

**COUNCIL MINUTES**  
**March 1, 2004**

The regular City Council meeting was held on Monday, March 1, 2004 at 7 PM in the Euclid City Hall Council Chamber. President Sustarsic presided.

Members Present: Daly, Delaney, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Langman, Mancuso, Sustarsic, Sustarsic

Others Present: Mayor Cervenik, Law Director Frey, Acting CS&ED Director Gliha, Public Service Director Gulich, Finance Director Johnson, Acting Parks & Recreation Director Will, Police Chief Maine, Acting Fire Chief Cosgriff, Housing Manager Tollerup, Zoning Commissioner Petkovic, Police Capt. Doles, Mr. DeWine, Mr. Ryan Cummins, Sgt.-at-Arms Nagy, Clerk of Council Cahill.

Invocation was given by Rev. Dennis Lippman of New Life Christian Church on Lake Shore Blvd.

**Liquor Permit**

Councilwoman Hufnagle moved to receive without objection a stock transfer for a C1, C2, D6 liquor permit to 27573 Euclid Ave. Councilwoman Mancuso seconded. Roll Call: Yeas: Unanimous.

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Council received the following communications:

A resolution from the City of Solon expressing opposing to House Bill 208 and the Retainage Reform Effort.

A letter from Regina Hauck regarding Board of Control meetings.

Fiscal Year 2003 Consolidated Action Plan Evaluation Report.

A summary of legislation on tonight's agenda by Law Director Frey

**ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS**

Mayor Cervenik – I would just like to announce that the Budget Hearings will be this Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 7 PM. The Finance Director will have a presentation for you and we'll be here to answer any questions you may have. Depending on our time constraints or what kind of progress we make, we may not limit ourselves to just General Fund. If we do need another evening, we've tentatively set that for Wednesday, March 10<sup>th</sup>. We need to this process before the 15<sup>th</sup>, because the 15<sup>th</sup> is when the budget will need to be voted on by this Council.

We've got a few announcements. First from our Acting Recreation Director Kathy Will.

Acting Director Will – I'd like to take this time to inform the residents of Euclid that the Euclid Jaycees will be sponsoring their annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 in Sims Park. This event is free and it is open to children ages 8 and under. Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> at 1:00 in Sims Park.

Also the Recreation Dept. will be hosting their Youth Sports Registration at City Hall on Saturday, April 3<sup>rd</sup>, from 10-12. And April 6<sup>th</sup> & April 8<sup>th</sup> from 5-7. That is for all the youth sports.

Mayor Cervenik – We'd like to turn it over to Chief Maine in the Police Dept. They've got some awards to present to various members of our safety forces, Chief Maine.

Chief Maine – Before I do that I'd like to make a couple of quick announcements. Council received beforehand, I passed out this evening, as well as to the Directors earlier today, the Annual Police Report for 2003. I'd like to thank Capt. Doles and Cathy Martin our Administrative Assistant for putting together a quality product which pretty accurately describes our activities from last year. I'm pretty proud of the work that the men and women of our police department did in 2003.

Second of all, I'm sure Mr. Guntner will be making an appeal later on, but I think the well chronicled financial problems of our Animal Control Division necessitate us to get some more volunteers to keep the shelter operation and the adoption operation open. I'm sure he'll speak to this later, but I'd like to add my appeal for anybody who feels compelled to this line of work, to add their efforts to keep our shelter operating up to the capacity that it should be. Now I'd like to commence with our awards ceremony.

Chief Maine and Capt. Doles presented Officer of the Year to P.O. Chad Daubenmire. Meritorious Service Award to: Sgt. Andrew Veres; P.O. Jeff Swider; P.O. James Bruening; P.O. Paul Wittreich. Exceptional Service Award to: P.O. Ron Sebusch; P.O. Jeff Swider; P.O. Mitch Houser. Officers Merit of Achievement to P.O. George Brentar. Injury on Duty Award to: P.O. Gregory Costello and P.O. Steve Hogrefe.





Director Gliha – I'll make a couple of quick comments and then I'll Mr. DeWine, our Program Manager summarize the project. This is a block grant funded storefront project. We refer to the project as the Euclid Beauty College strip which includes the Euclid Beauty College, the US Post Office and Nite and Day. The project will consist of over \$170,000 of exterior improvements, total costs are estimated to exceed \$256,000. That will include the interior as well as the exterior improvements. I will let Mr. DeWine summarize the project, one he is quite proud of.

Mr. DeWine – Euclid Beauty College has been in Euclid for almost 40 years. The ownership recently transferred approximately two years ago. New owners bought the business and were offered the opportunity to buy the building several months ago. They acquired the building, it is in need of extensive amount of internal and exterior work. The Development Department has been in negotiation for several months with the new owners, who also operate the Euclid Beauty College. The owners are in the audience this evening. They took the opportunity to purchase the property when it became available. In the last two years the school has grown from 23 to 90 students. The school employees 7 full time and 5 part-time staff. Prior to purchasing the building, the principles had considered relocating the school elsewhere. Plans for the renovation have been approved by the City's Architectural Review Board. In addition, construction drawings have been reviewed and approved by the Building Department. Conceivably construction can begin this month of March. Simultaneously the exterior renovation of the building, interior improvements totaling almost a quarter of a million dollars are going to be made. Euclid Beauty College will occupy the two vacant storefronts where it was formerly occupied by Great Lakes Computer and the Big Scoop Ice Cream store. The City is making no reimbursement for any of the interior improvements. Hopefully this will allow Euclid Beauty School to be in Euclid another 40 years.

Councilman Langman moved to suspend the rules, Councilman Sustarsic seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Daly, Delaney, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Langman, Mancuso, Sustarsic, Sustarsic.

Passed.

**Res. (059-04) HIP Reimbursements**

A resolution to reimburse the remaining nine (9) applicants for Housing Improvement Program reimbursements. (Sponsored by Councilman Langman)

Councilman Langman moved for passage, Councilwoman Hufnagle seconded.

Councilman Langman – Perhaps one of the most popular programs in the past few years in the City of Euclid has been the Home Improvement Program, also known as HIP. This program would reimburse the property owners, the homeowners for improvements that they made to their property. Be it room additions, waterproofing a basement, driveways, etc. The only drawback is that the program was funded out of the General Fund and for the past few years our General Fund has obviously been under great pressure so the program had to be suspended, unfortunately.

