



Gregory P. Kurtz

Mayor

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TO: *Council Members*
City Directors

FROM: *Mayor Gregory P. Kurtz*

DATE: *April 17, 2020*

RE: *Administrative Update*

MY WEEK IN REVIEW:

This week on Tuesday, April 14th, we held our first virtual Council Meeting which I felt went extremely well for our first time conducting a Council Meeting in this type of forum. I want to **thank** our Council Members for their cooperation as well as the over 20 attendees who listened in.

There were 13 Ordinances and 1 Resolution on the April Agenda and six (6) of those pieces of legislation were passed on the Consent Agenda with a unanimous vote of 7-0. The activity on the remaining 8 pieces of legislation was as follows:

Ordinance 2020-38 authorizing Change Order No. 1 to the agreement with Fabrizi Trucking & Paving Company, Inc. for the Rockside Woods Boulevard North Road Extension Improvements (Part A) and the Brecksville Road Improvements (Part B) Construction Contract was (**Adopted 4-3; Narduzzi, Trakas, Walchanowicz – No**).

Ordinance 2020-39 authorizing Change Order No. 2 to the agreement with CATTS Construction, Inc. for the Lafayette Subdivision Improvements Project was (**Adopted 5-2; Trakas, Veverka-No**).

Ordinance 2020-42 establishing the Chestnut Woods Phase VI Incentive District and declaring improvements to certain parcels of property in the Incentive District to be a public purpose for purposes of sections 5709.40 and 5709.42 of the Ohio Revised Code describing public improvements to be made to benefit or serve the Incentive District, requiring the owners of parcels within the Incentive District to make service payments in lieu of taxes; establishing a Chestnut Woods Phase VI Municipal Public Improvement Tax Increment Equivalent Fund for

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the deposit of service payments, making related authorizations pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Sections 5709.40, 5709.42 and 5709.43 was left on **First Reading**.

Ordinance 2020-43 authorizing a payment to J.D. Williamson Construction Company, Inc. for extra work performed on the Hemlock All-Purpose Trail Project was (**Adopted 6-1; Narduzzi-No**).

Ordinance 2020-45 authorizing funding for emergencies or other catastrophic events was (**Adopted 5-2; Synek, Veverka-No**).

Ordinance 2020-47 authorizing the Mayor to enter into a permanent sidewalk easement and temporary grading easement with Dale A. Veverka in connection with the Upper Brookside Road Improvements Project was (**Adopted 6-1; Veverka Abstain**).

Two additional public meetings were held on Thursday, April 16th (Architectural Board of Review and Board of Zoning Appeals). For information on how to join future public meetings in this format, please visit the City website: www.independenceohio.org or Contact Clerk of Council Debi Beal at 216.524.4131.

On a final note, this week we have been calling a number of local businesses to inquire as to how they are doing during this challenging time and to see if there is anything the City can do for them. The health and well-being of each business along with their employees is extremely important to us.

COVID-19 UPDATE:

I continued participating in conference calls at all levels of our government this week to be on top of the latest information in regards to the current health crisis. The good news is that based on the statistics of the last week, the curve is flattening slightly in Ohio. However, even with this good news, Governor DeWine cautioned at his Press Conference on Thursday, April 16th that the Virus is still out there and it will be something we have to live with until we obtain a vaccine which could be available in a year or so.

The Governor understands the importance of “opening up our government”, and so beginning on May 1st, the state will begin a phased-in approach to reopening the state economy. The plan to open Ohio’s economy is a work in progress, but it is crucial we open up the right way or the consequences could be horrendous. Governor DeWine will be working with the Governors of Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, Indiana and Kentucky to reopen the region’s economy in a coordinated way.

Life is going to look a little different until we get a vaccine. People will be encouraged to wear a mask in public and big events such as fairs, sporting events and concerts can be very problematic in the spread of the virus. When asked at yesterday’s Press Conference if the Stay at Home

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Order will be lifted and schools will go back in session, the Governor said he was not going to comment, rather they will be looking at things on a week by week basis.

