

**BUILDING & BUILDING CODES COMMITTEE MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 18, 2020**

The Building & Building Codes Committee meeting was held on February 18, 2020, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.

**PRESENT:** Committee Members: Chair Linda Barath, Vice Chair Jessica Fenos, Dan Langshaw; Council: President of Council Paul Marnecheck, Vincent Weimer, Jeremy Dietrich, Mike Wos; Administration: Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Ken Bilinovich, Finance Director Eric Dean; Economic Development Director Tom Jordan Other: Dawn Carbone-McDonald, Ed Baznik, Fred Schriever, Jr., James Quinn, Gloria Kacik.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Ms. Fenos to **approve the minutes for the January 21, 2020 Building and Building Code Committee meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Cemetery**

Tom Jordan states the cemetery, I was informed this morning by the engineer that the bids are going to go out the first week of February for the cold storage building and then we will wait for responses on those bids. The design is finished we are just waiting to get the bids together to bid out the restoration.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Ordinance 20-40 – amending 1282 Off Street Parking and Loading**

Tom Jordan states this is actually a zoning ordinance relative to updating this section of the code. We undertook this last year we hired Bob Brown, who is a fellow of the American Institute of Certified Planners, an outside consultant. For those of you, in the packet, if you reviewed your packet there is Chapter 1282, it is lengthy and it is not customary for the length of this section in a suburban city. Most of the time when developers have come on new construction occurs over where the schools were developed. They said what are your parking requirements, so normally you would refer them to this section of the code and they can figure it out themselves. Well frankly, no one could figure it out Chapter 1282 as it stood. So, the major portion of what we are doing in Chapter 1282 is deleting 7 pages. Those all have to do with the design and the angle spots, etc. So, we are really simplifying the code of 1282. The other thing that most people are concerned about with parking, has to do with landscaping and as you notice on the very first page of 1282, we added section 1282.17, now adding a section does not typically mean simplification but in this case it did make something that is a very important feature on the parking lots an addition. What we did on landscaping is that the code really said as it stood, well you have to hire a certified landscaper architect and take it in front of the planning commission, we actually inserted a section in there, if you look at the cities guidelines and took the whole project to planning commission, you could get your parking lot approved. That was the addition of 1282.17.

Under lighting regulations of 1282.11, I am just going to highlight the changes that are within the section that had to do with lighting. The current regulations provided standards for the illumination of the lot. In general, for most lay people what you don't want is to bleed out from parking lots that the light is so bright it is bleeding out into the neighboring lot, they should light appropriately the lot that they are in, but they should not have light that is overgrowing into the neighboring property. What we provided is that we can administratively review their calculations relative from, typically they are able to provide that to us and approve administratively the lighting of the parking lot. The parking space and aisle size that is where the 7 pages have been eliminated. When 1282.12 and 1282.13, if you actually see your online thing is that we got

rid of a bunch of tables and drawings, that is really what it is, so really, we simplified that section. The number of parking spaces required under 1282.05 is really the last major thing that I have not touched upon. It really has to do with when we have this section which clearly someone many years took from some other city and plopped it into our code. Anticipated major shift work at a major factory so that they provided a formula for parking space for shift work and it really does not apply to our code. I will tell you that there is one important part of this that you should be aware was that, and more that we run into more frequently, the current code requires a two and half off street parking spaces for each dwelling unit in an apartment building or townhouse. Most of these codes require one or two off street parking so what we are doing is we are requiring one for each dwelling unit, one inside and two off. Now dwelling units as you know, residential development is alive and well in North Royalton and is something that we have requirements for and is often used. Those are sort of the highlight of the changes, again, I will restate the section relative to parking spaces they are designed in angles where we deleted seven pages is the most significant change and our goal here was so that developers and users of the section would be able to review the section and would able to do it on their own and not scratch their head and call us every time we would be doing it.

One of the more simpler examples was that one of the apartment buildings, actually it is a condo building redid their parking space, all the spaces were worn out relative to the paint jobs so they forgot really how many spaces were required in the lot, so they called the City and this is just a pavement contractor who has no idea, and said how many spaces are required. So, we went and tried to look into it and it was very confusing so at that point when we said when we had the time, we would undertake the revamping of the section.

