TO: Council Members  
City Directors  
FROM: Mayor Anthony L. Togliatti  
DATE: May 17, 2019  
RE: Administrative Update

MAY COUNCIL MEETING RESULTS:

The Legislative Agenda for the May 14th Council Meeting held this past Tuesday contained twenty-seven (27) pieces of legislation.

Four (4) Ordinances appeared on Second Reading and two (2) of those Ordinances were Enacted unanimously (7-0).

The action on the remaining two (2) Ordinances was as follows:

Ordinance 2019-43 was removed from the Agenda.

Ordinance 2019-46 authorizing the defeasance of certain maturities, or portions of maturities, of the City’s various purpose refunding bonds, series 2011 (Limited Tax Obligation) and declaring an emergency was Adopted (6-1; Narduzzi-No). With the passage of this Ordinance, the City will pay off $4.6 million of Shared-Use Facility debt three years early.

Twenty-two (22) Ordinances and one (1) Resolution appeared on First Reading and twelve (12) of those Ordinances passed (7-0). In addition, Resolution 2019-2 was also Adopted (7-0).

The action on the remaining ten (10) Ordinances was as follows:

Ordinance 2019-56 authorizing the Mayor to enter into an agreement with the Independence City School District and McKeon Education Group for professional consulting services in connection with the Early Intervention/Prevention Program was left on First Reading.
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**Ordinance 2019-57** accepting the bid option of Cargill, Inc., Deicing Technology Business Unit for the purchase and delivery of rock salt for the 2019-2020 snow season pursuant to the Joint Municipal Improvement Consortium was left on **First Reading**.

**Ordinance 2019-58** authorizing the Mayor to enter into a Utility Easement, Retaining Wall Easement, and Temporary Construction Easement Agreement with AAA East Central (Permanent Parcel No. 561-23-011) was **Adopted (5-2; Narduzzi, Trakas-No)**.

**Ordinance 2019-59** authorizing the Mayor to enter into Permanent Slope Easement Agreements with Lieu Tran Group LLC (PPN 561-24-003) and Sofee Maria LLC (PPN 561-24-002) was **Adopted (5-2; Narduzzi, Trakas-No)**.

**Ordinance 2019-60** accepting the proposal of Tanko Streetlighting, Inc. in connection with the City’s Streetlight Acquisition Project was left on **First Reading**.

**Ordinance 2019-61** accepting the proposal of Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. for professional services in connection with the Upper Brookside Road Sidewalk Improvements Project was left on **First Reading**.

**Ordinance 2019-62** authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the construction management and inspection services contract with Quality Control Inspection, Inc. in connection with Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road Extension Improvements (Part A) and Brecksville Road Improvements (Part B) was **Adopted (5-2; Narduzzi, Trakas-No)**.

**Ordinance 2019-63** authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the Engineering Design Services Contract with Donald G. Bohning & Associates, Inc. in connection with the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road and Utility Extension Project was **Adopted (5-2; Narduzzi, Trakas-No)**.

**Ordinance 2019-68** fixing the compensation of Council Members and the Vice Mayor in the City of Independence was left on **First Reading**.

**Ordinance 2019-73** creating the Residential Stormwater Remediation Fund and requiring fifty percent of all annual funds from the City of Independence’s Community Cost Share Account with the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District be allocated to the Stormwater Remediation Fund was left on **First Reading**.

A special thank you to **Pastor Michele Thompson of the Rockside Church** for joining us and for providing the opening prayer before our Council Meeting.
APRAXIA AWARENESS DAY:

A proclamation was presented to Drew Repicky, son of I.P.D. Officer Kevin and Chelsey Repicky (pictured at right with sons Derek and Drew), at the May Council Meeting to help raise awareness of Childhood Apraxia of Speech (CAS), a neurological motor speech disorder that makes it difficult for children to speak. Drew Repicky was accompanied by many family and friends wearing yellow t-shirts representing “Drew’s Crew” – the team that supports the Repicky’s and their efforts to raise awareness of Childhood Apraxia.

