

## COUNCIL MINUTES

March 1, 2010

The regular Council Meeting was held on Monday, March 1, 2010 at 7:00 PM in the Euclid Municipal Center Council Chamber. Council President Holzheimer Gail presided.

Members Present: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Excused: Gilliam

Councilwoman Scarniench moved to excuse Councilman Gilliam. Councilwoman Jones seconded.  
Yeas: Unanimous.

Others Present: Mayor Cervenik, Law Director Frey, CS&ED Director Pietravoia, Finance Director Johnson, Service Director Smith, Recreation Director Will, Chief Repicky, Fire Chief Cosgriff, Asst. Director Bock, Commissioner Beno, Sgt.-at-Arms Novosel, Clerk of Council Cahill.

### INVOCATION

Invocation was given by Pastor Michael Peterson of The Victory Centre International Church which meets at Shore Cultural Centre on Friday evenings.

### COMMUNICATIONS

President Holzheimer Gail moved to approve Clerk of Council Cahill and Asst. Clerk Lovett to attend and represent Council in the House Bill 9 Training offered by Ohio Auditor's Office on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Councilwoman Scarniench seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Approved.

### COUNCIL MINUTES

Councilwoman Scarniench moved to receive and approve the Council Minutes of February 16, 2010. Councilwoman Minarik seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

### ADMINISTRATION REPORTS & COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Cervenik - I would like to introduce a person who will be spending the next 10 weeks in the City of Euclid, Cassandra Washington. Cassandra if you could stand so everyone will recognize you. Cassandra is on loan to us from the Cleveland Executive Fellowship program and she will be working the majority of her time helping Shore Cultural Centre and the Coral Group, as well as the administration implement the long term strategic plan for the building. We're very lucky to have her. Welcome to Euclid, she's a delightful young woman and has a lot of great ideas.

Some of you have probably heard on the news or seen on television, as I notified you, we did according to contract need to send out lay off notices and we sent out six lay off notices to the Fire Dept. because their contract requires 30 day notice. Also out of courtesy we sent out ten lay off notices to members of Euclid Police Dept., based upon seniority.

I did my best because I spent a lot of time with the media today to explain to them that it is not our intention and we firmly believe we will come to some resolution on Wednesday and have it officially affirmed on March 15<sup>th</sup> to allow us to avoid those layoffs as well as avoid many of the other measures that might have to be taken to balance the budget if we do not receive some revenue.

I also e-mailed each of you today and explained that we've been working very hard over the last few weeks, sounded like I was going to say hardly working, but that's really not the case. We firmly believe that if we institute the \$4 fee for street lighting on the real estate bill and with the cuts that I will be announcing Wednesday, we can reduce that monthly trash fee to \$9 per household, which I think is a fairly good compromise. That amount with the cuts we make and the cash balance we have, I'm pretty sure that we can get through 2011 and hopefully the economy can help us along so that we can actually get stronger before 2011. We'll be talking a lot more about that on Wednesday. The Council President has e-mailed you as well as the administration the information she expects for us to present to you. We shall present that to you.

People need to understand and I think we've got it through that we hopefully will not have to layoff the amount of firefighters and police officers that we're talking about. I also tried to make it clear to them that that isn't the end of it. If we did not get this revenue and we can call it new taxes, whatever we want, that it would take much more than just those 20 layoffs. It would cost programming in Recreation, leaf pick up and other items as well.

I was really surprised that they all started calling so early. We made no announcement. We did no press release. Someone obviously I assume from one of the bargaining units notified Channel 5

because everyone else said they heard from Channel 5 or saw on Channel 5's website that they had it there. It is unfortunate that some of these things and requirements in the contract require us to feel like all of these things are definitely going to happen when we hope they don't. I'm sure they won't, but just so that you know, that's where all the buzz came today about the layoffs. That's where we are with that. We need to save the rest for Wednesday. I think we hopefully can resolve or negotiate a very good compromise on Wednesday that will allow this city to continue for at least the next two years. Hopefully at that time the economy will pick up.

Having said that, unfortunately I need to notify you that we missed our projections by approximately \$36,000 for the month of February. With the \$15,000 or so that we were below in January, at the moment we are \$50,000 behind in income tax projections, which I think should just strengthen the need and the urgency to take some type of action. I will save the rest of my comments until Wednesday until we are more prepared to show you the whole picture. At this time, as always our Recreation Director has some announcements.

Recreation Director Will – We have one more session of learn to swim at the Euclid High School. Tomorrow night, March 2-May 4th, we will have lessons on Tuesday night. Saturday beginning March 6<sup>th</sup> through May 8<sup>th</sup>, we will be offering Saturday morning lessons. If you want to register it is \$25 for resident and \$40 for non-resident. You can do that at our office, Tuesday through Friday 9:00-4:00 PM.

We will be offering one more mini-session of learn to skate, March 9<sup>th</sup> through March 30<sup>th</sup> on Tuesday and you can register for that at the Parks & Recreation Office, 9:00-4:00 PM.

A couple of special events that will be coming up. The Euclid Civic Orchestra has changed their name and now are the Euclid Symphony Orchestra. They will be presenting a classic concert directed by Eric Gratz on Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 at Shore Cultural Centre. They'll have guest appearances by Euclid musicians Kevin Eppich and Jonathan Calabrese. Sunday, March 14<sup>th</sup> at 3:00.

We'll also be hosting our Annual Spring Fling on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10 AM until 3:00 PM at Sims Park. Home Depot will be there to help you get ready for the spring. We'll have other venues going on. We've been working with the Expo Center, they'll be offering their Home and Patio Show on March 10<sup>th</sup> – 14<sup>th</sup>. Some of those vendors will be coming and participating again in the Spring Fling on Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> from 10-3. Dick Goddard will be there from 11:00 AM-2:00 PM to sign autographs.

Mention and remind everybody the American Cancer Society Relay for Life in Euclid will be on Friday, May 14<sup>th</sup> until Saturday, May 15<sup>th</sup>. It will be at the Euclid High School track. It is open to the public and hopefully people will join us for a day of celebrating and raising money for this great cause. If you have any questions about Relay for Life, call 289-8114.

Last but not least, remind everybody that on Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>, the East 200<sup>th</sup> Street Stroll will be celebrating its 4<sup>th</sup> year. They will be continuing to do this. This year will have a parade. They'll be kicking off the parade at 9:15 and the Stroll will go until approximately 2:00 PM. That's Saturday, June 5<sup>th</sup>. Hopefully we'll see you at these events, thank you.

Mayor Cervenik – We have a very important public service announcement from Chief Cosgriff.

Chief Cosgriff – The Fire Dept. was called to a home last week for a female with an altered level of consciousness. This is not an unusual call for us and many medical problems can cause those types of symptoms. The woman was assessed and transported to the hospital. A few hours later we were once again dispatched to the same address for a male with similar symptoms. In assessing the male symptoms, the paramedics began to suspect possible carbon monoxide poisoning and called for assistance from an engine company. The engine company arrived and with their carbon monoxide detector found CO levels of 800 parts per million. This is truly a deadly level and the family was rapidly removed from the house and transported to the hospital.

The point I would like to make is that this house did not have a carbon monoxide detector in it. Carbon monoxide is a colorless, odorless gas and it is created by fuel fired appliances, such as forced air heating systems, gas water heaters, gas or wood burning stoves and things of that nature. Things that everybody has in their house. A malfunction in one of these appliances can kill you but there are ways to protect yourself. You should have your heating system cleaned and checked annually, but you should also have working carbon monoxide detectors in your home. These are available from places such as Home Depot or Walmart and you can buy these for less than \$50. Most of these are guaranteed for five years, so you can protect yourself and your family for less than \$10 a year. Just make sure when you buy it that you purchase a UL approved device and ideally you should have more than one, although they are similar to smoke detectors, they're pretty loud and you should not have a problem hearing it.

While I'm on the subject, I would be remiss if I did not remind everyone on the importance of smoke detectors with fresh batteries. If you cannot afford smoke detectors or batteries you may stop by our Fire Prevention Bureau at Fire Station #1 and we will supply you with smoke detectors and batteries. At the present time, carbon monoxide detectors are not offered, so you will need to purchase these on your own. Remember it may save you life.

Mayor Cervenik – Thank you Chief and I think that really spells the importance of why we need to do what we can to make sure we assure the strength of our safety forces because they are there to help us. Our last comment of the evening for Administration Reports is Director Pietravoia, whose got some words on our Census that's going to be taking place very shortly.

Director Pietravoia - We thought it would be appropriate to each meeting try to put out a little bit of information about the upcoming 2010 Census. About the middle of this month you'll be receiving through the mail, all households will be receiving the 2010 Census form. It only has 10 questions and it shouldn't take more than 10 minutes to complete.

April 1<sup>st</sup> is the National Designated Day for the Census forms to be returned. Certainly you can do it prior to that as soon as you receive the form, I encourage you to fill it out and send it in. We will be establishing and announcing at the next Council Meeting, Be Counted Sites, where if you have questions you can go to those locations, or if you lose your form, you can go there and get another form. Before that if you have questions, you can contact Brian Iorio of our staff, at 289-8140.

Again I want to encourage everyone to fill out the form. The Census is confidential. Neither the government, your landlord or others will see the form. This is a serious violation if that confidentiality is broken, it is considered a serious crime. It is taken very seriously. If you don't want a Census worker to come to your home, it is important that you do return that form. I understand they do come back as many as 8-10 times to continue to try to get that form filled out, if it is not completed and mailed back by you the first time.

I think everyone understands how important the Census is. It does affect how federal funds are distributed and it affects not only the city but the schools. The State and non-profits when they calculate how much funding their eligible for, they use that census information for that purpose. We want to encourage everyone to participate. I know that almost all members of Council have been active and will continue to be active to make sure that we get a complete count as the census calls it. Stay tuned for more information, we will be announcing where those Be Counted sites will be located at the next meeting. It will also be on our website.