However there were approximately 9 people that went through the entire process from start to finish. That is they went through the application process, it was certified by our Economic Development Dept. They undertook the improvements and it was certified as complete. This really rectifies for those individuals and makes good on the promises implied in the whole home improvement program by reimbursing them for carrying out the improvements that they said they would. With that I'll turn it over to Mr. Gliha if you wanted to add anything.

Director Gliha – You summarized it quite right. These 9 remaining HIP projects were approved by the Housing Advisory Board and were in the process of final inspection. When we were going through budget hearings a couple of years back, as the Councilman stated, the HIP was funded by the General Fund. That was removed from the General Fund and a \$75,000 cap was set on Clay Matthew TIF funds to reimburse those applicants that had gone through the process. Well these 9 fell through the cracks because the \$75,000 was used up and they were put on hold. All the projects have been done. The total investment by these homeowners was over \$178,000 or approximately \$178,000. Total reimbursement per the program guidelines will be \$10,787.

Councilman Gruber – Are these the only 9 individuals that have been approved? I've been approached by one resident that's been on the list since 2002 and I tried to get a hold of Mr. Comiskey today and he wasn't available. I would just like to, if these people are eligible if this does pass, I would like to have another resolution specifically designed for them. Are these the only ones that you know of for sure?

Director Gliha – These 9 actually made it through the Housing Advisory Board approval and we're in the process of final inspection. There are applications that I think Mr. Comiskey still has that have not gone to the Housing Advisory Board. They had completed their projects but they have not gone for the finishing review by that Board. If and when, when I will say, the economy gets healthy and we have the ability to reimburse, we will certainly revisit that issue and try to make good with those who went through and applied.

Councilman Gruber – I understand the process. The homeowners involved are pretty sure that they went through all of their process. Just to leave the door open for them if they were.

Director Gliha - I'll double check that for you Councilman and we'll get back to you tomorrow.

Councilman Sustarsic – I realize this is funded by the General Fund. Is there anyway that grants could be used to continue the program if we wanted to?

Director Gliha – This program was set up specifically not to have income eligible requirements as all grants do. This program was made available to everyone regardless of their income and that's why it was funded originally by the General Fund. Then the fallback position was Clay Matthews TIF. Those that are income eligible, of course we work closely through our EDCOR low interest loan program and other grant programs. This is taking it one step further.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – This is coming out of the Clay Matthews TIF fund. How much is in that account now?

Director Gliha – We just received our new payments, the January tax collection and I believe there was \$75,000 unencumbered balance.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – What else would that fund be used for?

Director Gliha – Presently we have encumbrances to Squires, Sanders & Dempsey for our legal work on the marina project. We also have encumbrances for another consulting firm that is working with us to develop the developers agreement and eventually negotiate the school agreement that is necessary for the marina work. These funds can be used by the way the language is contained in the ordinance, these funds can be used to do any activity that further benefits or furthers the economic benefit of the City of Euclid. The HIP fund, since we are actually having residents increase the taxable value of their investment, they are therefore generating additional taxes to the community, therefore they are providing an economic benefit to the community.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – Do we know how much we're going to be taking out of that? You said we had encumbrances?

Director Gliha - \$10,787 will cover these HIP's. The other encumbrances, \$55,000 for Squires, Sanders and Dempsey and we will be introducing a new encumbrance. We had one for \$30,000 for the negotiations with the school and the developers agreement, we're changing course this week and we will bring in another consultant so we will be unencumbering and \$18,000 balance and bringing a new contractor in front of City Council to help us go forward. But if my calculations are correct and I will double check, we should have after this, approximately \$65,000 free dollars balance in the TIF fund to be utilized. The encumbrances that I mentioned are already encumbered so I'm talking pre-dollars.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – On the list that we were supplied with the applicants it said the date approved. Is that the date the project was completed?

Director Gliha – That was the date, there was a three tier system. They went in front of the Housing Advisory Board one time. Authorized to go ahead with their project. They would come back at final completion in front of the Housing Advisory Board. Then our final inspection by our Building & Housing Dept. would be completed too. There was an initial date of approval. There was a final date of approval and final certification. These dates, such as the first project, 6-18-97, I know that sounds like it's a long time ago, in talking with Mr. Comiskey, this individual served as his own general contractor and his own contractor specifically. So he took approximately a 3-4 year period to build a rather extensive addition to his home as well as a rather large garage to his home. That took a little bit longer. The ones with the shorter dates were where they went right through a contractor and had the improvements performed by a contractor.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – If we took this money, this \$10,000 almost \$11,000 now out of this TIF fund, what kind of priorities will we be operating from. Can we expect that we're going to be asked again to take money out of this TIF fund for something else? Do you have something else coming down the line?

Mayor Cervenik – At this point in time, there is nothing on the agenda of this administration to further deplete the balance in that TIF fund or any other, at this time. As we go through the budget hearings and depending on how the economy shapes up, there maybe some functions that we may approach Council on, but it is my intention not to use those TIF funds for a lot of little things. This is a Councilman's request. My idea behind the TIF fund is you allow that balance to build up, so that you can do larger things. So you can really make an impact, an economic impact in an area of the city. It is my intention, hopefully that the TIF fund be allowed to accumulate for a number of years so that when a large project comes around, we've got some funds to help out in that project, to facilitate that project. I don't believe you will be seeing anything coming from this administration to further deplete the balances in those TIF funds.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – Did I understand you correctly that once we go through the budget meetings, we may find something else that we would need to come out of this account?

Mayor Cervenik – If it comes, its probably going to come from another Council person, rather than someone from this administration, at least for the year 2004.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail – Director Gliha, you had mentioned that there were also a group of people that had submitted applications. Do you know how much outstanding grants would be due to those folks?

Director Gliha – I cannot answer that tonight. I know Mr. Comiskey has those figures and we will provide them to you tomorrow. I did not bring those figures with me tonight.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail – When you say these fell through the cracks, does that mean the \$75,000 was spent?

