

CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

TRANSCRIPT OF
MAY 2, 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, May 2, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

- Matthew Stroia, Council President, At Large
- Stephanie Werren, Council Vice President, Ward 3
(via Zoom)
- 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
- Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development
- Martin VanGundy IV, Chief Building Officer
- Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
- Benjamin R. Young, Clerk of Council

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1 MR. STROIA: I now call to order the
2 committee of whole on May 2, 2022. The time is
3 7 p.m.

4 Ben, would you please call the roll.

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

6 MR. ORR: Here.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

8 MR. METHENEY: Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick.

14 MS. WEYRICK: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member McCleaster.

16 MR. MCCLEASTER: Present.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

18 MRS. WERREN: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

20 MR. STROIA: Okay. Community and Economic
21 Development. Daryl, go ahead.

22 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you very much.

23 We have for consideration tonight a second
24 discussion about the registration of rental units.
25 The purpose tonight will be to open the floor for

1 questions or comments, and then if it's council's
2 will to move this for the first of three votes.

3 Let me begin -- let me just take a step back.

4 Does the administration wish to open the
5 discussion at this point or would you prefer to hear
6 from council?

7 MR. DEORIO: I would just note that if you
8 look at your draft, there were some changes that were
9 made to it based upon the discussion from the last
10 time. So I would just make sure that you are aware
11 of that. Some of the issues that you wanted to have
12 in the event of like a hardship, in particular, on
13 the registration process that we had some sort of a
14 discretion there that in the unique circumstances
15 that someone could grant an exception to the 90-day
16 requirement. So I think we've worked that in there
17 for you. But other than that, we're open for any
18 other comments.

19 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Let me start then to my
20 left with Mr. Orr. Do you have any questions or
21 comments regarding this matter at this time?

22 MR. ORR: Not at this time.

23 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. Metheney?

24 MR. METHENEY: I have a few comments that I'd
25 like to make.

1 I am in support of rental registration. I
2 think it's important to have that in place. I'm not
3 in favor of the legislation as it's written at this
4 time. I think what we have in front of us is two
5 pieces of legislation tied into one and that we need
6 to separate those. I believe that rental
7 registration needs to be for all rental units in
8 North Canton, not just a select few. And I think
9 that the registration needs to be an online process
10 for all of the owners; that they can go online,
11 register, update, change, make their payment, and
12 before we vote on that type of legislation I would
13 want to know what the cost of that software would
14 cost the city. It's -- it's part of the process and
15 what is that expense going to be.

16 I think that under the current legislation
17 with the inspections taking place in the fall, I
18 still have concerns of coming out of this pandemic.
19 It's proven the last two years that there are spikes
20 in the fall and I'm not sure that it's in the best
21 interests to have inspectors going out into the homes
22 where they may not be wanted or there may be other
23 issues with illness, COVID, a whole gamut that brings
24 along.

25 It's -- it's concerning that we're only doing

1 a partial registration. We should be responsible for
2 all of the issues within the city, all of the
3 rentals.

4 The tax that we discussed about collecting
5 income tax should ensure that everybody is registered
6 and everybody is paying their appropriate and fair
7 share of the tax. And whether there are issues,
8 nuisances, regardless of the rental unit size, should
9 be addressed specifically and not partially. So if
10 this legislation were separate into two pieces, a
11 full registration of all rentals and then tackle the
12 nuisance side and the maintenance and the safety side
13 of the tenants and how we attack that in terms of
14 size or scope or ability through people can be
15 addressed separately, but together I am not in favor
16 of this legislation.

17 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. DeOrio.

18 MR. DEORIO: I would like to respond,
19 although I'm not here to debate policy with the city
20 council. I'm here to provide information.

21 As far as, you know, separating it into two
22 separate pieces, separating the first part out would
23 be problematic from a legal standpoint because under
24 a rental registration-only program you would have a
25 court challenge of what value are you providing to

1 the people who're registering their property. So
2 ostensibly someone could argue that there is no value
3 to me as a property owner to register with you;
4 therefore this is not something that would hold
5 muster. So the part that is -- the part that makes
6 it past legal standards but also, you know, gets to
7 the heart of the matter, from our standpoint, is the
8 licensing part and doing the inspections. And so, I
9 mean, that's not invented to get around it, it's just
10 a byproduct of what courts have held regarding that.
11 So that is the intent here is why we have both pieces
12 together.

