

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
APRIL 29, 2008 4:30 P.M.
COUNCIL CONFERENCE ROOM**

Mayor Kurtz called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. Present were Mayor Gregory Kurtz and Council Members Jim Crooks, Dave Grendel, George Klepacz, Tom Narduzzi, Jim Riley and Anthony Togliatti. Also present were Finance Director John M. Veres (left 4:55 p.m.), Service Director Dave Snyderburn (left 4:55 p.m.), Law Director Greg O'Brien, Engineering Coordinator Don Ramm (left 4:55 p.m.), Chief Administrative Officer Vern Blaze (left 4:55 p.m.) and Economic Development Director Ron White. Others present were residents Jackie Haddad and Jim Piteo and Tara Quinn of the Sun Newspaper.

FIRST READING

RESOLUTION 2008-59 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE PROPOSAL FROM DIGIOIA-SUBURBAN EXCAVATING, LLC FOR THE EMERGENCY REPAIR TO THE FORESTWOOD DRIVE RETENTION BASIN AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Crooks, seconded by Riley, to read by title only. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to adopt.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated this is the result of a previous conversation where we instructed Don Ramm, the engineer, to look at two alternatives. One was to rebuild the pipe in Forestwoods.

Don Ramm explained the initial idea was to use the pipe that was there as a host pipe, sleeve it with a plastic pipe and grout around it. The cost of that was approximately \$28,000 without the other remedial items around the basin. The price to replace it with RCP pipe with DiGioia was \$33,000, which is only \$5,000 more than the alternative of utilizing the existing pipe. We added the other three remedial items around the basin and DiGioia still has the lowest price for that alternative, in terms of the replacement option.

Councilman Grendel asked how many contractors were contacted, just the three listed who had done work for us in the past?

Don Ramm replied yes.

Mayor Kurtz stated so we're replacing it with a new concrete pipe. Is it the same size?

Don Ramm replied it's a little smaller but still adequate to convey the flow.

Mayor Kurtz asked and it's all in concrete rather than trying to sleeve it?

Don Ramm replied right. Everything that is there now will be ripped out and removed.

Mayor Kurtz asked, how long should this last?

Don Ramm replied the life of RCP pipe is 50 years.

Councilman Klepacz asked why is the pipe slightly smaller?

Don Ramm replied the existing pipe is corrugated metal and has poor hydraulic characteristics because of the ripples of the pipe. There is a significant reduction that you can accommodate and still meet the flow to drain the basin with the RCP pipe.

Councilman Klepacz asked when will work begin on that?

Don Ramm replied DiGioia felt that once they were authorized they would order the pipe. It would be delivered in a couple of weeks and begin.

Mayor Kurtz asked how long will it take to complete the project?

Don Ramm replied two to four days.

Mayor Kurtz stated so it should be completed in a couple of weeks.

Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Mayor Kurtz stated I want to thank Don Ramm for his thorough research and investigation of the project. I appreciate the professionalism that he demonstrated with regard to the project.

Councilman Grendel added the documentation was great as well as the rationalization of his recommendation.

Finance Director Veres stated, to clarify, we had set aside \$45,000 for this project. So everyone is aware, we have an extra \$12,000.

Mayor Kurtz responded, depending on what the extra work will cost.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS:

Councilman Riley stated I have a letter from the Cuyahoga County engineer's office from the Mayor's Office and also a memo from Engineer Don Ramm regarding Pleasant Valley Road. In 2011 the County wants to do Pleasant Valley Road. We need to send a letter confirming we are

willing to participate. The project total is \$3.75 million. Our cost would be approximately \$195,000.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to authorize the Mayor to send a letter to the Cuyahoga County Engineer confirming that the City of Independence will participate in the improvement of Pleasant Valley Road Project scheduled for 2011.

Councilman Klepacz asked Pleasant Valley from where to where?

Ron White replied from Route 21 west to Broadview Road.

Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Mayor Kurtz asked, do you want to talk about Wisnieski Parkway and the parking lot now so we know how we want to proceed?

Don Ramm responded, as part of the construction of the roadway improvements the contractor excavated down to the subgrade of the proposed road and the proof roll was extremely poor on the west lane. It was not suitable the way it was. They had to undercut the road and put in some significant amount of base – 12 extra inches of limestone, to bridge the poor materials. That was performed and they anticipate they will have to do the same on the east side. That should be wrapped up this week and the other lane should be paved this week.

At the same time, the existing parking lot just north of the Annex building was in extremely poor condition. We looked into repaving it. We got some quotes from Anthony Allega for a couple of different options. One of them was the standard mill and fill method – removing the existing asphalt and putting a few inches of asphalt on top of it. The cost was approximately \$68,000 per the 2007/2008 maintenance contract, unit prices that they currently had with us.

The second alternate was to whitetop it with four or five inches of concrete fiberized, fibers in it to strengthen it. That price also came in right around \$68,000.

I have reviewed both options and recommend going with the whitetopping.

Mayor Kurtz asked, that is based on specs in our current maintenance contract?

Don Ramm replied right. Option 1 with the asphalt milling and paving was straight out of the unit costs.

Mayor Kurtz asked so the question is we can get the whitetopping for about the same amount of money?

Don Ramm replied it was actually a couple hundred dollars less, and it's concrete.

Mayor Kurtz asked why is the concrete as cheap as asphalt?

Councilman Narduzzi replied because of the cost of petroleum.

Don Ramm commented with whitetopping it's four or five inches thick versus asphalt which is three inches thick. You're getting a couple more inches out of it at the same cost.

Several people speaking at once.

Mayor Kurtz stated there are a couple of things we need to look at – not tonight but maybe at a Streets meeting, to determine how we want to go forward.

Relative to the Wisnieski Parkway road, the original assumption was that they were going to bring in new paving equipment and pave that full width. I called and asked because I didn't see the new paving equipment. The new paving equipment is a new computerization system, not a new piece of cast iron. It's the equipment that they use to profile the road to meet the new IRI, the new smoothness specifications. So that equipment is being used to determine the smoothness. It's a new stated ODOT spec. That's what they're saying we're going to get.

The other issue with respect to Wisnieski is we did two things. We added additional drainage, and we also added the water quality issues that we talked about in the last meeting to accommodate the need to balance the Rockside Road Project.

We're still onboard to finish on time, assuming that Mother Nature helps us out. We'll be ready for the Kiwanis Fishing Derby this Saturday. They should have the sod down tomorrow.

