

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 9, 2008 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS**

CAUCUS:

Vice Mayor Jim Riley called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m. Present were Mayor Gregory Kurtz, Council Members Jim Crooks, Dave Grendel (arrived at 6:30 p.m.), George Klepacz, Tom Narduzzi, Jim Piteo and Anthony Togliatti. Also present were Law Director Gregory O'Brien, Engineer Don Elewski, Engineering Coordinator Don Ramm, Economic Development Director Ron White, Service Director Dave Snyderburn (arrived at 6:15 p.m.).

Vice Mayor Riley stated there are a couple of issues to discuss. First, Councilman Piteo had called me, saying he received some information from Don Ramm regarding lower Brookside. He then asked Don to present it.

Don Ramm stated bids were received recently. We checked the references of the low bidder and found nothing but high remarks for him. This type of work is predominantly what he does, wetland mitigation, stream work, and pond dredging is right up his alley. We felt it was the perfect contractor to have here. We spoke with a lot of his references, people with whom I personally have worked with, from city governments to the Geauga and Lorain County Metroparks. He is out of Norwalk and goes where the work is, he is not afraid to work where the jobs are. A lot of the people who hired him for the first time did reference checks. They were a little bit leery because they never heard of him before, but having been through one, or two, or three projects with him they would gladly hire him back.

Vice Mayor Riley stated that work is under Resolution 2008-108 for \$139,439. That is coming out of the self-insurance fund, no changes on the appropriation. He asked if there were any questions on this item. There were none.

Vice Mayor Riley stated the second issue is what Councilman Crooks brought to my attention. Last year Council passed the Five-Year Capital Plan, and the deadline, which was extended, is now October 31st, and that needs to be completed. He asked Councilman Crooks to give the details.

Councilman Crooks stated, just to bring Council up to speed on the process we have begun to complete this Five-Year Capital Plan. We received a memo from the administration about two weeks ago outlining the components for the planned capital. That memo was put together based on a Finance Committee meeting we had sometime in mid-August. We, basically, identified five or six areas where we expect, in the final product of the plan, to have a dollar amount for the components.

Councilman Crooks said the first component was departmental projects, fire trucks, police cruisers, etc., over the course of the next five years.

Councilman Crooks said the second component of capital improvements is infrastructure projects, which would include replacing streets and sidewalks, construction of new streets and sidewalks, sanitary sewer projects, storm water projects, etc. At the Safety Committee meeting we decided to include new street lights and utility lines in the infrastructure component. So, along with the departmental capital, we should have a separate line item in the Five-Year Capital Plan for infrastructure.

Third, it may or may not be subjective as to whether it is a planned capital item, but, in terms of paying down debt going forward, if we could put our thoughts together prior to the deadline, in terms of how much debt we plan to pay down in the next five years, just to give us something to shoot for.

Fourth, we need to take an inventory of all the City assets. There are about 25 buildings, or so, and we need to look at all those buildings and find out when was the last time we did the roof, carpet, HVAC, etc. When and at what cost will those items need to be replaced or upgraded in future dollars.

Fifth is land acquisition. We have put these five components together in a simple binder which we will use as our working document. The five components include departmental capital, infrastructure, debt reduction, facilities, land acquisition.

Councilman Crooks stated Finance Director Veres has put together a chart showing his thoughts for what the Five-Year Capital Plan would look like. Councilman Crooks described the components of the chart.

Councilman Crooks stated we have begun the process. It will be a consuming process, we have never done this before. Finance Director Veres has asked us to hold off on our efforts until he is done with CAFR (Comprehensive Annual Financial Report) and has filed his reports. We will put our time and energy into this and have a Finance Committee meeting sometime next Tuesday afternoon to go through this plan in greater detail.

The Mayor had already begun the process by asking the department heads to put together their capital items with dollar amounts. So, we should have that information soon. My idea for the next Finance Committee Meeting is to assign responsibilities to members of the various committees. Such as, if a streets project needs to have a dollar amount, we will ask the Streets & Sidewalks Committee Chairman; if there is a utilities project, we will ask the Chairman of the Utilities Committee, etc. We will outline the timeline based on the components we believe make up the capital plan. If there are any additions, please bring it to my attention before the end of the week. I hope to have a summary memo in the packets this Friday about what we have talked about today and what we plan to talk about next Tuesday at the Finance Committee meeting.

Vice Mayor Riley stated, as you mentioned, Finance Director Veres has started and the Mayor's staff have begun work on the Five-Year Plan.

