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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**TRANSCRIPT OF
JANUARY 25, 2021, MEETING
VIRTUAL MEETING**

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Transcript of Proceedings of the North Canton
City Council, taken by me, the undersigned, Laurie Maryl
Jonas, a Registered Merit Reporter and Notary Public in
and for the State of Ohio, at North Canton, Ohio, on
Monday, January 25, 2021, at 8:29 p.m.

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APPEARANCES:

Daniel Jeff Peters, Council President, Ward 2

Daryl Revoldt, Council Vice President, At Large

Doug Foltz, Ward 1

Stephanie Werren, Ward 3

Dominic Fonte, Ward 4

Mark R. Cerreta, At Large

Matthew Stroia, At Large

Patrick A. DeOrio, Director of Administration

Jina Alaback, Director of Finance

Robert G. Graham, Engineering Services

Catherine A. Farina, Deputy Director of
Administration and Development

Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor

Martin Van Gundy, IV, Chief Building Officer

Benjamin R. Young, Clerk

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1 MR. PETERS: And at this time I'd like -- try
2 this again.

3 MR. FONTE: Lock it up.

4 MR. PETERS: Yeah. At this time I would like
5 to call to order the North Canton City Council
6 regular meeting January 25, 2021. The time is 8:29.

7 Mark, Dominic, would you like to lead us in
8 prayer.

9 MR. CERRETA: I'll be glad to.

10 MR. FONTE: Go ahead, Mark.

11 MR. CERRETA: Okay. Lord, thank you for
12 bringing us here this evening in this wonderful new
13 year. Thank you again for the responsibility to lead
14 our community and your community. Help us to listen
15 to understand and make good decisions throughout the
16 year, to help this wonderful community that you've
17 given us. Keep our community safe and healthy.

18 In God's name we pray, Amen.

19 MR. PETERS: All right. At this time if you
20 would join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

21 (Pledge of Allegiance recited.)

22 MR. PETERS: Okay. Ben, at this time would
23 you please call the role.

24 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters.

25 MR. PETERS: Here.

1 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

2 MR. STROIA: Here.

3 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

4 MR. REVOLDT: Here.

5 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz.

6 MR. FOLTZ: Here.

7 MR. YOUNG: Member Werren.

8 MRS. WERREN: Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta.

10 MR. CERRETA: Here.

11 MR. YOUNG: And Member Fonte.

12 MR. FONTE: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

14 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Ben.

15 At this time I need a motion and a second to
16 approve as presented minutes from December 7, 2020,
17 committee of the whole; minutes December 7, 2020,
18 city council; minutes from December 14, '20, city
19 council; minutes from December 14, '20, committee of
20 the whole; minutes from January 7, '21, special city
21 council; minutes from January 11, '21, special city
22 council, and codified ordinances Chapter 1237 amended
23 pages pursuant to Ordinance No. 1-21, and it doesn't
24 need council approval but I'll include it, and the
25 December 2020 monthly financial report.

1 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz moves to motion as
2 presented.

3 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

4 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

5 ("Aye" in unison.)

6 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
7 carries.

8 MR. FONTE: Abstain. Dominic abstains.

9 MR. PETERS: Member Fonte abstains. Passes
10 6-0.

11 Okay. At this time we have recognition of
12 visitors. We went a little long, I'm not sure if we
13 have anyone. Do we have anyone?

14 MR. YOUNG: I believe Mr. Mulqueen is still
15 on.

16 MR. PETERS: If I can ask if Mr. Mulqueen can
17 see the screen. We have our rules for public speaks
18 up there. I just ask you be brief, on point, and
19 keep it professional. So, Mr. Mulqueen, the floor is
20 yours. Ben, you have the clock.

21 MR. MULQUEEN: Hi, my name is Joseph
22 Mulqueen, I proudly live and pay the property tax at
23 1016 Park Avenue, Northeast, in North Canton.

24 I'm here to share a wonderful idea I had
25 that -- what's that?

1 MR. PETERS: Go ahead, Mr. Mulqueen.

2 MR. MULQUEEN: All right. I was cleaning my
3 house one day and I got the idea of how the city
4 should try to work with the YMCA on preserving the
5 old Spitzer Chevy in downtown and see if we as the
6 city can donate the old ramps at the skating park and
7 create some sort of nonprofit skate park that futures
8 of families can serve. (inaudible) we still have a
9 state-of-the-art indoor skate park facility like my
10 generation once had down in Canton, Ohio, but sadly
11 it failed because it was kind of in a bad
12 neighborhood and also some of the people working
13 there were letting some people do some drinking and
14 drugging in there. And one of the reasons I wanted
15 the YMCA to be in charge of the indoor skate park
16 because I know the YMCA won't allow any of that to
17 happen.

18 And, you know, I just think, you know, we
19 could preserve two things in North Canton with one
20 building here at the Spitzer Chevy building. I think
21 it should be more than just a skate park, it should
22 be an art, music and just a center for mental health
23 awareness because, you know, the YMCA does give us
24 everything to work our bodies out with but I think
25 maybe we could set a standard here in North Canton

1 because it's going to be the first skate park, the
2 one -- this could be the first indoor skate park, art
3 and music venue that the YMCA could make across this
4 country. And I'm just a firm believer that these
5 families deserve to have their kids play in an
6 alcohol-free venue unlike you what you see at Buzzbin
7 and other venues around Canton. And sadly, when we
8 had Sadie Rene's, that was more or less a hole in the
9 wall and how awesome it was. We had little jam
10 nights there where people could, you know, regardless
11 of genre, play whatever they want, but it was kind of
12 not a great establishment.

