

KIRTLAND CITY COUNCIL MINUTES

December 7, 2020

The meeting of Kirtland City Council was called to order at 7:00 p.m. by Council President Richard Lowery. Due to the current state of emergency regarding COVID-19, the meeting was held virtually via Zoom. Mr. Schulz led the prayer which followed the Pledge of Allegiance. The members of Council present were: Scott Haymer, John Lesnick, Richard Lowery, Jeffrey Ruple, Matthew Schulz, Joseph Smolic and Kelly Wolfe.

Administrative personnel present were: Mayor Kevin Potter, Law Director Matthew Lallo, Assistant Finance Director Louis Slapnicker, City Engineer Douglas Courtney, Service Director Joseph Fornaro, Police Chief Lance Nosse and Fire Chief Anthony Hutton.

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Mr. Lesnick moved to suspend the Rules of Council to proceed with the Organizational Meeting, for the election of Council President and Council President Pro Temp, and for appointing the Clerk and setting the meeting schedule. Mr. Smolic provided the second. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING:

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-66
(Council as a Whole)

- A RESOLUTION RECORDING THE ELECTION OF THE PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL FOR THE TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Lowery announced that nominations were open for the Office of President of Council. Mr. Smolic nominated Mr. Lowery, with the second by Mr. Haymer. There being no further nominations, Mr. Lesnick moved to close the nominations, with the second by Mr. Ruple. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote.

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Ruple. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Lesnick moved to declare an emergency and adopt the legislation recording Mr. Lowery as President of Council. Mr. Ruple provided the second. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-67
(Council as a Whole)

- A RESOLUTION RECORDING THE ELECTION OF THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE FOR THE TERM ENDING NOVEMBER 30, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

Mr. Lowery announced that nominations were open for the Office of Council President Pro Tempore. Mr. Schulz nominated Mr. Ruple, with the second by Mr. Smolic. There being no further nominations, Mr. Lesnick moved to close the nominations, with the second by Mr. Schulz. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote.

ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING – RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-67 (continued):

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Schulz. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Lesnick moved to declare an emergency and adopt the legislation recording Mr. Ruple as Council President Pro Tempore. Mr. Smolic provided the second. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-68 - **A RESOLUTION APPOINTING DENISE A. ROELLE AS CLERK OF COUNCIL AND ESTABLISHING WAGE AND DUTIES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Council as a Whole)

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Ruple moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Lesnick. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Schulz moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mr. Lesnick. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-69 - **A RESOLUTION RELATING TO ESTABLISHING RULES, TIME AND PLACE OF COUNCIL MEETINGS FOR THE PERIOD FROM DECEMBER 1, 2020, THROUGH NOVEMBER 30, 2021, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Council as a Whole)

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Lesnick moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mr. Smolic. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

REGULAR MEETING:

Council President Lowery stated he would entertain a motion to convene an executive session to discuss collective bargaining, pursuant to Article I, Section 7(d) of the City Charter. Mr. Lesnick so moved, and Mr. Smolic provided the second. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** The time was 7:14 p.m.

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Upon adjournment of the executive session, the regular meeting of Council reconvened at 7:39 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 10, 2020 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. Smolic moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Smolic moved to approve the Minutes, as presented, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2020 WORK SESSION:

Mr. Schulz moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mr. Lesnick. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Schulz moved to approve the Minutes, as presented, with the second by Mr. Lesnick. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2020 COUNCIL MEETING:

Mr. Smolic moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Smolic moved to approve the Minutes, as presented, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2020 FINANCE COMMITTEE MEETING:

Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the reading of the minutes, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote. Mr. Lesnick moved to approve the Minutes, as presented, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS:

Fire Chief Anthony Hutton advised the monthly report has been distributed. November was a busy month, with 118 calls, and the Department responded to 72 calls in a 36-hour period on December 1st and 2nd. During this time, the Department responded to 19 tree removal assists, 22 power line calls, 12 public assistance calls, 5 alarm drops, 1 injury accident, and 13 EMS calls. Staff was held over, with 9 to 10 on duty during peak times, and all calls were covered. Chief Hutton expressed his pride in how the Police, Fire and Service Departments worked as a team.