Vice Mayor Riley said we have created lists in the past. Sometimes what is considered to be a priority falls by the wayside and we end up doing something else. We have to keep in mind that

if there is a road project to be done, or a piece of equipment to be purchased, if we don't do it in 2009, we can't forget about it—it has to be done the following year.

Vice Mayor Riley said we are taking a good step in having a plan and it is important to stick to the plan. There are always unforeseen emergencies that pop up, but I think this is a good idea and it is time sensitive, we need to get this done. If anyone has any questions, give them to Councilman Crooks for his meeting on Tuesday.

Mayor Kurtz stated we will have a workshop soon. I had a brief meeting with John Kerezy on the senior survey. Information is still trickling in and is being compiled. He indicated to me that there are several points that need to be made. Residents have made it clear, one, they are suggesting additional programs that would allow them to stay in their homes, and John Kerezy will outline that. A number of residents are looking for housing alternatives that will keep them in the community. Third, there have been numerous suggestions and ideas generated concerning Downtown Redevelopment. John will complete his compilation of data and we should be in a position to have a discussion in a workshop soon. We can have it after the Finance Committee meeting next week, if not, we can do it in two weeks. Vice Mayor Riley stated, according to Kathleen Kapusta, the response is really good.

Mayor Kurtz stated we received over 500, about a 30% return, which is very good. We will present that at a workshop. Councilman Grendel stated we typically would have a workshop on September 23rd. Councilman Crooks stated he may have to have a Finance Committee meeting next week, so the 23rd for a workshop would be good.

Vice Mayor Riley stated on the agenda tonight is Resolution 2008-101 to create the Strategic Planning Committee as a Council committee. There were two changes. Instead of putting three people on it, it is all seven members of Council. One thing we talked about is it has to meet at least twice a year so that this doesn't become a committee that is forgotten about. The strategic planning process begins and continues forever. Does anyone else have any comments?

Councilman Togliatti said, based on the Council Workshop of August 26, the Mayor made a comment to pass legislation so it will be memorialized; that this is going to be ongoing, but it is not going to be a specific committee or to Council. I was under the impression, and I think all of us were under the impression that this was not going to be a standing committee. I believe this is what we all agreed upon in that workshop. I was a little surprised to see this legislation.

Vice Mayor Riley said, when I called the Law Department, I requested that it meet at least twice per year.

Discussion ensued regarding everyone's understanding of what transpired at the workshop, whether or not it would be a standing committee, how often it would meet, etc.

Mayor Kurtz stated we are not that far apart on this matter. What is important is one, you agree that you are going to meet at least two times per year to talk about strategy for the future. Two, I think it is important that the title be clear that this Council is committed to strategic planning, future planning. We are going on record with the resolution and what is in the body of it, and

you are asking future Councils to continue this tradition. The proof will be in how successful it is over at least the next year and one-half.

Further discussion ensued regarding the type of a committee the members of Council want to create.

Mayor Kurtz suggested that a decision be made; that the committee will meet to talk strategies for the future. You are committed to do that by passing something like this.

Law Director O'Brien suggested that the title be amended and Section 1 be changed according to the wishes of Council.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Klepacz, to amend the title of Resolution 2008-101 to read: "A Resolution Creating the Strategic Planning Committee and declaring an emergency" and to change Section I to read: "Council hereby creates a Strategic Planning Committee which shall meet at least two times in any calendar year, except for the year 2008 in which it shall meet at least once, to review the progress of the achievement of said City strategic goals;". Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Vice Mayor Riley stated next is Ordinance 2008-50 amending the annual appropriation ordinance. He stated everyone has Finance Director Veres' legislative review and asked if there were any questions. There were none.

Vice Mayor Riley stated next is Ordinance 2008-51 establishing compensation for certain part-time employees. We have given increases to our full-time employees, but we haven't changed the part-time rates in a few years, so this is more of a housekeeping.

Mayor Kurtz said this is just updating part-time rates. The Police Chief brought it to my attention at staff meeting that we haven't upgraded this in several years. We have the opportunity to move it up with everyone else. It is just a little housekeeping as far as the Chief is concerned.

Vice Mayor Riley said Ordinances 2008-52 and 53 are increases for members of the Planning Commission, Board of Zoning Appeals and Civil Service Commission. It's been about ten years since they have had an increase.

Councilman Narduzzi said he would like to amend those ordinances to start in 2009 so we won't have to change appropriations, as Finance Director Veres indicated may be necessary if passed.

Moved by Narduzzi, seconded by Piteo, to amend the Ordinance 2008-52 to become effective January 1, 2009. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Narduzzi, seconded by Piteo, to amend the Ordinance 2008-53 to become effective January 1, 2009. Council polled: 6 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Vice Mayor Riley said Resolution 2008-104 is to authorize the purchase of a hook lift assembly for the Service Department.