Director Gliha – I should clarify. There was a \$75,000 limit set to the reimbursements. We reached the \$75,000 limit and these 9 could not be included because we had exceeded that \$75,000 limit.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail – We would be in fact be extending that limit. My concern is that there are another group of people who have applications in. That would have stopped at that point because we had reached the \$75,000. \$10,000 can be used for a number of things. I guess I would perhaps like to see this maybe discussed a little more after we've gone through the budget and see. Councilwoman Hufnagle's comment is good, there maybe other things that \$10,000 could help keep in the budget. I don't know if these people were told they were going to receive the money at the Housing Board?

Director Gliha – They were not told. This was introduced by Councilman Langman and we're trying to answer questions the best we can. Right now there have been no further commitments.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail moved to place Res. (059-04) to the Finance Committee. Councilwoman Hufnagle seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Daly, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Sustarsic, Sustarsic.  
Nay: Delaney, Langman, Mancuso

Into Finance Committee.

**Ord. 34-2004 (57-04) B&C Communications**

An emergency ordinance authorizing the Mayor, as Ex-Officio Director of Public Safety of the City of Euclid, or his designee, to enter into a three-year service agreement with B&C Communications to provide reasonable and customary repair of mobile radios, portable radios, fixed site equipment, and dispatch console electronics and operator positions. (Sponsored by Councilman Gruber by request of the Chief of Police)

Councilman Gruber moved for passage, Councilman Daly seconded.

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Chief Maine – As a result of the examination of our budget, obviously every area was looked at to try and make some cost savings to the General Fund. One of the areas examined was in the area of communications. We felt that some significant savings could be made if our radio repair and servicing was contracted out. We did some investigations and contacted the two companies that we felt had the expertise to provide radio repair services for a city of our size. Since our communication systems does include police, fire, EMS, parks & recreation, service dept., anybody in the city that has a radio. That's why we only contacted these two. B&C we've done a lot of business with. They came in with the quote that you see here, nearly \$23,000. The other one, Independence, their quote for the same services, in fact for a lesser service was for nearly \$54,000, over twice the amount. That's why we come to you today so that we can implement a service agreement to do the radio repairs and installations that we need to do. That's why we've asked for it to be an emergency. I'll be glad to answer any questions.

Councilwoman Mancuso – The person who we are replacing with this particular contract, what else did they do? Were they just the radio engineer?

Chief Maine – His title was Communications Engineer. He was responsible for the entire radio system within the City. He also did things like set up loud speaker displays for public affairs and that sort of thing. We'll have to find some other resource to take care of that duty.

Councilwoman Mancuso – A few weeks ago approved a contract for another maintenance agreement.

Chief Maine – That was Positron, 9-1-1. Positron is strictly telephone equipment. This is for radios.

Councilwoman Mancuso - There's two totally separate contracts. That one was almost double. It went from \$4,500 to \$9,000, if I remember. This is actually taking us down from a salary and benefits?

Chief Maine – The Communications Engineer with insurance benefits made somewhere in the area of \$65,000. This contract for the remainder of this year 10 months of the contract, plus the wage and benefits that have been paid to date, plus the new installations are going to cost and exceeds of this maintenance contract, we figure we're going to be in the area of \$35,000. So, the City should hopefully realize a savings of about \$30,000 this year by making this move.

Councilman Gruber – Does this include any necessary parts and also I noticed parts aren't listed in here but is that part of the contract as well?

Chief Maine – Major parts are not. We're fortunate that we have a stock pile of parts and the agreement we have with B&C is that before they make any major repairs, they'll check to see if we have those parts in stock and they'll use the parts that we have.

Councilman T. Sustarsic – What are they going to be working out of? Are they going to be using our city facilities? Are they going to take it back to their home shops at all?

Chief Maine – They've been very accommodating. They will come to the City and make repairs here for all the vehicles. Any portables, they will come and pick up and take back to their shop and work on their bench and bring it back.

Councilman Sustarsic moved to close debate, Councilman Gruber seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilman Gruber moved to suspend the rules, Councilman Langman seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Daly, Delaney, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Langman, Mancuso, Sustarsic, Sustarsic.

Passed.

**Res. 35-2004 (060-04)**

A resolution opposing Substitute House Bill 208, which is currently pending before the Ohio House of Representatives. (Sponsored by Mayor Cervenik)

Councilman Sustarsic moved for passage, Councilwoman Mancuso seconded.

Director Gulich – I attended the NOACCA meeting downtown Cleveland a few weeks back. House Bill 208 was discussed extensively. I don't plan on doing that. I just would like to tell you that the

City of Euclid has historically enjoyed the ability to retain a good deal of retainment from a public works contract for a good length of time, up to a year. That enables us to get the job done, bring contractors back, get back on the job. House Bill 208 would severely restrict the city's ability to withhold retainage with respect to the amount of retainage and the length of time the city could retain it. Anybody out there that's hired a contractor to do some work around your house, you find out that once they got all their money, you have a really hard time getting them back. Just to address all the little details that need to get done, I'd appreciate Council's support in passing this Resolution for hopefully a domed House Bill 208.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail – Director Gulich, thank you for bringing to our attention. I might ask if Council supports this fully that it also be added from Council as well.

Roll Call: Yeas: Daly, Delaney, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Langman, Mancuso, Sustarsic, Sustarsic.

Passed.

#### **CEREMONIAL RESOLUTIONS**

##### **Res. 27-2004 (063-04) IAC Man of the Year**

A resolution of congratulations to Timothy J. O'Brien on being honored as the Irish American Club East Side's 2004 Man of the Year. (Sponsored by Mayor Cervenik and the entire Council)

##### **Res. 28-2004 (064-04) IAC Woman of the Year**

A resolution of congratulations to Debbie Hanson on being honored as the Irish American Club East Side's 2004 Woman of the Year. (Sponsored by Mayor Cervenik and the entire Council)

Councilman Gruber moved for passage, Councilwoman Hufnagle seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Daly, Delaney, Gruber, Holzheimer Gail, Hufnagle, Langman, Mancuso, Sustarsic, Sustarsic.

Passed.

#### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Councilwoman Hufnagle moved to go into the Committee of the Whole. Councilman Gruber seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Mr. John Conway – 291 E. 276 St. Twenty-nine days ago I informed this Council and administration about a small group of Euclid residents and announced our intentions to challenge the rezoning request that was approved by the City Council 5 to 4. Within a matter of days, this small group expanded to over 110 registered voters of Euclid who were willing to start circulating two referendum petitions.

