, indeed, no conflicts exist.

9 MR. FONTE: Awesome. Thank you, Tim.

10 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Tim.

11 MR. FOX: You're welcome.

12 MR. PETERS: As a point of procedure, Daryl
13 help me out here. Do you want to read this?

14 MR. REVOLDT: Yes. You're going to need a
15 motion to read the second reading of Ordinance
16 85-2019, and then --

17 MR. PETERS: After that --

18 MR. REVOLDT: After that we should look at
19 some amendments on that, to that ordinance.

20 MR. PETERS: May I have a motion and a second
21 to read, by title only, second reading Ordinance
22 85-19?

23 MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

24 MR. FOLTZ: Second.

25 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

1 ("Aye" in unison.)

2 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

3 MR. CERRETA: Abstain.

4 MR. PETERS: Member Cerreta abstains. Okay.
5 Passed 6-0. Tim?

6 MR. FOX: An ordinance authorizing the mayor
7 of the City of North Canton, upon Board of Control
8 approval, to enter into a management agreement with
9 North Canton Golf, LLC, and Skyland Pines,
10 Incorporated, for it to manage, under the city's
11 direction, the day-to-day operations of what is
12 commonly known as Arrowhead Golf Club, which
13 includes, but is not limited to, an 18-hole public
14 golf course, clubhouse, banquet facilities, swimming
15 pool, and other existing and future amenities, as
16 more fully described in the management agreement
17 attached hereto and incorporated herein.

18 MR. FONTE: I have a comment.

19 MR. PETERS: Okay. Okay. Before I turn over
20 to the chairman -- I'm sorry.

21 MR. FONTE: I was going to make a comment
22 about it.

23 MR. PETERS: Hold on. We need to make some
24 amendments before I turn it over to Chairman
25 Werren -- Chairwoman Werren, Daryl brought this up,

1 there was some typos.

2 MR. REVOLDT: Technical corrections.

3 MR. PETERS: Okay. Technical corrections.

4 Tim, you went through, you're the one that went
5 through this. Do you want to run through what they
6 were? I know we had a -- wasn't it a date issue on
7 Section 2?

8 MR. FOX: Correct. With the time period that
9 had passed, where it states the year 2019, that will
10 go to year 2020. I think I passed on the one that I
11 updated to Mr. Revoldt.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah.

13 MR. PETERS: I got it right here. That's it.

14 MR. FOX: And that is it on page 3. So we
15 made that update in Paragraph 2, and so that would
16 change 2024 to 2025. There -- in Paragraph 1-G there
17 was a typographical error.

18 MR. REVOLDT: What page?

19 MR. FOX: It's on page 2. And it was one of
20 those words that is in the English language and so
21 your eyes gloss over it and it doesn't in Word --
22 Microsoft Word show up. So under the section Gross
23 Revenue where it said golf clubs, it was golf dubs.
24 And so, of course, we made that change to golf clubs.
25 And I believe that's it.

1 MR. PETERS: Yeah, that was it.

2 MR. FOX: There we go.

3 MR. PETERS: Yeah.

4 MR. FOX: So the years were for the time when
5 we were putting this together that was the time. But
6 "golf dubs" was found before, and somehow between the
7 two passing between attorneys for the management
8 company and ourself we saw it, put it down twice and
9 yet it continued to haunt us and so we resolved it
10 here.

11 MR. PETERS: Okay. Do you want to make a
12 motion?

13 MR. REVOLDT: I would move that we amend
14 Ordinance No. 85-2019 to reflect the technical
15 corrections as described by the law director.

16 MR. FOLTZ: Second.

17 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

18 ("Aye" in unison.)

19 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

20 MR. CERRETA: Abstain.

21 MR. PETERS: Member Cerreta abstains. No one
22 opposed.

23 Okay. At this time I'll turn it over to
24 Chairman Werren.

25 MRS. WERREN: Okay. We have talked about

1 this a number of times and I think we've had actually
2 lengthy discussions and thank you for all the input
3 that you all have put into this. And I think even
4 Daryl commented at the last meeting how it is
5 important to understand what this needs to be used
6 for. I don't think any of us are taking this
7 lightly.

8 We do consider it -- or I consider it a huge
9 community asset. I -- I -- I read a lot of the Stark
10 polls and what people want when they move into the
11 communities. They want a place to play, they want a
12 place to bring their families and engage in. I don't
13 know what this is going to look like in five years, I
14 don't think really any of us do, but I think it's
15 important for us to get real numbers with real data,
16 and we haven't been able to do that over the years.
17 So I think we are taking the right steps.

18 Pat, I know you talked about the one-year
19 commitment. I don't think there is any vendor that
20 would sign a one-year commitment with us because that
21 wouldn't give you the data. I mean, I work with
22 Seymour Industries and they do this for a living, and
23 you have to have data that's reflected year after
24 year. And we just haven't been able to do that. And
25 I think with the right kind of management the numbers

1 may change. And we keep forgetting, or we aren't
2 talking enough about we know that we have a property
3 that the city owns that others helped us pay for that
4 we weren't paying a monthly assessment on. So I
5 don't know.

6 If you want to talk about the one-year
7 commitment, that's great. Maybe there was some other
8 questions and people can say a few things, but yeah.

9 MR. REVOLDT: If I might, Chairman. Facts,
10 as have been pointed out, are stubborn things. Fact
11 of the matter is, this contract contains an escape
12 clause on that five-year provision. On page 18,
13 Clause 10-C, it states that if we have two years of
14 consecutive loss we can walk away from the contract.

15 MR. OSBORNE: You've had 17 already.

16 MR. PETERS: Mr. Osborne, you're out of order
17 and you know it.

18 MR. REVOLDT: I think it is -- I think it's
19 important that the taxpayers understand that a great
20 deal of time, energy, and effort and thought has been
21 put into this contract to protect their interests. I
22 think the other is, is that we again need to be
23 reminded that if we close the door on this there are
24 considerable attendant clauses on any other near-term
25 option that produce no revenue. We have a building

1 and we have a hundred acres that will require some
2 maintenance and security. And I believe we would be
3 grossly negligent if we didn't know what those
4 numbers looked like --

5 MRS. WERREN: Right.

6 MR. REVOLDT: -- if we simply voted to close
7 this.

8 MRS. WERREN: Right.

9 MR. REVOLDT: But again, two consecutive
10 years in the contract protects us from loss.

11 MRS. WERREN: And two years gives you at
12 least some data, which we just don't have.

13 MR. FONTE: I have a question.

14 MRS. WERREN: Pat, do you want to talk? Or
15 Dominic?

16 MR. FONTE: Thank you. Karen and Tim, I
17 concur with what your -- with what your comments
18 were. You know, it's hard to get someone to commit
19 to anything for one year because it's a lot of, you
20 know, I mean, you need a cycle or two to kind of
21 understand who's on first; right? So a five-year
22 commitment makes sense. We have the weasel clause,
23 you know, if they don't perform we can pull the plug.
24 But I think, you know, giving them an opportunity to
25 see -- you know, they came in in November, you know,

1 so you're going to have the bad times for the next
2 several months. Then once we get confidence, because
3 like if you're going have a golf league you want to
4 know you have some commitment time. I'm not
5 committing to anything I don't feel safe about or
6 that you're going to be there tomorrow.

7 The other thing is, is weddings and all these
8 other things. I just think that the property has not
9 been leveraged to its potential of what they're
10 saying they're going to do. The people that are
11 currently there now, you know, have some track record
12 and they seem to do a pretty good job with some of
13 the others.

14 The other thing I just found out is that golf
15 is coming back in the youth market, so the young
16 people, I mean, if you start doing some research on
17 this, this is a big deal, and part of it is because
18 they offer scholarships in college for golf, so now
19 these younger people are getting involved in golf
20 much earlier now. With all these other courses
21 closing, it puts us in a very good position to make
22 us a leader in the golf community. And like I said,
23 you know, I just think we just need to give it a
24 little course of time and then if it's not working
25 out then we can pull the plug. Thank you.

1 MR. PETERS: Good comments, Dom.

2 Patrick, you have something to add?

3 MR. DEORIO: Yes. I would like to review for
4 the council one more time why we -- why we're doing
5 this contract in the way that it was designed. And
6 so that we all understand if we are voting on this
7 and making this go forward, I think I have spoken on
8 this in a very transparent way. I think I've been
9 very forthright with all the members of council and
10 everybody in the city government, people attending
11 these meetings exactly what I feel the situation is,
12 what the thought process is to get us out of the
13 situation. And, you know, I find it exhausting to
14 relive the past and I appreciate, I really do, and
15 I've told this to Mr. Osborne, I really appreciate
16 what he has said. I don't disagree. I can't defend
17 it, what has happened in the past.

