

**CITY OF INDEPENDENCE
STRATEGIC PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING
MINUTES
JANUARY 5, 2019 9:00 A.M.
COUNCIL CAUCUS ROOM**

Vice Mayor Grendel called the meeting to order at 9:08 a.m. Present were Council Members, Dr. Carl Asseff, Kathleen Kapusta, Tom Narduzzi, Jim Trakas, Dale Veverka and Patricia Wisnieski. Also present was Mayor Anthony Togliatti, Law Director Gregory J. O'Brien and Building Official Michael Gero. City Engineer Don Ramm joined the meeting at 10:30 a.m.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the first item of business is approval of the January 6, 2018 Strategic Planning Minutes. They were sent to us by Debi a few weeks back.

Councilperson Kapusta said I have a comment first. On Page 24 I am thinking we want it to read \$39,000,000, not \$39,000.

Councilperson Veverka said I didn't catch that.

Moved by Veverka, seconded by Kapusta, to approve the January 6, 2018 Strategic Planning Minutes as amended. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess before we get going, we are going to jump, since Building Official Gero is here; we don't want Mike to have to stay longer than he has to, so we are going to move down to the review of the rental regulation ordinance. It has been two years that it is being enforced. Is there more compliance?

Building Official Gero said what I did was a little summary so you had something in your hands. I am not going to read the whole thing. Obviously, everybody can read it. There are a few items on there that I want to make sure I point out.

Building Official Gero said I kind of based this off of the memo that I gave at last year's meeting and went over the overview for everyone as far as what the ordinance entails and things like that. Then we started publicizing this in 2017. We received 28 rental registrations. In 2018 we received 13 rental registrations.

Councilperson Trakas asked do you mean additional or just 13?

Building Official Gero said 13 because we did not have in place a renewal process at that time. I would say 13 would probably be still in play. We believe this number to be a small percentage of the residential rentals in the City. Therefore, we expanded our methods to identify these properties to increase the compliance rate. We have been in contact with the County and obtained a list of properties from them.

The County also attempted to identify rental properties to reduce the number of properties receiving the "owner occupied credit." This was done mid-year rather. The County was sending

out letters to people who they believed to have rental properties so that they could get the rental disclosure on their records. So, that delayed us. The County was putting that list together. We had requested that list, but that had delayed us from getting that list until they completed their end of it. This would increase the amount of revenue brought in by property taxes. The County sent out a mailing to possible properties, and as of last September, the County identified 67 properties as rentals. Now I don't know if that's 67 additional or 67 total. I think it might be 67 additional; but that's the number that we got from the County.

Councilperson Asseff asked would that make us then over 500 rentals in the City?

Building Official Gero said well.

Councilperson Asseff said you are looking at 474.

Building Official Gero said so no. So, the County provided the list of residential properties to the City. It included 2,970 properties, residential properties in the City. There were 1,676 were noted as owner occupied. There were 1,294 were noted as non-owner occupied. The way that the County looked at this non-owner occupied, they took the ones that were in absence of an owner occupied credit in taxes and counted that as rental; and they also looked at where your tax mailing address was different than the property address. They looked at that as a rental. So, that's where they came up with the 1,294 that they counted as non-owner occupied.

So, we received that, and we felt that information to be flawed; at least I did. I do have to give a lot of credit to my staff, Becky, Amy and Lori, who put time and effort into this. I was just trying to coordinate their efforts; but they are the ones who actually got down and dug into some of this stuff.

We found that many tax mailing addresses were banks or mortgage companies. The County did not pick up on the fact that Third Federal was on Broadway. There were many Third Federal tax bills that went through that mortgage company; but putting our own familiar eyes on the list, we were able to nail down the possible list to 774 properties, just 16% of the total number of properties.

So, we got that information, towards the end of 2018 we began a program of sending letters advising of the ordinance to both the property and tax mailing addresses. So, theoretically for each property there were two letters going out. To date we have sent out letters regarding 101 properties, and out of those 101 we received 56 responses. Twenty-eight of those responses led to registrations of rental properties, 8 of those responses were claims that family members were living at the property, they do not pay rent; and therefore, it wasn't a rental. A few of the responses were claims that the owner did occupy property which we confirmed and verified. So, we are continuing to pursue the properties on the County's list in addition to properties that come to our attention. We are also working to improve our methods of the process as far as an annual renewal like we do with our contractor registrations. This is all developing this system and coming into play. That's the update that I have, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

Councilperson Asseff asked what is the status of the condition of the rental properties that we know? Are they different? Are they being taking care of? Not being taken care of? You think that it would be a prime one where they don't put a lot of money into them.

Building Official Gero said there are certain areas where you see rental properties that do not have a lot of money put into them, and the most visible is the Brecksville Road corridor north of Rockside. There are a lot of those up towards AAA, where everybody is anticipating development. Other than that, I can't say that rental properties are specifically taken care of less than a non-rental property. We ran into that situation on the corner of Chestnut and Josephine, and we got it resolved through the courts. That has been resolved. That was a rental property, but then there are other rental properties that you would never even know that the person is renting.

Councilperson Asseff asked what is the time span when someone is given notice of a deficiency and you go to court?

Building Official Gero said so typically, and this goes for any property maintenance issue. Our process is typically that we identify a violation. We send them a notice. Depending on what the notice is, it depends on the amount of time that they are given to repair that. Then we go to the process. We send that first notice. We send the second notice, and then we send the final notice before court. The intention is that we get some kind of response hopefully from that first notice. Somebody will say I know I have a problem, and I want to take care of that. My husband has been sick, whatever it might be. So, at least we have contact with that property owner to figure out what's going on. It's when we get totally ignored that we definitely follow through that process. Typically, it's a 30 day, then two week, and then the court process begins.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked is that a process that we created or a standard legal process?

Building Official Gero said I don't know if it's a standard legal process. I believe it's a process that other municipalities use that we go through. Everybody is entitled to their due diligence, their notification. So, if I have to take somebody to court, and I have to stand before the judge; and I have to tell them that they haven't taken care of this issue. We sent them a notice on this date. We sent them a notice here, and they totally ignored us. That gives us a little more substance.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I agree, but where I have rental properties, the dollar amount that I have to pay in the penalty starts ticking after I get that phone call. So, last summer I got a call saying that the grass wasn't cut underneath the jumping gym apparatus in the backyard. The clock started ticking, and it's \$25 a day. I proved to them that wasn't even my house. That was the neighbor's house. So, I was off the thing. I got a letter. They called me on Thursday. I got a letter on Monday. Thursday was the 28th of the month so the 28th, 29th and 30th; I got a letter on Monday for \$75 for the three days, the day I got the phone call. So, what it made me do was get in my car and go over there because I was going to take care of it myself. So, I think that we need to put in those 30 days a spark to ignite them to take care of the problem. So, these things

don't stretch out to a two year period like we experienced on Chestnut. I just think that this ludicrous.

Building Official Gero said part of the issue on Chestnut was things got resolved, and then they re-appeared. That was part of the issue on Chestnut.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so how do you handle it then? If it re-occurs, do they get penalized doubly?

Law Director O'Brien said our code is \$100 and every day is a violation. It's just that because it's the City of Independence, we generally. First of all, the Prosecutor is the one that follows them in court. We don't do it. Second of all, my experience with the two judges there, Judge Nicastro and Judge Weiler, they are going to work with the homeowner. I have never heard of them imposing a fine. Councilperson Narduzzi, I wonder if in the City that you are talking about, if they have a method where they can do it through an assessment process. So, you can do a nuisance property, and they call them a nuisance claim; and then we have the ability through Council to put an assessment on the property and file that without even going to court. It's a more drawn out process.

Building Official Gero said we do have that process with lawn mowing in place. If someone hasn't mowed the lawn, we post their property and tell them that if they don't get it mowed in three days, the City is going to come over and it's going to cost you \$175 to \$200, whatever it might be. We have that in placed with the lawns now, but other things as far as cleaning up property; it's a whole other process as far as putting City employees on the property and those types of issues.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what's the alternative to that? So, can you just send them to court? Or send that issue?

Building Official Gero asked the alternative to what, I'm sorry.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so instead of sending our employees to clean up the property and fine them, can't you just file something in court that summons them to court to put the burden back on them instead of the burden on us to rectify the property?

Building Official Gero said that's the process. There was a situation on Bramley, and that gentleman went to court. The judge gave them time. The judge even provided work release people to go there and clean up the property and get rid of some of the things. Many dumpsters were taken off of that property.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked and how long did that take?

Building Official Gero said the whole process took a couple of years.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's the problem.

Councilperson Asseff said we have to get the citizens involved and take pride in what they have. Putting our employees out there puts the City in another level of jeopardy.

Councilperson Wisnieski said unfortunately you are going to have a mix of that. You are going to have a good percentage who will take pride, and you will never have problems; but the other ones are going to have to be forced. If they know the rules are there, and we hold them accountable.

Councilperson Asseff said well we do hold them accountable, but then you have that long time span before anything happens.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I agree. I think we are saying the same thing.

Councilperson Kapusta asked that home on Bramley, is the owner deceased in that home?

Building Official Gero said no.

Councilperson Kapusta said okay, the owner is alive, and it's taken several years. So, what can we do to expedite that process legally?

Building Official Gero said we have to go through the process as far as declaring the property a nuisance. Council would have to declare it a nuisance.

Councilperson Trakas said well when we start doing some of that, that will change some people's views.

Councilperson Narduzzi said that's exactly right. You have to put the hammer down because if not, they can't do nothing to me.

Councilperson Asseff said there were a lot of complaints about that house on Kingscote and Brecksville Road.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked why does Council have to do that? It's an administrative duty.

Building Official Gero said it's the way it's written.

Councilperson Wisnieski said then we should fix it so that it works. To me that's saying that it's always been that way so we are going to follow that process. We should fix it then. How do you do it?

Building Official Gero said that's ordinance.

Councilperson Trakas said by law.

Councilperson Wisnieski said again, we should fix it.

Councilperson Narduzzi said we are lawmakers, right. We can change that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's ludicrous that the Administration can't do what they need to do.

Councilperson Narduzzi said we were doing this three years ago, Mike and I and Debi sat down. Mike said my hands are tied.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I believe it.

Councilperson Kapusta asked can we have the ordinance to review then at one of our upcoming meetings?

Councilperson Wisnieski said I think we should.

Law Director O'Brien said I have a copy of it right here. There's a whole procedure set forth in there where someone can appeal a letter from Mike to the Board of Zoning Appeals and so on and so forth; but it's administrative. Council would have to act eventually to send it down to the County Auditor to put on any fines. This goes back forever, I am not aware of any Administration ever, but we haven't had a situation like this.

Building Official Gero asked Greg, doesn't it state in there to declare a property a nuisance it has to be done by Council?

Law Director O'Brien said I know this is the property maintenance code; you are talking about 662.

Councilperson Trakas said we did that with Frank Filipowicz if you remember, I think on Hillside.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think most cities they do put that on their tax duplicate because I have handled estates; and you look at their tax bill and they have a number, whatever violation. They just add it right to their taxes. They figure they will get it from the homeowner.

Councilperson Narduzzi said you have an option to pay for it up front like they sent to me. You can't dispute it, it goes right on your taxes.

Building Official Gero said we do that with the lawn mowing.

Councilperson Narduzzi said that's crazy.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well you think that you jump on it, and do like what you did.

Councilperson Trakas said I have a couple of procedural questions as to how you go about doing some of these things. So, when we send these letters for these 474 people; so we sent them two letters. We sent them to the address that is of record with the County or of the address that is of the City as well.

Building Official Gero said we sent them to the property.

Councilperson Trakas said so the property owner because that's always an excuse, well I didn't get the letter.

Building Official Gero said we sent it to the property and then to wherever the tax bill goes.

Councilperson Trakas said so that's the right place to do it. Do we follow up with any phone calls by chance? Could we do that? The logical thing I found is that if you get the person on the phone and you start talking to them like Councilperson Narduzzi, I think that spurs some action as well. I would recommend.

Mayor Togliatti said for most of these situations we don't have the telephone number, that's the whole purpose behind the rental registration process is to get the owner's name.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked do you send those letters certified or like a certificate of mailing so you know that it arrived?

Building Official Gero said you are talking about 200 letters that went out. You are talking about \$1,000.

Councilperson Veverka said and the problem with certified letters is frequently they see a certified letter, they know it's trouble; and they won't pick it up. It just sits there.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well a certificate of mailing is different. That's not certified. Certificate of mailing acknowledges by the Post Office that it was delivered to them.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I have done that before. I had to show a certificate of mailing to the court.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and they give you back a receipt that it was delivered.

Councilperson Asseff said it shows that you mailed it.

Councilperson Wisnieski said exactly, that you have done your due diligence.

Councilperson Asseff said I had that with the Election Committee when we had the deadline to file. I mailed it on a Saturday in Independence, and they didn't get it until the following Friday downtown; but I had a certificate of mailing and went through the process. I pointed out to the Clerk that the letter from Columbus came out quicker than my letter to downtown Cleveland.

Councilperson Trakas said so Mike in terms of these folks that have not complied as of yet, we do stipulate that there is a \$250 fine.

Building Official Gero said we send a copy of the ordinance with that.

Councilperson Trakas asked have we ever tried to impose the fine on anybody?

Building Official Gero said we haven't gotten to that point.

Councilperson Trakas asked do you think maybe we ought to send them one more note and let them know that there will be a fine coming?

Building Official Gero said what we are trying to do now is get through the bulk to get that percentage that is going to comply; and then we will hone down on the ones.

Councilperson Trakas said it sounds like 28 is the number that complied here. It's a question that comes up with this, and I think one of the reasons that I wanted to review the ordinance is just at our Community Services meeting we talked about a lot of people, and I have been finding out more and more about this trying to use our amenities who really aren't residents. They have no reason to be in our Civic Center; and so the employees were saying that this is kind of a nightmare for us. These people, we know they live in another community; and they tell us they live somewhere here. So, absent having this type of information; I think that's what my motivation was to try to see if there's any way. I know we took out that information about who the people are that rent; we thought that might be too onerous, but I don't know. If they are not complying with this, they won't comply with that; but trying to find out who actually lives here and accesses our benefits and amenities, I think is not an unimportant thing to do.

Building Official Gero said I don't disagree with you, and it comes down to time and effort. In the situation here you have 474, you have 80 of those; it's the 80/20 rule. Twenty percent of those is going to take 80% of our time. We are limited in staffing and limited in manpower. We have other things we have going on. It's just like property maintenance, we try to stay on top of that.

Councilperson Trakas said with respect to that, we have a budget coming up so if you think you need to bring some people on to enforce it, I think you have a willing ear.

Councilperson Narduzzi said if you get a part-time person to take care of just this for summertime; those are the bad months, spring to fall is when we notice issues out there. As far as your issue goes, that's a year-round thing, but if we address part of it in the summertime, you

will get that. Do you know what I'm saying? I would have no problem, you guys know how I felt about this for a year, hiring a part-time person for the summer, for a six month period and strictly work on this.

Building Official Gero said no disrespect, but hiring a part-time person for six months in the summer does me absolutely no good.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked well why wouldn't you put a person on property maintenance.

