

Vote Outcome: Passed  
Yes: 7 No: 0  
Adopted Date: 3-25-2024  
Effective Date: 3-25-2024

ORDINANCE NO.: 13-2024

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR MATTHEW A. BURKE

AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO DO ALL THINGS NECESSARY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE NORTHEAST OHIO REGIONAL SEWER DISTRICT (NEORSD) PROGRAM(S) FOR THE RECONSTRUCTION OF CATCH BASINS, INCLUDING, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, EXECUTING ANY AND ALL APPLICATIONS, AGREEMENTS AND /OR CONTRACTS AS MAY BE REQUIRED BY THE NEORSD IN ORDER TO SECURE THE FUNDS REQUESTED, PER THE APPLICATION AS PREPARED BY THE CITY ENGINEER

WHEREAS, Garfield Heights is pursuing funding for the reconstruction of catch basins; and

WHEREAS, this project is eligible for funding through the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Program(s); and

WHEREAS, the City of Garfield Heights desires to make an application for \$50,000.00 of funding through the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO, THAT:

SECTION 1. The Mayor is hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to participate in the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Program(s) for funding for the reconstruction of catch basins, including, but not limited to executing any and all applications, agreements and/or contracts as may be required by the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District, in order to secure the funds requested, as prepared by the City Engineer.

SECTION 2. Council declares this Ordinance to be an emergency measure necessary for the preservation of the public health, safety and welfare; therefore, this Ordinance shall be in full force and effect immediately upon the adoption by Council and approval by the Mayor; otherwise from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 3-25-2024

APPROVED: Matthew A. Burke  
MAYOR

ATTEST: Lottie O'neal  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

Amy Johnson  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL  
EFFECTIVE DATE: 3-25-2024

Vote Outcome: Passed  
Yes: 7 No: 0  
Adopted Date: 3-25-2024  
Effective Date: 4-24-2024

ORDINANCE NO.: 14-2024

SPONSORED BY: MAYOR MATTHEW A. BURKE

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 143.12 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS IN RELATION TO NEPOTISM

WHEREAS, upon review of Section 143.12 of the Garfield Heights Codified Ordinances, the City has deemed it necessary to modify its provisions on nepotism; and

WHEREAS, the City would like to update its nepotism clause to reflect the requirements of Ohio's ethics law and related statutes, and further ensure no qualified candidates are excluded from the hiring process while maintaining competitive and fair hiring practices.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT ORDAINED by the Council of the City of Garfield Heights, Ohio that:

SECTION 1. Chapter 143.12, *Nepotism* of the Codified Ordinances shall be amended to read as follows (newly added language shall appear in **bold**; removed language shall be ~~struckthrough~~):

**143.12 NEPOTISM.**

Employment by the City of two or more ~~related persons~~ is permissible, provided that:

- (a) employment is in accordance with the Ohio Ethics Law and related statutes found in Ohio Revised Code Chapter 102. and Section 2921.42; and**
- (b) (a)** Neither of the related persons is in a position to supervise or otherwise influence the work assignments, working conditions, promotion or compensation of the other; and
- ~~—(b) The prospective employee is not related to a department head or member of Council; and~~
- ~~—(c) The relationship is disclosed in writing to the Mayor and the appropriate department head(s) prior to employment.~~
- ~~—(d) This shall not affect the hiring of part time temporary employees.~~

For purposes of this section, “relative” shall mean an individual’s (1) spouse or domestic partner; (2) children (whether dependent or not); (3) siblings; (4) parents; (5) grandparents; and (6) grandchildren, and (7) any other person related by blood or by marriage and living in the same household.

Any conflicts between this section and the rules for hiring Civil Service employees shall be resolved in favor of the rules for hiring Civil Service employees.

SECTION 2. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after the earliest period allowed by law.

PASSED: 3-25-2024

APPROVED: Matthew A. Bla  
MAYOR

Kay H.  
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST: Lottie Overly  
CLERK OF COUNCIL

EFFECTIVE DATE: 4-24-2024

1<sup>ST</sup> READING 3-25-2024  
DATE

2<sup>ND</sup> READING \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

3<sup>RD</sup> READING \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE

**MINUTES OF A CAUCUS MEETING  
CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO  
Monday – March 11, 2024 – 6:30 pm**

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON** called the Caucus meeting for March 11, 2024 to order at 6:30 and asked for a roll call of Council members present.

**ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS PRESENT**

WARD 1: COUNCILWOMAN STACEY COLLIER  
WARD 2: COUNCILWOMAN TENISHA MACK  
WARD 3: COUNCILMAN MARK SMITH  
WARD 4: COUNCILMAN AVERY JOHNSON  
WARD 5: COUNCILWOMAN RACHELLE TONSING  
WARD 6: COUNCILMAN CLIFFORD KELLEY  
WARD 7: COUNCILWOMAN JENNIFER NEWRONES

**DISPOSAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

**CLMN KELLEY** made a motion to dispose of caucus minutes for Monday, February 26 and accept them as written. Councilwoman Newrones seconded.

All in Favor: 7 Yeas and 0 Nays.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATION TO COUNCIL:** None reported

-**Invocation and Pledge of Allegiance** to be led by Councilman Mark Smith on the floor.

**REPORTS FROM DIRECTORS**

**TYLON HILT- Building Commissioner-** No Report.

**JIM SICKELS from Engineering:** I presented everyone with an updated Council report for the engineering department. A few things to point out. Some upcoming projects are Antenucci resurfacing. That's an ODOT project run by ODOT. That's expected to start here soon. Garfield Boulevard probably will start later in the year when I say later, like still few months out. The county hasn't bid that out yet and I'm sure they'll let us know when there's a meeting with whoever they choose as a contractor and that time, I'll get more information to you. Midwest, Phase Five, which is the one on 98th Street there, that one they have to come back and do the resurfacing. So once the weather warms up enough, there'll be back to just get the top surface put down. It shouldn't cause the whole street to get closed down, but it'll be your normal paving where they'll have to close down part of the street as they pave it. Okay, multi Street, phase six: That one, they just have some punch list work to do. That means they'll come back and clean up anything that they didn't quite get done at the end of last year, clean up people's yards, put down seeding all that type of thing. That probably won't happen until the weather gets warm enough, like for normal planting. So I'm going to say probably more in the May- June timeframe.

The last project to make everyone aware of is phase seven. Right under where it says design status, there is a list of streets there. That's the current order that the contractor told us they are hoping to do the streets in. So it shows Russell be the first, then Wadsworth 115th, 90th and shady oak. That's all I have as an update.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**-RESOLUTION NUMBER 06-2024:** Women's History Month. Councilwoman Mack to introduce.

**-RESOLUTION NUMBER 07-2024:** Council Meeting summer session: Clwn Tonsing to introduce

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON** asked for any other miscellaneous business.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I have a question, Milko, Mr. Sickles, Mayor, is it possible for us to try to do a recreation study? I know we did parks but maybe we need to do a or some kind of survey for the rec department to see exactly what it is that the community is looking for from the rec department.

**MAYOR BURKE:** That has been conducted last year. I have a 97 page document of that parks and master plan which is basically what the recreation is all about.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Well then, here's my issue, Mayor per Conversation Saturday. Because I have a copy of that and I've looked at it and I have actually been trouting it out to my constituents, saying, This is what we're going to do. I kind of, you kind of led me to believe that you were not supporting that plan anymore, is what and maybe I misunderstood you in our conversation. So I was like, we need to do something different.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Well, I let me just say, it's not up to what I want or you want, it's really up to what the residents want, right? When we asked for public engagement, and the surveys to be done, we took the information from those surveys, which told us this is what they want and we're trying to address it. Now, if you look at this entire 97 page document, there's designs of what our parks could look like and renderings, that literally would take millions and millions of dollars to do, which we don't have millions and millions of dollars. So what we're trying to do is take what they give us here, and be able to provide it in a very equitable way, but also a way that we can afford as a city. We know one thing's for sure. No matter what we do, from this point, we still have to have engagement meetings on it. It's not like, we're having the conversation of having taking the tennis courts and turning them into a couple of basketball courts, a volleyball court, the taking out the skate park and adding pickleball. Over here, right by our rec center, taking the bocce court, possibly putting a zipline for the young kids to play on. Those are all things that we have to have still have renderings on, and we have to have public engagement meetings. Where I get discouraged, is every time we ask for public engagement, we see very little turnout. So what's the answer? You know, we see very little turnout. And it's not a direct reflection on any of us here. We put it on our website, we put it on the digital signs that we invested in, we put it into the neighborhood news. I mean, I don't know what else we could do; but what I will say is that when it comes time to have these meetings, I'm going to ask the council go out and make sure that the people in their respective wards know that this is something that's coming in, this is something we have to look at. I know Coach Johnson is going to come in and talk as well. One of the members of council is actually the one who told him to go look at the, at the tennis courts.