18 But what I want to do is, that's not my
19 reality. My reality -- our reality -- is we have to
20 extricate ourselves from this position in the best
21 interests of the city at the least cost possible.
22 And so I think I put forward a plan to try to do that
23 very thing. Yes, I've engaged consultants as needed
24 to bring expertise in that I didn't have to be able
25 to put this together and navigate this forward.

1 So what we're -- what we're looking for you
2 to do is, is put this agreement in place forthwith.
3 We've extended it once, I don't really want to extend
4 it again. I don't see a need to. We're looking to
5 start February 1 with this contract, if you're
6 approving it.

7 So what is it that I really want to make sure
8 that we understand that we're doing, and there were
9 some questions in the earlier comments from the
10 audience about some of this. So I really want to
11 talk about the account. The operating account.

12 So if we're asking somebody to manage the
13 facility, they're going to be the boots on the ground
14 there representing our interests. And being that
15 this operator, and I suppose it could be others, if
16 Billy Casper were doing this, that have other
17 entities that they manage or other business
18 enterprises that they're engaged in and I wanted to
19 make sure, obviously, that all of the proceeds, the
20 operating revenue and the expenses thereto, were
21 coming out of a separate account. I didn't want them
22 merged with any other account. I mean, that's not
23 something they should even be touting. That's just
24 common sense; right? So we want it in a separate
25 account and we wanted transparency into that account.

1 I want to be able to see myself, and the finance
2 director, without any permission, without
3 interference, to be able to look inside that bank
4 account and see what is going in and what is going
5 out and then be able to question management, if need
6 be, on any of those transactions. That's how you get
7 accountability. Granted, that didn't exist before.
8 But that's what we have going forward. So this makes
9 sure that what we're dealing with with the operating
10 revenue and operating expenses, again, is something
11 that we can see.

12 Now, we talked about, on an ongoing basis,
13 how is this operating account supposed to work.
14 Well, in an ideal world, we would have received
15 proceeds from the previous operators to start our
16 venture. But we didn't, and that's something that
17 Mr. Fox is -- is working on. So we started in June,
18 June 1, with the shirt on our back, basically,
19 walking in there, taking on the responsibility for
20 all the events that were happening, all the golf, all
21 the swimming, and starting it from scratch. And so
22 we established an operating account. And in this
23 interim agreement, which mirrors the permanent
24 agreement, the operating account was to be funded
25 with \$50,000 from the city. That's not \$50,000 every

1 month. It was \$50,000 acting as an advance, a draw
2 upon which, if needed, to be able to continue
3 operations from month to month until the cash flow
4 was such that it replenished the account.

5 So, you know, in the beginning we put --
6 council voted on that, and I did not give, or we did
7 not cause to be deposited into that operating account
8 the entire 50,000. I held back 30 of that so that we
9 could have the operator operate on a very lean budget
10 and force them to truly assess the situation and try
11 to operate this on the cash flows that were coming
12 in. And that worked in June and July and in August
13 and September. And we started to see the numbers
14 change in October, and certainly in November and
15 December it did change. But in the sense that there
16 was very little operating revenue in those months
17 because golf is over. It's done. Swimming is done.

18 Now, had we had the deposits from the
19 previous operator's, you know, account, that would
20 have carried us through this period where there is no
21 activity. Now it's January. We're moving closer to
22 March, and you would expect that sometime in March
23 the golf course will open, golf will be played, and,
24 in the interim, all these other deposits are supposed
25 to be coming in for pool passes and the rest of the

1 golf memberships. That's not enough to run this
2 facility. Absolutely not. I don't want anyone to
3 think that it is. That's part of the revenue stream,
4 but the rest of it comes from activities that occur
5 with golfers who stay for dinner, swimmers who do
6 things, banquets, just a whole laundry list of
7 opportunities that occur there that bring in
8 additional revenue. The deposits are supposed to
9 work that they give you that cushion during the
10 winter months.

11 So \$50,000 supposed to go in, and so I'm just
12 going to lay out how this scenario should work so we
13 all are familiar with what we're voting on. So let's
14 say this goes into effect February 1. There's
15 supposed to be \$50,000 in an operating account.
16 Well, there's money in the operating account now, but
17 let's assume we were starting from scratch, you put
18 50,000 in. At the end of February, we would look and
19 see what the balance is in that operating account.

20 And in February I'm going to say let's draw
21 it down because there's no revenues and let's say
22 it's 30,000 that's in there. That's all. By
23 March 10, the 10th of the month following the close
24 of the previous month is what the contract says,
25 we're supposed to replenish that and bring it back to

1 50. We will likely repeat that process in March.
2 But as we get into April, May, June, July, August,
3 September, those are going to be the months in which
4 the operations are flush with free cash flow that the
5 account balance will exceed \$50,000. I know that
6 because I've had seven months of operating experience
7 with it in 2019. I know that will be the case. And
8 we've put provisions in this contract that when it
9 exceeds that minimum balance, the city requests it
10 back. And we hold that money to again keep them
11 operating within a certain parameter that we've
12 established.

13 That's how it's supposed to work. And if we
14 get those deposits in and we hold those and carry
15 them through the summer months, when we get to this
16 time in November, December of 2020 and into 2021 we
17 shouldn't be having this conversation about do we
18 need funds to continue operations. We'll have the
19 funds to continue operations. Then the question
20 really is, are they managing in such a way that they
21 are generating a profit. To Dominic's point that
22 it's in their financial best interests to generate a
23 profit because we will share in that profit with them
24 and they will continue with their management
25 contract.

1 Whether this is one year, two years, three
2 years, four years, five years, again, it comes down
3 to what are the adverse consequences coming from
4 making that decision. A one-year agreement, you
5 might as well just close it because you're not going
6 to be able to get golf leagues to be looking to stay
7 there for one more year and look somewhere else.
8 They're going to go somewhere else because the
9 opportunities to play are shrinking.

10 So having said that, you understand how the
11 operating account works, and I think there's ample
12 transparency, there's sufficient limitations on the
13 amount of money that can be spent, the amount of
14 contract that they can get into the length of time
15 they could get into. We've gone all over that.

16 MR. FONTE: So what I heard you say is if --
17 if once -- I know we're behind the 8-ball because
18 they didn't have the deposits to convey to us because
19 we're supplementing that going into the bad time of
20 year. So knowing the little taste you had of those
21 few months, you anticipate a revenue surplus. So
22 let's say as a city then there's 70,000 in there and
23 we take 20,000 out, put it into a special account
24 that we hold it pertaining to everything to do with
25 Arrowhead and it just stays in there and that's where

1 your thermometer is plus, minus, plus, minus, and
2 hopefully then if there's profit after the net
3 operating income, or I mean, after the expenses, then
4 that would be split 50/50 that would go into that
5 account, too, and we try to maintain the 50,000
6 balance in the working -- work account; correct?

7 MR. DEORIO: With one modification to what
8 you said, yes. But as it relates to the profits that
9 would occur and the splitting of them, those are not
10 designated on our end to have to go back into the
11 operating account. That is --

12 MR. FONTE: On the profit side.

13 MR. DEORIO: -- on the profit side of that.
14 I would come back to the city, the city council would
15 have to make a determination of where they best
16 wanted to allocate those funds.

17 MR. FONTE: I understand. I get it.

18 MR. DEORIO: And so I think at one of the
19 last council meetings, you know, there were -- we had
20 some questions concerning, you know, where -- where
21 did we stand, how did we finish 2019 there, and
22 given -- you know, I don't want to go into
23 reiterating all of the adversities that we had to
24 overcome to get there, I've done that, so what was
25 the end -- end result was this: So again asking them

1 to operate on a shoestring, try to see if revenues
2 could meet all of the expenses. We reached down to
3 the end of the point here in November and December
4 when that was not possible to do, so the city had to
5 honor that provision within the interim contract that
6 we would take care of the outstanding expenses that
7 were not covered with existing revenues.