13 As far as COVID goes, you know, if not now,
14 when? There will always be something. I mean, I
15 think that as time goes forward there will always be
16 some sort of rationale, somebody somewhere will
17 address this on a, you know, a political level. We
18 see it all over the place. Just reading on my way
19 here tonight, a governor candidate in Florida is
20 wearing a mask on a plane because he, you know,
21 thinks the science is that it should mask up even
22 though everybody else, you know, has a different
23 opinion. But it's become a political issue. So I'm
24 not quite sure that we would ever get to a starting
25 point if we ever held that out as a standard. It

1 certainly made sense two years ago when we didn't
2 know as much as we know now. What we know now, I'm
3 not quite sure on that.

4 Then as far as the cost of the software, it
5 depends on what model we end up going with. On the
6 high side we see about 14,000, on the low side 7- to
7 8,000. It just depends on the software. You get
8 what you pay for, and I'm not one to pay for
9 something that doesn't give us the data analytics
10 that we're looking for.

11 MR. METHENEY: So what value is the
12 registration providing the city?

13 MR. DEORIO: I'm sorry?

14 MR. METHENEY: What value is the current
15 legislation providing the city?

16 MR. DEORIO: It's the registration and
17 licensing.

18 MR. METHENEY: What value is it providing the
19 tenant or landlord?

20 MR. DEORIO: It gives them, through the
21 inspection process, the certification that they're
22 living in an environment that is free from life
23 safety issues. So bad water heater, bad furnace, not
24 hooked up properly, landlord hasn't been in to
25 inspect, doesn't know what the tenant has done. So

1 it's both safety for the tenant, safety for the
2 landlord. So, I mean, there was a list, I think you
3 probably saw, of the questions from the chair of the
4 committee. Is that the case that was circulated?

5 MR. REVOLDT: I believe it was.

6 MR. DEORIO: The types of questions and
7 things that we are looking for and making sure that
8 all those issues get a favorable check mark. So I
9 think it was like, I don't know, two sheets, I think
10 it was, approximately --

11 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

12 MR. DEORIO: -- that had been worked on
13 between the building superintendent, myself, fire
14 chief, police chief. You know, all the important
15 things that we would want to look at.

16 MR. METHENEY: That's the value they get for
17 the inspection fee; correct?

18 MR. DEORIO: I'm sorry.

19 MR. METHENEY: That's the value they get for
20 the inspection fee?

21 MR. DEORIO: Uh-huh. And then, you know,
22 we've been sensitive to this in my discussions the
23 last go-round with the board of realtors. That, you
24 know, for instance, in a change of tenancy, somebody
25 moves in, somebody moves out, you know, as a

1 concession to them we're going to come back in,
2 inspect, make sure that the tenant that's leaving
3 didn't do something, you know, unintentionally or
4 intentionally to the property that the landlord might
5 not have inspected so we could give that a clean bill
6 of the health, or not, and that provides some value
7 to the landlord in the event that there was an
8 eviction, you know, perhaps there's an effort by the
9 landlord to seek damages, so something like that is
10 helpful, but to do that without an additional fee in
11 addition to another concession was in the event of
12 the sale of the property that that certificate of
13 inspection could be transferable to the new owner and
14 be kept on the same schedule.

15 So those are some, you know, I would say,
16 values to the landlord, although they may not be, you
17 know, primary, could be considered incidental but
18 they were things that were negotiated.

19 MR. METHENEY: Thank you.

20 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. Stroia.

21 MR. STROIA: Yes. Thank you.

22 I'm in favor of this legislation. For the
23 first point, for safety. I think that rental
24 registration would provide that guide for safety that
25 doesn't currently exist.

1 Number two, for the point of registration,
2 not only to know where the rentals are but also to
3 potentially track them down for nonpayment of taxes.
4 Which is a much worse problem than we ever imagined
5 from some sample data that we took.

