

CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO

IN RE:)
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 NORTH CANTON)
 CITY COUNCIL)
 MEETING)
) TRANSCRIPT OF PROCEEDINGS
)

Transcript of Proceedings held before North Canton City Council, taken by the undersigned, Shannon L. Newhall, a Registered Professional 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, the 23rd day of May, 2022, at 7:03 p.m.

Premier Court Reporting
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1 APPEARANCES:

2 Matthew Stroia, President

3 Daryl Revoldt, Member

4 David Metheney, Member

5 John Orr, Member

6 Stephanie Werren, Member

7 Christina Weyrick, Member

8 Jamie McCleaster, Member

9 Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor

10 Catherine Farina, Deputy Director of

11 Administration

12 Jina Alaback, Director of Finance

13 Wayne Boyer, Director of Law

14 Benjamin R. Young, Council Clerk

15 Kevin Coblentz, Assistant Clerk

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1 MR. STROIA: Okay. I now call to order
2 the City Council meeting, Monday, May 23rd,
3 2022. The time is 7:03. We'll start with
4 opening prayer. Jamie.

5 (Whereupon, Mr. McCleaster leads us in
6 prayer.)

7 (Whereupon, the Pledge of Allegiance is
8 recited.)

9 MR. STROIA: Okay. Ben, would you please
10 call the roll?

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Orr.

12 MR. ORR: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member Metheney.

14 MR. METHENEY: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

16 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

18 MR. STROIA: Here.

19 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

20 MS. WERREN: Here.

21 MR. YOUNG: Member Weyrick.

22 MS. WEYRICK: Here.

23 MR. YOUNG: And Member McCleaster.

24 MR. MCCLEASTER: Here.

25 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

1 MR. STROIA: Okay. Can I have a motion
2 and a second to approve minutes from April
3 25th, May 9th, as well as the 2022 financial
4 report as presented?

5 MR. YOUNG: And May 2nd.

6 MR. STROIA: We are going to amend May
7 2nd, so we are going to come back to that.

8 MR. YOUNG: Okay.

9 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

10 MR. MCCLEASTER: Second.

11 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

12 MR. ORR: Aye.

13 MR. METHENEY: Aye.

14 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

15 MR. STROIA: Aye.

16 MS. WERREN: Aye.

17 MS. WEYRICK: Aye.

18 MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

19 MR. STROIA: Opposed?

20 (No response.)

21 MR. STROIA: Motion carries.

22 And then Dave Metheney pointed out an
23 error on the May 2nd agenda -- or May 2nd
24 minutes. If you could read in to what it
25 should say, John -- or David.

1 MR. METHENEY: In the minutes, on page
2 25, line 8, Mr. Osborne was mentioned. It
3 should be Mr. Orr making those comments.
4 Just a change of the person who spoke.

5 MR. STROIA: Thank you, David. Can I
6 have a motion to approve as amended the May
7 2nd minutes?

8 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

9 MR. METHENEY: Second.

10 MR. STROIA: All in favor?

11 MR. ORR: Aye.

12 MR. METHENEY: Aye.

13 MR. REVOLDT: Aye.

14 MR. STROIA: Aye.

15 MS. WERREN: Aye.

16 MS. WEYRICK: Aye.

17 MR. MCCLEASTER: Aye.

18 MR. STROIA: Opposed?

19 (No response.)

20 MR. STROIA: Motion carries.

21 Okay. At this time, I'm going to turn
22 this over to Daryl to make a short comment.

23 MR. REVOLDT: As we move into recognition
24 of visitors tonight, we'd like to divide
25 the -- that portion of our agenda into two

1 segments. The first will be those
2 individuals that are here tonight to speak
3 about the flooding that occurred recently.
4 I'd like to set that group up first. And
5 then second we will go to all other items on
6 the agenda or other items that individuals
7 wish to bring to Council.

8 It's really important tonight, in light
9 of the unprecedented rainfall that we had,
10 that we hear from the residents who were
11 affected. The City is exploring assistance
12 from Stark County and FEMA, but most
13 importantly, we are collecting an inventory
14 of residences that were impacted.