Councilman Langshaw asked if this will basically get us in line with other cities.

Tom Jordan states it is, the consultant he said that this is not a typical section for a suburb of our size.

Councilman Langshaw states because of all the diagrams and a whole bunch of stuff it seems more specific if it is more like the Planning Commission, and that kind of stuff. To me it makes a lot of sense especially since we are deleting seven pages that we don't need to make it easier for people to understand, I like it.

Councilman Langshaw states will make a motion to recommend Ordinance 20-40 to Council for approval. Councilwoman Fenos seconded the motion. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

## **2. Proposed Ordinance – Sale of Compost Facility**

Tom Jordan states I don't know how many members of Council are familiar with compost facilities. Wastewater division owns a facility through the waste water division where we made compost essentially, we take biproduct of the handling of the waste mix it with mulch and create compost and we would offer it to our residents, however, for a variety of reasons that became a very expensive proposition for the city over the years and it was discontinued some years ago. However, the facility remained in the city. Eventually, recently Council authorized the sale of the front part of the facility which is this building up front. Now it is the North Royalton school bus facility on Royalton Road not too far from the service center. The rear portion which is outlined in yellow is a rear portion where the storage of the compost used to occur and the City owns that property still and that red line that heads out that actually goes off the page that is an easement that was retained, you cannot create a landlocked parcel you have to have an easement out to a dedicated street. There is an easement that goes from that yellow parcel down that driveway which the North Royalton School system use to Royalton Road for this parcel. What we are seeking this evening is authorization from Council to go out and seek a bid. At the time or a response to an advertise. We are going to advertise this for sale, you are declaring one that we don't need this for any city purpose any longer and authorizing for us to go for a minimum bid of \$320,000.00. How did we reach \$320,000.00? We had an outside commercial appraiser, Emily Braman over a year ago to evaluate the entire site both for the sale of the school facility as well as the possible sale of this land. It is zoned industrial, as you can see there is a number of neighboring industrial users that are there, that may have an interest in using this back section of the property. Our discussions with the school indicated that they did not have a need for this large area in the back, so it was the cities intention

to put this up for sale and see if we can find a private user that would be able to use it and we are requesting this evening that Council authorizes for us to do that. The appraisal from Emily Braman indicates that these 12 acres given their location and access that we should be able to receive somewhere around \$320,000.00.

Councilman Langshaw states what is it zoned?

Tom Jordan states industrial.

Councilman Dietrich states I have a quick question, you are asking Council for the approval for it to be listed to be for sale?

Tom Jordan states we will do a legal notice and follow the public requirements for the sale of City property. The first premises are that we don't need it for any city purpose and the second portion is to actually offer it for sale.

Councilman Dietrich states well if we are authorizing to offer it for sale then when it comes times, if we get offers that comes back to Council again?

Tom Jordan states yes. Councilman Dietrich states and the schools have expressed no interest in the property?

Tom Jordan states they are well aware that we were going to sell this. Actually, we did a lot split at the time of the sale which separated us from their lot.

Councilman Dietrich states you said potentially, I know it is not official legally...

Tom Jordan states yes, I will be honest with you the adjacent owners have expressed interest as noncontiguous people in the property. It has excellent I71 access.

Councilman Weimer states if it is not taken up by the adjacent owners what plans or do we have plans, I am pretty familiar with that property because I use to drive a bus down that road that is a pretty tight drive as it is right now, I am a little concerned with opening up a sale of property without some type of thought put into what we are going to do with egress into that space.

Tom Jordan states the egress/ingress really follows the width of the current asphalt road. And really it was one that provides access to the dedicated road and in order to do the lot split as we did it. And two it did have a formula in there for the maintenance of the road in the event that owner did use the property, so that there would be a balance between the school and whoever that prospective purchaser is. If an adjacent property owner has it, we can speculate, they may not use it much, I doubt they would extinguish it entirely because it is always helpful to have another entrance so to speak. You're right, and I think the hardest problem is actually once you get to Royalton Road and getting out is a busy time, hopefully the road widening actually will help that a little, we did take that into consideration as part of the project.