Mayor Kurtz stated this is consistent with our capital budget for the back of a truck.

Vice Mayor Riley said Resolution 2008-105 is a change order to the concrete work by F.P. Allega.

Mayor Kurtz stated the Service Department has a number of pavement repairs and concrete replacement that needs to be done yet this year. Finance Director Veres has indicated it isn't a problem with our amendment.

Councilman Crooks asked if this takes us to the top of the budget amount.

Mayor Kurtz replied yes.

Vice Mayor Riley said Resolution 2008-106 is for the bid of Cargill. This is a good price for salt.

Councilman Klepacz said he will be voting "no" because Cargill is anti-worker and I don't like their management philosophy, which is nationwide. So, I'll be voting "no." I'm not voting against the salt, I'm voting against Cargill.

Councilman Piteo asked if it is guaranteed that we get that amount.

Councilman Riley stated they have to provide that. If not, Service Director Snyderburn has an alternative source which will cost us more.

Mayor Kurtz said another thing we are looking at is creating some additional space in the back to be able to secure some more. We are going to see if we can do something in house quickly, before the end of the year, to store more, ourselves. You can see, with the legislation, we are also looking at the various methods of diluting to try and pre-salt with the apparatus we are going to purchase in order to be creative in trying to find ways to not use as much salt.

Councilman Klepacz said that is the salt/brine spreader.

Vice Mayor Riley said yes, Resolution 2008-107 is for a salt/brine spreader which goes on the road and you don't lose as much bouncing off onto lawns.

Mayor Kurtz added, you can pre-salt with it.

Councilman Klepacz asked whether we want to consider lowering expectancies.

Mayor Kurtz stated before the winter we will be educating our people. We can't control the price of salt. There are certain areas, Brecksville Road, Rockside Road, and intersections which we have to do, but we don't have to do long straight aways, we don't have to do side streets, other than main intersections. We are in the process of reviewing the procedures of several

different communities, such as Akron—they are much more sophisticated than we are. If we can find ways to not use as much salt, this is the year to do that. We need to educate the people to change their driving habits, because we are not going to take the streets down to bare asphalt.

We have enough plows to keep it open, but people are going to have to change their driving habits.

Vice Mayor Riley said we are not lowering the standards, we are working more efficiently.

Councilman Piteo said the brine system actually is a faster way to get the roads done.

Vice Mayor Riley said we talked about Resolution 2008-108 earlier, it is for lower Brookside. He asked Don Ramm when the project will begin.

Don Ramm said as soon as we have signed contracts, and have a preconstruction meeting, then, hopefully, it will be under construction at the end of October.

Vice Mayor Riley said Resolution 2008-109 is for an amendment to an easement from John D. Solomon and Janet Simon.

Councilman Narduzzi said this is for a fence they want to put up on their property which has an easement on it. This is to protect the City. In the event we want to work on the easement in the future, we are not responsible for the fence. The easement was pointed out on a map.

Mayor Kurtz stated there is one more piece of legislation for the library levy that was not put on the agenda because I felt it was important that we discuss it and make sure there is support. Unless there is some objection, we can pass that tonight. Response from members of Council was favorable. Mayor Kurtz said we can then put that on the agenda as Resolution No. 2008-110.

Service Director Snyderburn stated the \$25,000 that was allocated, probably for the last three years, for the Hemlock Cemetery fence would have easily replaced the fence the way it was, but we are putting up columns and lights. This is the reason for the increase. The estimate is \$36,900 to \$42,900.

Mayor Kurtz said for those items that are above \$7,500, Council is going to have to approve them. Once we have some figures, if it is in between meetings and you don't have any objection, we will call members of Council for a voice vote to keep the project going. Other than that, we will have a workshop and can do it then, and we will have all the documentation to support the figure we have.

Dave asked the Mayor if he could get started.

Mayor Kurtz said there are certain components. As long as it's not the same contractor.

Discussion ensued concerning the Hemlock Cemetery fence being taken down today and the appearance of the proposed new fence, along with whether it is necessary to go out for bids.

Service Director Snyderburn said the fence they just took down was dangerous, storms kept damaging it, and because of that there was the possibility of the fence falling down onto someone on the sidewalk and injuring them.

There was further discussion concerning the proposed fence requiring three different contractors for the work, electrician, masonry, etc., and the cost to prepare specs and bid out.

Councilman Grendel entered the meeting.

Mayor Kurtz said we can get at least three prices and make a recommendation. He also said we are going to put the footers in, and we are going to put the electric in. We will buy the stone and other materials and have someone put it in. We can then bid the fencing out. We can do it like we did the park. He asked if that was ok. There was no opposition.