Building Official Gero said because of the process. If that person is going to be going through this process when it gets to that point where he is done; now I have to take it over. If I have to go through court or things like that, I have got Jack Wygonski. He's a part-time inspector. He does residential building inspections, and he also does property maintenance.

Councilperson Trakas said why don't you consider making a recommendation to the City, you might want to talk to the Mayor is it's not something he wants to do; but we would consider, if you want to put someone on full-time, the job is to enforce this. I think we would consider that. I don't know what it would cost to do.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked do you know what the cost of a full-time person is, adding one on?

Councilperson Trakas said it might be worth it.

Councilperson Wisnieski said then you have to ask yourself, so the return on your investment, how you measure whether that investment. I understand what you are saying.

Councilperson Trakas said it's all part of the process.

Law Director O'Brien said you might be able to subsidize that cost by actually enforcing the code. The first phone call is going to be to the Mayor.

Councilperson Trakas said I increased fines for the State Board of Cosmetology 400% by enforcing the law, and it paid for all of our inspectors. Now they got rid of me, and then they got rid of that; but they knew that they couldn't screw around in the beauty salons. They didn't have to do as much enforcement. I'm just saying, you start doing something like this, and word gets out, people start complying. You are right, you need to maybe make this as a percentage to defer the cost of the salary. That's very reasonable.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I agree. This is important enough issue with Council that maybe we should have a full-time person.

Councilperson Narduzzi said you could have them part-time, but work year around.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked do you think that's the case? Do you think a part-time person year-round would help?

Building Official Gero said yes.

Councilperson Kapusta said and when we are trying to evaluate the value, we cannot even look just dollar for dollar because we know the greater impact that property maintenance has on our overall City; that's intangible. You can't almost even evaluate what that is, but it's very important to all of us, and you too. We understand that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I guess how we measure it too is like those weekly reports we get with the inspection reports; we would measure it by documenting where they went out and what they did.

Councilperson Trakas said and then again, I think when you look at as the amount of rentals increase; and I think we see the trend toward doing more rentals, and that's not going to decrease. I just look at what some of the other communities experience as more rentals come in, what did that do for the community? There were more enforcement costs. There were more law enforcement costs, school costs. Costs go up when you have a lot of rentals. I think if you started out; I think it's a relatively high number to be honest with you. I think you are right, I don't think you are inaccurate what you are saying, then you really have to enforce these things because if you don't, you become Lakewood where 60% of the houses are rental because it's just easy to do and you just make a bunch of money on it. So, I think we all know what is happening in town, the older people and the kids. I did this myself. I thought the house was worth "x". The people thought it was worth "y"; well maybe I should just rent it out for a while. Then it just becomes a permanent thing. We know that it goes on. It's been going on for a long time now. By creating an inspection regimen that you can have more liability and be a full-time focus of somebody or a department where you have a lot of other things to do; I think it would be really helpful to the community to control this before it gets out of escalation.

Councilperson Kapusta said and while we cannot obviously control what a private homeowner tries to do, be it rental or sale; I think we definitely have the responsibility to our community to control the outcome of that, how the properties look. Our residents, we saw it in the last election, they don't want multi-family housing because they don't want a lot of new people in here. Well we are getting a lot of new people, and I think that we need to maintain the strong control over that to the extent possible.

Councilperson Trakas said this is a fair, just having high community standards prevents some of the problems people have had where you had houses that fall apart on them. We have that, but you just don't want a lot of it.

Councilperson Kapusta said and this isn't targeting because we feel the same way for our owner occupied homes.

Councilperson Trakas said enforcement is important all the way around. I think Mayor to your credit, we have seen a more even handed approach to enforcement which is important. We used to talk about that all the time, and I don't hear it as much as we used to hear. Again, it's a philosophical thing in a way; you don't want to be the gestapo, but you also don't want the wild, wild west.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so the ultimate is that we should probably have a workshop as to how we are going to handle this as far as employment in Mike's department. Again, Mike you could give us input on what you would like to see how to enforce this, what makes sense. I don't know if these other communities, they must have a party who keeps tracks of these.

Councilperson Narduzzi said well they are probably 80% rentals.

Councilperson Wisnieski said they send them all to Garfield Court.

Councilperson Narduzzi said they get more money. They feed the pot over there.

Law Director O'Brien said I could take a look at Lakewood and Garfield since they are probably on the cutting edge because of their transitioning neighborhoods.

Councilperson Trakas said Cleveland Heights.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and we would have to pass something if we were to put it on the tax duplicate.

Law Director O'Brien said it could be done candidly like you do your liquor permits.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that makes sense.

Councilperson Trakas said that's a fair process.

Law Director O'Brien said there's a whole process. This is not going to catch anyone by surprise. We can also look. This code has not been changed in close to 50 years.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think we should probably schedule a workshop for that just on this particular subject, and maybe get input and see what other communities have comparable.

Councilperson Trakas said if you can, if it's easy, if you can do it in the course of the year; I think it would set a good tone.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we should probably set something up like in February or early March.

Councilperson Trakas said give you time to implement it.

Mayor Togliatti said I would think you would like to get something in place by late spring because that's when the property maintenance issues start popping up.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Debi we will try to schedule a workshop probably the end of February, early March to get this going so this way Mike will have some direction; and Greg will give us some background information, what's available, what our options are and then decide what's the best course of action. Like you said, we can't afford to have to take people off their regular jobs to try to enforce this. We need to have somebody that it's their main job, their sole job to keep track of this and keep the lines of communication going.

Councilperson Trakas said and I think with respect Mike in reading your reports, you are doing a lot of homes every week; and if you could spend more time at those homes instead of someone doing something else, that might be more beneficial. I don't know how you can do all of that with the resources that you have.

Building Official Gero said we are doing drive by inspections. That is what we are doing, looking what you can see from the street.

Mayor Togliatti said that's all you are allowed to do.

Councilperson Veverka asked how many hours is the inspector person per week?

Building Official Gero said on average 28 hours.

Vice Mayor Grendel said would that person if he would be made full-time and everything, since he has been doing that, would he be able to do that?

Building Official Gero said I'm just going to throw this out as food for thought. If I brought on another full-time or part-time person into the department, I would like to have him be certified in building inspector certification in addition to doing this; and maybe split him up to where he's spending "x" amount of hours per day on this in addition to doing inspections also. We have been reaching out to Brecksville for a lot of inspections.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked do we have to compensate Brecksville for that?

Building Official Gero said yeah.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we should have somebody who fits into Mike's plans, not only in this area, but who could help out in other areas too.

Councilperson Trakas said we might be able to save money.

Councilperson Kapusta said I know that we can do the drive bys, am I still correct though that if I had a concern about a property behind me, I could invite your department into my yard.

Building Official Gero said yes.

Councilperson Kapusta said that's something.

Building Official Gero said plus I can see it from the neighbor's property.

Councilperson Kapusta said I personally believe that it is something that we need to educate our population about.

Building Official Gero said oh we tell them.

Councilperson Kapusta said I know you do, but you get it usually after the issue. I think I would like to educate them just in advance so that people understood that, be it a little article in the Mayor's newsletter or something because when people start, and we all get calls about complaints about a neighbor's property. I indicate to them because I know you and I spoke about that, if they were so inclined to invite your department into their yard to view it, they could do that. People are amazed. Nobody ever knew that. So, rather than wait until always the crisis has occurred, we should educate them about that in advance is what I'm suggesting.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and see I would prefer we tell them to do it electronically, so take pictures and send them to the Building Department.

Councilperson Kapusta said administratively whatever works for him.

Councilperson Wisnieski said because I know that when I have gone and taken pictures, they respond right away; and it gives them an opportunity not to have to come out and assess.

Building Official Gero said unfortunately if I don't see the violation, I can't cite the violation. If you just send me a picture.

Councilperson Trakas said so the photograph has to be confirmed.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so you still send an inspector out to look at it?

Building Official Gero said yes.

Councilperson Kapusta said whatever process you have to use, but my point is just the education in advance, before you get the calls even, generally to our public letting them know that as a way to enhance our City to keep our property values up; we all need to work cohesively together. If someone has a concern, and it may not always be a valid concern, I realize that; you may go there and see it. That's okay too because people need to know that sometimes what their standard

is isn't what the stand is that we can enforce. So, I respect that, but I still think just letting them know that there is this process and we can engage with your department that way, I think that would help.

The other thing is, and I applaud you for bringing us this information from the County. I know you have been working on that, assessing that for a while. Thank you very much; but I looked back at last year's conversation about the same issue, and we talked about a number of other avenues. I was wondering if we haven't, if we could consider utilizing those also. For instance, we said when we see these rental signs in front of properties, and maybe you do that already.

Building Official Gero said those are the other ways that we (inaudible) the properties.

Councilperson Kapusta said we talked about the new welcome resident process. So, when Community Services is giving out welcomes, a lot of times they become aware that those are renters and not owners. I know I do this for St. Michael's with the new parishioners, and I always ask them, I go would you buy this house, kind of nonchalantly; and they always have so far. I would have let your department know had that been the case.

Community Services when they do the snow removal. If they are not already passing that information on to you, then that's another way where you could tag it because you know that you have to have the owner sign off for the approval to do that; and it's the same thing with Rec. We know, as Councilperson Trakas was referencing, we know from our Community Services meeting that they become very, very aware of owners versus renters. So, I think utilizing those things.

I would still like us to approach the school too Mayor. I think I indicated at last year's meeting that with Community Services, what we did one year was we wanted to be able to identify those people in our school community who were in financial need. The schools can't just give us that information; so what they did is in the packet that they give out at the beginning of the year, they put the City would like to work with you if you would like to self-identify as potentially in need, etc. We got a good response from that, and people who generally were in need. So, I know that the school just can't give us the information, but if they ask the people, may we share with the City the information about your rental status, or something, whatever the wording is appropriate legally. I think that may help us too.

So, as we collectively put all these venues together, we are going to get more of the data to augment or to correct what the County is giving you already.

Mayor Togliatti said I think we have a few residents that tend to be rental watchdogs; and any time they see an ad on Craigslist they will send it to me. I will send it to Mike so that he can tag that property.

In regards to sending digital pictures of property maintenance issues with neighbors. It's interesting because I will get them from time to time, and they will be anonymous; and I will respond and say we need the address, and then they won't respond.

Several people began speaking at once.

Councilperson Kapusta said and I think that whole program that we are evolving here needs to be not I gotcha kind of program. That is not our intent at all, and sometimes I think even as a neighbor, I have had a couple of situations where I think well do I really say anything, I don't want the neighbors to get upset. It's not that, it's how can we help you because the other thing that we talked about last year, and I know we didn't receive it. I had asked if we could possibly get a packet of what Jenny might be giving to our residents, and Mayor maybe if we could get that from here, I would appreciate it for this year for Council, giving to our residents regarding the County programs to assist them.

I told you when I was in Jenny's position, I had created a packet of the different programs, and I am sure they have changed over the years; but the different programs. Some were age based, some were income based, some were just a little supplement; and it wasn't even the Heritage Home Loan Program because we had stopped that at this point. There were some other things. If we could see that because then we need to reinforce to our residents that we are offering you information about what we know you could potentially be eligible. We won't know for sure, but at least we are offering them something. So, I think it would be nice to see if we have something like that.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked and who would get that?

Councilperson Kapusta said well what would happen is we worked closely with the Building Department. The Building Department would call us and say hey we have this person or situation. Then I would contact them and say hey we have some resources, could we meet and talk? They would either come in or maybe they would want them in the mail, or whatever they wanted. Then they would have that available to refer, and we would even help walk them through the process because some people are capable of doing it, others, older people, they are overwhelmed by it so we would help them with things. We would give them rides down to the County if they had to go down there for anything. So, again it's support. It's not we want to get you.

Councilperson Trakas said that's important because I think many of these problems manifest themselves because people just can't afford to do them. It becomes worse and worse the more you can't afford to do it. That's a big issue.

Building Official Gero said we run into the situation too where the person doesn't realize there's an issue legitimately. I mean how often are you at home, and you walk past something that is sitting on your kitchen table; and it's been there for a month.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Building Official Gero said I have a voicemail that I kept that's going to go into my book from the tenant on the corner of Chestnut and Josephine. He had no problem with his house. Why are we singling him out?

Councilperson Kapusta said different perceptions too, absolutely. Patti brought up something last year that I remembered too which was we don't know also how many of our probably more older people have reverse mortgages; and when you have a reverse mortgage, you really don't have the incentive to update your property and things. So, we have to recognize that too.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well they have standards on the reverse mortgage agreements, so they have to keep somewhat of upkeep. I literally experienced it because we aren't putting a dime into this place.

Law Director O'Brien said I would be very surprised built into that mortgage that it doesn't say you agree to always be compliant with local zoning.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Narduzzi said so with that being said about hiring somebody else, if there's any cars that we are thinking about getting rid of maybe we should hold onto one so we don't have to buy a new vehicle for this inspector if we are doing anything between now and then.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so what we need to do because Tuesday's going to be, that's the day we usually set aside, maybe we have a Tuesday where we have a workshop either in January or February and get it taken care of as early as possible. This way, we can have Mike's department set for the coming year too.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and I don't want to get into this big pow-wow like Councilperson Kapusta said about singling these renters out. That's not what this is all about.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it's all homeowners.

Councilperson Narduzzi said this is about the community as a whole. We are just trying to keep it how we grew up having.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and try to help as best we can.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I don't want to start this whole thing.

Councilperson Kapusta said we know your department offers a lot of support, and we want to emphasize what can we do to support this.

Vice Mayor Grendel said but we want some backbone to it too in case you have that person who likes to manipulate the system and will do everything they can to prolong it. That's going to be later on about communication, but communicating with Debi by the end of next week what Tuesdays we have available between now and the end of February. Then we will select the one that hopefully everyone can attend or at least six of us.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and I think what you have in here Mike is what you are doing, I don't think anybody at this table knew what you were doing behind the scenes. I think this stuff needs to be publicized because it puts some (inaudible) in those that are out there.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I appreciate your candor about everything.

Building Official Gero said sometimes it's easier to do than to report what you are doing. I was up last night writing that trying to figure it out.

Councilperson Narduzzi said put this in your report Tuesday. I don't know if people read them or not, but let the residents know that hey look we are doing something about this and put dates when you started doing this stuff. I think it's great news to have out there to the public because as we are seeing by some people out there, we aren't doing anything about the situation. That's not true. I have been working on this for three or four years. I am not patting myself on the back, believe me; but they think we are just letting it go because we don't want to get involved. That's not true.

Building Official Gero said the thing is they see it every day, and a lot of these residents are either retired or they work from home or they are in a situation where they see it every day; and if it doesn't change immediately, then we are not doing anything. That's the nature of the beast. I could go there, I could provide all kind of documentation; and it's just something I put up with. Something I have become numb to, it slides off my back like a duck; but what are you going to do. Everybody has their perception, and then you get somebody who creates a situation like on the corner of Chestnut and Josephine, and there you are. We are profiling him, singling him out.

Vice Mayor Grendel said very good. Thank you Mike. Maybe if we get a chance today before we leave, we will let Debi know the date you are available and everything; but we will try to have them on Tuesdays if we can. This way we can keep that open.