I got the phone call on Friday from him when he was there and I went and met him there and he said, "Mayor, this is exactly what we need over here and the courts are in good condition that you don't really have to do much". So money wise, it's not going to cost us that much. What we need to do is we need to have a Recreation Committee meeting, through council to talk about this. And hopefully we could do this, you know, a month away or so we can get the word out, make sure people understand that we need you to come in and talk about it.

Especially Ms. Tonsing here because that that is directly in Ward five and it would probably affect her constituents more than anyone. But you know, in talking with you, you said that, if it's something that helps the kids, this is something that you'd be in support of. But there's we got to also look at. There's ways you have to run it too. It's not like we're just going to open a basketball courts in here. Everybody just goes and plays on them. You got to have a rec pass, you got to be a resident. We're gonna have to have people there to monitor his situation. We have to have cameras there to monitor the situation. There's a lot involved. It's not going to happen like tomorrow, but we have to start the ball rolling somewhere. This Parks Master Plan is a comprehensive plan on recreation on what the residents want from our rec department. That's exactly what this is.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Just so my colleagues know, all my newly elected colleagues, I did send you all a copy of it. When did I send it. January 3rd of this year, I did send you all a copy of. So if you check your email, you have the copy The master plan, the recreation master plan, I did send it to all the newly elected council members in January. If necessary, we can always resend it or I can have it sent officially sent back out. With that being said, also, Jennifer, if I don't know, Cliff, if we can maybe look at our calendar to see about scheduling a rec committee meeting, I know, Paul is all set. So we can sit down and have a rec committee meeting to start pushing and moving this forward, is something that I think we need to do yesterday. So if we can kind of look at our calendars and see what days we have available to schedule a formal Rec committee meeting.

**CLMN MARK SMITH":** Mr. President, if I may? I like to kind of address this Engineering Council Report to Mr. Sickels. When it says 2024 resurfacing program. Design 10% on hold; Let me digress. I'm interested in getting a few streets paved. What is it that I need to do to get them on this list? Or, or whatever it is that needs to have happen?

**JIM SICKELS :**We need to print money... I need to hear that there's money available and that's where we're at now. There is no money available is what I'm being told. S

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** Based on what I am looking at here, there will be no streets paved into 2024.

**JIM SICKELS:** The short answer is I don't know. I think you have some budgetary meetings coming up, you may get some more answers there. I don't know.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Mr. Smith, if I can, if I can chime in. This is normal, run of the mill, business as usual. Mr. Sickles would not know until we find out these are the streets we want to do and this is how much it's going to cost; and then we have to figure out how we're going to go and get it. Whether that's through borrowing money, in order to do the streets, refinancing a bond in order to do the streets, or begging and pleading with federal or whatever to try to get the money to do the streets. The biggest thing that that we get as residents want their streets done, I get it. but they don't want to have a special levy out there to pass, to pay more taxes to do the streets. So we're kind of at the mercy of working within our means. I will say this, if we can wait on some of these streets, not all of them, we're going to do some streets this year. but once the county facility starts

going, and they start building that there's going to be revenue coming in that's going to allow us to address that. So when we go out and grade the streets, and you seen how much red was on that report, of all the streets that were bad, we still need a lot of green to do those streets. If you don't, I mean, we need a lot of money to do those. But we're getting there. As soon as they start breaking ground, I think we're gonna start to see where we can do more. And that's when we're going to have to be very responsible with those funds. I don't want you to get discouraged because you don't see it on this list. This is just a report and as we add streets, they get added to this report. Right, Jim?

**JIM SICKELS:** Correct. I also want council to understand that a lot of our street work that the specialty is on the report isn't just resurfacing streets. We tried to find ways to combined other people's money with a little bit of our money so that it goes further. A good example is the water main projects that we've been doing. So by having the water mains get replaced on those streets, although it's a small portion, they're still paying for a portion. Then I can use water main replacement money funds has a match to go after resurfacing dollars. So what that means when I'm going after funding is if I combine things together you get extra points in your applications if the city is putting in more money towards something. So I can say, Oh, the water main is the city's match for this project, which then is a large dollar amount compared to what the paving costs. So if I can play the game, then I can get, in a sense free money to help out the city that way. If we just pave a road, just flat out, pave, we're paying for it.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** I have a question. Henry to the end, and the bridge. So we're gonna do the back end of Henry Street with the White House bridge.

**JIM SICKELS:** No, the projects portion stops where the bridge would end and I'm not saying they won't go a little bit past but not real far like you're thinking,.

**CLWN MACK:** Do they have a start date for it. He was talking about 2024.

**JIM SICKELS:** So these two multi street projects are watermain projects. So those, yes, there, those are already done. And yeah, we're already doing phase eight now in design, and I just didn't have room to put it all on there. And nine will probably be coming to you and another will within the next six months. And then we'll start that design and get that one out. So it's an ongoing process, as fast as I can get water main replacements approved through Cleveland water, which you have to remember you're dealing with, or you're competing, he has everybody who has water mains in the county. So I submit water lines to be replaced based on Cleveland waters criteria. So they actually give us a list of which streets have water lines that have broken recently, which ones have a lot of lead connections. Which ones have low pressure for like fire protection, things like that. I take all their data, pick the worst of the worst streets and submit applications on the city's behalf to Cleveland water, which also tend to be the streets that are also in bad shape, because that's where the water lines have been breaking and things like that. So there's lots of patches and things

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Only thing I can say Mr. Sickels , all due respect. It drives me nuts might go down 102<sup>nd</sup> has leaks in it. I don't know how that could possibly take place. Those are new streets and I don't understand. Companies that put that stuff on the ground. This is a question do they give us a lengthy period of time that any of that is warranted when they when they do that kind of work. We'll have to go back to them and say you guys, that pipe busted.

**JIM SICKELS:** On those streets, Cleveland water didn't pay for the water main. So that's if that's what you're talking about as being broken, then yes, we didn't. It's just clean water didn't offer to pay for it at that time. Which means in their eyes, the waterline was in good shape four or five years ago whenever we tried to ask them if they would pay for the waterline.

**Law Director: Milko Cecez :** I just want to add Happy International Women's Day to the ladies here, and the ones in the audience. Actually, also it's my parents anniversary. Being from overseas. I've been celebrating this day for a long time. So that's one thing. I have a brief report from the Law department. I'm in a process just as simply updating how we maintain our database without going into the details of it. I'm trying to streamline the process from the old school keeping books and having documents and random places to organizing the law drive on the computer system that we have in terms of easily searchable folders.

This way when questions come up in the future to me or anybody else,, it's easier to find information that we need within the system versus having to go to someone's email or asking them Hey, where did you save this? Some research. I want to instruct my staff to start saving essentially all the substitute research into the database, because hopefully I'll be here a long time. But there will be a point where I'm not here or somebody else is not here and whoever then down the line takes over, they'll have all the database in there in terms of legal opinions, legislation saved in there. Just things that, frankly, should be being saved that way. So I'm in that process trying to sort of update and streamline the way we're going to be doing things in the legal department.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I have a question for the law. Milko, I have a question for you. So I just want to, your predecessor, when we submitted ordinances and things to him, he had a form he wanted us to fill out. Have you seen that? Or do you still want us to kind of work in that manner? Do you have a way for us to submit ordinances that we write to you? Are you working on something?