Councilman Klepacz said he understands AT&T is trying to string cable or wire, and he was told by a resident that according to AT&T, they are having a problem getting their permits. My question is, is that true or false? Law Director commented there is a legal issue.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to recess the Council Caucus for an Executive Session to discuss pending litigation. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Council Caucus was recessed at 6:40 p.m.

EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The Executive Session was convened at 6:45 p.m. to discuss pending litigation. Present were Council Members Crooks, Grendel, Klepacz, Narduzzi, Piteo, Riley and Togliatti. Also present were Mayor Kurtz, Law Director O'Brien, and Economic Development Director Ron White.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Piteo, to adjourn the Executive Session and reconvene the Council Caucus. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Executive Session was adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

The Council Caucus was reconvened at 7:01 p.m.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Piteo, to adjourn the Council Caucus. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Council Caucus was adjourned at 7:01 p.m.

COUNCIL MEETING:

Mayor Gregory Kurtz called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m. Present were Council Members Jim Crooks, Dave Grendel, George Klepacz, Tom Narduzzi, Jim Piteo, Jim Riley and Anthony Togliatti. Also present were Law Director Gregory O'Brien, Engineer Don Elewski, Community Services Director Natalie Buc, Technical Services Director Tom Avsec, Service Director Dave

Snyderburn, Assistant Recreation Director Anthony Appenzeller, Building Commissioner Carl Opatrny, Fire Chief Peter Nelson and Police Chief John Nicastro.

Pastor Jeff Thompson from the Scranton Road Bible Church said the prayer. The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

MAYOR'S REPORT:

Mayor Kurtz stated, as Summer makes its final appearance for the year, I wish everyone the best for a happy Autumn season and remind everyone that our Fall Fest is on Sunday, September 28, at Elmwood Park. Even though the days are getting a bit cooler, and the sun is setting a bit earlier, there is a lot to be excited about in Independence.

The most gratifying is the overwhelming community response to the first round of information gathering relative to senior needs. Last month, I reported that the surveying and information gathering were underway. Today, I can tell you that more than 500 surveys were completed and returned. In addition, about 50 residents participated in small focus groups. Clearly, the community wanted to be heard. I'm glad Council agreed to take the time to get the community's input, as we shape our vision for the future.

What are we learning from the survey responses? Well, unofficially, they indicate that there is a need for alternative housing options. While most of us already knew that, there is also a great desire by many seniors to remain in their homes for as long as possible, and to have more options for City assistance. During our information gathering, many seniors expressed to me "there is no place like home." I could not agree more.

As we wrap up Phase 1, we begin Phase 2, which is just as important. This is the phase where we once again survey the community to get their thoughts on Downtown Redevelopment. To this end, last month we met with the Downtown Revitalization Task Force, and essentially conducted a preliminary focus group with them. It was a productive gathering. We are undertaking, in part, what that group recommended long ago—conduct a survey.

Beginning in October, residents should know that some of you will be contacted by a professional information gathering firm that will be asking for your input on Downtown Independence. While this is the season for surveys, and polls with the presidential election nearing, I ask that you help us out and participate in this process. Surveys should run through the first two weeks of October. After that, we will be conducting another round of focus groups to get more information.

The success that we had in Phase 1 is required for Phase 2. I hope everyone called upon will participate.

Once all of this information is collected and organized, we will come before the people to share the results. Until that time, I will keep the community updated on our progress as the process moves forward.

OFFICIALS' REPORTS:

ENGINEER:

Engineer Elewski reported we are accepting the bid for the North Channel of Brookside Road for sediment removal. Part of that project is to improve the roadway drainage on both sides of Brookside. On the agenda is an existing easement that came up where they are adding a fence to be included in that easement. I have been working with Don Ramm on various other projects.

SERVICE DIRECTOR:

Service Director Snyderburn stated, I wanted to show off the new bus, they brought it here tonight for everyone to look at it, and you are welcome to go inside. I will go out after the Council meeting to turn on the lights for you.

We will be picking up leaves the first week of October, starting October 6th, and we will be diligent this year, you don't have to call in, we will pick them up on the day of your rubbish collection, and we will try to pick them up even sooner.

COMMUNITY SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Community Services Director Buc stated we have been cleaning up the Civic Center the last few weeks, we got the carpet and tile cleaned. Our calendar is getting booked up with room rentals. We had registration last week for our September-October programs, and we look forward to seeing everybody there.