Thank you to the Repicky family for educating our community about this challenging childhood disorder. On behalf of the residents of Independence I wish you much success in your continued efforts to raise awareness, and of course we will be praying for Drew as he continues in his journey to overcome the effects of CAS.

CLERK OF COUNCIL RECEIVES AWARD:

Debi Beal has been with the City of Independence for 15 years, beginning her career in the Building Department as the Secretary to the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Architectural Board. Debi transitioned to the position of Clerk of Council in May of 2012. Over the past two years Debi made a commitment to become a Certified Municipal Clerk by attending Ohio Municipal Clerk Institutes, Athenian Dialogues and educational classes to pursue this certification. The International Institute of Municipal Clerks grants the Certified
Municipal Clerk designation only to those Municipal Clerks who complete demanding education requirements and who have a record of significant contributions to their local government, community and state.

Now that she has achieved Certified Municipal Clerk status, Debi has begun pursuing her Master Municipal Clerk Certification.

Debi has also been active with the Northeast Ohio Municipal Clerks in the capacity of Secretary for the last year responsible for attending their extended luncheons and classes that have been held, and taking and preparing Minutes for this Board, in addition to her Clerk of Council duties.

**Congratulations Debi!** Your hard work and commitment paid off and we are all very proud of your success!

**NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPAL HIRED:**

At the May 14, 2019 Independence Board of Education meeting, Timothy (T.J.) Ebert was hired as the next principal of Independence Primary School. Ebert will be replacing Cynthia Ipsaro who is retiring at the end of this school year.

Ebert comes to Independence from Redwood Elementary in Avon Lake where he has been principal since 2011. While at Redwood, he was responsible for the daily operation of this elementary school with more than 425 students and 50 staff. The school has been ranked as a top 20 elementary school in the State of Ohio and also is an Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators (OAESA) Hall of Fame School. In 2018, Ebert was the National Association of Elementary School Principals (NAESP) Principal of the Year. Ebert also was an assistant principal and summer school principal at Avon Lake High School from 2006-2011. He began his career as a social studies teacher at Bedford High School.

According to the OAESA website, when Redwood Elementary was admitted to the Ohio Association of Elementary School Administrators’ Hall of Fame, the award acknowledged the school’s proud student body, committed staff, and highly involved parents, but underscored that none would be possible without the tireless leadership of Principal T.J. Ebert. According to OAESA, “every stakeholder has a story about how his leadership makes the school a better place,” and those stories have been told since he first became principal in 2011. With a background as a coach, Ebert’s leadership is hands-on and mentorship-oriented. While unafraid to make bold structural changes, his purpose is always to build leadership in others. For example, he spearheaded a redesign of the master schedule to secure common planning time and then immediately took on the role of instructional coach to support teacher-led discussions on how to
leverage resources and plan lessons to meet common core standards. The most tenured principal in his district, Ebert has formally mentored five new administrators while also providing sustained counsel to his peers and oversight of the district’s teacher training program. Ebert is active in local athletics and prides himself on balancing a full professional life with an active life as a father of three young children.

Ebert holds a B.A. in Education from Kent State University, an M.A. in Educational Administration from Cleveland State University, and Superintendent Licensure from Ashland University. He resides in Sagamore Hills with his wife and three children.

“Mr. Ebert stood out throughout our entire search process as an engaging, dedicated and intelligent leader,” said Superintendent Ben Hegedi sh. “We welcome him to the Independence Local Schools’ team and I can’t wait for our primary school staff, students, parents and community to meet him.” Ebert will be at the District’s Spring Cookout/Town Hall Meeting on Thursday, May 23 from 6:00 -7:15 pm at the outdoor pavilion at Independence Primary School. All are welcome to attend.

“I am very excited to be a part of Independence Local Schools,” said Ebert. “I have had an opportunity to communicate with numerous leaders in the district, including Mr. Hegedish, and I am impressed with their vision on education and future for the district. In my short time at Independence Primary School, I have witnessed staff, students and parents working together in the best interest of their students. This is something that I am looking forward to being a part of in the future.”