15 You are not obligated to speak tonight,
16 and if you are not comfortable doing so,
17 there is a sign-in sheet at the table where
18 you can place your name and address. What we
19 intend to do with that is analyze the
20 problems and create a map to help us identify
21 our priorities.

22 Prior to the rain event, the City had
23 already bid out and expects to start a sewer
24 project on 10th Street. We have in the past
25 had serious water issues, principally in the

1 Zimber Ditch area. And the City has had
2 great success in working with outside
3 agencies to attempt to mitigate the effects
4 of flooding in the Zimber; to wit, there was
5 a large, multi-jurisdictional study that
6 included parts of Summit County, Lake
7 Township, Jackson Township.

8 It included, in terms of action, the
9 construction of some very large detention and
10 retention basins outside the City. It
11 included the demolition and reconstruction of
12 the bridge, the railroad bridge over Everhard
13 Road, to encourage the water flow through the
14 Zimber to the Nimishillen. And it also
15 included the acquisition and the demolition
16 of homes along the Zimber Ditch.

17 The past I think illustrates that the
18 City is capable of executing large-scale,
19 long-running projects. And I think I can
20 speak for the rest of Council tonight that it
21 is our intent to listen very patiently to get
22 our arms around this and begin working on it,
23 on the problems.

24 The inventory -- your comments tonight
25 will help us identify projects that the City

1 can address immediately or problems the City
2 can address immediately, and then help us tee
3 up issues for more detailed analysis. Some
4 of that -- some of the remedies will require
5 time, just as occurred on the Zimber Ditch.
6 We'll be amiss if we promise instantaneous
7 solutions to these issues.

8 What is critically important down the
9 road is that we have as much possible
10 information, we have a good study, because
11 ultimately, some, but not all remedies might
12 require the approval of the County, the
13 State, and the Corp of Engineers. So we will
14 need, again, detailed information, we'll need
15 contact information, et cetera, to help us
16 move through that process.

17 Mr. President.

18 MR. STROIA: All right.

19 MR. REVOLDT: That's it.

20 MR. STROIA: Thank you, Daryl. Okay. At
21 this time we'll begin the recognition of the
22 public. Each individual will be granted five
23 minutes to speak. The time and rules will be
24 posted on the screen behind us. When it's
25 your turn to speak, please come to the podium

1 and begin by stating your name and your
2 residential address. We are going to start
3 with the flood -- anybody wishing to speak
4 about the flood first. Any other issues will
5 be after that.

6 MS. BROWN: Hello. My name is Barbara
7 Brown, and I live at 420 6th Street,
8 Northwest, and I'm here tonight with my
9 husband Ted, who's a native of North Canton
10 and a proud graduate of Hoover High, and
11 neighbors from Hillcrest Avenue, Northwest,
12 and 6th Street, Northwest.

13 We take great pride in our properties.
14 We are here to speak to City Council out of
15 sheer frustration with this storm and sewer
16 system in North Canton. Saturday evening,
17 May 14th, we all suddenly had lakefront
18 property. Have you ever looked out your
19 front window and saw water almost up to your
20 front door? The street flooded, water
21 rushing between your house and your
22 neighbors. Driveways covered with water
23 flowing almost up to garages and into some of
24 the garages. And the backyard is also
25 flooded too. It's scary, and it happened to

1 all of us.

2 If water is surrounding your house, you
3 know it must also be coming in through the
4 drains. Homes had between 1 foot to 4 feet
5 or more of a mix of storm water and sewer
6 water flooding their basements. Estimated
7 losses are in the thousands of dollars. One
8 resident lost two furnaces, along with
9 everything else in their basement.

10 The force of the water also caused one of
11 the walls to crack, and the wall was in
12 danger of collapse. A company had to come in
13 early Sunday morning to try to fortify the
14 wall until it can be replaced. A
15 conservative estimate to rebuild the wall is
16 \$25,000.

17 The fire department was still pumping
18 water out of that basement close to midnight.
19 And we want to thank the fire department for
20 their quick response.