RECREATION DIRECTOR:

Assistant Recreation Director/Park Foreman Appenzeller, sitting in for Ed Kostyack, stated, I would like to thank park maintenance staff, the pool staff, and the Recreation Department for another fun and safe summer.

The soccer program is underway, it began this past weekend, the flag football teams have been established and will be played on Tuesdays and Thursdays on the outfield of Diamond 1, at 6 and 7 p.m., starting September 16.

This past Saturday, the outdoor pool held its third annual dog swim and, once again, it was a great success. I can't speak for the dogs, but I'm sure they had a great time. I believe they had the largest turn out for that event yet.

Repairs to the Field House floor were completed this past Friday, September 5. Minor patch work and paint touch-up were done, and they also added some ladder lines which are used for agility and coordination skills.

TECHNICAL SERVICES DIRECTOR:

Technical Services Director Avsec stated I would like to welcome our new Technical Services Technician, Eric Latterner. He started his employment with the City yesterday, and we look forward to him providing his skills as an HVAC technician. The upgrade to the Service Department HVAC system will begin next week and is in the 2008 budget.

BUILDING COMMISSIONER:

Building Commissioner Opatrny stated the Meadows Subdivision Phase II project has been approved for seven lots off of E. Pleasant Valley Road. We expect to see some construction, possibly, before the end of the year on the roadway.

The Board of Zoning Appeals is in the process of reviewing potential changes to the City ordinances to improve the zoning process.

The Shell gas station at the corner of Brecksville Road and Rockside has received approval for a new entrance and exit on the east side of their facility so that you may make a right turn in or a right turn out onto Brecksville Road.

FIRE CHIEF:

Fire Chief Nelson stated, on behalf of the Fire Department, I'd like to congratulate part-time firefighter Tom Cramer and his wife, Amy, on the birth of their son, Matthew. All of them are doing very well.

Fire Prevention Week is October 5th to the 11th, and the theme this year is preventing home fires. Our firefighters will be out into the schools in the next few weeks to get this message across to our children. If you would like to get more information on that, I would advise you to go to NFPA.org.

Also, I would like to announce that Assistant Fire Chief Frank Kruszewski, or as most people call him Fireman Frank, is retiring. His last day of work is October 10. He has had a long career in fire service, 31 years, 18 of them were here in Independence. He surely will be missed. He did a lot and was certainly a fixture of the Fire Department. If you are ever in Florida, look him up, he'll be in Ocala.

POLICE CHIEF:

Police Chief Nicastro stated, I received a few phone calls from people who were curious as to what was going on Saturday at about 1:30 with a lot of police cars in the center of town. We had a slight power outage when one of the poles caught fire and some lights came down. So, for about three hours, we had to reroute traffic, but it got fixed with no major problems.

Chief Nicastro said I would like to recognize Bob Ornas, who has worked for our Police Department for many years as jailer. Bob is also retiring and his last day is September 12. We wish him well, and we will miss him.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

COMMUNITY SERVICES – (TOGLIATTI):

Councilman Togliatti stated, I would first like to commend our Community Services Department and the Recreation Department on a fun-filled summer of family events. Everything, from the concerts on the square, Home Days, and even this past weekend's dog swim in the Elmwood pool, were fantastic. We are hoping to see everyone at the Fall Fest and Clambake on Sunday, September 28th. Order your clams now to ensure that there are enough to go around.

I am pleased to report that we have had a very good success rate with the senior housing surveys. This information will be critical in determining the needs of our senior residents and in helping the City to develop a successful senior housing strategy. If you still have uncompleted surveys, please complete and return them. I also encourage all seniors to complete and return their snow removal applications to the Community Services Department. Remember, in the Cleveland area, we never know when the first snow will fall.

I would like to invite all residents to this year's CERT (Citizens Emergency Response Team) training classes. The information presented can be lifesaving. The classes help to prepare you and the community for everything, from power outages and natural disasters to mass epidemics. I will be completing my final CERT classes this fall and graduating with the class of 2008. Information on the classes can be found on the City's website.

Now that fall is upon us, school is back in session. I wish all students the best of luck in both academics and athletics this year.

Lastly, I would like to send my condolences to the Boehm, Giegel, Sadowski and Zelazny families.

PUBLIC LANDS AND BUILDINGS – (NARDUZZI):

Councilman Narduzzi stated, I would like to send my condolences to Janine Boehm and her family on the loss of her father. Let us all keep Janine and her family in our prayers.

Members of the Zoning Board of Appeals met and discussed proposed changes to our current codes and zoning restrictions. Some topics of discussion were: The working of accessory building sizes and dimensions; revisiting the definition of utility buildings versus garages; pool houses; generators, both residential and commercial; fences, from cosmetic to privacy to deer deterrent; signs and/or signage; and overnight parking on streets or in driveways.