Several people speaking at once.

Mayor Kurtz stated Don Ramm will put this information in writing.

The question is, do we still want to do the parking lots? We're pretty much committed to the parking lot on the west side where we pulled out the islands, and then there is City Hall parking lot. We can't white-top City Hall. There is not enough drainage. We'd have to tear out all the concrete islands and stuff. So that will be a grind and overlay using our specs. We may do some catch basin adjustment. The west parking lot is a perfect situation to be able to put concrete in. Is there any direction from Council so we can move forward?

Councilman Riley replied I'd rather see concrete.

Mayor Kurtz replied, we're eliminating the islands too. We're just going to have stops and then we'll have it striped. And we're not putting a curb because we discussed curbing this morning and the problem with curbing is people get out of their car and if they're curbed in, they'll be tripping over the curb, so we're not going to put a curb in. We're going to go with a flat surface.

Councilman Narduzzi asked are we redoing the island that they removed?

Mayor Kurtz replied they said they'll do it either way we want to. Once the pavement is done, we'll look at it and they can put the island back in if we choose to do so.

Councilman Narduzzi responded that it's a weird situation when you're pulling out in that area. Before you stop you're in the street when pulling out of City Hall. Somehow we have to line it.

Mayor Kurtz replied stripe it or put a big concrete planter box or something there.

Councilman Klepacz commented I think the island makes it more confusing.

Mayor Kurtz responded my thought was that after we get the pavement done we can do a Streets Committee walkthrough and then determine what we want to do.

Councilman Riley asked, how quickly do they need a decision on the whitetopping?

Don Ramm replied I don't think they're in as much of a hurry as we are.

Mayor Kurtz added we're in a bigger hurry than they are. If there is no objection, we'll prepare legislation for the next meeting. If there are any issues or questions between now and then, call me.

Vern Blaze asked does that price assume that they're going to do it while their equipment is onsite?

Mayor Kurtz replied I'm assuming that they're going to get right on it because they're here.

Councilman Riley responded I'd rather tell them to go ahead and do it before they leave.

Councilman Grendel agreed.

Jim Piteo asked are there any issues with the base underneath that parking lot?

Don Ramm replied they're watching it. They've been using it as their staging area. It's holding up pretty well considering all the heavy equipment there. There are a couple of minor blowouts.

Mayor Kurtz stated if there are no objections by Council, we'll get it ready.

Councilman Riley added that way they can stay mobilized.

Mayor Kurtz asked are there any objections?

There were no objections noted.

Mayor Kurtz stated to Don Ramm, Council says to go ahead, so get it ready to go and we'll get legislation to confirm.

Councilman Grendel stated I have a question about the legislation we passed earlier regarding Forestwood. Did we just approve the \$33,000, or did we approve the full \$43,900?

Mayor Kurtz replied there is an additional \$10,000. We don't know which parts we're going to use or not use.

Councilman Grendel replied we only approved the \$33,000. Will we have to come back and approve additional?

Mayor Kurtz asked, how did we leave that with them? It was going to be our option to do the work?

Don Ramm replied yes.

Councilman Grendel commented Don Ramm's recommendation said \$43,900 but we only legislated \$33,050. I'd rather have it \$43,900 in case they do it.

Mayor Kurtz replied we don't really know what we're going to need to do for that portion of it until we're at the job, until we're in there to do it.

Councilman Narduzzi commented I'd rather pass it for the full amount rather than have to come back later.

Mayor Kurtz asked does Council want to amend it up to \$43,900?

Councilman Grendel replied I'd rather do it that way.

Mayor Kurtz stated then Don Ramm will have the flexibility to get it all done and we won't have to run back and forth while they're there. Are there any objections to that by Council?

Law Director O'Brien stated, you need a motion to reconsider Resolution 2008-59. If you pass it then you amend it, pass the amendment and then pass it.

Councilman Grendel replied I'd rather do that.

Mayor Kurtz responded I agree with you.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to reconsider Resolution 2008-59. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to amend Resolution 2008-59 to read, in an amount not to exceed \$43,900. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to adopt. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Councilman Klepacz asked the cost of the parking lot improvement.

Don Ramm replied approximately \$70,000.

Mayor Kurtz stated we'll prepare legislation for that.

Councilman Klepacz commented I noticed that the Administration has moved very quickly on doing something about Filip. That was very good. I noticed today that there was an officer stationed under the bridge in an attempt to keep people from exiting. Sometime ago I suggested that we do something regarding that issue because of the danger. The Administration has moved ahead by putting barrier markers there. I do have an additional suggestion.

Mayor Kurtz responded Chief Nicastro was involved with that and made the decision.

Councilman Klepacz stated the other thing I think I would do is put a little sign stating no exit.

Director Snyderburn replied, as long as the Chief tells us to.

Councilman Klepacz stated there are two no exit signs but I'm saying to put one on the actual barrier itself.

Councilman Narduzzi commented I think they put them there so people can turn around and go back the other way.

Several people speaking at once.

Councilman Klepacz stated he's seen people turning around at the house that is currently unoccupied. If you could put "no exit" there so nobody drives around it.

Mayor Kurtz stated we'll talk to the Chief and see that it conforms.

OTHER MATTERS:

Mayor Kurtz stated next on the agenda is the primary purpose of tonight's meeting which is to advance the issue of filling the vacancy on Council. As you know, several weeks ago there was a vacancy created and Council was asked to identify quality candidates to fill the vacancy. Subsequent to that meeting, every member of Council was given the opportunity to choose a quality candidate, limited to residents living in the City. Members of Council, either individually or collectively have narrowed it down to where we now have two candidates to be interviewed, Jackie Haddad and Jim Piteo. At this point, consistent with the proposal that was summarized by Councilman Grendel, I believe the next step is to begin the interview process.

How do you want to proceed?

Councilman Crooks replied I'll start by saying that Council has had some correspondence in the last couple of days and as recent as this afternoon. I believe the Mayor has seen the

correspondence as well. I am under the impression that we will be interviewing today the candidates for Council. I sincerely hope that we're able to.

The only question that I think remains if I understand correctly, is whether or not the candidates will be interviewed individually or together. I think that is the decision that we need to make right now, because I'm under the impression that the candidates are under the impression that they will be interviewed individually. Is that right?

