MEMORANDUM

To: Council Members And
    Department Directors

From: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti

Date: February 26, 2016

Re: Administrative Update

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS:

Streets and Sidewalks Committee Chairman, Vice Mayor Dave Grendel, led a very informative discussion and interview process of our City’s contracted Engineering Inspectors. Based on the presentations of all three inspection representatives, the committee decided to divide all future inspection work between QCI, Inc. and The GPD Group. The appropriate legislation for the committee’s recommendation will be on second reading for the March 8th Council meeting. This committee meeting was an excellent opportunity for all of us to educate ourselves on inspection practices, procedures and pertinent certifications. I am confident that future construction work within the City will be rigorously inspected to ensure the highest quality outcome.

TOP 20 SCHOOLS IN NORTHEAST OHIO:

An article which appeared in today’s edition of the Cleveland Plain Dealer touting the rankings of the top school districts in Northeast Ohio, puts Independence Schools in the number five (5) spot according to the results of the State Report Card. Even more impressive is that our Independence School District made the top 10 list for the entire State of Ohio!

Congratulations Superintendent Hegadesch and the outstanding teams of teachers and staff at the Independence Primary School, Middle School and High School! You have made us all very proud!

TOM VONDRISKA:

As many of you may already be aware, long-time resident and employee of the City of Independence, Tom Vondriska, passed away yesterday, February 25th, at the age of 62. Tom Vondriska retired from the Independence Service Department after 40 years of loyal public service to the community he loved and grew up in.
Arrangements for Tom will be at the Vodrazka Funeral Home on Sunday, February 28th from 2-6 pm. Please keep his wife, Mary Jo, and his children, Tom Jr., Julianne, and Steven, in your prayers.

**FEDELI MEETING:**

Representatives of the Employee Benefits Division from The Fedeli Group met with me this past Thursday to discuss the City’s 2016 Work Plan and the services this organization provides us throughout the course of the year. Various topics were discussed including the City’s Wellness Program, the Financial Analytics related to our health claims that Fedeli provides the City, the Healthcare Renewal process which will begin in the fall of this year, and options for other possible services they can provide that would be of benefit to the City.

**AFSCME UNION:**

Members of the Service Department Union voted this past Thursday to reject the tentative contract agreement put before them which was recently negotiated between the Union Representatives and the City. Union Members are scheduled to meet with their representation next week to discuss the proposed issues they are concerned with. I will keep you updated as this process progresses.

**SPRINGHILL SUITES:**

I accompanied Building Commissioner, Mike Gero, on a construction inspection of the new Springhill Suites Hotel on Rockside Place. Construction crews from multiple disciplines are working diligently to meet the RNC opening deadline. While lots of work still needs to be completed, the crews remain optimistic they will meet the deadline.

Legislation for the Improvements and Streetscape to Rockside Place, in conjunction with the opening of the Springhill Suites and the RNC, is on First Reading for the March 8th Council meeting. The legislation currently does not contain the cost of the construction, as bid openings for the project are Tuesday, March 1st.

**SEWER EQUALIZATION BOARD:**

The Equalization Board heard a contest from JAGI, Inc. (owners of the Holiday Inn and new Springhill Suites Hotels). The Board convened to Executive Session following JAGI’s presentation and will reconvene at a date to be determined. City Council is holding a Council Workshop on Tuesday March 1st to discuss this matter.
DIRECTORS’ MEETING:

At Tuesday’s regular Directors’ Meeting, a short video was presented on the Public Records Act created by Ohio Attorney General Mike DeWine’s office. A number of Public Records Requests have been coming in lately to various departments so a “refresher” presentation was timely to remind Directors as to the responsibilities of a municipality to keep the City compliant with the Public Records Law.