Councilman Narduzzi said I am in the process of compiling a list and the Board's recommendations of change to forward to the Rules and Ordinances Committee for their review.

The members of the Zoning Board of Appeals will meet on a regular basis to help bring some of our out-dated codes up to date.

Last month I mentioned that work would start in a couple of weeks on the demolition of the Hemlock Cemetery fence. It's a few weeks late, but work began today and will last about a month. The new fence will be a great beautification to the area.

Tonight, on the agenda is Resolution 2008-101, a resolution to create the Strategic Planning Committee. I support this resolution fully. I believe in the effort for all seven Council members to plan for the future and act accordingly, to be proactive and not reactive. This resolution initiates positive thinking.

This resolution is a task needed to achieve the improvement of current services provided to our residents. It is a task needed to achieve implementation of new services for our residents. It is a task needed to achieve future growth of our Fire and safety forces to protect our residents. It is a task needed to achieve smart planning of our commercial and residential development and being sensitive to our residents, and it is a task needed to achieve smart planning of our parks, recreation areas and green spaces.

Some may say that this is what Council members are supposed to take care of. Unfortunately, we get caught up in the day-to-day business of maintaining our City and are not planning for our future City. What this resolution creates is time, time to set aside for planning the future of our City. A task needed to achieve both long and short-term goals to keep our City the best place to live, work and raise a family.

FINANCE COMMITTEE – (CROOKS):

Councilman Crooks stated, reporting as Chairman of the Finance Committee, the City has begun a process that is the first process that we have participated in ever, and that is completing a Five-Year Capital Plan. Council passed legislation for this plan last year, and we extended the deadline earlier this year. Mayor Kurtz stated it was in October 2008.

Councilman Crooks stated, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, it's going to involve me a great deal and I want to report on that. We have begun the process and have had several meetings with the Finance Director.

The Five-Year Capital Plan is going to include several components. The first component is going to be departmental capital projects or items. We are asking department heads to submit what they plan to spend by the way of capital projects over the next five years.

We are also going to include an infrastructure component—what street and sidewalk projects, storm water, and sanitary sewer projects there will be. We will try, as best as possible, to estimate those out five years.

It is also going to include a focus on how much money we want to put aside in the next five years for debt reduction.

The fourth component is going to be to take a look at our public facilities and our assets. What do we need to do with City Hall, the Civic Center, the twenty-five, or so, public facilities. We are going to take a look at those over the next five years and try to plan out what expenses we anticipate.

The final major component of the Five-Year Capital Plan will be land acquisition. What land does the City have its eye on, so that we can protect it permanently so we can use it for our own needs.

We are going to take those five components, for the first time ever, and plan that out over the course of the next five years. It is all part of this concept of strategic planning that the City has committed to over the course of the last three years. It's going to take a lot of work and the responsibility will fall solely on the shoulders of a few people. It will take all of Council, as a whole, the Finance Director, the Finance Committee, myself, and the Mayor. So, you can look forward to future reports on the Five-Year Capital Plan in the coming months.

By way of legislation, tonight we have Resolution 2008-101, and that is the creation of the Strategic Planning Committee. Although legislation doesn't take on the nature of the committee that I think it could take on without compromising the City's integrity, anyway, I think it is a victory that we are going to make a commitment to the long-term interest of the City and we are going to do it via the Strategic Planning Committee, and that all of Council will participate.

The other piece of legislation is Resolution 2008-110, which was added at the Caucus, and it is a resolution supporting the Cuyahoga County Public Library. I see a representative in the audience, and I had the chance to attend several meetings on behalf of the City for the library. He knows the library is putting together a list of communities that are going to support it, and I'd be proud to have Independence be one of those communities after the vote tonight.

At this point, Val Kocin, of the Cuyahoga County Library spoke, saying thank you very much for your support. I hope everyone here considers seriously voting for the levy, it represents fifty percent of our operating budget. If the levy does pass, it's 2 mills plus an additional ½ mill, which equates to \$1.76 more per month for a \$100,000 home value. I hope you all have library cards. If not, we have great things that are coming up that are just spectacular. First off, for the non-profits. One thing I am really proud to say is we are not your mother's library or your grandmother's library, we are quite different. We are really interested in revitalizing Independence and Northeast Ohio and our economy. One thing we are going to do to support non-profit is to have a foundation center in our branch. I don't want to take up your valuable time, but what the foundation center will do is match grantors and grantees. Why not have all these national grants granted to our geographic area, rather than Wisconsin. We are going to work very closely with all of Northeast Ohio to get grants coming to our area. There is an enormous health fair coming up, in cooperation with the City. It is with Dr. Roizen who is one of Oprah's health gurus. More information to come on that. As you know, libraries are big on

books, and we are big on literacy. We talked to the schools and they said one of the number one areas of concern was teenage boys and their drop off of reading rate, these teenage boys don't like to read. We have an author visit on the 29th of this month, and I hope that you all will join us. We are very pleased about an ad in Sunday's Plain Dealer for their levy and I have a copy if you didn't see it.