Building Official Gero said I'm just going to throw this out, probably closer to the end of February, beginning of March might be better. On the 14th I am getting my knee replaced. So, if you make it earlier than that, I might call.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said then we will look at the end of February, early March, if you know your schedule that far in advance.

Building Official Gero asked is there anything else? I know you had property maintenance also. Is that enough?

Vice Mayor Grendel said we could probably talk about that at the workshop.

Our goal is to get something in place by late winter or early spring so that it could be implemented by the Mayor and the Building Department by late spring.

You want to make sure, and Greg you know that, you have a fair process and a procedure in place to follow. This way you are not open to, if you go to court, having someone say you didn't do it for that case, and you are doing it for this case. You want to make sure you are uniform about it and everything. Thank you Mike. You want to go ahead; I don't think we have anything else.

Councilperson Wisnieski said especially if you spent your Friday night working on this.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said getting back to the top of the agenda, review of the 2018 Strategic Planning; and I notice in going over the Minutes a lot of discussion was on housing and all that and also the Charter Review Commission. We discussed that for quite a lengthy period of time too. So, I think in reviewing what we did, I guess last year there was a lot of planning and Engineering work done for the projects that are going to take place here in 2019 and 2020; and the financial. John was here last year, and we talked about the financing part of that too which we were able to set in place to afford that; but as far as last year, if you look back and think what things that we had planned for the beginning of the year, maybe your Administration Mayor that we were able to fulfill or at least get started in the calendar year 2018.

Mayor Togliatti said well we nearly completed the Hemlock Trail. Topgolf has broken ground. We have the bids in for the extension of Rockside Woods Blvd. North. There is a tremendous amount of road projects that were completed last year. There is an incredible amount of work that has been done.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and a lot of the engineering work was done last year too for the Brookside project, which it really came to light with this latest bout of water main breaks that we had. I know that the Mayor got a lot of calls, and I got some calls too where that was a problem. People had no water for two or three days.

Mayor Togliatti said and it happened to be Christmas Eve.

Vice Mayor Grendel said last year really was a year of planning, both financially and also doing the professional engineering jobs; and hopefully this year will be a lot of construction. So, there will be a new set of concerns that the residents will have about traffic or logistics there too.

I know as far as Planning Commission, early on we have that potential housing development there at the top of Lafayette which we want to coordinate whatever work gets done there that it's coordinated with the work being done in that development there. We are not putting in something and tearing it up. We want the coordination of both of those.

So far, and Tom I don't know if you have any resident concerns about that development going in. We didn't have it at the hearing, there were no complaints.

Councilperson Narduzzi said they all know about. They were all talking about, but nobody has really complained about it.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked which one, the new one?

Councilperson Narduzzi said up by Tony's old house.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked didn't someone send us a letter on it?

Mayor Togliatti said Mary Jane Horton.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked did she end up coming to the meeting?

Mayor Togliatti said she did not.

Councilperson Trakas said it was something about the water.

Mayor Togliatti said the water and the rock.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and safety and a couple of other things.

Councilperson Trakas said I think she had said that there was her concern, I hadn't attended the meeting so I didn't know; it was the water being conducted differently in this development.

Councilperson Wisnieski said they needed some type of a pump, a grinder pump or something.

Mayor Togliatti said because of the depth of the sanitary sewer. The sanitary sewers are existing.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's not uncommon.

Mayor Togliatti said no it's not uncommon.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked they have that on Tulip Trail, don't they?

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think the Commission was concerned about the configuration of the lots because it's kind of unusual the way the lots are set in. It's not uniform. You have lots facing Daisy, and then you have on the new street and everything there, you are kind of looking across the street at the sides of their houses.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked how close is that to the businesses?

Mayor Togliatti asked to the hotels?

Councilperson Wisnieski said yes.

Mayor Togliatti said it abuts their property.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked don't you think they are going to come back someday and say that there are safety issues or something along those lines?

Councilperson Kapusta said there's part of Pebble Creek that does for years, it backs up to it.

Mayor Togliatti said there are two existing homes now that abut the hotel property.

Councilperson Trakas said we have never had a real problem.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it kept getting extended, and then they had the stairs or something there. Didn't they continue to develop it?

Councilperson Narduzzi said that one building wanted to put their parking lot back farther. They put lights and stuff back there.

Vice Mayor Grendel said this goes up to the Doubletree, back there, their parking lot and everything. We will look at that, but I don't think there will be an issue.

Councilperson Trakas asked a question for you on this, not totally related; I know on zoning when you have zoning issues, the neighbors are notified that there is going to be a hearing. Do we do the same thing with Planning? So, that's consistent.

Several people said yes.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so if it's contiguous? So if it touches the property?

The Clerk said yes.

Law Director O'Brien said we had about a dozen people at the hearing who just wanted to learn about the property. A couple people stood up and said they were, or at least one said they were in support of it.

Mayor Togliatti said there was one question about tree removal, what trees would be removed; and they explained that it would be kind of lot by lot, but because of the drainage they would have to take down a row of trees in the backyards of the houses on Laurel.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there are going to be a lot of construction issues this year because there is going to be a lot of road construction.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what is the timeline on that development?

Mayor Togliatti said it all depends on Planning Commission's approval, Council's approval; and then they need to do their final engineering, get it all submitted.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what's the timeline on Lafayette and doing all of that?

Mayor Togliatti said we will get a better indication from Don Ramm when he comes.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I would hope that we would coordinate that too.

Mayor Togliatti said that's what we were talking to the developer about coordinating the street project with their project so the trucks; we aren't putting in a brand new road and then beating it up.

Councilperson Veverka said when Quarry Lee came in, the owner of the property wanted to come in with the least number of variances; so that was one of the reasons why the response was a lot of the houses were aimed rather in a strange direction. It was like the goal was not to stir anything up, and obviously it could be tweaked, but they wanted to start at that point.

Councilperson Trakas said I think at some point and time we should also, not today, but we should have a discussion about new developments and what our tree responsibilities are. I have read the ordinances a couple of times about what they have to replace. It never really replaces it. When you add a small, new tree it does not have the same effect as the old trees do; and it really does create a lot of troubles for the surrounding areas in terms of water flow and damage and that type of thing. I think we need to look at that again to see how robust we want to be.

Councilperson Narduzzi said talking about trees real quick. I know we are going to be on Lafayette and my street, and those tree line trees we have there; they are not for the tree lawn. You know the power company came through and they cut them. I get so mad. I pull out of my driveway, and my neighbor's trees look like they are going to fall on their house because there's nothing going the other way. I think that we should take all the trees out of there. They just look so stupid and re-plant them with something that's miniature. If you are going to put sidewalks in over there, you are going to be cutting all those trees down anyways. So, if we do it right.

Councilperson Veverka said that was one of the concerns brought up to me was the fact that as we are looking at Brecksville Road, we have trees that were put in the past that are going to have to be removed because of the sidewalks. So, having what you are saying, having some serious thought to further down the road, where we put the trees so that we don't put them; and then they just get big enough so we have to take them out again. So, that was the concern that one resident had with me, and the types of trees, locations of the trees, the cooperation of having people accept a tree on their property far enough away from the right-of-way so that it could get water, it could develop a proper shape and not be these nasty looking trees. I explored with a tree man to see if we had any recourse because I have gotten calls from people saying they are on my street, they are tearing up this tree; and they look like two hands sticking out on the other side. You go down Brecksville Road, and it's very sad.

Some of the species that were selected were poor choices.

Councilperson Narduzzi said you can't even see your neighbors, it's a safety issue. I can't even see across the street anymore. My trees go all the way across the front of my yard. Unless I go out there and trim them, they don't get trimmed.

Councilperson Veverka said it seems like we should take advantage of an arborist to select the species that are going in and rely on their expertise at a location that makes sense, and have the residents cooperate with having the trees placed in places where it makes sense and give up on the idea of the two foot tree lawn as an appropriate place to try to put a tree because besides underneath the ground you have underground utilities. Those are constantly being disturbed. It is not a sensible place.

Councilperson Kapusta said we were in Worthington this past weekend, around the Columbus area, and we rode into a couple of developments; and I am thinking what is catching my eye in this development. Every single tree was not on the tree lawn; you had a narrow tree lawn, every single tree, and I am assuming the City planted it because they were all similar trees, was at an approximate place at the front of the property line. That's interesting.

Councilperson Veverka said and the other piece of that is you have to be careful because otherwise you end up in the situation as with the ash trees. You get rows and rows of ash trees, and they all get the disease; and everything is gone. So, you have to have mixed species in there that you provide, and not a really limited list. You have a list that you have certain limitations with, that have height limitations, susceptibility to disease; and that's where you rely on your experts.

Councilperson Narduzzi said Dalebrook looks beautiful in the spring.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and only one tree lawn has no trees; and that was Doc Bitzan. He refused the trees; but later he told me he made a mistake that he was wrong about that whole sidewalk thing. He got it.

Councilperson Kapusta said we have the Bradford Pear in our development, and it's gorgeous.

Councilperson Wisnieski said twice a year, it's amazing.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I have these monsters that are 50 feet tall, and 50 feet across. It's crazy.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so those are very different than what we have. So, you think that Dalebrook has the right trees?

Councilperson Narduzzi said but even yours get pretty big.

Councilperson Wisnieski said they came and trimmed them and didn't butcher them like they did on 21.

Councilperson Trakas said Dale's right. I think we need to re-look at our approach to this.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked Resident Chris Zamborsky, did they not butcher them across the street?

Mr. Zamborsky said they look pretty bad. What was the history on that though? I don't even remember.

Councilperson Narduzzi said the City was a Tree City, and we were planting trees every time.

Councilperson Trakas said our ordinance says that you have to put them in.

Councilperson Narduzzi said you could say yes or no.

Mr. Zamborsky said I don't remember that. Pretty much everybody said yes.

Councilperson Narduzzi said that was the year I bought my house.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Veverka said the Bradford Pears look gorgeous, but my parents in two different houses had fantastic Bradford Pears which have a shallow root system; and they are not very durable. So, half the tree split off.

Councilperson Kapusta said they have made 35 years so far.

Councilperson Veverka said that's about the time my parent's got split in half.

Councilperson Trakas said we should really talk about this at some later date because I really do think that's an important piece of legislation to talk about because we do have this by ordinance; and I think exactly what you are talking about. I think we should have more trees in other parts of people's lawns. Again, if they are willing to do it because what you are really talking about by disrupting the water flow, put every tree in one row, that doesn't help. It doesn't really compensate for what you used to have, and then you do create this situation where we are constantly spending a ton of money to go in, the tree dies, you have to replace the tree. That's exactly where the utilities are, that's where the lines are. We should talk about how to make changes to that.

Councilperson Veverka said and the reality is when you are drawing something on paper in two dimensions, you don't have location of the lines above that you have to deal with.

Councilperson Trakas said August 14, 2003, just ask the good people of the Village of Walton Hills what not trimming trees did to the entire east coast of the United States. I still thank Marlene Anielski about that. She refuses to take responsibility. She told CEI not to cut down any trees.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that should be something when we do construction like we are doing in the Lafayette area. So, we will talk to Don about it when he comes in which is the best way, by ordinance or if we do something in the engineering part of it when they design a project.

Mayor Togliatti said I think the arborist would have to work with the Engineers during the planning phase to find the best places for the trees.

Councilperson Trakas asked could we have general numbers in our ordinances that say that you have to replace 20% of the tree or something. There are actual numbers in there.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it should be best practice.

Councilperson Trakas said it should be best practice. We do have a Tree Commission, we do have an arborist; we should be able to figure that stuff out. They don't have to be full-time people, but I mean it's like we don't have a lot of these, but I think there's enough of them that it does make sense. I would like to have a tree plan for the City, and get the residents to buy in. Maybe we can help them do some of this stuff. I don't know what to do. I have not skill with regard to this; but if someone helped us to come up with something that worked for our topsoil and our neighborhood; I think people would really be receptive to that.

Councilperson Veverka said when I was walking up Brettin as I am thinking about the project and walking past your house and knowing where the trees are, locations as it relates to where the sidewalks are going to be, where the wires are and everything else; if they are going to put the money into it, it should work.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we should see maybe what other communities again like Lakewood would have something on that. If it would be something that would fit our community; if you look on Wood, on our side of the street there's no line and everything, and the trees are still normal. If you look on the other side, it looks like a tornado went through and took parts of it. Again, we are still under the part of the 2018 Strategic Planning; but other than that, is there anything else? Mayor, you were saying too what was going on. Anything else that you can see.

Councilperson Kapusta said one of the things we had talked about Vice Mayor was the cemetery; and I know that you had indicated that you thought that should be something that would work well with Tom's committee and Jeff Markley. I don't know that we have had any traction on that, and I think that's something we shouldn't.

Mayor Togliatti said we had one Public Buildings and Lands Committee meeting. We were tasked to get pricing on fencing, pricing on a renovation to the one stone structure with the slate roof to turn it into a columbarium.

Councilperson Kapusta said I remember that, but do we have anything further from that?

Mayor Togliatti said well we haven't had the second follow-up meeting yet.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I asked Dave to get that.

Mayor Togliatti asked he hasn't gotten the prices yet?

Councilperson Narduzzi said no prices yet.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked how about the expansion?

Councilperson Trakas said let's have a meeting, I bet you will get the prices.

Councilperson Kapusta said I remember when those things were identified.

Mayor Togliatti said I am not sure the exact number of plots available. We did talk at that meeting the width of the roadway that enters the most latest section is twice as wide as the rest of the roads; and we could cut that down and add about 75 plots I think, somewhere in there. It appears that it was overbuilt, the infrastructure, the latest phase.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I think they did that for parking to get in and out.

Councilperson Wisnieski said right, for funerals; but also they didn't have to go over when you are digging a grave and access because you have to think of how you are going to access those back graves and not driving over that property.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I think there's a way to hook that back driveway to tie it in so when you pull in with a funeral you are using the whole cemetery.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that back, you are going to run a road along?

Councilperson Narduzzi said on top of the hill back there. I would rather put a blacktop road in.

Councilperson Wisnieski said just remember, when those people bought those graves, they bought them there for a specific purpose, not because a road was going to be there; and I know exactly where Barb Mack is, and that was one of the reasons she fought for another road to connect if you can visualize what I'm talking about. When people bought those graves, they did it for a specific reason. So, when you go to make a change like that, you have to remember.

Councilperson Narduzzi said when you have a funeral in that new section, you have to park in the old section. When the hearse has to pull in, you have to walk all the way over there.

Vice Mayor Grendel said then we probably should start looking forward to making plans for the newer section too. It's better to be pro-active than to wait until there's an emergency, or we are not having any more funerals. That's important to a lot of people.

Councilperson Kapusta said I would just want an update on that is what I am asking.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked are you doing a cost analysis on converting that building versus building something new? How many plots you would get in that building versus building something new?

Mayor Togliatti said that is what we talked about.

Councilperson Narduzzi said Dave was going to have the guy from the cremation place do a cost analysis.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked Milano Monuments? Greg had that done at one point.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I don't know if it was for urns.

