TO:      Council Members
        City Directors
FROM:    Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti
DATE:    March 15, 2019
RE:      Administrative Update

MARCH COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS:

The Legislative Agenda for the March 12th Council Meeting held this past Tuesday contained eighteen (18) pieces of legislation.

Four (4) Ordinances appeared on Second Reading and two (2) of those Ordinances were Enacted unanimously (7-0). Action on the remaining Ordinance was as follows:

Ordinance 2019-18 approving the Final Plat and dedication of Linden Lane and Bradford Circle, Chestnut Woods Section 3 Subdivision, Phase 5, for the development of thirty-four (34) residential single-family lots was Removed from the Agenda.

Ordinance 2019-19 amending Ordinance 2018-140 creating informal procedures required by the City for entering into contracts or the procurement of goods and services not in excess of the amount requiring public bidding found in Article IV, Section 2 (c)(5) was Adopted 6-1; (Wisnieski-No).

Fourteen (14) Ordinances appeared on First Reading of which two (2) were Adopted (7-0).

Action on the remaining twelve (12) Ordinances was as follows:

Ordinance 2019-27 authorizing the renewal of the contract with Joshen Paper and Packaging Co. for the supply of janitorial goods for all City departments on an as-needed basis was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-29 authorizing the renewal of the contract with Qwestcom Graphics for printing and related services for the Community Spotlight was left on First Reading.
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Ordinance 2019-30 authorizing Change Order No. 3 to the contract with CT Consultants, Inc. for construction inspection services in connection with the development of Chestnut Woods Subdivision, Section 3-Phase 5 was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-31 authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the contract with the Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. to provide right-of-way utility inspection services was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-32 authorizing the retention of Environmental Design Group, LLC to provide general construction engineering and inspection services to the Engineering Department was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-33 authorizing the retention of CT Consultants, Inc. to provide general construction engineering and inspection services to the Engineering Department was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-34 authorizing payment to the Streams and Wetlands Foundation in connection with wetland and stream impact mitigation for the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road Extension improvements was Adopted 5-2; (Narduzzi, Trakas – No).

Ordinance 2019-35 authorizing payment to the Nature Conservancy in connection with wetlands and stream impact mitigation for the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road Extension improvements was Adopted 5-2; (Narduzzi, Trakas – No).

Ordinance 2019-36 authorizing the retention of the Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. to provide general construction engineering and inspection services to the Engineering Department was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-37 accepting the bid of Specialized Construction, Inc. for the City’s 2019 Crack Seal Program contract was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-38 accepting the bid of Geotech Services, Inc. for the City’s 2019 Creek Utility and Infrastructure Maintenance and Repairs Contract was left on First Reading.

Ordinance 2019-39 accepting the bid of United Survey, Inc. for the City’s 2019 Sanitary and Storm Sewer Maintenance and Repairs Contract was left on First Reading.

A special thank you to Pastor Joy Parker of the Independence United Methodist Church for joining us and for providing the opening prayer before our Council Meeting.

CHAGRIN VALLEY DISPATCH:

On Friday, March 8th, I had the pleasure of attending the official Ribbon Cutting Ceremony of the brand new dispatch facility of the Chagrin Valley Dispatch located at 9018 Brecksville Road in Brecksville. It was exciting to join many of the other Chagrin Valley Dispatch Mayors, Township Trustees, Councilmembers from various cities, CVD employees, CVD Law Director,
Dave Matty and last but not least, Director of the CVC, Nick DiCicco, for this long-awaited event.

Thank you to Mayor Hruby for hosting this event and to everyone who was involved in bringing this regional asset to fruition.

FOUR PART-TIME FIREFIGHTERS SWORN IN:

On Tuesday, March 12th, I had the privilege of swearing in four new part-time firefighters to the Independence Fire Department. Anthony Lombardo, Vincenzo Russo, Nicholas Loparo and Gavin Kruchan are four outstanding men who will be a great asset to an already top-notch team of firefighters. Congratulations to our new firefighters and welcome aboard!
IRISH FEST:

With any “luck of the Irish”, you were able to stop by the Irish Fest held this past Sunday, March 10th at the Civic Center. Between the Irish music, the great entertainment, the sound of the Bag Pipes and all the delicious food available, the event was a great success!

Thank you to employees of both the Community Services and Recreation Departments for putting another fun, festive, family event together!

EDUCATOR OF EXCELLENCE AWARD:

The I.H.S. Alumni Association held their annual award ceremony and luncheon to present this year’s Educator of the Year Award on Monday, March 11th at the High School. It was an honor to be invited and to present a Proclamation to this year’s recipient of the award, teacher Mark Echstenkamper, of the Independence High School Math Department.