Chief Hutton provided a COVID update, noting that Lake County is currently purple on the State of Ohio COVID map and will most likely remain at that level. Cases have been increasing again in Kirtland.

The new ambulance, which was made possible with CARES Act funds, has been through a final inspection by Matt Killeen and Cory Eisenberg of the Fire Department. The ambulance is expected to be in Kirtland by Friday and in service by the weekend.

The Department is currently looking to hire four more part-timers to replace positions that have been vacant. The four applicants are basic EMTs and in paramedic school.

Councilman Lesnick asked if the Department had been able to reach out to those residents in need of backup generators during power outages, such as those on oxygen. Chief Hutton said all notes on those residents who may need help during a power outage are in the CAD system and readily available. Mr. Lesnick thanked Chief Hutton and all of the first responders for the work they do during such times.

Police Chief Lance Nosse reported there was a request to continue "No Shave November" into "No Shave December", and he has accepted. This will result in a larger donation to charity.

Chief Nosse advised October and November monthly reports were issued last week. There were over 817 calls during those two months, keeping the Department very busy.

Chief Nosse congratulated Officer Alicia Tapia who was sworn in on November 25th as a full-time officer.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued):

Several needed upgrades are being made thanks to the CARES Act funding, including the camera system in the building.

With regard to the storm last Tuesday, Chief Nosse stated the Fire Department, Service Department, and Police Department worked well together, and he mentioned that the dispatchers did a phenomenal job. In a 24-hour period between November 30th and December 1st, dispatch handled 180 calls for service from just the City of Kirtland alone. There were 134 calls in a 12-hour span. The City of Willoughby received 108 calls that day, which means the dispatch center handled over 200 calls during that time. There were no calls missed by any of the departments, no serious injuries, and no deaths reported. Chief Nosse expressed his pride in the city and the community.

Mr. Smolic asked if there are any sedans still in use in the Police Department, or if the Department has moved on to all Explorers. Chief Nosse said there are two sedans still in service.

Service Director Joseph Fornaro thanked the community for their help and understanding during the storm. The continuous and heavy snowfall created problems that normally aren't experienced during a typical snowfall. Mr. Fornaro praised the dozens of residents who showed up and helped remove trees off the roadway. He went on to thank the public works team for their dedication and continued work to clear the roadways of ice, snow, and debris. Their dedication and ability to provide 48 hours of continuous coverage, along with their willingness to return from vacation and doctor's appointments was greatly appreciated. Mr. Fornaro then thanked both Chief Nosse and Chief Hutton and their teams, along with Willoughby Dispatch for the help and support they provided the Service Department. The teamwork and willingness to help through the storm is something he has never witnessed in almost 40 years in public works. Mr. Fornaro expressed his gratitude in being part of the City and the team effort.

Beginning Monday, a night shift was implemented. That shift began at 6:30 with five trucks on the roadway. Tuesday during the day there were eight employees on shift. Those shifts continued through Wednesday. With the extra help, the Department was able to clear trees without limiting plow trucks on the road. During that short time, 19 to 20 inches of snow fell and the total salt usage was around 200 tons.

Downed trees and wires delayed plow trucks in a few areas, dropping the level of service below expectations, and the Service Department is currently working to address those issues.

CARES Act funded projects at the Community Center have begun; plumbing improvements are underway.

Council President Lowery praised the job the Service Department did during the storm, and thanked him and those in his Department for all of their hard work.

Councilman Lesnick asked Mr. Fornaro to rate the recent storm, to which Mr. Fornaro responded he believes it would rank in the top 15. He went on to say the storm of '94 is the most comparative storm he can recall, which was also an early storm. That storm began with an inch of ice, and 36 inches of snow fell.

Responding to Councilman Smolic, Mr. Fornaro stated the total downed trees for this storm is calculated at 30 in total. The cleanup of these trees continues, and the chipper is currently in use.