Mayor Cervenik – Since I just noticed an old friend of ours walk in, Professor Talbot from Cleveland State University. Could the students please stand up and be recognized. They're here tonight to observe our council meeting and to use what they see tonight in their education and welcome back to Euclid City Council Meetings. That ends the reports and communications from the administration.

#### REPORTS & COMMITTEE MINUTES

Councilwoman Scarniench moved to receive the Monthly Finance Report of January, 2010; Fire Report of January, 2010; Executive & Finance Com. Min. of 2/10/10 & 2/22/10. Board of Control Minutes of 2/8/2010 & 2/22/2010. Councilwoman Jones seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE FOR LEGISLATIVE MATTERS ONLY

President Holzheimer Gail – This brings us to the Committee of the Whole for Legislative Matters Only. This is where you may speak to anything that's on the Agenda. #3, which is the Consolidated Compensation Ordinance will be going to committee.

Mr. John Jordan – 26150 Zeman Ave. I'd like to talk tonight about gangs in the streets of our neighborhoods. I know it is not on the agenda but it is something I'd like to talk about.

President Holzheimer Gail – Sir, there is time at the end of the Agenda. There's the Committee of the Whole, Public Portion is where you may speak to anything else other than what's on the Agenda. We appreciate you waiting.

Ms. Regina Hauck – 116 E. 197 St. I want to talk about #3, the Consolidated compensation ordinance. I didn't get a lot of time to go through it, but what I did see was something that surprised me because I talked about this at least five years ago, obviously nothing was done about it. It is up to you guys to make sure something is done about it now.

I'm specifically talking about the payment of retirement sick leave payout and unused sick leave. We are currently paying out sick leave at the current rate of pay and not at the rate of pay that it was earned at. This is completely wrong. Let me give you an example. If someone has 8 hours of sick pay and they're making \$20 an hour, that's worth \$160. They don't use that sick pay. They get promoted, they're now making \$30 an hour. That 8 hours is now worth \$240; 50% more than it was earned at.

This is number one on your agenda to figure out. You cannot tell me that you have looked at everything, turned over every rock in the budget and you have to charge the residents for things like garbage and street lights when you have things like this on the books. You're giving away money that

wasn't earned. We are not taking away anything from the employees. You are giving them what is earned but right now you're giving them money that was not earned. You need to correct this. Figure out the impact to the budget before you can approve any budget or any fees to the residents. This is job #1. If you don't do this, it is fiscal irresponsibility and we know what that leads to. Thank you.

President Holzheimer Gail – Seeing no other comments at this point, we will move onto Legislation and Item #1.

LEGISLATION

**Ord. 22-2010 (032-10) Rezoning 24690-24720 Euclid Ave.**

An ordinance rezoning 24690-24720 Euclid Ave., P.P. # 650-36-001, 650-36-002, 650-36-003, from U-3 (apartment house) to U-4 (local retail) use district and further amending Ord. No. 2812. (Sponsored by Planning & Zoning Commission)

Councilwoman Jones moved for passage, Councilwoman Scarniench seconded.

Commissioner Beno – This is a staff initiated rezoning to correct a longstanding mapping anomaly property on Euclid Ave. The history of the property is that in 1989 a small retail building was erected crossing the property lines of 4 parcels of land. One of those parcels was zoned U-4, three of the parcels are zoned U-3. In 2001 the parcel to the west of the subject property was also rezoned to U-4, leaving three parcels out. At this point and per the recommendation of the Planning & Zoning Commission, I request your approval of this ordinance. If there are any questions, I'd be more than happy to try to answer them.

Councilman Van Ho – Question, not necessarily about this specific rezoning. Is there a way we can include, I'll call it the commonly known address, such as 585 E. 222, or the address here, the 24670, in the Resolution? Because someone who's just picking it up and reading it from the public, or someone who is watching on television has no idea what Permanent Parcel means. Is there something illegal that we couldn't do that?

Director Frey – We can certainly start to add those in and I think it would make good sense to have both the permanent parcel number and the street address if we have one.

President Holzheimer Gail – This is a public hearing, is there anyone from the audience that would like to speak to this particular item? Seeing none, any additional questions from Council?

Councilman Van Ho moved to close debate, Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilwoman Jones moved to suspend the rules, Councilwoman Minarik seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Passed.

**Ord. 23-2010 (047-10) Amend Code Load Limits**

An ordinance amending Section 339.01 "Load Limits" of the Traffic Code of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Euclid to provide for the local permitting by the Chief of Police for the moving of oversize or overweight vehicles in the City of Euclid. (Sponsored by Councilman O'Neill by request of Police Chief)

Councilman O'Neill moved for passage, Councilman Wojtila seconded.

Chief Repicky – This ordinance just deals with Section c, which is the permit section for oversized or overweight vehicles. In the past the permit was issued by the Service Dept. and we felt it was better to issue it under the Police Dept. because we're the only ones that can enforce the permit. Basically it just changes the registration of the truck hauler to the Police Dept., come to the Police Dept. to fill out the proper forms.

It only covers one vehicle now instead of one company. Multiple vehicles they'll have to come in and get multiple permits, instead of passing around to other vehicles within the company.

Councilman O'Neill – Just to add to what the Chief said, it allows the Police Dept. to track the vehicles a little bit more that are coming through our town with their load limits and over weighted vehicles have a tendency to breakdown pavement, streets and allows the Police Dept. to track them a little bit closer. I would encourage my colleagues on Council to support this legislation. Thank you.

Councilman O'Neill moved to close debate, Councilwoman Minarik seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilwoman Jones moved to suspend the rules, Councilwoman Minarik seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Passed.

**Ord. (048-10) Amend Consolidated Compensation Ord.**

An ordinance to amend Ordinance 129-2005, the 2005 Consolidated Compensation Ordinance, which sets the benefits and compensation to be paid City of Euclid personnel, other than employees of a collective bargaining unit. (Sponsored by Councilwoman Minarik)

Councilwoman Minarik moved for passage, Councilman Langman seconded.

Councilwoman Minarik – The reason that I'm bringing this up is we are facing a \$3 million budget. While the changes that I have recommended are not going to do really much for the current economic climate, I think that it's time, it's been since 2005 that we last looked at how the non-union employees were compensated. We can get some long term savings if we change certain items. I know this is going to Committee because I am anticipating that my colleagues will have a lot of good, good suggestions. But I do think at a time when we're asking residents to pay for garbage and to have street lighting fees attached to their property tax bills and other things, as the resident who spoke said, it doesn't make sense to be paying employees sick days that they accumulate ten years earlier, but pay them at the higher rate when they retire.

I think the residents need to know too, that our employees are getting, 12 paid holidays, 4 paid personal days, a paid birthday, 15 sick days that they can bank and after one year they get two weeks vacation. If they were hired prior to 1995 they also get bonuses for how many years they work for the city.

Before we can say we've done everything, we need to start looking at how we do pay our employees. With that I will make a motion to move this to Executive & Finance.

Mayor Cervenik – It is difficult to sit here and listen to some of the comments made without at least having an opportunity this evening, rather than waiting until the Committee meeting to explain some of the things we have done. What we have done is reduce, when I became Mayor, you could be paid out 1200 hours of sick time at your rate. We reduced that for all employees to 960. Any employee from December 31, 2004 on it was reduced to an 800 pay out; 10-15 years a 640 pay out; 5 years but no more than 10 to 480 and less than 5 years 320.

In addition to that, any new hire from January 1, 2005 on could receive only 30 days and I believe that is the State minimum, we can't go any lower than that. We also felt that to take something away from a long term employee for not using their sick time but rather scale it back for as long as they worked here was very fair.

It should also be noted the payouts in the union contracts are bargained and negotiated and I don't have the authority to arbitrarily take them away. We now have only 101 non-union employees in the City, of which 70 of them are in the general fund, of which probably 25 of those are in the 30 hour or less and they also don't get any longevity. I just want that to be clear that this administration and council and prior council's have been working and reducing many of these benefits but trying to do it in a very fair and equitable way so when we have that committee meeting we can show more of the things we're doing as well as present what we've been working on the compensation ordinance as well.

President Holzheimer Gail – I understand the Law Dept. has been working on this ordinance for some time now and perhaps we can use the same meeting to discuss both, all of the issues. We appreciate you bringing this forward.

Councilwoman Minarik moved Ord. (048-10) to Executive & Finance Committee. Councilman Langman seconded.

Roll Call: Yeas: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Into Executive & Finance Committee.

**Ord. 24-2010 (049-10) Assessments Vacant Lots**

An ordinance to levy assessments for the cutting of weeds and cleaning of vacant lots as provided in Chapter 1113 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Euclid. (Sponsored by Councilman Wojtila by request of Service Director)

Councilman Wojtila moved for passage, Councilman Van Ho seconded.

Director Smith – I am requested that the stipulated assessment be levied against the listed property owners for the cost and expense associated with the cutting of weeds and cleaning away debris from vacant lots in 2009. These owners received a 48 hour notice and failed to take corrective action. Thereafter this work was completed in house. Bills were sent within 30 days of the cutting requesting reimbursement. In January 2010 a second notice was sent requesting payment. This notice indicated non-payment would result in a tax assessment. Thank you for your consideration.

President Holzheimer Gail – I'm sure Council is aware we do similar with residential properties. This is for vacant lots which is why the Service Dept. does that. That's why it is so small.

Councilman Wojtila – Has there been any thoughts of putting it into a similar program as the Housing, so that the companies we hire to do the grass cutting would take on that responsibility of inspecting and then cutting? It seems to be working well in housing.