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** I don't have a specific form. For me, the biggest thing is that they're timely first and foremost, because we have to adhere to certain timelines. By time I get everything to you guys, by the time I review it, that's one thing in terms of, you've all been here a long time and you've seen how we write the resolutions. If you're going to write it yourself, initially, at least try to keep it somewhat to that format. Dr. Mack, for instance, wrote one, the one that we have tonight and it was great. I don't think I had any substantive changes, a couple of minor things. It makes my life and my staff's life easier. Also that means that you're doing a good job in terms of your writing. Ultimately, they all have to go through me as legal counsel for the city council. I have to review them, the closer they are to the final version makes everyone's lives easier. If you can just keep to that I don't have a specific form of preference. It's more so just being timely because what happens during the week, we have the deadlines and a lot of stuff sometimes happens last minute. I'll have directors coming to me saying hey, we got to get this and I don't have a problem. I'm amenable to, I try to be flexible, that I'm also putting my staff, giving them a shorter time. Lottie, she knows that. She can talk about this because she comes in on Thursdays to work on things. So Thursday tends to be a crazy day, which is why I have a deadline a couple of days prior I'm flexible about it, but I at some point if 20 things come in I'm just gonna say look, some of these things are gonna have to wait till the next meeting because I don't want to mess it up for you guys either come Monday night,. That's really it.

**CLWN COLLIER** made a motion to adjourn the Caucus meeting for March 11, 2024.

CLWN NEWRONES seconded.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON** It's been moved in second by councilwoman Newrones, all in favor say yes . 7 yes - 0 No

The meeting adjourned at 7:01 pm.

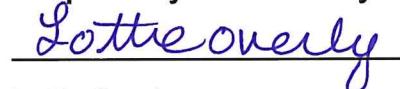
Approved by:



Councilman Avery Johnson

Council President

Respectfully submitted by:



Lottie Overby

Clerk of Council

**MINUTES OF A REGULAR COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS, OHIO  
Monday – March 11, 2024 – 7:00 pm**

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** First of all, let me say welcome to our residents and to our guests tonight to the city council meeting for Garfield Heights. Today being Monday, March the 11th 2024 for the current time, we're a little behind but 7:04 So again, let me welcome you to the Garfield heights city council meeting. At this time, we will begin our city council meeting with our invocation and Pledge of Allegiance led by Councilman Mark Smith.

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** If everyone may stand to their feet at this time, please. Eternal God our Father, we come now thanking and praising you for this opportunity to lift you up in our business. We ask that you be with us as we are going through this particular portion of this evening. In this particular meeting, Lord God we ask that you be with each other Every one of us that are gathered here right now, we thank you in Jesus name, amen. Amen. Please turn your attention at this time to the flag and allow us to the Pledge of Allegiance, please.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Madam Clerk, may we have a roll call please.

**ROLL CALL FOR MEMBERS PRESENT**

WARD 1: COUNCILWOMAN STACEY COLLIER  
WARD 2: COUNCILWOMAN TENISHA MACK  
WARD 3: COUNCILMAN MARK SMITH  
WARD 4: COUNCILMAN AVERY JOHNSON  
WARD 5: COUNCILWOMAN RACHELLE TONSING  
WARD 6: COUNCILMAN CLIFFORD KELLEY  
WARD 7: COUNCILWOMAN JENNIFER NEWRONES

**DISPOSAL OF LAST MEETING MINUTES**

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** We have a quorum. All right. At this time, can we have a reading and disposal of our last meetings please?

**CLMN KELLEY:** Mr. President, I make a motion we dispose of our council minutes for Monday, February 26. Accept the minutes as written.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It's been so moved. Can I have a second, please.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I'll second.

It has been moved and second by Councilwoman Collier.

All in favor say Yea: 7 Yeas - 0 Nays.

Then so move.

**Coach Sonny Johnson:** I just thank you for having me here, too. I mean, the company. I've been here for shoot, probably over 20 some years, I went to Garfield Heights. I am the basketball coach and this is not a basketball matter. And you know, because you can look at it oh, hey, he's the basketball coach and this is where he wants to get done. Also talk to the mayor about other sports. Football, I'll talk to him about flag football. I talked to him about things, there are kids in our community is doing right now. We have far as the baseball team, we have, we don't have a freshman team. We don't have a JV team. We have 11 kids just playing baseball and at one point of time, this entire community was a baseball community. This entire community was a wrestling community. I mean, when I was here, wrestling was the biggest thing in this entire community. It was nothing bigger than wrestling. I was part of it. I was in high school wrestling and got everything that they needed to be very successful. And they deserved that. Even as baseball as well. But right now to say you don't have 11 kids to have a varsity baseball team because of our community has changed and people are not going out. I just thought it's, I mean, honestly, I put it on my heart from God to be honest with you, because I'm just like y'all in the community. I see the kids walking up fighting at Taco Bell, fighting at the subway, are getting into confrontation. So well. You see the kids at the library. The library is the hangout spot and not community. It's the hangout spot. Why? Because there's nothing to do. Alright, when I say that, when I say nothing to do, yes, we have nice Rec and we have a pool, but what these kids are doing in this community now what do they play? And I'm gonna say that minority kids, they play football and they play basketball. And I'm gonna say that right now. I'm a basketball coach and when I drove up there, as long as I'm here, I promise you every kid that comes to my program will have opportunity to get a scholarship to play for free. And I look as kids and I'm not just saying that last year I had four seniors all four seniors went to school for free. This year, we got five seniors, all five seniors are not paying, plan to go to school. It's not a phone call in the country, honestly, I promise you this, that I can't make from any college in the country. We have Ohio State come to our gym, we have Michigan come to our gym, we have North Carolina we have Duke we have all the top programs. Coaches in our entire country come to Garfield Heights. So with that being said is, I put it to you like this, if you got 40 kids walking the streets, right 40 Kids with nothing to do, but then you give them an option. You might have 20 Out of the 40, they like playing basketball. I told you about putting two basketball courts and putting a soccer volleyball court next to it. I mean, I'm not just not a basketball guy whatever or I don't want tennis, one tennis court two basketball courts. It is so much room to do so many great things I walked up and I looked and I could not believe how beautiful it was. There was nothing there. I'm telling you right now, if you were able to put two courts there with whatever else you want, because you have a skating rink, a skateboard facility that nobody used, but four people. Right now, that's not our community. It is not i our community at all. So with that being said, we have so much to do, we have so much we can do and this is just the start of something that's going to be greater. It's a move, it's a step in the right direction, with at least having it where it's at the Rec Center. Stuff at the Rec Center is monitored; you have people that's overseeing it; you have something where, hey, we open the gates from 11 to 8 at night and then we got supervision there, and we're watching those kids. Mr. Saunders may say, Hey man, you got neighbors that might be upset. Kids might right now be fighting him and you know they're doing it anyway, getting in trouble. They're doing everything anyway, with nothing to do. So if you take 40 Kids, that's walking up and down the street with nothing to do and you take 20 that wants to do something now you got 20 kids that doing nothing, you got 40 Kids has been active doing something. So we have to give these kids opportunity and a chance to like, have some just summers coming up. These are the worst times, you know, it's nothing to do that kids are at home, parents are at work, but we can provide them with something. Timing is everything and at the end of day, this community is changing and it's time for change and it's time to give these kids a shot and try to do something better for them. Right now we're pretty