21 The cost of this flood to residents is
22 great. Every household budget is stressed
23 due to high inflation, energy and gasoline
24 cost. Add to that natural gas and
25 electricity costs rising this summer,

1 property taxes have also increased, and
2 residents may have to borrow money to replace
3 damaged property just at the time the
4 interest rates are rising. We feel these are
5 expenses that never should have happened.

6 One neighbor became very ill with
7 flu-like symptoms, and the doctor's diagnosis
8 was intestinal disorder due to bacteria in
9 his basement water. He had been standing in
10 this water for three hours for -- trying to
11 remove as much water as possible. Another
12 risk is the danger of black mold, which could
13 cause future health issues.

14 We can see with our eyes before this
15 happened that many of the grates and drains
16 of the streets were filled with leaves and
17 grass. How often is the 5th Street basin
18 checked? The huge drain grate is constantly
19 plugged with leaves and trash. There is a
20 smaller drain, maybe 12 inches in diameter,
21 that doesn't seem large enough to handle all
22 the water, and water seems to overflow to the
23 street. This basin doesn't seem sufficient
24 to handle the area.

25 We are also here to seek your help in

1 finally fixing this problem. Because this
2 also happened in 2011, and we were told that
3 this is a once-in-100-year flood, and the
4 City was not responsible. We've had numerous
5 close calls over the past 11 years. It
6 appears nothing was done to fix the problem.

7 And the problem continues to be passed on
8 to other administrations. We understand many
9 of you were not in office the last time this
10 occurred. We are asking that the present
11 Council does not follow precedent of the past
12 Council of ignoring our request for help and
13 decide to aid our neighborhood in taking care
14 of the problem.

15 The citizens of the City do not want to
16 hear statements such as nothing can be done
17 to solve the problem. Though it may be
18 costly and it may not be easy to do, there
19 must be solutions that should be considered.
20 Is there any possibility that the
21 infrastructure bill costing trillions of
22 dollars passed by Congress could be of any
23 help to the City? Are there any state or
24 federal grants for which the City could
25 apply?

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Those not affected this time should be grateful. Those of us that were affected appreciate all the help that we received from our neighbors. We would also appreciate your help in the future as it pertains to getting these problems fixed. It has an effect on all of our property values.

We are asking that you do something to help the citizens that have been greatly affected by this incident with some type of relief. We also ask that you bring in experts to help keep this from happening in the future. We are asking that you give some attention to this neighborhood problem. We know you can't stop the weather, but we don't like it being used as a reason not to face the problem.

Would the neighbors please stand? City Council members, if this had happened to your property, would you be as concerned as we are? You have heard our frustrations tonight, and we are asking that you address the need for better storm and sanitary sewers in North Canton. Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

1 MR. VEGA: Good evening, Council. My
2 name is Robert Vega. I reside at 502 5th
3 Street, Northwest, on the corner of Willaman
4 and 5th Street, Northwest. And this is the
5 second impact that I have experienced with
6 the flooding in my area, as you alluded to.
7 I know the Mayor said we have to be patient.
8 We need to be patient. Time is of the
9 essence here. We just have to hold on. I
10 have been patient there for many, many years,
11 Mayor.

12 And I live next door to the basin at 5th
13 Street. I have seen a lot of flooding. The
14 flood eleven years ago was not quite as high
15 as this last flood. My neighbor's home
16 was -- was flooded. They live directly north
17 of the basin. I live just west of it. It
18 abuts my property. I have an easement for
19 storm sewer -- not -- but a pipe that goes --
20 I have an easement on the west side of my
21 property that goes into the basin.

22 That basin overflowed completely. It's
23 totally inadequate. It was probably 12 foot
24 above its capacity. It actually went into
25 the driveway of my neighbor's home and into

1 the lower area of their home.

2 That water edged up into my front yard.
3 Luckily I'm on the south side of 5th Street.
4 Unlike the residents on Hillcrest on the
5 north and the folks on the north side of 5th
6 Street, which experienced flooded backyards
7 and basements, I was much more fortunate.

