TO: Council Members
   City Directors
FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti
DATE: March 1, 2019
RE: Administrative Update

FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

A Finance Committee Meeting was held this past Tuesday, February 26\textsuperscript{th} at 4:00 pm in the Council Caucus Room at City Hall. A big \textit{thank you} to Vice Mayor, David Grendel, for putting a very productive agenda together to discuss the City’s 2019 Appropriations and the 2019 Operating Budget, and to Director of Finance John Veres for providing his valuable input and expertise in the meeting. The issue of Safety Forces staffing was also included in the Operating Budget discussion.

The last agenda item included conversation surrounding 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). \textit{Thank you} to Fire Chief Rega, Technical Service Director David Snyderburn, Procurement Coordinator Dennis Zdolshek and Service Department Foreman Tom Avsec for attending the meeting and contributing their experience as it relates to Ordinance 2018-140.

Committee Members will await additional information from the Finance Department prior to making any final recommendations or amendments to Ordinance 2018-140.

FIRE DEPARTMENT CONDUCTS TRAINING:

Members of the Independence Fire Department hosted a number of Lunch and Learns over the past month in various City buildings for interested employees. Topics covered at the training sessions included the operation of an AED (Automatic External Defibrillator); “Hands Only” CPR and the instructional use of the Bleeding Control Kits that are placed in City buildings.
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alongside the AED units.

This type of training is extremely important for all City employees, especially in those buildings where residents frequent. Thank you to the members of the Independence Fire Department for taking the time to make sure our employees are properly trained on this life-saving equipment!

WILLOW ROOM:

The Willow Room at the Civic Center has a crisp, clean, modern new look thanks to the hard work of a great team of guys (Rich Crane, Brian Elek, Eric Latterner, and Mike Meyer) from the Technical Services Department. The Willow Room is 27 years old and was in desperate need of some freshening up. So Tech Services went to work to remove the existing ceiling tile and then washed and dried the ceiling grid by hand before replacing it with new Armstrong Dune ceiling tile.

In addition, the crew replaced all 32 of the existing light fixtures with new state of the art LED fixtures. A big thank you to the Technical Services Department crew for doing an outstanding job on this project and for completing it in only 2 days!

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE HOSTS TASTE OF THE VALLEY:

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce hosted their 3rd Anniversary of the Taste of the Valley on Thursday, February 28th, at the Holiday Inn Rockside. Over 200 attendees enjoyed the delicious samples from a number of area establishments.

This annual event provides scholarships for the Chamber’s Future Business Leader Awards given to deserving graduating seniors in local high schools.

I congratulate Chamber President Tom Thacker and Executive Director April Acuna for hosting another successful event and for bringing this delicious experience to our community!
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.

I hope you will take advantage of this local performance and the benefits of having our very own Community Theater right here in Independence!
INDEPENDENCE HIGH SCHOOL PERFORMS “ROCK OF AGES”:

“Rock of Ages” is a Tony-Award nominated Broadway musical that takes place in Hollywood during the late 1980’s. It features hits from bands like Night Ranger, REO Speedwagon, Pat Benatar, Twisted Sister, and more. The music of Styx, Journey, Bon Jovi, and Whitesnake are also featured when a group of music lovers try and save one of the last legendary venues on Sunset Strip.
Aqua Net, Lycra, and other heavy metal sounds accompany the music of famous rocker, Stacee Jaxx (played by senior Robert Artrip). Jaxx rocks the stage and signs autographs on the Sunset Strip, living a Rock star’s dream. Drew, the venue’s resident janitor, shares that dream with the hope of becoming a musician himself (played by senior Shane Clough). He also has his sights set on small town girl Sherrie (played by senior Grace Mousty), a girl who traveled from Kansas to be among the rock n’ roll atmosphere.

When German developers come into town with plans to turn the Sunset Strip and music venue into a strip mall, Drew, Sherrie and the rest of the gang must save the Strip and themselves before it’s too late.

Other significant cast members include sophomore Josh Belitz, sophomore Bob Sobczak, junior Kana Wisnieswski, sophomore John Eisenmann and junior Bella Shumay. Over 50 I.H.S. students complete this talented cast. The show is directed by Gretchen Obrovac, the Music Director is Michael Abbadini and the Choreography was created by Rebecca Justice.

The show takes place on 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!

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- A Utilities & Sewers Committee Meeting has been scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 at 4:00 pm in the Council Caucus Room. Discussion of Utility Right-of-Ways and the policy of the City planting trees in the tree lawns will be discussed.

- The March Planning Commission Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 5th, 2019 immediately following the Planning Caucus which begins at 5:30 pm at City Hall.

- 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.
• Independence Community Services and the Recreation Department are excited to host this year’s **Irish Fest on Sunday, March 10th** from **noon to 4:00 pm at the Civic Center**.

  - Pre-Order Corned Beef Sandwich, Potato Salad and Beverage for $10.00 by calling 216.524.7373 by March 3rd.
  - Free Shamrock Necklace with canned food or monetary donation.
  - Irish Hats $1.00 while supply lasts.
  - Free activities for all ages!
  - Photo-Op with Lucky the Leprechaun if you can spot him!