Law Director O'Brien said I represent the Catholic Cemeteries Association, and they have 20 cemeteries; and I could put you in touch with, I know Marie has spoken to them and kind of discussed best practices, but they could give you an idea, they are putting those in all the time. I am sure Jim Milano is the one who sells half of them, but I just know from my professional, he's not the cheapest person in turn. That's for sure.

Vice Mayor Grendel said because cremations are getting more and more common, and that's going to be the norm.

Councilperson Veverka said and that takes us back to the scatter garden idea too.

Councilperson Kapusta said green burials.

Councilperson Veverka said green burials, scatter gardens because that way you.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what is a scatter garden?

Councilperson Veverka said it's an area set aside with plantings and flowers, and that's the place that the ashes are scattered. That way you don't have to have a specific location in a building or in the ground or a specific grave. It's just a common scatter area.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked the person leaves their scatters there and has a memorial type of monument, or does the family know where that is?

Councilperson Veverka said they just know that's the area.

Councilperson Kapusta said and I don't know how that since we have a large number of Catholic people in our community; I just don't know. I'm not saying we shouldn't, but I don't know how the Catholic church views that. I have never heard their take on that, and that would affect whether some people might select that; but I have seen the green gardens.

Councilperson Veverka asked isn't the Catholic church now allowing folks to cremate?

Councilperson Kapusta said yes, cremation, all your remains have to be in one place, they can't be scattered; like some people want to take some and throw them in the ocean, and this, no.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Kapusta said so I think this deserves further discussion.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that should be part of our planning to get towards.

Councilperson Narduzzi said do it in February, after the Council meeting. When's the Council meeting in February?

The Clerk said February 12th.

Councilperson Wisnieski said you know it's worth it to take a trip down to Rittman. They have some nice walls and stuff.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked can we do it February 5th? That's the first Tuesday, and that's Planning Commission. Do you want to do it before Planning Commission?

Councilperson Narduzzi said yes, 4:30 p.m.

The Clerk asked do you think an hour?

Councilperson Narduzzi said yes.

Councilperson Wisnieski said Tom, go down to Rittman. I don't think you need a building. Go look at the walls how they did that. It's beautiful. You don't need a building.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked they just have a wall?

Councilperson Wisnieski said yes. Go down there and look.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked anything further from Council as far as last year?

Councilperson Kapusta said I did. I would like to know do we have any update at this point and time Mayor on Kent State because I believe that was an issue for discussion last year, the Podiatric and whether they were going to be doing anything with a dormitory?

Mayor Togliatti said I have not heard from them. They did meet with Jeremy and I prior to the November election; and I told them that this was a very sensitive subject in the City of Independence, multi-family housing, and let's see how the election turns out. I have not heard from them since.

Councilperson Trakas said I talked to Nick Gattozzi. I just saw him. He's a lobbyist for Kent State, and he was aware of your meeting Mayor. They are trying to get a new President. I think they are not doing anything until a new President comes on board. I did represent to him a personal view, and I said I don't speak for everybody; but I think they would really need to think about this.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked is it considered multi-family housing?

Law Director O'Brien said I could tell you off the record what our research has found.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I noticed Mayor on the Architectural Board agenda, is that the sign at Rockside Road that they are looking to? There was some signage there at Rockside Woods.

The Clerk said that was for the 6100 building.

Vice Mayor Grendel said once Topgolf gets up, they would probably have to review that sign again that has Kent State and the Embassy Suites on there.

The Clerk said they have brought a node sign before Architectural Board, Topgolf did. It was just a rendering.

Law Director O'Brien said they were all talking together.

Vice Mayor Grendel said they should have all of them on it, so there's no multiple signs.

Law Director O'Brien said it's going to be another big node sign that they are working out amongst themselves.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and didn't we have one we required at the Holiday Inn? Are they going to eventually replace that one with a node sign also?

Mayor Togliatti said they are. That is part of the agreement with the SpringHill Suites development and then their \$12 million dollar renovation of the Holiday Inn.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I see. Anything else from last year?

Councilperson Kapusta said I have another one. TIF's, on Pages 22 and thereabouts in the Minutes; we discussed that asking John Veres to do a newsletter to the community regarding TIF's. I think had we done that maybe prior to everything that happened at the end of the year; we may have had some better understanding with the community. I realize not all would agree, but some better understanding. So, I would ask again if John would possibly be able to do something; whether he does it in his newsletter, or whatever format is appropriate, but some education in very laymen's terms to the community about what the TIF situation is. You see that every so often, and again recently I think we received an e-mail with some concerns from a resident about the whole TIF process and how that money will be repaid and everything. I do believe education would help a little bit. So, if I could ask for that Mayor.

Mayor Togliatti said I agree, and we are going to have an insert with the financial review coming into the City newsletter so we can incorporate it then.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so is that the same thing as the annual report? Didn't I ask last year to have that redone?

Mayor Togliatti said that was asking John to complete that.

Councilperson Trakas said we can't compel an elected official to do something.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what's on the website? I am just looking to see what's on that.

Mayor Togliatti said there's a lot of financial information.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I'm talking about the annual report. I realize there's a lot of things on the website. I am talking about specifically the annual report.

Councilperson Trakas said I didn't see one.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there would have been a better understanding when he was negotiating with Kenn on that and back and forth. When he explained it how he would rather have the money paid back to the TIF, it made more sense; but before that.

Councilperson Trakas said clearly TIF's aren't something that every person understands.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I agree a thousand percent and sometimes explanations don't hit me out front where they should.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's another topic we are going to talk about too as far as when that comes down the line; how we should handle it with the school because there was a lot of misinformation. We were all confused except for maybe two or three people or four people. What it led to was a lot of angst and a lot of anger and everything else, when it never should have come to that. It should have been, even before the legislation was changed.

Councilperson Narduzzi said we shouldn't even talk about it, unless all parties are here to represent themselves.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the way we went about it caused a lot of concern when it really shouldn't have. There were a lot of things that were said. I know the School Board and the situation between the members was really exasperated because of this too. Some had better knowledge than others; and we relied on our Finance Director to keep us posted too on that. Like I said, it lent to a lot of controversy that should have not even been controversy. It should have been points of negotiations.

Councilperson Trakas said negotiations happen all the time. You start at one point, and you get to another.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the results were great, but getting to that point was painful. That was the case there. Is there anything else Kathleen?

Councilperson Kapusta said the last one that I just have, we talked, we had a whole section where we spoke about different safety considerations for next year. One that I would really still like to see, and I don't think it's been created; that internet safety zone with the signs. I referenced that there were a number of communities that do have that in proximity to the Police station. I know, if I remember correctly, Chief said something about we were waiting for the cameras for something; so I don't know where we are with all that, if that's completed. I do believe, I just had a situation that occurred yesterday. We finally got around, I know this is very important for the Minutes, to getting our daughter's prom and homecoming dresses out of our home after almost a decade. I didn't want to just throw them away; I wanted to take them some place of value. So, we found an organization called Operation Prom I believe; and we contacted the individual. She said where are you from, Independence; and they were from Garfield. So, she said let's pick a neutral place where we can meet. I thought that was wise on her part too because she was a single woman coming. She didn't know what I was contacting her about; and

that's why it was brought to my mind again. We should have that place because more and more people are doing things on the internet. They are transferring or they are selling things, and you hear these stories. Wouldn't it be sad if one day we said we had an occurrence that happened to one of our residents, and we said maybe we could have prevented that. People a lot of times don't think, and they invite these strangers into their homes to sell these things. We could at least tell them we have option, if they take it or not, it's up to them. They may not, but I sure would.

Mayor Togliatti said and a lot of our residents do use the City Hall parking lot for those exchanges. I see it all the time.

Councilperson Kapusta said but I would like to promote that.

Mayor Togliatti said we are working through the website upgrade right now and working through the components of the different departmental pages; and that is one of the things.

Councilperson Kapusta said I would like to see that.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked do we have a camera out there?

Mayor Togliatti said we upgraded the cameras for the jail so we have the backbone to add additional cameras. We added some additional cameras around City Hall, but the functionality is in place to expand even farther. So, we are doing a comprehensive security evaluation, the entire area, to determine where the best locations for those are.

Councilperson Kapusta said well thank you.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked there's cameras on Rockside Road?

Mayor Togliatti said there are.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked Crown Centre?

Mayor Togliatti said there's a camera on Crown Centre.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked do people know that?

Mayor Togliatti said it was in the newsletter.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I don't think we should hide it. People are saying what are you talking about? I was telling somebody New Year's Eve that there are cameras on Rockside Road. They said are you crazy? No, there's not. Those are the Police monitors up there for the Police and Fire trucks coming through. I said no, those are cameras.

Councilperson Kapusta said one from the convention, right.

Mayor Togliatti said right, there's the one from the convention on the Crown Centre, and in each direction at the Rockside/Brecksville Road intersection. There is a camera that scans each license plate, make model and color.

Councilperson Veverka asked didn't they also demo it for the Council crew and zoomed in on something?

Mayor Togliatti said the Crown Centre camera.

Councilperson Veverka said right.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know we had back, it has to be 10, 12, 13 years ago, we had people in a type of crisis situation where we had role playing and everything at the Fire station. I know we had a manual too.

Mayor Togliatti said it hasn't been updated.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that might be something to check with Chief Rega to see if that's something we want to do this summer maybe again to just reinforce if there is a crisis what part of your Administration Mayor what role they would play; and if Council is involved too with the handling of a crisis situation for the community and what we have available as far as the Civic Center, a place for residents to go to for safety and that. Not that anything is going to happen, but you want to be prepared in case something would happen. Council has changed and some of the Administration has changed. So, we can look into that.

Anything else?

Councilperson Kapusta said just my last comment would be, as I look through these many pages of Minutes from our last meeting, we had a lot of good discussion and a lot of very relevant comments were made; and would for one just ask that we could periodically revisit because we shouldn't wait, and I know action happens, don't get me wrong Mayor. I think just to have us discuss it for a point of discussion. The cemetery, we knew Tom, we had gotten the information from Tom's committee, and now what's our status on it. So, just periodically so it doesn't get lost in the shuffle.

Vice Mayor Grendel said just like the summary of our legal matters and that too so we know what's the status of things.

Well, let's move on, we will do the next item and just take a little break and go have something to drink.

Rotation of Council reports, and this is something; we have the resolution here as far as our adoption of the Rules of Order. There's really nothing that says about the order of the reports. The only fair way really is to rotate them so this way nobody is ever being first or nobody is being last every meeting.

Councilperson Trakas said we do that in voting.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I would suggest, unless we want to put it in here.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I think the Mayor should still go last though, and the Vice Mayor what he wants to do; but I think the Mayor should have the respect of going last.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I think it's listed that way.

Mayor Togliatti said it is listed, the Mayor goes last.

Councilperson Wisnieski said the other thing is, I think we should add something that the reports, if you are not present at the meeting, the report doesn't get put in; and that it shouldn't be permitted to say that I submitted my report to the Clerk. I think it should be read at the meeting.

Councilperson Asseff said the Directors.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked didn't we go through this once before? I didn't think we could submit our reports anymore.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it usually says no report.

Councilperson Wisnieski said all the Department Heads did it last month.

Law Director O'Brien said I'm going to take ownership for that Councilperson Wisnieski. I kind of goaded everybody.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I was going to say, it might have been for the holiday meeting; but if that's the only reason, then I suppose we don't have to put anything in.

City Engineer Don Ramm entered the meeting.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think a rotation. It's just a good practice, and with seven members, you are going to be first or last probably twice or maybe even once for the year. Then we should probably, I think we can either do it alphabetically or do as we sit and everything. That does matter.

Councilperson Asseff said well alphabetically would always put me first.

Councilperson Wisnieski said and if you sit in the first seat.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we can go A, and then the next one will be the next letter and rotate alphabetically.

Councilperson Veverka asked the Vice Mayor, would you want to be in the rotation or not?

Vice Mayor Grendel said it doesn't make any difference.

Councilperson Veverka said I'm just asking because obviously you are out front of the other six anyway; and there is a disadvantage. As I give my report, have something to say, I know that down at the end is Jim Trakas, and he can rebut something I have said; and I am stuck.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I might say something that would pertain to Dale your committee. I might take some of your thunder away. I try to be respectful.

Councilperson Trakas said you bring up a good point Dave because these are committee reports; and the original idea behind this, our tradition of this Council has been we go to as many meetings as we can, but that isn't always the case. So, the idea is that you give your committee report of what happened at your committee. So, if you weren't present, you know as well as the public knows, what happened at that committee.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and also legislation, if it's from Public Lands & Buildings, then Tom will report on that, even if it didn't go to a meeting or that.

Councilperson Trakas said the perspective on that legislation as well. I think that's a healthy thing to continue to keep the focus on, let's talk about what's the agenda and what the committee's perspective was. Some of it is historical, some of the background on that. It is good to have some of this background. Not everybody remembers all the different aspects of this. It's great to have this history as to hey this is why we did that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so instead of rotating it alphabetically, rotate it by the committee name, the standing committee. So, they are listed 1 through 7; so start with Public Buildings & Lands and you rotate. Why are you laughing?

Mayor Togliatti said it just makes it more complex.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I'm trying to make it fair. I don't know.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked why couldn't we just rotate the order we sit? We're not playing musical chairs.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked how are you going to remember that? Do you know it's the third month, it's the third chair over?

Mayor Togliatti said there you go.

Councilperson Asseff said you give yours first, and then we rotate, and you give yours last. That's my position. That has nothing to do with.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well this year, let's try that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said maybe stick to the reporting on what's pertinent to your committee, and then it won't be so controversial.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and there might be an important piece of legislation that we all need to weigh in on, like the one with the schools.

Councilperson Trakas said the committee worked these legislations. So, offering that perspective is very helpful, that everybody has that. Not everybody has the benefit of the discussion, and it's important that people do understand it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and what better person than the Chairman. They know what is the most important aspects of the meetings too.

Councilperson Veverka said but the rules state that when the vote is taken, you actually may give a reason for your vote; you don't necessarily just need to go yes, no, yes, no. You can stop at that time if you have a reason you want to give for a particular vote; you are entitled to do that. Typically, we don't, but it's there.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think what we will do Mayor is the first month we will start at Doc's end, and we will move our way down. So, there's six, so there will actually be two full rounds.

Councilperson Veverka said I volunteer to be first at the first one if you want because Doc has been stuck forever. I am willing to do that if you want.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I don't think that anything further needs to be addressed. We will see how it goes, and if need be we can put it into the rules.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I do have a question on the rules though. So, Debi do you have a backup as far as if you want to take off a meeting? Do we have somebody designated that can fill in for Debi?

Mayor Togliatti said we don't.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked can we make that a goal here?

Mayor Togliatti said it is a priority, and I have met with different Department Directors to identify potential employees who may be interested in taking on that responsibility and perhaps learning the roles of the Clerk.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that was the point when Sue had her issues. I remember the last time I was on Council and everything, and we had a temporary there. Then they realized the value of what Debi does for us, and doesn't take it for granted.

Councilperson Kapusta said so when we look at this ordinance, we have like our organizational meeting; and it says here it's to be held on January 2nd.

Councilperson Wisnieski said of alternating years.

Councilperson Kapusta said it's first meeting. It doesn't say alternating years, even number years.

Councilperson Wisnieski said every even numbered year.