Councilman Klepacz replied correct. Everyone has read by e-mail for which I apologize for sending it out so late. The reason I sent the e-mail is because I realized that we had never decided on the ground rules. Councilman Crooks responded to my e-mail. I believe everyone has seen that and we're all on the same page. My original point was that maybe we should establish the ground rules. I think Councilman Crooks had some valid points. I don't have challenge with interviewing today and that it will be public. I think the only issue then became, do we do it at the same time? My argument is that I think they should be at the same time. They can sit side by side and answer the same questions. From my point of view I think the questions are going to be very general. Each candidate will have an opportunity to answer the question. In the past, outside of this, in the business and educational world we were always very, very careful to make sure we asked the same question of each candidate in fairness. Council could certainly direct a question to an individual if it came up. What do we want to do?

Councilman Crooks replied that's fine with me. You made a point in your response to me that if one goes first then obviously the other person is going to be here. That's fine with me if they're going to interview at the same time and answer the same questions.

Councilman Togliatti stated I don't have a problem with that either.

Councilman Riley stated whatever you guys decide. I've never sat in an interview where two people have been interviewed at the same time.

Councilman Klepacz replied we're not really doing a job interview. This is beyond that. This is more like a confirmation hearing.

Councilman Crooks stated the point being is that if one goes first, then the other would be sitting here listening. They might have time to mentally prepare.

Councilman Narduzzi stated I think all we have to do is go back and forth with the same question.

Mayor Kurtz commented I don't intend to participate in the process other than to observe. This is really Council's decision.

Councilman Klepacz asked do we want to put a time limit?

Councilman Togliatti commented and voting procedures as well.

Councilman Klepacz responded also part of our e-mails was that we could interview tonight, discuss a little bit tonight and then postpone our vote until later in the week or early next week. We would have a chance to think about it. Is that agreeable to everyone?

Councilman Riley replied let's see how the interviews go. I'd like to get the interview process going. Afterwards we can dismiss the candidates and carry on to the next process.

Councilman Klepacz replied I don't have a disagreement with that.

Councilman Riley stated I would have Jim and Jackie sit at the table.

Several people speaking at once.

Councilman Crooks stated a half hour tops, but if we have questions, I think we should ask them. I only have a few questions in mind, and I don't even know if I'm going to ask them all.

Jackie Haddad and Jim Piteo took a seat at the table.

The first question was asked to Jackie Haddad based on alphabetical order by last name. Further questions would go by rotation.

Councilman Klepacz stated then Jim Piteo will have the opportunity to answer the question after Jackie is done answering.

Councilman Crooks stated because we're going to ask these questions to both at the same time, they should be answered by both. If Jackie is asked the first question, I don't think Jim should have the opportunity of declining to answer that question.

Council agreed.

Councilman Crooks stated to Jackie Haddad, obviously we're entrusted with making the decision to pick one of you two. Why are you a better candidate at this time for Council than Jim?

Jackie Haddad replied, I can't judge that I'm a better candidate than Jim. I can't say that because I don't know what Jim knows. I don't know what he can bring to the table. I'm not that familiar with Jim. I can't compare us because I don't have enough knowledge of Jim. I can't say that I or Jim would be better based on the information that I have.

Councilman Crooks asked, why are you a better choice than anyone else?

Jackie Haddad replied, what brought me here was Dave Grendel's phone call. Dave assured me that I would be a good choice because I bring different things to the table than a lot of other people.

I have been involved in this community since I moved here. I started a school supply sale right off the bat to make things easier. I have been involved with the school all along. You have seen

me here on countless occasions for various meetings. I sat on Charter Review. Also, because of my husband's career I have knowledge of state and federal government. With his help and acquaintances of ours I can bring creative solutions and possibly funding sources that are not available with the folks currently on Council. I will be able to bring something to the table, especially with economic times ahead. We all know we're sailing into some really rough water. I would like to bring some of the talent, funding and some of the people that we know into our environment and see if we can't lighten the load for the taxpayers, Council and everyone else. That is what brings me here, and the fact that I respect and trust Dave Grendel to think of me and say that I do have things to offer to this group.

The same question was asked to Jim Piteo by Councilman Crooks. Why do you think at this time you are a better choice for Council than Jackie?

Jim Piteo replied I've been active, visible and accessible. I have maintained my presence at council meetings, caucus meetings and planning commission meetings. I feel that I have a good understanding of what this council wants to do. If selected for the seat, I think I can transition easily into the position. I've also think I have the common sense and dedication that it takes to fill the seat.

Councilman Grendel stated, both of you are very well qualified. I've known both and both make wonderful candidates and have the qualifications. I think it's important that we go through this process and make sure that we have the right person for this position. I know that both of you have been very active in the community, come to meetings and are also active in the schools. You have made a lot of connections with folks both in politics and others throughout the community at large.

What are the two most important issues that from your experience, and knowing the City as you do, you feel are facing the City during this term? It may be different than Council's has but it gives us an idea of what you think are the two most pressing issues that the City should, or has to face in the next couple of years. These may not have been handled yet or may be on the horizon.

Jim Piteo replied I think utmost is the financial situation of the City, meaning that in the economic times that we're having right now I see that there has been a leveling off of revenue in the City. I think with all the moves that have been made so far, I think that that's going to be corrected. I think the financing is going to come in. With that some of the things in the budget will be amped up a little bit and fixed.

Infrastructure is a huge, huge battle. Our streets and sewers are not really up to date on a lot of occasions. Hillside Road needs tending to. Pleasant Valley needs tending to, which I heard Jim just say that we're going to address that, so that's a good thing. But infrastructure is definitely a problem I perceive for the City, and a costly one. From all indications from attending the meetings I can see that putting concrete and asphalt down is not a cheap proposition. There is a lot of it to be done in the City. So I think infrastructure is a key one.

Jackie Haddad replied, when I bring a problem to the table I also try and bring a solution. I don't believe it takes a whole lot to figure out what a problem is. The question is, how do you solve it?

In my mind the biggest issue we have now is we have Rockside Road, which is a veritable goldmine in the making, and we need to keep growing Rockside Road. So our job in the legislative venue is to make sure that the legislation that we bring forward does not in any way hamstring the growth that needs to occur on Rockside Road, because every surrounding community is competing for those same dollars. Every surrounding community will bend over backwards to acquire the people who are now interested in Independence, Brecksville – you name it. So we have got to keep ourselves competitive and legislatively our key is to hamstring the administration, economic development or anyone else. We have to allow for latitude, creativity and ingenuity in keeping Rockside Road driving and growing.