Responding to Councilman Schulz, Mr. Fornaro stated there were no equipment malfunctions during the storm and all five trucks were on the road. Mr. Schulz asked if there is a written policy on how the plow truck drivers are to handle situations such as stranded vehicles on the road or medical emergencies. Mr. Fornaro said he has a winter weather policy for the City, which is almost complete, but there is nothing currently in place.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued):

City Engineer Douglas Courtney began with the 2019 drainage projects. The final closeout documents were received from Badger and the final pay certificate was issued and delivered to City Hall for processing and payment.

The 2020 Street Rehabilitation update included the completion of Emerald Glen on November 10th. Mr. Courtney and Mr. Fornaro did a walk-through on November 11th, creating a small punch list that Ronyak has since completed. The final cost on the Emerald Glen project was \$59,487.26.

The Charlesderry Road chip sealing will be completed in the spring and will be a carryover from the 2019 street work that Ronyak did for the City.

With regard to the Wisner Road Streambank Stabilization and the Ohio EPA 319 grant, Mr. Courtney stated repair alternatives and costs from AES (the design build contractor) have been received, along with their preferred option for repair which is approximately \$60,000. Mr. Courtney and Mr. Fornaro are currently working with AES, Chagrin River Watershed Partners, and Lake County Stormwater concerning funding.

There is no update on the Street Repair and Maintenance Plan other than Mr. Courtney and Mr. Fornaro are still working to get the street inventory and condition ratings into a GIS-based system. Once the storm damage has been addressed, work will begin again.

Concerning the Old Town Sewer improvements, the EPA accepted the nomination for the project. There are two types of loans for this project -- design and construction -- and the City is at the stage of requesting a design loan, which would fund the design of the project. There are two items of legislation on tonight's agenda; Resolution 20-R-71 authorizes the Mayor to apply for the loan and enter into a loan agreement once the loan documents come through from the EPA. The loan application was submitted to the EPA this past Friday. Resolution 20-R-72 authorizes the Mayor to approve the design proposal. Mr. Courtney is currently working with Lake County Department of Utilities to set up the public participation portion of the project; there will be information posted on the city's website.

With regard to city-wide drainage issues, Mr. Courtney stated the pavement ponding at 11011 Woodlake has been addressed; work to correct that ponding was completed a couple weeks ago and seems to be performing well.

Investigations are continuing in the Saxon/Eisenhower area; Mr. Courtney and Mr. Fornaro are trying to piece together where the storm sewers connect and how much water is going to each point.

Councilman Smolic asked if there was significant damage from the storm, to which Mr. Courtney said he will know more when the snow melts.

Assistant Finance Director Louis Slapnick reported the 2021 Senior Levy application has been submitted to the County. Mr. Slapnick and Mrs. Kovalchik have worked tirelessly on the new system, and all of payroll is 100 percent up to date through November. The monthly reconciliations are being worked on in the new system.

Answering Councilman Schulz, Mr. Slapnick verified that the audit has been completed.

Law Director Matthew Lallo reported collective bargaining has been positive and productive with both bargaining units. He expects legislation for each to be on the agenda two weeks from now.

DEPARTMENT REPORTS (continued):

Mr. Lallo said Mr. Courtney has worked diligently dealing with the WPCLF, the Old Town sewer application as it relates to the EPA. Mr. Lallo worked with Mr. Courtney on the legislation that is being proposed tonight, one of which they are asking to be passed tonight by waiving the three readings (20-R-71). Mr. Courtney agreed, stating although the loan application has been submitted there will be nothing done with it until there is legislation passed authorizing the Mayor to sign the application. This will need to be done by Friday.

MAYOR'S REPORT/ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Mayor Potter congratulated the Kirtland High School Football team for winning the State Championship.

Last week the Mayor met with Mr. Fornaro, Mr. Courtney, Mrs. Wolfe, and some representatives with Lake County Department of Utilities to discuss the Old Town sewer project. There will be another meeting next week to create a video presentation to be posted on the city website to serve as a resource for the residents in preparation for a January public meeting. There will also be a fact sheet and Q&A mailed to all affected residents in the Old Town area. This will be in conjunction with the presentation on the website, to reach those who don't have internet or are not very tech-savvy. All residents are welcome to call City Hall for follow-up questions.