Mayor Togliatti said after the election.

Councilperson Kapusta said got that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I did the same thing.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will go one more, as far as the rotation of Council reports. We will go one more, and then we will take just a little break and start with Don.

Vice Mayor Grendel said future interaction with the Board of Education regarding TIF's. I think that's important that maybe this comes around with the Northwest Quadrant or some other issue that we get involved right away; and that the members of both bodies because this one a lot of it was behind the scenes, and it kind of blew up here in August. I think there has to be a different protocol. I know there's something that has to be done just from the level of the Administration; but I think the members of both bodies need to be fully informed on what's going on. We kept thinking it was the final offer, final offer, and the next thing you know there's like four or five final offerings.

Mayor Togliatti said so in regard to the Northwest Quadrant, we have already reached out to the School Board leadership. The principals of IRG are hoping to come into Cleveland in February; so we are trying to set a date for the principals of IRG to meet with the School leadership in February to talk about the project, the potential for a new TIF sharing opportunity; and then I would like to have quarterly meetings between City Council and the School Board.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's a good idea.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked the development company for the Northwest Quadrant, were they involved with the Hall of Fame?

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there was a lot of negative stuff out of that too; I am just wondering if that's a concern for the City too. I don't know what the issues were, but I do know there was a lot of negative that came out of that.

Councilperson Trakas said that's a good thing to discuss with them. It's fair. They weren't paying some of their vendors, and there were lawsuits.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we don't want to get into that.

Councilperson Narduzzi said since that is the last parcel, a big parcel that we have to develop, we shouldn't be giving away the farm. When it comes down to the School giving back or us giving back, I think we really need to weigh in on that. It's sad how much you were going to give away because to me that \$1,500,000 for that golf thing was ludicrous. I don't want to get in that same position over here when it's our last piece of the pie to offer to anybody. I don't think we have to give it away. That's my opinion. Especially the School Board, they shouldn't have to give anything away.

Vice Mayor Grendel said our aim is to keep them all no matter what the configuration is or that. We didn't realize they had those options. When we first started, we thought it was cut and dry, and John didn't even realize.

Mayor Togliatti said John didn't even realize it until we started digging into it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so now we know as a starting point what the configuration is. The schools will be kept whole, and whatever way we have to get to that point, we will do that.

As far as Topgolf, a lot of those you don't know until you get told the history, 20 years from now probably they will say it was a great deal. Topgolf really added to the community, but the truth of the matter is nothing was happening with that parcel. There wasn't anything to generate that area of town, and this is something different that we didn't have an amenity to offer the hotels, even the businesses there because the number of ones that I went through; they were excited that they could bring in a group of people from other regions in the area or even in the country to come here. They would have a source of recreation right here nearby.

Councilperson Trakas said this is a complement to the whole region. So, you are really talking about a complementary development that helps every one of those. I think one of the appeals to this obviously is that you aren't bringing in a big competitor. You are actually bringing in

someone who brings people in, brings people into our hotels, brings people into our restaurants. It's really a big benefit from that perspective.

Councilperson Kapusta said and I know that we won't know for sure, but there's also the potential there, I was discussing this with my son who has used it through their Fifth Third Bank in the Cincinnati area. He said sometimes when you bring other businesses to use that type of amenity, that's when they really first focus on your community.

Councilperson Trakas said it's like a convention.

Councilperson Kapusta said we don't know. We may have some potential growth from that too.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there's no way to measure.

Councilperson Asseff said another message with this, we are absolutely, the schools as well as the residential City, reliant on that business money significantly, and that's what we have to protect because otherwise other things will deteriorate. We won't have the money to give all the services and everything else we do. I look at that and say if we didn't have the business income that we have, everybody's tax in this City on average would increase \$10,000 per household. At a 10% drop, it's \$1,000 increase in your taxes per year. So, that's how significant that is. Our customer, and we have to grow that and grow that properly. That's a very important component which allows us to sit here and say we can do this, we can do that because we have the cash flow. We have been blessed by that.

Mayor Togliatti said and I had an interesting meeting yesterday with the Mayor of Broadview Heights and some of his directors; and I learned that for years they were trying to attract Topgolf to the property adjacent to Giant Eagle, fronting on I-77; and they said they couldn't put a package together. They were happy that at least we got them.

Councilperson Trakas said there was the landfill there, the Norton landfill.

Vice Mayor Grendel said like Doc mentioned, if we weren't to get that income tax revenue from the business, we would be like a number of other districts, your own residents would be paying part of their tax to the City of Independence to subsidize and pay for the services we do have. We are fortunate we have that, and if you are paying 2% or more to some other community.

Councilperson Trakas said just think how hard these sessions would be if we didn't have money.

Councilperson Asseff said well I get e-mails from our citizens saying look we don't need any more business, we don't want to grow. If we don't change, we die; but change can be controlled. We have to have those changes and growth to keep it going.

Councilperson Trakas said and you need a mix of different types of things; you can't rely on one thing. We were pretty reliant on two basic models for a long time; so this complements that and all the other good things we have been doing.

Councilperson Kapusta said and even when those worked for us, now the external environment has changed. We know that offices of today are not what they were 10 or 15 years ago. We have to keep up with them.

Councilperson Trakas said I haven't worked in an office in years.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we are fortunate too that businesses want to be here, and they don't commingle. That's why the residents should be grateful that we can do that.

Mayor Togliatti said we will work with the School Board to see if we can get four dates set for each quarter for joint meetings.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think that would be great. This way we can talk about a number of issues, and if they have other concerns, we can assist them on those too.

Councilperson Trakas said checking on those four with resources, how they are doing and that type of thing. That's always a nice thing to bring up.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and their projections. A lot of us don't have ideas what their projections are; and now we can appreciate what their needs are and plan accordingly too.

Councilperson Kapusta said I would suggest that for the first quarter, and we can check with Superintendent Hegedish; but we may want to wait until the end part of the quarter because they had those national consultants come in and work with the committees. I was approached to see if I could be a person, and the dates didn't work out; but they are bringing them in. That's going to be interesting. I would like to hear that too.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I will report back. Thank goodness it wasn't during tax season; although I don't know what tax season is going to be unless the Government starts.

Councilperson Veverka said it's a no tax year.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Councilperson Wisnieski said they said you can pay them, but they can't give refunds.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked do you want to take a little break, and then when we come back, we will go through 2019 projects, and Don we will have you weigh in on the sidewalk ordinance

issue. We want to re-visit that to see if there's any expertise on that. I know you get a lot of heat too on these sidewalks.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked who does he get heat from? People who don't want them?

Vice Mayor Grendel said we will actually go to Number 9 and 10, discuss the re-evaluation of the sidewalk ordinance and then discuss the 2019 projects. The history of the sidewalks was out of the Dalebrook project back in 2000. There was quite a split there in that development. So, finally Council decided to have it go to a vote of the people, which it did back then. The vote was that we should have sidewalks on both sides of the street.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well almost. So, I think Council continually had to address the issue. So, it wasn't for the Dalebrook project, but they were taking surveys in different neighborhoods and splitting up neighborhoods and that. Then I think it finally came to the Dalebrook project, and they took a vote. It passed by one vote. Someone came in and said that they voted the wrong way, and it switched back the other. Finally, Council was like this is either a safety issue or not. So, we passed legislation saying that every time a road project is done, then it will be included unless it's not feasible financially to do it. It goes back to really the Engineer I guess, and people didn't like that. So, they took it to a vote, a vote of the people to repeal it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it was a bad situation because you had neighbor against neighbor. You had older neighbor against younger neighbor and that. It was just creating a very difficult situation.

Councilperson Trakas said I asked this to be reviewed only from the perspective of the resident who came up at the last two Council meetings ago said well for smaller streets why don't we do a traffic survey. I thought that it was at least worthy of debate because we just talked about Waldorf. How many homes are on Waldorf?

Councilperson Narduzzi said eight.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what does a traffic survey, do they assess from a safety view like the Police Chief would?

Councilperson Trakas said I don't know the answer to that, but I just thought it was a good thing to at least talk about it. You have Bramley, the one guy talked about Bramley; and those are smaller streets. You are talking about Brettin Drive, Dania Drive. You are talking about streets with less than 20 or 30 houses.

Councilperson Wisnieski said look at the end of Dalepoint and look at the end of Montello. They didn't do sidewalks all the way. They assessed it and did what was feasible down there.

Councilperson Trakas said that's true too. I guess I was thinking maybe if we could incorporate that as a formal part of our ordinance because we didn't really say that we did that. We do it, but

we don't really say that we do it. I know if we are violating anything, but I just think it's worthy to talk about it. If it doesn't have to be on both sides of the street, do you have to do it? There's a cost to it obviously, and some of the streets are just so small that maybe you don't need that. I don't know. I think that there should be at least some consideration to doing that with an amendment because we don't say that you can do that in the ordinance currently.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I thought it does.

Councilperson Trakas said it doesn't say that there's a traffic survey. Basically, it says if you can't financially afford it then you don't do it.

Mayor Togliatti said it refers to the Engineer for practical difficulties.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well we haven't had any complaints from Oakwood.

Mayor Togliatti said Beverly Drive, the people love it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you mentioned Dania, but that's a cut through. People can come from Brookside over to Brecksville Road and cut through. It's definitely a cut through for cars during the rush hours.

Councilperson Trakas asked but if you had them on one side of the street would that create a danger?

City Engineer Ramm said the problem with that is whose side?

Councilperson Wisnieski said it was tough.

Councilperson Veverka said well then you have the difference between City streets and County streets. Brookside has sidewalks on one side, and when we are developing that section the sidewalk between Lake Charles down to Eastview, that will go on one side; but that's a County road though. So, is it like an exception to the rule?

Mayor Togliatti said but it's not a major street reconstruction so it's not applicable by ordinance.

Councilperson Veverka said right because we don't typically totally reconstruct County roads anyway. We just try to get them back to working.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's why we had a problem with Hemlock, Hemoga and that because it was just a resurfacing.

Councilperson Veverka said right because I did get a call about that from somebody that is on Lafayette and they were asking the question, well wait a minute, you just did Hemoga. Well no, it's just a resurfacing. It's a grind and overlay, and that was the reason why. That wasn't even a

reconstruction of some of the curbs, some of the curbs that had settled a little bit, but were still functional, they were left.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we have enough flexibility, yet you can't be arbitrary about it either.

Councilperson Narduzzi said right, it's got to be black and white. I have two neighbors who won't even talk to me now because we are putting sidewalks in on the street. I told them, I am not even going to try fighting it because I have been for it. I have fought the battle for these things, and I'm going to go against them now on my street.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well unless you can logically say the cost to do it or the lay of the land.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I'm sure you know who I'm talking about there. There's going to be a challenge at the end of my street. You are going to have to come up with something crazy because I don't think you are going to get a sidewalk there; but to put them on one side of the street. Then the fight goes well who gets them? This guy gets them or we get them. I think we have to keep marching down the path because they might be mad today; but in five or ten years, it's going to be fine.

Councilperson Veverka said one of the people who live on Grandview, that's what he said to me. He said, because we were taking a walk, and he said I didn't like the idea of having the sidewalks; but boy now I really do. We do have exception areas that are impossible. Now Brettin, at the end of your street, where the street kind of ends with a half a cul-de-sac and another piece of a road and a lake is right next to it and the guardrail. There are topographic challenges on the south side of the street. How far do you go down where you say okay now it's time to cross the street and continue the sidewalk on the other side. That's what you did on Oakwood. We went as far as we could, but with the size of the right-of-way and the size of the turnaround, it just wasn't something that was going to work. So, we got to a point, almost to the cul-de-sac and put the rubber strips in and cross the street. You are going to have to do something like that on Brettin and a couple of the other places.

You were talking about Brookside. To go beyond Lake Charles, there is that challenge. I went over to check out that area over by the old Hill property, and because there's that drain and underneath the road; and it's definitely more challenging than the other side.

I agree with Tommy. I said abandoning it at this particular point doesn't make sense because we have done it. It made a lot of sense for everybody else along the way.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I think if you look at it long term, yeah. We have to put up with somebody being mad at some point; it's just the way it is. If it can't be done, Don will say that it can't physically be done or look at that situation; but if there is a chance of it being done and the cost is not that astronomical, I think we have to keep marching forward.

Councilperson Trakas asked what is it per square foot to put in a sidewalk?

City Engineer Ramm said replacement costs on an existing one is \$6.00 or \$7.00. Ten years ago it was \$4.00. The new stuff, it's hard to say because you have to excavate, and it's hydrant relocations and drainage. It's a very simple question, but it becomes involved in the answer.

Councilperson Trakas said it depends on the topography.

City Engineer Ramm said it depends on everything.

Councilperson Veverka said telephone poles, trees.

City Engineer Ramm said grading and everything.

Councilperson Narduzzi said Don, I don't want to get off on a tangent, but we had talked about trees in the tree lawn before you came in; and I know on Lafayette and on Waldorf and Latonia, I don't know where those trees are in conjunction to where the sidewalk would be. To work around that, I would like to get a cost of removing all of those trees, putting the sidewalk where it would have to be and then relocating the trees rather than working around the trees. It's not going to be there forever. If they live 10 or 15 years, they are going to die anyway or we are going to cut them down. Don't rework what the right thing to do is because of those trees; eat the cost now rather than down the road. Once the sidewalks go in, you know they are going to stay there forever.

Councilperson Veverka said we had a pretty extensive discussion about the tree piece earlier as it related to species, location of it. On the other side if a property owner wishes a tree and mixing species, the height of the species if somebody gets one; but it's in proximity to the overhead wires, the underground. In other words, trying to eliminate them from being in the underground where the utilities are going to cause it to be torn up sooner or later anyway. When the utility companies come and butcher stuff. We had a pretty big discussion about that, and the connection with the engineering/arborist so we get a nice tree mix in good spots. So, we are not putting it in so we have to tear it out.

City Engineer Ramm said right, that's all very appropriate discussion.

Councilperson Asseff said the other thing is a safety issue. Where do the mothers walk with their babies in the prams and things, the kids play and so forth. In the street?

Councilperson Narduzzi said that's probably the most important aspect of this whole thing.

Councilperson Trakas said sometimes they do on our street where there's almost no traffic, they walk in the middle of the street, and they see a car coming in and move.

Councilperson Narduzzi said it's the kid who can't see the car coming.

Councilperson Asseff said if you have a sidewalk it's safer.

Councilperson Wisnieski said or the person in the wheelchair. That was the point in Dalebrook there. Mrs. Carr passed away, but when you saw her riding up on her motorized wheelchair, that was what the sidewalk was for.

Councilperson Kapusta said Mrs. Franks, remember?

Councilperson Wisnieski said yeah, that's right.

Vice Mayor Grendel said more people than ever are going out and just jogging with their baby strollers. I bet in the last 30 years it has probably tripled of the use in the sidewalk in exercising and everything else. You can't fight this thing because you don't want to see, even on a small street, you don't want to see because there's parties and everything else going on, that could lead to a safety issue. That's what with Grandview, whenever there was a party going on there, and the traffic, it was hard. If somebody is walking in the street, it's very easy not to see them until the last moment and everything.

Councilperson Wisnieski said see you don't think of that. So, if you don't have sidewalks, and people are parking in the street.