I am pleased to announce tonight that as of 10 AM this morning, we were able to officially file our two completed referendum petitions to the City Finance Director, Jack Johnson. Director Johnson, thank you very much for your assistance this morning. I know we did not have an appointment so I appreciate you being available on short notice.

Four thousand four hundred and fifty-five registered voters of Euclid signed Petition A, which was the rezoning request for the Worship Center. Four thousand four hundred and twenty-six registered voters of Euclid signed Petition B, which was the rezoning request for the housing. These numbers are truly historic. Through the hard-work and dedication of many, this grass-roots effort to resulted in an overwhelming response.

Throughout this effort, many residents have commented to me on how much they appreciate all of our efforts on this project. I've often said back to them, that you should not be proud of us, but you should be proud of the residents who stepped up to make a difference and ensure that all of us had the right to vote. There's much to be proud of.

I can honestly say that our greatest accomplishment is that the complacent attitude and the apathy that has plagued our city in the past officially ended on February 2<sup>nd</sup>, the night Council approved the two ordinances. But what also makes me proud is that over 110 people spent time away from their families, stood in the cold, to circulate petitions throughout the city. We made every attempt to ensure that everyone had the opportunity to participate in the process. But it is a big city, so if we missed you, I'm sorry.

It is said that democracy is based upon the convictions that there are extraordinary possibilities in ordinary people. These 110 ordinary people truly made the unassailable difference.

Finally what makes me proud is that throughout this process we were able to increase Euclid's registered voters by over 300 people. Though they missed the deadline for tomorrow's election, I hope and encourage all of them to come out in November and execute their rights to vote.

To our critics, I just would like to take this opportunity to make a couple of points clear. I truly respect your opinions as to why you believe that the Hillandale proposal is a good project.

What truly disappoints me however, is that when people try to divert our beliefs at this project is not in the best interest of the long-term economic use of the land into a personal attack on our passion, enthusiasm and integrity in which we conducted this effort.

My challenge to all of our critics is the following. We must continue to work together to make Euclid a better city to live in. The only way this City can move forward is by all of us working together to achieve one common goal. We are more than happy to work with all of you so that we can start the healing process. Please do not hesitate to contact us, because we're not going anywhere.

Mayor Cervenik, as I said to you last week, we are not your enemy. Please utilize us as a valuable asset that we are. We want to work with you on projects such as the future of Shore Cultural Centre, the Golf Course and the Senior Center and whatever else comes before us. By working together we can leverage that same passion, enthusiasm and integrity that made us so successful throughout this process. Additionally we also hope that this same passion also is successful in passing Issue 24 tomorrow.

Finally I would like to let everybody know that tomorrow's weather forecast looks good with temperatures in the 40's. You can't ask for a better day in March to get out and vote. We strongly support the Euclid City School levy and urge all citizens who are concerned with the safety, health and economic well-being of Euclid to vote yes on Issue 24. By showing up tomorrow to vote, we can and we will improve the education quality of Euclid Schools and ensure a bright future for our children. Thank you and have a good night.

Mr. Eric Fenster – 27150 Zeman Ave. Like everybody else I received the information concerning the gas aggregation program. When I did the arithmetic, it seems it is going to cost more to change than to rest with Dominion at least for a year. There are a couple of reasons for that.

One is that for the first year that one changes to another supplier, the transportation charge for gas goes up. Right now we go up from \$1.57 to \$2.63 per mcf, which is \$1.06, if my calculations are right. And that is not stated in the Mayor's letter.

This has been an issue that has come to the Attorney General. It has gone to the Ohio Consumer's Counsel. They are very upset with it. They've ruled on it that legally, this fact can be concealed. It is concealed by all the alternative suppliers of gas. They don't tell you that when you change for one year, so called migratory rider, will add to your transportation cost. However, when we're in the city and when this comes out over the Mayor's signature and he is supported by Council, it seems that there should be transparency and this should be told to the people.

The second concern is something that was said, but it kind of slips by you. That's the tax. In the price that Dominion charges for gas, there's a gross receipts tax included of 4.9%. But in the price of gas that is going to be charged by Vectren, there's a sales tax of 8%. If you make the calculation, you end up paying more.

The third factor is that in the agreement that Vectren sent out, it said that if you're not satisfied at any time for a \$25 cancellation fee you can opt-out again, you can withdraw, besides the annual opt-outs. They also say that if you do that and if you go back to Dominion, you maybe charged a different gas rate by Dominion than it charges other customers. From what I've been able to find out, that's false and would be illegal because Dominion is regulated by the PUC and cannot charge repentant customers different amounts from their normal customers.

For these three reasons I suggest that the Council and Mayor find a way to inform all the citizens within the time period of these three factors so they can make a really clear decision either through a second letter, or if necessary, since I understand there's a follow-up letter by Dominion to make sure you want to get into the program, to include that information with that letter. Thank you very much.

Ms. Jan Gajda – 421 E. 257 St. Have you recently retired? Have you been laid-off? Are you just looking for something to do? Well I have an opportunity for you. There are a number of part-time jobs available offering flexible hours and all the wagging tails and purrs you can stand. I'm talking about volunteer openings at the Euclid Animal Shelter. We need people Tuesday through Saturday at various times for many tasks. In order to keep our Shelter sparkling we need those of you with exceptional cleaning skills who take pride in the fruits of their labor. We need people with office skills to answer the phones, talk to customers, help them with licenses, pet supplies and adoptions. We need people who can get to know all our four-legged residents so that when prospective adopters come in, they can introduce them to a potential new member of their family.

If you have 2-4 hours to spend on a regular basis every couple of days, once a week, every two weeks, once a month, or however your schedule allows, please consider becoming part of our volunteer team, so that we can keep our shelter open. The homeless dogs and cats that cross our threshold are counting on you. This is the only way we can continue to help them. We need you. Besides regularly scheduled shelter work, we also need people who like to coordinate, organize special

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events, such as our Bark-B-Q and the Four Paws Clam Jam. Or a car wash or other fundraising activities. Again, we need you.