Mark is well-respected by students and teachers alike for his exceptional instructional skills in AP Calculus, Honors Pre-Calculus, Calculus, Algebra I and Algebra II. His track record of success in the classroom can only be matched by his success as a dedicated coach to over 69 sports teams in a variety of sports since he came to Independence in 1991. However, Mark is certainly best known for producing the most successful baseball teams in Independence High School history!

A number of colleagues and current and former students who have been impacted by Mark attended the luncheon, along with some of our Councilmembers, School Board Members and Administrators, all wanting to congratulate Mark on his well-deserved award.
On behalf of the City of Independence we are excited and very proud of you for earning such a special honor and for being an outstanding role model for our youth!

Thank you Rhonee Iula, President of the I.H.S. Alumni Association and to all the members for putting together such a nice event to honor a great educator.

**INDEPENDENCE PRIMARY HOSTS RIGHT TO READ WEEK:**

This past Monday, March 11th, I visited the Independence Primary School to take part in their 2019 Right to Read Week. It was such a pleasure to read to the Kindergarten students in Mrs. Sturik’s class. The students are always engaging and inquisitive and it was evident we enjoyed our time together.

**COMMUNITY SURVEY FROM THE INDEPENDENCE LOCAL SCHOOLS:**

In the coming weeks, you may receive a phone survey regarding the future of the Independence Local School district. This survey is being conducted by the Center For Marketing and Opinion Research (CMOR). The goal of the survey is to gauge community support in the potential of renovating or replacing both Independence Primary and Middle Schools. Recently, the school district has received back state audits about the condition of both buildings, work needed to maintain and possibly improve them, and held visioning meetings with
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community members to discuss both buildings, as well as what 21st century teaching looks like. The district will take the results of these surveys to help inform future planning. Thank you for helping us shape the future of our school district!

COMMUNITY SHRED DAY:

The City of Independence is hosting a “Community Shred Day” for any resident or City employee that may have paper/documents that they would like shredded. Residents or employees may bring their papers in bags or boxes (limit- 8 boxes/bags per household). Staples and/or small paper clips do not need to be removed. Documents are shredded “on site” and all shredding is recycled. The Absolute Shred truck will be set up in City Hall’s parking lot on Saturday, April 13th from 9am to Noon, or until the limit of 12,000 pounds is met. All City Departments may take advantage of this opportunity as well.

If there are any questions, please contact the Finance Department at 216.524.4131.

GARFIELD HEIGHTS MUNICIPAL COURT “FRESH START PROGRAM”:

The Garfield Heights Municipal Court is helping people clear their outstanding court cases and get their driver’s licenses reinstated. The Court is initiating the Fresh Start Program. This is for people who have not paid their fines and court costs. As a result, the Court has suspended their driver’s license and issued a warrant for their arrest.

The Court is willing to give them a Fresh Start. It starts with the person paying $200 to the Clerk of Court. The person will get a release for their driver’s license and a date to come back to set up a payment plan for any balance due. “If the offender has multiple cases, the release will be issued on all cases with the payment of $200 being applied to the oldest case first,” Garfield Heights Municipal Court Judge Deborah Nicastro said.

The Fresh Start Program does not apply to offenders who failed to appear for a court date and they were never sentenced. “In these cases, the offender must post bond and get a new court date,” Judge Nicastro added.

But, as long as the person sticks to the payment plan, they will be considered in compliance and their driver’s license will remain valid. This is all done without any additional court proceedings or having to go before the judge again.
The Fresh Start Program also enables the offender to apply to the Ohio Bureau of Motor Vehicles for its Reinstatement Fee Amnesty Program. More information on that program can be found at www.bmv.ohio.gov/susp-fees-amnesty.aspx.

The Fresh Start Program runs until July 31st. It pertains to both outstanding criminal and traffic cases in the eight communities served by the Garfield Heights Municipal Court: Garfield Heights, Maple Heights, Brecksville, Cuyahoga Heights, Independence, Newburgh Heights, Valley View and Walton Hills.

INDEPENDENCE COMMUNITY THEATER:

The Independence Community Theater proudly presents A Clear View, an outstanding production which is a compilation of three short one-act plays. If you like theater and are up for a great evening of entertainment for only $12 a ticket…this would make for a wonderful evening out. Dates and times are noted on the flyer at right.

I hope you will take advantage of this local performance and the benefits of having our very own Community Theater right here in Independence!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- Independence High School presents Rock of Ages this Friday, March 15th and Saturday, March 16th at 7:00 pm in the Independence High
School auditorium. Tickets are available at the door. On behalf of the City….Best Wishes for an outstanding production!

- **A Community Services Committee Meeting** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 19th**, at **4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall**. The Committee will be updated on the City’s Drug Prevention initiatives and will be reviewing the Community Services and Recreation Department’s 2018 programming.