6 Number four, I don't think it's an excessive
7 amount that's being charged. I don't think it's
8 going to be -- if it is passed on to the tenant, it's
9 a minimal amount. It is not -- it's not like some of
10 the other places around us that are cost per year on
11 top of what they're doing on registration. I think
12 it's cheaper. I think this is a good point to start.
13 If people want to make changes, I think it's up to
14 council to add Part 2 to this, but administration has
15 spent a lot of time on this and I think they drafted
16 a good starting point of legislation.

17 I think ultimately it would be great if we
18 could combine and have everybody on one list, but I
19 think it's too heavy of a lift to start with. I
20 think you have to figure out what your community's
21 made of and there has got to be a starting point,
22 too, and I think this is a great starting point.

23 But I really do want to take a look at the
24 taxes. I see it in my own practice, and I've
25 corrected people, new clients coming in, that they

1 don't feel that if they have -- you know, if they
2 live in a township and they have a rental in the
3 city, they feel that they don't have to pay taxes in
4 the city for that rental. They don't understand it.
5 And that's -- there's a lot of people out there that
6 are like that.

7 There's people that are using automated
8 services to do their taxes that don't even scroll
9 down to the local filing. They just don't even file
10 local taxes. This carries over into rental. So
11 those are my points.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Christine.

13 MS. WEYRICK: I'm in favor of this as well.
14 Initially I had some questions; I really want to be
15 sensitive to renters. Not everyone can afford to buy
16 a house in our school district and I think it's
17 important that we not force renters out of where
18 they're living. If the cost had been too high and
19 that was really going to be passed on and it was
20 going to prohibit people from renting then I would
21 have an issue with that. But the cost is very
22 reasonable and I think protects the renters so I'm
23 kind of, you know, coming at it in support of that
24 area.

25 And then also we looked at neighboring cities

1 who are doing this as well and charging more. And I
2 think just gathering the data, like Matt said, we
3 have to get the data before we can move forward with
4 anything. We need information.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Very good.

6 Mr. McCleaster.

7 MR. MCCLEASTER: Yeah, I am in favor of it as
8 well. I think I found myself, when we first
9 discussed it, slightly over on the "in favor" side,
10 but as I've done more research, talked with more
11 people about the taxation issue and I bet if I sat
12 down with you and you would enlighten me even
13 further. I mean, I didn't realize there was a
14 possibility that a lot of these rental property
15 owners are not paying taxes. I think that's huge.
16 And that's a resounding yes.

17 Back on the safety side of things, I
18 certainly see value in ensuring that our tenants in
19 our city are living in safe properties, so I see
20 value from both sides of things.

21 I will add, I do support a point that Member
22 Metheney has made. I do also agree that at some
23 point we should be registering all rental properties,
24 but I agree, as President Stroia said, that, you
25 know, we need to start somewhere. I think it would

1 be -- it would be too much too fast all at once if we
2 just said we're registering all rental properties.

3 So personally what I would like to see is, is
4 I hope that we pass this and I would like to see
5 review, a review of this at the end of next year, and
6 provided everything is smooth sailing I would like to
7 see maybe the subsequent year, maybe 2024, bring in
8 registration for all rental properties. But I do
9 agree you have to start somewhere. So those are my
10 thoughts and comments.

11 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. DeOrio.

12 MR. DEORIO: Yes. One final comment. It was
13 brought up now twice, but as it relates to, you know,
14 taking some of these on now and then a future council
15 coming back with the policy corrective to expand this
16 to other larger rental units, you know, another
17 reason I guess why we started with just this size
18 approach is also studying what had happened with the
19 City of Canton. And the City of Canton tried to
20 start a rental registration licensing program and
21 they ran into a major issue in that they tackled
22 everything at one time and they found that their
23 department was unable to provide the inspection in a
24 timely manner. And that was challenged in court and
25 the court sided with the landlord that yes, you're

1 paying a registration and licensing fee, okay, we're
2 okay with that. But you have to provide this value
3 to them in a timely fashion. And their inspections
4 were running months and months and months and months
5 behind. And the court found that that was
6 inappropriate. So that's a case of, you know,
7 perhaps biting off more than you can chew. They have
8 since made their adjustments and hired more personnel
9 or whatever it is they did to bring their timing up,
10 but that's certainly not what we're trying to do
11 here.