On Saturday, March 13, we will be having an Open House at the Animal Shelter from 11-3. We are pleading to our residents and neighbors to come in and make a donation of whatever you can. Or sign up to be a volunteer for one of the tasks mentioned above. Or sign up to be on a fund-raising committee. We will have hot dogs and soft drinks donated by local businesses. During this open house there will be a representative from Discovery Toys there who will donate 15% of sales on that day and from parties booked to the Animal Shelter. We will have a Bake Sale and a Cake Auction, which Tod will go into a little more detail on after me. Please consider helping. Our Shelter can only survive with your help. Our website is [www.EuclidPetPals.org](http://www.EuclidPetPals.org). More information will be listed there. Thank you.

Mr. Tod Guntner – 390 E. 257. First of all I would like to say congratulations to all the police officers who earned awards this evening. Second of all, I urge everyone all 38,000 plus registered voters to get out and vote tomorrow. No matter who you want in office, or whether you want or don't want a particular issue, please get out and vote. Every voice counts. Thank you.

Next, the Animal Shelter Commission will be holding a meeting here in Council Chambers on Thursday, March 4<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM. Everyone in this room, everyone watching TV and everyone at home is invited.

Now for our Open House. We will be having a cake auction and a thank you to the person who offered that. I don't know if they want their name mentioned so I won't at this time. But thank you, I'll be getting with you later. This will be 1-1:30 during our Open House. We ask if you have a special cake, something that is to die for, we would like you to donate one to our cause. We will be auctioning them off. We would like those between 9-11 AM that Saturday on the 13<sup>th</sup>. Also, if you'd like to donate any baked goods at all, we will be having a bake sale also in conjunction with the auction. That will be from 11-3 and please drop off your donations, we'd greatly appreciate it.

Due to budgetary constraints in the City of Euclid the fate of the Animal Shelter does rest on our ability, Euclid Pet Pals, to raise the needed funds to operate on a regular basis. So, we are appealing to the citizens of Euclid and pet lovers everywhere for your help. Euclid Pet Pals is committed to keeping our shelter open and operating providing loving homes for as many homeless animals that come through our doors as possible. To do this we need money and lots of it. I am now challenging everyone in this room, everyone on TV, to make a donation, however big, however small, whether it is a \$20 membership, or \$2, or your recycled cans. Anything would be greatly appreciated. We also need committed reliable volunteers. We need you and you and all of you. Thank you for your support.

Ms. Kate Wenrich– 294 E. 264 St. I was one of the petitioners collecting signatures to get the Hillandale zoning issue on the November ballot. I know we live in a democracy and a majority of voters in Euclid elected the 9 of you to represent the citizens of Euclid. However, in the event the citizens believe their elected officials are not properly representing them, Euclid's Charter allows us to collect signatures and get a referendum on the ballot. This way the citizens get to decide the issue through their vote.

It is our right as citizens of Euclid to circulate petitions. Even though the premise of the petition disagreed with 5 council members that voted for the church project, it does not give anyone the right to stereo-type all people in opposition to your decision and start slandering us as a group.

Ms. Hufnagle, I was deeply insulted and hurt when you implied that I was a racist because I was circulating a petition at the Euclid Sports Plant. How can you come to that conclusion without even knowing me? In case you don't remember, it was two Saturday's ago, February 21<sup>st</sup>, you accused me of being a racist and a liar.

Furthermore Ms. Hufnagle, I felt that your comments and the tone of your comments lacked the professionalism of a council person. Just because I am not in favor of the Hillandale project, that does not make me a racist. Just because I was circulating a petition, does not make me a racist.

I am a citizen of Euclid and I have a right under the Charter to circulate a petition when I disagree with the decisions of the elected officials.

Mr. Dennis Berzinskas – 20890 S. Lake Shore Blvd. Not Lower Lake Shore Dr. That has a ring to it. This last Saturday and Sunday, we got a break in the weather. The children were out. Some their first times on their bikes. Please be careful out there. There are children. They are going to be darting in-between cars, out in the street, playing in the street. Just drive carefully please.

My wife and I have raised 4 children in this City. We raised them to be good citizens so that wherever they went, they would be role models. I expect no less from our elected officials. But after last November's election, it was as if we as a city had taken a step backwards in time. We felt that

after 47 years, growing up in a city we loved, that we were at an impasse. We even considered moving. But we have faced very tough times and issues in this city as a family. We are not moving.

We are not going to let a poster-boy for a political party try to shove his agenda down our throats of the citizens of Euclid. By doing so, he can show his use and worth to the party, so they can invest more time and money in him in the future in his endeavors outside of Euclid.

That bothers me. We can only go on past practices and the sign law. It was backed by our officials. They took it to the Supreme Court and it cost us over \$350,000 of our tax dollars. Not very good representation. If it passed, we could take our right to sell our own homes away from us. As it was stated, it possibly could have been taken as being very racist.

Shore. He played basketball, then in 1993, he wanted to take it down, put up two new basketball courts, I wonder why. Maybe a 300-400 seat theater. Again showing that he was looking out for the community, you stated that Shore cost too much. I guess he looked at the reports that were given to the Shore Board that stated it was \$360,000 to run Shore for a year. But after a study that he forced, it was found out it was \$180,000-\$190,000, what Shore would make even though they lost tenants because of what I would not say is the best intentions. So they paid their way.

Then it was the Doi Dickinson plan. Or should I say plans. When you really want to do something with a building or house, or do something for the citizens, you have a plan. And you don't pay for 4 plans, A,B,C and D. The plans were paid for by the monies put away from the Shore rentals and that was over \$100,000 were available for repairs at Shore. But over \$67,000 were spent, or as I like to put it, burnt on plans.

Every city is in need. We are not unique. Representatives really represent us. Not their political careers. Tomorrow is a voting day. Vote. But be an informed voter when you do vote. Ask who. Who will be responsible to answer our questions truthfully. Truthfully. What is bound to by duty or promise. What are we getting for our tax dollars? I'm sorry to say that there are some people that are running that are promoted by this man that I don't really appreciate because we have not been given enough information. Thank you.

