

CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
JANUARY 24, 2022, 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 24, 2022, at 7:57 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

- Stephanie Werren, Council Vice President, Ward 3
- Jamie McCleaster, Ward 1
- David Metheney, Ward 2
- John Orr, Ward 4
- Daryl Revoldt, At Large
- Christina Weyrick, At Large
- Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration
- Jina E. Alaback, Director of Finance
- Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services
- Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development
- Martin Van Gundy IV, Chief Building Officer
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Benjamin R. Young, Clerk of Council

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1 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Welcome to the North
2 Canton regular council meeting on January 24, 2022,
3 beginning at approximately 7:57 p.m. Can we please
4 have a call to order. I just did that.

5 MR. YOUNG: Yes.

6 MRS. WERREN: Welcome. Okay. Who would like
7 to do the opening prayer tonight? Anybody?

8 MR. REVOLDT: Reverend Revoldt will give you
9 an opening prayer.

10 MRS. WERREN: Thank you. If we can all
11 please stand.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Let's bow our heads.

13 Almighty God, we are grateful this evening to
14 be together to deliberate and to touch our city's
15 future. Provide us with wisdom and insight. As we
16 look to you, we ask that you bless those in our
17 safety and our service departments who represent the
18 best of our community.

19 In your Son's name, we pray. Amen.

20 MRS. WERREN: Can we still have a couple of
21 moments of silence in memory of Jud Logan, who passed
22 away and was an outstanding community member and a
23 solid good person.

24 Okay. Pledge of Allegiance.

25 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

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MRS. WERREN: Roll call, please.

MR. YOUNG: Member McCleaster.

MR. MCCLEASTER: Here.

MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick.

MS. WEYRICK: Here.

MR. YOUNG: Member Werren. Member Werren.

MRS. WERREN: Here.

MR. YOUNG: I guess I should look up and see
who's saying "here."
Member Revoldt.

MR. REVOLDT: Here.

MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

MR. METHENEY: Here.

MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

MR. ORR: Here.

MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia is absent.

MRS. WERREN: May I please make a motion to
excuse Member Stroia.

MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

MRS. WERREN: All in favor.
("Aye" in unison.)

MRS. WERREN: Opposed? Motion passes.

Okay. May I have a motion and a second to
approve as listed: Minutes from December 13, 2021,

1 committee of the whole. Minutes from December 20,
2 2021, city council meeting. December 2021 financial
3 report and final appropriations and interfund
4 advances and transfers to true-up line items and
5 close out fiscal year 2021 as authorized by Ordinance
6 61-2021.

7 MR. ORR: I'll make a motion.

8 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt will second.

9 MRS. WERREN: All in favor.

10 ("Aye" in unison.)

11 MRS. WERREN: Opposed? Motion passes.

12 At this time, members of the public wishing
13 to address city council may do so. Each speaker may
14 have five minutes. Please begin by stating your name
15 and address for the record. As a reminder, the rules
16 are on the screen. A violation is grounds for
17 termination of your speaking time. You have five
18 minutes.

19 MR. TRIPP: Because I'm awaiting cataract
20 surgery, I may go over the limit by about an hour or
21 so.

22 Thank you.

23 First, let me -- Larry Tripp. 1127 East
24 Maple, North Canton, Ohio.

25 First, let me congratulate those new members

1 of council. I, for one, am encouraged and anxious to
2 see new faces on council who I hope are filled with
3 enthusiasm, dedicated, and fresh ideas. My remarks
4 are usually predicated on actions taken and/or words
5 spoken, or lack thereof, by city personnel, elected
6 or otherwise, in fulfilling their duties.

7 You will see me attend and speak at a lot of
8 meetings, with my goal to see a local government that
9 is citizens friendly, prepared, progressive,
10 knowledgeable, and dependable in fulfilling their
11 commitment to its citizens. Having said that, my
12 opinion for the past few years is that this city has
13 been mired by lack of leadership, turmoil, and just
14 poor government with the likes of the creation of the
15 law director-type council and now an administrative
16 council. Poor, poor, poor city council leadership.
17 And to back this up, one only has to look up and down
18 Main Street at the growth and no growth of any real
19 significance the past years.