12 So I think I recognize that, that there's a
13 lot to do here to start up a new program and I hope
14 it goes smoothly. And we will certainly take every
15 effort to make sure it does go smoothly, but, you
16 know, stuff happens and we have to readjust to that.

17 MR. METHENEY: Can I flip that around then?
18 If it's a size issue and a manpower and maintenance
19 issue, what if we go after the very largest apartment
20 complex to determine whether or not we can handle
21 that because it's all in basically one location, it's
22 one owner, and the turn-around time in the
23 inspections and stuff like that could be easily
24 accommodated.

25 MR. DEORIO: Well, I think in that respect

1 you're letting -- in my opinion, you're allowing the
2 tail to wag the dog. I don't -- in my honest
3 opinion, I think the problem is, from the life safety
4 issues, are with the units that we've identified.
5 I'm not opposed to if council makes a course
6 correction to include everybody, but I think, you
7 know, when we look at the larger units we're going to
8 find that because those have deeper pockets, bigger
9 liability issues, that they largely keep their
10 properties safe -- safer. In certain-size buildings,
11 the fire department already has access to common
12 areas. Not to individual units but to the common
13 areas. And we feel that this is the appropriate
14 place to start. So I want to address where the
15 problem is, and I'm telling you as your administrator
16 that that's where your problem is. And whether or
17 not council expands that is totally up to council.

18 MR. ORR: How many -- with our current
19 staffing, how many people do you think we'll have to
20 add?

21 MR. DEORIO: Well, because we have SAFEbuilt
22 as our -- as our building/zoning/permitting
23 department, they're going to be able to bring in
24 additional staff as needed. So what's nice about
25 that is it gives us flex staff. We get through it,

1 whether that takes us six months to do or eight
2 months to do or whatever the amount of time is to
3 kind of get through the surge, they'll bring in
4 however many necessary people from other communities
5 to help us with that. In the meantime, we are -- we
6 are authorizing them to go ahead and hire one
7 additional full-time person, which they're
8 interviewing for right now because we think that we
9 know the need, you know, just from nuisance
10 inspections is up and we need more help in that
11 regard.

12 But as far as this licensing and registration
13 process is going, we met with the SAFEbuilt
14 leadership this past week again and, you know, they
15 have their plans in place to bring in however many is
16 necessary. So largely, John, it depends on how good
17 we are in identifying enough of these rental
18 properties up front. We've reached out to people in
19 the community to, you know, let us know. I've been
20 going around, driving around looking and, you know,
21 we're starting to catalog this, pull some data from
22 the county auditor and that kind of thing, so it's
23 given us a basis to start and we'll see how many, you
24 know, voluntarily register when notified or how many
25 of them will end up wanting to drag it out. So I'm

1 not trying to be evasive, I'm just trying to be
2 honest that I don't have a specific number but I can
3 tell you that they'll bring in as many as we need.

4 MRS. WERREN: Hey, Patrick.

5 MR. DEORIO: Yes, Stephanie.

6 MRS. WERREN: It's Steph.

7 Just what I just want to say is I'm so glad
8 you brought up SAFEbuilt. So when we were talking
9 about this, and I feel like we've been talking about
10 for the past ten years. I know Doug and some of the
11 other past councilmen were always in favor of it, but
12 at that point I really think a lot of us thought we
13 don't have the manpower, the people in place. Since
14 we've had SAFEbuilt, it's completely changed how
15 we've done things, our collaboration with others
16 getting jobs done, and now we have that in place and
17 it just seems at this point it's the perfect time to
18 do that for all the reasons that everybody said. And
19 I can appreciate what Dave said in why aren't we
20 going gangbusters on this, but I also remember what
21 happened in Canton and kind of saw them struggle and
22 it didn't go as well as they thought.

23 But with SAFEbuilt now we know we're in good
24 shape but I kind of like the timing. As Daryl has
25 said again and again, we can bring it back and change

1 things as we see accordingly. So that's it.