Mr. William Hilf – 891 E. 237 St. Euclid. I'm here to speak tonight, first about Shore Cultural Centre. Which we found in last Saturday's paper is once again on the chopping block. First I'm here to remind the 5 veteran members of Council that the first thing you did in December, 2001 was to pass a Resolution and all of you voted in favor of it, stating that you continue to support Shore. I'm here to remind you of that pledge.

Second, I thought the funny thing about seeing the article stating Shore once again, you know, is the root of all the problems that Euclid has, because that's the way it seems to be, is that every time we have a problem, well its got to be Shore's fault in some level. Is that the article right next to it said that the supporters of Issue 31 had a study showing the economic development and the monies that the arts brought in and I wonder. Has that study ever been done for Shore? I really doubt that it has.

We look at the black and white numbers when it comes to Shore. I bet you we don't look at the black and white numbers when it comes to the other sports programs in this city. Do we look at the amount of people that come into that building especially on the weekends, but weeknights as well? Who go out and for instance, for our theater company, we get people coming from Lakewood, we've got people coming as far as Painesville and Concord Township. When their kids have got rehearsal, do you think they drive all the way home? No. They go do their shopping at Tops. If they're hungry, they go over to Wendy's, they go over to Burger King, they spend their money in Euclid because they are here.

When American Church Builders came up here to talk about the Hillandale project, they talked about how church-goers like to go out after church on a Sunday and they go shop and they go eat and that brings money into the city, that boosts the economy. Well Shore is home to many church groups. What do you think their parishioners do and after their services on Saturday's and Sunday's and the weeknight prayer services that they have. Shore is an economic boom to downtown Euclid. It's a historic building that can be a jewel in the heart of downtown. It has never been treated that way. Once again its on the chopping block. I'm here to state tonight that I'm not the only tenant who's fed up with it and that we're organizing as a community to fight this. Because it has been shown what can happen when a small group of people get together and decide they don't like how something is being done. Forty-five hundred signatures are handed in of registered voters. We can get that same type of public support and we're going to get it and we're going to keep Shore open so that we can have the 130 kids that are in Annie Jr. right now coming down and getting something out of the city. Coming down and getting something personal, learning something, self-esteem, things like that. The church groups that are promoting their message to their parishioners and have a home there. Those are the groups that are in Shore. The other arts groups that are in Shore and we're going to fight for our home and we expect public support. We expect the 5 that passed that Resolution to continue to support Shore. Thank you.

Mr. Joe Udovic – 21371 Naumann. Last Wednesday I had an opportunity to attend a Fireside Chat with the Mayor at the Euclid Public Library. I noticed the biggest topic there as was this evening was Shore Cultural Centre. Let me ask a question. When I hear Shore once again is on the chopping block, the Mayor pointed out at this meeting last Wednesday that there is going to be a couple of studies into possibly conversion of Shore into an artist colony or homes. My question is very simple. I recently finished classes at Lakeland College in Willowick. They have a satellite campus in Willowick. Has anybody ever thought about or proposed a feasible plan of converting Shore into a college campus for maybe Cleveland State, Tri-C, Case Western, Bowling Green, Baldwin Wallace? We have a building here, let them rent it out. They can offer day classes, they can offer evening classes. Why not? It brings people into Euclid. Maybe that's something we need to discuss and decide. I think it was Councilman Gruber who mentioned in Ward 4 Tri-C was looking for potentially opening a satellite campus.

My next comments in this recent edition of Euclid Observer, I wrote a beautiful article about Mr. Tod Deegan in Ward 4 in Euclid. He has many great visions and great ideas just about his commercial properties. Since we are under budget constraints, have we ever thought about possibly closing down House Emeritus and moving all the seniors to one central location when we open the one on the lake? It is under my impression and from what I understand from Mr. Gruber, House of Emeritus needs a lot of money in investment to bring it up to par. Possibly this can be looked at and this can be studied. Hopefully this will be looked at somewhere down the line.

Last but not least. Mrs. Hufnagle you have shown an outrageous conduct. Outrageous that an elected city official would circumvent the petition procedure by verbally berating, demeaning a petition worker or taker. These citizens have a right, in an orderly manner, to exercise their right as a tax payer citizen to circulate petitions. Last July as a candidate, you berated me in public. Mrs. Hufnagle if you cannot do your job, will you please leave this room and don't let the door hit you on the way out. Thank you.

Mr. Vic Leanza – 25651 Edgecliff. I always enjoy a little passion. First I would like to congratulate Mayor Bill Cervenik for conducting a fireside chat last Wednesday, handling some easy questions, handling some tough questions, especially about Shore Centre and especially handling children's questions. We look forward to Council President Jerry Sustarsic on the last day of March, doing the same.

The last thing I want to say is I want to talk about the Euclid Family YMCA. One of the finest social institutions in this city. As you may know the YMCA started over 160 years ago after some wars in Europe where a lot of gangs of bullies with no more fathers because they had been killed in the war were rooming the streets. Then in the United States the Y began very legitimate work after our bloody Civil War when so many boys and girls became fatherless. Over the years, the Y has served children, teens and now adults and seniors.

The Euclid Family Y is part of the Greater Cleveland YMCA. It serves more than just Christians. The C is for Christian but they serve all faiths, all races and all ages. The Euclid Y of which I am a board member and Kristal Skovira who was the Y Director and is now working for the city, is our Board Chair person. Our former Y Director Leslie Chamberlain has been appointed to head-up the new Chardon Y, the brand new Y built out on Bass Lake Road in Mayfield and Chardon.

Our Euclid Y is a real treasure. Today starts our annual campaign which runs through the city and beyond during the month of March. Our campaign kick-off was last night at the Y. Meg McGarry, former councilwoman, is heading up the campaign this year. The Y does a lot. It is a family Y. It helps children, families, the community. It is a non-profit organization. The fees pay for quite a bit of the Y program. A little bit comes from the United Way. The rest comes from our annual campaign and most of the money is used to provide scholarships to pay for people who want to use the way. People of all ages. No one is ever turned back for lack of ability to pay at the Y. I am here to ask and I hate to ask for money, but for the Y I will ask. For the people behind me, for the people who are viewing. If someone calls you, a volunteer may call you and say can you support the Euclid Family Y which provides child care for working parents, which has a slogan of Mind, Body and Spirit. It is not just a gym or a glorified fitness center. It is a place where people gather. It is a place where values are taught. I have made more friends over the years that the YMCA than any other place.