8 But I want to allude to one thing, over
9 the last five or six years, I have approached
10 the City to repair that -- that pipe that
11 goes on the -- that goes alongside my home.
12 There is a 6-foot easement there. This storm
13 sewer pipe, I have reported it for five, six
14 years now.

15 I have had sink holes in my yard that I
16 maintain. I maintain that -- that west side
17 of my property that the storm pipe goes
18 through. I am actually afraid to mow over
19 there now, because I'm afraid I'm going to go
20 down through the -- through the ground and
21 end up 5 or 6 feet below me. Because that
22 pipe is about 10, 12 foot below the ground.

23 There are two catch basins there on that
24 west side. And, again, I maintain that area.
25 I have called whenever I have experienced

1 sink holes. And these holes are 4 -- 3, 4
2 foot wide, and they go down 4, 5 foot deep.
3 Of course when I call, you are kind enough to
4 come and put some gravel or some dirt in the
5 sink hole, which then when it rains again, I
6 got to call again, and they come out and
7 cordially put more dirt or gravel in that
8 sink hole. I have two of these sink holes.

9 And this has been going on, like I say,
10 for about five years, six years. And I
11 keep -- I was told last year they were going
12 to replace that pipe, and then I was told we
13 couldn't get a pipe. Oh, we can't get the
14 pipe. We are having problems getting the
15 pipe. And I have been patient, Mayor. I
16 have been patient five, six years now.

17 But, again, when it comes to the safety
18 of my wife, others, the neighbor across that
19 property. And I don't know if it's going to
20 cave in. And I keep -- I keep expressing
21 that, but it kind of is landing on deaf ears
22 I guess. But that pipe is inadequate.

23 I have went down to the catch basin a
24 couple weeks back. They said the pipe is
25 collapsing. The bottom of the pipe is rotted

1 out and it's actually folding on itself. So
2 eventually that pipe is going to close up and
3 it's not too far from the head wall that goes
4 into the 5th Street catch basin. So I can
5 only say that the people on the south side of
6 5th Street, hang on, because the water is
7 coming. Because it's -- it's the only place
8 it can go. It's going to go west and it's
9 going to go southwest.

10 I had a neighbor kayaking down 5th Street
11 in front of my home. Okay? So -- so,
12 anyway, you know, I have sent photos, and
13 like I say, you come out, you put, you know,
14 1-, 2-inch gravel in my sink holes, put an
15 orange cone on them and leave. And that has
16 been going on for years. So that pipe is
17 totally inadequate, as is the majority of the
18 system. So that's all I have to say. I
19 appreciate your time.

20 MR. ORR: Mr. Vega, what was your address
21 again?

22 MR. VEGA: It's 502 5th Street,
23 Northwest. And it's on the corner of
24 Willaman and 5th Street. Okay? And that
25 easement is just to the west of -- west side

1 of my property. There is a 6-foot easement
2 that's owned by the City for that storm pipe
3 going into that basin.

4 MR. ORR: Thank you.

5 MR. MCCLEASTER: Thank you.

6 MR. VEGA: Thank you.

7 MS. MEADE: Hi. First of all, I want to
8 say the City of North Canton is really
9 having --

10 MR. STROIA: State your name and address.

11 MS. MEADE: Oh. Judy Meade, M-e-a-d-e,
12 125 9th Street, Northwest, North Canton,
13 44720. But I want to thank the Mayor and
14 everybody that worked on it. Marty, he's
15 such a nice guy. You guys worked and you
16 guys got me back in my home.

17 And, like I said, there were bills piled
18 up. I have no money. I have no money at
19 all. Me and my husband, we are retired. We
20 had the house boughten for us by his aunt.
21 And we didn't know where -- you know, we just
22 wanted to find a home for us.

23 But this is written from my neighbor.
24 This happened to him six years ago. And he
25 had over 4 feet of water in his basement. It

1 says -- it says, 1971, two floods during the
2 early '70s. Never did anything about it.
3 Few floods since, but still after 2000, the
4 drain up on 9th is piled up to 8 feet.