Councilman Weimer states then my only comment would be if we do sell it to somebody that will taking larger trucks back there or something like that, we probably need to address that before the sale is finalized and figure out how we are going accommodate buses and larger trucks.

Tom Jordan states I told all the prospective purchasers the ones that I am aware of that the typical thing on any property, lets just say we didn't own that before they offered they would bring in a preliminary plan to the city and that we would go over our concerns relative to zoning or traffic or whatever and they would try to address that as it moves forward. Most owners, perspective purchasers don't want to buy a piece of property that they can't use so they do a little due diligence up front typically with a city, not always but usually the smarter ones do and we anticipate on this one, it is us that they would do that.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states Tom how long do they have to get their bids in?

Tom Jordan states you know the specifics on the notice requirements I do not have, but we will follow what is required by law or lengthen them frankly. The law I think sets the minimum standards and we may lengthen them a bit or out. We are not in a huge rush to sell it.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states this is one the things that we are allowed to discuss in executive session.

Tom Jordan states Mr. Kelly is here, I guess if we came in and had three offers and you want to evaluate them in a private session, you probably could take it into executive session.

Tom Kelly states Mr. President, purchase and sale of real estate is one of the exceptions that executive session is permitted to be used for.

Councilwoman Barath states what is the next step?

Tom Jordan states the next step is if Council, if you take it out of committee and recommend it to Council whenever Council passes legislation and then we can publish legal notice for the sale of the property, but we are waiting Council action.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states may I ask a question before you make a motion. Is there anybody that might not be okay with waiving the rules requiring three readings? Is everyone okay comfortable voting on this tonight?

Councilman Langshaw states I will make a motion to recommend Ordinance 20-46 Proposed sale of the Compost Facility to Council for approval. Councilwoman Barath seconded the motion. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0.  
**Motion carried.**

### **3. PUD – Kathleen Timan referral from Planning Commission**

Tom Jordan states the city at one time in its Code had an entity that was called, a section called a planned unit development. Athenian Village is what you are more familiar with on West 130<sup>th</sup> was built under that premise. In a Planned Unit Development, you have the entire development approved by the Planning Commission and Council, and they try to strike a balance through a number of uses. At Athenian Village you may or may not know that there are four rental apartments, there is a nursing home, and there is for sale housing, so you had rentals for sale, and the assisted living. There was one competent that was next to the ambulance building, the ambulance building was also planned, ironically just to let you know, the ambulance building had been vacant for a long time, but recently a new ambulance company surprisingly found it and purchased it and however, the land due south of there is a vacant lot and there were to be two medical office buildings that you can see that are called for there and those were never developed over the last 20 years. People had all of those facilities go to UH, the clinic, Metro, they go to a variety of medical providers, they don't go to one particular user. There was never a demand to build a medical office building. The developer, Mr. Quinn who is actually here this evening, is proposing to use those vacant lots to develop townhouses or for sale housing with the same kind of density that the other for sale housing that are contained in the planning development so what Council is being asked to consider. At one time the entire plandevlop was approved by your prior Council and this section was reserved for commercial so we need your authority to amend the plan to allow an expansion of the residential uses within the Planned Unit Development. So that is really it in a nub, and Mr. Quinn is here this evening to answer any questions.

Councilwoman Barath states so more of those housing units.

Tom Jordan states yes, you can actually see one of them in the corner, this was an amendment to the Planned Unit Development but they didn't think it was substantive enough to take it in front of Council, the Planning Commission, approved that amendment.

Mayor states it is actually five duplexes, so 10 actual residences.

Tom Jordan states that final site plan will be taken up by the Planning Commission but what we are really asking this evening, your consent, the Planning Commission has recommended approval but the Council under the old planned development section that required Council confirmation, somehow came to the current conditional use process is.

Councilwoman Barath states so any storm water type issues were considered under...

Tom Jordan states I can answer that but if Mr. Quinn is here, when this was constructed on the site it did anticipate a joint storm water facility, I believe this site would utilize the current facility.

James Quinn states my engineers and surveyors have been looking at that and actually we are going to retain my green space and the storm water will be managed at a less rate. So, from what our initial calculations are.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states at a greater rate.