20 Some members have -- of council and other
21 representatives may say the seeds for progress have
22 been planted and changes are forthcoming for a new
23 vibrant community. However, as time moves along, it
24 appears these seeds are growing into weeds as we
25 watch other communities create new opportunities,

1 jobs, and new businesses for their citizens to enjoy.

2 It has been my pleasure the past few years to
3 hold telephone conversations with four of the seven
4 members of council. Councilman Metheney, Orr,
5 McCleaster, and Stroia. My wife says, in some cases,
6 heated discussion. But I think nothing more than a
7 couple of men discussing world affairs sitting on the
8 patio with a couple brewskis.

9 My first concern was the new numbering system
10 and the creation of a legislative year. I understand
11 it is merely a numbering system change, but the
12 implementation is my concern. Conversation with
13 Councilman Stroia indicated the idea came from
14 discussions between the city administrator and
15 council clerk, and upon -- and, upon completion, came
16 to him. Why wouldn't the council clerk address the
17 issue with the council president to whom he reports
18 prior to doing any research? Why was the full
19 council not made aware of changes? Why change a
20 system that has worked for over 40 years? Where was
21 Mr. DeOrio on this issue when he was a member of
22 council? Is this a sign of the continuance of the
23 administrative council form of government?

24 Number 2, for the past two meetings, no city
25 videos and very, very poor sound qualities.

1 Number 3, poor councilperson decorum
2 displayed by councilperson arriving in council
3 chambers, sitting wherever desired, since what
4 appears to be at least one foot in chair as viewed by
5 the video supplied by Mr. Osborne. As a courtesy to
6 the citizens and -- I'm sorry. I'm having trouble
7 reading this. Okay. I'll skip that. But anyway --
8 oh, and then leaves unannounced. This has occurred
9 on the December 20, 2021, meeting. No record of
10 council excusing this person to leave. If this
11 disrespect of council decorum is based in any shape
12 or form of COVID, then why did the individual even
13 come to the meeting.

14 Number 4, another issue, the language of
15 Ordinance 13-2022. As I read the ordinance as voted
16 upon, I came to believe that -- that nothing was
17 done -- that the voting was done on an issue --

18 MRS. WERREN: Larry, you need to finish up.

19 MR. TRIPP: Pardon me?

20 MRS. WERREN: You need to finish up. Your
21 time is up.

22 MR. TRIPP: You're just like everybody else
23 except that you're worse. I was talking about you,
24 of course, you realize that.

25 MRS. WERREN: I know. I know.

1 MR. TRIPP: Thank you.

2 MRS. WERREN: Is there anyone else wishing to
3 speak to the public?

4 MR. TRIPP: Have fun, Mr. Osborne.

5 MR. OSBORNE: There was a time here 20 years
6 ago when council was very amenable to letting senior
7 citizens speak. That was very poor judgment on your
8 part.

9 Chuck Osborne, 307 East --

10 MRS. WERREN: We have rules of decorum. And
11 if you can't follow them, you can leave. These are
12 the rules. Since I've been on council, that is what
13 we have followed. You have five minutes, which is
14 more than any other entities allow. Proceed.

15 MR. OSBORNE: Chuck Osborne, 307 Fairview
16 Street, Southeast, North Canton, Ohio.

17 In 2009, the position of assistant council
18 clerk was eliminated, leaving former council clerk
19 Gail Kalpac to handle all duties of the council
20 office. Mrs. Kalpac had trained in the council
21 office for nearly ten years when she assumed the
22 duties of city council clerk upon the 2004 retirement
23 of former council clerk Mary Louise Biddle.
24 Mrs. Biddle had trained in the council office,
25 started in 1985 under former council clerk Mary Ann

1 Wilson Barr, who served 25 years in the council
2 office. Without exception, when each of these
3 individuals assumed the position of council clerk
4 they were all well versed in compliance with the city
5 charter, Ohio laws, and policies and procedures of
6 the city. Sadly, all of this experience and
7 knowledge began to erode when the city hired its
8 first only full-time law director, Tim Fox.