5 I seen -- even my neighbor there, we see
6 that manhole cover come up like this from the
7 pressure. That's recently, since they
8 improved the street there, drainage, but they
9 missed what they're doing, from Woodrow. And
10 I think to look into the re-engineering of
11 the basic flow and the sewage to keep them
12 separate from flood water system is still
13 acquainted. The hydrostatic pressure in the
14 west side of your house is from the drainage
15 from Woodrow failing.

16 And I wanted to say, this has been going
17 on since 1971. And Tim, my neighbor, said
18 you guys were going to come out and fix it,
19 you guys were going to come out and fix it,
20 you guys were going to come out and fix it.
21 And it's still -- it has been six times since
22 I've lived in that house many years.

23 I moved to North Canton because I love
24 the City of North Canton. I'm from Akron,
25 Kenmore area, if you guys know anything about

1 that. I have been here for 30 years, and,
2 you know, I feel safe here in North Canton.
3 You guys -- like I said, you guys really take
4 care of me so far. There are other things
5 that need to be done and we are working on
6 that, like you said. But I wanted to express
7 my opinion that he -- he did help me out a
8 lot.

9 MR. STROIA: Thank you.

10 MS. MIZNER: My name is Teresa Mizner,
11 M-i-z-n-e-r. I live at 604 Hillcrest Avenue,
12 Northwest. Sir, when you talked about when
13 your pipe breaks, where's it going to go,
14 it's going to go to my house, because it
15 always does. I always get the worst of North
16 Canton damage.

17 2011, we had 7 feet in our basement. I
18 lost every single thing. Material things, of
19 course. But I'm talking about two heaters
20 and furnaces. I've got furnaces and air
21 conditioners, two sump pumps, which we have
22 two to help us. Two hot water tanks. Two
23 freezers. Not to mention all my Christmas
24 things that I went -- that all three of my
25 children made me. Everything gone. All my

1 pictures, my crib, things like that for when
2 I'm a grandma, all gone. We went from our
3 curb to the stop sign twice with stuff.

4 So, okay, major debt. We are still
5 paying on that debt. We just got 4 and a
6 half feet again. Thank God some things were
7 spared. My son worked three 16-hour days at
8 my house repairing our heating and air,
9 because that's what he does. Thank God he
10 gives us a -- a little bargain. But still,
11 that's pretty pricey. We have one of our hot
12 water tanks that do work, because we replaced
13 it at the beginning of the year over the
14 winter. Thank God I was able to -- both of
15 my freezers this time, I cleaned them out
16 good. They are functioning. So I have some
17 things that were blessings. I really do.

18 But now I have an entire back of my house
19 caved in wall. Thank God it didn't fall that
20 night, because that's my son's bedroom.
21 That's our main living room. Luckily the
22 next day when they put all these beams in,
23 they said it was safe to come back in. But
24 obviously it needs some serious work to be
25 truly safe. So once again, we are going to

1 have to pay for all that. First quote now,
2 \$28,900. That's not including everything I
3 just told you.

4 You know, I'm beyond upset. All this
5 stuff at my curb, all the material things,
6 I'm okay with that. They are material
7 things. But when I can't even live in my
8 home safely and the act of God comes down and
9 we can't control it -- yes, you can control
10 it. You guys have to step up and do the
11 streets right.

12 And that basin next to us, it's not
13 correct. I can sit there and stare out my
14 front door and in less than an hour -- 2011,
15 5 and a half inches in one hour. This year,
16 4 and a half inches in one hour. And I
17 literally sat there bawling my eyes out while
18 it creeps -- it creeps up to my front door
19 and my back door. It's like you picked up my
20 house and put it inside a lake. That's how
21 bad it is.

22 When I had to carry my dog on my
23 shoulders because the water was touching my
24 waistline, to get to my neighbor, to let us
25 camp there and watch to see if our house was

1 just going to fall in. We didn't know. It
2 looked like it was going to fall in that
3 night. It was really super scary.