heavy, strong basketball wise. I think everybody knows that. I'm not saying to tut my horn or anything like that, but just the truth. So if you give these kids opportunity to really go somewhere. I'm just wanting to come to say that I'm passionate about what I'm doing. I'm passionate about these kids.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Thank you, Coach. When I got this phone call, and I looked at it, and I said, everything that coach is telling me is everything that I'm reading in this 97 page document, which was our parks master plan. and what I'm reading is that the surveys that we took from the community at large and the people that actually filled out the surveys, whether it was here at the Civic Center, or online and we did a lot of promotion to try to get information. The number one thing the residents are asking for is basketball courts. The number two things that are asking for is pickleball courts and then you know the other big item was a splash pad over by the pool. In fact, some of them don't even want the pool. They just want the splash pad right now all this Just happens on Friday when I talked to Coach, but I've had this master plan I've been reviewing with Paul Birk our Rec director, probably for the last two months, and we're looking at what do we do differently, and we come to the conclusion that we have to have community engagement meetings to talk about what this looks like. Who better to give me advice on the basketball portion of it than our very own basketball coach, who I joke around with Coach Johnson and Tom. When he sees my game, he'll never forget it, because I don't have any game, right? I can barely dribble a basketball, I'll be honest with you. But it's, it's amazing. I just want to see these kids have the opportunities and to hear what he says is exactly what I'm thinking a lot of times, you need two things, you need money, you need lots of money to do some of the things that this very plan wants you to do. Right? It takes millions and millions of dollars to reconstruct these parks the way they put in this plan and it would be great if we had millions and millions of dollars to do it. But the fact of the matter, we don't have that kind of money. When Coach Johnson tells me, this area here is beautiful. You don't even have to do much to it. It's not going to cost a lot. He has my interest right then and there, because I want to know, from a taxpayer standpoint, for me being a taxpayer, how can I best utilize the tax money that's being spent? If it means doing that, putting in the pickleball courts to the point that the coach was making about the skatepark you know, there's only like four to six people that utilizes the skate park. And I said, I've been there and I've seen people use it utilize it, but they don't even live in Garfield heights and sure enough, while we were there, some guy comes up and he's probably in his late 30s, or I mean, late 20s, early 30s and he's, he's riding a skateboard on our skate park. And where's he from, Cuyahoga heights. He grew up in Garfield Heights, and he that was his stomping grounds, and he knows is still there, but he's the only one using it, and yet, I've got a whole community of people saying I need, I want pickleball courts, I want this, I want that. I think it's time that we need to look at putting that in place. There's a lot of discussion that needs to happen in order to do that, but it can happen. I want to lean on the Rec committee for the council, let's put a meeting together and let's have a conversation. But I will say this, and I want to thank you all for coming out from Ward one. I had a discussion with Councilwoman Collier, about where when we do public engagement, where the people add, and I kind of challenged her and she delivered and I'm gonna tell you, nobody represents their ward better than then Stacy Collier in Ward one. But my point is, we need to make sure that when we have these meetings, especially when it comes to recreation, especially when it comes to the youth, that we have everybody coming out to support this, because I don't feel comfortable in making a decision when it comes to recreation, and few people inputting, you know, ideas when you have 30,000 residents. And to be fair, I mean, we'll do what people want. It's not what I want. It's not what Milko wants, or, or even Paul Birk. It's what the people in the community want. Just on another thing, I was in Washington, DC last week, I spent two days at the White House, with the members of the Biden administration and other mayors, going over a bunch

of different programs that are available. One of the things that they pointed out was when President Biden took office, he worked with Congress, they came out with the ARPA. As you know the ARPA funds, bipartisan infrastructure, the chips Act, the inflation reduction program, one of the things that about all four of those programs, with the exception of maybe the chips act because that we have to be a real big city in order for that to really benefit you. But this was the first time in history that a lot of money to go to the local municipalities from the federal government and they wanted to make sure we knew that there's these programs out there programs like a TIF loan. We sit here and brainstorm and talk about streets and where are we going to get funding. And here, there may be a federal opportunity for us to take a low interest loan in order to fix some of our infrastructure in our streets. And that's something we're going to look at a couple of things that they talked about CDBG grant. We get every year and what do we use them on our parking lot, we fix concrete throughout our city on areas but there's a branch of that that we can possibly grab money for. That will help resident, low income people be able to fix a roof, put new siding on do some windows. These are programs that people ask me about and I'm glad to hear that the federal government level is looking to do this and that's all because of Marcia Fudge. Be honest with you, fellow Clevelander. She's the secretary of HUD and she basically, this is something that she put together we need to utilize it and that's the reason why I don't think anybody in this office has ever gone to Washington and sat with the people on the federal government to find out the reason why I feel strongly about it doesn't cost that much to go. But to get this information, and literally be able to use it to benefit our city is big, I found out Solon Beachwood pepper Pike, which they complain that they can't get money because they're not a low income community. Westlake. Again, all these players that I always talk about, they have people that they pay \$1,000 a month. Their job is to go out and find federal grants \$1,000 a month, a company that does that. We can't afford \$1,000 a month, but we can definitely afford to go look at this and make the context. Another thing they talked about was cybersecurity, not to scare everybody. But last year alone, the United States experienced over \$1.2 billion in ransomware attacks. And these are attacks on private and public entities. But the majority of this attack was on hospitals, and those attacks come from countries like Russia and China. They're looking to raise the minimum measures and the regulations of cybersecurity. The Coast Guard is now able to respond to cyber-attacks. One of the things they're going to come out with is a cyber trust mark. You know, when you buy an appliance, you see this Energy Star rating? Well, you're gonna see a cyber Trustmark rating and it's going to be on things like your ring door camera, your internet router, your Chromecast right now, they don't know if this ring door camera, if they're monitoring, you are watching what goes on around us because technology they can hack into that. You know, and it really, it really disappoints me because I just got ring camera from my house, right? And I'm thinking now are they watching me, but they're if they're watching me, let me tell you they got a problem. Because I'm never home really. There's a new office that they put together called the Office of gun violence. I got to applaud them here. There's four federal strike forces that had been put together to stop gun traffickers and they're talking about creating an awareness program, an accessibility program, and an accountability program and a thing that they're talking about accountability is holding parents responsible for when their child gets a gun and uses it the wrong way. And we've seen a huge rise in juvenile gun violence throughout the entire nation. The only other thing I have on here is I wanted to remind everybody that tomorrow, we're going to have a little bit of fun. Cuyahoga County is coming here with a member from their scam squad. It's the Cuyahoga County Department of Consumer Affairs. I'm co- hosting this with Mayor Blackwell. So you'll see maybe some Maple Heights residents here as well to this community town hall. We really felt a need to really showcase to you what some of the scams are out there and what to watch for. Because if we can help prevent somebody from getting, you know, taken advantage of. We'd like to do it and it doesn't call us the

city of Garfield Heights, anything but time and space. So come on out tomorrow at 630 to 8pm right here and check out the scam squad.

Let me get into tonight's legislation, there's a whopping two pieces of legislation, I would imagine that my report is going to be longer than voting on this. Resolution number 06-2024 is recognizing March as National Women's History Month, and particularly March eighth as International Women's Day and then resolution number 70-2024 just to provide that the council going into summer session. International Woman's Day on March 8, we actually celebrated here in the building with our employees and we had a blast. Rose and Jen Duber and a few other people put that together and it was a fun time. So with that you have my report.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Mayor Burke, thank you for your report. Prior to me going to the other directors and law director, I like to make a comment to add on to what the mayor was talking about when we talk about basketball in the city of Garfield heights. Not only did the mayor receive a phone call from Mr. Johnson, Johnson initiated a phone call and called me up and said, Hey, what are we doing? But I surprised him with is that on that Thursday, I had already went to Granger Road, where I tennis and skateboard quarters and I took pictures. And one of the things I wanted to do was come back and talk to Mr. Paul Birk, about maybe at some point in time in the future, we might want to look at where we could build a brand new recreational center here in Garfield heights. And I thought that that area of space was so large, that the parking lot itself could host the building of a brand new facility. And too many times while we're here in our city, we always accept, we don't have the money, while other places like Westlake and some of the others bigger cities in us, they continue to build things. Well, I'm here to say to you, we got to stop thinking like We're poor, that we can't afford it. And that we are afraid to go to the voters and say, hey, look, we may need to ask you, if you want that brand new Senior Center, we may need your help, we might have to raise taxes. Since I came to council, that's the biggest threat to all the council members. They afraid to ask the people that lives here for money, what it takes money to do these things. And if you want to be a top notch community, we're gonna have to pay. And unfortunately for us, we just happen to be in a high tax bracket. But at the same time I just wanted to add on to the mayor's comments is that Sonny found out that this Council was already down there looking at that spot. And I sent him pictures. I said, Hey, I'll send you something. And he took it upon himself to contact the Mayor. And they both went down and took a look at that. But there's something that's been heavy on my mind, because for years now we have been seeing our kids with nothing to do. That's been the biggest complaint since I came to council three years ago, is that our kids don't have anything really to do. And with that note in mind, I'm gonna stop my preaching because I don't want to hold us any longer when I have. We're gonna move right along.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I want to Can I add two comments to what you just said, sir. I just want to you want to call you I just want to throw this out there. Mr. Johnson. For the last year and a half. Have you been looking through Ward one, try to find a place to put some basketball facility. Thank you, sir.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you very much Councilwoman Collier. Is there any other reports from any of our directors or from our law department?