8 So to that end, I met with the management of
9 the course, the president of NCG, the general
10 manager, finance director of the operation, Miss
11 Farina, and myself, and we reviewed all of the
12 outstanding expenses that had not been paid yet at
13 the end of year to see which ones were legitimate,
14 which ones we felt were truly operating expenses,
15 were there any capital operating issues that were in
16 there, and after having reviewed that, came up with
17 the grand total and it was approximately \$60,000 that
18 that is really what it cost us, in addition to the
19 management fee, to run this for 2019.

20 There was a capital improvement project in
21 there that was as a result of the citation by the
22 Stark County Health Department when we took over
23 management on June 1, there was an issue with the
24 dishwasher and the floor tiles around the dishwasher.
25 The dishwasher leaking, water getting into the floor

1 tiles causing other tiles to come loose, creating a
2 safety hazard. Stark County Health Department asked
3 us to get that cleaned up by the end of the year,
4 which we did. That cost was just under \$6,000 for
5 that project, so you can add -- add those together
6 and we'll be happy to -- I know we have a public
7 records request on that and issues for council to
8 circulate.

9 But I wanted to share that with you in
10 real-time right now, that's what I can tell you that
11 the operations at Arrowhead were was about \$6,000 in
12 capital improvement at the end and, of course, we did
13 do some -- we did about \$20,000 worth of the capital
14 improvement on the front end as a result of citations
15 issued by the fire department concerning operability
16 of fire suppression systems, smoke alarms and smoke
17 detectors and fire extinguishers, so we took care of
18 that, got that all up to speed. Whether golf is
19 played there or not, people are going in and out of
20 that building. That building is our responsibility.
21 Now, under this arrangement, it's no longer a triple
22 net lease and it's our responsibility to make sure
23 that's a safe environment. So we felt that fire
24 safety, trip hazards were important things to deal
25 with, they were dealt with.

1 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

2 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Pat.

3 Yeah.

4 MR. FOLTZ: Not to be redundant, we've made
5 some great points here and appreciate Mr. DeOrio's
6 hard work on this.

7 Twenty years ago, we bet on ourselves that we
8 wanted to keep a hundred acres in the heart of North
9 Canton, beautiful North Canton, a golf course. And
10 for the most part, I think it's succeeded. We've had
11 some challenges. But now we're turning over to a
12 family that has 40 years of experience of running
13 golf courses and the good business and, you know, you
14 can look at that and analyze that and say that's a
15 good decision. Let's give them five years and see
16 what they can do with it.

17 You know, when young families will look at
18 communities, they look to see what amenities you
19 have. What's your quality of life? We now have two
20 pools. We have had two pools for 20 years, Dogwood
21 and Arrowhead. And that offers the affordability to
22 go to a public pool or to go to a little nicer pool
23 in a kind of more selective setting. I think that's
24 important.

25 I think the wedding venue there can be great

1 as this building. Just a matter of updating it. We
2 have all kind of possibilities with bocce, sled
3 riding. Anybody that grew up in this area grew up
4 sled riding at Arrowhead. I think those are good
5 memories for a lot of families growing up with that.

6 There's responsibilities with that. What
7 we're doing as council is really having an
8 administration that's going to take charge of this,
9 review it and operate it in a businesslike manner. I
10 think that's a win for this community. And I think
11 when you look at all those things, we deserve to give
12 it five more years. At the very least, it can be a
13 park that we mow and put trails in, but I think we
14 owe it to the golfing community and just -- just
15 other avenues for recreational use. I'm very happy
16 to move this contract forward. I think it's going to
17 be more successful than in the past and I think it's
18 going to be something we're all going to be proud of
19 in the years to come.

20 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Doug. I agree a
21 hundred percent. Anyone else make comments?

22 MRS. WERREN: Okay. I'm going to move
23 that --

24 MR. PETERS: Well, hold on.

25 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

1 MR. PETERS: I'm going to ask for an
2 emergency clause to pass this tonight. Patrick, you
3 want this to happen?

4 MR. DEORIO: Yes. I just think that given
5 where you're at, the contract was supposed to go into
6 effect on February 1, it's not likely that you meet
7 again until January 27 and I would absolutely prefer
8 not to have to try to put all these pieces together
9 with just a couple of days here. It would be better
10 if we had a better transition into that.

11 MR. PETERS: Yeah. I agree. Everyone okay
12 with that? Okay.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. President.

14 MR. PETERS: Yes, sir.

15 MR. REVOLDT: I would make a motion that we
16 amend the title of Ordinance 85-2019 to include the
17 phrase "and declaring the same to be an emergency."

18 MR. PETERS: Right.

19 MR. REVOLDT: For the reasons we have just
20 discussed.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Is there a second?

22 MR. FOLTZ: I'll second.

23 MRS. WERREN: Second.

24 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

25 ("Aye" in unison.)

1 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

2 MR. CERRETA: Abstain.

3 MR. PETERS: Member Cerreta abstains. Passed
4 6-0.

5 All right. May I have a motion and second to
6 suspend the rules for Ordinance 85-19?

7 MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

8 MR. FOLTZ: Second.

9 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

10 ("Aye" in unison.)

11 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

12 MR. CERRETA: Abstain.

13 MR. PETERS: Member Cerreta abstains.

14 And may I have a motion and a second to adopt
15 Ordinance 85-19.

16 MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

17 MR. PETERS: As amended.

18 MR. REVOLDT: As amended.

19 MR. PETERS: Under suspension of the rules.

20 MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

21 MR. FOLTZ: Second.

22 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

23 ("Aye" in unison.)

24 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

25 MR. CERRETA: Abstain.

1 MR. PETERS: Member Cerreta abstains. Motion
2 carries. Okay. Thank you, Patrick. I appreciate
3 it.

4 MR. DEORIO: Thank you.

5 MR. PETERS: All right. At this time we have
6 reports. Deputy Director of Administration.

7 MS. FARINA: Thank you, Mr. President.

8 Just this first meeting of the new year I
9 want to start off by welcoming our new finance
10 director. Welcome, Jina Alaback. You joined a great
11 team. You know, teamwork, definition of teamwork is
12 the ability for everyone to work together towards a
13 common vision, and we really do. We all work
14 together towards the vision of North Canton, which is
15 to provide excellent service to the residents, the
16 businesses we serve. So we have a lot of great
17 projects coming out of the administration office this
18 year. We're organized and energized and we'll update
19 as the year goes on as the progress of them comes
20 along.

21 That's all, other than all I want to say
22 thank you to Karen. Like President Peters comments,
23 breath of fresh air, like to hear the positive
24 comments, and happy 2020.

25 MR. DEORIO: Catherine, would you mind

1 updating them on the engineering move.

2 MS. FARINA: I was going to do that next
3 time. It's getting closer. We are clearing out on
4 the engineering side, so at the end of the month is
5 when we are going to be formally moving the
6 engineering department up. We have building
7 department in place, if you've visited or seen that,
8 and we'll finish that move at the end of the month,
9 give a final update probably at our 27th meeting.
10 We'll be one-stop shopping with everything located at
11 city hall.

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Catherine.

13 Director of Administration.

14 MR. DEORIO: Thank you. Just a couple items.

15 Natural gas aggregation, you recall we had
16 done that some time ago but just wanted to bring you
17 an update. You may be getting things in the mail
18 from other companies that offer, you know, aggregate,
19 Dominion, Columbia, et cetera. Your constituents may
20 hear of such things Columbia's offering 4.47 an mcf,
21 Dominion, 3.63 mcf, and they do have fees to get out
22 of the contract if you decide you didn't like it and
23 all that. And right now Columbia is offering a
24 12-month fixed rate for 4.24. And we set ours a
25 couple months ago, and I may have advised you of it,

1 I quite honestly, with all the excitement that has
2 happened in the last 90 days maybe I forgot, North
3 Canton's \$2.92 1/2 cents. 2.925. It's the lowest in
4 our history, and that is a fixed rate for 12 months.
5 And no penalty to get out if you don't like it.
6 We're not saying it's the best rate available and
7 you're welcome to go out and find one that's better,
8 and more power to you if you find it, but we think
9 that's a competitive rate for our residents and are
10 very happy that -- to see that.

11 When I looked through the consultant's
12 report, I think I have updated you in the past about
13 the number of individuals or entities that are
14 subscribing to our natural gas or electric
15 participation program. And I can tell you that we
16 are, in the electric, which you may recall I
17 mentioned before was a little concerned that we
18 weren't getting the participation, was it worth it.
19 Lo and behold, we've had a big increase in the last
20 12 months. We went from 3,900 residential accounts
21 to 4,400 residential accounts, so about a 13 percent
22 increase in 12 months. We like that.

23 Over on the natural gas side, we had 2,800
24 accounts in 2018 and finished the reporting period in
25 2019 at 3,100 and change, so again, about 11 or

1 12 percent increase. So that's all good for the
2 city.

3 Also wanted to make you aware that we had
4 made -- I had made a change to a process followed by
5 the building department when a zoning certificate is
6 required. I worked with the law director on this,
7 and what we've asked is that, prior to a building
8 permit being issued by the department, that if there
9 is a zoning matter that a zoning -- an approved
10 zoning certificate be obtained through the
11 appropriate bodies if needed, zoning board of
12 appeals, rather than just starting down the building
13 process. So we want to avoid situations where
14 someone may start a building project, not realize
15 that they're building it not in compliance with
16 zoning but they didn't -- they didn't check. So
17 rather than just sit back, we want to be proactive in
18 that and we've instructed our building department to
19 do that on the interim until council passes
20 legislation making that mandatory requirement, which
21 I think would be a good idea.

22 Mr. Graham, I'm going to ask you, when it
23 comes around to you, to make sure that you speak
24 about the project on East Maple.

25 MR. GRAHAM: Okay.

1 MR. DEORIO: There has been a lot of angst
2 over this project. I think the press release that
3 came from the Ohio Department of Transportation
4 didn't properly characterize the nature of this
5 project, and for whatever reason it's deemed to be
6 that this is just simply some sort of a sidewalk
7 project. It's much more than that, so I want to make
8 sure you cover that when you get there.

9 We're also pleased to report that the Hoover
10 Foundation has followed through with the second half
11 of their commitment to our park expansion project.
12 We received in the mail here a check for \$125,000
13 from the Hoover Foundation that represents the other
14 half of the -- what they had given us, so again,
15 their total commitment 250, we received it.

16 To bring you up to speed on that project a
17 little bit, we've entered into advanced discussions
18 with the consultant that was picked out to do the
19 design work. We believe that we're going to break
20 ground on the Bitzer project this year, this spring.
21 We should be bringing the design forward on that in
22 the next few weeks. We've had a number of committees
23 that have met, looked at it, put their input from
24 around the community to kind of come up with the best
25 plan on what would serve the community the best.

1 The Dogwood project. We will be looking
2 more at -- we've had a preliminary design discussion
3 with the advancing more of those talks over here in
4 the summer. When we feel that we have something
5 that's pretty close to what the input has been,
6 obviously want to have the council and everyone else
7 weigh in on that before we move forward but I don't
8 believe that's a project that we will break ground on
9 until 2021.

10 So we did submit our request to the state
11 legislature for an additional phased investment in
12 our park project. Initially they gave us 750,000, we
13 had asked for 2 million, so this time around I asked
14 for another 750,000 of that and Senator Schuring and
15 Representative Oelslager are working on that and
16 we'll know hopefully in the next few weeks what the
17 outcome of that is.

18 That concludes my report. Thank you.

19 MR. PETERS: Very good. Thank you, Patrick.
20 Good stuff.

21 Mr. Mayor?

22 MAYOR WILDER: Yes. Thank you very much.

23 Just want to welcome council back from winter
24 recess. Most of all, I want to extend to Miss Jina
25 Alaback, our new finance director, thank you very

1 much for accepting that role for our city.

2 Marge Loretto, thank you for your
3 contributions over the last few weeks in getting us
4 through a transition period, but most of all, my
5 compliments to your staff that worked in our accounts
6 payable and receivables that stepped up and worked
7 extra hours and extra effort to keep our city
8 employees paid on time and we've paid our bills
9 and -- and welcome the money that comes in to us in
10 very different ways. They really did an outstanding
11 job. And please again convey my thank you to them.
12 And council, you will please remember the good effort
13 that they did.

14 I want to also just recognize that we had a
15 20-year employee retire, Laurie Krantz, from
16 Utilities. And ladies and gentlemen, if you ever
17 came up to pay your utilities, Laurie was always one
18 of those faces that was kind and patient in working
19 with people who're coming up with questions for
20 utilities or making payments. So again,
21 congratulations to her on her retirement.

22 And in regards to the plan for our Arrowhead
23 project, I think the plan is a good plan to have in
24 place for monitoring the process of the program and
25 the viability of the -- of the golf and banquet

1 facilities at this time. I think it's a worthwhile
2 plan that we should go forward and -- and monitor
3 that and see how that can benefit ourselves and, if
4 not, if changes need to be made, we'll look at those
5 as we go along.

6 In closing, I'd just like to share one --
7 something that I read in one of my journals. And it
8 talks about working together. And if you'll just
9 give me a minute here I'd like to share a guiding
10 principle that I think I've learned in my life and it
11 goes something like this: "Ever remember that, being
12 human, you must of necessity often err; that those
13 who hold different opinions entertained them honestly
14 as do you your own. And that you have no right to
15 deny or doubt their sincerity. Especially never
16 harshly denounce an opinion that more experience and
17 a more thorough examination may someday compel you to
18 adopt. Therefore, always treat your opponents as if
19 their opinions would sometime to become our own."

20 I don't consider our citizens opponents, but
21 we understand, too, I appreciate any of our citizens
22 who come forward to share our concerns. You know,
23 their willingness to bring their points of view to
24 council and for all of us to hear where your
25 sincerity lies, and I just thought that that was

1 appropriate at this time that we recognize the
2 importance of the input from the people who live in
3 our community and work in our community that their
4 opinions matter and that you never know when each one
5 of us may change our mind on an issue or a topic for
6 the betterment of our city. So thank you very much
7 for this time and privilege for us to address the
8 council.

9 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mayor.

10 Member Revoldt?

11 MR. REVOLDT: Let me defer. If you would
12 come back to me.

13 MR. PETERS: Sure. Member Fonte.

14 MR. FONTE: Thank you. Happy new year,
15 everybody. Jina and -- Jina, welcome aboard. Marge,
16 for coming back. Good things just keep -- keep on
17 coming, baby. Whoo.

18 Anyhow, what I wanted to do is I had a
19 meeting with one of my constituents right before this
20 meeting at 5:30, and he's been in the community over
21 50 years and I know he was frustrated because he was
22 bringing up things that are already corrected but he
23 didn't know it. And so I said to him that he needs
24 to set up a meeting with the administrator.

25 MR. DEORIO: I'm sorry.

1 MR. FONTE: Set a meeting up so we can talk
2 about all the things happening. So what I committed
3 to doing this time is a web video a month pertaining
4 to things in the city to help keep the citizens up to
5 speed on. So as citizens or council members or
6 administrators, administration, if there's certain
7 topics you think that are important to get out, and,
8 you know, like even when Karen came up and she was
9 talking about the car wash, you know, 20-foot lights,
10 30-foot lights, I mean, this is like deja vu for me.
11 This is how that Main Street business thing all
12 started to have the flexibility to be able to do a
13 30-foot light instead of a 20-foot light because of
14 LED, the technology, to save the businesses money.

15 So there's just so many things that are
16 happening in the city, and I'm blessed to be able to
17 see what's really going on from the arena. And so
18 what I'm saying as citizens, there's so many positive
19 things and we can appreciate your positive feedback.
20 It's always nice to get something refreshing. Of
21 course, we respect everybody's opinion. I think the
22 reality is we just have to continue communicating
23 based on where you are. And I know like with
24 technology, you know, 97 percent of all people go
25 online and gather data, Google, YouTube and so on, so

1 I would just say to the administration, you know, we
2 should probably work harder to get a little bit --
3 see if we can get more newsletters out and we should
4 take advantage of the water bill. I know there's
5 only so many characters, but I think we could do that
6 because everybody has water service and a lot of
7 people use the older technology. But you obviously
8 as things evolve over the next few years, we're on
9 track for correcting that. And so my commitment to
10 you and everybody will be one video a month, and I'd
11 like it to be a good one so that you guys are
12 informed on what's really happened with the help of
13 input from our team.

14 That's all I have to report. Thank you.

15 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Dominic.

16 Director of Law.

17 MR. FOX: Thank you.

18 Earlier there were some comments regarding
19 whether or not people should be referred to as an
20 interim in their title officially. And when that was
21 initially proposed to me simply in a question, my
22 response back was, "What reduction are we expecting
23 from that person not serving as the clerk or as the
24 finance but as the interim clerk of council or
25 finance director?" And the response was, "Well,

1 nothing. We're expecting that they're doing all of
2 the exact same duties that the interim would be
3 doing." And, of course, we all know that these two
4 individuals were appointed as an interim but it
5 appeared, you know, almost -- it felt mean-spirited
6 as it was like a pejorative term. Interim. Interim
7 clerk of council, interim director of finance, when
8 we had the expectation that they were going to be
9 doing 100 percent of the job. So my suggestion was,
10 I don't understand why we need to put in a document
11 that that employee was serving in some reduced
12 capacity as an interim. So if you're offended that
13 they do not have that title, you can direct it toward
14 me. I thought it was appropriate if you're doing a
15 hundred percent of the job you should be recognized
16 during that time as you're carrying the title.

17 The other thing that came up with that, and
18 something that I was, you know, certainly pleased
19 with, was the eagerness, you know, it was all
20 overzealousness, but I think the eagerness to find
21 things that perhaps need updating. And if you
22 recognize that something is no longer current, the
23 title is incorrect, something along those lines, if
24 you're offended that the correction is made now, if
25 you went to the online version of our codified

1 ordinances and you saw the slate of council that was
2 there previous to the last election versus what it
3 currently is, perhaps you might make some sort of
4 mistake if you weren't aware of those changes. So to
5 the -- you know, addressing this publicly in some way
6 in kind of a dismissive tone for someone's eagerness
7 to make things correct, I'm looking at it somewhat
8 differently. That doesn't mean that there won't be
9 some -- some mistakes along the way simply for the
10 eagerness to perform some new duties. And we're
11 going to see that when we get to committee, but
12 that's the very purpose of the committee. And what
13 we recognized was there's a couple small
14 typographical errors in these ordinances, but that's
15 the purpose of committee. We're going to correct
16 those this evening.

17 And the reason that, you know, for me that is
18 not upsetting is that we just recently have gone
19 through what amounts tantamount to three clerks and
20 we had, you know, similarly three clerks essentially
21 performing the duties for the legislation. And each
22 wanting, you know, to perform those roles and, as a
23 result, some of the documents had some things that
24 some of the others didn't and they were saved in some
25 different locations, but again, that's what the

1 committee's for and we're going to iron those out so
2 that we have the clearly defined rules, the clear
3 locations where these electronic documents will be
4 saved, and then the last set of eyes before they go
5 out before council. So I'm -- I'm certainly going to
6 applaud that, that eagerness to serve, that eagerness
7 to make things correct. And again, welcome as well
8 to our new finance director and thank the person that
9 was named as the interim but still certainly served
10 in a 100 percent capacity to help us get through a
11 bit of a roadblock that was placed before us. Thank
12 you.

13 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

14 I'll double back to Member Revoldt.

15 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you.

16 Larry, you had asked that the members take an
17 open and unambiguous position on the Arrowhead
18 management contract, and I want you to know that I
19 support this because it is the best option to move
20 forward and to gather information pertinent to a
21 decision.

22 The fact of the matter is, I participated in
23 the review and the scoring of the proposal that were
24 submitted to the city under the RFP that was prepared
25 by the administration. I also had the privilege of

1 participating in the interviews with the respondents,
2 and the administration extended to me the courtesy of
3 reviewing the contract, in its various forms, before
4 we discussed it. I believe that this presented the
5 best possible option given the management attention
6 the administration paid to this issue. Therefore, I
7 make no apologies, I vote for this. I believe that
8 many of the concerns that have been expressed are
9 reflected in the contract. Two-year escape clause,
10 for example. So, Larry, that's my position. And
11 that's why I'm taking it.

12 Now, let's come back to the clerk for a
13 second. It was a year ago that we were looking for a
14 clerk. And I think it's important to understand that
15 that search concluded unsuccessfully. The search was
16 organized, well organized, the net was large, and the
17 fact of the matter is we had a limited field of
18 qualified candidates who applied. And I think it's
19 important that we all understand why we had a limited
20 field. Transcripts were problematic. But yet many
21 of us believed that the preparation of a transcript
22 was absolutely vital for the conduct of our business,
23 particularly in the preparation of historic record.
24 But we had people who did not care to do that as part
25 of their job description.

1 Second is that we had candidates who were
2 likely discouraged by what they see on video. And
3 that, unfortunately, as I've said before, long prior
4 to our search for a clerk, how we conduct our
5 business in this room at that microphone matters. It
6 matters a great deal. And if we can't stick to the
7 facts and the accusations fly, it doesn't reflect
8 positively not only on the city but ourselves as a
9 community.

10 And thirdly, I think we have to acknowledge
11 that there were some candidates who were advised not
12 to apply. So what we ended up with was with a
13 situation that has worked by and large over the last
14 year. Perfectly? No. But as the mayor points out,
15 this is a human organization. We're going to make
16 mistakes. And the goal is to correct them and do the
17 very best job that we can do.

18 Now, as I said at the time we stood up the
19 finance director, under Ohio law, I think it bears
20 worth repeating, that in a township that may be three
21 times the city of North Canton, there's a fiscal
22 officer. Director of finance. Who serves as a
23 clerk. So we're not out pulling something from the
24 outer reaches of the universe to make this happen.
25 This is what our previous finance director agreed to

1 do. We put it together and we're doing the very best
2 we can to make this work. So as we go forward, I
3 think our situation in some ways is reflective of our
4 desire on council to try to -- to try to adhere to
5 the wishes of the people who show up. It's just that
6 sometimes we don't have perfect tools to do that.
7 That concludes my report.

8 MR. PETERS: Outstanding, Daryl. Thank you.
9 Member Foltz.

10 MR. FOLTZ: Thank you. I wanted to
11 compliment everybody here tonight. We've had
12 professional, polite dialogue with various insight
13 and opinions and I think that's the way any public
14 meeting should work. And we could have a difference
15 of opinion. That's okay, that's great. And we all
16 can express our opinions in a right way. I'm proud
17 of everybody tonight. Audience included.

18 One last comment for golf. If you go look at
19 480 on the way to Cleveland, they're spending
20 millions of dollars on Topgolf. So I don't think the
21 industry's dying, I think it's just being
22 reconfigured. And I think that's going to bring a
23 new audience to golf out here in places like
24 Arrowhead that we own. Thank you.

25 MR. PETERS: Member Werren.

1 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Thank you for everyone's
2 comments. I sometimes think they could be said in
3 less words. Just saying. But without redundancy.
4 But I do appreciate everyone's comments.

5 I do think one thing Daryl said that I would
6 disagree with though is when we were hiring for that
7 clerk's position I think there was concern that we
8 were looking for someone that could just do minutes,
9 and we wanted more out of that clerk.

10 MR. REVOLDT: That's true.

11 MRS. WERREN: I think we are getting that
12 with Ben, and we did have a little bit of different
13 opinion of that, but I know I was one that said we
14 can think differently and if we don't have that
15 someone that will type the minutes, the minutes are
16 an important part, they are important in many
17 different ways, but now we have found a skill set
18 that is adaptable to that. Someone who already has
19 that strength is doing that, as opposed to past
20 clerks who have spent two, three, and four days at a
21 really good salary. And I know a lot of salaries in
22 this community, and that wasn't a good use of what it
23 is and now I think that the clerk that is in place
24 we're getting -- we're getting a different set of
25 skill sets that we can use throughout the whole

1 community and it's going to benefit the community in
2 different ways.

3 As far as golf, when I talked about the play
4 and the young people coming to our community, they
5 are going to Topgolf. They are driving an hour to go
6 play and we are a community that had many, many golf
7 sources. We were touted in northeast Ohio and Stark
8 County as you could come here and play 20 different
9 courses. So maybe that's a little different now, but
10 we don't know what some of those closures are going
11 to do to a course like ours, and the two or three
12 years that we need to evaluate is great. And if we
13 can get people, like you said, you have 32 people
14 eating at that restaurant, that's huge. Restaurants
15 are closing all the time.

16 Chapel Hill just closed, it's in foreclosure.
17 I mean, we're in a state of a lot of different things
18 happening and we have to market and look at things
19 really differently. And my gosh, if we could put in
20 a Topgolf in North Canton, so be it. So I think
21 that's great how we're looking at things and I
22 welcome new views. I'm excited to see what Jina
23 brings, a different set of looking at things,
24 different eyes, different ways of doing things in
25 your school system through Louisville; Louisville is

1 a great community. I'm excited about that. That's
2 it.

3 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Steph.

4 Member Stroia.

5 MR. STROIA: Thank you all for coming.

6 Welcome, Jina. Thank you, Marge. Rob, I do look
7 forward to your comments on Maple -- Maple project.
8 I've got a lot of concerns coming my way, a lot of
9 questions, specifically the timing of Little League
10 and tournaments and things that go on there and that
11 detour as well, so I look forward to that.

12 About Arrowhead, I'm not superexcited about
13 golf, and no, I'm not sold on the viability of it,
14 but you can't find somebody on a one-year contract.
15 You can't find somebody on probably a two-, three-,
16 four-year contract. We have an exit clause, we have
17 things in place where we can track and monitor this
18 and give it a chance to be successful. It was a very
19 tough position, honestly, for me to walk into,
20 knowing the past, being a new member of council and
21 seeing this, and I think this is a good plan in the
22 short term. I do think we need to explore options
23 and, you know, just keep an open mind about it. But
24 we do, I'll stress, if there's two years of losses we
25 have the choice to get out of it. And I think that's

1 great. So I think that's it.

2 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Matt.

3 Member Cerreta.

4 MR. CERRETA: What's golf?

5 Hey. A couple things. Again, welcome, Jina,
6 and thank you again, Marge. And no matter how we got
7 here, how many people, where we are, I think right
8 now for this year I think we're teamed up pretty good
9 to have a good year in moving forward. Dom, I
10 thought your idea -- let's put it on record -- I'm
11 going to go on the record it was a great idea.

12 MR. FONTE: Which one?

13 MR. CERRETA: Which one? Both of them.

14 MR. FONTE: The one that you're going to
15 help -- you're going to help me.

16 MR. CERRETA: Yeah. No. A lot of people do
17 kind of remember what didn't get done or what they
18 want done but many times they don't -- we don't know,
19 you know, how many things have been done. And
20 there's been a lot of things that have been done. We
21 should put them out there at least a couple times a
22 year, a review, a summary. Every month would be
23 great but that wouldn't be, you know, as dynamic, I
24 think, as a quarterly or a half to show how long that
25 list is because it is. There's a lot of things that

1 are behind the scenes. So I'm always good for
2 looking at summaries and reviews, even at the end of
3 the year, you know, what did we do.

4 MRS. WERREN: Yeah.

5 MR. CERRETA: There's no reason to not repeat
6 it. That's the only report I have. Thank you.

7 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mark.

8 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

9 MR. PETERS: Council clerk?

10 MR. YOUNG: I have two things for council
11 tonight.

12 First, today the office of council received
13 our yearly letter from the Ohio Ethics Commission and
14 they would like me to remind all of our lovely
15 elected officials to file your financial paperwork by
16 March.

17 And then second, in regards to the
18 certification page on our website, to my knowledge,
19 American Legal Publishing/Walter Drane was not asked
20 to change that and it is corrected. It should still
21 read Laura Brown and David Held, and I will endeavor
22 to get that corrected as quickly as possible.

23 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Ben.

24 MRS. WERREN: Thank you.

25 MR. PETERS: Jina, Marge, you want another

1 crack at it?

2 MS. ALABACK: No report.

3 MR. PETERS: All right. That's a great
4 answer.

5 MRS. WERREN: See?

6 MR. PETERS: Stephanie loves that answer.

7 Rob, you're up.

8 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. President.

9 East Maple Street streetscape.

10 COURT REPORTER: Microphone. Use the
11 microphone. Sorry.

12 MR. GRAHAM: There we go. Okay.

13 East Maple Street streetscape. That's one we
14 were awarded roughly \$1.7 million in federal funds a
15 number of years ago, long before I was here. And
16 what the project is going to entail is starting at
17 the Marquardt-East Maple intersection and going east
18 all the way to the Stark Parks trailhead, which comes
19 out to Maple about at the new post office site. What
20 we're going to do is replace that existing 5-foot
21 sidewalk and we're going to put in an 8-foot-wide
22 walk. Basically there's a lot of joggers and bikers
23 and whatnot, so give them a wider avenue to travel.
24 And also that sidewalk is going to have some brick,
25 decorative brick, inserts kind of like what we've

1 done around the new portico and around the corner at
2 the bank on West Maple. It will have that look
3 rather than the 2-foot devil strip like Main Street.

4 So the biggest component is the 5-foot walk
5 to an 8-foot walk. It's going to have our typical
6 North Canton downtown black streetlights to provide
7 some security and some ambiance for the corridor.

8 MR. DEORIO: Are there any streetlights there
9 now?

10 MR. GRAHAM: There are only a couple of the
11 ugly overhead streetlights on wooden poles. And
12 those are actually -- they'll come out. And there's
13 a couple that we will put in with respect to the
14 signal at the west gate, the traffic signal poles.
15 But right now there are really no streetlights other
16 than a couple ugly old cobras on wooden poles that
17 we'll remove. So we'll have the decorative
18 streetlights along that whole corridor, again for
19 Walsh students to come downtown. That was kind of
20 the attraction, I guess, of the project and why we
21 were funded. When Walsh agreed years ago to annex
22 into the city, to really make them feel part of the
23 city and give their campus the city look and they
24 encouraged those students to come downtown as things
25 are starting to develop downtown from the Hoover

1 District, really pull them in and give them that
2 North Canton look rather than a Plain Township look
3 since they came in.

4 Other decorative treatments that we're going
5 to be doing out there, at the Marquardt intersection
6 and the east gate intersection of Washington Square,
7 those two signals, we're going to have sort of the
8 decorative concrete square and the brick crosswalks
9 like we put out there a few years ago at their west
10 gate and we have at Taft, Main Street, and the
11 square. So we're going to do it again and give that
12 North Canton look to that corridor.

13 We're also going to do some enhancements to
14 the city's pedestrian bridge, you know, Marquardt
15 over the creek. That is one of the ugliest things we
16 have out there. We're looking at some things to do
17 with that. Just to the east of that is an ugly
18 retaining wall, we're going to replace that with a
19 more decorative-looking wall.

20 And then lastly, the Stark County engineer
21 has jumped on board. He oversees -- it's actually
22 his to maintain, is the East Maple Street vehicular
23 bridge. It's been probably a good 20 years since any
24 work has been done on that bridge and he's to the
25 point where he really needs to do some structural

1 repairs to that, to that structure. Or we risk load
2 limits and things like that for traffic. So it's
3 really in need of some major overhauls and that's
4 really what's going to cause -- I know ODOT
5 advertised it as 60 days, I think more realistically
6 we're looking at 45-day closure so we can do the
7 structural repairs. We don't need to close our roads
8 for the sidewalk, but to keep that bridge safe for
9 our motoring public we have to address that. So
10 that's going to cause some -- some headaches.

11 And a timeline for that is ODOT has us
12 awarding the contract sometime in mid to late June.
13 We have to award it by the end of their fiscal year,
14 which is June 30. So if we award by mid June, by the
15 time a contractor even starts it's early to mid July.
16 And a lot of that will help with the inconvenience to
17 getting to the Little League fields. I think they're
18 more a spring and early summer time frame that
19 they're looking at, but it will, of course,
20 coordinate, we have to coordinate with them as part
21 of the federal monies that we're expending, and but I
22 would think that we're probably mid July to mid-end
23 of August for that closure.

24 And because we want to get out of there
25 before school buses come, before Walsh opens for, you

1 know, the fall semester. There's going to be some
2 inconvenience, we had it obviously with the Everhard
3 closure, but we're going to get a rehabbed structure
4 that's much safer without load limits for trucks or
5 firetrucks or anything like that. So that's going to
6 be the major headache. The streetscape construction
7 is actually pretty straightforward. It's a
8 three-lane road. During the day we'll just close the
9 northside lane and use the two-way left turn lane for
10 the traffic.

11 But the bridge is going to be tricky.
12 There's some things we can look at. Marquardt
13 construction, there's a traffic light at each end of
14 it. We'll talk to the county. That greatly drives
15 up the cost and you don't get as good a product with
16 the concrete joint right down the middle. We'll
17 investigate that. That's going to be difficult,
18 fire, EMS. We didn't worry about it with the
19 Everhard closure, but Chief Bacon, Chief Minock, they
20 have to respond at Washington Square or Walsh or
21 whatever. So that, you know, we were looking at
22 mutual aid agreements and stuff like that. So it
23 will be difficult, but the end product is going to be
24 a heck of a nice corridor out there. Again,
25 80 percent federally funded and we're applying for

1 municipal road funds so we're looking at probably
2 another hundred thousand in grants on that alone. So
3 other than that, any further questions?

4 MRS. WERREN: Thank you.

5 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

6 MR. FONTE: Very good. Thank you, Rob.

7 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Rob. Okay. Thank
8 you.

9 As far as the remainder of January meeting
10 schedule, there will be no meeting next week, Martin
11 Luther King, Junior, Day. Following week, January 27
12 will be a regular council meeting.

13 Final call for new business for our -- yes,
14 sir.

15 MR. REVOLDT: Just a quick question. This
16 actually goes to Mr. Cerreta. Is it time for our
17 Walsh University meeting?

18 MR. CERRETA: That -- we need to talk about
19 getting that going, I guess.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you.

21 MR. CERRETA: Thanks for the reminder.
22 Usually it's like March or April we have that.

23 MRS. WERREN: Yeah.

24 MR. DEORIO: We did it April 1 last year. No
25 fooling. If you wouldn't mind directing the council

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clerk, he probably has familiarity with the facility,
start the ball rolling. That would be a great help
to the administration.

MR. CERRETA: Great idea. Make it so.

MR. PETERS: All right. Okay. Motion to
adjourn this meeting?

MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

MR. FOLTZ: Second.

MR. PETERS: All in favor?

("Aye" in unison.)

MR. PETERS: We're adjourned.

- - - - -

(Meeting adjourned at 7:38 p.m.)

- - - - -

Attest:

Benjamin R. Young
Clerk of Council

Daniel Jeff Peters
City Council President

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
)SS
 STARK COUNTY)

I, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that this meeting was by me reduced to Stenotype and afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription.

I further certify that this hearing was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in the event of this action.

I do further certify that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Canton, Ohio, on this 20th day of January, 2020.

Laurie Maryl Jonas, RMR & Notary Public.
 My commission expires January 6, 2022.

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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

**TRANSCRIPT OF
JANUARY 13, 2020, MEETING**

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Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, at the North Canton Civic Center, 845 West Maple Street, North Canton, Ohio, on Monday, January 13, 2020, at 7:38 p.m.

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**Premier Court Reporting
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1 APPEARANCES:

- 2 Daniel Jeff Peters, Council President, Ward 2
- 3 Daryl Revoldt, Council Vice President, At Large
- 4 Doug Foltz, Ward 1
- 5 Stephanie Werren, Ward 3
- 6 Dominic Fonte, Ward 4
- 7 Mark R. Cerreta, At Large
- 8 Matthew Stroia, At Large
- 9 Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration
- 10 Timothy L. Fox, Director of Law
- 11 Marge Loretto, Interim Director of Finance
- 12 Jina Alaback, Finance Director
- 13 Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services
- 14 Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development
- 15
- 16 Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- 17 Benjamin R. Young, Clerk

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1 MR. PETERS: I'm going to call to order the
2 special committee of the whole meeting Monday,
3 January 13, 7:38 p.m. Clerk, will you please call
4 the roll.

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt?

6 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte?

8 MR. FONTE: Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters?

10 MR. PETERS: Here.

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz?

12 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren?

14 MRS. WERREN: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia?

16 MR. STROIA: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta?

18 MR. CERRETA: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Present.

20 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very much.

21 First up, Street and Alley. Chairman Fonte.

22 MR. FONTE: So on A, we're talking about our
23 annual program, which will be the rock salt
24 cooperative purchasing program. It's on emergency,
25 and we always buy it off season so we get a better

1 price. Any questions on that? It's just a routine
2 thing.

3 B, We're basically trying to get our funds in
4 place so Rob can get busy on the roads so we can do
5 good pricing, so that's on an emergency. That's
6 basically the 2020 resurfacing program. That's on an
7 emergency so we get that money transferred over.

8 Rob, if there's anything I miss, just go
9 ahead and chime in.

10 MR. FOX: This is one of those that I
11 mentioned the eagerness and having three people doing
12 the same thing. Each storing them in a different
13 location. So this doesn't change any of the
14 substantive part for council or administration, this
15 impacts the finance department and we will submit the
16 corrected version tomorrow. So on Section 3 for
17 Street Construction, where it has 150, that's
18 actually 50. For the street improvement levy at --
19 that's 250 and the remainder is correct. And if Rob
20 has anything more with the --

21 MR. GRAHAM: No, that's about it. Basically
22 just the permission to go ahead and get the 2020
23 paving program out to bid. Obviously we still have
24 to discuss exact streets. I have a list that totals
25 over 600,000. I put together a program I want to go

1 over with administration, obviously, bring it to your
2 attention what we're looking at doing, but yes, the
3 budget amount on the legislation request and what was
4 in the 2020 meeting is 350,000.

5 MR. FONTE: How much, rob?

6 MR. GRAHAM: 350,000.

7 MR. FONTE: Okay. Well, can you give me a
8 list of that whenever you have those streets so I can
9 look at them?

10 MR. GRAHAM: Sure. Absolutely.

11 MR. FONTE: Okay. C is basically a total
12 reconstruct of Pineview Avenue from Bachtel to
13 Schneider. It includes all the way down to the base,
14 curb, gutter, driveway aprons, of course, they have
15 to put those back, and catch basins. It's about
16 \$600,000 worth of work, a thousand linear feet, and
17 so those three items, well, we got one more here,
18 this would be the Portage one, in honor of Doug,
19 we're going to work on Charlotte and Portage.

20 MR. CERRETA: Dom, can we talk about C for a
21 minute before we jump on to D?

22 MR. FONTE: C.

23 MR. CERRETA: That's a very small piece of
24 road. How much traffic does that get to redo this
25 thing completely for more than half a million

1 dollars?

2 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah. It's one -- well, I think
3 there might be a typo in the 600,000 but I left it in
4 there. I would fully expect that to come back at
5 more like 350 to 400, but that's Part 2 of the
6 three-part project we brought forward a number of
7 years ago. The first piece was at the east end of
8 Bachtel that had the open ditches and we replaced
9 that with the new roadway because it had completely
10 failed. Curb and gutter, drive apron, storm sewer
11 catch basins, and I was told when I sort of inherited
12 these three projects there's Pineview and the third
13 one is Overridge. Kind of that same neighborhood
14 that the residents, quote, were promised when they
15 annexed into the city that they would have a
16 city-type looking street, not open ditch,
17 township-type looking streets. So we undertook the
18 Bachtel one. Turned out, you know, quite happy with
19 it. So we didn't build -- that we did in '18. In
20 '19 we just didn't have in the budget, we had other
21 concerns. In 2020, Pineview needs repaved. I mean,
22 it's really falling apart. It's in horrible shape
23 and now it's time. So what we're proposing to do is
24 Phase 2 of the three phases and totally reconstruct
25 that. Again, the 600, I don't think that's the

1 number I initially gave in my budget meeting. I'm
2 pretty confident we'll be under 400 but still quite a
3 chunk of change for 1,550 feet.

4 MR. CERRETA: I know. It's not Bachtel or
5 Schneider, not driven that much, but --

6 MR. GRAHAM: Right. Right. But it is in
7 need of repair. Open ditches, the pavement has
8 failed, it blows up every --

9 MRS. WERREN: I remember, Rob, the Bachtel
10 people waited a long time, that went through many
11 different administrations. And then when you came in
12 you were able to make it work and I think it's just
13 part of what you said that you would finish.

14 MR. GRAHAM: Right. I've got plans in the
15 drawer someday for Overridge. It's in pretty decent
16 shape yet. I'm thinking let's wait two, three, four
17 years until it's in the need of repaving then go back
18 and give it that treatment as well.

19 MR. CERRETA: I know we did Weber, the most
20 expensive street I've seen in our town for a long
21 time last year, and I wanted to know where we're
22 headed with that. Thank you.

23 MR. FONTE: Those are total rework. Those
24 aren't cutting the top off and remilling it. That's
25 a Band-aid compared. That will last, what? probably

1 20 years or more?

2 MR. GRAHAM: The pavement itself, at least
3 15, and curb and gutter, storm sewer you're looking
4 25 to 50.

5 MR. DEORIO: Also, I don't think you can
6 underestimate the impact it has on property values.

7 MR. CERRETA: Absolutely.

8 MR. FONTE: And then D. If we're ready for
9 D. So basically on D we're looking at Charlotte
10 Portage, not to exceed 637K, emergency. Doug and I
11 have been talking about since that's a corridor we
12 want to try to make sure we integrate, make sure the
13 sidewalks and just give that some thought so we don't
14 redo work.

15 MR. GRAHAM: Yeah, that's one of the things,
16 too, we can discuss. That was another one that the
17 city literally five years ago was awarded federal
18 funds and the scope of that was milling 3 inches and
19 replacing 3 inches of asphalt. So the repaving of
20 two layer and we would go with the polymer asphalt
21 since it's the higher traffic. And with the federal
22 money they do require that any curb ramps that are
23 aren't up to ADA standards, the red truncated domes,
24 to get those in. And ODOT just informed me last week
25 they have approved the environmental document and

1 that does allow us a couple feet of curb here and
2 there to replace some bad pieces or rebuild a couple
3 catch basins but it really doesn't give us the
4 ability to do a full-on streetscape. That's not what
5 the scope of the federal dollars is. But those are
6 all things we can certainly look at as we go forward
7 in the coming years to implement that. But we had a
8 nice public meeting in this room, I was on the
9 private side then in the firm I was vice president
10 of, actually did the plans back in 2016. This had a
11 lot of alternatives for Portage-Hillcrest-Charlotte,
12 that intersection area, and we can certainly revisit
13 that.

14 MR. FONTE: I think that would be a good idea
15 because that is a main corridor, so we want to focus
16 on trying to make all the corridors, you know, tie it
17 nicely to the city. So in my opinion, A, B, C, and
18 D I move to the agenda for the next meeting we have.

19 MR. FONTE: If I may, the Section 3 there for
20 D., to get to your 637, the same thing that I simply
21 mentioned, the first line item is -- is 462,000,
22 second is 125, and the third is 50, and we will have
23 those corrected copies to Finance tomorrow.

24 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

25 MR. PETERS: Okay. Doug.

1 MR. FOLTZ: Let me chime in. Thank you for
2 that. I was going to ask that question on the
3 figures. It is important we get it right, and it's
4 okay when the audience asks us that. We need to, you
5 know, get -- get the numbers to flow right so we all
6 understand what we're approving. And I do
7 appreciate, Rob, your work on the previous I guess
8 project that was presented to the Ward 1 residents
9 and I do ask this council body to help with the
10 design this year for some part of the gateway coming
11 in off Portage to be developed and improved.
12 Obviously we don't want to take away or jeopardize
13 federal funding for the road surfacing, we know it's
14 badly needed, but I still think there's some room to
15 make some improvements to streetscaping, sidewalks
16 and decorative lighting. And I expect hopefully
17 everybody here come aboard and if we have money left
18 over we're talking we need to put something together
19 maybe get something, Rob, you can help design
20 in-house a little bit or lead us down the path of
21 looking at some concepts to at least getting started
22 on it or on the drawing board next year, approve this
23 year to getting something ready to go. I think
24 that's important in this community, in Ward 1 and
25 just the gateway in from 77.

1 MR. CERRETA: I agree. I think, if I may,
2 that's something we should always be doing. What are
3 our goals, not just for today, this year? We need to
4 say that's needed. There's no doubt that that is
5 needed to come in through Portage and this is just
6 really bad timing that we're getting this great free
7 money, which is terrific. But that is one of the
8 areas there that I know a lot of us have had on our
9 radar. It's probably the most driven in to our city,
10 definitely on that side. And probably all -- the
11 entire city. You know. Because a lot of people come
12 down Everhard, they go right, they don't always go
13 left. And so I think that's something we need to --
14 doesn't look like we're going to do it here real soon
15 because, you know, we're putting asphalt down,
16 brand-new asphalt down, but maybe we start, you know,
17 setting a goal for this. I know, Rob, you do a
18 fabulous job of getting the funds and everything. I
19 can't say enough about that. But let's -- let's set
20 something aside and move forward on this thing for,
21 you know, three to five years down the road here that
22 we start putting in some lights and curbs and maybe
23 make our streetscape look like we have in our city so
24 it can invite people into our city. That's all.

25 MR. PETERS: Patrick, you got something to

1 say on this one?

2 MR. DEORIO: I would just like to make sure
3 that council is considering that, when they're
4 looking to do this, that we take it into account what
5 the future plans of that street is. And we have a
6 levy on the ballot for the school this year. Some of
7 those meetings that you all of you participated in
8 with the superintendent. You know, provided that the
9 levy is approved, there's an intention to build a
10 facility on the Charlotte Street location. Building
11 a school on the Charlotte Street location will
12 completely change that street. Not just Charlotte,
13 Portage, too. So I want to make sure that we're
14 aware that if that, in fact, comes to play, again,
15 they have a March 17, voters will decide, and if they
16 decide to go forward we need to be taking into
17 account anything that we're doing. We may have to
18 widen that road.

19 MR. FONTE: Correct.

20 MR. DEORIO: Before we start thinking about
21 putting decorative lights up and streetscaping, if we
22 have to widen that road for bus traffic, additional
23 traffic and the like that's coming from that. So it
24 may or may not happen; certainly we'll know a lot
25 more by March 17, but I wouldn't want to move too far

1 along down the road on this.

2 MR. FONTE: Patrick, if the levy passes and
3 they want to use that, that site, and let's say
4 coming off of Cleveland Avenue we'd probably have to
5 take some space along the side of that; correct?

6 MR. DEORIO: We're going have to completely,
7 in my opinion, reconfigure how traffic flows around
8 that area, busing pulling in and out. When they head
9 west or east.

10 MR. FONTE: Consult on what we need. If that
11 happens, we have to have a consultant almost figure
12 it out. What's that?

13 MR. DEORIO: That's not our project. That's
14 the school's plan, that's the site plan they put
15 together and go through the planning commission and
16 we're going to meet with the, you know, engineer and
17 all the appropriate bodies to try to come up with a
18 way that -- to address that.

19 MR. FONTE: A win/win.

20 MR. DEORIO: Yeah.

21 MR. STROIA: I'd like to look at those maps
22 from 2016 again, if they're still. I was at that
23 meeting, but I'd like to see that again because it
24 is, that's perfectly said, it's going to change. I
25 live right on Willaman and Portage and I see trucks

1 going over the double yellow line. Because if you
2 look at the width of it there, it's the size of a
3 side street and that's one of the heaviest, you know,
4 traffic areas coming through. So it's needed.

5 MR. PETERS: Okay. Rob.

6 MR. GRAHAM: We did look at it after the
7 meeting, refresh it. I appreciate it.

8 MR. PETERS: Okay.

9 MR. FONTE: I think we're good.

10 MR. PETERS: Okay. Next up, Finance and
11 Property. Chairman Werren.

12 MRS. WERREN: This is something we do every
13 year, just looking at the insurance providers. Do
14 you want to say anything, Finance, or Pat? This is
15 pretty routine that we do.

16 MR. PETERS: We're doing it different, aren't
17 we?

18 MRS. WERREN: No, we're not doing anything
19 different. It's the standard.

20 MR. PETERS: Yep.

21 MRS. WERREN: Okay.

22 MR. PETERS: That's going to be on emergency
23 as well?

24 MRS. WERREN: Right.

25 MR. PETERS: Okay. Very good. That

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concludes this meeting. I'll entertain a motion to adjourn.

MR. REVOLDT: So moved.

MR. FOLTZ: Second.

MR. PETERS: All in favor?

("Aye" in unison.)

MR. PETERS: Opposed? We're adjourned. Have a great evening.

- - - - -

(Meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.)

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Attest:


Benjamin R. Young
Clerk of Council


Daniel Jeff Peters
City Council President

C E R T I F I C A T E

STATE OF OHIO)
) SS
 STARK COUNTY)

I, Laurie Maryl Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in and for the State of Ohio, duly commissioned and qualified, do hereby certify that this meeting was by me reduced to Stenotype and afterwards prepared and produced by means of Computer-Aided Transcription, and that the foregoing is a true and correct transcription.

I further certify that this hearing was taken at the time and place in the foregoing caption specified.

I further certify that I am not a relative, employee of or attorney for any party or counsel, or otherwise financially interested in the event of this action.

I do further certify that I am not, nor is the court reporting firm with which I am affiliated, under a contract as defined in Civil Rule 28(D).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal of office at Canton, Ohio, on this 20th day of January, 2020.

Laurie Maryl Jonas
 Laurie Maryl Jonas, RMR & Notary Public.
 My commission expires January 6, 2022.