4 But there is no reason -- I have to
5 constantly live my entire life in complete
6 debt and never ever get out of it, because
7 our streets and that basin is not done
8 correctly. We were told in 2011, this will
9 never happen, not in 100 years. Well, it's
10 eleven years, people, and it happened to us
11 again. It could happen next week. It could
12 happen next month. I have no idea.

13 But I do know one thing. We need help.
14 My husband works for the police. I work for
15 the schools. I mean, come on, people. We
16 are supposed to be a community here. Let's
17 start acting like one. Okay? Please.

18 MR. RECTOR: Hello, Council. My name is
19 Jacob Rector, R-e-c-t-o-r. I live at 112
20 Woodrow Street, Northwest. I'm new to the
21 Canton area. I've been here about a year and
22 a half. And our basement floods just like
23 everybody else's. Our yard also floods, even
24 with small rains. I'm not worried about
25 myself and my family, because I'm young

1 enough to rebuild. But some of my neighbors
2 and people around here, they are on fixed
3 incomes. They are going to lose everything,
4 their history. My history is just beginning.
5 Let's take care of our senior citizens and
6 people that we can. That's all I can say.

7 MS. MILLER: Good evening. My name is
8 Jeri Miller. My husband is Glen Miller. I'm
9 Jeri Miller, 1111 Applegrove Street,
10 Northwest, North Canton. And Mr. McCleaster
11 was kind enough to come over to our house and
12 look at all the mess we had.

13 The storm drain on Democracy, we were
14 told by a neighbor -- couple neighbors there,
15 had possibly some concrete pieces from the
16 road work and a lot of debris in it. And it
17 shot up, and the water came down through
18 there and circled the one guy's home.

19 He, as of Monday, was up to \$75,000 in
20 repairs; had to move out of his home because
21 they shut off the gas and the water. And I
22 talked to him, and he said he had to get a
23 lien for that \$75,000, and his amount is
24 probably going to go up. We are probably
25 close to 10- to \$15,000.

1 And the water also went over our driveway
2 into an apartment building who Mr. --
3 Attorney Ronald Starkey is here, that he
4 owns, that he's had renovations -- or the
5 trucks over there, restoration trucks, for --
6 ever since Sunday. They are still there, and
7 I still see them taking stuff out.

8 And I want to play you a video that you
9 can hear. We had our shed and two other
10 sheds float -- I watched them -- down into
11 our front yard. Our front yard is like the
12 length of a football field. And I want you
13 to listen to this video. This is the water
14 coming beside our house. Mr. McCleaster saw
15 this.

16 (Whereupon, Ms. Miller shares a video
17 with Council members.)

18 MS. MILLER: It sounded like Niagara
19 Falls. I have lived at this home 25 years.
20 Never had any water. Of course our insurance
21 said because we don't have flood insurance --
22 we have no creeks. We did -- we did
23 Saturday. I mean, this was unbelievable.

24 And our sheds -- our shed floated. And
25 Mr. McCleaster saw these. Two other sheds

1 clear out to the street. And then the water
2 across our driveway went over to this poor
3 man's apartment building that is just
4 absolutely unbelievable in damage, I'm sure.
5 So help us out.

6 MR. ORR: Thank you.

7 MR. MCCLEASTER: Thank you.

8 MR. STARKEY: Good evening, Council. My
9 name is Ron Starkey, S-t-a-r-k-e-y. I live
10 at 454 West Willowview Drive, Coventry
11 Township, Ohio 44319. I'm the owner of 1070
12 Liberty Lane Way, located in North Canton,
13 Ohio, Liberty Lane Apartments. It's a
14 12-unit building.

15 And as Mrs. Miller was kind enough to
16 just indicate, we are neighbors at that
17 property. And Saturday night, with the video
18 she showed, unfortunately, I had four lower
19 level apartment units completely engulfed in
20 water. When I arrived 30 minutes later, they
21 were at least 3 inches deep, all of them.