Vice Mayor Grendel said even like the band concerts at the center of town because there are a lot of little kids there; and they could go right into parts of the road.

I think the best position is just to keep this because we have the flexibility with the Engineer. Don, you would tell us from a financial standpoint or just a practical standpoint if it's impossible. We are not going to spend a fortune to put sidewalks in, if it just doesn't call for it. I think overall the safety issue should take over as the most important issue on that.

Councilperson Wisnieski or put it in committee and have hearings on it.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we saw that on Oakwood. There were a lot of younger families there that were so thankful that was going in, and then some of the older people. We went to their houses and everything, and they were giving us a hard time and running us out of the house because they simply didn't want it to devalue their property or the aesthetic part of it. They were worried about people falling on the sidewalk in front of their house and things too.

Councilperson Trakas said some of these people with smaller frontages, that is an issue. You are trying to walk from your bedroom to your kitchen and there's someone 20 feet in front of you there. It is disconcerting.

Councilperson Kapusta said I was just going to say, in reality though, I agree that our overriding concern should be our safety; but also I think it enhances most people's property. When you go to sell, even if you don't feel it personally, and you have a nice frontage with a contiguous street, a sidewalk on your street; I think there is a value there.

Councilperson Asseff said the next owner will love it.

Councilperson Kapusta said that's what I'm saying.

Councilperson Wisnieski said well I hope the Engineer and the Administration feel that they have enough leeway that if they think something a little bit different would enhance the property even more; that they could do that. They could change it up a little bit to help the look, like the placement of the trees. I would hope that they could tweak it enough to make it work.

Councilperson Trakas said let's do that. The only reason I brought it up was someone brought it up two Council meetings ago; and I had gotten some feedback. It's worthy of a discussion. We had this thing for a long time.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think it's the placement of the trees too. You don't think about just as a small tree going in; but 10 or 15 years with the high wires. I just look at our tree on Wood; well all the trees in Independence where the utilities cut the branches and everything. Aesthetically it looks horrible.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked is there any layout with Lafayette?

City Engineer Ramm said very preliminary, nothing I had even had a chance to really look at.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked what about Stan's?

City Engineer Ramm said it's challenging, and that stuff is blatantly in the right-of-way. With what you wanted to do there, you would be affecting it since he has stuff up to the curb.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's going to be beautiful when it's done though.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I know.

Councilperson Narduzzi said like I told my neighbor across the street, he was saying I will never walk on the sidewalks. I will never ride my bike on the sidewalk. I said but Dan you won't be here your whole life. The next person might come in with three little kids; do you want them riding their bikes in the street?

Councilperson Wisnieski said Tommy, Doc Bitzan, every time I ran for re-election; he would write on my literature because I would put something in about keeping Independence rural. He would write "like shoving sidewalks down our throats." He would write it on my literature and

put it in my mailbox just so I knew he was still mad. Eventually, he when the neighborhood started changing and that, he said I get it. He apologized and said it really wasn't for me. It was for the future like you said if someone has three kids or someone is handicapped or that type of thing and for resale value.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I guess that we will go right in then to the 2019 projects, and maybe Don you can go into the chronological order. We thought maybe these should be maybe not all staged at the same time. It would kind of cause maybe chaos with all the different construction going on. Which project do you think would be the first one that will be started in 2019?

City Engineer Ramm said I think the one that's up on the Council agenda next week, this coming Tuesday because of the timeframe.

Vice Mayor Grendel said this is Rockside Woods North.

City Engineer Ramm said right. The water main is going to be completed here in a few weeks, and then hopefully in February or March we hit the ground running. I think we have to get that road built by June 30th, the first phase, across Topgolf's frontage.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think they have non-union steel.

Mayor Togliatti said they do. They have non-union iron workers and welders.

Vice Mayor Grendel said but that wasn't done intentionally. I know my son-in-law, his brother owns Legacy Electric; and they went to bid on some stuff, but their timeframe was so strict. They are a union shop and everything, but it was so strict that they just couldn't meet the requirements. I don't think they set out purposely to get non-union workers.

Mayor Togliatti said no they didn't. Obviously, they started with Independence Excavating for the earthwork which is a union company; and I think that they have worked with some of these other companies across the country on other projects. So, they went with them. It's unfortunate that there is a large inflatable rat on the property.

Councilperson Narduzzi said Drug Mart had the same thing. They had the rat out there; and it was the same thing. It wasn't because they didn't want to use union, the timeframe from the union hall wouldn't permit because Drug Mart was on a tight schedule. If you guys remember, they left the old building and built the new one; and that was why because I talked to the Boodjehs about it, and they said look what are we supposed to do. They won't do it in the timeframe that we have.

Councilperson Kapusta said I don't remember this, but Lynn Laskie commented that it happened with the schools too. That we had the inflatables there for something that was non-union.

Councilperson Narduzzi said construction, the iron workers because there are less and less of them; but they want all the jobs. They are stretched out for years.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so we are going to vote on that here in January; and then construction is expected to begin.

City Engineer Ramm said within a month or two.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if this weather continues, they might be able. Unfortunately, the bad month was November and October caused chaos with finishing up some of those projects.

Councilperson Narduzzi said there was a letter (inaudible).

City Engineer Ramm said that's a whole other deal.

Councilperson Narduzzi said there was a letter from Independence Excavating. Did that get passed to Council?

City Engineer Ramm said I did not.

Mayor Togliatti said I could forward it to Council.

Councilperson Narduzzi said that probably should be passed to Council.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what was that?

Councilperson Narduzzi said it was a letter explaining why their bid was so much higher, and that Fabrizi would probably be up there at some point.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked change orders?

Councilperson Narduzzi said yeah, just the unit pricing on stuff. They don't know where they are coming up with it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so Rockside Woods North, and if it gets approved here in January or February.

City Engineer Ramm said they can get going with the underground work in the colder weather; and then when the weather hits, then they would be ideally ready for more of the road work.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I see. That will strictly, that work will be from what point, by the Embassy Suites there and will continue?

City Engineer Ramm said I think it's about 900 or 1,000 feet to get it all the way across the frontage of Topgolf, and then it will be temporarily barricaded while we get other permits that are required to then be able to finish that.

Councilperson Asseff asked when is Topgolf's opening date?

City Engineer Ramm said September or October.

Mayor Togliatti said the road is June 30th because they need a month or two to get their employees in and trained and tested. So, they need good access.

Councilperson Asseff said well when the breakthrough to 21 is done, it makes it easier to get to Topgolf.

Councilperson Trakas said of course.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so this doesn't include that last stretch that will finish the job to Brecksville Road?

City Engineer Ramm said the contract does, but the June 30th commitment doesn't.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I see.

City Engineer Ramm said but the whole contract duration is 24 months, so the \$9,500,000 does get the intersection widened, it just comes later.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and once we get that completed, then we are looking at renovation of the Old Rockside Woods North, so it will be uniform.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked is there a way Don to split the numbers up on that thing, Section A and Section B?

City Engineer Ramm said that's exactly how they did it.

Councilperson Narduzzi said so the \$3,500,000 and the \$4,500,000. What is A?

City Engineer Ramm said A is the majority of the road extension; it's the portion of Rockside Woods Blvd. all the way out to AAA.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked can we split it to where we have to be for Topgolf to open up?

City Engineer Ramm asked split it from an analysis and cost standpoint?

Councilperson Narduzzi said yes.

City Engineer Ramm said I think by and large, some of the storm sewer, water main components were called out as Stage 1 and Stage 2 even within the Part A bid for that very reason. So, I think we could probably pull something.

Councilperson Kapusta asked do we have two or three other parcels of land there?

Mayor Togliatti said there's two; there's one between Topgolf and the Embassy Suites and then there's another across the street.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so those will all be set as far as under this first.

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Councilperson Asseff asked how many parcels will be developed between Topgolf and 21?

Several people said that's the last one.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked are they looking to putting signage that you can see from the freeway?

Councilperson Wisnieski said they have to.

Mayor Togliatti said they are. Originally they had a standalone monument sign out by the freeway; but I think now they have revised it to be attached to the building.

Councilperson Asseff said I think there are two or three signs on the building if I remember.

The Clerk said they revised their sign package.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so that really doesn't affect residents then Don. That will be mostly all confined. It will affect Embassy Suites.

Mayor Togliatti said the next phase with the intersection on Brecksville Road, it affects the residents; and we have a meeting tentatively scheduled for January 22nd with the residents in that affected area so we can get ahead of it and be proactive and let them know the timeline. That will be for the following year.

Vice Mayor Grendel said at least they can plan for it anyway.

Councilperson Trakas said we will talk maybe on Tuesday, so this thing also covers that though?

City Engineer Ramm said it does. That is the Part B component. That's why the 24 month contract duration.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked that's strictly Rockside Woods, that's not Brecksville Road? So, there will be some participation from the State on; they will contribute some?

City Engineer Ramm said ODOT's money was really more for the resurfacing. We really want to keep them out for this piece. There is no ODOT funding in this contract.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I see; but there will be a component of ODOT.

Mayor Togliatti said for the Brecksville Road.

City Engineer Ramm said the resurfacing.

Vice Mayor Grendel said now this doesn't include, we talked about the sidewalk issue for the residents on Brecksville Road and everything?

City Engineer Ramm said within the limits of the project; so about 1,000 feet north and south of the AAA intersection as we taper the road back, there will be sidewalks.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it doesn't affect the other residents.

Mayor Togliatti said it doesn't affect Mr. Wierzbicki and the ones that are further south.

Vice Mayor Grendel said once Vista Springs gets opened, we want to because there might be people walking on Brecksville Road to get to Vista Springs maybe from L.A. Pete's or Drug Mart and the tire place.

City Engineer Ramm said there's an existing walk there now. It's kind of not in too good of shape.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it would be nice if L.A. Pete's could fix the front of theirs. It's kind of an eyesore.

Councilperson Narduzzi said this is probably Tuesday's discussion, but there's nothing being built from Topgolf east? There is no available land there?

Mayor Togliatti said Topgolf has 16 acres.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's where their golf balls will be landing.

Councilperson Kapusta said that's why I was asking how many parcels.

Councilperson Narduzzi said wow.

Vice Mayor Grendel said but that will open up, people will probably be looking at that parcel between Embassy Suites and Topgolf then.

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's probably the next most desirable parcel there.

So, that's the first one. That's going to be starting in February if everything gets approved here in January. What is the next project you see starting up?

City Engineer Ramm said it seems like the way the engineering is getting wrapped, the next one is going to be Brookside/Bramley. Those plans are very near to be complete, and we don't need a whole lot between now and when we can bid it out. That will probably be bid out hopefully late January. We get bids in February and award it in February or March, and be under construction very early in the spring.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is that from Brecksville Road?

City Engineer Ramm said yes, east to Bramley. That's the water line. Bramley is a whole complete reconstruction.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so that water line, are you hoping to take care of a lot of the problems?

Councilperson Wisnieski asked when was the timeline?

City Engineer Ramm said we hope to wrap up the plans here in early January and then get it out to bid in late January and February, March. At least a March award, and ideally April construction.

Councilperson Trakas said in terms of the water line on Brookside, are they going to be making it larger or just change it?

City Engineer Ramm said it will be new. It will be the same diameter. It is not an issue with not being enough capacity, it's just old pipe, bad joints, a pressure regulator that's old and faulty.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked and what happened up there recently?

City Engineer Ramm said all of that is old.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked did it keep breaking?

City Engineer Ramm said yes. You try to shut the valves down and isolate what you need to fix. When the water main is pressurized, and it gets unpressurized and re-pressurized; and it's not good for old pipes and bad joints.

Mayor Togliatti said we had eight breaks.

City Engineer Ramm said nine breaks.

Mayor Togliatti said the pipe is over 90 years old.

Councilperson Trakas asked do we have any type of a best practices as to when to replace those types of pipes? How long do they really last?

City Engineer Ramm said they always say around a 50 year design life. Invariably, it's pushing it.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Mayor Togliatti said we do have the map with the City water lines in their current conditions in. In our Five-Year Capital Plan you can see that we are planning for replacements of a lot of them so we don't run into a situation again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so that's project Number 2. That will be in March or April, depending on the weather.

Councilperson Kapusta said so with your timeline that you gave us, when you bring the legislation to Council, will you be bringing it without some of the numbers in because we still want to continue our efforts to not do emergency when we don't have to; so and I know we have some issues about that. If we don't, it looks like we are going to hold you up.

City Engineer Ramm said when it's weather dependent.

Councilperson Kapusta asked do you see what I am saying? I know we don't like it with the blanks.

Councilperson Wisnieski said we have been planning this all along. I mean the bids. It's public bidding. People have a chance to input all along. I don't understand the whole need to do it that way.

Councilperson Veverka said unfortunately the perception of so many people because they don't have a clue. That's why in my report, what I try to do is present the fact that engineering is going on. That there are other things that have been going on for over a year; before we were at the point and now we have a price to do a job. I am trying to present that.

Councilperson Trakas said (inaudible), but you don't do emergency.

Councilperson Narduzzi said exactly right, and the fact, what was the original bid?

Councilperson Trakas said like \$10,000,000.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked what was the original, Don's estimate for cost analysis to put that road in?

City Engineer Ramm asked which project are you talking about now?

Councilperson Narduzzi said Rockside Woods North.

Mayor Togliatti asked what was the engineer's bid for the bid packet?

City Engineer Ramm said about \$10,300,000 or \$10,400,000. That was the estimate; and that's from a completed design. I think Councilperson Narduzzi, you might be referring to the planning level estimates that I worked here when we were plugging it into the Capital Plan. Those are planning level because the design just isn't honed in enough, and we don't know a lot of the parameters. So, you do the best you can, and you guesstimate. It's a planning level. It's a 10,000 foot level. So, that's what happens when you start really getting into the nitty gritty and the design and the complexities of that job, particularly those are the things that inflate those costs from what you thought. Initially, I think it was \$4,000,000, and it came in at \$7,000,000.

Councilperson Narduzzi said it's over 15%, it should be thrown out and rebid.

City Engineer Ramm said the estimate for the time of the bid was \$10,300,000.

Mayor Togliatti said the bid came in lower than the engineer's estimate.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it was all the planning before that Tom, it's all low.

City Engineer Ramm said the Five-Year Capital Plan at the time we were budgeting values; and unfortunately you don't know what you know until you know what those costs are.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so then we have the Rockside Woods North. We have Brookside/Bramely, the first residential area project to start probably in March or April. What is the next one after that?

City Engineer Ramm said we are hoping the same thing, Lafayette and that whole subdivision. For whatever the consultant has been a little bit further behind than with Brookside; but that job I would hope be a spring and summer also and get wrapped up and get bid out and start construction.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so it will be late spring or early summer, that would be the hope.

City Engineer Ramm said talking about the Quarry Lee Estates, that subdivision. We would hate to get that whole subdivision paved out and brand new, and then it gets beat up with construction traffic from Quarry Lee, the little runaround job. I don't think it's hurting the fact that it is tailing a little bit further behind than the Brookside/Bramley.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we want to make sure everything is coordinated on that. We would really look silly as far as the community not planning it to all happen, and to make sure there's no repetitive or no unnecessary (inaudible) out of that.

City Engineer Ramm said it should be approved by Planning here soon. I think they do target summer and fall construction. So, that might dovetail right in and hopefully be under construction at the same time and feel like an entire project.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I don't know how much longer it would take if we were to make suggestions as far as the lots and everything go. I don't think that would delay it.

Mayor Togliatti said I think we already have some sketches with that layout.

City Engineer Ramm said I was hoping they were going to resubmit something more formal. I am going to reach out to them so that they can at least bring it because right now I don't believe they submitted that. It is kind of odd.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I would like that to coincide, especially you don't want to jump the gun and make it more difficult or more expensive.

City Engineer Ramm said right. So, that one is coming, it's on the track.

Vice Mayor Grendel said this way for Council, if someone asks you, at least we have an idea to give them some feel on when these are starting. So, Lafayette you are looking at late spring or probably early summer for that. What would be Number 4 after Lafayette?

City Engineer Ramm said I think we are trying to get that job for the sidewalks for upper Brookside by Lake Charles. It would be roadway work and curbs and the storm drainage. I think that one would be spring and summer.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so about the same time as Lafayette too?

City Engineer Ramm said and ironically in the 2019 budget for paving we have Brookside, it's on that program. Eastview is on there; so that whole area really which then would dovetail right into Brookside east of Brecksville. So, it would all look like a complete job.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there work between Eastview and Brecksville?

City Engineer Ramm said not a whole lot, it's more mill and fill than full depth repairs. That road is pretty beat up, but by and large it's a mill.

Vice Mayor Grendel said kind of what we did with Hemoga and Hemlock and then.

City Engineer Ramm said and depending on the flavor for drainage improvements, replacing culverts, drive aprons; and it could start to get more costly, but depending on what you want to try to accommodate because there are some old culverts. We try to do the drainage when we are there, at least make some improvements if the budget would allow for it.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and how about from Lake Charles south to Sprague? Anything going to be done on that?

City Engineer Ramm said that would still get paved. That was always our intent.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so that will be a mill and fill type.

City Engineer Ramm said right.

Vice Mayor Grendel said if Brookside could be all kind of brand new from Sprague all the way down.

City Engineer Ramm said that would be the target.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that would be quite an endeavor.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it's going to be very nice.

City Engineer Ramm said and then Brettin. You know Brettin is being engineered right now, and it's not too complicated. The survey is already completed. There will be sidewalks comparable to Oakwood.

Several people began speaking at once again.

City Engineer Ramm said and that one we are debating on the water line. It's not problematic, but it's old; so depending on if we want to pull the trigger on replacing it or upgrading it at this time.

Councilperson Trakas asked how old is old?

City Engineer Ramm said it was probably put in when the homes were built.

Councilperson Trakas said so Mr. Kunevicious in the 1960's.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's 60 years old.

City Engineer Ramm said I think in the last 11 years, I don't think we ever had a break on it, since I have been here. It's holding up better than the other ones.

Vice Mayor Grendel said you know how it goes, the first break will be in February.

City Engineer Ramm said it is I believe underneath the pitch of the road presently, just inside the gutter.

Vice Mayor Grendel said while we are in there, it being 60 years old, we might as well replace the water line.

Councilperson Trakas said I think of these pipes at 40 or 50 years tops really. So, you probably want to figure that out. The water didn't go all the way back. I think in the 1990's they expanded that a little bit. The water didn't go throughout the whole, it didn't go to the front of the street. They brought it in through Brecksville. I may be wrong.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked is that a loop line?

City Engineer Ramm said I don't think so. I don't believe there are any easements that get it over Sprague.

Vice Mayor Grendel said while we are there because you don't want to go back there.

Councilperson Trakas said I think you definitely need to do that.

City Engineer Ramm said I think that was similar with Beverly Drive. That main was old, but it really hadn't been breaking a lot, but we chose to replace it.

Councilperson Trakas said once you start taking the branches, it weakens the whole thing.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it could lead to problems.

City Engineer Ramm said I will check the Five-Year Plan, I think we included the funding for it.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked with the water line going in, would that push that back any farther?

City Engineer Ramm said no, not if we can get that design completed and get it bid out quickly. We can get it going heavy in summer when the school buses aren't going up and down.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked so you think Brettin could be done this year then?

City Engineer Ramm said yeah I think so unless there is some nuance or hiccup with the sidewalks. We would like to entertain getting the plans in front of Dominion. I am assuming those are original gas mains, and just like on Oakwood, they chose to replace the gas lines just in front of our job. So, some of that coordination can take some time. It could push things back because some of those utility companies might not necessarily have it in the program. So, some of those dynamics could end up pushing some of those things back.

Councilperson Veverka asked with Brettin, will they have to do it by halves?

City Engineer Ramm said that's going to be.

Councilperson Veverka said it's a huge, long street, and I mean it's kind of like Grandview; you have a whole lot of cars you would have to put someplace to do it out. Is there a way to do half while you are doing the water line replacement on the other side?

City Engineer Ramm said yeah, we definitely have to maintain traffic because there's no way for people to.

Councilperson Trakas said it's like putting in the water main.

City Engineer Ramm said the linear trenching is easily accommodated with traffic. It's when the road gets torn out, that's when things get tricky. So, those are the things to think about. Some of the design aspects of what we are going to do, we are thinking about those things.

Councilperson Veverka asked is there a way to push the water line out from under the road if you are going to redo it and put it to the side so that it's accessible without tearing up the road? That's the problem with Brookside. Every time you have a water break, you have the road torn up.

City Engineer Ramm said ideally we would get it out of the road. There are EPA standards. You have to have 10 foot separation between storm and sanitary sewers, so it gets challenging to find a spot that meets all the criteria, the physical space, a lot of times because of these crazy new requirements in certain locations.

Councilperson Veverka said you don't want sewage to end up becoming an issue in conjunction with the water line.

City Engineer Ramm said those were the reasons for those requirements.

Councilperson Veverka asked so what about Brookside because I heard you say Brookside that we have to put a temporary line beside the road because it has to go in the road?

City Engineer Ramm said Brookside is going in right where it's at because of those challenges. They are going to close down a section at a time and then bypass pump above ground in the segment that is being torn out. So, it's going to be a moving, linear operation.

Councilperson Veverka said okay, so that's where they put in the pipes and attach the water lines to the house temporarily.

City Engineer Ramm said yeah to the spigots.

Councilperson Veverka said and then move them.

Mayor Togliatti said there is no funding for a water line on Brettin in the Five-Year Capital Plan.

Councilperson Trakas asked there isn't?

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think it would make sense to (inaudible).

City Engineer Ramm said that's probably why it wasn't in there because it doesn't show up on Cleveland Water's red zone; but it's old.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked are there water breaks on Brookside west of Brecksville Road or not?

City Engineer Ramm said no, surprisingly that section is, there are some; but not nearly to the extent east.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and that's the same age too?

City Engineer Ramm said I have to look at the map.

Mayor Togliatti said I think the lower Brookside portion is older.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so that would be all the road projects, those six.

City Engineer Ramm said there are some resurfacing like Treelawn and Evergreen and a bunch of other projects that are still on the plan that I haven't even thought about that monies were budgeted in 2019. It doesn't mean you have to do them in 2019.

Vice Mayor Grendel said because I think you have enough on your plate right here.

Councilperson Trakas said I thought we just did Treelawn a couple of years ago.

City Engineer Ramm said that was Oakhurst.

Councilperson Trakas said okay, yes.

City Engineer Ramm said Treelawn is pretty rough.

Councilperson Trakas asked how many houses are down there, six or something?

City Engineer Ramm said it's more than that.

Councilperson Veverka said probably 25.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I had a couple of people ask me why we did the extensive landscaping when the road looks so horrible, and that same dead tree on the end of Treelawn. It's still sitting there.

We put in all the new landscaping, and then on the end of the cul-de-sac there's one Charlie Brown tree sitting in the middle.

Mayor Togliatti said I wasn't aware. I know we cut a lot of trees down on that cul-de-sac.

Councilperson Wisnieski said the Service Department was aware. They were called. They just haven't gotten to it.

Vice Mayor Grendel said so there might be some, and that's the same mill and fill?

City Engineer Ramm said yeah that one. I think we have been doing some curb and gutters that are bad over the years so that we could get in and just mill and fill it maybe really quick.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that's something maybe in Streets & Sidewalks Committee could take a look at if there are maybe smaller projects that can be done, but this is a heavy load right here, especially with our inspectors and things of that nature. It's enough to keep them busy too.

Councilperson Veverka said I touched based with Don and Leon about getting a meeting together here, and we already had a conversation. So, we just need to pin down a date.

City Engineer Ramm said and that meeting, we may dovetail a Streets meeting with this upcoming January 22nd meeting. Mayor was that your thought?

Mayor Togliatti asked what was that?

City Engineer Ramm said maybe the January 22nd meeting to discuss the Brecksville Road Improvement Project. It's a roadway job; would that dovetail into maybe make it a Streets & Sidewalks actual committee meeting or was it specific to?

Mayor Togliatti said I was thinking more just meeting with the residents pertaining to that specific project.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so that's north of the cemetery?

Mayor Togliatti said that is north of the cemetery.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked do you have any discussions going on about the center strips for the rest of Brecksville Road?

Mayor Togliatti said that would be related to the streetscape project, and how the planning comes out on that streetscape project and what the plan is for the center islands within that district and moving north and south with the same look.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I believe Mayor we were planning on setting something aside each year for that because I still think I would agree as far as putting it underground the utilities from the downtown area. I think if you are looking long range, you would really want to have a downtown feel. I know it's going to cost a lot. Anything else, you still have a lot of wires hanging there.

Mayor Togliatti said just to determine the costs First Energy has to do the actual engineering to give us a cost estimate. So, we have to spend a substantial amount of money.

Councilperson Wisnieski said just like from Chestnut down to underground.

Mayor Togliatti said Daisy.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Daisy either to Stone or through the Public Square area. It wouldn't make much sense to go any farther south than that.

Councilperson Asseff said what I would like to see with that is a plan incorporating a streetscape of what that downtown will become, not just do the streetscape plan and bury the utilities and then say now what. What do we want to draw to downtown, whether it's retail or even if retail may not be able to be supported. What do we want to draw because we are putting something there to show this is a great place to be, but what is that place?

Vice Mayor Grendel said through my estate work I have met with financial planners and accountants, and they said if we had something, they wouldn't mind being a smaller office in the downtown area where you do have the amenities where somebody can come and see them and grab a sandwich or a Starbucks. It would lead to other businesses, but they said they would rather be off Rockside and be in a less traffic area like our downtown area than to be, if there was something available that made sense. I think there would be a demand for that if we were able to do it.

Councilperson Trakas said just small offices.

Vice Mayor Grendel said an office where you might have three or four financial planners or accountants.

Councilperson Trakas said even something like in Middleburg or Berea where they have 12 lawyers in one building. They do office sharing space. I don't have a problem with that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I know where I am located, in talking to my client, he would rather go there on Brecksville Road by Hillside than to go to an office on Rockside.

Councilperson Kapusta said be able to park right by your business, sure.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said that would potentially make it inviting. I think someone would see the advantage to that and have mixed use with some offices and maybe other ancillary stores.

Mayor Togliatti said and that is the conceptual plan for the west side of the street there. Now that the new pastor has taken over at St. Michael's, I reached out to him and introduced myself; but we haven't had a formal meeting to sit down and talk about the future of their property and their buildings. We did have those discussions with Father Pete. Unfortunately, it was on his way out.

Vice Mayor Grendel said the new pastor might be more amenable because he was a business person. He has just been a priest lately in life; but he spent 20 years. Well he served in the military. He might be more amenable to something like that.

Mayor Togliatti said and when I talked to him he wasn't even aware that the church owned the buildings that they do. So, he has to get up to speed a little bit.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and he's going to the Civic Center to join up here because he heard about the amenities there.

Councilperson Trakas said I don't see the big value of burying the utilities for the cost. That's just my opinion. If you could do it for less, but you are talking about like a million dollars a mile; it seems to be the value of that does not appear to be obvious to me. Now Mark Sutula and I had lunch a couple of months ago. He would like to do some things to his little mall, and I think Jeremy is talking to him. He thinks it's huge. So, he's a business owner so he knows more than I.

Councilperson Wisnieski said until he has to pay for part of it.

Councilperson Trakas said yeah right. If someone else is paying for it, it might be the greatest thing.

Councilperson Asseff said that's why I wanted to see a plan because of the expense of burying that. So, if we have an encompassing plan saying now this makes sense. If we don't have a plan and do it, a downtown now without utility lines, what's next?

Councilperson Trakas said I know when we did it on Rockside it made sense. This one I don't have the same feeling.

Vice Mayor Grendel said for downtown if you wanted more of the same, then you wouldn't want to entertain; if you have plans of it being a place.

Councilperson Trakas said if Jeremy can say hey we don't get this type of business because of the lines, I don't know. I guess it has to be more compelling than it just doesn't look nice. Of course it doesn't look nice, but is it really a million dollar a mile not look nice?

Vice Mayor Grendel said they haven't had any interruption with electrical service or anything on Rockside.

Mayor Togliatti said no, but Delmonico's had to shut down on New Year's Eve because they lost power.

Councilperson Trakas said of all the times.

Mayor Togliatti said I think there was an event.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked how did they lose power?

Mayor Togliatti said the high winds on New Year's Eve.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so when we are talking about the streetscape down Brecksville Road, when are we going to start on it?

Mayor Togliatti said well Council decided to set aside money.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so time that out.

Mayor Togliatti said we set \$250,000, and you and Jeremy just met with Jeff Kerr.

City Engineer Ramm said right, GPD gave us a proposal for some traffic. They really want to update and get new traffic counts because the last one we did was 3 to 5 years ago. They are looking for potential funding sources if there are safety crashes that there's big pots of money that are available when you are solving safety issues while doing a streetscape type project.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so we aren't talking about this year.

City Engineer Ramm said there's a lot of planning that needs to happen.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so we aren't talking about this year, right?

City Engineer Ramm said we are going to start spending the money this year.

Councilperson Wisnieski said so in the meantime, down Brecksville Road looks horrible. So, today is January 5th, can we ask that maybe April 1st that we clean those strips up.

Mayor Togliatti said we clean them every spring.

Councilperson Wisnieski said no.

Councilperson Narduzzi said more than power washing them.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I'm sorry, but maybe spring and fall is the way to do it, but I am just saying they look horrible. There's moss, and I know people keep hitting them; and I know that they aren't as manageable as we want them, but we have to do something about them.

Councilperson Narduzzi said we painted some. We stained some section. Didn't we do a test section or something?

Mayor Togliatti said we talked about it at probably your Buildings & Lands meeting maybe staining one and seeing if it revitalized it.

Councilperson Narduzzi said there are so many types of refinishing tools Don. Jim Piteo knows a lot about this stuff.

Councilperson Wisnieski said you know the permeable pavers.

Councilperson Narduzzi said it's actually revitalizing old pavers, but they do have to be worn and torn.

Councilperson Trakas asked are they permeable?

Councilperson Narduzzi said no not these.

Councilperson Wisnieski said he has all these ideas.