13 I just think that these families of North
14 Canton deserve somewhere better where their kids
15 could have a positive alcohol-free place to express
16 themselves and make music at and maybe down the road
17 we can create some sort of family-friendly
18 Dogwoodstock, kind of little music festival tying in
19 the basketball court, skate park and, you know, just
20 that whole park right there. And I think that whole
21 name, Dogwoodstock, would probably market good and
22 the city could make a bunch of money with T-shirts,
23 by, you know, hiring a local screen printer and
24 whatever, and, you know, when --

25 And I know, you know, I'm not doing this for

1 myself, I'm doing this for the next generation of
2 families to come here in North Canton because my dad
3 was, you know, a firm believer in how great the town
4 of North Canton was and, you know, full of dreams and
5 angst over wanting to go out to California. But now,
6 each and every day I wake up here I don't take this
7 town for granted and I -- each and every day I wake
8 up here I take a lot of pride that we're a pretty
9 safe community compared to our neighbors in Canton.
10 And one of the reasons why I'm so wanting to create
11 new facilities for these kids to skateboard at here
12 is because I know this town isn't going to tolerate
13 any underage drinking or any of the -- also the
14 drugging that goes down at Ninth Street.

15 And one of the reasons why I want the city to
16 hire a professional skate park construction company
17 and not this Dale guy that the Canton Rep featured is
18 because I've seen, you know, Dale drinking with
19 fellows while working at the -- and we're not going
20 to allow that. Just I believe in family-friendly
21 environment because that's, you know, who we are,
22 what we are in North Canton. We're family friendly
23 and I just thought I'd propose this idea to the
24 people who work in my town and I think this is
25 something all the local entrepreneurs would gladly

1 tie their paychecks to and, you know, I just kind of
2 think of these ideas and I want to give them to the
3 people who are able to kind of make these ideas
4 happen.

5 So I just -- I'm a firm believer that, you
6 know, this nonprofit business venture can work for
7 North Canton and it will bring in a healthy stream of
8 tax revenue for the town and while also creating a
9 healthy stream of activity that everybody in the
10 family can enjoy.

11 Thank you. God bless. That's it.

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mr. Mulqueen.

13 Okay. Ben, that is it for visitors?

14 MR. YOUNG: Correct.

15 MR. PETERS: Okay. Thank you. At this time
16 we have a special presentation. Mr. Mayor, the floor
17 is yours.

18 MAYOR WILDER: Thank you, President Peters
19 and council, for allowing me to make note for two
20 items I would like to introduce into the record. I'd
21 also like to bring to attention, council, again, this
22 is -- I want to talk about our appreciation for North
23 Canton City School District school board recognition
24 month, and I want to thank you to our president,
25 Andrea Ziarko, and our vice president, Bob Roden, and

1 the members, Jordan Greenwald, Bruce Hunt, and
2 Jessica Stroia, for their dedication and hard work
3 for having -- and helping the betterment of education
4 for our children.

5 To follow that up, I have a proclamation I'd
6 like to read for the record. This proclamation is
7 for all children in North Canton.

8 Whereas, as all children in North Canton
9 should have access to the highest quality education
10 possible, North Canton recognizes the important role
11 that an effective education plays in preparing all
12 students in North Canton to be successful adults.
13 And quality education is critically important to the
14 economic vitality of North Canton. And North Canton
15 is home to a multitude of excellent education options
16 from which parents can choose for their children.
17 And educational variety not only helps to diversify
18 our economy but also enhances the vibrancy of our
19 community;

20 And, whereas, our area has many high-quality
21 teaching professionals who are committed to educating
22 our children;

23 And, whereas, our school -- this is School
24 Choice Week is celebrated across the country by
25 millions of students, parents, educators, schools and

1 organizations to raise the awareness of the need of
2 effective education options.

3 Now, therefore, I, Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
4 of the City of North Canton, Ohio, do hereby
5 recognize this week of January 24 through the 30th,
6 2021, as North Canton School Choice week. And I call
7 this observance to the attention of all our citizens.
8 Declared this 24th day of January 2021 by order of
9 the Mayor of the City of the North Canton.

10 Thank you, President Peters, for allowing me
11 to make that comment about our education.

12 The second item I would like to read for the
13 record is a personal resolution -- I should say an
14 office resolution from the office of the mayor. And
15 this is in recognition and gratitude of the
16 achievements in community support of W. Rod Covey,
17 who has passed away January 15. This was presented
18 the day that he died, unfortunately.

19 It reads:

20 Whereas, W. Roderic Covey was born in Martins
21 Ferry, Ohio, in 1929 and has lived his entire life in
22 Ohio, and upon his high school graduation at age 17
23 Rod Covey enlisted in the United States Navy to serve
24 his country;

25 And, whereas, Mr. Covey became a Navy medic

1 and was selected to become among his peers company
2 honor man; and upon successful completion of his
3 distinguished service was able to attend Ohio State
4 University in Columbus, majoring in journalism and
5 again showed leadership by again being elected
6 president of the OSU Wesleyan Foundation;

7 Whereas, Mr. Covey was recruited to locate in
8 Canton, Ohio, to work for the Timken Roller Bearing
9 Company and later founded his own company in
10 advertising, public relations and marketing known as
11 Covey and Koons, Incorporated;

12 And, whereas, during these years while
13 raising a family and providing employment, Rod Covey
14 devoted time and resources to numerous community and
15 charitable organizations and events, including
16 scouting, the Pro Football Hall of Fame Festival, the
17 Canton Advertising Club, the Allegheny Nation Indian
18 Center in Canton;

19 And, whereas, for several years in the 1990s
20 he served as president of the Stark County Hunger
21 Task Force, collecting food and funds to help local
22 disadvantaged families;

23 And, whereas, after making his home in North
24 Canton, provided years of fund-raising and support
25 efforts to Friends of the North Canton Library as

1 well as local veterans organizations, including
2 leadership in the creation of the North Canton
3 Veterans Memorial and Bitzer Park;

4 And, whereas, Mr. Covey served as grand
5 marshal of the annual North Canton Memorial Day
6 parade in 2013 and provided expertise and support for
7 World War II veterans wishing to publish their
8 history and stories for posterity;

9 And, whereas, when his condo association was
10 preparing to cut down a large tree in Auburn Knolls,
11 Rod Covey organized his neighbors and lobbied
12 officials to save the tree by bringing an arborist
13 and experts who determined that the cucumber magnolia
14 tree itself was well over 400 years old and of the
15 largest of its species in Ohio and that tree was
16 healthy. Later that tree was dated to be over 430
17 years old and is now listed as a world champion tree
18 and may be the largest of its kind on earth. And for
19 many years, Rod acted as a docent for the tree, and
20 thousands of people from around the world who have
21 visited its magnificence;

22 And, whereas, now in his nineties, Mr. Covey
23 continues his generosity and kindness by annual
24 donations to animal rescue groups, including the
25 Cripple Creek Ferals and Friends.

1 Now, therefore, I, Stephan B. Wilder, Mayor
2 of the City of North Canton, Ohio, do hereby resolve
3 that the City of North Canton formally recognizes and
4 salutes W. Rod Covey for his years of community
5 support, charitable efforts, effective leadership and
6 selfless contributions to our community and people
7 across the greater region and issues its utmost
8 gratitude and appreciation.

9 I proclaimed this 15th day of January, 2021,
10 by order of the Mayor of the City of North Canton,
11 Ohio, in recognition and gratitude for all he has
12 done for our community.

13 Mr. President, thank you for allowing me to
14 chair these words of recognition and gratitude in
15 response to one of our dedicated citizens. Thank you
16 for your time. I yield back to the order of the
17 meeting.

18 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mayor. That was a --
19 that was a beautiful tribute to a good man.

20 MAYOR WILDER: Thank you.

21 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you very much.

22 Okay. Moving on to old business. May I have
23 a motion and a second to read by title only Ordinance
24 75-20.

25 MRS. WERREN: So moved. Werren.

1 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

2 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

3 ("Aye" in unison.)

4 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
5 carries.

6 Ben.

7 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance authorizing the
8 director of administration of the City of North
9 Canton to advertise and receive bids according to the
10 specifications now on file in the director's office
11 for the purchase of water treatment plant chemicals
12 for use by the city's drinking water treatment plant,
13 and authorizing the mayor, upon board of control
14 approval, to enter into a contract for the purchase
15 of said chemicals.

16 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

17 Chairwoman Werren.

18 MRS. WERREN: Okay. We do this on a pretty
19 current basis to keep up with our water chemicals.

20 Pat, is there anything else you want to
21 comment on this? Or is this pretty --

22 MR. DEORIO: This is the second reading.
23 We've gone through, you know, the break. I was
24 hoping that, if council wouldn't object --

25 MRS. WERREN: To put it on emergency.

1 MR. DEORIO: Is there a possibility of that,
2 madame chair?

3 MRS. WERREN: Yes. Sorry about that.

4 MR. PETERS: Yeah. We are doing that
5 tonight.

6 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Then if no other
7 objections, I move to adopt. With an emergency
8 clause.

9 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

10 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."
11 ("Aye" in unison.)

12 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
13 carries.

14 Now may I have -- well, formally may I have a
15 motion and a second to amend Ordinance 75-20 to
16 include the emergency clause for the request of the
17 department of administration.

18 MRS. WERREN: Werren first -- seconds.

19 MR. PETERS: First.

20 MRS. WERREN: Sorry. First. I thought I
21 heard that.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

23 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."
24 ("Aye" in unison.)

25 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion

1 carries.

2 Now, may I have a motion and a second to
3 suspend the rules of council requiring three
4 readings.

5 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz moves.

6 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves. Stroia seconds.

7 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
10 carries.

11 And finally, a motion and a second to adopt
12 Ordinance 75-20 under suspension of the rules.

13 MR. YOUNG: As amended.

14 MR. PETERS: As amended.

15 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz moves.

16 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

17 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

18 ("Aye" in unison.)

19 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
20 carries.

21 Okay. As it relates to the new rules of
22 recognition of the public and city council meetings,
23 I just need a motion and a second to adopt the new
24 rules of council for speaking before council in
25 recognition of the public as proposed.

1 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

2 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

3 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

4 ("Aye" in unison.)

5 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
6 carries. Thank you.

7 Moving on. May I have a motion and a second
8 to read by title only Ordinance 77-20.

9 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

10 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

11 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

12 ("Aye" in unison.)

13 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
14 carries.

15 Ben.

16 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance to repeal, in their
17 entirety, Section 111.09, Rules of Decorum, Courtesy
18 and Propriety, and Section 111.10, Recognition of
19 Visitors of Chapter 11, Council, of the codified
20 ordinances of the City of North Canton and declaring
21 the same to be an emergency.

22 MR. PETERS: All right. Chairman Stroia.

23 MR. STROIA: All right. Down to -- we've
24 discussed this multiple times. Is there any
25 questions? It starts on, I believe, 17. 18. It

1 ends on 25. Any questions, anyone?

2 MR. FOLTZ: No questions here.

3 MR. PETERS: Move forward with it.

4 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves to approve.

5 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

6 MR. PETERS: All right. All in favor, say

7 "aye."

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
10 carries.

11 May I have a motion and a second to suspend
12 the rules of council requiring three readings.

13 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

14 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

15 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

16 ("Aye" in unison.)

17 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
18 carries.

19 Finally, a motion and a second to adopt 77-20
20 under suspension of the rules.

21 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

22 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

23 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

24 ("Aye" in unison.)

25 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion

1 carries.

2 Okay. May I have a motion and a second to
3 read by title only Ordinance 4-21.

4 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta moves.

5 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

6 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

7 ("Aye" in unison.)

8 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right.

9 MR. FONTE: Abstain. Dominic.

10 MR. PETERS: Member Fonte abstains. It is
11 approved 6-0.

12 Ben.

13 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance authorizing the
14 appropriation and one-time transfer of funds of the
15 City of North Canton to be appropriated for current
16 expenses during the fiscal year ending December 31,
17 2021, and declaring the same to be an emergency.

18 MR. PETERS: Thank you. Chairwoman Werren.

19 MRS. WERREN: We talked about this a little
20 bit in our committee and just that the appropriations
21 have to occur to balance.

22 Jina, is there anything you want to comment
23 on this? Or Patrick?

24 MS. ALABACK: No, that's absolutely right.
25 Our fiscal year budget was approved through the

1 readings starting in the end of -- or towards October
2 and these things occurred more in November and
3 December but they still are happening for this year
4 so we just need to amend the budget to include them.

5 MRS. WERREN: And we had agreed, remember,
6 Jina, we talked about that and how we were going to
7 handle that and it's something we would keep doing
8 every single year.

9 MS. ALABACK: Correct.

10 MRS. WERREN: Great. Thanks. So I move to
11 adopt and it is under emergency.

12 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

13 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

14 ("Aye" in unison.)

15 MR. PETERS: Opposed?

16 MR. FONTE: Hey, I just wanted to correct
17 that abstain. I didn't mean to abstain this, so I'm
18 "yes" on this proposal.

19 MR. CERRETA: You just abstained on reading
20 it, Dom, so you can --

21 MR. FONTE: Okay. I still want to vote on
22 it.

23 MR. FOLTZ: Jump in when you want.

24 MR. PETERS: All right. I assume that is a
25 vote in the affirmative?

1 MR. FONTE: Yes.

2 MR. PETERS: That passes 7-0.

3 Okay. A motion and a second to suspend the
4 rules of council requiring three readings.

5 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

6 MRS. WERREN: Werren, second.

7 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

8 ("Aye" in unison.)

9 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

10 And finally, a motion and a second to adopt
11 Ordinance 4-21 under suspension of the rules.

12 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

13 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta, second.

14 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

15 ("Aye" in unison.)

16 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
17 carries.

18 Okay. May I have a motion and a second to
19 read by title only Ordinance 6-21.

20 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

21 MRS. WERREN: Werren, second.

22 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

23 ("Aye" in unison.)

24 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
25 carries.

1 Ben.

2 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance authorizing the
3 mayor of the City of North Canton, on behalf of the
4 City of North Canton, to enter into an agreement to
5 participate in the Ohio Department of
6 Transportation's cooperative purchasing program to
7 contract for the purchase of sodium chloride, rock
8 salt, for the 2021-2022 winter season, and declaring
9 the same to be an emergency.

10 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.
11 Chairman Fonte.

12 MR. FONTE: Yeah. This is just an annual
13 thing we do. We buy rock salt for the following
14 winter, we buy it off-season so we get a better
15 price. This is on emergency so we can take advantage
16 of the pricing as soon as we get the bids out. So I
17 move we pass it on emergency.

18 MR. PETERS: And adopt the first reading?

19 MR. FONTE: Yes, sir.

20 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

21 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

22 ("Aye" in unison.)

23 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
24 carries.

25 May I have a motion and a second to suspend

1 the rules of council requiring three readings?

2 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta moves.

3 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

4 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

5 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

6 ("Aye" in unison.)

7 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

8 And finally, a motion and a second to adopt

9 Ordinance 6-21 under suspension of the rules.

10 MR. STROIA: Stroia moves.

11 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

12 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."

13 ("Aye" in unison.)

14 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion

15 carries.

16 That concludes our legislative piece. On to

17 department reports.

18 Deputy director of administration.

19 Catherine, the floor is yours.

20 MS. FARINA: Thank you. I'm just glad to be

21 back, recovered from COVID. Woo-hoo.

22 And just a lot we did at the end of the year

23 yet wrapping up everything and got the new insurance

24 plan out and all the -- you know, worked out all the

25 bugs with that and now we've got a lot of great

1 things in the works for '21. So I'm working, you
2 know, park project over there at Dogwood. I wanted
3 to tell everybody, feel free to call me any time if
4 you need any updates on anything. I hope to be, you
5 know, be in communication with all of you more this
6 year and as we see that project come to life, as well
7 as any other operational questions you have so always
8 feel free to give me a call.

9 That's all I have.

10 MR. CERRETA: Catherine, can I ask you
11 something?

12 MS. FARINA: Sure.

13 MR. CERRETA: Because somebody had mentioned
14 to me, is there any way we can put a diagram out
15 front so people can see what's going to happen? Or
16 maybe you have. I just -- I've been over there once
17 and I didn't see it. So it might be a good idea
18 to -- you know how they put a diagram on things?

19 MS. FARINA: Yeah. Once we have it. Right
20 now we're still a few more days until we end the RFQ
21 for the CMAR, construction manager at risk. Once
22 that team is selected, then they will work with the
23 architect to actually develop the final plans. What
24 you saw in the presentation I did was renditions and
25 ideas but not actual final plans. So we're hesitant

1 to put anything out that is proprietary.

2 MR. CERRETA: Are you going to come to us
3 with that final plan then?

4 MS. FARINA: Right.

5 MR. CERRETA: Okay.

6 MS. FARINA: Yeah. When we have the plan.

7 MR. CERRETA: Thank you.

8 MS. FARINA: Okay.

9 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you,
10 Catherine.

11 Director of administration.

12 MR. DEORIO: Yes. I'd like to thank the
13 council for indulging me over the winter break. I
14 know I called you back for a couple meetings and I
15 apologize for that. Again, I appreciate your
16 willingness to help keep things moving.

17 We did have, you know, a nasty bout of COVID
18 move through administration and we were, for the last
19 few weeks, working almost all at home and no one
20 there. Last week we started getting back alternating
21 people and being in the office, and this week a
22 little bit more and we think that -- and we think
23 that next week we're hoping to get back to, you know,
24 to full operational capacity from the site. But that
25 remains to be seen.

1 I appreciate all the spirited discussions
2 with council, whether it's here in a meeting or
3 whether it's on the phone, I appreciate the
4 opportunity to address a lot of your concerns. We
5 have a number of things that we're trying to get to
6 you yet, you know, that we've targeted for, you know,
7 for sure. So, as I think Councilman Revoldt has said
8 about the nuisance, commercial property maintenance
9 code, all that kind of stuff that you guys are
10 considering, we're going to get that done and then as
11 soon as that's done we want to bring the next thing
12 to you, so the next couple things that we got are
13 certainly the rental registration and licensing that
14 we want to bring back and talk about that, but also
15 internally do we -- finishing up the employee
16 handbook is very, very important to us for HR
17 administration. We need to get that completed as
18 well. And then, in addition to all the other things
19 that we're doing, we are still looking at the
20 possibility of doing a rollout of a -- of a 311
21 reporting system from the community to the city
22 directly on certain subjects.

23 So we've got four things here that we want to
24 queue up and be mindful of council's schedule and we
25 know that this is also going to be a busy year for

1 council, other things that you have to do, so
2 anything that you need, just give us a call.

3 Thank you.

4 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Patrick.

5 Mr. Mayor.

6 MAYOR WILDER: Thank you, President Peters.

7 Again, I just want to welcome back our
8 council members. I know I've challenged you all
9 quite a bit this last year. I challenged myself. I
10 challenged our administration. I appreciate the hard
11 work that you've done and the decisions that you've
12 made for the betterment of our community. I'm very
13 hopeful that we're going to see our city moving
14 forward, and some of the things that you've helped me
15 plan this year I think we'll be able to hopefully
16 have some fruition throughout this year and I'm very
17 hopeful. I'm not dismayed by the pandemic. I'm
18 still very strong on going forward, and with your
19 help and determination we're going to make some good
20 things happen for our community. I appreciate your
21 dedication and your volunteer hours and your hard
22 work, too, in the decisions that you make.

23 Our city government is so important to us,
24 and I so much want us to make a -- to be the example
25 of what really working together means. Agree or

1 disagree, but I think we're working for our common
2 good and I just want to welcome everybody back.
3 Thank you for allowing me to serve with you all this
4 last year and I look forward to having another
5 challenging year as we navigate this COVID pandemic.
6 We have a lot of work ahead of us yet, so thank you.
7 I just want you all to stay and keep well.

8 Thank you.

9 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mayor.

10 All right. Next up, director of finance.

11 Jina.

12 MS. ALABACK: Thank you. I would like to, if
13 we can, just take a peek at the finance report, that
14 monthly finance report. And I'm not going to go
15 through every number and every chart, but I would at
16 least like to acquaint you with how and what
17 information is in here and then we can modify this,
18 add to it, take things out, but what I try to do, and
19 we'll just -- I don't know, Ben, if you're able to
20 pull up that report, if we can go just to page 2
21 we'll just start on the next page.

22 So everything I tried to present in here,
23 because people see things differently, is the
24 information is in a graph but then the numbers
25 relating to that same graph is just right below it or

1 right beside it or something. So on the very top we
2 have our monthly income tax receipts, and you can
3 see, because of all the legislative changes with
4 Senate Bill, oh, gosh, 5 and we changed and added a
5 new section into our income tax code of the last
6 couple years which changed the deadline dates, and so
7 you can see what that has done to the city's cash
8 flow.

9 And this is -- every municipality has
10 experienced this, but municipal income tax, of
11 course, is our number one major revenue, so we like
12 to really track it, keep an eye on it, you know, and
13 it just helps us to -- or look at or explain some
14 variances, some big ones. You see that big drop in
15 July, and actually I think that's actually 2016, but
16 if you drop down below, I put a note in there, that
17 was actually the year that the city went to RITA for
18 collections, and so cash flows, we still got all the
19 money but it was just delayed by a month and through
20 that transition.

21 When we look at the very top, probably the
22 top mark there in October, and again, if you pop down
23 below to 2020, you can see in October that that was
24 truly our April collections, but that was due to
25 COVID. So we'll try to make those adjustments and

1 notes along the way so the history can kind of
2 identify some trends for us.

3 And then below on the bottom with the
4 three-bar graph, I broke down the income tax by type.
5 And again, this just gives you a picture of our
6 economic climate. How much are we receiving from
7 withholding from companies that are mandatory
8 withholding within our city for the employees, those
9 are the green, and then the purple boxes are
10 individual taxpayers and our blue is the net profit.
11 Those are our corporate and our businesses. So we
12 can kind of track those over the last five, six,
13 seven, eight years. We have lots and lots of
14 history, but I just tried to give you an idea so we
15 can kind of see what's happening with the income tax.
16 And then let's go with the next page.

17 MR. PETERS: Hey, Jina, can I ask a quick
18 question before you move on?

19 MS. ALABACK: Yes.

20 MR. PETERS: Are you anticipating the same
21 30- to 60-day delay in '21 for income tax receipts in
22 April and May?

23 MS. ALABACK: I have not heard anything
24 about -- the city will follow the federal and state
25 guidelines on tax filing deadlines, so if the IRS

1 changes the tax filing deadline from April 15 to May,
2 June or July, the city has to follow that. But I
3 have not heard anything about that happening right
4 now.

5 MR. PETERS: Okay. Thank you.

6 MR. STROIA: They haven't delayed it yet.
7 Not yet. Good question.

8 MS. ALABACK: Okay. So the very, very next
9 page, page 3, this is -- remember how we build our
10 budget. And so I'm not going to flip back and forth,
11 but so just you know what's coming, the very next
12 page is our budget, but this is cash activity. So
13 right now you're seeing a whole year, because this is
14 through December 31, but we list every fund on the
15 left, and I know it looks like a lot of information
16 but you're used to seeing it, and all the cash
17 balances in each of those funds to get to the bottom
18 line. Then we list all of the revenues, and those
19 will be year-to-date, so January is going to be much
20 smaller than this, but this is actual what we've
21 received, actual what we've spent in every fund, and
22 then the cash balance. So that will be your fourth
23 column.

24 And then on the right-hand side, I'm just
25 comparing for you the prior year same month. So for

1 the end of January we'll see January 31 and then
2 we'll -- I'll list for you where we were last year
3 January 31. And it's just a gauge. It's not always
4 going to be the same. The variances can explain
5 themselves. If it's a special revenue fund and it's
6 a grant such as our CARES Act money, we're not going
7 to receive -- well, I'm sorry. I don't know that
8 we're not going to receive, but so far we don't have
9 a budget for or have received any of those special
10 funds in 2021. So that would explain the variance
11 for this year.

12 So those are just each of your funds. This
13 is what we build all of our budget money to do is to
14 spend in all these different ways. And the number
15 one fund, of course, that we keep our eye on is
16 general fund. So on the bottom of this page I'm just
17 tracking the general fund cash balance.

18 And again, I give you all the numbers. I
19 don't know if you want to see the numbers, but our
20 cash balance, this just monthly trend helps us
21 identify the liquidity so that we can know how much
22 interim monies we have available for investments, for
23 long term, for short term, if we match them to debt
24 payments. But this just kind of shows us how much
25 cash we need. We obviously try to keep 25 percent

1 cash of our operating balance at all times because
2 that gives us our three and four months, you know,
3 that's prudent spending and that's good planning, and
4 so we keep our eye on general fund cash balance. And
5 that's really just what that chart is showing you
6 over the years.

7 And then, as I said, the next page is the
8 budget. It's the same format as the actuals, but the
9 next page will show you the budget numbers. So same
10 list of all the funds, and again, this looks like a
11 lot of numbers. Because it's the end of the year,
12 I'm giving you the original budget of revenues in
13 gray and then the final budget in yellow just so you
14 can see the comparison and all of those amendments we
15 did through the year to get to final budget. So this
16 is the piece that the auditors pull at the end of the
17 year and audit all of those amendments that you
18 passed through council.

19 And then on the bottom I'm just giving you
20 some pie charts so you can visually see for the
21 general fund and then also for the utility funds.

22 Ben, will you scroll down a little to the
23 bottom? Thank you.

24 So these are just the general fund revenue,
25 the composition of what makes up general fund

1 revenue. I know it's tiny. General fund expenses,
2 where do we spend our general fund money. Then the
3 utilities I put together, but those are our
4 enterprise funds, which are our businesslike funds
5 that need to be self-supporting. Those are what
6 we're doing our rate studies on right now. But we
7 have water, sewer, and the garbage, and so you can
8 see where our revenues are for those operations and
9 where those expenses are as well.

10 And then the very last page is our bank
11 reconciliation. That's something else we also like
12 to share with council and to just let you know again
13 we looked at all the cash balances and where we have
14 our money and that it reconciles with what we have on
15 the book. We're showing our depository balances at
16 9 1/2 million and our investments we have 65 percent
17 invested in those various things that are listed for
18 you. It's not super-exciting about the interest
19 rates that we're showing at .15 percent in STAROhio.
20 We do have a portfolio with UBS, and we can pull
21 those together to show you there's a lot of staggered
22 investments through over the next three and four and
23 five years that make up that rest of that
24 composition. About \$12 million. So those are things
25 that we're managing with UBS and STAROhio, and again,

1 it's based on liquidity of funds, but again, another
2 thing I just want to show you.

3 And then I think we did also -- I did also
4 send you, because I wasn't sure if you were used to
5 seeing just the revenue report and expense report
6 that prints out of the system, if that's something
7 you want to continue getting, that's fine, let me
8 know. We print those to balance with the rest of the
9 reports. You know, we have lots and lots of reports
10 and lots and lots of spreadsheets, so if there's not
11 something you want to see or if you're looking at
12 this and saying this is just way too much, I don't
13 want to see all that, just let me know and we can
14 change the report.

15 MR. PETERS: Jina, I have another question.
16 And, you know, pardon me if this is a dumb question,
17 but, for example, when we go to the bond market, what
18 in this report dictates whether we're a AAA or AA?
19 Or A.

20 MS. ALABACK: That's actually a completely
21 separate report. So Moody's has a rating system.
22 There's a couple. Standard and Poors. So we put
23 together a -- they have a rating update that they
24 request certain information from us and then they use
25 that to update our rating; they don't do a complete

1 rating every year. So that is a completely separate
2 report. There are different things in that, such as
3 your general fund balance, do you have 25 percent.
4 That is just one tiny little piece of it. What is
5 your debt capacity? There's a legal debt margin
6 that, of course, we try to stay under. You know,
7 there's a 10 percent limit, there's a 15 percent
8 limit. And then they look at your rates. If it's
9 for utilities, does it sustain and can it pay for
10 your debt? They look at your economic outlook in
11 your community. Is it dependent on one major
12 business or do you have, you know, a good base
13 market. Is it residential? Is it -- so there are so
14 many factors --

15 MR. PETERS: Okay.

16 MS. ALABACK: -- built into your bond rating.
17 And I'll pull the last report. I think usually it's
18 around springtime where we do an update but I'll find
19 the last one that they did, or I'll wait until the
20 next one in the next couple months and make sure I
21 send that to you whenever we get that done.

22 MR. PETERS: Okay. Thank you.

23 MS. ALABACK: Uh-huh.

24 MR. PETERS: All right. Any questions for
25 Jina?

1 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

2 MR. PETERS: Thank you so much.

3 All right. Moving on, City Engineer Rob.

4 MR. GRAHAM: Thank you, Mr. President.

5 I just wanted to update you quickly. We had
6 our bid opening back on January 13 for our 2021
7 paving program. If you recall, we did an ordinance
8 before the holidays to go out to bid early to see if
9 we could get good numbers and we have had in our
10 budget 350,000. I tried to put together a program in
11 the low 300s to leave a little margin for error in
12 there. Well, we got some -- it really paid off for
13 us. We got some great numbers. Our low bid was in
14 the amount of 261,601. So we haven't discussed it
15 yet internally but I would assume we'll probably add
16 a couple more streets and get a little more done this
17 year.

18 MR. FONTE: Yay.

19 MR. CERRETA: Glad to see that.

20 MR. GRAHAM: Other than that, that completes
21 my report unless there's any other questions.

22 MR. FONTE: Good. Good report, Rob.

23 MR. PETERS: Yeah. Thank you, Rob.

24 All right. Ben.

25 MR. YOUNG: I just want to give a quick

1 update on the council records project which I gave a
2 big presentation on just before last summer. So
3 thanks in part to the renovations, all of council's
4 records have now been consolidated into either the
5 clerk's office or the cage, with the exception of the
6 journal of proceedings, which is still in the safe.

7 All ordinances have been -- all ordinances
8 that were not on archival-quality materials have now
9 been rebound into archival-quality materials so
10 they'll be around for many generations to enjoy after
11 we're all long gone.

12 And the third major thing that we're getting
13 done is finishing up building our code into our
14 website. I would say at this point about two-thirds
15 is fully built into the website and keyword
16 searchable from our home page. I was hoping to have
17 that done by the end of the calendar year, but it
18 turned out to be more labor intensive than I
19 anticipated, and with just me in the office I can
20 only get four or five chapters done a week. But
21 hopefully that will be done by the end of the first
22 quarter. Any questions on records?

23 MR. FONTE: Thanks, Ben.

24 MR. PETERS: No. Good work. Thank you, Ben.

25 All right. Moving on to council reports.

1 Member Foltz.

2 Is he on mute?

3 MR. DEORIO: He's in distress over the Browns
4 loss.

5 MR. CERRETA: He's on mute.

6 MR. PETERS: All right. We'll come back to
7 him. How about Member Werren.

8 MR. FOLTZ: I'm sorry.

9 MR. PETERS: There you go, Doug.

10 MR. CERRETA: You're halfway through your
11 presentation already. Figure it out.

12 MR. FOLTZ: I was watching Browns highlights
13 against Pittsburgh.

14 MRS. WERREN: We figured. We figured.

15 MR. FOLTZ: Hey, real quick. I appreciate
16 everybody's point of view tonight. It was good
17 discussion and really that's, you know, what we
18 should do as council. So, you know, it was put out
19 there and the vote was taken.

20 Secondly, hopefully, I misunderstood from our
21 speaker but there was some discussion from that
22 person about Ninth Street Skateboard Facility and
23 Dale and Melanie Brownfield, who I know very well and
24 met numerous times, dozens of times with them. They
25 donate their time to the skateboard facility at Ninth

1 and Schroyer. It's one of the top skateboard areas
2 in northeast Ohio. I'm very proud of them. They
3 have been nominated -- Dale was volunteer twice this
4 past year through the Repository. So I just wanted
5 to make that statement.

6 Thank you.

7 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Doug.

8 Okay. Now Member Werren.

9 MRS. WERREN: Okay. Doug, I'll watch those
10 reels, too.

11 Yeah, I so appreciated the conversation and
12 the -- in exec session and just all the different
13 viewpoints. And I think it's a true testament that
14 we can come out of there and all still laugh and just
15 have the concerns and the best interests of the city.
16 And, you know, I think about the -- our new president
17 and how he spoke about unity and understanding and
18 coming together, and I think that's what we do really
19 well as a council. So I'm just really proud of that.

20 And, Jina, thank you for that, for explaining
21 explanations of all the different financial sheets.
22 I think that's really helpful and we haven't done
23 that. I would love to do that either on a monthly
24 basis or a quarterly, whatever you think is
25 appropriate, but I think it gives us all a real

1 handle on where things are and it just keeps it fresh
2 in our memories and helps us to make better decisions
3 as council members.

4 And every time I come out of my allotment and
5 head down Easthill I just love, love, love my new
6 paved street. So thank you, thank you to the
7 director of engineering for helping accomplish that
8 and for all the bids and all the grants that we
9 received for our city. It's truly just a great city
10 to drive through so many times, especially through
11 the winter. So thank you.

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Steph.

13 Member Fonte.

14 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

15 Thanks for all the input. Yeah, the heated
16 conversations that we had is great that we all come
17 out in one piece.

18 So thanks again, Mayor, for all your hard
19 work. We highly respect you, and Patrick, for all
20 you guys do. All the administration, including Jina.
21 Thanks for all those confusing graphs.

22 I just wanted to say, Mr. Covey, he was a
23 spirited young man as well and I'm sorry for his loss
24 and his family. That was real nice whenever -- that
25 reading that you had, that proclamation was great.

1 And just a reminder, you know, if anybody's
2 out there that's interested in, you know,
3 highlighting a business or highlighting anybody, I'll
4 be more than happy to do a little video clip. Or if
5 anybody wants to do it. You know, I keep making the
6 offer. I'm still doing it on my own as best I can.
7 So just let me know if anybody's interested.