- The **March Board of Zoning Meeting** will be held on **Thursday, March 21st** immediately following the BZA Caucus scheduled to begin at **5:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall**.

- **A Council Workshop** is scheduled for **Tuesday, March 26th at 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall** to discuss the City’s Rental Regulations.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

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

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending March 8)

- A permit was issued to MCI Metro to install cable on Selig Drive.
- Engineering reviewed the updated Civil/Site Plans for Noah’s Event Venue. After some final issues are addressed, the plans will be approved.
- Some members of the Engineering Department attended the Northern Ohio Damage Prevention Council’s monthly meeting at Dominion Energy’s Training Facility in Hudson.
- Designs for the Hemlock Creek Trail wayside and trailhead signs continue to be fine-tuned. Engineering is also working with a professional designer and a sign manufacturer to stay on schedule with the manufacture and installation of all the various signs.
- Some exhibits were designed and assembled regarding the Rockside Woods Blvd. North Part A/Brecksiville Road Improvement/ Part B Project that are to be displayed in the lobby of the AAA Office Building.
- Engineering met with representatives from PathMaster to discuss new Traffic Controller equipment and Management software.
- A walk-through was conducted of the Chestnut Woods Subdivision, Section 3 – Phase 5, for final acceptance and dedication.
The Police Department Reported- (Week ending March 8)

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<tr>
<th>Misdemeanor Arrests</th>
<th>Felony Arrests</th>
<th>Traffic Citations</th>
<th>OVI Arrests</th>
<th>Accident Reports</th>
<th>Calls for Service</th>
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<td>67</td>
<td>1</td>
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The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending March 8)

- EMS Incidents: Week 39, YTD 2276
- Fire Incidents: Week 14, YTD 150
- Mutual Aid:
  - Engine Responses: 0, YTD 2
  - Squad Responses: 0, YTD 4

The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending March 8)

- Saturday March 2:
  - A Train and Toy Show was held at the Independence Fieldhouse from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm using the entire facility.
  - A CPR, AED, and First Aid class was held for Recreation Staff.
  - Today was the first day of the 4-week Kindergarten Basketball Program. 29 children were enrolled for this 1-hour program.
  - Saturday was also the first day of Youth Golf Lessons Program. 12 Children were enrolled.
- Sunday, March 3:
  - The Fieldhouse was open for hourly practices and court rentals.
- Monday, March 4:
  - An in-service training for lifeguards was conducted by April Lemke. Topics included pool records, proper chemical levels, and various in-water drills.
- Tuesday, March 5:
  - Staff cleaned and painted the Civic Center Gym air intake grates and louvers.
- Wednesday, March 6:
  - Tony Appenzeller met with Cleveland Cavaliers’ Director of Fan Development & Youth Program Coordinator to discuss logistics for the April 26 through 28 weekend basketball event.
- Thursday, March 7:
  - The department researched pricing for a fence divider to separate the north and south sets of outdoor pickle ball courts.
- Friday, March 8:
  - Independence Schools off today—Civic Center very busy,
A Babysitters Training Class was conducted from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. There were 12 participants.

Two tables and 16 chairs were delivered to one residence.

The Lady Devil Softball Skills Camp was held at the Fieldhouse today and was instructed by the High School softball coaches and players. 36 girls were enrolled in this one-day camp.

Staff set up for the Tucker Neale Twin Cities Tipoff Classic Basketball Tournament scheduled Friday evening.

- General:
  - Another session of swimming lessons began this week. There are 81 children registered for Wednesday classes and 61 children registered for Saturday classes.

The Information Technology Department Reported- (Week ending March 8)

- The IT Department closed 18 helpdesk tickets this week and handled 50 calls including 1 after hour’s event.
- In addition to helpdesk tickets, weekly project highlights include:
  - Completed installation of NVR (security camera) storage expansion.
  - Completed director website content meetings.
  - PCI Compliance re-certified for credit card transactions.
  - Made changes to email load balancer.
  - Completed the Firewall configuration for Chagrin Valley Dispatch switch.
  - Public Wi-Fi routes were added to the Firewall for increased security.
  - Began research on new Servers and SAN storage devices.
  - The Backup software Licenses were updated.
  - Firewall Licenses were updated
  - Resolved front desk issues at the Fieldhouse.
  - The Fire Department Dispatch speed dials were updated.
  - Captured and touched up Haydite display for a new park sign.
  - Working with Hardware Vendor to address Spam issues.

The Technical Services Department Reported-

- A new tankless hot water heater was installed at Service Department replacing the existing 100-gallon tank dated 1993. The new unit will bring substantial energy savings.
- A small 20-gallon hot water tank was installed at the cemetery garage.
- The installation of new LED lighting upgrades at City Hall is nearly complete.