9 Mr. Fox was intent on changing the policies
10 and procedures of the city, and this made working
11 conditions difficult for Mrs. Kalpac, who chose to
12 take retirement in 2014. With no assistant council
13 clerk working at the time, there was no one trained
14 or prepared to take over the vitally important
15 position of council clerk. The council clerk that
16 replaced Mrs. Kalpac had no interest in learning
17 North Canton clerk position, and her performance
18 resulted in her dismissal. Law Director Fox was also
19 forced out of his position as well. The turmoil and
20 damage inflicted at city hall for each of these poor
21 hiring practices has continued, in my estimation.

22 A new choice for the city's council clerk was
23 a recent college graduate who had not trained under a
24 previous council clerk, and was not even given the
25 benefit of a guided tour of how the council office

1 functioned. In my opinion, the new council clerk
2 exhibits the same mindset of the previous council
3 clerk and the law director: That they know best and
4 they are going to do it their way.

5 The most recent manifestation of this is the
6 needless and arbitrary decision to change the numbers
7 of ordinances passed by council. For the last 42
8 years, ordinance numbers have been assigned
9 consecutively starting with number 1 and the calendar
10 year the ordinance came to council for a vote. There
11 has never been a problem. It works. It simplifies
12 tracking and filing. It has nothing to do with the
13 terms of council. The perfect storm is the fact that
14 we now find four of seven members of council having
15 absolutely no council experience; a fifth member of
16 council has served but one term, and further, that
17 member is now council president. So there you have
18 it. We have a council clerk who has no knowledge or
19 experience now advising members of council who
20 themselves have no previous knowledge or experience.

21 The City of North Canton needs a
22 comprehensive legislative audit ASAP. Why does -- I
23 do not understand the mindset of individuals who walk
24 into a new job and then dictate how they will do that
25 job. Why does the current council clerk have no

1 respect for past practices and procedures? Is there
2 a gratification for reinventing the entirety of the
3 city government? This was the attitude brought to
4 the job by the previously dismissed council clerk and
5 now-dismissed law director, and that attitude cost
6 them their jobs and resulted in people now winging
7 it, causing confusion for citizens and others at city
8 hall. I see the attitude of "I'm going to do this
9 job my way" repeating itself.

10 Having served on this council and attended
11 council meetings for nearly 20 years, I thought I
12 understood North Canton city government. Sadly, I
13 did not recognize what I had witnessed at your last
14 council meeting held December 20, 2021. One, why did
15 you ask for recommendations from the planning
16 commission on zoning amendments to which you had
17 already given a first reading? A simple letter to
18 the planning commission and a voice vote from council
19 asking for recommendations for all zoning amendments
20 would have sufficed.

21 Two, none of the legislative amendments on
22 the agenda complied with the city charter, as the
23 charter requires that each proposed amendment include
24 the entire ordinance or section being amended --
25 being repeated in the amended ordinances.

1 Three, Ordinances 12-22 and 13-22 did not
2 appear on the meeting agenda and thus this was a
3 violation of Ohio open meetings laws. I also do not
4 believe this legislation was ever discussed in
5 committee.

6 Mr. Revoldt, they apparently do not like your
7 previous 35, 40 years, whatever it is you served on
8 this council. Same goes with Mr. DeOrio.

9 And lastly, your purchase, or proposed
10 purchase for parkland, why are you paying more than
11 twice what the auditor has it appraised for? You're
12 paying almost four -- what is it? \$298,000?