On behalf of the City of Independence, welcome to Independence, Mr. Ebert! Our best wishes to you as you assume your new role as Principal at Independence Primary School!

CHAMBER HOLDS STATE OF THE SCHOOLS:

The Cuyahoga Valley Chamber of Commerce
hosted their annual State of the Schools luncheon on Wednesday, May 15th at the Holiday Inn. This event provides area school districts the opportunity to update members of the Chamber and other attendees as to what is new in their district along with sharing some of the district’s accomplishments and/or students’ success over the year. This year’s participating superintendents were Superintendent of the Independence Schools, Ben Hegedish, Superintendent of the Cuyahoga Valley Career Center, Dave Mangas, Cuyahoga Heights Superintendent, Tom Evans and Superintendent of the Educational Service Center of Cuyahoga County, Dr. Robert Mengerink.

In addition to a question and answer period led by Master of Ceremonies Ed Ferenc with the school superintendents, two students were honored by the Chamber with the “Future Business Leader Award” recognizing their outstanding character, academic achievement, involvement in extracurricular activities and a desire to pursue a future career in business. I was honored to present a Proclamation to one of those award winners, I.H.S. Senior Grace Mousty, son of Kevin and Victoria Mousty.

Congratulations Grace…you have built an amazing resume of all that you have accomplished throughout your youth. Best wishes for your continued success in all of your future endeavors!
MEMORIAL DAY SERVICES:

A reminder that we will be holding Memorial Day Services on Monday, May 27th at the Soldiers Memorial on Public Square. We ask that you gather on the Square at 9:00 am with the services beginning promptly at 9:30 am.

A parade to Maple Shade Cemetery will take place immediately following the services. After a short graveside service, all are invited to stop by Drug Mart for a hot dog cookout and enjoy the music of the Independence High School Marching Band. Proceeds of the cookout will benefit the Independence High School Marching Band.

RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS:

Independence City Hall had a surprise visit from Mr. Ken DeAngelis and his great group of sixth grade students from Independence Middle School this morning. The students did not come empty-handed, but rather came bearing gifts of goodies for everyone at City Hall to enjoy. Thank you to all of the 6th graders for their kindness and generosity, and also to the Middle School Administration for supporting these wonderful community service activities.

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS:

- On Thursday, May 23rd, the Independence Primary School will be serving hot dogs in their outdoor pavilion from 6:00 to 6:30 pm followed by the School District’s “State of the Schools” and introduction of the new Primary School Principal which is scheduled to go to 7:15 pm..

- Memorial Day Services will be on the Square, Monday, May 27th. Gather at 9:00 am with services to begin at 9:30 am followed by a short parade to Maple Shade Cemetery.

- Another opportunity to hear the State of the School’s presentation by Superintendent Ben Hegedish will be Wednesday, May 29th from 6:30 to 7:15 pm in the High School cafeteria. Pizza and salad will be served from 6:00 to 6:30 pm in the cafeteria as well.
• The Class of 2019’s **Senior Awards Program** will be held on **Friday, May 31st at 9:00 am** in the **High School Auditorium**.

• The **Master Gardeners of Cuyahoga County** will be holding their annual **Plant Sale** on **Saturday, June 1, 2019 from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm** at the **Kiwanis Pavilion in Elmwood Park**. A wonderful selection of plants will be available at very low prices.

• **Graduation Ceremonies** for the Independence High School Class of 2019 will take place on **Sunday, June, 2nd at 1:00 pm in the High School Auditorium**.

**DEPARTMENTAL REPORTS:**

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

The Police Department Reported- (Week ending May 10)

<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>
</tr>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>459</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Fire Department Reported: (Week ending May 10)

• EMS Incidents  
  Week  YTD  
  37  556

• Fire Incidents  
  Week  YTD  
  7  253

• Mutual Aid:  
  - Engine Responses  0  3  
  - Squad Responses  0  10

The Community Services Department Reported- (Week ending May 10)

• Community Services hosted the National Day of Prayer luncheon with 109 people in attendance on Thursday, May 2nd.