We also have to be mindful of the hotels on Rockside Road. And when we think of events and things like the races that the schools are currently doing, the City also needs to think of that and keep our hotels happy as well, until Cleveland can come back. The idea was that these hotels would be the rollover for the downtown community. That's not happening right now so we need to be mindful of that, and we have to do our part there.

The second issue, and I agree with Jim, is the infrastructure. The infrastructure is a train wreck, and that's just time and tide. That's what I was saying earlier. I have access through my husband's rolodex of people outside of Independence, state and federal entities, that we can tap into and say, if you have money for this, do you mind thinking about us? Do you mind partnering us with a bigger community that I know you're currently funding? You have to know what is available out there. You have to know things bigger than Independence. You have to know people in federal positions, state positions that hand out the money so you know how to either partner up to get your infrastructure corrected, or to get funding on your own. That's something that I think is the future and something that we need to start doing, and something that I think I can do.

Councilman Riley asked Jackie Haddad, if you were faced with our decision, both of you were sitting on Council, what criteria would you use to choose a candidate, and do you think that the vote count in the last election should be considered?

Jackie Haddad replied, the vote seems to be the crux of a lot of issues here. Let's remember why we're here. We're here because Vern has chosen to move on and do something that I think is going to work very well for the City, so, the voters asked him to serve two years. He's moved out of that position, which was the will of the people, to vacate a position to help us out further. The vote of the people I think was a good idea in November. But now you've all come together. The chemistry is here now. If there is a situation or an alternative that would make the chemistry work, or if there is now someone that you can reach to that can help you in a specific environment, the economy has tanked since November. The economy is on a roller coaster ride downhill. If someone can come in and help with that, or can bring a skill that you need for the situation as it is now, not in November. Your rolling stock is getting killed with gas prices. Is anybody talking about that? What will you do? Is there something I can do? Possibly. So if someone can meet your current needs now, if someone can help you on a situation now, or bring new ideas or new revenue that wasn't available in November, and if the opportunity is here now, then I would say you would have to do what is best for the community, and definitely for this

body. What will move this body forward? What will make you help this community more? That's what you have to answer. That's your question.

Jim Piteo asked for the question to be repeated.

Councilman Riley asked, if you were in our position of choosing a candidate to replace Vern, what criteria would you use to choose that candidate and would you consider the vote from November's election?

Jim Piteo replied November's election was six months ago. In retrospect, in a 2-year period of time it's a half year. Back in November I ran a very strong campaign. I was out on the street talking to people. I connected with many, many people and I understand exactly what their needs and desires are. I feel that along with that, I was able to meet all you folks and become friends with everybody in this room I hope. The bottom line is that back in November I missed the seventh spot by 38 votes, which translates that 1435 residents voted for me. I feel I have the confidence of those voters and I would like to go do their bidding.

As far as my bringing things to the table, I think what I had back in November still remains here today. I am dedicated to the City. I work hard and I do have the support of the voters.

Councilman Narduzzi asked, if appointed by us to be our new councilperson, which committee would you want to chair and what do you think you could bring to help that committee out?

Jim Piteo replied, from what I understand, that's preselected. Since Vern left and vacated the spot I would assume that there is a need in those positions. I really don't know how the Council is going to go about filling and rearranging everything after Vern left. I have been attending the meetings since the election. I have a good idea of some of the committees. I've been to Safety meeting, Utilities and Planning and Zoning. If I had to narrow one down, believe it or not, I would like to be part of the Finance Committee. I spent a lot of time, four days in meetings on the budget. There was a lot of things that were said in that meeting. I kind of took a liking to the fact that there is a budget. There is a whole animal behind what we do here on Council and it's kind of channeled through that budget. I also spent some time down at the Board of Education going over some financial stuff compared to what the City can do with the schools as far as customers in the town, how they're handling that situation. So I feel comfortable being a part of that Finance Committee.

Zoning, Streets, Public Lands, I'm in an industry which I deal with people everyday. I walk around in dirt. I walk around in jobsites. I have an understanding of what takes a job from Point A to Point B. I feel comfortable in those positions. I've done a lot of jobsite walking. I'm very interested in the City of Independence itself. I think with the Utilities Committee there is a lot of things that could be solved on that committee. There are a lot of things sitting there that need to be solved and I'd like to be a part of that. So I would say that Utilities would probably be second.

I'm not sure how Zoning and Planning go, but if I had a choice to be a council representative of one of those commissions, I would gladly take it. The bottom line is that I would be happy to serve on any of those committees, and I'd give it 110%.

Jackie Haddad replied, I would choose Community Services as my first choice. I think I would probably do my best work there. I have the time. I could network with the community and bring them up on what is going on in City Council. Because I'm so involved with the schools I'm going to know a lot of the people. We can start new programs. We can get them excited about being part of Independence again.

I could also see what is going on with the businesses on Rockside Road that would work beautifully with our partnership with the schools and the school/business partnership, again, working with the community to get them excited about living in Independence, just keeping the activity going. Why? Because you're going into tough economic times, Council is not always going to bring the community good news. You need to have things that get them excited and get them happy, so that when you have to hit them with bad news you can say, but look, we are still doing this, and this and this, and we're still moving ahead.

I always try and temper bad news with some really good news.

Councilman Togliatti stated, I've heard some things about revenue decline and an economic downturn. Moving forward with some of the goals that Council has are the external home maintenance programs, No Place Like Home, senior housing and we've created a few positions. With some of these programs there may be the creation of additional positions as well as additional man hours for the City government in general. How do you feel that these are going to affect the budget and the overall working of the City with an uncertain economic forecast?

Jackie Haddad replied, the administration comes to Council and says, I need these positions and this is what they're going to cost. If you allocate the funds, that is the end of your legislative responsibility. So if Council has a problem or issue with an administrative action or move, it is at the time that that request comes forward in your budget that you make that known. Once you pass that budget, and once you allocate that money, you're done. Then it becomes administrative. When the administration comes to you legislatively, that's your stopgap. Once that is done, then hands off. If you have a problem with the budget, or you have a problem with an administrative request, the time to deal with that is when it comes before you as a body. That's where the chemistry of this group comes into play. That's where it's critical that all of you have a good chemistry – you can argue and hash things out, but at the end of the day you make really good decisions about the budget and any kind of issues that come over from the administrative end.