13 MRS. WERREN: Time's up, Chuck.

14 MR. OSBORNE: And the property is appraised
15 for 156,000.

16 MRS. WERREN: Chuck, you need to sit down.

17 MR. OSBORNE: And it's trash property. You
18 admitted you can't build on it so it's not --

19 MRS. WERREN: Chuck.

20 MR. OSBORNE: -- so it's not going to race
21 away from you.

22 MRS. WERREN: Chuck, you need to sit down.

23 MR. OSBORNE: Thank you.

24 Also, I'm still waiting to hear from people
25 to come back and look at the lighting violation at my

1 home. Please call me.

2 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Is there anyone else
3 that would like to speak?

4 MR. REVOLDT: Mind if I go ahead?

5 MRS. WERREN: Excuse me. Yes. Anyone else
6 that would like to speak? Okay.

7 MR. REVOLDT: Are we on tape, Mr. Osborne?

8 MR. OSBORNE: I'm sorry?

9 MR. REVOLDT: Are we on tape?

10 MR. OSBORNE: You tell me. You have a camera
11 up.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Are you recording?

13 MR. OSBORNE: Yes, I am.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Perfect.

15 I think it's important that people who are
16 watching this meeting this evening understand that
17 much of what Mr. Osborne had raised tonight are
18 nonissues. He -- whether it's numbering, or an
19 agenda, or violation of charter, he willy-nilly
20 establishes a claim without bona fide legal evidence.
21 No more perfect example of reckless disregard for
22 facts is your ad hominem attack upon our clerk.

23 The fact of the matter is, there was a small
24 group, of which you were a part, that opposed hiring
25 this clerk. The fact of the matter is, all have

1 conveniently forgotten the roles they played in
2 making it difficult to hire a clerk. The toxic
3 behavior at that particular podium Monday night after
4 Monday night in which the integrity and character and
5 intelligence and the ability of the people around
6 this table is impugned discouraged people from
7 applying. We had one who actually interfered in the
8 hiring process by driving to that person's place of
9 employment unannounced. And, of course, we had
10 another who, when contacted by active clerks,
11 discouraged those individuals from applying.

12 I think it's important that the people who're
13 listening tonight understand that Mr. Young interned
14 with the city. He was a known quantity. He had come
15 from Walsh with a full academic scholarship. I
16 repeat, a full academic scholarship. He graduated
17 summa sum laude. We have had no clerk in the history
18 of the city that has occupied that office with those
19 credentials. Moreover, Mr. Osborne conveniently
20 overlooks the fact that, upon the appointment,
21 Mr. Young inherited an office that was a wreck.
22 Documents missing, files in disarray, et cetera.

23 MR. OSBORNE: Thanks for confirming what I
24 just said.

25 MRS. WERREN: Prior.

1 MR. REVOLDT: I'm not the council president.
2 But I'm going to ask her that if you interrupt me
3 again to have you removed from this building.

4 The fact of the matter is, no clerk has come
5 to this position with the credentials or, frankly,
6 facing the challenges that he had. Compounding all
7 of this was the fact that he could not engage in
8 training through the clerks association because of
9 the COVID pandemic which shut everything down.

10 So, no experience, keenly intelligent, great
11 initiative. Quickly took command and made order from
12 chaos. And he did it with very little direction.
13 This was astonishing. I think all of those who
14 appointed him had confidence in his ability. And he
15 has proven the fact that he can get the job done.
16 Every issue that Mr. Osborne mentioned tonight has a
17 legal response that would demonstrate that he is
18 incorrect.

19 The fact is, we believed that we wanted to
20 reorder the way this city operated. We did not want
21 it in chaos; we wanted collaboration and cooperation.
22 We wanted to work as a team. And it so happened that
23 we thought that the clerk should be an important part
24 of that team. Particularly as we sat in and we
25 planned major pieces of legislation and the timing

1 and execution of those pieces of legislation.

