TO: Council Members
    City Directors
FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti
DATE: January 25, 2019
RE: Administrative Update

INFORMATION MEETING:

A meeting was held on Tuesday, January 22nd at 5:30 pm in the City Hall Council Chambers with residents who may be affected by the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road and Brecksville Road Improvements Projects. Those invited to the meeting were informed of the parameters of the upcoming work, and in particular, how the project will impact their specific property frontages on Brecksville Road.

I would like to thank City Engineer Don Ramm and his team for their work organizing and preparing the visuals for this meeting, and for meeting individually with affected residents to discuss their particular situation.

SCOG MEETING:

On Tuesday I attended the Suburban Council of Governments meeting at the Northeastern Ohio Regional Sewer District. Mayor Stefanik of North Royalton was elected to the Board of Trustees for the Term March 2, 2019 – March 1, 2024. Mayor Bacci of Cuyahoga Heights provided a comprehensive report of NEORSD Operations to the group, followed by an update on what to expect in 2019 from the NEORSD Regional Stormwater Management Program led by Matt Scharver, Senior Watershed Team Leader at NEORSD. The Sewer District highlighted a few watershed projects that are planned for construction within the corporate limits of the City of Independence. District representatives also discussed their cost savings programs- The Homestead Rate Program, The Summer Sprinkling Program, The Wastewater Affordability Program and the Plumbing/Sewer Repair Program- Application forms for each of these programs
STEP UP AND LEAD:

On Thursday, January 24th, the Independence Fire Department hosted a seminar called Step Up & Lead at our Civic Center. There were over 200 attendees at the event and it was very well received. The presenter Deputy Fire Chief Frank Viscuso is the author of six fire service books including a bestseller called Step Up & Lead which was the focus of the seminar. He offered insight into leadership and team building concepts. Topics included; mentoring and succession planning, critiquing others, delegating, preventing freelancing, taking on administrative tasks, dealing with insubordination, conducting a post incident analysis, building morale, and leading in today’s world.

The presentation was geared toward leadership in all areas not just the fire service. He introduced us to proven theories, methods and techniques that can help our organization provide exceptional customer service and make a great impression on the people we come in contact with on a daily basis.

The event was sponsored by the Cuyahoga County Fire Chief’s Associations and North Eastern Ohio Fire Chief’s Association, with lunch provided by the Cleveland Clinic. The event could not have been successful without the hard working staffs at the Independence Civic Center and Recreations Departments. They did a fantastic job of setting up the venue and taking care of our needs throughout the event.
NEW BODY ARMOR:

On Friday, January 25th the police department took delivery of the new body armor for their officers. Each officer has been issued a new Armor Express level IIIA vest. These vests provide the highest level of protection from ballistic threat that is available in wearable body armor. 75% of the cost of these vests was provided through a grant from the Ohio Attorney General’s Office. Thank you to Mayor Togliatti and City Council for ensuring that our officers have the best possible equipment to keep them and our citizens safe.

AFTERSCHOOL STUDENTS OPEN THEIR HEARTS TO “BROWNIE”:

This past December, Students of the City’s After School Program decided to raise money for a dog that was placed at the Northeast Ohio Society of Prevention of Cruelty of Animals. “Brownie,” the dog who stole the heart of the students, was in need of a surgery that cost $5000 to take care of a leg injury due to a car accident.

So the students went to work raising money through their annual “Giving Tree” Project. A total of $800 was raised for Brownie that was put combined with the $4000 raised through a Go Fund Me account and other shelter donations.

Needless to say, Brownie finally received that much needed surgery and wanted to come in dog-person to visit the students to say thank you and to receive an $800 check that is going to offset the cost.

I was so proud to be there to meet Brownie and take part in the presentation of the check for this heartwarming cause. Thank you again to all the students whose compassion and hard work made this possible, and of course, to all the people
who donated as well. A short clip appeared on Newsnet5: Shelter dog gets life changing surgery thanks to Independence students.

COSI VISITS INDEPENDENCE PRIMARY SCHOOL:

COSI (Center for Science and Industry) on Wheels visited Independence Primary School on January 24. Students enjoyed the Body Mechanic presentation that helped them learn what it takes to keep their body engines in tip-top shape. They explored the digestive, nervous and circulatory systems, plus learn about nutrients and how exercise keeps a body healthy! Funding for this presentation was made possible by the Independence Primary School PTO.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

• Allison Rose Foundation Fundraiser– Founders Event is scheduled for this Saturday, January 26th, 2019 from 7:00 pm to 10:00 pm at the Embassy Suites located at 5800 Rockside Woods Blvd. For more information about this organization or to register for the January 26th event: https://www.allisonrosefoundation.org/.

• A Utilities Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, January 29th at 3:00 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.

• A Streets and Sidewalks Committee Meeting will follow the Utilities Meeting on Tuesday, January 29th at 4:00 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.

• A Public Lands and Building Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, February 5th at 4:30 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall.

• The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber has set the date for their 3rd Annual Taste of the Valley for Thursday, February 28th from 5:30 pm to 8:30 pm at the Holiday Inn, Rockside. Ticket prices are as follows:
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- Adults $25 in advance, $30 at the door
- Children (under 13) $10
- Seniors (60+) $15

Come sample some of the delicious food our local restaurants and caterers have to offer. Not only will this be a fun event for you and the family, it is a great opportunity for advertising and networking. This event is open to the public and all proceeds go to benefit the Chamber’s Annual Scholarship Fund.