Jim Piteo asked that the question be repeated.

Councilman Togliatti replied, I've heard some things about revenue decline. And I think you said there are some problems in the budget, some things that need to be amped up and fixed, and talking about a few specific programs that we're working on – exterior home maintenance, No Place Like Home, senior housing and then the new positions that we created. They're all adding

to the overall operating expenses of the City. I was wondering how you felt about moving forward with these things when we're in uncertain economic times.

Jim Piteo replied, just at this meeting tonight, specifically, Don Ramm probably saved the City I would estimate in my own guess, and I'm just somebody off the street, probably \$20,000 to \$30,000 on one project alone already in the parking lot. I think Don Ramm has done an excellent job. He being the engineer/community coordinator, I'm not sure what his official title is, but he's the engineering guy that handles foreseeing projects before they actually go out to bid for the engineer. It kind of gives us the foresight to look at a project and say, do we really have to spend the time and effort to get this engineer, or is it worthless, or is it something we should proceed with. I think that's the value that he adds. I don't believe his salary is published but he's already in the six months that he's been working has already paid the City back on his salary.

As far as the human resource lady, Heather, talking to some of the workers in town I think she's doing a good job. She has gotten out to people and put them in proper programs to save them aggravation, time and money. As anybody would know, when you have happy workers, your productivity goes up. The City moves better. There is no bickering or fighting. I think in her role so far she has straightened some things out and guided people in the right direction.

Ron has been on the road seeing customers and that's what we need to do. I'm a salesman by trade. Customers have to be happy. They need 100% of our time. I think Ron is going to bring a value to the City unsurpassed – wearing two hats before. Now he's actually down to one.

Chief Administration Officer, which Vern Blaze has taken, I don't know what the (inaudible) of the Chief Administration Officer is going to be. I don't have enough idea or data in front of me to, as the person looking in from the outside, actually see what that person is going to bring. I know that there is some guidance needed as far as how we're going to implement all the things that Council has been talking about. If that Chief Administration Officer has any way of bringing in some financial or some mechanical ways to deal with people inside the City, I think that salary alone, whatever it's going to be, is well worth it.

Those three positions are the only ones I can remember that were created directly, immediately.

I'm a salesman by trade but the bottom line is that we have to go out and meet customers and do the hand shaking. If it takes a lunch, if it takes doing something directly to that customer to keep them in town, then I'll pay you \$75,000 anytime. It was in the paper. That's why I mentioned it.

Ron White replied, it's inflated.

Jim Piteo continued, whatever his value is monetarily that we pay him the bottom line is I think that with the economic times right now we have to be more specialized in how we treat our customers. By creating these positions inside the government I can't see how it's going to hurt anything in the short-term. And I'm sure that with the people of Independence walking around and talking to them if it wasn't worth it, we'd hear about it and have to do something about it.

As far as the issue you're pushing through, I think you asked about the No Place Like Home.

Councilman Togliatti replied, you mentioned that there were some problems with the budget that needed to be amped up and fixed. My question in general was about expansion of these positions and programs and how they affect the budget.

Jim Piteo replied, I'd like to take this time right now to say I probably misspoke on problems. I went through the budget process and I saw how tight the budget is. John Veres has been doing a good job. Everybody has been doing a good job keeping the money where it needs to be, how they're spending it. I think what I'm worried about as a resident, is I'm worried about you drive down Rockside Road and you see a lot of signs up. To me that means that people are leaving the town, or there's not people working in the town. I think what they did with Rockside Road is an excellent jump, leap ahead. I think so many ideas that they're bringing to the front over here as far as the Research Center and some of the stuff down on Pleasant Valley I think that it has been discussed in council. I think those things are going to add a shot in the arm for our economic growth. But I do think that if you look around at some of the cities around us who have a savings and have a war chest saved up, so to speak, because they solved some of these problems earlier on in their life, I think these positions that were created are going to be a good thing for the City of Independence.

Councilman Klepacz asked, what is your opinion, position on senior housing, what should we be doing? Should we be building senior housing? How do we respond to the senior group? Are we going to have multi-family, stand alone condominiums, stand alone houses, where should we put it? I know this is a big question however, this is an issue.

Jim Piteo replied, it's a big issue and unfortunately, when I was running for Council it took up a lot of our time. And for many, many years, probably before I even realized what senior housing was, it has been an issue in the City. Forgive me on my ordinance numbers, but 2007-23 I think was the first time that got me interested in the council process. It stated that there was land to be developed and they wanted to put single family homes in. That ordinance was quickly changed to, I believe, 2007-33, and it is single family homes.

In several meetings that summer when I started coming to the meetings I stood up and said at least once publicly that it's a shame that the seniors are getting treated the way they are, that this issue should be solved and we should move forward with it. I think senior housing is definitely something that the City of Independence needs. I do not support single family housing. I think the initiative or ordinance brought up 2007-36 is a clear, or a step closer to what we should be doing for our seniors. Our seniors deserve a hell of a lot more than single family homes. And how this came to bed with me was recently I lost my father. He contracted, or was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer and he beat that. He's a tough guy. Then he decided he couldn't take care of the family home any longer. Fortunately, we had a place for him to move to – his mom's house, a bungalow in Brooklyn. Five years later he came back and contracted brain cancer and we were looking for hospice and aftercare for him, and it was very hard to find. In fact, it was impossible to find. He ended up passing away in a hospital in Cleveland Clinic. Had he sunk all his money from the house that he had in Independence into a single family home, I'm afraid that all his investment in the City would have been gone. There was no way he was going to take

care of himself in the single family home. He would have took his investment, which was his home and sunk it into another home and he wouldn't have had any money left to take care of himself. I know that there are other people in this town that might have that problem. I think there needs to be a way a reach the senior and ask them what they want. As I was walking around on the campaign trail I did ask the question. I was confronted by people that don't want to move out of their house, that don't want to move into a single family home, that want to congregate. They want to be with people that they understand. It's a big issue. I think what we need to do, like I said, 2007-36 I believe is (inaudible) start there. I know there was a bunch of studies done even maybe four or five years ago. I don't remember a study, but it's there. You can read it.

I do support senior housing. I support a good idea for senior housing, and I haven't seen a complete idea come before me as of right now.

Councilman Klepacz replied I was asking what your idea was of senior housing. Everybody here is in favor of senior housing.