2 MR. REVOLDT: Thank you, Stephanie.

3 I guess as I look at this, I'm reminded that
4 probably over a third of our housing stock in the
5 city is rental property. We know actually very
6 little about some of it. And the real question in my
7 mind is, do these properties adequately protect the
8 health, safety, and welfare of the people who are
9 renting the property. These are businesses. I do
10 not know. Stephanie's point, I'm willing to
11 experiment. Find out what kind of data we can
12 generate to truly understand and to protect those
13 residents.

14 To Patrick's point, I would remind those in
15 the audience and those listening and members of
16 council that this legislation as drafted is the
17 product of a solid technical and legal review. It is
18 the best that we have at this time. And I don't want
19 to pretend to second guess the attorneys on this
20 matter. We know that these issues have been
21 litigated elsewhere and that we have a plan that
22 will, I hope, allow us to implement this, this
23 project.

24 We're -- what are we, Patrick, about the
25 effective date is January 1, '23; correct?

1 MR. DEORIO: Correct.

2 MR. REVOLDT: So we are probably eight months
3 out?

4 MR. DEORIO: And we'll need all the eight
5 months of it.

6 MR. REVOLDT: And we'll need all eight
7 months. Patrick, administration, members of council
8 or president can ask for an update and I'm sure
9 Mr. DeOrio will be happy to provide it as we move
10 toward that implementation date.

11 But I think, you know, again, as we look at
12 this, the inability of communities to deal with their
13 rental properties and to understand the forces at
14 play is that catastrophic results elsewhere in
15 northeast Ohio. I've often said that what comes
16 to -- what happens elsewhere eventually comes to us.
17 It's just a matter of when. And I would argue that
18 one of my concerns, as one of the old guys, is that
19 we're going to find ourselves like Cleveland or Akron
20 because we didn't -- they didn't identify what was
21 occurring in the rental marketplaces early enough and
22 then they had real problems. Little stuff like lead
23 pipes, for example. You know, do we have a lead pipe
24 replacement program? No. What if our rental
25 inspections say, hey, you know, you do have an issue

1 here. You need to get on -- get on the list for
2 federal assistance to replace lead pipes. Marty, I
3 don't think we do much on it right now, do we?

4 MR. VAN GUNDY: We don't.

5 MR. REVOLDT: My point.

6 I don't think we do much on lead paint, do
7 we?

8 MR. VAN GUNDY: We don't.

9 MR. REVOLDT: Probably not. So at what point
10 does that become an issue for us. I don't know. But
11 I would sure as heck like to have, to Patrick's
12 point, I would like to have some data to guide our
13 policy. It's got to start somewhere.

14 Mayor, your finger is pointing to the sky.

15 MAYOR WILDER: I'd like to just add, if I
16 may, I think this legislation, again I think we've
17 hit on it, it provides a benchmark for us to start.
18 And I think you've covered the key items there about
19 keeping things up to code. We're talking about
20 quality of life, safeguards in our housing market,
21 and, of course, we have some people I think that are
22 slipping through, not paying their personal income
23 tax or property tax. And that would be an avenue for
24 us to help us learn about that. But I think the
25 legislation provides a good benchmark for us to start

1 and to work from there.

2 And I like the idea, and I'm sure this is
3 what council would do, of course you're going to
4 review this, you know, somewhere along in the process
5 to see where we're at.

6 So just allow me to share my thoughts on
7 that. Thank you.

8 MR. REVOLDT: And, clerk, if you would be
9 kind enough to note in the calendar that the chairman
10 of the committee would like to have this on an agenda
11 in maybe November just to -- so we have a formal
12 opportunity to kind of review the progress of where
13 we are.

14 MR. YOUNG: This November?

15 MR. REVOLDT: This November. A couple months
16 out to the implementation. So I'll allow you to
17 select a date.

18 Are there any other comments or questions
19 regarding this matter before us?

20 MR. DEORIO: What is the chair's schedule?

21 MR. REVOLDT: Pardon?

22 MR. DEORIO: What is the chair's schedule for
23 moving this legislatively?

24 MR. REVOLDT: I believe we want -- we need to
25 have three readings. And I would propose and I'm

1 going to make a motion that we place it on the agenda
2 for Monday night.