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** The law department real quick, I gave part of my report already in a caucus meeting so I won't give that one again. In terms of just one of the resolutions is a national women's history month in March 8 International Women's Day I want to personally say Happy International Women's Day to the ladies here on the council as well as the audience and also to our co-chairs and congratulations on team success. If you want a Serbian guy, a sharpshooter 40% or

three pointers, I was only four or five but it's still 40% .Just wanted to throw that out there coach, just from the same country as Nicola Jokic two time MVP...and that concludes the Law department's report. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you, Mr. Milko. I appreciate that comment. At this time. Mr. Hilt do you have report.

**Tylon Hilt:** Mr. President, I don't have nothing to say following that awesome report from our Law director.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you again, sir. I appreciate that. We will move right along. Is there any communications from our citizens on the agenda for tonight? < none > We have no comments on our agenda for tonight. We're gonna move right along with our ordinances and resolutions. We're gonna do them a little bit differently tonight. It'll be our first time, but it shouldn't be a problem. So we're gonna move right into our ordinances and our resolutions at this time. Resolution number six, with council, council Clerk, please.

### **Ordinances and Resolutions**

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 06-2024:** SPONSORED BY COUNCILWOMAN DR. TENISHA MACK CO-SPONSORED BY ALL OF COUNCIL.

A RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING MARCH AS NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH AND MARCH 8<sup>TH</sup> AS INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY FOR THE CITY OF GARFIELD HEIGHTS.

**CLWN MACK** made a motion to consider by title, <Resolution> 06-2024.

**CLWN TONSING** seconded.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It's been moved and seconded All in favor say Aye: Any opposed?

7- Yeas 0-Nays

**CLWN MACK** made a motion to suspend the three reading rules

**CLWN COLLIER** seconded

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It's been moved and seconded of the suspension of the three reading rules. All in favor say Yea. Any opposed. 7 Yeas – 0 Nays

**CLWN MACK** made a motion for waiver of rule 24.

**CLWN NEWRONES** Seconded.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been so moved and second for a waiver of rule 24.

All in favor say Yea. Any Opposed? 7- Yeas 0 Nays

### **Roll call on the adoption of Resolution 06-2024**

Mack-Yes, Smith-Yes, Johnson-Yes, Tonsing-Yes, Kelley-Yes, Newriones-Yes, Collier-Yes 7 yes – 0 No

**CLWN COLLIER:** I would like to say that this council is what living history. This is the first all minority Council and this is the first time that we've had four women on council. With that. I say yes.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** That passes Seven to zero.

**RESOLUTION NUMBER 07- 2024: SPONSORED BY MAYOR MATTHEW BURKE**  
A RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR ONLY ONE COUNCIL MEETING TO BE HELD ON THE  
SECOND MONDAY DURING THE MONTH OF MAY, JUNE, JULY AND AUGUST 2024.

**CLWN TONSING:** I would like to make a motion to consider by title resolution number 07-2024.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It's been moved by Councilwoman Tonsing for resolution 07- 2024 to be considered by title. Can I get a second?

**CLWN COLLIER:** I'll second

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** it has been so moved and second. All in favor say yes:

6 Yes. Any Oppose?

**CLMN KELLEY:** No

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** one opposed. 6 Yeas- 1 Nay

**CLWN TONSING :** Mr. President, I would like to make a motion to suspend the three reading rule.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been so moved for suspension the three reading rules by  
**Councilwoman Newrtones:** I second.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been so moved and seconded All in favor say Yea. Any oppose?

**CLMN KELLEY:** No

**6 Yeas 0 Nays**

**CLWN TONSING:** Mr. President, I would like to make a motion to waive a rule 24.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been a motion been made for waiver of the rule 24 by  
Councilwoman Thompson. Can I get a second please?

**CLMN SMITH:** I Second

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been so moved and second All in favor say Yea. Any Oppose?

6-Yeas

**CLMN KELLEY:** Abstain.

6 years 1 Abstention:

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** I Call for a roll call on the adoption beginning with Councilwoman Tonsing  
**Roll call on the adoption of Resolution 07-2024**

Tonsing-Yes, Kelley-No, Newrtones-Yes, Collier-Yes , Mack-Yes, Smith-Yes, Johnson- 6 yes – 1 Abstain

**CLWN COLLIER:** I'm voting. Before I vote. I'm just gonna say we ended up having two meetings most times anyway. So Yes.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** that passes six, to one.

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** And if I could just add real fast to what Miss Collier said. So during summertime, it's actually very customary for most public bodies to meet once a month anyways, throughout the whole year, not just not just in other months. There's always obviously if something urgent comes up, it's not a problem to call a special meeting, as Miss Carter pointed out, we oftentimes will meet more than once. Anyways, this is sort of just to give us the flexibility because it tends to be a little bit slower. As you see tonight, we only have two pieces of legislation, none of them are really bad spending money either. As summertime comes that that tends to be more frequently least my experience. As you all know, I've dealt with school boards the last 10 years. And it's very customary for them to meet once a month, and oftentimes not even at all during summertime. So it's this is not anything out of the ordinary if it needs be we'll definitely call for additional meetings just as a point of clarification. So the council is aware, as well as the public to so thank you. And

**CLMN KELLEY** : if I may add Jasmine Kelly, my abstention or my no vote? Well, you know, traditionally, when we get to this piece of legislation, always vote no, anyways, there's too much thing, there's too many things happening in the city on a daily basis. And it while it is true, that, you know, we have more meetings, or will schedule meetings, committee meetings or whatever. When everything is happening, and you got somebody calling you your residence or call me you about hey, what are you gonna do about this? We're gonna do about that. Well, in your next meeting, are you gonna be able to talk about this? Well, I'm sorry, we already had a meeting last week. We're not scheduled to meet again Until next month, you know, when you have those kinds of conversations, you know, residents flip out. So I know we'd normally have our committee meetings, and then we'll schedule a special meeting. If there's anything to talk about. We'll schedule a special meeting. And I don't know how many special meetings we actually, you know, schedule. We've done them, but we haven't really, you know, so I just customarily just vote no, because things is happening in the city every day. So I just, you know, I don't want to you know, there's no tension up here. I don't want anybody to think that. Speak for yourself, at least not

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON**: calm. Well, first of all, Councilman Kelly, we thank you for your concern. Again, as the law director and Milko has pointed out that if something does come up, and it has in the past, we have immediately called for a session for the council to me, and we will continue to do so in the very near future. At this time. We're going to move along with our comments by citizens on tonight please wait the rooms, council clerk comments

**CLERK**: Comments shall be restricted to any problem a resident has which had previously been submitted to his or her council person or to the City Hall department directly involved. If submission of a problem to a city hall department or council person is made, and there is a lack of service rendered in this regard, the problem may then be presented during comments by citizens at a future meeting. It is the intention of this rule that no request of a first nature is presented on the floor at this time. Comments shall be limited to five minutes. No citizens shall be heard more than once.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON**: Okay, we have two individuals tonight that would like to make comments. And the first one will be from our former council president himself, Mr. Michael, Nenadovich.

**Mike Nenadovich** : Mayor, directors Council President Johnson, members of council, good evening, I had reason to drive around a little bit, as snow starting to melt and things are cleaning up a little bit. The condition of our city is especially in ward three is going down quite rapidly. I spoke with our Councilman Mr. Smith, about the corner of Warner road. He did take care of it, did in a very timely fashion. And I thank you for that. You moved on it quickly. Reminded me myself there for a while. But you're a good coach. But I'm there to help you anytime you are. But we've got people that don't understand that there are rules in Garfield about the conditions of property. Your trash cans, you are leaving them on the street and I can't call them today because I usually go out Thursday, take a look. There's seven homes that leave them out there permanently. On the curb, but in the street. Burley's had a mattress up there for six, eight weeks. The lot next to that near Warner road, they use the empty lot that belongs to... I don't know who owns it because it's changed hands several times. The cars just drive over the neighbors get to look at ruts, garbage thrown out of the cars and it's sad. It's sad. I know we have a larger staff, I believe in the building department than when you were on council and I was on council mayor. But I think it's up to the council people to go out there and do a little spin about and take a look and see what's going on. And go knock on the door. The building department like I used to they hated. They tried to lock the doors for me a couple times. But I think