• **Mayor’s Listening Night** is scheduled for **Monday, March 11th** in my office from **5:00 to 6:00 pm**.

• The **March Council Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, March 12th at 7:00 pm** in **Council Chambers at City Hall** following the **Council Caucus** scheduled to begin at **5:30 pm**.

• Another 8-Week Health Challenge is scheduled to kick off on **Tuesday, March 12th** with initial health screenings and an introduction to the program at the Independence Fieldhouse. The **“Let’s Move It! Independence”** is a collaborative effort between the Cleveland Clinic and the City of Independence to promote optimal health and wellness. Weekly work outs and health talks will take place on Tuesdays evenings from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm beginning March 19th through Tuesday, April 23rd. Final health screenings and

• **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.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

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

The Engineering Department Reported- (Week ending February 22)

• Water Main Breaks:
6748 Brecksville Road-Engineering coordinated with Geotech to make the repairs to the sidewalk.
5875/5882 Longano Drive
- Cleveland Water Department made the necessary repairs to the main.
- Geotech made the necessary repairs to the road.

- Five Permits were issued:
  - One Grade and one Landscape at a new dwelling on Bradford Circle.
  - One Sewer, one Grade Change, and one Driveway at 6101 Chestnut Road.

- Inspections were performed at:
  - 7189 Hawthorn Trace, sublot 143 - Sanitary and Storm lateral inspections were found to be compliant.
  - A Sanitary Manhole Inspection was performed at Topgolf. Additional on-site reports to be submitted by Arco Murry (PSI Intertek).

- A Topographic Plan for 7213 Hawthorn Trace was reviewed and approved as noted.
- Engineering met with representative from NEORSD and their Consultant Engineer from EDG on-site to discuss the elements of the Hemlock Creek Confluence Task Order.
- Engineer Joe Potoma attended The Benefits of ArcGIS Pro and InfoWater Pro for Water Utility Engineering.
- A meeting was conducted with Engineers from Bohning & Associates regarding the design progress for the Upper Brookside Road Sidewalk and Storm Sewer Improvements Project.
- A site meeting and walk-through with Engineers from CT Consultants were conducted throughout the Lafayette Subdivision to review obstacles regarding sidewalk improvements, as well as to identify potential opportunities for drainage improvements with the upcoming water line and resurfacing project.

The Police Department Reported- (Week ending February 22)

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<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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The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending February 22)

- EMS Incidents Week 19 YTD 205
  Fire Incidents Week 12 YTD 115

- Mutual Aid:
  - Engine Responses 0 2
  - Squad Responses 1 3
The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending February 22)

- Saturday February 16:
  - A Tucker Neale Basketball Tournament took place at the Fieldhouse today.
  - Youth basketball playoff games took place at the Civic Center today.
  - The Cuyahoga Valley Native Sons and Daughters organization held a “late nighter” at the Civic Center. Recreation provided 2 inflatables and the pool was open late. Community Services’ party rooms were also open for their use.

- Sunday, February 17:
  - The final day of the Tucker Neale Basketball Tournament was held at the Fieldhouse from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm using all four courts. Total rental income for the entire weekend totaled $4640.

- Monday, February 18:
  - Presidents Day – Most full-time staff were off for the holiday.

- Tuesday, February 19:
  - Youth Basketball playoff games took place at the Civic Center.

- Wednesday, February 20:
  - Wide Open West (WOW) Cable Company installed service to all televisions in the Civic Center Building.
  - Staff delivered 25 tables to the Civic Center for a Fire Department training class.

- Thursday, February 21:
  - Met with a resident to discuss the Monday Women’s Bocce Ball group to go over various items including dates, times, and enrollment of their group.
  - Staff worked on cleaning and performing preventative maintenance on some of the department’s snow equipment.

- Friday, February 22:
  - 1 table and 20 chairs were delivered to 1 resident’s home for the upcoming weekend.
  - No rentals at the Fieldhouse as the school had it booked for an invitational regional track meet.

- Miscellaneous:
  - Recreation staff completed the refurbishment of park benches and picnic tables.
  - The project involving the caulking and re-staining of the lower support timbers continued in the Elmwood Recreation Building.

The Community Services Department Reported- (Week ending February 22)

- Campus Connection: 7 students
- Afterschool: 81 students
- Staff preparing for Summer Camp.
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- Youth Programs:
  - Time For Us: Dragons Love Tacos. Children and parents made fire-breathing dragon puppets.

Adult Programming:

- 1/29 – Trip - Great Lakes Science Center – 30 attended.
- 2/19 Bus Trip: Great Lakes Science Center: Great Barrier Reef and Sokolowski’s restaurant –36 people on the trip.
- The Community Resource Coordinator Jenny Flynn addressed a number of resident issues, assisted residents with health related issues and reached out to residents by phone that have been ill, recently hospitalized, or are homebound.
- Graphics Designer Gordon Grunau worked on Lucidchart Room Setup Diagrams and Irish Fest Diagram, Hometown Hero Banners, Event Posters for Irish Fest, and Banner for Jog Into Spring 5K.
- 624 residents registered for Snow Plow Program.
- Community Services staff worked on May/June Spotlight.
- Activities for Irish Fest were finalized.

Enjoy your weekend!