If you're asked to give, reach down, give \$20, \$50 or \$100 or more. That will help a lot of people use the Y who could not otherwise afford it. Thank you so much.

Councilman Daly moved to rise and report. Councilman Sustarsic seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

#### COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

Councilwoman Mancuso – This will be short and sweet. Again, I hope everybody will get out to vote tomorrow. It is very important especially for our School Levy. That is probably the most important piece of business to be voted on tomorrow as we go out.

I would also like to say thank you to each of the people who went out and were passing petitions. I received e-mails and phone calls and people stopping me at the grocery store which I tried to go earlier and earlier in the morning so I could get in and get out without 14 conversations before I get finished. Each of them whether they were for the referendum or opposed to the referendum, each person said to me that they were so proud with the people that they were talking with and the way they conducted themselves while having the petitions in their possessions and requesting people to sign. I would just like to say thank you to the citizens who did that for everybody and the way they conducted themselves. Thank you.

President Sustarsic –Mr. Sustarsic, no phone call yet?

Councilman Sustarsic – Still waiting. I received several e-mails and phone calls a lot of people were wondering about Camels & Butterflies. What has been the history as far as now trying to retain them in Euclid?

Mayor Cervenik – Madeline Cerne and her husband are very close friends of mine and my wife's. I knew they were having trouble there before I became Mayor, the two years I wasn't on Council. I did what I could to help her, gave her some advice, helped her with finding an attorney that we thought was going to help the situation. So when I heard that she was contemplating moving, I immediately called her. I did not receive a return phone call but she's been having some health problems also. I did see them at John Hayes' funeral. She has assured me she will contact me in the very near future. This administration will do what we can to keep that store there. My wife is going to make me keep it there because she does a lot of shopping there. We hope to get the situation worked out with the landlord. There's been a number of problems she's had to deal with. The last one was I believe the boiler went in the building and it took extensive amounts of time before it was taken care of. We are going to work with her and whatever steps we can take to keep her and her store and clientele in the City of Euclid we will do that.

Councilman Sustarsic – This Council might not agree all the time, but one thing we all do agree, all 9 of us is that we have to go out tomorrow and support the schools and vote for Issue 24. I'm urging all residents of Euclid to get out there and let's get this thing passed for our kids. Thanks.

President Sustarsic – Hopefully we can make the election before we have another new addition to our family and the phone rings off the hook.

I'd like to congratulate what I heard Mr. Conway say this evening. I would like to thank 300 additional voters, individuals that signed up to register to vote. It is very, very important. It is a thing that too many people take for granted. You can see the results of it from people who don't enjoy this opportunity throughout the world. Even though we might have our disagreements and problems and everything else like that, it is still the best system going. I want to congratulate the people who did register to vote. The polls open on 6:30 AM and they close at 7:30 PM. Again, vote for the school levy. We have county, state offices on the ballot. President of the United States, Congress among others. Then we'll come back down on Wednesday, to our hall at 7 PM. There will be a Finance Committee Meeting and we will be discussing the budget. With that in mind, that's all I have to say.

Councilman Daly – On Saturday, I was invited to the Championship games of the 9-10 year old Panther Hoops and I'd like to thank and congratulate acting Director Will and Paul Dietrich and the rest of the department that runs that program. I was very impressed how well the league was run and the skills that the children, both boys and girls displayed during that game. The team that I sponsored won and I would like to congratulate their Coach Sherman Slade and all the members of that team. It was a very exciting afternoon and good luck next year. That's all I have, thank you.

Councilman Delaney – I will once again shoulder in and remind everybody to please vote in favor of Issue 24. This improvement for all of our schools, all of our buildings directly translates into our own home property. I will be working the polls, so anyone please feel free to say hello to me and talk.

I'd also like to bring up Issue 31, the Cuyahoga County Initiative for arts and culture. The partnership for Arts & Culture is a group that I've been involved with time and again since 1999. They have used the Shore Cultural Centre in their promotion of the arts as well as many similar places in Cuyahoga County. This initiative passing would probably bring a great deal of money into our arts and cultural programs.

Interesting that a member of the public brought up universities. Its also something that I've had dialogue with in the last two years is Cleveland State. It has been in the newspaper many times, it is not the only university that will be shopping around. Their Westlake Campus filled up so fast that they were ready to speed up and now looking in Solon. As a matter of fact, ironically enough, I have talked

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to their real estate person about Shore. I have shown them footprints of the building and they've requested a fact sheet. So I'd like to get together with Acting Director Will and Acting Director Gliha and somehow map something out.

I'd like to call a committee meeting, perhaps March the 24<sup>th</sup>, Commercial Development Committee specifically about the Shore Cultural Centre. I think we'd like to see a lot of what the building has to offer. I'd like to try and take some of the misnomer rumors. Maybe we should set the record straight and have a comprehensive meeting just explaining what our Cultural Centre is. What it does bring in. The members of the public fantastic. It was almost tailor made to everything that pulls on my heartstrings.

The YMCA is still very, very involved. Continue on the interest of building a new recreation center in Euclid and our new director over there would also like to begin more investigation on that as I have worked in the past with them and, again, working right afterwards.

I'd like to close with congratulating the Euclid Awareness Committee. In the very beginning they certainly took a lot of, a lot of shots for what they appeared to be. And what they've shown up and produced is the foundation of our democracy. It really makes me stop, think how important this job is, who we represent. We probably have the most active, the most caring people throughout the State of Ohio. A hundred and ten people circulating, 4400 signatures, they had not one petition they had two petitions. It's such an overwhelming feat just to get that handed in and I'm, I'm completely grateful, very humble. They're giving the City its right to vote and it just goes to show you once again how important it is to represent these people. Thank you.

Councilman Gruber – I'd like to start off by thanking Councilman Daly, who took care of the needs of Ward 4 in my absence. He did a superb job from what I understand. I thank you very much, Hugh, for taking care of that. Anyone who e-mailed me I will be returning your e-mails within the next day or so.