Tom Jordan states so the current storm water facility anticipated a lot of asphalt in two buildings so this has more green space and as a result the requirements are all less than what they originally anticipated. So, the current facility should be able to do it. But, they would have to approve that out for our engineering division to make sure that is accurate.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states Planning Commission had a public hearing on this and no residents came forwarding objecting, correct?

Tom Jordan states no they didn't, they were curious and actually Mr. Quinn gets kind of more of it he has talked to the neighboring HOA and is working out arrangements. Because he is utilizing their storm water facility to compensate them for their upkeep, etc.

James Quinn states basically our plan is to come in and develop that and I have worked with the HOA, they actually provided a letter for the Planning Commission that they are for that, they didn't really want to see what was initially planned, now they would like to see what we are proposing in lieu of office buildings.

Councilwoman Barath states I agree, I would not want to see that either.

Mayor states just so everybody knows the one issue on the Planning Commission that is left is the actual approval of the plan, and that was tabled because there was no sense in us going forward with an approval of a final plan until Council would give their approval for the PUD, because if Council would refuse to do that then the plan would not materialize. That is why we had to come to Council and the final plan has not been approved by planning commission. It won't be looked at until Council approves the ordinance now.

Councilman Langshaw states I know that this is in Jessica's ward but I have walked this on foot before and as you know obviously the elevation changes, I am glad you reached out to the homeowners association because the least we want is angry residents, you are trying to improve the site which I think is good given that there really isn't anything over there. What your plans are, are good plans and especially addressing the storm water because Ward 1 is kind of fortunately, well everywhere in the city storm water is a big issue in North Royalton as you know if you are going to build here, but I like for the record that you did reach out to the HOA and of course you will work with the city, to me as long as you do that, it is going to be an improvement to the area, I think it is a good idea.

Councilwoman Fenos states I will make a motion to recommend Ordinance 20-47 PUD – Kathleen Timan Referral from Planning Commission to Council for approval. Councilwoman Langshaw seconded the motion. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Advertising Flag Signs**

Councilwoman Barath states two more items, two more new items that I know of. Mr. Jordan, I had a question from a business owner about those, I think they are called advertising sign flags, this particular business owner was told with no uncertain terms that she was not allowed to have it, but I see it on State Road and another business facility. What is the ruling on that?

Tom Jordan states you can pull a permit for a temporary sign permit there is the code and also what is occurring out there. Those signs, the canvas signs are becoming a lot cheaper to manufacture. Ten years ago, they were too expensive and no one would do them. Under our code, most of it has to do with the regulations of permanent signs. The permanent signs, you should know the size, the lettering, the size of the sign, is somewhat managed under the zoning code. A lot of the code that we deal with has to do with those permanent signs. What those are, are temporary signs they can be moved they are not permanently affixed to anything. I don't know if you noticed Lynx on Royalton Road, it is right across from the compost facility, it has been under construction for a while, they have erected the flag signs and also the canvas sign on it. The reason they did that was because they were already in process to build the permanent sign but it won't be done for like 2 or 3 months, but they want to open, so very frequently they want to put a temporary sign up to open their store and that is a very reasonable request so that they could at least identify that the business is there. So, there is a free temporary permit process for you to do it. For people to permanently place flag signs or those canvas signs between two posts that is not under our code allowed.

Councilwoman Barath states so if you have a permanent sign, then you should not be putting the temporary sign.

Tom Jordan states the concept was you were allowed to do these temporary signs even on a sales day, like you are advertising a sale or for a grand opening or until you are allowed to get a permanent sign up. That is what all of that was about, but the City does not really encourage that. And we did, let's just say it was a year ago or six months ago, it comes up somewhat frequently that they are popping up all over the city because they are becoming so cheap and businesses can afford them. Some businesses feel that it helps bring in traffic to their store, there became a huge rise, so we hit everyone that had them, that did not have a temporary sign permit. Some came in and got a temporary sign permit and then took it down. Some people took it immediately down, some people ignored it and we cited them and then they took it down. The experience that your owner had is accurate, the City more than likely did cite them, they are not allowed, but they are allowed under certain conditions. Essentially the word is temporary not to be there permanently.

Councilwoman Barath states if they want to use it, they should probably come in and get a permit.