Jim Piteo replied my idea of senior housing would be to provide an area where the senior citizens from Independence can go and live amongst their friends and in the town that they supported for so many years. I would probably, if a good plan was put in front of me, I would probably support some kind of assisted care, some kind of hospice, some kind of aftercare if they were to move into that area. Most likely I would support, again, this is all hypothetical because I really haven't seen too many options put in front of me regarding this, but I would support congregate living done properly. I would support apartment living if done properly. There has to be a little bit of single family homes because there is a need for that. I think you have to look at the whole picture.

Jackie Haddad replied there is no easy answer for senior housing. Senior housing is coming. It's how do we do it well? The school, Ron and I have all worked together on partnerships, and I think that this is a perfect time to consider that option again. I don't think the City of Independence can take that encumbrance. I have friends who are doctors who are saying that Medicare and Medicaid are being slashed yet again. We have less disposable income for our seniors. In my mind the best way to make this work is to do this as a partnership situation. St. Maron's has that property that would have been ideal for senior housing. I do know for a fact that they do intend to have retirement living on that property. They may not have brought it to you yet, but it's coming. Family members are parishioners. If that is to come, we cannot stop that train because the courts will get involved and we know how well that turns out. If we can find a partner, and do it well, and not take on the encumbrance of a senior community in whatever shape it takes – whether it is congregate living on a site with either St. Maron's or Concordia, then fine, if we can do that well. If we can do a senior daycare center and do it well with a partner, why not? If we allow the courts to take this bull by the horns, we are not going to come out ahead. Senior living is going to come to Independence at some point in time. Let's do it well. Let's sit and talk about it. Let's argue about it. Let's do all those things, but at the end of the day let's do it well and let's don't do it alone. Let's don't try and take on the full encumbrance as a City. Let's do it with a partner. We have Cleveland Clinic, we have churches. We have all kinds of people that want to help. The legislative body only has certain powers and

cannot scamper around into all the different branches of government. We must contain ourselves to the legislative concept of this. We can have a very active and firm hand, but we must remain legislative and not spill over into administrative or any other branch. If we can guide these groups who so desperately want to be involved in this issue, let's listen to what they have to say and let's see what kind of money they can bring, what kind of support and what kind of manpower. Let's open the door and hear people who want to participate.

Councilman Grendel stated another issue is the downtown area. When George, Jim and I came onboard Rockside Road was an issue, the joint project with the schools another one. I guess the downtown area goes hand in hand with senior housing and hand in hand with the schools. I try and patronize all of our businesses. I patronize some Brecksville businesses. But I think that for a vibrant town you need a vibrant downtown. We've developed the City campus along with the schools, the library and the park, which is wonderful. We're detached from Rockside because it's mostly out of towners that work there. I still think that to have a vibrant town what is missing here is a vibrant downtown. We have the piecesparts but we haven't been able to coordinate things, yet the City owns a good part of the west side of Route 21 – the house, barbershop, parking lot. We own the middle school property. What are your ideas? We're not saying it right or wrong, it's just ideas and they're all good. What do you foresee that could make our downtown area a vibrant area? It's even a tougher question now because economics are different than they were – when we came onboard in 1999 or 2000. Are there any ideas?

Jackie Haddad replied, my idea would be to begin with what we own. Let's don't go after parcels we don't own. Let's begin with what we have. This is a Voinovich thing – work harder with nothing. So in my mind to do that, you would have to start with what you own.

If I understand the Brecksville concept, they went and found people who could anchor. They found one really good anchor that belonged and would work in that community. I think we should do the same thing. I think we should find one really good, solid anchor and begin with the middle school property and not look back – use that as our centerpiece and work outward. Just be sure that we bring things in that our community, and it has to revolve around Independence, and it has to be something that our residents need, so when we pick that anchor it has to be something that our community is going to use, and others will come in as well. It has to focus on us. My own personal choice would be Trader Joe's. You want to find that anchor and then you build off of that. You encourage your residents that do have business acumen – I was going to say that about Rockside too. Dealing with Rockside Road you don't want to just look at large conglomerates and say that we're saving space for them. Let's think also about smaller businesses that can come here and grow. There is no harm in that. It's the same with downtown. Let's start with a great anchor and smaller retail business, service businesses or whatever want to involve themselves, let's listen to what they say. If they have the money, I'm here to take it. I don't believe in saying no to any good idea. If we say no, they're going to go seven miles down the road and they're going to say yes. They're going to ask, can we build you a new building? Would you like it here? We have to be mindful that it's very competitive out there because a lot of people in Independence don't know that. We don't want to say no to any good idea in this economic situation. It's going downhill fast. If people come to us with a good idea and they have money, hand it over.

I'm the same way on school business too. If they have money I'm here to take it.

I think that our problem has always been that we're waiting for that light thing. We have to jump. Sometimes we have to say that this is about as right as it's going to get right now. Let's jump. Until we do, that's what we have.

Councilman Grendel asked, what is your idea as far as any kind of housing or senior housing in the downtown area?

Jackie Haddad replied if you've been to Chagrin Falls, you've seen something like that work, and you've seen it work very well. I think we cannot shut any doors right now, and this is the most critical thing that I can say. What we say no to somebody else will say yes to. If we get a really good idea, and part of that idea includes, down the road after they get situated, bringing in some housing, we can look at it at that time. I would not say no to anything right now. This is the wrong climate to do that in. Remember too that you have to work as a group. If this group will sit down with these people and as a group find out what is going on – it can't be one person saying what they want. It has to be all seven people coming together and saying this is right, and bringing in the administration and economic development. You have to have a lot of minds to do great things. If you can get the chemistry together where you have the trust and you work as a group – with your administration, with economic development and your fellow members of Council, you can put together a pretty darn good downtown. It's just a matter of jumping. Somebody has got to say let's go. If it will enhance, and it will work, and if it's got the money to do it well, I'm not adverse to that at all.

Jim Piteo asked, can I have a clean slate or is it as it exists right now? What I envision for downtown is a place for people to gather. I always thought that our center of town, that we kind of had the Rockside Road situation down there and that has become an animal in itself. You can go down there and eat almost any kind of food. You can go down there and get your phone fixed. We have a good business base down on Rockside Road as far as people being serviced.

Trader Joe's is a great idea because it ties in with the idea that was on the table last week as far as the path going down Stone Road to the valley. People will come up and use that store from that valley so it connects us down there. I can see a connection to the valley.