Councilman Crooks stated the information gathering process that we have participated in by way of gathering information from the seniors is going to take a starched shift to include the entire community and obtain their input when it comes to what they would like to see in Downtown Independence. It's an important component to gathering information. The residents in our community can expect that in the next six weeks, or so, and there will be more to come on that in the future.

UTILITIES COMMITTEE – (PITEO):

Councilman Piteo stated, on the agenda tonight is a resolution authorizing the purchase of a salt brine spreader unit for the Service Department. There has been a 20% increase this year in bulk salt price. In some areas of the state, salt prices are doubling, with no promise that the amount of salt needed will be provided. The higher cost of keeping streets free of snow has service personnel throughout Ohio scrambling to find a better way to go to business.

The purchase of a salt brine spreader gives Independence the very latest technology in salt brine use. It will allow for better management of salt that some day could lead to better management of snow removal procedures. I look forward to seeing the results of our salt brine snow removal program, and I applaud the Service Director for looking at an innovative was to address snow removal in the future.

School has started. I implore all drivers to be cautious and obey the law when approaching school buses from the front or behind. Your stopped car should be no closer than 10 feet from a stopped school bus.

STREETS AND SIDEWALKS COMMITTEE – (RILEY):

Vice Mayor Riley stated, as Councilman Piteo mentioned, there are a few items on the agenda pertaining to snow removal. Also, the price of salt we have is \$40 some per ton, which is really low, considering what a lot of other cities are going to be paying this year. So, good job, Dave, on keeping that contract and extending it.

The columns near the lake in the park are completed. All we are waiting for is the fence installation. I believe the same type of fencing we use there will be used across the street at Hemlock Cemetery.

On the Agenda there are two issues. Earlier, we talked about the Five-Year Capital Plan process, keeping that moving, and the Strategic Planning Committee. I believe both of these issues are very, very important and needed in this community.

Lastly, I would like to mention that we purchased the new sewer truck last month. He had the opportunity to go out with the sewer crew on the truck. The equipment in there is amazing, it is state-of-the-art. I know Councilman Piteo, who had worked on the old sewer truck, was concerned about what would happen with it. Before they traded it in, I went and took one of the pins off of it and I would like to present it to Councilman Piteo so he could remember the old sewer truck that he had worked on.

SAFETY COMMITTEE – (GRENDL):

Councilman Grendel stated there was a Safety Committee Meeting held on Tuesday, September 2nd. We continue to get updates on the Hillside Road/Brecksville Road Traffic Signal Project from Don Ramm. His update also included the report from Flynn Environmental, Inc. regarding the soil boring test at the Sunoco site.

The Committee discussed the upcoming deer hunting season and the City's readiness for the second year of operation under the hunting ordinance. As was the case last year, the Safety Committee will monitor the implementation of this ordinance.

Councilman Grendel said Chief Nelson gave an update on the recently passed EMS billing ordinance. We are hopeful to initiate the program by January of 2009.

A good portion of the Safety meeting was spent on an overview of each department's Five-Year Capital Plan, as well as staffing needs in the Police Department. We got off to a good start, we got figures and both our chiefs are ready to go and they had updated information regarding the Five-Year Capital Plan.

Dave Snyderburn gave the Committee members a tour of the Safety and Natural Disaster Trailer, which had been acquired and equipped through Cuyahoga County grant money. It was very impressive that we were able to get something like that and, hopefully, we won't have to use it too many times, but there are going to be some situations and circumstances when we will need it.

As a result of the Safety Committee meeting, Ordinance 2008-51 is on the agenda tonight, which updates the limits of compensation for part-time employees of the City, including part-time clerk-dispatchers, jailers, technical service professionals, deputies, patrol persons and school guards. We are seeking Council's approval tonight of this ordinance.

Finally, I wish to thank our dear friends in the City of Independence who have been so kind to my son, Danny, and our family, during the past few weeks. Dan has been diagnosed with Hodgkin's disease, which is a cancer of the lymph nodes. He will start an intense program of chemotherapy tomorrow, and the acts of kindness with meals and prayers from our many friends in this City are greatly appreciated. This challenge has brought our close-knit family even closer together, and with prayers from all of you, my son will win this battle with Hodgkin's. May God bless you.