Tom Jordan states a temporary sign permit for a sale, a grand opening for a temporary basis but that is the short answer to the one original but you are all inevitably, the funny thing is with that particular issue is like deer and sidewalks, it comes up very frequently for Council versus signage and temporary signage and those flag signs. Some of them get torn over time because of the temporary nature of the construction, they look terrible after a period of days, they fade that is why we don't want them there permanently. Also, people have a bad habit of sticking them in the right of way which they are never allowed to do.

Councilwoman Barath states that is what I was going to say they tend to put them really close to the road.

Tom Jordan states they are never allowed to put it in the right of way.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### **Fred Schriever, Jr., 10282 Foxwood Drive:**

Fred Schriever addressed the committee and states that he is here to address the ban that Cuyahoga County has passed on plastic single use plastic bags and the possibility of opting out and hopefully got a proposal here, but can I just start with one other thing. How many of the people in front of me regularly use reusable bags? How many of you wash them every time you use them? How many of you have a spouse that washes? There is a lot of people that don't use them that way. Anyhow, my proposal is that North Royalton City Council enact an ordinance opting out of the Cuyahoga County single use bag ban. I am also suggesting you will see later on why requiring that grocery retailers provide single use plastic bags for their customers at no charge and posting at the store's checkout, a warning of unwashed reusable bags causing bacteria. That is part of my argument here, so what are some of the reasons why we should have the single use bags, I understand that they take a thousand years to go into the ground or whatever, I have seen other stuff about how many millions of bags in Cuyahoga County, but here is part of the thing. In the Plain Dealer, it just happened to be very timely for me they had an article about these bags, the reusable bags and what they found is a study that was done at the University of Arizona and another university out in that area, those bags generally have 99% bacteria in them and what doesn't help with that bacteria is when you leave them in your car. Now, right now at 25 degrees or 32 degrees maybe it is not a big deal. But at 85 degrees or 90 degrees that bacteria are just going to grow. What kind of bacteria are we talking about? 50% of the bacteria is coliform bacteria. What is that? Well that is a tough one to understand. What I did find out though is that coliform bacteria are in water. When you have it in your water you are not supposed to drink the water. Absence of coliform is a test that actually says the water is drinkable. So now you got these bacteria in your bags, most likely, 8% of the bacteria in the bags is e-coli, bad thing, so how do you treat these things? You are supposed to wash them every time you use them is what the article recommended.

What are some of the costs to our residents doing this thing? Everyone thinks this is a great idea because it is green and it is all those kinds of things but there are some non-green things that come out of this. Some of those things are, lets start with when you show up at the grocery store and I don't know how many of you have done this at the current Giant Eagle we have, but the checkout process has been greatly affected. There are more of these reusable bags, more difficult to pack and thus takes twice as long for you to check out of the store because not only is it your bags that take longer to pack, but also the person in front of you that takes longer to pack and requires the merchant then to open more lanes. They either open more lanes or let you stand there longer and I don't think they are going to let you do that. If they open more lanes, those take people, that might be great if we are here to talk about taxes on the employees but the reality of it is somewhere those people will have to be paid for and it will be in the price of the groceries. It is not going to be in the price of the bags, it will be in the price of the groceries. Theft of reusable bags, these reusable bags are being stolen at stores, you think that doesn't happen. My wife happened to talk to a clerk at the Walmart in Parma and that the clerk said absolutely people are taking these bags off the hangers in front of the check out, ripping the little tag off that says it is for sale and then they are presenting the bag for being their bag to be packed up with stuff. They are aware of that at Walmart, I don't know how many other places are having the same problem, if they are not selling reusable bags you don't have the problem. But many stores have chosen to start selling these bags in order to give the customer an option to a ten-cent paper bag. Stationing people at the exits, right now with not having their normal bagging process, people can walk away from that store with anything they want to, there is nothing really stopping them. Now BJ's, I don't know how many of you have BJ's, I have not had that, they have somebody stationed there, I don't know if the only reason is to make sure that people walk out, sometimes they actually tell you that you got over charged for something, so there is more than one reason, but they have somebody that has to be at their exit. Again, who is going to pay for that person.