3 MR. MCCLEASTER: I'll second.

4 MR. REVOLDT: The forthcoming Monday and then
5 we'll proceed accordingly.

6 MR. DEORIO: So are we talking to the clerk,
7 if you can give me some guidance on where that would
8 put us if we follow the regular calendar.

9 MR. YOUNG: Final reading would be on
10 June 13. And then the 30-day referendum period,
11 there are 30 days in June, so July 14 would be the
12 effective date.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Mr. DeOrio, I would also remind
14 you that either the president of the council or the
15 mayor can call special meetings and we could consider
16 it on other dates if it is their pleasure.

17 MR. DEORIO: Well, I will advise you that we
18 will take that under consideration and let you know,
19 but I will tell you from the point standpoint of the
20 administration, you know, executing a professional
21 service agreement for software is not going to be
22 made until we know that the legislation is final and
23 passed and goes into effect. So we're looking --
24 you're pushing my calendar for sure.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Duly noted. And while I

1 appreciate the authority that you granted me,
2 scheduling folks rests with the president of the
3 council.

4 MR. STROIA: We'll look at the schedule.

5 MR. REVOLDT: So I'll leave you two to work
6 out -- work out the details.

7 So there is a motion to proceed for a first
8 reading on Monday night by Mr. McCleaster. Revoldt
9 will second.

10 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

11 ("Aye" in unison.)

12 (Mrs. Werren's vote was not audible.)

13 MR. STROIA: Opposed?

14 MR. METHENEY: Opposed.

15 MR. ORR: Opposed.

16 MR. STROIA: I didn't hear Stephanie.

17 MR. YOUNG: Roll call just for clarity.

18 MR. REVOLDT: I'll motion a roll call vote.

19 Just ask for a roll call vote.

20 MR. STROIA: Ben, could we have a roll call
21 vote, please.

22 MR. YOUNG: Member McCleaster.

23 MR. MCCLEASTER: Yes.

24 MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick.

25 MS. WEYRICK: Yes.

1 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

2 MR. STROIA: Yes.

3 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

4 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

6 MR. METHENEY: No.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

8 MR. ORR: No.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

10 MRS. WERREN: Yes.

11 MR. YOUNG: Four in favor, two opposed.

12 MR. DEORIO: I counted five.

13 MR. YOUNG: Five, yes. I can do math.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Okay. Very good. Thank you.

15 MR. STROIA: Moving on to Ordinance and
16 Rules. Okay. So I just want to make a note that
17 these are going to -- all these, 4A through --

18 MR. YOUNG: G.

19 MR. STROIA: What have I got here. G. We
20 are going to bring these back to committee in June so
21 nothing is going to be moved forward tonight. So
22 this is going to be all coming back. So with that
23 being said, John.

24 MR. ORR: Ben, you wanted to --

25 MR. YOUNG: Yeah, thank you very much.

1 So yes, right off the bat, as President
2 Stroia said, we are not asking for any motions to
3 move forward this evening. The hope is that you will
4 take the next month, talk to constituents, get some
5 feedback clarity, and then we will come back in June,
6 and that's also for, to line up with the time line of
7 when to pass things to put on the ballot.

8 So if you will grant me leave, I'm just going
9 to start going down the list and please interrupt me
10 whenever you have questions or concerns.

11 So 4A, Amendment No. 1, this would alter the
12 charter to establish four-year alternating terms for
13 elected officials beginning on January 1 instead of
14 December 1 each year.

15 For a little data color to this, 80.8 percent
16 of municipalities in the country have staggered terms
17 for their council members. 64 percent have four-year
18 terms for their council members and 49.4 percent have
19 four-year terms for their mayor. So this four-year
20 staggered terms methodology seems to be tried and
21 true pretty much nationwide, not just in Ohio. The
22 mayor told me the other day, I believe, that he is
23 the only mayor in Stark County whose term is not four
24 years. So we are kind of the odd duck out at this
25 point.