Director Frey – We've talked about that from time to time and it maybe to a point where it makes more sense to move it. But if the Streets & Sewers Dept. is unable to get to that, we can turn them over to the contractor that we use if need be. Apparently we had the capacity to cut those as we were cutting other public parcels in the nearby area. We could certainly use that as an option and consider doing that.

Councilman O'Neill – These amounts are they what was charged the City of Euclid, or is this the amount we're just charging now?

Director Smith – This is the amount we charge. This work was actually done in house.

Councilman Van Ho – Once again, could we get somewhere in this resolution the address of where we're doing this mowing? I have no idea where Permanent Parcel 650-25-037 is.

Director Frey – We can certainly do that. I'm not sure, I hesitated because I'm not sure whether we give you that information on the residential parcels.

Councilman Van Ho – If we don't, I'd like to see it.

Director Frey – It is a substantial number of parcels and we'll have to make sure that we can easily capture that information. Here it is a very limited number of parcels and would be easy to do. Absolutely for these and I need to reserve on the residential parcel until I see what kind of data we have on that.

Councilman Van Ho moved to close debate, Councilman O'Neill seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Councilwoman Minarik moved to suspend the rules, Councilwoman Jones seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Roll Call: Yeas: Scarniench, Jones, Minarik, O'Neill, Wojtila, Langman, Van Ho,  
Holzheimer Gail.

Passed.

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Mr. John Jordan - I apologize for being out of order the first time. 26150 Zeman Ave. I would like to talk to this City Council concerning the gangs that are in our neighborhood and the vast area. Most of the time during the week it is kids going to school or coming from Forest Park. During the weekends we don't know where they're from. But it has got so if you drive your automobile up the streets, or down, they will not move out of your way and if you blow your horn or look at them real hard, you're getting curse words at you and a lot of hand signs given to you.

This all changed this past Monday. When I started down E. 266 towards Lake Shore Blvd., there was a Black gentleman sitting in his car with a gang of kids around him and he couldn't move his car. As I started by, I looked at him and all he did was shrug his hands and shake his head. At that time, they started kicking and beating on my car. I stopped the car and got out to address the situation. I got called nine socks of real racial names. I got snowballed so I got in the car and I called 9-1-1 for the Euclid Police Dept. The lady told me they were sending a policeman. The guys all started down Shoreview towards 260<sup>th</sup>. The guy in the other car, backed into a driveway, he said you called the Police and I said yes. He said this happens everyday. I said I know 2 or 3 or them I can identify, you'll follow me, we'll go down to the police and meet them.

So we followed them slowly down Shoreview towards 260<sup>th</sup>. When we get to 260<sup>th</sup>, we pull into the driveway at the store. We wait for Euclid Police and they don't show up. The gangs all join another gang on the other side and started down the other street. So I went home and called Forest Park school. I didn't get an answer. All I got was a recorder to leave my name, address and a small message, they'll get back with me. I did that.

Then I called 222, Euclid School Board and I talked to a real nice lady, I probably had a high voice, I'm sorry if I did. She was very nice. I explained the situation to her just as I had told you and she said I'm sorry, there's nothing we can do, it is not on school property and I don't know if Euclid police could do anything or not. I said I'm not satisfied with that, somebody in this city has to get enough guts to stand up to these kids that are now ruling the city streets. She said can I contact you with the School Board Superintendent's office and I said yes ma'am you can and she did. I talked to a real nice lady there and I told her the same thing I've told you and she said I'm sorry sir, I understand what you're saying and we'll get back with you, if we can and I said okay.

That was the second call that they received. Someone else had called, probably the gentleman that was on the street before me. I would like to tell you right now, it is going to get violent is what is going to happen. Somebody, is not going to be as cool as I am, and somebody is going to get hurt. I'd like to say this, in this city you have two failures. You have a failing school system that upsets me so bad. Now you've got a government here that cannot control the streets. I'll tell you this much right now. You should turn the Euclid Policemen loose and let them do their jobs and correct this situation. Thank you.

Chief Repicky – We have daily details at the High School and Forest Park. We're citing them constantly for walking in the street. Last week seven individuals were cited for walking in the street. We're constantly advising the students to stay out of the street and not impede vehicular traffic. I would like to talk to you after the meeting and find out why we didn't respond in a quick manner to alleviate the problem that you ran into. We will constantly keep enforcing especially walking in the street at Forest Park and other schools in the city.

Mayor Cervenik – This is one of the reasons that in my discussions with the Chief we've determined some shift changes are necessary to put more police officers on the road, at least one more additional squad, as well as to have some of our Detectives out on patrol versus being in the building. Third and foremost which I think is important, to have our Captains spend a couple of hours a day in a car going out and visiting our businesses and other institutions and talking with the owners and operators to see what is going on and what we can do to help them. This story tonight enforces even stronger that we have the right to do that and need to continue to have more police on the street; which brings us back to Wednesday's meeting. It is very important to understand the ramifications that can happen if we don't resolve our financial issues because it would definitely affect the safety of our residents. Thank you.

Pastor Michael Peterson – 20881 Arbor. I am here tonight to also address what John Jordan has addressed and other citizens and also to be inclusive for resolve for the young people who are also need to be involved and also for some their parents.

His concern is a concern that I've heard since I've been back home from Atlanta this last year. I've experienced that in Atlanta and also in California. I am here also to understand that there's a role that the schools play and it stops once I guess it gets into the community. There's a role the government plays with the policing and the role that the council, making the legislation and leadership. But there's also a role that needs to be identified. A lot of these young people have nothing to do after school in Euclid, there's no leadership for them, there's no place to go. There's no leadership in some of the homes as we all are aware of.

I am willing to volunteer some of my time after school if I can get a location and I'm seeking a location now, as I work with the Voice of New Life here and Project Hope in California, to work with these young people, get them together to be good citizens, work with their parents and I just need some space. Hopefully we can work something out with the Coral Group and get some space over there and get them out of the Library as I go over there and realize that Mother doesn't want them home, for good reason and they're hanging out in the Library and they're not studying. But, they need something to do as we had something to do when we were youth. We need to offer them something to do and that will get them out of the streets and highways. When I worked at Euclid High School, we spent 95% of our time, chasing 5% of the kids that were the problem. We didn't spend our time with the 95% of the kids that we're trying to do the right thing. I don't like to see that happen again. We do have an element out there that we need to identify as roguish; but we also have an element out there that we need to help as students as citizens, as parents as the future of Euclid. We don't want everyone to leave Euclid, Black, White, young, old and we want to find a way to make them inclusive and make them vital in the process.

As I drive through Euclid, I don't see any basketball courts, anything going on. I see the Mayor you're working very hard, we appreciate that. Policing only can go so far because you can't control, you have to lead. Litigating and legislation is good, but we really need leadership and everyone here is a

leader, which is why you're here. I'm just putting a hat in for a non-profit side, from a community person from a human being and a Pastor saying, that I'd like to be part of the process. I'd like to be part of leading these children. I did it at Euclid High School, Madeline and Mr. Van Ho can speak to that. I started groups that brought people together. We had riots and threats and all kind of talk back in the 90's and we spoke and we dealt with it and I believe we can do the same thing again.

I do feel your pain, as I share it with Mr. Jordan and I'll be finished. A lot of these kids see him as an old white man, causing me a problem. Really he's a man who's a father, he's a husband, he's been a good citizen. I don't know if you served in the military like me, I served in the United States Marine Corps from the country I love. He is a community person and he can probably help them if they got to know one another. We want to mitigate a way. He's going to come over to my church and speak on Friday, March 12th, and he's going to share with them his heart. They need to identify this man and other citizens and pay respect and then I believe once Mr. Jordan and other people begin to see that these kids can do some positive things, that certainly the police need to do their job and everyone else. I believe that we all can get the community stirred up and find a way other than the one on Euclid, the sportsplex. We're going to do that.

Finally we're going to have a Victory Youth Camp where we're going to have mentoring this summer. We have a young lady who has been voted Miss Cleveland. She has a Law Degree and will do free tutoring for kids 6-16 in Math, English and Science, this summer at our camp. We're going to start trying to work at the Shore Cultural Centre from 3:00-6:00. We're trying to raise funds now, we're getting close, to be able to rent out some space over there so they can have some tutoring, some after school activities, get them out of the Library unless they want to be there to study. Any help that I can get from the Council, the city, the community, from Mr. Jordan and from these kids because these kids are kids.

President Holzheimer Gail – Pastor Peterson, I'm sorry to interrupt, your time is up.

Pastor Peterson – That's the Preacher in me. I won't be long on March 12<sup>th</sup>. Thank you.

President Holzheimer Gail – I just quickly want to follow up. Both Pastor Peterson and Mr. Jordan touched on this but it takes the whole community working together. I think certainly the city has its role as we heard the schools have their role, faith communities have their role, non-profits. We have a Euclid Weed & Seed program that's still working hard and has a committee working to youth activities. Jeff Beck right here coming up next is the Chairman of that particular committee. So there are people and there are avenues to work on these types of issues. We would certainly welcome any resident who wants to get more involved to contact the Council Office, their council person and we can help direct you to the appropriate resources. We certainly appreciate your comments.

Mr. Jeffrey Beck – 25540 Chatworth. I'm here also tonight to talk about the young men in our community only from a different angle. This Saturday, March 6<sup>th</sup>, a very rare event will occur in the City of Euclid at St. John of the Cross at 6 PM. That event is the Boy Scouts of America will honor four young men who have achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. Why is this rare? Only 2% of all Scouts achieve this rank. These four boys are: Joe Rosace; Chris Barris; Sean Kitko; Phillip Tarr.

I urge and invite all members of Council and members of the administration to attend this and our friends here at Channel 5. If you can't, I hope you'll join me in congratulating these fine young men on this achievement. Thank you.

Ms. Barbara Tingley – 101 E. 209 St. I was here tonight because I wanted to address my support for the lighting and the garbage fees. In order to keep our safety forces and our recreation services. I've been a lifelong resident of the City of Euclid; I've participated in recreation activities as a child, as a young adult. Now I have three children and they also participate in many activities offered by the Recreation Dept. It concerns me greatly especially for this upcoming summer to not have Rec Dept., not have the pools and have the reduction in safety services. That combination alone is just setting the city up probably for more instances of what happened with this man, what he was speaking about. If people don't have anything to do, these young children don't have anything to do, go to the pools, participate in recreational activities during the summer months, with a reduction in the safety services, then there's just going to be children milling about not doing anything.

We passed this bond issue for making four new schools in the City of Euclid which was a wonderful achievement. In order to draw in more families, that's a great thing to offer. But to not have a recreation department in this city which helps children build teamwork, establishes confidence, establishes self respect and respect for others. Not to have that, we're not going to draw in families into this city even though we're building four new brand new schools.

I just wanted to say, I know it is tough circumstances for everybody. We're talking about reduction of employees' compensation and that is felt in all organizations across America of people having reduction in compensation or how they're being compensated. I urge you all to support the fees that are being proposed in order to maintain the services this City offers. Thank you.

Mr. Tom Cooke – 25641 Edgecliff. I wasn't going to comment on this, but I will. I just want to echo the concerns of a few people that were just up at this podium regarding kids walking in the street. I would like to remind you, but I don't suppose you need to be reminded a few months ago there was a 9 year old girl that was killed up at 238<sup>th</sup> and Lake Shore because she was hit by a car. Even though she was in the crosswalk when she was hit by that car, she still died. There's an attitude out there that I can walk just about anywhere in the street and the cars and vehicles will just kind of some how vanish and move out of my way. Honestly I'm shocked that more people haven't been killed. I can tell you myself, driving up and down E. 250<sup>th</sup> on a regular basis, there's always people walking in the street and with an 8 foot plow on the front end of a 2500 Dodge, you can just imagine what that would do to somebody. That is an issue that definitely should be addressed.

Then again, the police can only do so much with their limited manpower and they do have priorities. We shouldn't even be talking about cutting back on city services, we should be talking about adding to city services. While there's many different ways as the Reverend had mentioned to skin a cat, my favorite way is just to add more police. That's just the way I look at it, that's the way I see it, that's the way I like it to be handled.

These services, the police, fire, EMS, and the city services, as we all know, they support 50,000 residents. Any reduction in those city services will scare people away from the city, it is just common sense. It just makes common sense. You reduce the number of police, it just makes sense that crime will go up. You reduce the fire and EMS, it just makes common sense that they will not be able to address the concerns and the needs of the community in the way that they would like to. City Services, the same way. This isn't brain surgery. Less people on the road, less people to address leaf pick up, less people to address the snow removal. I would like to, while I'm on snow removal, I would like to commend the city on the removal of the snow over the last couple of days and last couple of months for that matter. It is a daunting task. My kudos to you guys, you guys do a nice job.

Just a comment regarding cost cutting. You can only cut so far. There's only so much that you can reduce out of a budget and then you have to look for sources of additional generating revenue. While we should be looking at cost cutting measures, where I've seen the focus of this council and administration on cost cutting, we have to focus more on revenue generating incomes for the city. Although I know Director Pietravoia there's a lot of projects on the books, some that you can talk about, some that you can't talk about, but I think it would really benefit the residents of this city if they knew of the individual positive elements that are occurring in this city that given this economic climate are not happening anywhere else, especially from a retail standpoint. There's some very, very positive items. Wed., 6:30 PM, that's for the public, correct? Will the public have a chance to also speak and address?

President Holzheimer Gail – Absolutely.

Mr. Cooke – I would just like to invite as many people here from the public as possible to support this issue, to support the city services, support the Fire EMS, support the police. It is a three-legged stool that this city stands on. We have to have them. We cannot cut. We cannot reduce. If anything we should be talking about adding. That is what we use to invite people into this city. Thank you.

Rose M. Allen – 26241 Lake Shore Blvd. First comment is, could you be sure that the outer doors are not locked so that people can get in. I was standing out there banging on the door for quite a few minutes before somebody came and opened the door.

President Holzheimer Gail – I apologize for that and we will make sure that the doors are opened.

Ms. Allen – That would be nice, on cold nights it is not nice to stand there and bang on doors. Tonight I'm here not to say anything for or against the proposed tax on garbage pick up and lighting charge. What I'm here to do is to try to keep people from further dividing this city. We've come through a really rough time where people were polarized over a number of issues over the last three years and we do not need elected officials spewing false information, blaming renters for a lot of problems in this city.

I brought along some facts that anybody can check for themselves when it comes to whether renters are paying their fair share of what goes on in this City. I do not own the complex where I live, but K&D Properties owns that property. They are charged commercial taxes that support services in this city. As the Mayor stated, we do not use the city's garbage pick up service. Yet, part of the money that's paid through the property taxes, commercial taxes that are paid by the apartment owner still supports city services.

I have a breakdown of the distribution of tax dollars, but before I go to that, let me say this. If people think that all the problems and all the slacking is done by people who rent in this city, and if we all just left and just moved out of the city, everything would be fine, the stats are between 41-52% of residents in Euclid rent, whether it is apartments, condos or whatever. I'd like to know what would happen to businesses if 50% of the people went away taking away 50% of the business that they give to various locations, such as grocery stores, gasoline stations, restaurants. Believe it or not, sometimes renters tend to utilize restaurants and fast food places a little more than people who own homes. So 50% of their business went away, I would like to see what would happen to the city.

I would like to ask Chief Repicky a very quick short answer question. Have there been any crimes committed by people who own homes in Euclid?

Chief Repicky – I don't have that statistic in front of me. We don't break it down by homeowner or renter.

Ms. Allen – Just a kind of a guess, do you believe that there are .....

Chief Repicky – I wouldn't guess on that.

Ms. Allen – Are there absolutely no homeowners who have committed crimes?

Chief Repicky – I didn't say that. I said I'm unsure.

Ms. Allen – To blame all the problems on renters is absolutely irresponsible. Anybody who doesn't know facts should just be quiet, just don't open your mouth if you're spewing inaccurate information.

Let me give you an example, this is taken from the County's website but it supports where Euclid's taxes go. First of all, the percentage, the annual percentage of tax on commercial property is 3.65%. The annual tax on personal property is 2.53% of market value. Let's just say whatever I pay for my rent, 3.65% of that, if it is just done fairly across the board with who pays what. I'm still paying 3.65% toward taxes in this city. If people have jobs where they are charged income tax, it is still supporting the city whether or not you own anything. People chose to rent or own for whatever reasons. They have their personal reasons for not wanting homeownership and should not be vilified by anybody.

The breakdown, the distribution of taxes, schools for a commercial tax rate, 69.9% goes to schools. To the city, village or township, 10.1%. Cuyahoga County gets 16.5%. If you go back to the residential people, 66% goes to the schools. 8.31% goes to the city itself. So I would hope that you look at facts and believe facts and not speculation and malicious let's say rumors. Thank you.

Mr. Willie Brown – 20875 Miller Ave. I come here to speak this evening because I care about children and we've heard some comments about the children of the City of Euclid this evening and also at previous council meetings. I definitely empathize with anyone who has been in a bad or negative situation with any of our children here in Euclid or anywhere else.

One of the things I've heard repeatedly is that there's nothing for our children to do. They don't have anything to do. So, in trying to be solution orientated for those parents and adults who want to help, who think there is nothing for our children to do, I just want to offer a little information that I have. Number one, the city's recreation department has a multitude of programs and opportunities for our children to be involved in. So we have the recreation department. The City's Police Athletic League has a number of programs, recreation and otherwise that your children can be involved in. Seek out the Police Athletic League.

We have many churches in the city that have very strong youth ministries. I happen to be a member of Imani Church and we have a very strong youth ministry so come down 260 St. to Imani Church if you want to find something for your children to be involved in. Our Euclid Schools, there are many after school activities that you can get your children involved in. If your child is attending school, find out what after school activities there are available and get involved.

Last but not least, as Chairperson of the Euclid YMCA advisory board, I have to let you know that we have plenty of opportunities for you to get your children involved in things at the Euclid Family YMCA. We also have opportunities for the parents to get involved. One way is by donating to our strong kids campaign which provides money for scholarships to pay for children to become members of the YMCA if the families can't afford it. I don't know everything but I'm offering those few things that I've found in the city, that I've been able to get my son involved in, that have been very helpful, very enjoyable.

I urge parents to get involved. Find something for your children to do and there's always another option. Find something for your children to do at home. Encourage them to study. Encourage them to read. Encourage them to vacuum. Encourage them to help you clean the house. Those are things that we've been able to find for my son to do. Yes there may not be as many things to do here in the City of

Euclid as in maybe other places, but I don't think there's any shortage of opportunities for the youth here. Please, parents get involved. Take responsibility for our children even if you don't have children, as adults we are responsible for children. As I said, I care about children, that's one of the reasons that I volunteer. That's one of the reasons that I support our school system and our school system has done very well by my son. One of the reasons is that both me and his mom stay engaged in his education and his education responsibilities goes beyond school, they continue when he comes home.

Those are just some suggestions for parents who do want to help out. Once again I urge people to support the Euclid YMCA. Please donate to the Strong Kids Campaign. We're always looking for volunteers. I don't think that anyone will show up at the Euclid YMCA and say they want to volunteer and help and we not find some way that you can get involved. As adults and as parents, let's volunteer our time to make sure we're doing our part to make not only a better city, but to make a better society.

Mr. Tod Guntner – 21290 Edgecliff. Gee, bet you thought you'd never see me again huh? Tonight I'd like to say thank you. Thank you to every single person that brought their newspapers, their mail, their cardboard, their phone books, their post it notes, to the Euclid Animal Shelter and dropped them off in the ABITIBI bins.

These people that did this for us gave us 207 tons of paper. That relates to about \$4,100 which we really appreciate. Because of that 207 tons, we got a longevity award of \$1,036. This makes our total earnings over 2009 for paper over \$5,000 which is 10% of the total amount of money that we raised in 2009. Thank you. Please continue to bring your papers. I know you don't read the paper a lot any more. There's a lot of stuff going online, but there is still your mail, your post it notes, they now take cardboard. They take everything except pizza boxes because of the food bacteria and frozen food boxes, anything with a wax container. Your cereal boxes, Kleenex boxes, your mashed potato boxes, everything like that is all now recyclable through the ABITIBI bins. We'd appreciate your help to keep the animals in food, medicine and to help us keep finding homes for all these lost animals which I think there was about 750 last year.

Next I'd like to talk about the need of the city, hunger in particular. I know Mayor you were at our church two summers ago, East Shore United Methodist Church. We serve a meal every single week from 5:00-6:00. Mayor I know you were there and you saw about 50-55 people there. It has grown. We're now serving almost 100 people every week. In fact last week we served 200 servings which is a record. I'd like to invite you all to come down to East Shore Church, any Wednesday from 5:00-6:00. I know you've got a meeting this week so you can't attend. But I do invite you all to come down. See what we do. We want to show you what we do, how we can help the city and how we are helping the city and the city's hungry. The public is also invited. Please come on down. Every once in awhile we get some donations from KFC and we have KFC to give out also. Please join us. Thank you.

Mrs. Del Tekieli – President of the Shore Cultural Centre Board of Trustees. I'm happy to inform you, the Mayor, City Council, that the Shore Board of Trustees has officially adopted the five year strategic management plan for the Shore Cultural Centre. We encourage Council to approve the five year plan for Shore. Good business practice mandates long term planning. No one would move into a building that works short term. Long term planning means more rentals, more revenue.

The Board wants to direct or fundraising efforts and grant writing efforts towards window restoration. This would make the windows more energy efficient and improve aesthetically. The five year plan provides stability for the culinary school and other tenants. It allows planning for programming and entertainment events that require long term commitments. The good news is that more and more people are using the Shore Cultural Centre, bringing more and more people into Downtown Euclid. The Wendy's improvement will most definitely benefit by more people coming into Shore. Passing the five year plan is just good business and isn't that what our city must emulate? Thank you.

Ms. Regina Hauck – 116 E. 197 St. Over the weekend I was able to catch a couple of the meetings that were being televised. I saw the Executive & Finance meeting of last week and then the Rec Commission meeting. The Rec Commission meeting kind of concerned me because we're talking about all these cuts to recreation, but they're not even considering increasing any fees for any of their programs. About a month ago, the first meeting in February I had given a whole list of ideas for cuts and one of the things that I had suggested was that a break even analysis be done for each program for the Rec Dept. That was just a suggestion but now I would like to formally ask for a copy of that break even analysis. I would really like it to be done.

At the Executive & Finance Committee Meeting a lot of people got up and spoke and it was good to see a lot of different people in the audience. They were talking about how important the services are to the city and they are. It came out of this meeting that this garbage fee isn't really a garbage fee, it is more like a service fee. I think we will all agree that the more people there are in a household, the more services that you would use from the city.

That's the crux of the problem here. Everyone wants to pay their fair share. Nobody has a problem paying their fair share. The problem is, you're asking me to pay more than my fair share. I'm going to use Councilwoman Gail as an example, only because she's sitting right in front of me. Councilwoman Gail has three children, three lovely children I've met them. But the way this proposal is written, I'm going to pay the same as a family of five. That's not fair. That's not fair to me. They use more city services than I do. The way it should be is they should be paying five times more than I am paying. She chose to have children, they're her responsibility. They are not my responsibility. I have no problem paying my fair share, but I shouldn't be paying somebody else's fair share. That's the problem. It should not be based on household, it needs to be based on people in household.

Several council members and the Mayor said that they are willing to go door to door to get House Bill 920 repealed in November. I suggest you go door to door now and you do a census yourself and you find out who's living in each house so you know how much to charge them. The wards are small. You can do your own wards. Think of it as your own little wellness committee. You'll get fit while you're walking the streets. I think this is something you really have to do to make it fair for everybody.

I want to switch gears and I want to talk about future implications of your decisions. I think you're looking at a short term problem that's going to have long term effect on the city. I have friends that have moved into the city the same time I did. I would estimate they're making between \$175,000-\$200,000. They live on a very desirable street. They moved out of the city because they could live cheaper in another city. Another city that is further away from their work places. They have not sold their home in Euclid, but it is still cheaper for them to move out of the city than to live in Euclid.

The problem with that is, first of all they've lowered their house to practically giving it away. Whoever moves into their home, if we're lucky, will make 50% of what they make. Reality is they're probably going to make 25-30% of what they make. Multiply that by all the people that can afford to move out and are going to sell their homes at a loss to people who make less money. Now look 10 years down the road, how do you balance the budget on a much lower tax base? You can't. You have to pay attention to the decisions you're making today and how they're going to affect the city tomorrow. I really think that if you make it more expensive for the residents to live here today, you're going to be in worse shape five years from now than you are today and you're going to be facing bigger problems because you're going to have a tax base of 25-50% less than you have today and you're going to have expenses that are going to be more. You're not going to be able to go to the people and ask for more money because they are going to be tapped out. There is not going to be any more money. You really need to be thinking about how to retain the people with higher incomes and attract more people with higher incomes, so that you have a higher tax base. Because what you're doing now is pushing people out of the City and it frightens me because you really are going to ruin the city if you don't pay attention to what you're doing and I don't think any of you want to do that. I think you all have your hearts in the right places and you really care about the city, otherwise you wouldn't be running for office, but I think you really have to be careful and try not to just think of the short term but think of the long term effects. Thank you.

Director Will – First of all I was glad you were able to watch the Recreation Commission meeting. You had spoken about fee increases. We had taken to our Recreation Commissioners prior to the year 2010 to increase some fees. We do have some fees that are going to be increased for 2010. We take them the year before so they were done. Then there's different times throughout the year that we will go back to our Recreation Commission for additional fees. We did just do the pool fees and we also had done the ice arena fees so there will be increases. I wanted to make sure you had that.

As far as the report goes for the break even analysis, I'd love to talk to you about that and get you any report you need. Thank you.

Mr. Joe Udovic – 21371 Naumann Ave. What I'd like to talk about this evening is the same thing lighting fees and trash fees, but this more affects the lighting fees. First of all I'm going to start off with a quick story. Yesterday I was at my new parish, Ss. Robert and William, and I was told that there's going to be a fundraiser of \$40 per ticket. From an economic standpoint because I do have a minor in economics, I face a trade off. Do I give my church \$40 in a ticket, or do I keep the money and give it to the city for fees? We all face that same choice out here. Everyone of my citizens, my people face those choices. That's the choices we have to make as a household budget and that's the choice the Mayor has to make, every same Council, it's the Mayor.

Another thing I'd like to talk about, I talked to a couple of businesses this past weekend and they said the same thing. If we're going to raise lighting fees, it is going to affect the businesses as a whole as well. They're going to cut back or you might even lose businesses. You're talking about losing residents, let's talk about the businesses who are trying to survive in this recession. That's what this is. I don't care if you talk to Ben Bernanke or listen to Mr. Bernanke, if you listen to CNN, C-Span, whatever, this is a recession. We're not even out of this recession as of yet. That's what I'm looking at from an economic standpoint, how is this going to affect not only the residents of the city, but also the businesses of this community as a whole.

One quick question, someone brought up this evening about looking under every stone and every rock. This was brought by a friend of mine on Euclid Ave. who own his business. If we're talking about pay cuts, have the Directors taken a pay cut over the past 2-3 years? Meaning are you making 20% less or are you willing to take a pay cut? Everybody cuts at the bottom, are we cutting at the top? That's food for thought.

Another thing I'd like to address this evening was the February 22 meeting I watched earlier this evening and got a little more details on. My Councilwoman recommended a Town Hall meeting for the whole city as a whole. The Council President suggested that we have individual ward meetings. This affects the city as a whole. I disagree with the Council President that this should be a citywide meeting, not eight individual meetings. I understand that you want to have smaller forums, everybody gets their time to ask questions, but I do believe that we should have the business people here because they're going to be affected by the lighting fees, as well as the residents as a whole. I am imploring that the Mayor go for more of a citywide meeting. If the Council President still believes that this should be a ward meeting, I would volunteer my services to host this forum. I know I'm very busy with school right now, but I will stand up here right now and say, I'm willing to make an appointment or time that I can be here, let the administration set up a date with me, we can have people send e-mails. I'd be willing to read the e-mails here, any questions. I'll give everybody fair minutes to ask or answer. Ask any questions to the administration, to Directors, to the Council President. That's why I'm here this evening because I'm willing to volunteer my time so let's bring out all the ideas onto the table and openly discuss this with everybody in the City of Euclid. Thank you and have yourself a very good evening.

Mayor Cervenik – As to the comments about the Directors. When I first became Mayor in 2004, at the beginning of 2005, I reduced the car allowance which is revenue to each of the Directors from \$500 a month to \$250 a month. February 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, I reduced it to zero. That's a \$6,000 reduction in pay. In addition to that, they too are all taking the 6 ½ furlough days that all of non-union workers are taking. Six and a half days of their time is a higher pay rate than somebody on a lower scale. So they are pitching in as well. They understand the difficulties we're dealing with.

Mr. Marcus Epps – I have moved. I live at 590 E. 222 St. A few issues that I wanted to, I'm going to take my time just to make sure I try to touch everything if you don't mind. I'd like to start by saying that it is good to hear that you've taken them from 500 to zero since the beginning of 2004. But those allowances probably should have never been there in the first place. So it's good to hear about those cuts, but that doesn't satisfy the people.

Number two, I'd like to mention that the last gentleman that spoke, he brings up great points that we all need to begin working together. This Town Hall meeting that, and I like that the Mayor called it that, but this Town Hall meeting where we all can come out and speak, on behalf we can get everyone's point of view. On behalf of how we feel dealing with these new taxes that you're trying to impose. That's a great idea and the only way anything is going to get solved, not just here in this city but in everything in life is through communication and opening the door to any and everybody affected in order to communicate about these issues. I think that is a good point.

Pastor Peterson and Mr. Jordan tonight that was pretty encouraging to see the interaction between the gentlemen. That's what Euclid is always been about. That's the Euclid I know and that's how we move forward and that's how we solve problems is by working together. I'll throw this out there, I've heard it a couple of times tonight people are bringing up the Black/White issue. That's Euclid. We've always embraced that diversity and these two gentlemen tonight put on a public display of that city community, that community I should say. I applaud you gentlemen for working together. I too will be there on the 12<sup>th</sup> and I look forward to fellowshiping with the both of you.

Tonight, we heard that the Mayor and his administration have sent lay off letters to 10 of the Euclid Police Dept. workers, as well as six of the Fire Dept., if I'm correct. You say the reason you did it is because the contracts force you to have to give a 30 day notice, correct?

Mayor Cervenik – The Fire Contract requires a 30 day notification to the firefighters so that they have the opportunity to come back to us and offer a way to save the amount of the lay offs. Out of courtesy we also notified the Police Dept. so they're able to do the same.

Mr. Epps – Very good to give those gentlemen a notice. Everybody in the private sector don't always get that option, or don't always get that, so we appreciate it. However I do believe that there are more politics at play. To send those lay off notices and then announce that at the beginning of this meeting tonight, in my opinion, are more scare tactics, fear tactics, to force this Council or encourage this Council into voting for this garbage and lighting tax.

Just for the people of the City of Euclid who I am constantly in communication with, I will now after getting more information, I have changed my position on it. I understand now also how hard you guys have to work because you have to hear from the people, you hear from the administration and you

hear from your colleagues and then you have to make a decision and it is always different information and it is hard to stay planted at times. I've learned that with this issue and I want to state that I after gaining more information I feel that the lighting tax is in order because as the Mayor said, it affects everyone. However, this garbage tax, it needs to be shot down. It needs to be shot down and everyone and I volunteer my services, we've got a lot of volunteer offers tonight too as well. But I volunteer my services to campaign with you door to door Mr. Mayor from now until November to get this 920 repealed. If that's going to keep from doing this, we need to try to do that first. It is not fair that the people have to pay for 9 months or for a year because this administration hasn't handled our money well.

I think these quick impulse decisions that the woman spoke about a couple of nights ago are the reason why we're here asking the people for more money. If we pass the lighting, put it at \$5, I think compared to what we're looking at to spend, the \$5 will be better than \$18. We put it at \$5 and we say now we're going to campaign to get the 920 repealed and come November as long as that happens, then we don't need to worry about asking the people for more money.

Mr. Mayor you also stated in the last meeting, or the Executive & Finance Committee Meeting that people don't want to see the loss of services over \$14 or \$18, well \$18 to a single mother who's trying to feed her family is a lot of money. If you go to Save A Lot, that's five packs of meat. That will feed her family for a week and a half. Don't underscore the fact of these fees or what these fees mean to residents, because \$18 is a lot of money, it is another bill. You times it by 12, you're talking about big bucks.

President Holzheimer Gail – Mr. Epps, your time is up.

Mr. Epps – We expect you guys to look at this carefully. Do not pass this garbage tax.

Mayor Cervenik – The announcement I made tonight was not scare tactics just as my comments at last Wednesday's meeting were not scare tactics. I've done everything I can to make sure that it is not so. The reason I made the announcement tonight is that someone notified the news stations today of those letters going out. The first call I got was that 15 police and 15 firefighters are being laid off. Therefore once the residents see it on television on the news, it is my responsibility to tell exactly what happen and why those letters needed to go out. I appeared on Channel 5 news as well as talked to the News Herald. I did my best to explain to people as to why those letters went out and that I firmly believe that we will come to some resolution so that the lay offs will not have to happen. It certainly wasn't done to scare anyone. It is a function of being in the public eye and having the news media constantly watching and listening. I can't change that. All I can do is try and make it right.

Secondly I do not and I don't think any member of this Council or my administration underscores for a minute the cost that now would probably be \$13 a month, the effect that it can have on residents in our community. But, the changes in services that would have to be made in this community if we do not receive, I don't underscore the damage that can do either. Thank you.

President Holzheimer Gail – Seeing no further public comments, we will move onto Councilmen's Comments.

#### COUNCILMEN'S COMMENTS

Councilman Langman – A couple of comments across the board. I know Channel 5 was here and they got certain comments about some issues on Zeman. So Chief Repicky, I will ask you directly for the residents that are watching, do we have a gang problem in the City of Euclid?

Chief Repicky – I wouldn't say we have gang problems, we just have youths that might be miss directed. As far as graffiti, you'll probably bring that up next, we've made several arrests on that so hopefully we're trying to curtail that activity. Unfortunately people have stated tonight that we only have so many things we can do. We're a police department, we're not parents. It is not the job of the police department to parent these youths. That's not our job.

Councilman Langman – The reason why I asked the question is that you and I have both been sitting up here a long time and sometimes the media will sculpt comments to fit particular news agenda. I just wanted to make sure that the residents understand that this not a pervasive problem, it is something we're aware of that through the Police Dept. and other entities and some of the comments we heard this evening that we can keep the lid on the problem. This is not a pervasive issue within the city and we will work hard to make sure that it is not.

Regarding the budget, I think the basic problem is that all the comments we heard tonight are right on target. I would love to give Chief Repicky 120 officers. I would love to give the Fire Chief enough men to staff all four fire stations. I also understand as comments were made that a lot of families out there are struggling because of the country and worldwide recession that we've all gone through.

We have to balance all of those requests and try to come up with a fair and equitable solution. Do we need more revenue? Probably. Can we ask for the maximum revenue that has been presented? Probably not. So we're going to have to come to a decision that will probably please no one in particular and that might be the best one of all. But we are making progress in resolving the problem to come to some sort of solution.

I would agree with the many comments that indicate this is not the end of the process. We have a lot more work ahead of us after we adopt whatever budget we happen to adopt. We have to continue to be innovative in how we deliver services. For example, what we did with Shore and at the Golf Course and healthcare, etc. We're going to have to explore every and all avenues in the innovation department so we can continue delivering services within the revenues that are generated within the city.

I do find it interesting that if we raise taxes, that will drive people out of the city. But if we close the ice arena and the pools, that will drive people out of the city. So you understand the dilemma that we're in. We don't have a lot of good options, but we will do our best on your behalf to maintain the services now and in the future. I just want to point out, if you look back 20-25 years ago where we were able to do a lot more, the people still left the city. The Census figures tell us that. This is not just a Euclid issue, but rather a regional and state issue of how you keeps folks reinvesting in older communities. We can only do so much.

I would like to turn to something that's a little more pleasant and uplifting all at the same time. Starting tomorrow at the Euclid Public Library there will be the Cleveland Dialysis Center's 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Art Show. If you ever saw the works there of the previous years, you can't help but be amazed and thrilled by the art that is produced by folks going through what is a very tough process that is dialysis. Please, if you have a moment, take some time to visit the Library in the Art Gallery and see what work is being done. They are also having an informal reception to sort of inaugurate the show on March 7<sup>th</sup> at the Library in the Shore Room starting at 2:30. There will be light refreshments served. If you know of anybody that suffers from kidney disease or kidney related ailments, going through dialysis is a very difficult and time consuming process. The art that's generated, it just can't help but touch your heart to see the work that is being done. With that, I wish you a goodnight.

Councilman Van Ho – I have two questions for the Fire Chief to answer when I'm done, please. A gentleman asked me why we send the fire engines when the EMS is called, can you explain that? Also, he stated that you only transport to Euclid General when we have EMS and I thought you had said that we will transport to any nearby hospital. Can you explain our policy?

I would like to say thanks to Petpals. You guys do a tremendous jobs with a little bit of money and just thank you.

I'm tired hearing about bad handling of money. We're looking at tough times. It is not just this city, it is every city around that's having these problems. Everyone talks about repealing 920 and that will help, but don't pass the garbage tax. Right now we're looking at 10 cops and 6 firemen. If that tax doesn't tax and the lighting assessment doesn't pass, more will go. That's going to decimate this city. We talk about poor people and what it is going to do to them. Why do you think these poor people move to Euclid? To get better services than they could get in Cleveland; to get better fire protection, to get better police protection, to get better schools. So we have to keep that up, not just for the rich people as I'm kind of hearing we're doing, but also for the poor people. With that, I'm just going to say that I will vote for both of these taxes and if that's the wrong move, people can vote me out in two years and that's all I have to say goodnight.

Chief Cosgriff – We do not send the fire truck on all EMS runs. The runs that dispatch determines are in advance cardiac life support or ALS run, we send the fire truck along with the squad. The reason for that is, these are the life threatening runs, typically cardiac or breathing problem. With having five firefighters on the scene it makes for a rapid assessment, rapid treatment and the ability to move the patient quickly out to the squad and get them in route to the hospital. These are more critical runs. One of the things that Cleveland Clinic does is they measure time to stint or time to balloon angioplasty for cardiac patients. They try to get that done within 90 minutes so that the time we spend on the scene is critical to getting our people into the cath lab in a short period of time. I have a stack of papers on my desk from Hillcrest Hospital and from the Cleveland Clinic saying the time limits that we have achieved that are right up there with the top time limits with other EMS services in the city. Absolutely it is to save lives.

The second question is in regards to hospitals that we transport to. Our protocols that we function under specifically lists the hospitals as the closest most appropriate hospital. What that means is, it depends on the condition that the patient is experiencing. For instance if it would be a very sick child, the closest most appropriate hospital would probably be RB&C, Rainbows Babies & Children. If we were take somebody out of a fire that was burned badly, the closest most appropriate hospital would probably be the Metro Burn Unit. We transport cardiac patients that we believe are going to have, as I stated earlier, need to go to the cath lab, we transport them to Hillcrest Hospital on a regular basis. Euclid Hospital is know for their orthopedics; broken legs and those type of injuries we transport to Euclid

Hospital. Or if people don't have a preference, we transport to Euclid Hospital. They have a very fine emergency room there that can treat most things. Same with Richmond Heights Hospital. We transport trauma patients to Huron Road, which is a Level 2 Trauma Center. The guys make an assessment and they transport to the closest most appropriate hospital.

President Holzheimer Gail – Just a couple of announcements. I would like to thank Walgreen's. They invited the City to their ribbon cutting last week and it was very well attended. Councilman Gilliam was able to attend as well as former Councilman Gruber and much of the city administration. They actually were very impressed, it was the best turn out that they had had they said for a ribbon cutting by local officials. I also want to acknowledge that they made a very generous donation to the Parks & Recreation Scholarship fund. We appreciate Walgreen's and invite everyone to visit the new location on Euclid Ave. and Dille Rd.

We're fortunate to have Recreation programs both in the City and also done by many of the non-profit groups throughout the city; Euclid Soccer, Euclid Hockey, Euclid Boys League. I understand at the next meeting we will be celebrating the success of the Euclid Hockey programs which will be raising several new banners at the ice rink. Euclid Boys League is having, although we don't think of baseball at this moment, they are having sign ups for this summer's program. For all those interested in signing their children up for baseball, you can visit [Euclidbaseball.org](http://Euclidbaseball.org), call the Parks & Rec Dept. for the number if you need it. They have registration events at the Euclid Library this Wednesday, this Saturday, next Wednesday and next Saturday from 6:30-8:30 on the Wednesday and 10-1 on the Saturday. I would encourage anyone interested in baseball to follow up on that.

We will be meeting this Wednesday, March 3<sup>rd</sup> at 6:30 here in Council Chamber for an Executive & Finance Committee to continue the discussion of the budget. We've been working hard for a long time to get our budget in control. Somebody mentioned fiscal mismanagement and I think that's the farthest thing from the truth. The Mayor and the Finance Director and Council have been working for a number of years. We have made cuts over the last three years for sure. We experienced an unprecedented drop in revenue this past year and that really is why we're in the position that we are in. So Wednesday's meeting is definitely open to the public. Definitely will include time for public comments. We've asked the Administration to review the cuts that have been made, not only in this current budget but last year as well so we have the context. Then talk about the additional cuts or concessions that have happened since the budget book came out. What is our resulting deficit? Going further from that for the decision, either what are the proposed cuts needed to meet that deficit or what are the proposed revenue enhancements? Meaning the garbage collection fee and the lighting fee, what are the protocols or processes to collect those? How will we do that? In addition, talk about any additional long term solutions. We've mentioned House Bill 920, which I've had a couple of people say what in the world is House Bill 920. We will talk about that as a longer term solution. We will look at addressing some of our compensation issues. Longer term we will discuss the idea of having an efficiency work group look at some of the long term issues. We are looking at both the immediate, what we can do this year but we are also planning for long term solutions and growth. We have certain limitations that we are under and we're doing the best to make sure we're maintaining a city that is strong, stable and attractive for all of those living here and additional new residents. I look forward to the comments on Wednesday. We are working towards scheduling some other public forums, be they at the ward level, citywide level. I would expect that any of them would be open to anyone who is interested. We will certainly schedule those over the next two weeks with the anticipation that we are hoping to have a decision at the March 15<sup>th</sup> Council meeting.

Councilwoman Scarniench – I really wasn't going to say anything tonight, but in no particular order. Service Dept., great job again with the snow. Over the last week I spent out in Ashtabula with my new grandbaby and they actually stopped plowing to save money to pay for their police officers. It was scary as all heck to go through that city and the snow and everything. So when you look at that in perspective, every single employee that works for the city, works very hard. Once I got back into town, it was great, the streets were clean and it was good because you weren't seeing the accidents I was seeing out there.

When you talk about kids walking in the street, yesterday afternoon 2:00 right where the young lady was hit by the car at 238, there's a car sitting in the middle of the street. The owner of the car had run out of gas. Where was he? Walking down the middle of the street to the gas station. It is not just kids, it is everybody. If you can't walk on a sidewalk, walk next to the curb. Follow the rules so everybody stays safe.

Tomorrow night is the second meeting for the Arbor, Goller, Trebec area. I hope that everybody who lives in that area will show up tomorrow at the American Legion Hall at 7 PM.

Every meeting that we have is open to the public, except if we were in Executive Session. At every meeting everybody in the public is allowed to speak. At the beginning you talk about what's on the agenda; at the end you talk about anything. So to say that we don't listen to the people is just a wrong thing. Town Hall meetings versus individual meetings. You can have a Town Hall meeting, that's great, but tonight I can't show up. You have a bunch of other meetings. Small is good because you have them

all over the place in different areas so that more people can come. It doesn't matter how many of them we have, you're still going to get the same group of people. As I told you at the last meeting, I sent out 285 e-mails and it was about 40 people that responded to it. The more meetings we have, the more individuals that may come, so I think that's important whether we do them small or large, everybody can come to those meetings.

It has been said before about contracted services. There's not a whole lot we can do now. A few Mayor's ago things changed and the store was given away and we were all told because I sat back there, we were told this isn't going to affect anybody, it is not going to do anything. Well guess what, it does affect everybody because it has come home now and that's the position we're in. The only place we get our revenue is being taken away from us. The only thing we can do is ask unions to give back. Some have over the past few years and others haven't and that's the position we're in. We can't pull blood from a turnip it doesn't work that way. The only place we get money is from the citizens of the city.

Our Finance Director has worked very hard. Over the years that he has been here, and our past Finance Director have always been right on target with the money. Unfortunately, when the State and Federal government decided to cut things, that was to everybody's surprise. There's nothing we could do about that. Our money is not mishandled. I think we knit-pick this budget constantly, all year long, just not at budget time. Please don't think we're not watching every penny that's being spent and things aren't being changed as we go along.

Community Policing. We used to have 4-5 officers. We only have one now. Is there any way to think about bringing community policing back? I really think that helps having those officers out in the street working with the kids. The kids knew the officers, the officers knew the kids. I just think that's so important that we try to bring that back. I will leave that question to the Chief and say thank you to everybody who has wished me good wishes on my new grandbaby. I have totally enjoyed the last week being with her and good wishes to Councilman Gilliam and hope to see him on Wednesday. Thank you.

Chief Repicky – I would like to do that too, but I 97 police officers, six of them are off duty right now due to injuries, one is going to be going to the military. If these proposed cuts come through, you're not going to have DARE, you won't have community policing, and we'll be reducing the Detective and Narcotics unit. I will not allow uniform officers on the street to jeopardize their safety and we will continue with the manpower we have an increase and cut these other programs out.

Councilwoman Jones – Chief Repicky, there was some mention about citations given to the youth as they're walking in the street. Can you just give a brief overview on how that citation process works? Is it given to them right then and what are the consequences for those that receive these citations and how many repeat offenders do we have?

Chief Repicky – Which one do I answer first? Unfortunately I've been on the First Suburbs Consortium for Juveniles the last three years and like anybody else, if you're an adult and you're arrested, you usually get within a week or two immediate remedy. Juveniles, it is not the case, it could be 3-4 months before they either go to Juvenile Court or Diversion. Our Diversion is much more quickly as far as going through that process. But if you get a citation for walking in the street, they also have a waiver now where you can pay \$90 and never go to Court; another fine system in place that doesn't remedy the problem but just creates more problems.

Unfortunately I think as far as juveniles go if they do get into trouble, immediate I don't want to say punishment, but there should be some like an adult, you suffer right away, you don't wait 3-4 months down the line because that's not going to correct behavior in juveniles especially. I really don't know what the answer is, as far as repeats, I don't have that in front of me but we will continue to monitor the problem, the quality of life issues in the city and one of them is walking in the street. I don't know how many hundreds of violations we've cited and they continue to do it. I just stopped two youth the other day when I was driving into work and they were walking in the street. I gave them two options, continue to walk in the street and get a ticket, or get on the sidewalk where you belong. They decided to go on the sidewalk. I'm not putting up with it either but they have to understand that there is a punishment for violating the law. I don't know what else to tell you.

Councilwoman Jones – I just want to talk about the budget discussions that we had. For those of you who were able to make it to last week's meeting. From then until today, there's been a lot of changes that have been made trying to get to the point where we can pay as less if the fees are decided upon as possible. If you were at the meeting last week, we talked about the trash fee being \$14 and \$8 and the lighting fee being \$4. Now we've seen all that has changed. There has been changes all along. We're not finished yet. As the saying goes, the fat lady hasn't sung, so it is not over. I'm not sure, hopefully by the end of the month the fat lady will be singing and we'll be smiling with the results but again it is not over. I would encourage you to talk to your neighbors and residents that live by you. I talked to co-workers that work with me and ask them who are Euclid residents and asked them do they know about what's going on

with the budget and if they say no, I'll just break it down for them and explain to them. I do it in an objective way. I don't give them my opinion as far as what I feel that should happen because they need to know everything that's going on, they need to know both sides. I break it down and explain to them. If I'm at an event, I'll ask someone who is a Euclid resident, do you know what's going on with the budget because there's some decisions that have to be made. Some of the decisions that Council will have to decide and the 920 issue the residents and the voters will decide on in November. The residents need to know what's going on up front with everything. It is not to say that just because I explained this to them that I'm in favor one way or the other. I have an opinion personally of what I think and I have my opinion of what I feel is best for the city in general.

We talked about if these fees are not passed the Fire stations closing. I was speaking with someone over the weekend that some people may not realize but your homeowners premium is based on the proximity to a fire station. If you are no longer close to a fire station, that could be an increase in your homeowners fees. If we go down to one fire station, does that mean your homeowners fees are going to increase? It could be if you have a re-evaluation of that.

I'm running out of time but I just want to say, make sure you come to the meetings to hear the final discussions before a decision is made and give your opinions and voice your objections or concerns. Thank you.

Councilwoman Minarik – You must work for an insurance company. Director Smith, I don't believe since that first snowfall that I have ever seen the streets of Euclid as good as they have been this winter. I really thank you for the hard work.

On the garbage fees, something to consider, will there be an opt-out clause? Just something to consider. The only other thing that I have to talk about tonight is next week at the Euclid Public Library we will be setting up our rain barrel display. For anyone who is interested in a rain barrel, April 10<sup>th</sup> is the day of the rain barrel sale. On display in the outside lobby of Euclid Library we will have two rain barrels. One is the 60 gallon. One is the 55 gallon that you will build yourself.

In addition to rain barrels this April, I am so excited, we're going to have solar fountains that are powered by the sun, have 6 volt battery back ups, so that they continue to operate for 4-5 hours after the sun goes down. Again we will be having worm farm displays. The Euclid Museum is going to be giving tours of the museum that day, Friends of Euclid Creek for whom this is actually benefiting through the proceeds is going to be serving refreshments and offering memberships. The details are again April 10<sup>th</sup>, Saturday. The workshop if you want to build your rain barrel, 10-11:30 in the morning. The sale itself, if you want to pick up your barrel is 10:00-1:00 PM. The flyer will show the cost of the 55 gallon barrel is \$60. The cost of the 60 gallon barrel will be \$85. If you join Friends of Euclid Creek, you will get discounts, which is a good thing to know. You must order your rain barrel ahead of time, so let me give you some information. If you're interested in the Workshop Barrel, please call the Euclid Creek Watershed Coordinator who is Claire Posius @ 216-524-6580 Ext. 16 and let Claire know that you want to sign up for the rain barrel workshop, it is a 50 gallon rain barrel for \$60. If you want the brown terracotta barrel which you will see next week at the Library, you call me because those have to be shipped in from Indiana. You can reach me during the day at 216-486-9513. Please take a look in the Library next week. I'm not sure how we're going to get the solar fountain display, so it will probably just be a flyer. But I have one in my backyard pond and it is an tremendous, tremendous little thing. It is almost as cool as my rain barrels. Thank you goodnight.

Councilman O'Neill – I'm just wondering if you live by yourself, do you get the big barrel or the small barrel. I want to thank the Streets Dept. under the direction of Director Smith and their outstanding job in removing the snow under a couple of difficult snowfalls that we had, very heavy snow, it was the real wet stuff. They ultimately did get to the side streets and I think the resident of Euclid understand that the priorities are the hills and the main arteries in the city. But they did do a good job. Also along those lines, we've got quite a bit of snow that's been built up on the side streets and just a reminder, hopefully we're getting some thaw but there's a lot of snow built up around the fire hydrants, so take the time to dig the fire hydrants out in front of your house and the one next to it. If you have a neighbor that's unable to do that, kind of help them out. Anytime we can cut down any delay for the Fire Dept. connecting to a hydrant it is beneficial for the people in the house.

I want to talk briefly about most of the Council people talked about, kids in the street and perception and few other things. Certainly it's a violation for a kid to walk in the streets, but there's a bit of a perception that what goes on in the city that the kids are bad. The vast majority of the kids in the city are good kids. Some of them come home to a house that's they're latch key kids where the parents are working. Many of the kids come home to a single family house where the mother or the father, typically it is the mother raising the child, the father may not be in the home and they're good kids. They need recreation, they need things to do. I can tell you with the summer coming and potentially if we do not pass these revenue enhancers taxes that we've been talking about that kids are going to have less to do. That's definitely not a thing we want to happen in the city. We don't want a reduction in the police force,

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we want to add policemen. Unfortunately the budget will not allow us to do that. The best we can hope for right now is to maintain what we have.

Also the Fire Dept., I can't tell you, I can tell you but you're not going to want to hear what will happen if we go to one fire station and you've got a fire engine and a squad company tied up on an EMS call and a working fire comes in with people trapped at 3:00 in the morning on the other side of the city. It is tragic. I can go on and on to other critical areas of the city.

So the people that have spoken about the budget and do our due diligence, we are doing that. A lot of things happen that's not necessarily in your focal point. But there's a lot of e-mails and conversations that go back and forth and it is very fluid. The Mayor eluded to it last week that I talked to him at 10:00 in the morning and we were doing one thing with Geauga County Sheriff and then 4:30 that day he came back and said that we came up with some other numbers. We tweak this thing all year round. As Councilwoman Scarniench said, this is not something that we take lightly. We constantly look at where funds are spent, how we can improve the funding. Recently the Fire Chief's Executive Officer Frank Prijatel, Asst. Fire Chief was able to get a grant for \$600,000. We need a ladder truck. It is going to be about \$800,000. Well through his successful grant writing, we got \$600,000, that's the good thing and there's other things throughout the city that we're going after.

It is hard work for us, we know that. This is the job that we accept. To the people that maybe against the increase and hopefully a temporary increase in the lighting assessment and the trash hauling, I personally am in favor of a temporary with an expiration built into the ordinance that is revisited no longer than three years, it is revisited after two years and we look at the revenue stream. It goes on a year basis but it does have expiration built into it. If we can convince the voting population of the City of Euclid that removing the 920 cap on the millage is a better way to go, which ultimately that is a long term fix for our problem, the Mayor said 6-8 years would give us the breathing room that we need. But, the other side of it is if it doesn't pass, the Mayor laid out what is going to happen and that certainly is not desirable.

To those folks that say do the right thing, we will do the right thing. But we feel collectively what is good for the City of Euclid. It may not be what everybody agrees on. I don't like paying taxes, nobody does, but we will do the right thing at the right time. With that I'll say goodnight.

Councilman Wojtila – To Director Smith, I, too, have received a lot more compliments than criticism on the plowing. I do have a question on the sidewalk plowing, for example the north side of Lake Shore Blvd. Are we still getting to that? I assume we're still doing the sidewalk plowing?

Director Smith – We are doing a limited amount as time permits. I can check on the south side of Lake Shore.

Councilman Wojtila – Actually it was both sides.

Director Smith – I can check on that and let you know.

Councilman Wojtila – To Chief Repicky, did I hear you say DARE program will probably be cut? While you're answering that question, I'll give you a second one as well. If a resident were to call 9-1-1 does that always, even if it is on a cell phone, go to our dispatch? Or could it possibly go to another police station?

Chief Repicky – The 9-1-1 would probably go down to C-coms and they'll transfer it back out to our city.

Councilman Wojtila – Does it ultimately come to us?

Chief Repicky – Yes, it will come to us.

Councilman Wojtila – DARE?

Chief Repicky – I haven't had a chance to look at all of our manpower, but like I stated earlier, I'm not going to reduce the manpower on the street. For that not to happen and to lay off 10 policemen, will reduce other units within the police dept. to keep the manpower up.

Councilman Wojtila – I would like to extend condolences to the family of Don Eadon. While they were neighbors of the City of Euclid, they weren't residents, but they were active in our community. Condolences to the Don Eadon family on their loss.

President Holzheimer Gail – Very quickly, I mentioned that a lot of people have been asking what House Bill 920 is, or that 920 provision and I didn't answer it. Just very briefly, it is complicated. But the 920 provision was put in our Charter in the 70's I believe and what that does is holds the property taxes stable. Euclid is the only community that we've found that has this in their City Charter. So if a property levy was passed in 1980 and you were paying \$100, you are still paying that \$100 even if you house value has gone up. While other cities have been getting a gradual increase in their property tax revenues, Euclid has not from the property tax point of view. That impacts not only the general fund property tax that we receive but also the Recreation Dept. has millage that is specific for Recreation. The Streets & Sewers has millage that's specific for Streets & Sewers. All of those revenue sources have stayed constant over the years, whereas in other communities, they've gone up as property values have gone up. It does mean an increase to the amount that people would pay, but and we'll have all this information on Wednesday, it is part of the long term solution so I don't know that we need all the details for Wednesday. When we talk about putting 920, repealing 920 we will need all of that data.

The other piece that goes with that is the Council would have the authority to not charge the full millage. If we repeal 920, we would also have the ability to perhaps charge a lower millage and not make the increase happen immediately, depending on the budgetary needs.

That in a nutshell is what the 920 provision is. We will certainly discuss that in much greater detail as we go forward, but just wanted to make sure for all of those people that are saying, what is 920.

ADJOURNMENT

Councilwoman Minarik moved to adjourn. Councilwoman Scarniench seconded. Yeas: Unanimous.

Attest:

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Clerk of Council

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President of Council