How about some cost to the customer other than those sorts of things? There is cost to purchasing these reusable bags, either purchasing them, making them or whatever you got to do here, there is a cost to that.

You have to wash them, the article that I think I gave Linda, the article talks about how you are supposed to be washing these things because they have 99% bacteria, so you really should be washing them every time they are used before you put them back in your car. And many of them for example, the pop bottle ones the ones that are very plastic feeling, you cannot put those in your dryer, you have to hang them up to dry. So, picture your house now with those things hanging all over the place because you have to dry these babies. Otherwise it is all the energy and this is part of the loss of green too, do you think this energy of washing the things doesn't affect the environment too. What about the cost of buying a single use bag if you happen to forget your bag, do you know how many times I walked into the store without my bags or didn't have them? I either go back or pay 10 cents a bag. Time has been spent in a lane, none of these stores has fixtures for holding your bags, before we had these little plastic bags on a nice little fixture, they opened up, you put your stuff in, and you took them out, it was a very slick process and the clerk who was checking you out would bag your stuff. They don't do that now.

Cost of purchasing bags to replace these bags, not all these bags get thrown out. For example, at my house we use the bags to line waste baskets, little waste baskets and people who go up and down Fox Wood use it to pick up dog poop. So now without these bags people are going to have to buy the bags that you get to pick up dog poop. Then, they are going to have to buy liners for their waste baskets or decide to wash their waste baskets too, I don't know which it is. Anyhow, there are five cities that have opted out of the Cuyahoga County ban, I don't know if you are aware of the five; Cleveland, Strongsville, Brooklyn, North Olmsted and Independence. At least that is what I can find, maybe more, that is the best I can do when doing the search of who opted out. I don't think it is worth to what it does to the residents and the costs, the risk that they are going to get sick as a result of not cleaning their bags or maybe it is not even that they don't clean their bags, but how about the person in front of them who has bacteria in their bag, can it be passed to the person who checks out next. You put something in the bag with bacteria then, you think, I don't want all that stuff together, so you put it back onto the little tray thing that have there. It already has bacteria on it, so that is why I say that the warning that reusable bags are not free, they are really not free, they come with possibly causing sickness, the cost of maintaining them if you are properly maintain them, if you don't properly maintain them then it is your choice whether you want to get sick or your kids to get sick or your dog to get sick or whoever is coming in contact with something that was in that bag. Keep in mind, whatever is in that bag, going on the shelf in your house or in your refrigerator and then you know you know that you have to take it out and then use it. I don't know if you ever noticed it seems like milk that comes off of your milk jug in your refrigerator, you get this little white crusty thing on the shelf there, there are things like that on those bags.

Councilman Langshaw states, I have a packet for Council here. I would like to take my five minutes to speak on this issue. First, with a show of hands everybody, who does not like to change or do something new, anybody? We all don't like to do new things, right. I have a 13-year-old and a 23-month-old, I have my hands full, and lot of them don't want to do new things. Show of hands, who wants their taxes raised, anybody? Would anyone like their taxes in North Royalton raised? I would hope not because I don't want my taxes raised. I bring that point up because when we talk about dollars and cents and in your pocket everybody, you have the five-year contract that we have with Rumpke waste and recycling, Eric Dean can correct me if I am wrong, it is \$7,777,045 for seven years. Either way it is over seven million dollars. On top of that, if you look at the last page, it is our 2019 numbers are, it breaks down the tonnage of trash and recycling, I know that Council gets regular updates from the service department on where we are at with trash and recycling. When you look at those numbers there is still a considerable amount of trash that we are paying for being sent to the dump. The reason I am bringing up taxes is, yes we have this contract with Rumpke, when we are up it is going to be more expensive for the City, so unfortunately, we do need to change our ways, I think everyone in the room will agree we don't want to pay more in taxes right, we do need to change the way we are. Now do I agree with how the County went about doing it? No, I actually testified before the County Council several months ago regarding this issue and the biggest thing is education, there is a lot of misinformation, some people may call it fake news or other people may call it sheer lies but there is a lot of fear because this is something new. No one likes to change what they are doing, and including myself. I was a skeptic like you, and I know other residents. I actually listen to my residents before the law was implemented and actually, it really changed by mind that a lot of people really don't have a problem with this. Yes, it is new and yes, it can