You asked about housing. I think I'm going to address that right away. It would be a hard sell for the residents of this town because it has been. They're kind of closed minded about bringing in apartment living in there and condominiums. There's a reason I supposed behind that. We have a hillside sitting over there and the Cavs kind of stole an idea of mine. You have a beautiful overlook over the valley. If you slap some condominiums on that hillside, apartments maybe, away from the center of town but close enough where young professionals can come in that would be working in a hospital situation, light manufacturing situation or an office situation, they have a place to stay that is close to what they need to survive until they get to their position in life.

Then I think in relationship from there you have Concordia Church. You have a zone there now that you can build. You can use it for senior housing. You can use it for many aspects of the resident's life.

I think it has to start with reorganization of that downtown. There are some buildings over there facing the wrong way and it's not really attractive to business right now.

I was talking to Sandy at the Independence Florist. She can't get anybody to come in and buy anything. People fly by in the morning and nothing stops them. I think you need to find something to stop them.

A park – if you come to the center of town on a Sunday, it's pretty quiet. You see a few people walking down Route 21. There's been mention of a dog park. There's been mention of a skate park. There's been mention of fountains. These are great ideas to get incorporated in that area down there. That's where we hold our Home Days every year. Make it accessible to the people of Independence. Put a store in there that the people of Independence will use as well as people coming from out of town. I think that's a great idea definitely.

I think we have Pleasant Valley Road. I think we have Rockside Road. We have the extension of Route 21 down there towards the Cloverleaf. I think we have enough office buildings. We have enough areas to expound on that part of our community. I think that area should be held for people who grew up in this community and people who are living here and want to congregate.

Councilman Klepacz stated, both of you have mentioned about schools and the relationships with the schools. Right now by state law school and city are separate. I've heard both of you saying that there should be a closer relationship between the City and schools. Could you expound on what you meant by that?

Jim Piteo replied I don't have the law in front of me that we can have with the schools. Personally, I've been on levy committees. There is a problem with money in the school system. We just recently had a replacement levy and a permanent improvement levy. We rolled up the sleeves and did what we could do, and we were successful. Independence schools did a good job raising money for the levies. I think that's how we can help upfront. I think we can be supportive of their needs because the state is very demanding on the schools. There are little pet projects going on right now. The PTO is doing a great job. They're soliciting people, but how many cookies can you buy? How many times can you buy markers to support your kids in school? Everyday something is coming home in the mail regarding the schools needing money for this, that and the other thing.

What I think the City could do, and is doing it on a limited basis, is helping with these projects. Finding how they can use their resources without being directly involved to help with some of these projects.

Communication – opening communication, being sure that the schools know exactly what is happening inside the City. I believe there is some sharing of monies as far as what the tax base brings in. That's how the schools can determine how much a levy would sustain them.

The City does have a role to build their schools and make sure they're strong because I have (inaudible) from outside this town to come in to buy a home. The first thing they say is, it's got a great school system. I think we owe it to the city schools to finally, to help them any way we can.

Jackie Haddad replied, first, City and schools monies cannot comingle by law. They have to remain separate and apart. That is why the funding is so goofy and we have to go to levies, because there cannot be any kind of piggybacking.

Ron and I have seen some success through school/business partnership. The businesses get involved with the schools. The schools see either donations or whatever, but the end result was the school parents see these businesses taking an active role in their children's lives. What happens is the parents begin going to those businesses to buy insurance, buy food or whatever. So there is a giveback.

What can happen with the City is when the City has new businesses that come in, or if they're getting read to begin a major construction project that will mean dollars for the schools through taxes and so forth, it would be nice if the City would call the schools and say, we're thinking of doing this project and it would generate so much revenue for you, but the downside is the traffic would increase and we may have more parents coming here. Is that a problem? It's a communication thing. It's making sure everything meshes together.

The schools don't want to be blindsided. Let's use Troiano as an example. You have Troiano with 189 homes, which was the original plan. The schools really needed to get more of that information upfront because we have a 1,000 student district. If you're going to do a project that large, you need to alert the schools. They can kind of prepare for that influx of students. Now as it turned out that didn't happen quite that way, but the schools could have been better prepared. They could have made preparations.

I think it's just being friendly with them by notifying them of a business coming to town. We're having a little get together. Would the school board and administrator like to attend, meet these people and see what possibilities are there for mentoring, for fellowships or whatever? Help them open new doors because this is a new idea for everybody. This is not something that Independence has had to do in the past, but now things have changed. It's helping them learn to create new and legal revenue, revenue that they are permitted to harvest, and helping them get on their feet – keeping it growing and evolving at the same rate with the City. The stronger your schools are, the easier it is to sell your City and a lot of other things.

It's a matter of meshing, a matter of being a helpmate for them, and as Jim said, participating when they have a project that they want to do. The City could be a partner with them and maybe help them. For example, people used by the City might also be able to work for the schools at the same rate. It's just being a good partner and helping the schools evolve and grow with your City. The City cannot be disjointed anymore. It has got to work together.

We were in Columbus for years and years and we saw this done well. Look at Worthington, look at Dublin, look at these communities. The school is the center of the community. The

parents do their time there without being asked. The City asks if there is anything they can help with – a business they're recruiting or whatever. It's all about being a good partner. That is what the schools are really looking for – being approachable as a Council, approachable as administration, approachable as economic development. That's really all the schools want and need. They also need to know anytime the City changes direction and goes with something big that's going to impact the schools to give them as much notice as possible what is coming down the pike so they can prepare for it well ahead of the need.

Councilman Riley stated I have one final question only for Jackie. Jim was here the night Vern resigned. How did you hear about Vern's resignation?

Jackie Haddad replied, I think it was through an e-mail.

Councilman Narduzzi stated I want to thank both of you for coming tonight. I think you guys are awesome for stepping up to the plate. There are not a lot of people in the City willing to go through this. I have to commend you.

Jackie Haddad responded, I appreciate the decorum and the orderly fashion in which it was done. The questions were not surprising and were valid. It was not a waste of my time.

Jim Piteo added, never, not when it concerns the City of Independence. It's never a waste of time.

Councilman Klepacz commented, I would like to echo Tom because you took some risks coming here and sitting in front of us. I think that's important that you're willing to take those risks to serve the City.

Jackie Haddad replied, thank you.

Councilman Grendel commented, both of you did a real good job. We're blessed. There are a lot of good people that can do an excellent job in this position. You've opened our eyes to the top quality that both of you have. Thank you very much.