Tri-C did, when we were in negotiations and we still have some ties with Tri-C, they did mention they went to Shore. They did a complete review of the building and for their needs, what they wanted to do with their specialization and so forth, the retrofit for the building and stuff would have been too expensive and they were looking to build new anyway. They also went to the Mall at the same time and they found that the Mall was not sufficient for them. Tri-C was and I would be willing to work with Councilman Delaney to see if they would be welcome to take another look at Shore Cultural Centre.

Tod, with the Dog Pound, sign me up for Thursdays from 4:30 to 6 or so. I'll be glad to come down and help in anyway we can. And also I'd like to explore the possibilities of cookbook with the proceeds going to the Pound from that cookbook. So we'll be talking about that along with support of the Y which is another important project for the City of Euclid. And that's about it. Thank you.

Councilwoman Holzheimer Gail – I'd like to congratulate Beach Club Bistro, Greg Jurcisin and his wife, Patrice. They've had a couple of good reviews in local papers, which adds good PR to our City as well. They've done a great job and I saw Del Donahue's van there. Del's Folks did, came and had a meal there so we should all be watching for that review as well. They've done a great job and we're, I'm real happy to have them here in our community.

Just a reminder too, I believe it's Ward 1 Precinct I and H and 2, A and B in Ward 2 who used to vote at the Euclid Park Clubhouse, you will be voting at Alexander's tomorrow. I got a couple of calls. Post cards, I believe, did not go out from the Board of Elections. We'll have a sign out tomorrow. So just a reminder if you usually vote at Euclid Clubhouse, your voting place will be at Alexander's as it was this last November.

And also just a final plug for Issue 24. Issue 24 is very important to the kids, to the schools and to our community. It will help overcrowding. It will reorganize the school system opening two new elementary schools brining about all day kindergarten and an additional \$900,000 from the State to do that. It's an investment in our buildings. It's, this money will be used for capital improvements only; it will not be used for salaries and most importantly, it is affordable. The schools are part of our community. They're our responsibilities and I hope that each and every resident will join me in voting yes on Issue 24 tomorrow. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Councilwoman Hufnagle – I would like to compliment the committee that put on the Euclid High School Scholarship Reverse Raffle on February 20<sup>th</sup>. The committee, while they had many workers, they were headed by Sally Marvin, Patti Connavino and Sandi Zalewski. And that event raised over \$11,000 in that one evening and that money will be distributed to qualifying seniors that are graduating this year. It was a wonderful event and I would like to commend them. They work very hard on it.

I would also like to thank a Euclid High School student, Heather Beasley. She invited me to an event that she put together last week. She titled it, Pizza and Politics. She had it at the high school. It was part of a school project in which she registered 150 children in the school or young adults now and

put this evening on and I spoke at that. And I would like to thank her for that. There were about 40 high school students there for that.

I would also like to thank Glenbrook Elementary School. They invited me last Friday. I attended with Councilman Delaney, the Mayor, Chris Frey, some other Euclid people. We attended their program that they hold every year. They title it, Local Heroes. It was very nice to be in the school. They did a wonderful job.

I would also like to thank this evening Mr. DeWine. He took the time last week, last Friday, he met with me. We spent over an hour together and he brought me uptodate on many things that are happening in Ward 3 and I would like to thank him for taking the time to spend with me.

I would also like to compliment the Fire Department. I received a call last week from a resident and they were calling about another situation, but in the course of that conversation they wanted to compliment the Fire Department on the response time that they had in their mother. It was a 911 situation and it was Station House 3 that was called. So Acting Chief Cosgriff, would you pass that on? They were very pleased and I commend you for that and the department.

And I believe also, Mr. Mayor, that we've had some very preliminary conversations with Kent State, they're showing somewhat of an interest in Euclid, so I think that is a positive thing.

As to the comments that were addressed to me this evening, I'm not going to get into a debate over who said what or what happened. I will say that I have received phone calls and I know that there are people are there with good intentions, but when you have 110 volunteers it is hard to keep track of them. And I did receive phone calls from residents, who felt that they were not given the correct information and they did question me about a couple of things. So I did receive phone calls on that. And I know for a fact that did happen because when my husband was out in public he was approached by somebody who misled them with the information, I'm not saying it was intentional, but I would like to make that comment.

Also, freedom of speech doesn't always ensure that the truth is going to be said. Last Council meeting we had a woman stand up at the podium and she chastised us for returning e-mails. She said that Councilman Daly was the only one that returned that e-mail. The following day Councilman Gruber checked and he did return her e-mail. We don't see her here this evening correcting herself. It is also the second time in two editions of our monthly publication that they are printing that I saw a vacant lot. So the truth doesn't always have a place here.

Now as far as Mr. Udovic's comments, Mr. Udovic did file a police report against me. And coincidentally, the officer that was awarded Officer of the Year Award this evening was the one assigned to that. And as you can see, I'm not in jail. I didn't serve time and, in fact, I was counseled that I could responsible to Mr. Udovic for filing a false police report for taking up the time of the Chief of Police, this Officer and, consequently, the Prosecutor. I was approached yesterday by somebody that Mr. Udovic went to and asked to serve as an intermediate to see if Mr. Udovic could meet with me. And my response to that person was you can tell Mr. Udovic that I will meet with him only in the Prosecutor's office or the Chief of Police's office. That's all I have to say on that. Thank you.

Councilman Langman – Tomorrow is an important day in the course of Euclid schools and quite frankly for the City in general. There're approximately 6,800 reasons to vote yes tomorrow on Issue 24. But lo and behold this evening as is usually the case you have a stack of papers as we come into Council meetings and there was a letter from a Euclid High Senior, Jessica Wrenn, who has spoken before this body before. She is starting a new group to encourage young people to get involved with the process called E-Vote, Euclid Voters of Tomorrow. And their mission is to help make today's young people become the informed voters of tomorrow. The voting public both young and old must engage in the political process. Together we can make a difference shaping our community and the world. The time to get involved is now. So I think that's just one example of some of the great things have come out of Euclid Public Schools. To Jessica and those involved with that group and, quite frankly, all the students of Euclid Public Schools for making the investment to give back to the community. Tomorrow we have the opportunity to give back to them by voting for Issue 24.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilman Langman moved to adjourn; seconded by Councilman Daly. Yeas: Unanimous.

Attest: