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CITY OF NORTH CANTON, OHIO
CITY COUNCIL MEETING

**TRANSCRIPT OF
MAY 10, 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, May 10, 2021, at 7:00 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
- Benjamin R. Young, Clerk

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1 MR. PETERS: All right. Good evening,
2 everybody. At this time I'd like to call to order
3 the North Canton council meeting May 10, 2021. The
4 time is 7 p.m.

5 Mark, would you like to lead us in prayer?

6 MR. CERRETA: Sure would.

7 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

8 MR. CERRETA: Lord, thank you for bringing us
9 here this evening. Once again, thanks for the honor
10 to help us lead our community in the way that you see
11 fit. Give us the strength to work out and listen to
12 the people that are in our community and help us to
13 make life in this community very good for all the
14 folks that live here and the people around us. Help
15 us to have strength, of course, courage,
16 determination and compassion to lead. And give us
17 the strength moving forward to continue to be healthy
18 and happy as we move forward.

19 In God's name we pray, Amen.

20 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mark.

21 All right. Folks, at this time would you
22 please join me in the Pledge of Allegiance.

23 (The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.)

24 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

25 Ben, at this time would you please call the

1 roll.

2 MR. YOUNG: Member Stroia.

3 MR. STROIA: Yes.

4 MR. YOUNG: Member Peters.

5 MR. PETERS: Here.

6 MR. YOUNG: Member Foltz.

7 MR. FOLTZ: Did you say "Member Foltz"?

8 Here.

9 MR. YOUNG: Member Revoldt.

10 MR. REVOLDT: Present.

11 MR. YOUNG: Member Cerreta?

12 MR. CERRETA: Here.

13 MR. YOUNG: Member Fonte.

14 MR. FONTE: Here.

15 MR. YOUNG: And Member Werren.

16 MRS. WERREN: Here.

17 MR. YOUNG: Seven present.

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

19 All right. For your consideration I need a
20 motion and a second to approve as presented minutes
21 from April 12, '21, committee of the whole; minutes
22 from April 19, '21, city council meeting; April '21
23 finance report, Chapter 153 establishing a Source
24 Water Protection Committee as enacted by Ordinance
25 36-21; Chapter 1182 as amended by Ordinance 34-21,

1 and Fiscal Year '22 Revenue Projections.

2 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz motions to approve as
3 presented.

4 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

5 MR. PETERS: All in favor, say "aye."
6 ("Aye" in unison.)

7 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

8 All right. At this time, recognition of the
9 public. We have one speaker. Just a quick reminder,
10 it is a five-minute time limit. If you are looking
11 at your screen, Ben will have it on the screen for
12 you.

13 And I'll turn it over to you, Ben.

14 MR. YOUNG: All right. Mr. Mulqueen, are you
15 there?

16 MR. MULQUEEN: How are we doing tonight.

17 MR. YOUNG: When you're ready, sir, the floor
18 is yours.

19 MR. MULQUEEN: Okay. Hello, my name is
20 Joseph Mulqueen. I live at 1016 Park Avenue,
21 Northeast, and what led me to this meeting tonight is
22 I want to help provide my fellow citizens and
23 colleagues that will not let white
24 extremism/terrorism divide our town up, our state up
25 and country up as President Joe Biden has addressed

1 in his speeches in the past couple weeks. And I'm
2 here to help lead and direct a renovation at Dogwood
3 Skatepark and basketball court. Hopefully we can
4 land some corporate sponsors for Vans, Nike, Adidas
5 and New Balance as New Balance, Adidas, and Nike all
6 make basketball shoes, they also make skateboard
7 shoes so they can help out the basketball while
8 helping out the skatepark. And I'm here to help
9 create one of the finest bipartisanship business
10 deals to renovate our parks and also create
11 scholarship in doing so because I believe these four
12 corporate sponsors could help give the next
13 generation of kids in the next ten years a
14 scholarship also in sports and also in skateboarding
15 now that skateboarding is an Olympic sport.

16 I'm not here to discredit anybody in the
17 past. I'm here, you know, as I said in the past,
18 that I have \$10,000 to donate, and it's obvious that
19 this pandemic has hurt a lot of our citizens and a
20 lot of our citizens, you know, can't match that
21 donation. So I'm hoping our town can send the right
22 e-mails and help attract, you know, I think
23 registered Democrats thanks to a prestigious lawyer
24 from Harvard named Barak Obama. I don't know, you
25 guys can look that up, but forget that I'm here to,

1 you know, help make sure, you know, in North Canton
2 that we are a town of Republicans, Democrats,
3 independents, Libertarians, whatever people want to
4 identify as, we all work together and we all, you
5 know, want to help improve this town.

6 And I'm not here to, you know, let the
7 skatepark be number two to any skatepark in the
8 county. And one of the things that keeps Dogwood
9 Skatepark number one is the lights. And, you know,
10 for whatever excuse, rhyme or reason that Pat has for
11 turning off the lights, I don't think it's
12 constitutional. And also as the state reopens, there
13 needs to be a water fountain at the skate park. And
14 until Pat or whoever, you know, filled this
15 prestigious skate park, I don't think Pat is paying
16 out of pocket. And I'm not here to discredit you,
17 Pat, but until this new skatepark is built, you know,
18 I'm here to prove that Dogwood will be there, and I
19 think the wisest decision for the town is to make the
20 necessary repairs on the old ramps and we in turn to
21 allocate those in a building, a store and building
22 like Spitzer Chevy building downtown and we can make
23 a nonprofit skatepark and it would help increase tax
24 revenue, and doing all these improvements in town
25 increases everybody's property values. So I know

1 Dominic Fonte, the real estate agent, wants to hear
2 that as both a councilman. And I'm here to make sure
3 that the property my father left me, you know, is
4 going to go up in value. I'm not here to see it go
5 down in value. And, you know, I'm going to pay this
6 house off that my dad left me, and when it's paid off
7 I'm going to look into renting it out and with what I
8 rent it out it's going to pay my condo in Miami.
9 And, you know, that's my ten-year game plan with my
10 life.

11 And in ten years I'd like to go back to
12 school, hopefully at Walsh, and, you know, I'm not
13 looking to make a dime or get any fame or anything
14 out to improve this, I'm just -- you know, the only
15 thing I want to see is scholarships for the next
16 generation of kids and maybe Vans, Nike, Adidas, and
17 New Balance can, you know, help to pay for me to go
18 back to school. Because one of the things I preach
19 to these kids is now instead of skateboarding,
20 there's more money to made working for the company
21 than being a sponsored pro skateboarder and you also
22 get to have health benefits when you work for the
23 company.

24 So never has there been a time when you make
25 more money and have more benefits when you're a guy

1 working for the company than necessarily going pro,
2 which was, you know, my childhood dream was when I
3 was down at Dogwood Skatepark.

4 And I don't think it's a wise decision to
5 relocate it. I think the most economic, you know,
6 plan is to work with the land we got. And until we,
7 you know, make these business deals, I'm asking Pat
8 to turn the lights back on. Helps keep a lot of
9 people sober, and, you know, a lot of people play
10 basketball there, too. And I really want everybody
11 to come enjoy the park and, you know, I don't want to
12 see anybody at this be discriminated against.

13 So please, Pat, turn on the lights until we
14 generate the income to pay for everything because
15 obviously the government can't pay for everything.
16 We are desperate and we need money and we need these
17 corporate sponsors in order to improve our town and
18 we're going to improve property values.

19 MR. PETERS: All right.

20 MR. MULQUEEN: That's my time, and God bless.

21 MR. PETERS: Thank you, sir.

22 MR. FONTE: Thank you.

23 MR. PETERS: All right, Ben.

24 Okay. We're moving on to old business. May
25 I have a motion and a second to read by title only

1 Ordinance 29-21.

2 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

3 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

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

5 ("Aye" in unison.)

6 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

7 Ben.

8 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance authorizing the
9 appropriation of funds of the City of North Canton to
10 be appropriated for current expenses during the
11 fiscal year ending December 31, 2021.

12 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

13 Chairman Werren. She might be on mute. Hold
14 on.

15 MRS. WERREN: Sorry about that.

16 MR. PETERS: There you go.

17 MRS. WERREN: Gosh. A year later. Sorry.

18 Hey, I just wanted to make a comment, too,
19 before we get into this. Jina, I just want to say
20 "thank you." If any of you had time to look at the
21 April financials and the way they were organized, the
22 way that she distributes them to us through graphs
23 and charts and highlights, you know, where we are and
24 the different cash balances. I know when we were
25 going through the budget, you know, a lot of that we

1 were looking at and kind of, Mark, you had mentioned
2 like how can we tell what the expenditures are
3 through the month and how do we keep up and where's
4 the transparency and everything, and this new system,
5 it's just all right there. So I just want to remind
6 you if you had questions or concerns or just wanted
7 to know where we were, it's really just such a great
8 tool that we have, and obviously for the public to
9 see as well. So just a quick reminder and thank you
10 to Jina and her team for doing that.

11 So this we've talked about for a number of
12 times and these are just some different monies from
13 The Hoover Foundation, the parks, a fund for the
14 police that was a donation. And if there are no
15 other questions, I move that we adopt.

16 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

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

19 ("Aye" in unison.)

20 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
21 carries. Thank you, Steph.

22 MRS. WERREN: Thanks.

23 MR. PETERS: All right. May I have a motion
24 and a second to read by title only Ordinance 30-21.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

1 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

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

3 ("Aye" in unison.)

4 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

5 Ben.

6 MR. YOUNG: And ordinance amending Chapter
7 937, Water Rates, of the codified ordinances of the
8 City of North Canton, specifically Section 973.08,
9 Water Turn-On, to define responsibility for water
10 costs and charges.

11 MR. PETERS: Thank you.

12 Chairman Cerreta.

13 MR. CERRETA: Yes. We discussed this. This
14 again shifts -- just like it says, it shifts the
15 responsibility for the water bill to the owners of
16 the property.

17 So if there's no discussion points, no
18 questions, I move to approve this third reading.

19 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt will second.

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

21 ("Aye" in unison.)

22 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

23 All right. May I have a motion and a second
24 to read by title only Ordinance 35-21.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

1 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

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

3 ("Aye" in unison.)

4 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

5 Ben.

6 MR. YOUNG: And ordinance amending Chapter
7 935, Water Lines and Hydrants, of the codified
8 ordinances of the City of North Canton, specifically
9 Section 935.02(a), Fee Where Connection Cost Is Not
10 Paid By Assessment, to authorize payment plans for
11 premises located outside the city.

12 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

13 Chairman Cerreta.

14 MR. CERRETA: Okay. For Matt's purposes,
15 too, this is from the rubbish committee, by the way.
16 I want to make sure I said that.

17 MR. STROIA: Yeah.

18 MR. CERRETA: We discussed this, this is the
19 second reading, and this -- we had a payment plan for
20 those inside the city, city customers, to hook up.
21 Now we're just going to the people that are outside
22 the city that want to hook up. And we discussed
23 this.

24 Any questions or further discussion? Then I
25 will move to approve the second reading.

1 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

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

4 ("Aye" in unison.)

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

7 Okay. On to new business. I need a motion
8 and a second to suspend Council Rule No. 24 in order
9 to allow consideration of Resolution 9-21 without a
10 committee report.

11 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt so moves.

12 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

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

14 ("Aye" in unison.)

15 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

16 All right. May I have a motion and a second
17 to read by title only Resolution 9-20.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

19 MR. FOLTZ: Foltz seconds.

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

21 ("Aye" in unison.)

22 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

23 Ben.

24 MR. YOUNG: A resolution in support of the
25 2021 North Canton Community Survey to be conducted by

1 the office of city council for the purpose of gaining
2 input from residents, businesses, and visitors of the
3 city of North Canton on the conduct of North Canton
4 city government and the issues facing the same, and
5 declaring the same to be an emergency.

6 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

7 Chairman Stroia.

8 MR. STROIA: All right. If we go down to
9 page 27, it starts at 27 and ends at 30. You'll see
10 our final draft of the North Canton Community Survey.
11 So this has been vetted pretty well. Any comments?
12 Any additional questions?

13 MR. PETERS: It looks pretty good to me.

14 MRS. WERREN: Yeah, it looks great to me.
15 You've done a really nice job on this. Excited to
16 see what people say.

17 MR. REVOLDT: Well, if there are no other
18 comments, I'll move we adopt the first reading of
19 Ordinance 9-21.

20 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

21 MRS. WERREN: Second. Werren.

22 MR. PETERS: All in favor?

23 ("Aye" in unison.)

24 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

25 May have a motion and a second --

1 MR. YOUNG: For the Record, I believe Member
2 Revoldt meant resolution, not ordinance.

3 MR. REVOLDT: Yes.

4 MR. PETERS: Yes.

5 MR. REVOLDT: Yes. Resolution, I'm sorry.

6 MR. PETERS: Yeah. Thank you, Ben.

7 Okay. May I have a motion and a second to
8 suspend the rules of city council for three readings.

9 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

10 MRS. WERREN: Werren, second.

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

12 ("Aye" in unison.)

13 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

14 And finally, may I have a motion and a second
15 to adopt Resolution 9-21 under suspension of the
16 rules.

17 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

18 MR. STROIA: Stroia seconds.

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

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. PETERS: Opposed? All right. Motion
22 carries. Thank you.

23 All right. May I have a motion and a second
24 to read by title only Ordinance 38-21.

25 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

1 MRS. WERREN: Second.

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

3 ("Aye" in unison.)

4 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

5 Ben.

6 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance repealing Chapter
7 149, Recreation Board, of the codified ordinances of
8 the City of North Canton and dissolving the
9 Recreation Board of the City of North Canton.

10 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

11 Chairman Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: All right. Beginning on page
13 31, we discussed this pretty at length in the last
14 committee of the whole meeting. Are there any
15 questions or comments?

16 MR. FONTE: No.

17 MR. STROIA: I move we adopt.

18 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt seconds.

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

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

22 May I have a motion and a second to read by
23 title only Ordinance 39-21.

24 MR. REVOLDT: Revoldt moves.

25 MRS. WERREN: Werren, second.

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

2 ("Aye" in unison.)

3 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

4 Ben.

5 MR. YOUNG: An ordinance amending Chapter
6 935, Water Lines and Hydrants, of the codified
7 ordinances of the City of North Canton, specifically
8 Section 935.08, Sale of Water or Sanitary Sewer
9 Service Outside City Boundaries.

10 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you.

11 Chairman Stroia.

12 MR. STROIA: All right. We discussed this as
13 well. At length. Starting at page 33 to 34 and
14 ending 35, mostly dealing with the sale of outside
15 water. Any comments or questions about this?

16 MR. FONTE: Nope.

17 MR. STROIA: I move we adopt.

18 MR. CERRETA: Cerreta seconds.

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

20 ("Aye" in unison.)

21 MR. PETERS: Opposed? Motion carries.

22 Okay. Department reports. Deputy Director
23 of Administration.

24 MS. FARINA: Thank you, Mr. President.

25 Still working hard on the Dogwood expansion

1 project, just moving along with that. Don't really
2 have a real report on it this week. We should have
3 all the documents in in order to go out to bid, and
4 that will be this Friday. So after that goes out to
5 bid I'll have a little more to report on the
6 progress. And that's all.

7 MR. PETERS: All right. Thank you,
8 Catherine.

9 MS. FARINA: Thank you.

10 MR. PETERS: Director of Administration.

11 MR. DEORIO: Yes, thank you.

12 So to carry on with that, in response to
13 Mr. Mulqueen's public comments, there's a lot that we
14 do agree upon in where we're trying to get this
15 legacy of the skateboard park in the city of North
16 Canton to continue on. It's not going to continue on
17 at Dogwood Park. So we'll certainly be reaching out
18 to Mr. Mulqueen and all those involved in it as the
19 time wears on to solicit their input and guidance on
20 creating a much improved skateboard park.

21 As it relates to the lighting, yes, there is
22 no lighting presently. And as a result, that was a
23 decision that was made by me to keep this project on
24 track. So this is a multi-million-dollar project in
25 which it's a collaboration between the public and

1 private sector on things that each of us need to do.
2 And the City of North Canton has responsibilities to
3 get certain things done at a certain time. So part
4 of that is the dismantling of the electric service
5 and the water service. As it would have it, the
6 electric service went through the restroom facility
7 and then over to the skateboard park. And so all
8 these things have to be done as personnel and
9 materials are being mobilized. So we expect a
10 construction trailer for the project manager to be
11 arriving soon. That will have to have electric,
12 portable electric, for that. Depending on where they
13 put it. And then you'll start to see, you know, the
14 construction fences, you know, going up, and as time
15 goes on, you know, the park will eventually be off
16 limits.

17 So to make sure that we are not holding this
18 up any longer, we know that it is going to be out for
19 bid and then the bid results will come in, we will
20 determine -- our construction manager will determine
21 who is the lowest and best and then we'll be able to
22 move forward immediately. And so we're expecting
23 this to kick off in the next 21 days, but there will
24 be a lot of things arriving on the premises and we
25 have to have our portion of things done. So in the

1 best interests of the expenditures of these funds I
2 felt that it was necessary to make those decisions.

3 I've advised Mr. Mulqueen, sent him an e-mail
4 in response as to why we did what we had to do. But
5 we're not going to -- you know, what I believe to be
6 as I'm sure is an inconvenience but a minor one to
7 allow this project to somehow accidentally get off
8 track. Sunset is at 8:30. It gets longer every day.
9 I think it's just an hour or hour and a half tops
10 that people wouldn't be able to be there. But I did
11 make a purposeful, conscious decision to try to keep
12 that park available as long as possible. And so at
13 some point, though, that will come to a close and
14 we'll have to demo the facility, the park will be
15 fenced off because it will be a construction zone.

16 So I just wanted to make those comments in
17 response to Mr. Mulqueen's very impassioned words,
18 and we certainly hope that he will be around with us
19 and help us in the next journey in getting the best
20 skateboard park ever.

21 Thank you.

22 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Patrick.

23 All right, Mayor. The floor is yours, sir.

24 MAYOR WILDER: Thank you, President Peters.

25 Good evening, everybody. I just hope

1 everybody had a very happy Mother's Day weekend
2 there. I know it rained on all of us but I hope all
3 your Mother's Day activities fared well.

4 And yes, with all that rain we had we did
5 have some flooding down around the Zimber Ditch, a
6 little bit on the west branch of the Nimishillen
7 Creek. But I checked it out again this morning, it
8 wasn't reported of any really hazards for us. Then a
9 little bit of flooding down there in Price Park. It
10 receded fairly well, so hopefully those past
11 improvements are working well for us. And by the
12 way, I checked our park crews. They were going to
13 get down there a little later on this morning to
14 clean up the walking trail, or the path for if there
15 was any debris down there. So thank you to the park
16 department.

17 And again for the Dogwood Park improvement
18 project, your concerns are heard. But we're moving
19 forward on this project and we have to do it in a
20 timely, efficient and affordable and safe manner. So
21 your concerns are heard but we are moving forward on
22 that project.

23 I also had the honor and pleasure to be up at
24 the -- for the 10,000th meal prepared by Compassion
25 Delivered. I was invited by Daniel and Amanda

1 Anschutz and I was up there with the team from
2 Mercy -- or Cleveland Clinic Mercy Hospital and we
3 were preparing meals up there and it was a great
4 volunteer event. So, you know, those meals reach to
5 about a hundred of our citizens here, our residents
6 here in North Canton, so thank you for that
7 invitation.

8 I'd like to address some of the things that
9 we have going forward. Some of the good things that
10 we've had that we've opened up through this COVID-19
11 pandemic, our North Canton Dogwood Pool is scheduled
12 for May 29 opening. All of our park buildings and
13 shelters, the bookings are very strong. Good bless
14 Tracy Cole. She's on the phone almost constantly
15 taking reservations. So again, those things are
16 being booked up, council, going very fast. Again,
17 for Arrowhead Golf and Event Center, again, the
18 banquet, the golf and the pool, memberships are all
19 available right now and I know they're booking things
20 like that.

21 I'm very excited again for our North Canton
22 Public Library. Their outdoor events are going to
23 take place again this year. Again, we're operating
24 these things under the guidelines and safety
25 guidelines of the Responsible Restart Ohio. Our 720

1 Market kicks off on May 15 right over here behind
2 St. Paul. I think that is going to be a good start
3 for the summer, for the spring.

4 As Mark and I were out there at the North
5 Canton Little League, their league is in full play.

6 Congratulations to the Walsh graduates, our
7 hometown university. They had a soggy weekend, but
8 congratulations to all the graduates there. And
9 hopefully some of you will stick around in North
10 Canton.

11 Our North Canton City Schools, they're on
12 course for their graduations outside. Again, they
13 have a rain date so they're taking all the safeguards
14 in place for the parents and family and friends to
15 attend that safely.

16 And I've been working with the North Canton
17 Jaycees -- they have a new name now. They're called
18 the Junior Chamber International, just so you know.
19 And given them a full go to have the North Canton
20 Jaycee Fair and I'm looking forward to that opening
21 up June 14 through the 19th, I think, somewhere in
22 there. Again, all under the guidelines for festivals
23 and from the State of Ohio. I'm very hopeful. So
24 those are the good things, folks, we have going on
25 for us.

1 And, President Peters, if I also may continue
2 on here. You know, folks, navigating the COVID-19
3 pandemic these last 14 months has been an
4 understatement. And, you know, in law enforcement
5 there are dimensions of -- in law enforcement where
6 things can literally mean the difference between life
7 and catastrophic injury that no one will really
8 understand without taking time to study them, to be
9 trained in them and experience them. And in my
10 experience, as many of those instances, you just
11 gained during training for in the actual event.

12 I thought about that training, and I'm
13 thinking about it as sitting here as mayor for the
14 city of North Canton. You know, there's dimensions
15 of serving as mayor where things that literally mean
16 the difference between safety and the welfare of our
17 community that no one will understand without taking
18 time to study them or to be trained in them and to
19 experience them. And then many instances where
20 experience is gained during the training and then the
21 actual events. Again, navigating this massively
22 stressful, unpredictable, rapidly unfolding, highly
23 dangerous situation such as the COVID-19 pandemic has
24 been a tremendous challenge and opportunity for me
25 and for all of your city and all of our employees.

1 So when I think about this coming up with our
2 two parades and our fireworks, I try to consider the
3 level of risk and the public health concern that's
4 involved with that. So there were a number of
5 factors that I felt needed to be considered for
6 having a parade for either Memorial Day or for our
7 July 4, possibly July 3 activities. And again, I've
8 taken into consideration the CDC guidelines, the Ohio
9 Department of Health, Stark County Health Department
10 orders. I thought about all these things, and I'll
11 be honest with you, folks, it gets a little confusing
12 sometimes because on February 25 the governor opened
13 up parades, festivals, and fairs and things like
14 that, but yet we're being talked -- it's being
15 presented to us about facial coverings and masks that
16 if you're outdoors and unable to maintain 6 feet from
17 an individual who are not members of your family or
18 household, you know, facial coverings or mask. Do
19 you wear them or do you don't wear them? And the
20 congregating issue: Avoid gathering in groups.
21 Attempt at all times to maintain a social distance or
22 physical distance. And again, we talk about large
23 gatherings. Organizers and managers should conduct
24 the event in a manner that discourages individuals
25 from sitting or standing close together.

1 So thinking about all those kinds of things
2 and trying to think forward and prepare for the --
3 and how we're going to manage a parade has been
4 difficult for me. You know, how many people will be
5 attending? What's the appropriate level to require
6 facial coverings or masks? You know, what is the
7 degree of compliance like for the people that will be
8 there? And is it worth the risk of everyone's health
9 and safety to have the event this year? And is it
10 worth the risk and will it -- but yet if we don't
11 have it, you know, is it really going to be
12 beneficial for us to all concerned.

13 So with Memorial Day, we're doing a reverse
14 drive-through and I think that's going to go very
15 well for us. And that we have cooperation with a
16 number of organizations to support that. And when it
17 came down to the -- well, again, the veterans will
18 be -- for us, it will be about a 10:00 to 11:00
19 program where we'll be collecting food items here in
20 front for the SAM Center, that's through the North
21 Canton Jaycees assisting us, and then at 11 o'clock
22 we'll be over by Bitzer, a memorial there for some
23 remarks, but we've also invited some middle school
24 students to share their thoughts on Memorial Day.
25 And we're going to have "Taps" played by one of our

1 students from Hoover High School. So we will still
2 have something to honor the veterans and those who
3 have died in service.

4 As I continue on, I want you to understand,
5 too, that I have a Plan B, okay, for our Jaycee
6 Fair -- or excuse me, for the Fourth of July parade.
7 And I'm just kind of watching how things are
8 progressing right now at the state level, here at the
9 county level. And so as things open up we'll get
10 more for us. I'm very hopeful by the end of the
11 month we'll have better direction on being able to
12 provide a Jaycee Fair -- or excuse me, I'm sorry, a
13 parade this year for us.

14 The fireworks, not a problem, folks. The
15 only reason those comments were made before by me is
16 also in talks with the Jaycees that they didn't have
17 any money from last year, they didn't have that much
18 money this year to go forward. So if we're not going
19 to have any funding for that then the fireworks are
20 going to be canceled, but I'm a hundred percent on
21 board. I know there's some council members shaking
22 the trees out there, I know of another organization
23 that gave me a call today, they'd like to donate
24 money towards that, so I'm all for that. We have
25 enough time to get their permit, we can work that out

1 with our police and fire department and, you know,
2 when you're in North Canton you can just about see
3 those fireworks from anywhere in the city. So the
4 issue is checking with the vendor, is it going to be
5 on the 3rd or the 4th. I'm still waiting to hear
6 from our Junior Chamber International, the North
7 Canton Jaycees, on that, so just stay tuned on that.
8 So for me it's not an issue. The fireworks can go
9 forward. They just needed to raise enough funds for
10 it this year, and I'm supporting them on that a
11 hundred percent.

12 We're not going to do that concert that they
13 had planned for July 3. That's going to be off the
14 books. I just wanted council to be aware of that. I
15 think they want to put all their attention into
16 having a fireworks display, and then we're looking at
17 how we can still pull together a Fourth of July
18 parade for our community.

19 Let's see. I'm also opening up neighborhood
20 block parties, and so again, I think that's a safe
21 situation. Everybody knows we've had half a dozen of
22 those over the years. I think that could be safely
23 done. Families know families. They know how to
24 protect themselves. So I think that's also
25 something, some way that people can celebrate a sense

1 of community not only now but throughout the year.

2 And let's see here. You know, if you think
3 about it, a year ago today hardly any one of us
4 probably knew anyone who died from COVID-19, or had
5 COVID-19 symptoms or that illness, but I think we all
6 do now. And for me, no death is acceptable. And I'm
7 sure you agree with me on that. And, you know,
8 canceling the traditional type of parade is not being
9 done for any kind of political reasons, folks, okay,
10 at all. It's to preserve what I was thinking of, our
11 own life, safety and well-being for our citizens and
12 our community. That's why I made those comments
13 early on when I was approached by the press and other
14 people in the community.

15 And in closing, let me just say again, you
16 know, the health and safety of our community is our
17 greatest priority and I think there's only one other
18 gentleman or member of council that has sat in this
19 seat as mayor. And it's -- you make tough decisions
20 in this job and I understand I'm not pleasing
21 everybody. But when it comes down to the greater
22 good here, when it comes to safety, that's a major
23 concern for me, and obviously from my background you
24 know why. But again, we must act in the best
25 interests and well-being of all our organizers, our

1 volunteers, our participants, our spectators, and
2 excuse me -- and again, I'm disappointed, too, okay.
3 Not having a traditional parade, you know, affects me
4 also. But I'm committed not only to try to make
5 things the best we can now but also I want to make it
6 in 2022 a comeback year for us, so I hope you
7 understand.

8 And I will close with this: I thank you for
9 indulging me with this time, President Peters.

10 As I said before, the health and safety of
11 our community is our greatest priority. And from
12 within my heart, I pray that this pandemic we are
13 fighting against which we are all a part of is not
14 being fought in vain. And I pray that what confronts
15 us now is to not let our guard down against combating
16 this pandemic. Because of the continued precautions
17 I think we're taking, I pray that the days ahead of
18 us for our children and for our families will be
19 safer for all of us and we can enjoy a life with and
20 have few sorrows.

21 So we've -- I've heard the voices, you know,
22 we're going to move forward, but please bear with me
23 as we go through these next couple or three weeks as
24 we get closer to the end of the month and we'll see
25 where the orders are possibly going to rescind some

1 of the things we have in place right now. So I'll
2 entertain any questions. I appreciate the time that
3 you allowed me to talk tonight.

4 MR. PETERS: Thank you, Mayor.

5 Director of Finance. Jina.

6 MS. ALABACK: Thank you.

7 So I'm going to try to put some numbers to
8 all of those things that the mayor had just
9 described. And so I'm going to try to look at our
10 budget and say where are we among all of the things
11 that are changing and not feeling so stable and what
12 can we count on and how is our budget doing.

13 Ben, can you pull up the finance report
14 and -- or just the council packet on page 5 where we
15 look at the income tax receipts. Yeah. Right there.
16 So at the very -- yeah, right there.

17 So that graph is all over the place. And
18 so -- and that is, you know, that's our major source
19 of income is income tax. So I want to clarify it has
20 some numbers down on the chart and highlighted in
21 yellow that normally we are able to track where we
22 are current year. And right now I'm showing that
23 we're down 11 percent. But if we look at last year,
24 last year was up almost 11 percent and last year was
25 kind of a crazy year. So I don't want to say our