2 I think we've done a pretty -- I think the
3 clerk has done a pretty spectacular job given the
4 circumstances over the last 24 months. Moreover, I
5 for one, and I think others on council, wanted a
6 clerk who would do more than type minutes. I wanted
7 an individual, and I speak only for myself, who could
8 research, in detail, issues and provide us with
9 insight and options. And this clerk has done that
10 time and time again. We have much better insight
11 into certain public policy issues and questions than
12 we ever did from any other set of clerks. And I
13 don't mean to diminish them. They were great clerks,
14 but we wanted to move the operation to a higher
15 level.

16 Today in 2022, the city of North Canton is
17 not the city that I first joined in 1981. 40 years
18 ago. It's not. Evidence? Tonight's discussion of
19 groundwater protection. We didn't even think about
20 it in 1981.

21 I think there's something at play here. And
22 I don't know who's familiar -- and I'm going to play
23 amateur psychologist, psychiatrist. But there's an
24 illness called Munchausen by proxy syndrome. Anybody
25 familiar with it?

1 MR. DEORIO: Please.

2 MR. REVOLDT: What it is, is that you have a
3 caregiver who makes the person who's receiving the
4 care sick. They create a crisis. Create a crisis.
5 And they go seek medical attention. They thrive on
6 the attention. When, in fact, they have either
7 poisoned or they ginned up symptoms in the patient.
8 This is an illness. The causes -- what causes a
9 person to do that aren't well known. But
10 psychiatrists link it to stress, anxiety, poor
11 self-esteem, whatever. But what I can tell you what
12 I think we've got here is a political Munchausen by
13 proxy syndrome where every Monday night we have to
14 have some crisis.

15 Now, for those of you who are new, let me
16 just share something I've said to some of you
17 privately. This kind of conduct that you saw tonight
18 damages our city. It discourages investment. If the
19 only thing you heard was that, or the preceding
20 speaker, you would think that the place is in
21 shambles. We're fortunate to have that clerk.

22 And I'll tell you one thing right now. When
23 I see an e-mail, and I don't have it right in front
24 of me, where they call the last meeting horrible, you
25 know, come on. The council president is new. He

1 might make a mistake. It might not run smoothly.
2 Cut him some slack. If you want people to run who
3 are talented and competent, they're not going to come
4 up here on Monday night to be called an idiot and a
5 fool. They're going to protect their professional
6 representations. That kind of conversation does this
7 community no good. Absolutely none.

8 There is -- you can disagree, but you don't
9 have to be disagreeable. I've read these e-mails,
10 I've listened to the comments, and they are harmful
11 to the nth degree. I, for one, support this clerk.
12 He's done a terrific job under the most trying
13 circumstances. He has helped other communities
14 organize their meetings by Zoom. Lest we forget that
15 this particular clerk, for the first time in the
16 city's history, wrote legislation live at a council
17 meeting so we didn't have to buck it off for two
18 weeks. He's done a terrific job. And I, for one,
19 take exception to the characterizations that
20 Mr. Osborne has provided or used for this clerk.

21 MRS. WERREN: And Mr. Tripp.

22 MR. REVOLDT: And Mr. Tripp.

23 It's got to stop. I'm telling you it's got
24 to stop, folks. And as long as I'm here, I don't
25 expect to hear that -- either hear that kind of

1 language again. We're done. As far as I'm
2 concerned. It's got to stop. I'm done.

3 MR. DEORIO: Madame President, I'd like to
4 address some of the comments that were made.

5 MRS. WERREN: Sure.

6 MR. DEORIO: Just so for the record, I was
7 not involved in the decision on the numbering of your
8 ordinances. I don't care --

9 MRS. WERREN: No one cares.

10 MR. DEORIO: -- how you number them.

11 MRS. WERREN: Exactly.

12 MR. MCCLEASTER: It's not your concern.

13 MR. DEORIO: It's not my concern.

14 MRS. WERREN: Right.

15 MR. DEORIO: But yesterday is over. I don't
16 know if you know that. It's over. I don't care what
17 somebody from the past is saying how they used to do
18 it.