we're running. We got to get out there more, start cleaning up our city is starting to look like hell and Warner road. It's a gateway to our city. You come up from Cleveland, you come up from Valley View independence, you come up on a road, you're looking at fences laying down, you're looking at garbage in the street. Warner Road is one big mud hole. You Can we roll our windows up on a good day coming up on the road so the dust from the street doesn't come in the car. You can get your car washed drive up, Warner, or down whatever road you got in mud. I know it's been addressed that though the police department was supposed to start citing cars, were doing that. And I thank you for that. I really do. Because I did see him do it to two trucks. You were coming out of that cement crushing place. That's another thing. I'd like to talk to you about some time we'll make an appointment to speak with him as I can. But I like to talk to him about that. But the condition of the city we got to start cleaning it up. We got to get out there. And these pop up car lots and things. It's just making it look terrible. I don't know where I don't want to worry too long. I just want to get you know, I want to put it out to Mr. Smith. I will work with you on whatever you need. I appreciate the job you did. You did it. I'd hate to say this faster than I did. And I commend you on that you did a great job in that corner. It looks great. You clean up the tires in the back. You got them ugly citing things you hadn't put covers on. I thank you for that you did a great job and I applaud you. But council anytime I can help you any of you anytime I'm willing to help. I don't know how long would it be in Garfield, maybe a year, maybe another year. But like I says, I would like to say put more concentration on cleaning up the streets and the properties, the trash cans, the cars parking on the front lawn, the garbage laying on the front porch, not one bag or two but 10-20 bags, you know. But like I said, I concentrate on my ward because that's where I live. But as we go through the city, you find this becoming more and more prevalent and it's like an epidemic. It's starting to move up into the wards that are before the bridge. It's gonna come after the bridge too. So I thank you for your time. Appreciate it.

**CLWN COLLIER:** What, What did he just say?

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you, sir. Thank you for your comments.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Mr. President, if I could just say, Mr. Nenadovich, It's nice to see you again. We do, I try to get court community service out there. So if there's any place you see just give me a call and let me know because the court community service is trying to get to everywhere. You know when, this time of year, you know as well as I do, it's the winter is over, and it's everywhere. So we're trying to do our due diligence, but I appreciate you coming up. Nice to see you again. Thanks.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Excuse me, former Councilman, I have a question for you. Can you clarify, it's been a problem before the bridge. Where's that? I'm just trying to, I'm just trying to, I need some clarification as to where this garbage is before the bridge.

**Mr. Nenadovich:** Well, just say it like it is, it's wards like two and three. Those are rental wards and we're getting more renters in there that don't own the home. They don't care. Like they did before the fat grandpa lived downstairs, the kids lived upstairs, they took care of the property. The bridge I'm talking about is the bridge over 480. That's the bridge I'm talking about. It seems this blight is moving in that direction and it is a blight. It's garbage being thrown, pizza boxes laying in the street, have busted bottles....And that's what I'm talking about.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I just need to clarify which bridge you were talking about.

**Mike Nenadovich:** I'm not gonna talk about your bridge.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Thank you, sir. ....I know that's right.

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** Mr. President, if I may just inject here. <reply-Yes, sir Mr. Smith, I appreciate your comments. Some of it, and I'm finding it because I've been out in the community, It is just a lack of education. The tire individual, he had no idea he was even violating anything, and just a brief conversation with him: How are you doing and shaking hands and letting them know listen, Can you just give me a little hand here and help me out. So that's been probably a big part of me. And getting out into the community and just sharing and talking with some of the business owners and letting them know. It was an individual right upon Garfield Boulevard, literally, in fact, I commented on it a couple of weeks ago, had no idea that Kimball would not accept her rubbish, that it was a piece of furniture was about five feet or so had no idea and literally left it there for about three weeks because she thought that they were going to take it. I just had a conversation with them. It was gone in the next day or so because she just didn't have any idea. So I thank you for that. And your valid point, if we as council, simply get out there, have conversations, not a conversation to escalate, but a conversation to de- escalate. I think we'll see some movements there. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you, Councilman Smith. At this time, we have Miss Dora Houston.

**Dora Houston:** Good evening, Mayor, Council, people. Mayor, council people, and my name is Dora Houston. In in the city of Garfield heights ever since I was a kid. I'm 82 now. I went to Garfield, Children went to Garfield, Grandchildren went to Garfield, great grandchildren went to Garfield, and so on and so on. But the problem I had talked to my council person about was all the truck depots in Ward one. Years ago, we had signs that no thru trucks. No more signs. So I don't know what happened to them. They took them down or whatever and I remember when I don't know what the judge name was; people that's been in the neighborhood for a long time, especially on Orchard where they had trucking business over there, she made them put up the gate gates and everything for the trucks. He said after all these years, they decided to make us put up gates, but now that two other truck depots that's in the neighborhood, they don't have the gates, especially down Broadway. And if you come over there and look them, we got big car dealers, trucks, transporting cars, on Ohio and on Dressler and on Osborne. I don't know if the streets is made for heavy equipment like that. Just like the other gentleman said about things are going down, with the trash and everything, that's what's happening in our ward too. And another thing with the mayor was talking about with Coach Johnson. How come we don't have a Boys and Girls Club in our city?

**MAYOR BURKE:** We do we have boys club, girls hope. And actually, they are going to be opening up an indoor basketball facility.

**Dora Houston:** No, I'm talking about a Boys and Girls Club. You know, like, the Boys and Girls Club on Broadway.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Usually those are 501-C3's , ma'am, and that's something that's a nonprofit organization. So if somebody wants to start one up, they can come here in Garfield Heights, but it's not up to the city to be able to do that. against our charter. We can't put taxpayer money towards that.

**Dora Houston:** Well, we used to have the community center up at Roosevelt.

**MAYOR BURKE:** It was a company that did that.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Nope, it's not true. Before it was that private company, it was a city ran community center.

**MAYOR BURKE:** With city funding?

**CLWN COLLIER:** Yes, with city funding.

**MAYOR BURKE:** I believe he violated the ORC? That Mayor could have went to jail for that, but this one isn't going to take a chance.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Your point has been duly noted and I think that those are things that we have to take into consideration. That oversize vehicles running up and down our roads is unacceptable. The damage to roads, that trashing other streets, is not acceptable either, and that is something that we as a council, we're definitely going to take a hard look at. We're quite sure that we're gonna get more feedback on that in the near future. So I do appreciate you bringing that to our attention as well. Okay. Thank you, ma'am. So much. At this time, there is one other person that did put his name down to speak tonight again, and that is Mr. Sonny Johnson at this time, Mr. Johnson.

#### **Coach Sonny Johnson**

Thank you. I just want to say I talk a lot, so don't mind me. But I want to say this. Mr. Johnson, this is entertaining and I'm sorry. I haven't been here, I usually cover the basketball team. What this is, this is good. Just good. Everyone, I have enjoyed myself, I can tell you that. But I want to just say this. We've been talking for years. I want to make sure that's about trying to get stuff. We didn't call out nobody. Please know that. I mean, for you, you've been calling and trying to find me buildings and gratefully appreciative to that. We talked about this, a lot of money and getting people to really want to invest in it. Mr. Johnson, you've been talking to me as well, we just started talking and a lot was going on, but what we stand as this only thing I'm saying. I would like y'all to, (if you probably already have) when you leave here, go out there and look at what I was saying. I just couldn't believe it. When I'm saying it's easy. I don't think it costs much money, like the stuff you want to do and when we talking about doing, we're gonna have to get a lot of investors and get a lot of money. Mr. Johnson. That's a lot there right now and just not for basketball. Just the stuff you can do out there for these kids. I'm talking about volleyball nets. I'm talking about a couple of courts. I'm talking about taking or putting, what does it matter? You said pickleball. you take that skateboard rink up, because Pickleball is not for the kids. Let's be real playing pickleball, there's a lot of adults right now that sort of playing pickle ball. Kids are not playing pickleball. So at the end of the day, especially the kids right now in Garfield heights. But if that's something for the adults to do, is already gated, you take up the skateboard area. That way, the adults don't have to be around the kids. They're separate from the kids, if they want to play pickleball, that's right there. But when you go out there, the opportunity right now, you can take a little money and fill in some of the cracks. I'm telling you, and put up two hoops right now. And play right now. That's how much money we're saving. If you just go please go look and see. It's just that simple. It's so easy. I'm saying with all of our ideas that's gonna take. I talk to the Cavaliers one time. I talk to multimillionaires that try to invest. I think I met with Mayor Collova with people and brought millionaires to him and sat with him and tried to see how much money they would donate to put courts inside the Rec Center and things like that. But when you look at what's out there right now, I want to say all of our ideals are great, but that's a fix that can be done within a month or two. So that's one thing I will say we agree. Okay. I appreciate y'all.