CUYAHOGA COUNTY MAYOR AND MANAGERS:

The Cuyahoga County Mayors and Managers met Thursday at the Ideastream/WVIZ studios in Playhouse Square. Brad Whitehead, President of The Fund for Our Economic Future discussed the geography of jobs. A discussion related to the increasing distance between jobs and workers in Northeast Ohio and why it matters for future growth was led by Brad Whitehead, Mayor Summers of Lakewood and Mayor Drucker of Solon. Independence is fortunate for its proximity to Downtown and easy accessibility by bus. For some communities, like Solon, it takes workers two (2) buses, 87 minutes and 88 bus stops to get from Downtown to the Solon business district. Although Independence is well served by bus, it is often the “last mile” that is the biggest hurdle and is most often walked by workers served by public transportation.

BRIELLE’S CLOSING:

Just a reminder that Tom Giomini’s last days as owner of Brielle’s Coffee and Tea Room will be this weekend, February 27 and 28, so stop in and have a cup of coffee with Tom to wish him well as he closes this chapter in his life.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

Following are some highlights of recent activity, updates, events and/or statistics from various departments.

Building Department Reported—
- 8 Sets of plans were sent to the plans examiner
- 14 Commercial Permits were issued
- 30 Commercial Inspections were performed
- 3 Residential Permits were issued
- 4 Residential Inspections were performed
- 9 contractors were registered, 330 registrations year-to-date

Engineering Department Reported—
- The 2016 Crack Sealing Bid was opened on February 17, 2016. Two bids were submitted—Crossroads Asphalt and Specialized Construction. Specialized Construction was the low bidder.
The Rockside Place Roadway Improvements and Streetscape Project was advertised in the Plain Dealer in mid-February and four (4) bid packages were purchased by prospective bidders. The bid opening will be early March and legislation to award the contract will appear on the March Council Agenda.

They attended a meeting along with the Economic Development Team, which was conducted at the Embassy Suites Hotel with new General Manager, Rich Somasak, to discuss the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Sanitary Sewer project.

Fire Department Reported:
- Response Figures
  - EMS Emergency Calls 31 YTD-175
  - Fire Emergency Calls 11 YTD-68

Recreation Department Reported:
- Some members of the Rec staff attended a youth football coach’s clinic held at the Brown’s stadium, conducted by some of the Brown’s staff.
- The Field House hosted the X-treme Gymnastics event, which brought in over $7500 to the City and over $6400 to the school district. This event is the largest revenue generator to date for the Field House and it is quite possible that many local businesses benefitted as well.
- In regards to the indoor pool losing water, American Leak Detection Company found that two (2) of the three (3) lights in the pool were leaking water at a high rate.
- Linda Farace and Eric Sarley created a survey with questions regarding the department’s fitness class programming. The survey can be accessed via the Recreation Department’s Facebook page and the City’s Facebook page, or hard copies are available at the Recreation Department’s front desk.
- Farnham Equipment Company performed safety inspections of the Field House and Civic Center basketball backboard rigging and assemblies. Safety inspections were also performed on the Civic Center bleachers.
  - A couple of issues were found with two (2) of the Field House basketball hoop’s backboard cabling and safety straps. The parts needed to correct the issues were immediately purchased and installed to rectify the issues.

Community Services Department Reported:
- They are working to schedule CPR Classes through University Hospitals for members of their staff, along with Directors and Management Staff from other departments so they can become certified in CPR.
- Members of their Administrative Staff met to go over departmental goals in relationship to how the department can enhance communication with residents. The meeting resulted in a list of strengths, weaknesses and ideas on how the department can improve communication with our residents.
Service Department Reported:
- They completed 62 Friday Special Pickups.
- They completed 6 mailbox repairs due to snow plow damage.
- They straightened several leaning mailboxes throughout the City after the snow storm.
- 14 Work Orders were created and 17 Work Orders were completed.
- Lawn damage created by sidewalk plows has dropped.

CUYAHOGA VALLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE:

A reminder to all Elected Officials that you are invited to join me at the Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce’s Business Person of the Year Award presentation and luncheon, which will be held on Wednesday, March 2, 2016. If you would like to attend but have yet to RSVP to my office, please do so by Tuesday morning, March 1\textsuperscript{st}. Thank you!

\textbf{Have a great weekend!}

\textit{xc:} John M. Veres, Director of Finance  
Gregory J. O’Brien, Law Director  
Debi Beal, Clerk of Council