be an inconvenience because it is something different, but if it means as a taxpayer in North Royalton if we can potentially save money and we are up for a new contract for rubbish and recycling, I am sure as hell want to do everything I can to save taxpayers money. Yes, it is an inconvenience, sure, but if we are going to save money down the road, absolutely we owe it to the tax payers to stretch our money as thin as we can. Yes, it is good for the environment and that kind of stuff. But also, there is the green that we all pay is taxes, there is death in taxes. We are all unfortunately guaranteed in life. I listen to my residents; I changed my opinion of this.

The other part is business. Giant Eagle as a corporation made their own decision. I support any business; they have free speech and a number of things on how they operate. But they made a decision as one of our largest grocers that we have in our city, they decided to do this on their own. I think all of their stores will be like this, either you have the paper option or you bring your own reusable bag. Another thing that changed my mind, I was listening to local businesses because there is a lot of fear that this is going to put ma and pa businesses out of business, that is not necessarily the case. I have listened to a number of my businesses, I know some other people of Council listen to theirs, they already implemented this and some of the actually have found that it is a better way to go. I know a number of us shop at Costco, if you have a big family. You know when you go there you have to use a certain credit card, you don't get any bags, but people still shop there. Costco is thriving. If you just take a look at the parking lot in Strongsville, they do pretty well. So, I am not worried about the business. And another thing is and we all know and we have mentioned previously here in this meeting, stormwater. Has anyone cleared out a catch basin or anything plastic bags or garbage, I have when we have had flooding. That stuff dams it up and it is not good. Overall, yes change is hard, I get it. Actually, I go to Giant Eagle I get additional points for bringing in my reusable bag. We can agree to disagree. But as I see it at the end of the day, regardless whether it is the bags, we need to reduce the waste that we are putting to the landfill. It is good for the environment but it is also good for the city tax payers that we owe it to them to try it, if not, expect an increase in your taxes. I know I would rather fight like hell to prevent any increase in taxes, I think we pay enough as it is and I think this is a small way to do it. Yes, it is an inconvenience, but there is a lot of things in life that I have to tell my kids, you know what, you are just going to have to adapt to the way we live, and that is okay. Change can be difficult but change is not necessarily bad. This is not one of the top twenty things my residents even talk about, I appreciate the gentlemen's feedback. As I see it, it is not an issue that Council needs to take up.

Councilwoman Fenos states if I may also add just going off on what Dan said. Giant Eagle they actually have a strategic sustainability platform which is there target is to be free of single use plastics in its operations by 2025 which is right around the corner. It is not just Cuyahoga County; it is all of Giant Eagle that is there plan of what they are going to do. So even if we did opt out, that is our grocery store, what are you going to do. You would have to shop at a different grocery store, you don't know they might do the same thing. Also, cities have been using reusable bags for years and years, this isn't a new thing. It is just new here. I would assume that if there was a problem, a big problem health wise with reusable bags we would have to address it by now. I also want to mention that if we are talking about your raw meat or anything like that, the grocery store hasn't banned the produce bags and the bags that you put your meat in, those are still there, they will be. I don't wash my reusable bags every time I come home from the grocery store, if I get meat juice in my bag then yes, I definitely will. I will probably will wash them. I am more concerned with the stuff I am tracking in with my shoes all over my house and that bacteria more than I am with my groceries. It is also a non-issue for me, there is a long long list of reasons for me. I understand the inconvenience part of it, but there is a lot of inconveniences that you have to deal with in life.

Councilman Weimer states first of all I want to thank you for coming and sharing with us tonight, I know sometimes it is not easy to get up in front of a group of people and share your opinions, so I commend you for doing that. I do just want to echo some of what my colleagues have said. I have had conversations with my residents and some businesses in my area, and it is not on the top list of the things that they are concerned about, but I do also want to point out that reusable bags have been in use in stores for quite some time and they are not going to go away. I am not going to stop reusing my reusable bags so there are some draw backs to everything. They are things that we have to adapt to and change to. It is something that is near and dear to my

heart because my childhood home sits about a mile, half a mile from Rumpke dump in Cincinnati, Ohio, and I grew up with plastic bags flying around and all over the place and when you drive by my parents house now, you don't see other trash, you see plastic bags and they are everywhere. For me it is a personal thing too of wanting to make sure that we protect our communities and our fellow communities as well in the State of Ohio with this as well. I do not see any issue with the current ban and I would not be in support of, unfortunately, of reversing that.