22 Three young -- young individuals and a
23 senior citizen in that other, all of them
24 lost everything they had. I have had to
25 evacuate them out of the building. I have

1 had a restoration crew there. There is
2 probably in excess of \$25,000 at this point.
3 I probably have another \$50,000 in damage.

4 I realize the City will be undertaking
5 things. I was good enough, because I know
6 Mr. Graham from a previous life, to talk to
7 him Saturday night about this situation. And
8 I have already consulted with my own
9 professional engineer to see what I can do in
10 the meantime, because I know how government
11 works and I know it will be slow.

12 But one thing that concerns me is that
13 this building flooded out less than a year
14 ago when I -- before I bought it from the
15 previous owner. And there had already been
16 steps by the previous owner to fortify this
17 building because of the City's inadequate
18 sewer system.

19 So that gives me concern, because I can't
20 keep rebuilding things every ten months
21 and -- and make that a profitable go for me.
22 But more importantly for the young people
23 that were in that building, unfortunately,
24 three of them didn't have any type of
25 insurance to cover any of their losses. I

1 feel for them.

2 And I know the City has -- or is in the
3 process of enacting legislation to protect
4 tenants. I think you need to remember
5 tonight, if you -- you heard from homeowners
6 and property owners, but there are a lot of
7 tenants that probably suffered far worse
8 because of -- economically, they can't afford
9 it. And I think you should take that into
10 consideration, as well. Thank you.

11 MS. SCHOLLAERT: My name is Barb
12 Schollaert. I live at 115 9th Street,
13 Northeast. I'm the home right behind Aero
14 Tech Hobbies and across from Donatos. So I'm
15 right by the main intersection. I'm kind of
16 representing 9th Street, because a lot of
17 them could not come tonight. But nine homes
18 were affected. Most of it was raw sewage
19 coming back in up into a drain.

20 On a positive note, Mr. Fano, when he was
21 alive, from Aero Tech, fought like crazy
22 because we had flooding -- and I've lived
23 there 43 years. So we have had flooding over
24 the years. And he fought like crazy, because
25 his basement got 3 feet of water all the

1 time, Aero Tech Hobbies, and just crap and
2 everything floating around.

3 So we thought -- in 2005, we were
4 thrilled. The City came in -- I was looking
5 at pictures today -- dug up everything, put
6 new sewer lines. We thought, wow, this is
7 it. At the time, they were concerned
8 because -- I didn't know any different. But
9 they said that they thought our lines were
10 big enough. But when they got to Main
11 Street, they got into smaller lines.

12 So I don't know if that's the case. But
13 since then, we were fine for a while. We did
14 much better. We lost out the first time.
15 But this time we waterproofed the basement,
16 got a sump pump, did everything right. We
17 are not by a creek. We are not by a river.
18 We are not in a flood area. So we thought we
19 were pretty safe. The road was all done,
20 other than maybe that large pipe going into
21 the small pipe concern.

22 This time it -- the last -- in 2011, we
23 had -- we didn't get it, but Aero Tech
24 Hobbies got it. And they had it five or six
25 times since, where they get a couple feet of

1 water in their basement. They are lower than
2 me. They are right next door.

3 This Saturday, I have never seen the
4 water higher on 9th Street. It went all the
5 way up to -- if you are aware of the area,
6 all the way up to Aero Tech Hobbies' building
7 and all the way up to Donatos' parking lot.
8 I face Donatos' parking lot, and Aero Tech is
9 on the side.

10 There were cars stuck in the water. It
11 came up almost -- like five sidewalks towards
12 my house, and I'm real close to the street.
13 That is the deepest. So we went, oh no, we
14 better check the basement. We checked the
15 basement. There was nothing. We thought,
16 wow, you know, this is going to be okay.

17 It was there, and then it took a couple
18 hours, but all the water went down. And we
19 thought, wow, you know, the sewers are
20 working, everything is great. We checked the
21 basement, everything was perfect.

22 The neighbor called me and said, uh-oh,
23 I'm getting a little bit of water. I said,
24 don't worry, we have a wet vac; we'll be over
25 in a minute. All of a sudden, my husband

1 screams up and says we are getting water. It
2 starting coming nonstop two hours out of the
3 shower drain, sheer raw sewage.