Councilperson Narduzzi said there are products out there to spruce them up. What the longevity is, if it's worthwhile doing it, I don't know that. I am not an expert on it, but I know there are a lot of products out there to do it. It just looks so bad.

Councilperson Wisnieski said it looks so dated.

Councilperson Kapusta said and this is my ignorance on it because I don't know. I see a lot of times when people will do it in residential areas, they will do the stamped concrete. Is that not a viable option here because it looks very nice, and it's more level so for maintenance or if a plow goes over or something; it's not up and down. Is that even viable or no?

City Engineer Ramm said I think it would be.

Councilperson Narduzzi said the whole cost with the pavers was if they didn't do what they are doing now, we could replace them. We are just not replacing them.

Councilperson Trakas said you are always going to have cracks.

Councilperson Narduzzi said it's a more expensive maintenance issue than what we want to deal with for the pavers.

Councilperson Kapusta said I like the look.

Councilperson Trakas said both of them are expensive to maintain.

Councilperson Narduzzi said the center of town, the pavers are atrocious. Every time somebody comes and does something, a week later there is a big crevice, a hole.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that's a problem. That's a big issue.

Mayor Togliatti said the matching stone and the matching caps to repair them is a problem too.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we used stamped concrete down there by our sign on Rockside and Brecksville.

Councilperson Kapusta said I think that looks very nice there.

Vice Mayor Grendel said there's not much traffic on it.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked is that the stamped concrete?

Councilperson Kapusta said yes.

Councilperson Narduzzi said but people aren't driving on it. These are like rollover curbs, right? People can cross over from one side to the other side.

Councilperson Trakas said that's where you really get your wear and tear.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and the salt is killing them. They throw it on there, and that just eats the coloring away, eats the material away.

Councilperson Wisnieski said we really have no choice but to do it that way.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there anything new about the Northwest Quadrant, or just that they are going to come in?

Mayor Togliatti said they are going to meet with the School Board. We are very close to having all the documents finalized.

Law Director O'Brien said I spoke to their lawyers yesterday because I was a little confused on the way they structured it, and to better understand it. I want to have a chance to talk with John just to verify the TIF. They are using Walter Haverfield, a big lawyer and used it with another client over in Strongsville. So, what they want to do is be the construction agent for the City so they could manage the project. There doesn't appear to be a fee in that, so they can manage the public and capture the TIF dollars. I need John to explain that a little bit more to me because I left a message for him and copied the Mayor and Jeremy. I spoke to Jeremy, and it seems like an extra layer there, why not just do a design build or something. So, we should have that finalized this week.

Vice Mayor Grendel said again, how they met with us in the past in Executive Session.

Mayor Togliatti said yes.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked is there plan to start in 2019 or is that looking still until 2020?

Law Director O'Brien said my impression, they did not say this definitively to me; but based on my conversation and now hearing that they may want to come in February, they are gearing up to do something here in 2019. I don't know what that is.

Councilperson Trakas asked does anything that is happening in Seven Hills impact what we are talking about?

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what's really happening?

Mayor Togliatti said not too much. They are working with Fairmount Properties. They have proposed 350 apartment units. It's mostly residential with I think 100,000 square foot of retail or office space; and they are realizing now that it's a very challenging site, very expensive to develop. I think their gap is extremely huge, so they are asking for a tremendous amount of TIF revenue from the City and schools, similar to what we experienced.

Councilperson Trakas said I think the Parma Board of Education is a big no on that.

Councilperson Wisnieski said there was an article in the paper recently about the ratio of residential to commercial, right? Does anybody remember what that was? There was an article that people had concern that it was going to be all residential, apartments and that. They passed

something in the Memorandum of Understanding that it had to be this percentage of commercial, and I just don't remember what that was.

Councilperson Trakas said well now they hired an outside firm to evaluate some of the claims on finances. I talked to Tony Biasiatta, his mom's not doing so well; but they are trying to evaluate some of those concerns.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I think I heard somewhere that they were trying to get some of the companies in Independence to see if they had an interest to moving to Seven Hills.

Mayor Togliatti said Fairmount Properties has been reaching out to some of our large businesses to try to attract them to their new development.

Councilperson Wisnieski said we need an anti-poaching.

Mayor Togliatti said I spoke with the Mayor about that.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well then that potential Northwest Quadrant might be something that will be, we will have to see how it goes out; but it may be something we may be dealing with this year too.

Mayor Togliatti said we will be dealing with components of it. I imagine they would be bringing us some of their preliminary plans to the Planning Commission this year.

Councilperson Trakas said that's why I was wondering if anything that Seven Hills was doing affected that type of thing.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and they didn't say anything about the vote, which way the vote went on the housing.

Mayor Togliatti asked IRG? Jeremy is the one that communicates directly with them. I don't even think they were aware to be honest.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked what was your question?

Councilperson Narduzzi said the way the vote went about the multi-family housing because they had a component of housing on there.

Councilperson Trakas asked did they? I didn't think that they did.

Mayor Togliatti said they did not.

Councilperson Trakas said I think when they were talking about that village, that was more of a retail type, having things all in one place.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked and have they have some retail because there's signs.

Mayor Togliatti said they are marketing the site.

Vice Mayor Grendel said after that's all said and done in the Northwest Quadrant, there's still other property that is owned by Dalad. This might not be the end of the development there, but at least the City owned property. There could be potential extension into Dalad's property.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked does anyone on Council have any other goals they would like to see for the coming year that we haven't discussed today?

Councilperson Wisnieski said I just found the article. It was dated December 20th on Cleveland.com, and it says that Seven Hills the MOU also states that at least 55% of the overall contribution of development must be commercial development. So, when you think about it that way, 45% is residential.

Mayor Togliatti said the plans that I have seen, that doesn't meet that because they have over 350,000 square foot of residential.

Councilperson Trakas said that's going to have an effect on us with traffic for sure.

Councilperson Narduzzi said absolutely, coming down through to get on I-77.

Mayor Togliatti said and the Mayor of Seven Hills is committed to providing me with the traffic study that was recently completed for that stretch of Rockside Road.

Councilperson Narduzzi said and Chestnut Road too. They are going to be cutting down through there.

Councilperson Kapusta said Crossview to Chestnut.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well that will be something we will have to keep an eye, and Mayor with your contact with Seven Hills, and we will have to monitor that closely too.

Vice Mayor Grendel said I don't know if there's anything else with Don.

Councilperson Narduzzi said just real quick, just to back up one second with Councilperson Wisnieski and talking about the center. I don't want to lose focus on that either; so if we could put that onto a future workshop when we meet for a workshop just so we can discuss that further at length.

Mayor Togliatti asked Streets & Sidewalks?

Vice Mayor Grendel said it's not really a new project, just monitoring the ones that are going to be taking place this year, and we are going to have the downtown area.

Councilperson Veverka said trying to maintain conditions.

Mayor Togliatti said and I will have Leon do some research on any sort of staining or upgrade that could potentially be done to those islands.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I know Dave and I talked about different options.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and just one quick thing that we have on the agenda, the method of communication with Council and the Administration. What we talked about is Debi I think you would like to find out from the Councilpersons if it's easier or better for her to give you a text message or an e-mail for things that need an immediate response within a day or two because sometimes you are in a situation where you don't check your e-mail. So, whatever is most convenient; if you would rather have a text message sent to your cell phone. Sometimes we need to vote on something or some question, and Debi says I got responses from four or five people. This way if you prefer a text, everything is better.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I would take a text to my private phone because I don't carry the City phone all day long.

Vice Mayor Grendel said it's just more convenient.

Councilperson Trakas said text to private phone would be good.

Vice Mayor Grendel said Debi I would go for a text also. Sometimes you don't look at your e-mail on a daily basis.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked why don't you just pick up the phone and call the people who aren't responding?

Councilperson Narduzzi said Debi doesn't like to talk to us.

Councilperson Veverka said one other thing on a kind of related topic. I have had a few residents express some frustration in trying to get ahold of some of my colleagues. So, I am not sure if you have the City phone and you don't use it or however you are listed in the City newsletter; but they are not having luck in getting a hold of some folks.

Mayor Togliatti said and look at the City newsletter and see if the phone number listed is the one you want in there.

Councilperson Wisnieski said you are assuming that they are communicating.

Councilperson Veverka said I am assuming they say I have tried to get a hold of “x”, but I end up getting dumped someplace; and they don’t necessarily get back to me or whatever. I am just making sure that if you think you are in a position where people are not getting a hold of you, maybe there is a problem; whether it’s how you are listed or whatever. I know that some people, I don’t have a City phone, so mine dumps right to my personal phone; but depending on what you have going, take a look at it.

Councilperson Narduzzi asked does everybody have City phones here?

Councilperson Wisnieski said I had that with the Mayor’s office, they tell me that they don’t get a call back; and then I find out they don’t communicate with the Mayor’s office.

Councilperson Narduzzi said so if everybody could check their City phones. When you go into your e-mails, and there’s a setting up there for sent e-mails, received e-mail; you click on that. If I scroll down on mine, and I have two different groups; so I have all groups and I have City groups. If I kick on City groups, I know when John texts the Mayor. I know when John texts Jeremy. It all comes up on my phone.

Councilperson Wisnieski said I have that too.

Councilperson Narduzzi said I started reading it when all that stuff was going on with the School Board, I am reading all these e-mails that I am not supposed to be seeing.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked did you have pictures?

Councilperson Narduzzi said something is wrong, and I was going to bring it up to the IT guy because I don’t want that shit on my phone. I want to give it back. I don’t even need it. I just don’t want to read something that I am not supposed to be reading.

Councilperson Trakas said I have an old phone. It keeps telling me to do something that I can’t do. So, I hit cancel, and I can never access any of my messages. I can answer the phone when it rings. I broke my original phone, and this was a gift.

Vice Mayor Grendel said well maybe just for Debi’s sake, if you want to a different phone number going to the directory there, let her know.

The other thing, whatever you prefer; if it’s a phone call or if it’s a text message or e-mail, whatever you prefer. This way Debi will know that’s the best way to get the information to you.

Councilperson Kapusta said and also just needing to be responsive, whatever way is the best way. She may use that, but it’s still our responsibility to get back to her. She has all these people to track after, and we should be courteous to get back to her quickly.

Vice Mayor Grendel said and just briefly we have the discussion of social media as a tool for Council and what we want to get used in the way of communicating things. A lot of the young people now and everything, they are on all kinds of forms of social media, whether we want to even get involved or just to say no we aren't going to.

Several people began speaking at once again.

Vice Mayor Grendel said because you don't want to put things out on impulse or emotion.

Councilperson Trakas said for example our meeting agendas and stuff like that. So, putting them on our social media sites; I think that would be helpful. I am not on Twitter. I don't have a lot of people who follow me or whatever; but if you had it on Twitter as well. I always re-forward whatever they put out for economic development purposes; but if you did some things on Facebook and Twitter. We have accounts. You can put the meeting agendas for the main meeting and for these committee meetings. People can't say that they don't know what's going on. Who uses it? I don't know, it's not huge.

Mayor Togliatti said the City does have Facebook.

Councilperson Trakas said just do it on our general City one.

Mayor Togliatti said Fahlgren Mortine handles it, so I can have them send out every meeting agenda.

Councilperson Trakas said I think that's fair. It's just one of our tools that we communicate with people on. We could use these things. I think people do use them.

Vice Mayor Grendel said especially the younger people.

Councilperson Kapusta said that's why I asked to have this on the agenda because when we were having some of the things come up over the course of the year; we had some of our younger constituents saying we need other ways to be communicated with. So, I think that's important. Now having said that, my daughter tells me that millennials don't use Facebook anymore; so I don't know. She's saying that they go on Instagram and all the other things that they use; but the other part of it is too, I just think that I feel strongly; and I know it's all a personal choice, but I feel strongly that what we communicate on there, if we are communicating something on an individual basis, it should come across as I am saying this and not that it's representative of the entire Council. I have had some people misconstrue things in the community.

Councilperson Wisnieski said that was especially true with this school issue.

Councilperson Kapusta said when we write those things we don't intentionally mean to do it that way; but I just think that's important. We saw that from the other side too where some things

were presented from the school that were not necessarily reflective of what the majority thought; but yet that's how it was presented in the media. I don't want us to get into that problem as well.

Councilperson Veverka asked what's been the response to having the Council meeting out there? Do we have any ideas?

Mayor Togliatti said well the things that we have live streamed, the viewership is extremely minimal. You are talking less than 10.

Councilperson Veverka asked 10 people?

Mayor Togliatti replied yes.

Councilperson Wisnieski asked so when we have the new website and all of that, can we have that posted on there, live streaming?

Mayor Togliatti said well we would have to invest in the technology to be able to live stream.

Councilperson Veverka said now it was a concern wasn't it the fact the cost for the return.

Mayor Togliatti said we live streamed my State of the City address. We have live streamed some of the public meetings, and it's minimal.

Councilperson Trakas said I think what we are trying to do to inform residents as much as possible. The key is like look hey we make these things available. If you want to access them, then access them; but social media is free. I am not suggesting we do the live streaming on a regular basis, but just information out there. Hey, this is going to be on the agenda, this is what we have going on. We do it anyway for community events, for fun community events. Doing it for serious community events isn't a bad idea either. Maybe almost nobody will see it, but we have done it; and it's one of the things that we can. You build an audience on social media. With my Military Reserve when I was the Public Affairs Officer, I took over and we had 200 people who followed this organization; now there are 4,000. So, it's like re-tweeting and all that stuff. It builds. I think one of the things we can do, and we have this outfit that helps us to do this stuff; it's not hard to do. For \$100 you can find everybody in Independence who is on Facebook, and you can send them a note do you want to like our page? We have never really done that. Those are small things that you can do to engage people. Sometimes they like it sometimes they don't. Maybe not a lot of people are on Facebook anymore, I don't know. Old people are. I am on Facebook. At least you have tried to do those types of things to engage people, and people participate for the level that they want to be involved with. I was telling Vern if the community wasn't such a well-run community, we would have a flood of people at every meeting; but when things are running well, people aren't as interested. It's supposed to run well.

Vice Mayor Grendel said we can start on a smaller basis and try some things and see what kind of response we get and build from there.

Mayor Togliatti said we will, and with the website upgrade it will be much more user-friendly. You will be able to navigate it easily on a mobile device which now it's very frustrating. So, I think it will be more well-utilized.

Councilperson Trakas asked what timeframe are you looking at?

Mayor Togliatti said I think the first quarter here, the next couple of months.

Councilperson Kapusta said I feel the same way with what Jim is saying with the education piece. If we use our website to have an article about a TIF or this or that; then hopefully it can counteract some of the negativity that's out there when other people are putting things that they have a right to put, but maybe they don't always understand the full facts. So, that our residents can read both and make their own opinion on it.

Councilperson Trakas said when there's only one source of information out there, you tend to go with whatever that source is telling you, right.

Vice Mayor Grendel asked anything else? Are we ready to adjourn?

Moved by Veverka, seconded by Asseff, to adjourn the Strategic Planning Committee meeting of January 5, 2019. Voice Vote: 7 yes/0 no; motion carried.

The Strategic Planning Committee meeting was then adjourned at 12:19 p.m.