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** I'm glad you think we're so entertaining.

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** . I just wanted to ask something for the entire council as well as the members of the audience. In terms of the comments by citizens, we appreciate these as well. One thing I would urge everyone in the public, really, when you look at our ordinances, comments are basis, and they're supposed to go to the council folks first. So I think there's gonna be more productive. If you do have an issue, reach out to one of your council members or your respective ward.

**CLWN COLLIER:** They did....

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** I know that you do. I'm not saying that you guys don't. I think it makes, because then we're able to hear from them as well and then, because we shouldn't be used, (I'm not saying that we did this tonight) we should not be using the meeting section for the first time we hear issues, we want to start working on those problems right away for you guys. Of course, nothing's being done down the line, then come bring it to our attention or for the entire city council. So I'm just saying encouraging you to do what you've been doing already. I'm not saying that anyone's not doing this, but reach out to the council people so they can begin working with you or we can start the process even earlier. The mayor isn't here to for the first time tonight or myself or the building Commissioner as well. We're already taking some steps to hopefully remedy the issues that we're having in a city. That's all I want to just encourage you guys to do. Thank you

**CLWN COLLIER:** Mr. Milko. Just so you are aware because you are new. You might not be aware of where we are with this trucking in Ward one at this point in time.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Point of order Clwn Collier, For time sake, I'm just reminding you timesaver please.

**CLWN COLLIER:** Just so just sir. So is aware. And he has been citing, we have some illegal trucking businesses in Ward one. Mr. Hilt, he's been working on it, the police have been working on it. I have proposed a moratorium on container trucks in Ward one, which your predecessor said there was no need for because the companies were illegal. So the issue that she's bringing forth, has been ongoing and we're trying to work to get rid of these illegal companies that are that are doing business there several illegal companies doing business in Ward one at this time that I inherited. So we're trying to get rid of them. I just wanted to make you aware that.

**Law Director: Milko Cecez:** I appreciate it that and I'm not taking a jab at anybody. We're just my goal, at least as a law director within my own department, as well as the city. I want us to be as efficient as possible and things that we do we understand that sometimes government people, we don't get the greatest thing where all the private sector does. It's so much better. We want to be efficient here. We want to do good things. We want to be respectful towards our citizens. Most of you come on here, and it's just easier for us once if we kind of hear it already to get jumping on things rather than hearing it for the first time and this has been brought up so I appreciate that.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you. I stand corrected Councilman Collier that was your resident and you did not get a chance to respond to her after she had finished speaking. So I do apologize about that. I stand corrected. That's very well pointed out that you have been working on these issues.

**MAYOR BURKE:** Mr. President, just so you know, I we do a lot to try to deter this. Tylon is new as well, but he has been on it. A case in point, okay, we have the area that's in Ward one, and we have the Kmart building in Ward seven. Or maybe it's in Ward five, there was trucks parked at both, we sent the same owners, the same piece, the same correspondence, but the one in Ward seven, remove the trucks. The one in Ward one didn't. So you know, it's a process and we go through this

process all the time, and we try to do our due diligence. They don't move, they get cited. Just plain and simple. And we've threatened both of them I had to threat in let me tell you the Kmart building, that's the owner of Highland Park. So you threaten that guy, and he may pull out Highland Park, and then where are we at back to square one, right? But it's how you do it. I was respectful to him and he was respectful to me and he was able to remove it. So you know, and then detail some other things that he may have coming in there, which is great to hear. But just so people know, we do our due diligence here. It's a process and we try to get it done. But not everybody is as cooperative as other people. So I appreciate all the comments. And you know, we'll continue to work hard to get those trucks out of there. That's all I have.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you Mayor. At this time, we're going to move our meeting over to our miscellaneous business. That concludes our comments by citizens that will move right along to miscellaneous business. We'll begin today with Ward One.

**CLWN COLLIER:** I thought you was gonna say councilwoman Newrones, but I will gladly take it. I prayed over what I was going to say. First, I would like to remind everybody of the ward ones annual Easter egg. That will be the 30th at Forestdale Park, I want to say thank you to Mr. Burke and also the service department for doing the cleanup of the park right away to make sure that it's being prepared. They do a very good job of keeping for us the park together and I appreciate that. Also a reminder that we're doing baseball in conjunction with Maple heights baseball league. Just so you're aware Mr. Johnson, majority of the baseball players that are playing and Maple heights baseball league are from Garfield Heights. So baseball is still alive in the city of Garfield Heights. Promises made, broken road to Calvary Roosevelt Community Center property. Let's talk about evil. Trying to put a haunted house in a residential community. Which planning, the planning board was willing to Okay, thank you Ward one for coming out and stopping that. Former Councilman Dudley was kind enough to announce that they want to put 11 houses on the Roosevelt site. We appreciated that so we can stop that. Let's talk about that Litels in the church that took over Garfield Heights Community Center that because they mortgage it to the Hilt. It is no longer there for the citizens. Let's talk about how fire station number one the old fire station number one on 131 street where seniors used to play Pinnacle was sold by former Councilman Dudley to church God is owned by God. So we I had to tell the service department you gotta be the one to cite God not me. That's something so it hasn't opened since it was sold. I'm saying all this to say that for years, the citizens of Ward one have been given hope and then having it snatched away. Mayor when you told me that you wanted to see or hear from the citizens of Ward one about what they wanted at Roosevelt. Do they want community space and at their ward. Like I told you, I will fill this hall with ward one residents. This is last minute Call to Arms the day before. I love ward one . And I love that you all come out to fight for what is best for war one, I appreciate you. And if we need to fill every venue every time to make sure that our voices are heard on this side of the bridge, we will do that. That concludes my report for this month and thank you. God bless all the women for Women's History Month. Ladies, I applaud you.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** We'll have comments by ward two Councilwoman Mack.

**CLWN MACK:** I would like to thank everybody for coming out this evening. I'll reminder ward two Garfield Heights community club meeting on March 23rd from 2pm to 3:30 at the Garfield Heights library in meeting room B. I would like to thank everybody for supporting the National Women's History Month Resolution. I would like to say on behalf of the Resolution that as a city councilwoman, I'm honored to acknowledge National History Month, National Women's History

Month and pay tribute to the extraordinary contributions of women around the world and throughout history. For pioneering leaders who paved the way, to gender equality to ensure and heroes who tirelessly advocated for their communities, women who have played a pivotal role in shaping our society. As women who have faced numerous struggles like myself, I understand the resilience and determination that's required to overcome obstacles. This month serve as a tribute to the tenacity, strength and endurance of spirit of women across the globe. Reflecting on my own journey, I am reminded of the profound words I hold dear to myself, which is I had to learn to be stronger to my battles. This quote resonates and represents an essence to our countless women who in the face of adversity, have embraced their struggles and catalysts for strength and growth. As we honor the legacy of women this month, let us continue to uplift and power and advocate for a future where every woman's story is recognized and celebrate. Furthermore, let us collectively acknowledge the achievements contributions and unwavering determination of women everywhere, Acknowledging that transform transformation and the impact that they bring to the communities and society as a whole. I will also like to say, talking as educating and when it comes to people leaving trash in the community. It is a big problem. I've received so many phone calls. I've had people had to step in when I was out. Thank you, Councilman. It's been a big issue and now that the weather is getting warmer, it has been a big issue with a lot of people playing a music like really loud. I keep getting calls about it. I don't know what could be done. I don't know if they're taking it. I did reach out to Chief Kaye email, so hopefully I hear something back soon. And that's pretty much all I have for today. Thank you.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** We'll move on to comments from Councilman Smith, Ward three.