RULES AND ORDINANCES COMMITTEE – (KLEPACZ):

The newsletter may come out late for this announcement, but the Kiwanis Chicken Bar-B-Q is September 21st, which is a week from this coming Sunday. Originally, it was scheduled for the 14th, but the Kiwanis of Independence recognizes the importance of the Cleveland Browns-Pittsburgh Steelers game, and so it was moved to September 21st so everybody could attend and enjoy the best chicken in the area.

I will echo the remarks of my other colleagues, Councilmen Togliatti, and Crooks, who pointed out the importance of senior housing issues and how important it is that we move forward on them. This is an issue which is long overdue in our City. I will also remind people again, that the CERT program (Citizen Emergency Response Team) is, in fact, having more classes, and Mr. Togliatti will complete his graduation requirements this year. I completed my graduation requirements for it the first year because I happen to be the coordinator for our City. You can look at the Independence web site and click on the CERT link.

Again, my prayers go out to Councilman Grendel and, to the Boehm, Giegel, Sadowski and Zelazny families, I give my condolences.

Tonight's legislation, Resolution 2008-106, is a resolution for purchasing road salt for this coming winter season. I will be voting against this resolution, not because I am against putting salt on the roads, but I am voting against the Cargill Corp. Cargill's management has an anti-worker philosophy which is exhibited, not only here in Northeast Ohio, but around the entire country. So, I will be voting against Cargill. I know we need to keep our streets clean, however, I would really like to find another vendor. The Service Director has assured us that this year we are going to be much more efficient cleaning our streets with the addition of the salt/brine spreader.

LEGISLATION:

SECOND READING

RESOLUTION 2008-101 A RESOLUTION AMENDING RESOLUTION 2008-05 TO CREATE THE STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

FIRST READING

ORDINANCE 2008-50 2008 AMENDED ANNUAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2008-51 AN ORDINANCE ESTABLISHING COMPENSATION FOR CERTAIN PART-TIME EMPLOYEES AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Narduzzi, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2008-52 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTIONS 1 AND 2 OF ORDINANCE NO. 1994-54 REGARDING THE PLANNING COMMISSION AND BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated it should be noted that this ordinance was amended during the caucus and it will take effect January, 2009. It should also be noted that there has not been an increase in the Planning Commission and Board of Zoning Appeals compensation in ten years.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

ORDINANCE 2008-53 AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 1 OF ORDINANCE NO. 1989-2 REGARDING THE CIVIL SERVICE

COMMISSION COMPENSATION AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated this will also take effect January 1, 2009, and it has been almost eight or nine years since this has been changed.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-104 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A HOOK LIFT ASSEMBLY FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Piteo, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Piteo, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated this is for the back of a fork lift truck.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-105 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING CHANGE ORDER NO. 2 TO THE MISCELLANEOUS CONCRETE WORK FOR 2008 CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY AND F.P. ALLEGA CONCRETE CONSTRUCTION CORP. AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Narduzzi, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-106 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF CARGILL INC., SALT DIVISION FOR THE PROVIDING OF ROCK SALT TO THE CITY FOR 2008-2009 PURSUANT TO THE JOINT

MUNICIPAL IMPROVEMENT CONSORTIUM AND
DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to read by title only. Council polled: 6 yes/1 no (Klepacz); motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-107 A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE PURCHASE OF A SALT/BRINE SPREADER UNIT FOR THE SERVICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated this is also a unit that will fit on the back of one of four trucks that we can use to help with some of the cost of additional salt.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-108 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE BID OF HAYNES CONSTRUCTION FOR THE BROOKSIDE NORTH CHANNEL SEDIMENT REMOVAL AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Discussion: Mayor Kurtz stated this is for lower Brookside where there is a serious challenge along the road and we will have the chance to fix that up.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Riley, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-109 A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING AN AMENDMENT TO AN EASEMENT FROM JOHN D. SOLOMON AND JANET SIMON AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Piteo, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Narduzzi, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

RESOLUTION 2008-110 A RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF THE OPERATING LEVY FOR THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY PUBLIC LIBRARY AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to read by title only. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Grendel, seconded by Crooks, to suspend the rule requiring two separate readings. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Grendel, to adopt. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Moved by Riley, seconded by Crooks, to adjourn the Regular Council Meeting. Council polled: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

There being no further business to discuss, the Regular Council Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Gayle Rudary, Pro Tem Clerk of Council