Mayor Potter thanked the Service Department employees, Mr. Fornaro, the Police Department and the Fire Department for all their hard work and dedication during the recent storm, noting that 19 inches of heavy snow fell, bringing down over 40 trees and many power lines. He mentioned that he was driving in from the southeast that day, and arrived home late Tuesday night/Wednesday morning; although the snow had only stopped falling a few hours before, he was amazed at the amount of clearing that had been done on the side streets.

Mayor Potter has requested Council President Lowery to form a special Council committee to recommend a proposal for a road funding mechanism. He asked that this committee be formed at the next Council meeting. There has been a comprehensive road program presented to Council by Mr. Fornaro and Mr. Courtney, and there needs to be funding for the program. Mayor Potter expects the committee to include members of the community throughout the process of developing the funding method for road programs into the future.

Councilman Schulz suggested the City's mailbox policy be posted on the city website for residents.

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Councilman Lesnick reminded those present there will be a Finance Committee meeting after the next Council meeting to review revenues and expenditures.

CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA:

Jim Lemons, 9735 Chillicothe Road, expressed concern about the recent increase in power outages. Mayor Potter advised that during the work session prior to tonight's Council meeting, Ms. Wendy Zele from First Energy was present for discussion on this topic. Ms. Zele is the City's liaison with the power company and spoke about upgrades that are expected to be done to the substations, but she did not have a timeframe.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA (continued):

In addition, there is a great amount of foliage and trees around the city that can affect the power lines and be the cause of outages. However, the frequency of outages has increased and the City is taking it seriously.

Councilman Schulz added that First Energy performs a circuit patrol, noting that it is important for residents to notify them of trees that are threatening power lines as they only come out every four years to trim. He went on to say the Newport substation in Kirtland that feeds the vast majority of Kirtland will receive a new transformer in 2021, but Ms. Zele could not commit to a specific date in 2021.

Councilman Lesnick asked all residents to be more vocal and active in reporting outages. He noted that Ms. Zele also mentioned they are looking to rearrange the connections at the substation to possibly help the situation with outages until the transformer is replaced. Councilman Haymer said he learned at tonight's work session that a lot of the downed powerlines came from trees located on personal property and not in the easement.

OLD BUSINESS:**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

None.

ORDINANCE NO. 20-O-63 - **(Second Reading) - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 254.13(b) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KIRTLAND, RELATING TO CERTAIN BENEFITS FOR RETIRING EMPLOYEES, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. Noting that it is close to the end of the year, and to help in closing out the year for the Finance Department, Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the three readings. Mr. Smolic provided the second. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Lesnick moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

ORDINANCE NO. 20-O-64 - **(Second Reading) - AN ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 254.06(j) OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF KIRTLAND, RELATING TO THE PAYMENT OF ACCRUED SICK TIME UPON AN ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE'S RETIREMENT, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.**
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. For the same reasons he mentioned regarding the previous legislation, Mr. Lesnick moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Smolic. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Lesnick moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

NEW BUSINESS:

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

None.

- ORDINANCE NO. 20-O-70** - AN ORDINANCE ACKNOWLEDGING THE ROLE OF THE CITY OF KIRTLAND EMPLOYEES DURING THE COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO PROVIDE FOR HAZARD PAY BENEFITS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only and placed on First Reading.

- RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-71** - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR HIS DESIGNEE TO APPLY FOR, ACCEPT, AND ENTER INTO A WATER POLLUTION CONTROL LOAN FUND (WPCLF) AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF KIRTLAND FOR PLANNING, DESIGN AND/OR CONSTRUCTION OF WASTEWATER FACILITIES, DESIGNATING A DEDICATED REPAYMENT SOURCE FOR THE LOAN, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. Mr. Schulz moved to waive the three readings, with the second by Mr. Ruple. **ROLL CALL: MOTION CARRIED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).** Mr. Schulz moved to declare an emergency and adopt, with the second by Mrs. Wolfe. **ROLL CALL: ADOPTED 7/0 (VOTING YEA: SMOLIC, WOLFE, HAYMER, LESNICK, LOWERY, RUPLE AND SCHULZ. VOTING NAY: NONE).**

- RESOLUTION NO. 20-R-72** - A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO APPROVE THE CITY ENGINEER'S PROPOSAL FOR SERVICES RELATED TO PHASE I AND PHASE II OF THE OLD TOWN SANITARY SEWER IMPROVEMENTS, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only and placed on First Reading.