Jackie Haddad left the meeting.

Mayor Kurtz stated we have not concluded the process as outlined. The question and answer period is over. What is the next step by Council?

Councilman Crooks replied I'd like to define the limits in my mind. We can make a decision tonight on one side of the spectrum knowing what we know. One possibility is we can make a decision right now. Or, on the other end of the spectrum, and I'm trying to define the limits in my mind, so please correct me if you see it in a different way, we can synthesize this information that we have today, reflect and establish a point in the future where we make a decision.

Councilman Klepacz replied I would like some time for reflection. I took some fairly extensive notes and I'd like to mull it over a little bit.

Councilman Riley asked, so set a meeting for next Tuesday and we'll vote next Tuesday?

Councilman Togliatti asked, will we have draft minutes before that time? I'd like to read them.

Councilman Klepacz added, I think that's a really good idea. I would agree with that.

The Clerk indicated that she would have draft minutes to Council in Friday's packet.

Councilman Riley asked, so a meeting next Tuesday and we'll vote at that time?

Councilman Klepacz stated another issue I think we need to consider is, do we have a secret ballot or are we going to do it publicly? Again, we don't have to make that decision at the moment, but we might want to decide that at the beginning of the meeting. Maybe we should reflect on that a little bit too.

Councilman Crooks responded, I enjoyed the e-mail correspondence. Not to make this more laborious than it has to be, but I wouldn't mind some time putting together my thoughts on secret ballot or not. I'll stay in touch with Council this week.

Councilman Klepacz replied, give it some time. I can see arguments both ways.

Councilman Crooks added, but I also want to make it clear that we've discussed that there has been a precedent set that it has been done once before with a secret ballot, just for the record. I'm not saying we have to do it again that way, but that's my understanding of what occurred when this happened 25 years ago. Is that correct?

Mayor Kurtz replied correct.

Jim Piteo asked, does that mean a ballot taking in Executive Session, or secret ballot by each individual councilman?

Mayor Kurtz replied if it's in Executive Session it's not public information.

Councilman Riley commented, we'd have to vote publicly for the person anyway.

Law Director O'Brien commented, so those pieces of paper don't become public documents, they can be done in Executive Session. I can collect them afterward and I would take them.

Councilman Klepacz responded, okay, I misunderstood that part. We may as well go publicly to begin with. That's kind of where I'm thinking now.

Councilman Crooks asked Law Director O'Brien, so a secret ballot wouldn't be done in public on a piece of paper?

Law Director O'Brien replied that would be a public document. There is actually a case that our firm was involved with where the city interviewed a candidate in executive session. He handed

them his resume and took the resume back at the time. Using that case and the opinion of the court in that case, I can make a very good argument that the ballot would come out and not be public. But now that I'm thinking out loud, we'd have to keep them and maintain them in a certain way with the Clerk just to make sure that if anybody wanted to check and verify.

Several people speaking at once.

Councilman Klepacz responded, I can see arguments on both sides. I think Councilman Crooks had a good idea. Let's give this some thought and we can bounce it back and forth.

Law Director O'Brien stated, I'll prepare ballots just in case.

Councilman Klepacz replied, okay, that's good.

Councilman Crooks added, fine with me.

It was agreed to schedule a Special Council meeting for Tuesday, May 6th at 4:45 p.m.

Reporter Tara Quinn asked, if I write this article and people want to have public participation, would they be able to at that meeting?

Mayor Kurtz replied it's still a public meeting.

Councilman Crooks added, it's no different than any other public meeting.

Councilman Klepacz commented, that being said, we are going to be in a Special Council meeting. If the Council or the presiding officer chooses not to accept, that's the prerogative of the chair. For example, in our council meeting they can make a three minute presentation. I think we need to make that clear. I don't think we want a big circus here. I don't want an army of people here to say which person they want.

Mayor Kurtz replied the papers have made it clear about this. Everybody knew there was a meeting here tonight to discuss the process.

Councilman Klepacz continued, I am all for democracy as you well know. I would ask that you not write it as you just said. If you do, what you're doing is inviting a circus.

Councilman Narduzzi added, you're antagonizing them to come.

Councilman Klepacz added, I would prefer that we didn't have a circus.

Mayor Kurtz stated, you informed them last week. If anybody was really interested, they had plenty of opportunity to be here.

Councilman Klepacz stated I'm saying this publicly. I don't mind public input but this is a Council decision. If people are going to e-mail us as individuals, then that's a different issue.

I've gotten a couple e-mails and a few phone calls too. We've heard this testimony. It's our decision.

Councilman Crooks stated I wanted to make clear so I wasn't confusing in my e-mail to you, what you just described is what I intended by an open, public meeting whereby people can comment if they so choose, just like any other caucus we've ever had – if they do it respectfully through the chair or presiding officer. That's what I meant in the e-mail. I agree with that as well so we don't have a mob here.

Councilman Klepacz responded that's what I'm saying. I don't know what the choice is going to be. If the chair so chooses, or asks if so and so can speak, I don't have a problem. Again, my concern again is that I don't want to have a hearing as we've had in the past for senior housing or sidewalks. That would not be productive, in my opinion.

Mayor Kurtz commented, the fact that this was public through the papers and news media people had ample opportunity to be here and they're not here.

Tara Quinn responded, I think I said executive session.

Mayor Kurtz stated so a Special Council meeting is set for Tuesday, May 6th at 4:45 p.m.

Councilman Riley stated we're coming here, having a brief discussion and then voting on the replacement for Vern.

Councilman Klepacz replied, that's correct.

Tara Quinn asked, will the vice mayor be voted on that same night?

Tom Narduzzi replied I think we need all seven council members present to vote for that.

Mayor Kurtz added, that's another step.

Councilman Klepacz stated that's another step; and I think we need to do the first one first.

Councilman Narduzzi asked so in e-mails we're not going to change the rules throughout the week on how we're going to do this? It's set in stone right now. We're coming here next week, a brief discussion and take a vote?

Councilman Klepacz replied right.

Councilman Crooks added the only e-mail correspondence I plan to have is if I have thoughts that I'm ready to share in terms of a secret ballot or vote.

If the Clerk could e-mail these minutes as soon as possible, then that would be fantastic.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Klepacz, to adjourn the Special Council Meeting. Council polled: yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Special Council Meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Susan E. Kurshuk, Clerk of Council