MAY ACTIVITIES:

We traditionally look to May as the beginning of summer. Our children are nearing the end of their school year, our Little League practices are beginning, residents look forward to our annual Memorial Day Services and parade and of course many look forward to the opening of Elmwood Pool!

I wish I could assure our residents that all of these events we look forward to will happen once the state releases the Governor's Stay at Home Order, but unfortunately I cannot. I will assure you, however, that Independence will continue to follow the guidelines set by the state to protect the residents of Independence while maintaining the essential services we provide.

Please know that if the state does not lift restrictions on recreational facilities and the ability to gather together for community events, we will continue to look for ways to be creative in offering activities and recognizing holidays.

NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER:

Our annual National Day of Prayer luncheon to be held at the Civic Center on Thursday, May 7th will not be able to take place this year as previously scheduled due to the mandates as a result of COVID-19. While we can't gather together physically this year and enjoy a prayer lunch led by our pastors, we can still join in with others across the country.



On Thursday, May 7, please join us!

- May 7th at Noon: Bells of Saint Michael's Church will ring to remind everyone to pray.
- Take a few minutes to walk outside and pray for our City, our State, and the Nation.
- From 8:00 pm -10:00 pm go to Facebook Live to join in on the National Day of Prayer Service. Facebook Live at [National Day of Prayer Task Force](#)

NEIGHBOR HELPING NEIGHBOR:

As the weeks roll on, please continue to check on your family members and neighbors to see if they are in need of groceries, or call them on the phone and take a few minutes to chat so they know someone cares. Isolation can bring any of us down but it can be especially difficult for our senior population... so please take the time to reach out to others.

A number of people have reached out to us to extend their services and/or to make a monetary donation that can be used to assist some of our residents who may be in need as a result of these challenging times. That said, if you know of someone that needs our assistance, please don't hesitate to contact our Community Services Department at 216.524.7373. If you have the time to assist us, whether it be running an errand for medication or groceries for one of our residents, please call the Community Services Department to be put on a list. ***Thank you!***

SWIFTREACH MESSAGES:

Every Friday at 7:00 pm I am sending out a SwiftReach message to our residents to keep you informed. The most recent message can be viewed on the City's website. If you or anyone you know has not been receiving these messages, please call the Community Services Department at 216.524.7373 to be registered.

I also have to extend an apology to those of you who received my SwiftReach message last week that may have been cut short on many of your phones. We are accessing the current system which has been in use for some time and eventually will need to be replaced. Until that happens, those of you who happen to have two numbers listed in the system, once the call is picked up either by a human or a voicemail it will move on to the next contact. You will not receive a message on both of your numbers.



CITY SHRED DAY POSTPONED:

Airing on the side of caution, the City Shred Day, originally scheduled for this Saturday, April 18th, has been postponed to Sunday, May 17th. Because this date falls on a Sunday, the hours of the shred will be Noon to 4:00 pm or until the limit of 12,000 pounds has been reached.

This event is for any resident or City employee that may have paper/documents that they would like shredded. Residents or employees may bring their papers in bags or boxes (limit- 8 boxes/bags per household) to the City Hall Parking Lot. Staples and/or small paper clips do not

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need to be removed. Documents are shredded “on site” and all shredding is recycled. All City Departments may take advantage of this opportunity as well.

If there are any questions, please contact the Finance Department.

EASTER AND SPRING SURPRISE WAS A BIG SUCCESS!

I could not get over the smiles on the faces of nearly 300 of our children as they drove into the Civic Center parking lot last Saturday to be greeted by the Easter Bunny and all the wonderful staff who were there to assist him! A big ***thank you*** to members of the Community Services Team for organizing this much appreciated Easter Surprise and to the Recreation staff for decorating the Civic Center grounds and creating a fun Easter display for the families of Independence!