4 So here we thought -- like I said, the
5 street, the water went down. It was dry. So
6 it handled what looked as the water, but then
7 all of a sudden, for two straight hours -- I
8 even called the police department to say, are
9 they going to -- does this stop at any time?
10 I never had it come two solid hours. Because
11 we were watching the clock.

12 The only thing that saved us -- we only
13 got about 10 inches of raw sewage. But raw
14 sewage is raw sewage, let me tell you. So I
15 feel blessed compared to all the people here
16 that lost everything in their basement.

17 But we thought the problem was fixed
18 because the City did come out and dig up the
19 street. You could put a car down there, how
20 deep they went. You know, so we thought it
21 was fixed.

22 We were fortunate, within an hour after
23 it stopped, we had a water-sewage company and
24 a water cleanup company come out, and they
25 were able to suck it up, sanitize, steam it,

1 dry everything, dehumidifier. So we were the
2 lucky ones. Some people on the street waited
3 two days to have people come and do that. So
4 we felt so blessed and so much better off
5 than the rest of them.

6 But, again, we thought our street was
7 fine. We -- the claim was a \$10,000 claim.
8 It was covered. We were fortunate. But they
9 considered \$10,000 damage because we have to
10 do the drywall in the bathroom, and the
11 vanity. So nine homes were affected on 9th
12 Street.

13 A concern I have is the water-sewage
14 drains. You know, I cleaned in front of my
15 house today. I cut the grass and cleaned in
16 front and -- just because there is so much
17 gravel and -- mulch and everything was going
18 down the street. Half of my mulch went down
19 9th Street. And I was able to clean it from
20 mine, so I went down to Aero Tech, and the
21 sewer drains are clogged. I couldn't even
22 move the stuff. It was sludge.

23 And I didn't understand why after that
24 storm, the sewer drains weren't cleaned, and
25 at least someone from the City -- you

1 couldn't get -- you can't -- you're going to
2 need a shovel to get that up. I was trying
3 to move it with what I had. So the one right
4 by Aero Tech is really clogged. They had a
5 foot of water over at Aero Tech again.

6 A concern I have -- and this is on 9th
7 Street -- we love the playground. We think
8 that playground in North Canton is the best
9 thing that ever happened. I'm a special ed
10 retired teacher in North Canton. I love it.
11 But they filled in a lot of dirt in that low
12 area at the end of 9th Street. Then they
13 went to Orchard and built a parking lot. And
14 they do have a water -- but it was coming
15 around that corner like a river coming down
16 9th.

17 So I don't know if something else needs
18 to be looked at on that. Like I said, we
19 really feel blessed. We love the playground.
20 We were glad the City was done on time. I
21 have pictures to share with the councilmen.
22 But I never seen it like that in 43 years.
23 And we thought we did everything right.
24 We're not by a river, a sewer -- you know, a
25 flood area, so -- or one of the basins. So

1 thank you very much.

2 MR. STROIA: Thank you.

3 MS. HOLLOWAY: Hi. I am Briana Holloway.
4 I live at 211 Woodrow Street, Northwest. We
5 have lived there three years, and we have
6 three young kids; 6 year old, 4 year old, 18
7 month old. When we bought the property three
8 years ago, we -- I'm a graduate of Hoover, by
9 the way, too.

10 But when we bought the property three
11 years ago, we were never told about any
12 flooding at that property. The day we closed
13 on the house, we went over, and our backyard
14 was flooded. So we had no idea about it. We
15 decided to look into adding a drain. So we
16 paid \$5,000 to add a drain to our backyard
17 that's hooked into the City -- City drains.

18 That didn't help when we had the
19 flooding. Our backyard was filled. Our
20 play -- someone sent me a video, one of our
21 neighbors. We were actually out to dinner,
22 and one of our neighbors sent me a video of
23 our playhouse floating in the middle of
24 Woodrow. Our trash cans were like four
25 houses down.