- ORDINANCE NO. 20-O-73** - AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING TEMPORARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE THREE-MONTH PERIOD ENDING MARCH 31, 2021.
(Mayor Potter)

The legislation was read by title only. Answering Mr. Smolic, Mr. Slapnick requested that this proceed to Second Reading. The legislation was placed on First Reading.

COUNCIL COMMENTS:

Councilman Lesnick said he'd like to see the participation in the chat feature be addressed more in accordance with Robert's Rules. If someone has something to say it would be beneficial for them to speak up and state their name and address and have the discussion during the appropriate times. The comments in the chat, made throughout the entire meeting, are distracting and would not be permissible during an in-person meeting. Mr. Lallo explained the law mandates that the public have the opportunity to view and listen to public meetings; the law does not provide the public the opportunity to participate or speak. However, he noted Kirtland's Ordinance gives the public several opportunities throughout the meeting to voice their concerns and opinions. Mr. Lesnick said he nor anyone else on Council would want to dissuade participation in the meeting, but these comments are a distraction. Many comments come through the chat and it would be beneficial for everyone if the comments were made at the appropriate time and addressed. Council President Lowery said it has been exciting seeing more residents participating in or viewing the Council meetings and encouraged the community to engage and speak their comments and suggestions; however, there is a clear format outlined on the agenda with opportunities for public comments.

CONTINUING CONCERNS:

Council President Lowery noted that this is an opportunity for the public to address Council about any continuing concerns.

Ron Fenstermaker, 8851 Billings Road, agreed the storm was one of the worst this area has seen in a very long time. He questioned Mr. Fornaro on whether he believes the City was prepared for the storm. Mr. Fenstermaker stated a lot of side roads were not cleared for a very long time. Mr. Fornaro responded his Department was prepared for that storm. During a normal storm the rounds take approximately an hour and a half. With the downed trees and wires the rounds were extended. He stated that the level of service was lower than expected in a certain area of the city and those deficiencies are being addressed. Councilman Smolic referenced the storm in 2016 that produced 33 inches of snow. He was on Council during that time and said after 48 to 72 hours there were still some side roads not plowed. Further discussion ensued concerning storms in the past and plowing of side streets.

Bob Genovese, 7719 Joseph Street, asked if maintenance of telephone poles are the responsibility of First Energy, as he is aware of several on his street that need to be replaced. Mr. Genovese suggested the telephone pole replacements coincide with road repairs following the sewer work in the Old Town area. Mr. Courtney stated that Joseph Street will be part of Phase II, which is a few years out, but any plans prepared for the Old Town sewers will be submitted to utility companies for review. However, if there are immediate concerns concerning utility poles Mr. Courtney suggested First Energy be contacted directly. Answering Councilman Smolic, Mr. Courtney stated that none of the non-municipal utilities that are now on poles would be placed underground as part of the sewer project; he stated any request to have the lines buried will delay the sewer project. Council President Lowery suggested to Mr. Genovese that he contact First Energy so his concerns will be on record and it can be addressed now. Councilman Lesnick said there is normally a metal tag on the power pole with a number for identification purposes.

Bob Weinberg, 10467 Gaitside Trail, asked if Council's executive sessions could be scheduled toward the end of the Council meeting to conduct as much business as possible before placing people into the waiting room. Also, he noted when he built his home five years ago he picked an area with underground wiring, and he has an installed generator. Mr. Weinberg asked where the feeds are to the developments that have underground wiring, as he expected fewer power outage issues with the underground wiring. Mayor Potter said he was unsure about the power feed, but the power issues in his area were due to downed trees. Council President Lowery explained that some topics discussed in an executive session are related to the agenda for the Council meeting; therefore, it is helpful to have those discussions beforehand. Mayor Potter added that, when possible, executive sessions are scheduled during the work sessions.

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Lesnick moved to adjourn, with the second by Mr. Smolic. The motion of Council passed by unanimous vote and the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

President of Council

Clerk of Council