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** Thank you, Mr. President. First of all, I'd like to thank all of you for your attendance, those that are out in our cyber world as well. I am thankful to you to be engaged here. Very briefly. There's a story that immediately comes to mind where a child was asked what his name was and he said, my name is no, no, no. The child had been told no so many times, that all he knew was no no, no. What are you saying Smith? We are talking about individuals youth who we keep telling them No, no, no, but we're not giving them anything. So I've heard the comments here and that is what we definitely need to do is give them something to do. I have made an effort to engage and I heard the Mayor already indicate the girls hope- boys hope yes it is. It's a nonprofit organization. It's its own entity. However they have a football basketball court within there. They have a football field over there and they're willing to engage with the community, with the political aspects. In fact, the mayor and I have been invited. Council President, I think you need to be engaged there because there's some question as to whether or not it's my ward or your ward, but I feel that it doesn't matter because the kids need something to do. Right now all they think is no, no, no. Well, if you got no, no, no, they're gonna they're gonna find something to do and if it's devious, so be it. So I'm taking the position that the city of Garfield heights is on an upswing. Yes, we have some difficulties, but all cities have difficulties and if we begin to attack it right now where it's at, and we have the opportunity to do so such as just partnering with a good girls hope- boys hope. I think that is something that all of us up here need to do is start engaging. That is my comment for this evening and again, I thank all of you for your attendance.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON :**Thank you, Councilman Smith. We move right along to Councilwoman Tonsing.

**CLWN TONSING:** Good evening, everyone. Thank you for coming out and thank you to those who are watching. I just want to thank our mayor, our city workers for and especially Jennifer Duber , our economic development community liaison for putting together a fun and festive Easter celebration. It

was a great time for the children. They had so many fun things to do. I think it was a decent turnout for our first year and I hope next year it's even bigger. Thank you for that. It was great for our community. I just need you to be aware that Garfield heights is hiring for summer jobs. They're at our rec center. It's for certified lifeguards, concession stand and office clerk. And you can submit a resume online or in person and you can call for questions 475-7272. Also seasonal grass cutting you must be 18 years old. That is 730 to 3pm Monday through Friday. Send a resume to PBurke@Garfield heights.org. And apply., You can also apply online at Garfield heights.org. I just want to say congratulations to our Garfield heights basketball team. I'm just proud of you that you're going to play in the regional semi finals and I wish you all the best of luck on Wednesday and just go Bulldogs. Happy St. Patrick's Day and Happy, Happy National Women's History Month And I wish you all good night, and I hope you just say I hope you stay safe. Thank you.

We want to thank Councilman Sonic for those remarks. At this time we move over to ward six to Councilman Kelly.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** We want to thank Councilman Tonsing for those remarks. At this time we move over to ward six to Councilman Kelley.

**CLMN KELLEY:** Every time I tell my wife this will be a short meeting. Yeah, so it doesn't matter if I go home now. Where do I start? Okay, it's already been mentioned, but I'll mention it again. Tomorrow's a town hall. Tomorrow the 12th at 630 Correct? <6:3>. Okay, Town Hall tomorrow. Also the Urban League of Greater Cleveland wanted to promote or make you aware of their record clearance and expungement services. . We can assist with financial assistance for court and filing fees, complete intake and referral services with an expungement manager. They say call us today 216-622-0992 If you remember, I guess it was some time shortly after Labor Day, there was so much fuss about the jail, whether it's coming to Garfield or not, so much , roar about that. But I had mentioned, then hey, while somebody was so focused on a jail and housing and what that facility would be, why don't somebody work on expungement program. I hadn't heard anything. So I took it upon myself, and I'm dealing with <Well, I don't want to say anything> We have meeting setups, I don't want to say anything until we actually unveil what we're doing through the ministry that I run, but we want to try and do some things with expungement services ourselves and so we wait to unveil that as we kind of get everything together. But in the meantime, the Urban League of Greater Cleveland wanted to make you aware of the services that they want to provide in reference to record clearance and expungement services. In addition to that, let me again, Coach Johnson, congratulations with the team. And also want to say in regards to recreation, timing is everything. And I say that because this is my second term. But in our first term, I chaired the Recreation Committee and one of the things that we talked about, is what we're going to do with that vacant space over there. We talked about that and so everybody was just shooting out ideas. Paul Birk and I, we were just , hey what we're gonna do, hey, we got to do something together. But until we actually came up and did this master plan. So we just seems like now it's just a perfect time for things happening. Sometimes, you just gotta be silent. That's why I just sat her, I'm listening to everybody talk. I said, don't nobody even remember, we just talked about this last term. So congratulations. We're just waiting to see, you know, the groundbreaking and just seeing what will actually come to fruition. Because it's time, it's time. Other than that, Our next neighbors on duty meeting will be April the second. So there'll be another meeting to actually promote this again. I don't have the guests in front of me, but please be aware we are quarterly meeting. We have one on April the second. Lastly, and that would have been last, but lastly, I heard one of my colleagues, I think it might have been Dr. Mack, she brought up about the weather is breaking and noise and record playing, the music and everything. Again, last term, I was working trying to work with our law

department in regards to revamping and looking into our noise ordinance. So Milko, if you and I can kind of, we'll probably have to start from scratch all over again. I kind of hate that, but we were kind of down the road and there were some residents who I kind of promised some things too. We're looking we're looking and I don't want to look like a fool in front of them because I actually was doing my part. I need to get some things to present to my people. So with that I'm done.

**Law Director Milko Cecez:** Sure

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you, Councilman Kelley. We'll move right along to Councilwoman Newriones.

**CLWN NEWRONES:** All right. I'm going to kind of go through some of the stuff that other people have said. thank you to Jennifer Duber and her team for the Easter celebration. It was really nice. It was so good to see all the kids out there. And like Rachelle said, hopefully next year, it will be bigger and better. Happy Women's Day, women's month to all the women out here. Coach Johnson, thank you for coming out tonight. It's so nice, not only that you're a coach, but that you care about this community. We appreciate that and I look forward to working with you to get something going with this basketball program and basketball courts. Congratulations to you and the team. I look forward to hopefully having you in our Memorial Day Parade so they can be celebrated. I also wanted to say congratulations to Trinity's wrestlers, they placed ninth in the state for division three wrestling, which is something that hasn't happened in a really long time. And they also had three of their members placed in the states individually. So congratulations to all All of our athletes in Garfield Heights. As I mentioned, the Memorial Day Parade, we had a meeting scheduled for the 20th of this month, it has been moved to the 28th. It will still be at five o'clock here at the Civic Center. So if you would like to join us to help plan the Memorial Day Parade, or if you have a group that would like to be in it, please join us on the 28th at five o'clock. My Black Watch meeting this month will be on Thursday the 21st it is moved because of the holiday. So it's a week earlier. It is at St Monica's cafeteria at seven o'clock and we are going to have chief Kaye this month. Hopefully. That's all I have. Thank you very much. Have a good night.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** Thank you Councilwoman Newronws for your comments. And last but not least, the council president, I get a chance to address our residents and I can promise you this much. Gonna be real brief tonight.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** You know not to give me a microphone. God bless you. First of all, let me say again to all of my colleagues, especially the ladies on this Dyess that you are greatly appreciated in its honor. Thank you, Dr. Mack, for bringing this resolution to the council and to our city for us to sign off on Women's History Month. Because all of us can think of some great woman in our lives. And I always go back and remember history, because I come from great women. My mother and my grandmother, who lived to be 100 years old and was born in the 1870s raised me until I was 10 years old. So I'm very grateful for our acknowledgement the role that women play. Please adhere to all of the announcements that my colleagues have made. I will not keep you any longer than that tonight. Please come out to our meetings that are scheduled at our town halls, to your council board meetings. Please be adherent to those things. And last but not least, don't forget to vote. Don't forget to vote yes, on March 19..

**CLMN MARK SMITH:** Early voting has already started.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** March 19 is the election. All right. So with that note in mind, here's all the announcement that we can make. Can we have a motion to adjourn?

**CLWN COLLIER:** Mr. President. I'd like to make a motion that we adjourn.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It's been so moved by Councilwoman Collier that we adjourn. Can I get a second?

**CLWN TONSING:** I second.

**PRESIDENT JOHNSON:** It has been so moved and seconded by Councilman Tonsing

All in favor say Yea: 7 Yeas – 0 Nays .

Any opposed I don't think so. Good night everybody.

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 pm.

Approved By:

Avery Johnson  
Council President

Submitted by:

Lottie Overly  
Clerk of Council

Vote Outcome: APPROVED  
Yes: 7 No: 0  
Adopted Date: 3-25-2024  
Effective Date: 3-25-2024