8 And that's all I have in my report.

9 MRS. WERREN: We should do one of Pav's in
10 the winter.

11 MR. FONTE: Let's just all go over there and
12 get like what you call it, a milkshake or cocktail
13 shake.

14 MRS. WERREN: Yeah, I like it.

15 MR. FONTE: So I'll tell you what: Why don't
16 you guys coordinate something and I'll go over and
17 I'll bring my camera and we'll do a nice promotion
18 for them or anybody that you would like promoted in
19 the city or out, you know, anywhere out in the
20 community. Because this is, like I say, we can't
21 curse the wind. We're adjusting our sails here in
22 North Canton. I miss seeing everybody face to face.

23 MR. PETERS: Amen, Dom.

24 All right. Member Revoldt.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Yeah. Two quick items.

1 First, Jina, echoing others, kudos on this
2 monthly report. I think it goes without saying that
3 the most important thing we do as council is manage
4 the municipality's finances. And to have these
5 documents in the packet on a monthly basis help us
6 fulfill that responsibility. Clear, concise, easy to
7 understand. I hope it's a practice that continues.
8 Back in the day we used to get this. I don't know
9 what happened, but I'm glad it's back.

10 You may recall not too long ago we were
11 engaged in a vigorous debate over the CRA and whether
12 people would actually demolish houses and rebuild new
13 houses. Well, if you're out driving around, go down
14 to Orchard Hill School on Jonathan at the
15 intersection with Maplecrest and look at the two new
16 houses that are under construction. One is
17 completed. There was a house there, a large garage.
18 Knocked down, lots divided, these two houses went up.
19 The house that's complete is on the market for
20 \$329,000. So I think we've got an opportunity here
21 to really take the community into the next generation
22 of residential building.

23 And I hope that as we work on our zoning
24 ordinance after we've done Main Street we can come up
25 with a strategy to do two things: One is to reinvest

1 in our housing stock for single-family homes. And
2 the second is to figure out a way to address our
3 multi-family issues. And I think there are some
4 solutions out there in other communities and I hope
5 we can get there, but really good news down on the
6 corner of Maplecrest and Jonathan. Thank you.

7 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Daryl.

8 Member Cerreta.

9 MR. CERRETA: Yes. A couple things.

10 First of all, I'm glad that those folks who
11 in the administration had COVID -- I was not aware of
12 that, and I'm glad you've all recovered. I know how
13 serious and severe that can be so I'm glad you guys
14 are back from that.

15 Rob, you've done a great job with East Maple.
16 Looks like that's finished up and I've driven by
17 there many times over the last couple weeks and
18 that's something we can be very proud of, so nice job
19 up there.

20 Jina, thanks again for your report. I agree
21 with what everyone said, I think the more that we
22 have information about our finances the better we
23 are.

24 Also, I thought the proclamations were very
25 nice by the mayor tonight. Not only the schools but

1 Mr. Covey. He was a very good guy. Good guy. And
2 so that was well done.

3 Also, for Matt Stroia, I'm not sure if we had
4 time to acknowledge the passing of his father. So as
5 a community, Matt, our sympathy goes out to you and
6 your family.

7 That will do it for me.

8 MR. STROIA: Thank you, Mark. I appreciate
9 it.

10 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mark.

11 Member Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: All right. Let me choke back my
13 tears for a second here. Caught me off guard, but
14 thank you, Mark.

15 I want to say thanks to Mr. Mulqueen for
16 speaking.

17 Mayor, thank you for your proclamations. Not
18 only for the education, but Mr. Covey was a very kind
19 man. I'm sure everybody has met him and talked to
20 him. And he was very passionate, and prayers go out
21 to his family.

22 Jina and the staff that she works with, what
23 you guys have done for the transparency and detail of
24 our finances is very impressive. I love seeing that.
25 So thank you very much for that.

1 Ben, I think you said we have at least one
2 new intern, so I want to welcome the new interns.
3 And, Ben, I just want to thank you for the depth of
4 work that you've done over the last year. Looking
5 back over, you know, all the rules and ordinances
6 that you just -- we outlined in 31 through 107 in the
7 committee of the whole meeting, that's very
8 impressive, very strong work. Look forward to
9 another strong year of legislation and everything and
10 hopefully we get through COVID.

11 Catherine, I'm glad you're back.

12 And support local.

13 That's all I have.

14 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you, Matt.
15 And I'll finish by echoing everything that Matt and
16 Mark basically said.

17 First, Mayor, thank for the proclamations for
18 the schools and recognizing our hard-working board of
19 education members. And in particular the
20 proclamation for Rod Covey, you know, a very long and
21 illustrious life. And all the contributions he made
22 to our community, you know, he's passionate about
23 everything he did. And, you know, at times we didn't
24 see eye to eye, but he was a kind man. A good man.
25 And some of those things that you were rattling off I

1 did not know. He lived a full life. And, you know,
2 my heart goes out to his family.

3 And Rob, great job. East Maple, I've heard
4 nothing but good things. It looks great. And I know
5 you're up to a very tough schedule there, timeline,
6 and you did very well.

7 And lastly, Mark, thank you for mentioning
8 Virgil Stroia, Matt's father. He was a North Canton
9 legend and a good man and my prayers do go out to the
10 whole Stroia family, and Bonnie in particular.

11 So with that, final call for new business to
12 council.

13 MAYOR WILDER: President Peters, may I add
14 one item?

15 MR. PETERS: Yeah, absolutely, Mayor.

16 MAYOR WILDER: We've been approached to try
17 to assist the Akron-Canton Airport through the Stark
18 Development Board and JobsOhio to be a partner to
19 help co-fund the Akron-Canton Airport Commercial Air
20 Service Restoration Program. And I'm asking council
21 to discuss or consider us allowing up to \$7,500 as a
22 contribution towards their -- to help restart their
23 nonstop airline service that's declined due to the
24 departure of one of their major airlines, I believe
25 Delta, and the COVID situation that we're in. They