19 MRS. WERREN: Right.

20 MR. DEORIO: Okay. And change is an
21 inevitable part of life. If we don't change,
22 everything else is changing around us, we're just
23 going to be -- find ourselves further and further
24 behind. And I guess to some extent in a lot of
25 conversations that I've had with some of the speakers

1 tonight over the years, you know, there are parts
2 that we can agree upon. And I can attest that I
3 think Ms. Farina will agree with me here, that this
4 place was a wreck. I'm not going to lament about it;
5 I'm going to fix it. And I think that has been the
6 mission that we've been on for the last five years.

7 Now, I recognize that we would like to have,
8 you know, the entire Main Street redeveloped and, you
9 know, some are complaining that it's not moving at a
10 fast enough pace. I don't think that perhaps they
11 see all the change that is there, they only see what
12 they want to see, but you can only move forward if
13 you are building upon a foundation that's solid. We
14 didn't have that. But we do now.

15 And I take great pride in the job that the
16 administrative team has performed since have you been
17 so kind to confirm me as your administrator. And it
18 has involved a lot of change. A lot of change in
19 personnel. A lot of people. Having to get the right
20 people in at the right job with the right attitude
21 with the right performance to make things happen.
22 And we're doing that, and we continue to do that.
23 And I think that that is what is enabling us to take
24 on such major initiatives that we do. A land-banking
25 program. Handling economic development. A park

1 system that other communities have park directors
2 that do research, that park department employees
3 that, you know, this is all handled administratively
4 internally so that we get the most bang for our buck.

5 So, in my opinion, and it's not because it's
6 me. If someone else is sitting in this chair and had
7 done the things that we accomplished, and when I got
8 here I made a list of all the things that were wrong,
9 all the things that need to be taken care of, and,
10 you know, doesn't necessarily involve council. These
11 were administrative things that just weren't working
12 right. But we fixed those things. And so I'd like
13 to think of us today as I think this administrative
14 team is the greatest of all time.

15 I can't think of an administration that has
16 done more in more trying circumstances with less to
17 work with. My God, if we had had The Hoover Company
18 and this, you know, focus that we have and these
19 abilities and resources where we could be with all
20 that cash cow over there, but we don't have it. So
21 here we are.

22 I would just ask you all to keep in mind that
23 sometimes when there is change on city council it
24 reminds me of a -- when we get to hear these
25 grievances over and over and over and over again, it

1 reminds me of an episode of Seinfeld. The Christmas
2 episode 'The Festivus'. You know, when Mr. Costanza
3 gets up the pole and says, Festivus for the rest of
4 us, and now is the time for the airing of the
5 grievances. And, you know, this is what we go
6 through.

7 So there's four new members of council, four
8 new, you know, things that have gone on in the past.
9 In order to create a crisis, to create a situation,
10 and this crisis and these situations detract from our
11 ability to stay focused on what you want us to do.
12 So public records requests. Yep. Fill them out.
13 One phone call that leads to a whole bunch of phone
14 calls that comes in to us, it just takes away a lot
15 of time that I just don't feel that we have. So I'd
16 like us to be able to remember that even though you
17 may be hearing something for the first time, it's not
18 something that's being heard for the first time.

19 And, you know, in regards to lighting issues
20 over at the YMCA, the administration has looked into
21 that. We've determined, contrary to other opinions
22 held outside of us, that there isn't a violation
23 there. So we're done with looking at that. Whether
24 you all want to go do that, that's up to you. I'm
25 just telling you from my perspective that we're done

1 with that. We vetted that issue and we just don't
2 have an agreement. We agree to disagree over that
3 issue.

4 But let's keep in mind that in order to move
5 forward we have to be able to do so in a way in which
6 we can have differences of opinion, we can have
7 discussions about those differences of opinion, and
8 at the end of the day we may just have a difference
9 of opinion.

10 MRS. WERREN: Yeah.

11 MR. DEORIO: But it doesn't need to be
12 animosity, it doesn't need to be in an effort to tear
13 people down or to tear the community down, because,
14 in the end, if we don't move forward we just are
15 moving backwards and there's a lot of backwardness
16 around us that is -- can come our way. I don't know
17 if you've seen a lot of the turmoil in the
18 surrounding townships with issues and their elected
19 offices and whatnot, and that's what North Canton
20 used to be. We had that. And to some of the points
21 that were made, there were people that helped
22 contribute to that. But we're not on the front pages
23 anymore and we don't want to be because we finally
24 are moving the boat, rowing it in the same direction.

25 So thank you.

1 MAYOR WILDER: If I may.

2 MRS. WERREN: Mayor.

3 MAYOR WILDER: Yes. I think we're very
4 fortunate to have the young man who serves as our
5 clerk of city council. The ideas that he's brought,
6 his time and his talents and his skills are evolving,
7 but we have been successful in the legislation that
8 has been presented, the updates, his willingness to
9 go outside our city to help other communities when
10 they were going through public meeting issues.

11 I'm very -- I feel very fortunate to have the
12 team that I'm working with right now and our
13 administration. I look at our total employees that
14 we have. I sense a different spirit, a spirit of
15 support that I -- when I'm out in different
16 departments, that their attitude and their care for
17 the city and for their position and working has been
18 to the positive.

19 I appreciate the mentorship that I've
20 received from our city administrator, from members of
21 council, from our finance director, from our
22 engineer. So I feel very, very confident that what
23 we're doing is the right thing and best thing for the
24 city. And that we're going forward, folks. The past
25 is in the past. I recognize that, I honor the past,

1 but our goal for us, I believe, these last two years,
2 one, to get through COVID but we weren't going to sit
3 here and wring our hands and say oh, my gosh, we're
4 not going to do anything. We're going forward with
5 what we have, use our talent, our resources, our
6 capital to improve this city. And I think our
7 biggest obstacles that we have overcome was the
8 separation of government, the separation we had with
9 our educational communities and our separation with
10 businesses.

11 I see us now turning that page. The seeds of
12 progress, as was talked about before, yes, they're
13 being planted. But we have bridged that gap. We
14 have mended our relationship with our educational
15 communities, okay, and I believe we're bridging the
16 gap with business and trying to bring that economy
17 that we've been missing for so many years. And it
18 doesn't take -- it's all of us working together on
19 this. And I just -- you know, we're looking for
20 achievements this year. Not just results, but
21 achievements. And it's been hard these last two
22 years to get to this point where I believe we're
23 going to see those achievements come through and
24 people will see that progress is going on, buildings
25 are going to be going up. Steel will be going up.

1 So, you know, it takes time, and I'm finding that out
2 that it's a little different from being in law
3 enforcement. You call us, we take action, okay. And
4 legally, morally, and ethically. But in working with
5 government and businesses, there's -- there's a lot
6 of meetings that goes on and discussions and you've
7 all been part of these things.

8 So I understand that we're going to have
9 disagreements, and I get that, and but keep in mind,
10 we have a goal to go and I want to make this city the
11 best that we can, okay. The best that it can be.
12 Because we're trying to make it better and stronger.
13 So I know there's been disparaging remarks about us
14 and administration and council but, you know, we can
15 agree to disagree. I know that might be very trite,
16 but no matter what, we're going forward, folks, okay.
17 We're going to do it together, working together and
18 we'll work with our community and our city, our
19 relationships with our -- in our community. So my
20 two cents for this evening.

21 And again, I understand our citizens are free
22 to come up and make their statements known, but I
23 also believe that we can do that respectfully and
24 tactfully. So thank you for that, for the time.
25 Madame vice president.

1 MRS. WERREN: John.

2 MR. ORR: Real quick. Being a new councilman
3 here, I've lived in the city 36 years. I've seen
4 some good times, I've seen some bad times. One word
5 we don't use enough is "respect." Respect is -- you
6 have to respect each other.