• Adult Programming:  
  - A bus trip took place with the Lunch Bunch on 4/24/19 to Old Jaol Steakhouse. 32 people attended. The bus trip also included stops at an arboretum, various stores and a winery.  
  - The 55+ Lunch was held on 4/26/10. 78 people attended and enjoyed a presentation on “Meditation and Stretching” by Melysa Foster.
A 55+ Lunch was also held on 5/3/19 with 91 people attending. Attendees had the opportunity to listen to a presentation on “Optimizing social Engagement & Activities as You Age” by Evan Shelton, PhD, Director of Menorah Park Center 4 Brain Health.

Youth Programs:
- Afterschool Enrollment: 82 students.
- A training session hosted by McKeon Education Group (MEG) was held at the Fieldhouse on Friday, May 3rd. Staff from C.S. Youth Programs, Recreation, and other leaders attended.
- Recycling Coordinator Tim Tomko visited the Time for Us Preschool Program to update the children, parents and adult helpers about the City’s Recycling Program. The children learned which containers to use for trash and recycling and they got to see the big recycling truck up close. Additionally they learned about using cloth grocery bags which will help keep our creeks clean, and were introduced to a worm farm and the benefits of worms in our environment.

The Recreation Department Reported- (Week ending May 10)

- Saturday May 4:
  - Staff members assisted with the Kiwanis Fishing Derby.
  - Tucker Neale Basketball at the Fieldhouse from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm using all four courts.
- Sunday, May 5:
  - Tucker Neale Basketball Tournament continued at the Fieldhouse from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm. The total rental for the weekend was $3320.
Monday, May 6:
  • Recreation staff made repairs and adjustments to Diamonds 2, 3 outfield fencing.
  • A sports equipment specialist was called in to check over the scoreboards and controllers.
  • The Fieldhouse was closed this evening because of no bookings.

Tuesday, May 7:
  • Director Walchanowicz prepared for a Playground Project Meeting.
  • Audio Company brought in to troubleshoot static issues with the Aerobic Room Sound System.
  • The Shade Structure covers were installed on Diamonds 1, 2 and 3.
  • The soccer fields and baseball foul lines were re-striped.

Wednesday, May 8:
  • Director Walchanowicz conducted a meeting with various staff members to discuss phase 2 of the Liberty Playground Project.
  • Shade structures were installed on Zuber Field.

Thursday, May 9:
  • Recreation staff set up Elmwood Recreation Building for Arbor Day/Government Day event.
  • 42 tables and 50 chairs were set up in the Civic Center gym in preparation for the Health Fair, Friday, May 10th.

Friday, May 10:
  • Staff cleaned rain gutters on park buildings.
  • A Cub Scout swim party was held at the Civic Center this evening with approximately 100 Scouts and their family members.
  • Table and Chair rentals for the weekend: 43 Tables 275 Chairs going to 8 resident homes.
  • The Primary School used the Fieldhouse courts and track for their “Fun Run” fundraiser this morning.
  • ICAN! used the Elmwood Recreation Building in the evening for their “Mother’s Day Project” program. Over 20 people participated.

The IT Department reported- (Week ending May 10)

• The IT Department closed 24 helpdesk tickets this week and handled 57 calls this week including 1 after hour’s events.
• In addition to helpdesk, weekly project highlights include:
  • New thin client image with updated Onbase, Sportsman, and Scanner Drivers.
  • Created user ID Badges.
  • Update for check signer.
  • Fixed printer issue in MDT.
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- Community Service Call Log generated.
- Updated FTP security settings.
- Upgraded Economic Development Director’s PC.
- Made updates to group policy for the public terminal.
- Expanded Vmware View storage pool.
- Took part in Government Day/Arbor Day!

Topgolf coming soon!