1 MR. ORR: How would that be divided out then,
2 Ben? Would it be council-at-large and mayor on one
3 election, the four wards at another election?

4 MR. YOUNG: Yes. So how this is currently
5 written is exactly as Member Orr described it. So
6 at-large and the mayor would be on one rotation and
7 ward council members would be on the other rotation,
8 so four people up for election at each rotation.

9 How the language is written to make that
10 happen is, if adopted, at the next municipal
11 election, ward council members would still be elected
12 for two years and at-large and the mayor would be
13 elected for four. And then two years later, the
14 wards would be elected four years, at-large and mayor
15 wouldn't be on the ballot, and then we're off and
16 running with four-year staggered terms. So every
17 four years, four people would be on the ballot.

18 And then changing the start date to January 1
19 matches to our fiscal year, our calendar year, and
20 pretty much every other peer entity that I could
21 find.

22 Any other questions on that one? All right.

23 The next amendment alters the special meeting
24 notice provisions.

25 So tried to take a little and give a little

1 here. So currently for special meetings the clerk of
2 council is required to hand deliver notice to all of
3 you that there will be a special meeting unless you
4 have waived that notice, we have some other
5 agreement, or if you showed up at the meeting
6 regardless of whether I gave you notice or not, that
7 is considered proof that I did somehow give you
8 notice. So this proposed amendment would replace all
9 those provisions with just a simple requirement that
10 I must give you notice in writing for every special
11 meeting at least 24 hours in advance, period. So
12 this will allow me to send you an e-mail or a Teams
13 chat instead of this hand delivery with exceptions.
14 So there would be no exceptions anymore, but the
15 method of delivery is simpler.

16 Questions on that one? All right.

17 Amendment No. 3, 4C, this would eliminate
18 or --

19 MR. ORR: Talking about the difference
20 between ordinances.

21 MR. YOUNG: My agenda is wrong. I'm sorry.
22 I put them in the wrong order on my cheat sheet.

23 4C would be the legislative procedure. So
24 this would define differences between ordinances and
25 resolutions.

1 So the original intent is that resolutions
2 would be much less permissive. So the language that
3 is written very explicitly limits what resolutions
4 can be used for but resolutions passed with just one
5 reading. And so the reason we had asked for
6 something like that was -- the two best examples I
7 can give are whenever council appoints someone to a
8 board, I would like to do that by resolution to have
9 a clear written record. But that's something that is
10 purely the seven council members' decision and really
11 shouldn't be subject to mayoral veto. The other
12 example is something you guys are going to talk about
13 tonight, actually, union contracts.

14 So administration and the mayor have the
15 right to negotiate them, and then under state code
16 you guys have to say by resolution whether the seven
17 of you agree with it or not. It really shouldn't be
18 subject to mayoral veto because the mayor's who
19 negotiated it. So he shouldn't be able to veto
20 whether you guys say yes or no. It should really be
21 your own decision as a separate branch of government.
22 So the intent is to make resolutions that legal
23 function where you guys can express your opinion but
24 it's highly limited that you can't actually pass laws
25 by resolutions. So you can't impose penalties, you

1 can't allocate money, you can't move money in the
2 budget, nothing like that through a resolution.

3 In addition, the charter advisory board also
4 recommended lowering the number of readings for
5 ordinances to two from its current three.

6 MR. METHENEY: So we have some questions
7 about that.

8 So technically we could have a committee
9 meeting, a special council meeting following the
10 committee meeting, and vote through legislation
11 without public input on the next council meeting.

12 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah.

13 MR. YOUNG: So you're saying if the committee
14 and a special on night one and then a second night
15 have another and be done with it.

16 MR. METHENEY: Right.

17 MR. YOUNG: Yes, you could do that. I mean,
18 we could right now also just not have a committee;
19 the committee is not required by charter. So only
20 the readings are required by charter.

21 MR. METHENEY: Okay.

22 MR. REVOLDT: May I?

23 MR. YOUNG: Yeah.

24 MR. REVOLDT: To Mr. Metheney's point, I find
25 myself in opposition to a two-reading approach.