7 Chuck, I love a lot what you say, I hate a
8 lot what you say. It would be nice for you to come
9 up and say some positive things. We need people like
10 you to be the watchdog of this city. As I knocked on
11 over 8-, 900 doors when I was running for election, I
12 heard a lot of things.

13 Ben, I go to Ben. I consider you -- you're
14 younger but you're a mentor. I can learn from you.
15 If I can't find it from him I might call Daryl or
16 what. We're here to learn, all right? The past is
17 the past. The only thing we can learn from the past
18 is just a few things maybe we don't want to make the
19 same mistake two or three times. But I'm tired of
20 hearing about the past. It's now and in the future.

21 And I think with the new council, our
22 administration is great, we'll get to that. It
23 didn't take -- North Canton, you know, you talk to
24 people who live outside of North Canton, I think
25 they're jealous. They think our noses are up in the

1 air and all of this. That's the past. They're
2 jealous of what we have here. We have a community.
3 And everyone in the community counts. You know. Ben
4 does a great job. That's all I can say.

5 Chuck, I respect you, I respect some of your
6 opinions. Others, meh. You know. It's like that.
7 But what's wrong, some of the things that might be
8 wrong with the country, whatever happened we agree
9 not to agree. There's nothing wrong with that. But
10 that's all I can say, but thank you.

11 MRS. WERREN: Okay. I just wanted to comment
12 as someone who was here when we hired Chuck, part of
13 the old group. And when you kept saying "I for one,"
14 Daryl, it's not I for one, it's I for all of us. And
15 I know you just said that.

16 MR. REVOLDT: I don't mean to put words,
17 other words in somebody else's mouth.

18 MRS. WERREN: No. No. I know that. I know
19 that. But I wanted to step in the middle and count
20 me in everything that you said, and especially
21 regarding Ben. We took a really different approach,
22 and I was on that hiring committee when we hired Ben.
23 And we weren't looking at that because we knew we
24 could get the expertise from people like Maryl and
25 the people who do that for a living. And we wanted

1 something different when we hired Mr. Young, and
2 we've gotten it. And we are pleased with what he's
3 done and enabled our city to do and move forward
4 with.

5 If we don't allow each of us to make
6 mistakes, or Ben to make mistakes, we're never going
7 to learn. And so if you want to come up and
8 seriously talk about a numbering system, Chuck, we're
9 on to so many bigger things we don't care. And I
10 hope people weren't listening to that, because if
11 they think that that's seriously what the city,
12 that's all they have, that's an issue, they're
13 laughing. No one cares about the numbering system.

14 If you want to talk about where I sit in a
15 meeting, no one cares. They're just glad people are
16 here to vote and move things forward. They're glad
17 that we show up when there's COVID. When there's
18 snow. When everybody else is shutting down tonight.
19 We're here. You haven't asked any of those
20 questions.

21 And the funny thing is, Chuck, is you
22 continue to ask about change, but if it's not the
23 change that you want, such as new light poles at
24 North Canton, which we're not coming to your house.
25 There's no way I'm going upstairs into your bathroom

1 to look at some light that I've looked at from the
2 outside. I'm not coming. I've talked with
3 administration and we're not coming to your house for
4 that, so stop bringing that up.

5 But if you don't think that the change is
6 happening, it is. And you better get on board and
7 get with our system because we're making huge strides
8 and we're not going to talk about the numbering
9 system or where people sit in council. We're all
10 grownups and we know where each other are and we know
11 when we leave a meeting. So please know that. And
12 we will move forward with all the great things we're
13 doing, from buying rock salt ahead of time to making
14 our streets clean, to making our personnel amazing,
15 to amazing parks that people are talking about in the
16 snow that they have never been on. To developments.
17 To people wanting to work with us. To Patrick
18 getting call after call about, Are you developing
19 this? Are you doing this? So make note of those
20 great things that we're doing and we're going to move
21 this train with or without you.

22 MR. OSBORNE: You expect a response?

23 MRS. WERREN: No, there's no response.

24 MR. OSBORNE: Because you're looking at me
25 like you are expecting a response.