- The Cuyahoga Valley Career Center will be hosting a Job Fair on Thursday, March 7th from 3:00 to 6:00 pm. This event is geared towards Job Seekers ages 15 and older seeking full-time, part-time and seasonal employment. This is a FREE event for job seekers.

DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:

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

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending January 18)

- Water Main Breaks:
  - Cleveland Water Department excavated the center-most southbound lane of Brecksville Road in front of City Hall to replace a valve in order to shut down the main to repair a nearby leak in the tree lawn.
  - Engineering received a report of a leak on Brecksville Road, South of Rockside Road.
    - This leak was called into Cleveland Water to be repaired.
- A site plan for 6635 Sprague Road for a proposed home addition and grade changes was reviewed and feedback was provided to the applicant.
- Engineering was in the process of reviewing the site plan and storm water management report for the Noah’s Event Venue at 4849 Acorn Drive.
- A footer elevation survey and inspection was performed at 6631 Hillside Road and was found to be compliant.
- A footer elevation survey and forms inspection was performed at 6114 Elmarge Drive and was found to be compliant.
- Engineering attended a coordination meeting with ODOT’s Design Build Team on the I-480 Valley View Bridge project relative to the drainage design.
The process of lining the sewers in the Grandview/Springview neighborhood was being completed by United Survey.

The Police Department Reported- (Week ending January 18)

<table>
<thead>
<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>1</td>
<td>79</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>283</td>
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The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending January 18)

- EMS Incidents          Week  YTD
- Fire Incidents         27     87
- Mutual Aid:
  - Engine Responses 0     0
  - Squad Responses 0      1

The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending January 18)

- Saturday January 12:
  - Greek Orthodox Youth Association Basketball Tournament at the Fieldhouse using all courts and meeting rooms 8:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- Sunday, January 13:
  - Staff in for snow removal to clear campus parking lots and sidewalks.
  - Greek Orthodox Youth Association Basketball Tournament continued today at the Fieldhouse from noon to 4:00 pm. Total rental for the weekend is $2820.
- Monday, January 14:
  - Set up 50 tables and 200 chairs for a rental at the Civic Center.
- Tuesday, January 15:
  - 5th and 6th grade winter flag football skills program began on this day with 20 children enrolled. This was the first time to try this program during the winter.
  - Youth basketball games took place in the Civic Center Gym from 6:00 to 8:00 pm this evening.
- Wednesday, January 16:
  - Recreation staff performed a deep cleaning in Council Chambers at City Hall.
  - Researched pricing of various lighting fixtures for Liberty Playground area.
  - One-table and chair delivery today to a resident.
- Thursday, January 17:
  - Staff cleaned and organized the Civic Center Garage and Park Maintenance Garage in preparation for the upcoming inclement weather.
Friday, January 18:
  o Technical Services staff was onsite to replace the Whirlpool filter pump motor.

General:
  o April began a new water aerobics/exercise class called Pool Tabata, which is held on Thursday mornings at 8:30 am. Ten (10) participants attended the first class!
  o The Indy Fire Department used the Elmwood Recreation Building for SCBA endurance training, Monday through Wednesday of this week.
  o In-service training sessions with the lifeguards continued this week.

The Community Services Department Reported- (Week ending January 18)

• Afterschool/Campus Connection:
  o Campus Connection – 10 students
  o Afterschool Attendees – 79 students
    ▪ Annual Afterschool “Giving Tree” visit with Brownie and representatives of the SPCA to present check took place on January 23rd.
    ▪ School Holidays:
      • Friday, January 18: The Kiln – 40 children registered.
      • Monday, February 18: “Ice is Nice” – 29 children registered.

• Youth Programs:
  o The Kangaroo Kidz Session 3 began this week. Children made an origami cup to hold their movie snack and watched the movie “Robots”.

• Adult Programming:
  o 55 + Lunch – 75 registered.
  o Trip to Bar Louie on Tuesday, January 22nd – 27 registered.

• Various Banners/Charts/Flyers were created to market events and for internal use.
• 612 Residents signed up for Snow Plow services.
• Staff worked on the March/April Spotlight.

The IT Department Reported-

• They closed 22 Helpdesk tickets this week.
• They handled 51 calls this week including 1 after-hours call.
• In addition to Helpdesk issues and calls, other weekly project highlights include:
  o New thin client image including security and program updates.
  o Set up new school resource PC at Independence High School.
  o Set up new City Hall Parking Lot Camera.
  o Rolled out remaining IFD tablet replacements.
  o Relocated the Annex main switch in preparation for Building Department renovations.
Held website meeting, first round of mock-ups to come.
Exchange (email server) issue resolved.
Rolled out second new Domain Controller.

Technical Services Department Reported-

• They drained the whirlpool at the Civic Center and installed a new pump along with 2 new valves.
• Completed the installation of a camera to monitor the parking lot at City Hall.
• Researching an upgrade to the canyon lighting system at City Hall.
• Met with mural artist to go over potential project.
• Staff working in the Building Department to remove the copy room wall as part of the department upgrade project.

Stay warm and safe this weekend!