Councilman Dietrich states, I want to speak on it too. You took a lot of time to put this together, I won't be long because we all talked a lot on this issue, but you took the time to put this together and come to us today and talk. I want to respond; I was taking notes as you were talking as well. You mentioned some things that were not so green, you can debate anything really and you do a good job at it. But, only one thing out of everything you mentioned, you mentioned theft, no fixtures at the stores with the bags which Jessica mentioned something is going to take place to potentially fix that. The only real thing was washing as far as energy that may be a negative, but it can be washed with other things and a bag is not enormous where you have to do a complete separate load, obviously you would not wash certain things with it. I don't even think that is a factor. I have two dogs, very big dogs, they have very big poop. I used those bags long time ago, my wife is really big on recycling, no one is going to debate recycling, she got on me about it, so I had to start using different bags, biodegradable bags even for that. You figure, we recycle those plastic bags there is a drop off facility at Giant Eagle, believe me we collected them and I would be the one to take them. We recycle everything, paper, we rinse everything out, we do it proper. But when you use those bags to pick poop, they go in the garbage they aren't going to be recycled, so that is more stuff that goes to the dump, so that is not a good argument either. There are alternatives, so I don't want to completely come at you and be the opposite of what you came up here to try to accomplish, maybe approach the businesses instead of Council. There is a business here in North Royalton, it is the Natural Pet. There was an extension where you could have waited until July, I believe for the ban, they use completely biodegradable plastic bags. So potentially you can approach some of these businesses and say, maybe you guys may want to take a look at this that is going to bring all your convenience back because as far as not being green nothing on here that you said really supports that, it is all green. It is a positive thing for that and there are other alternatives besides reusable bags. Again, as everybody mentioned, if you go to BJ's, it has been done for years, I go there as well. But maybe approach those businesses with that bag and maybe go over to Natural Pet and see what I am talking about. But if you were to bury that bag completely, it will turn into nature all over again and it looks like plastic, it feels like plastic. When I leave there that is what I am carrying. And now I use those to pick up poop, so those are kind of cool. I shop at that store frequently and maybe you can approach Giant Eagle. You are ambitious, you did all this work to come up here to a Council meeting that is an alternative for you.

Councilwoman Barath states I have not responded; I have talked to my residents and it is not an issue. Most of them are custom to taking it. I personally, my kids were in school in the late 90s I have been recycling since then, that was something that was drilled into them and then in turn was drilled into me, it is kind of second nature and the bags were just an extension of that as well. Now, is it inconvenient, yes depending on who you go to. You're right it is inconvenient, I have gotten to the point at Marc's I pack my own bags because it is not necessarily the bag that is the problem, but it might be the teller. You have a lot of kids that work there and not necessarily the professionalism that you would hope. Most of the people that I talk to there is no concern on their part as far as the bag is concerned.

Fred Schriever, Jr states let me see if I can address some of what you said obviously, I don't have time to research to give you any facts or anything. The first thing that Dan mentioned is Costco, is one, the things that how they are doing just great. Yes, they are doing great because they were doing great because of the pricing of their product. People go to Costco not because it is convenient, not because they like carrying their stuff out in boxes or whatever like that. They go to Costco because it is cheap, they can buy bulk and you can buy it cheaper. It has nothing to do with the plastic bags or Giant Eagle. They will be there doing that against Giant Eagle for a long time, I don't know if Costco is an example of how, it doesn't have to cost you more, it probably cost them more other than, to be honest with you every time you carry out a cardboard box you are saving them money, then they don't have to have it squished and sent to their recycler. Giant Eagle is sort of

playing with that too. I don't know if you have noticed as you exit Giant Eagle, they have a rack now of cardboard boxes, free boxes. Waste and landfill, this isn't a real Giant Eagle bag or anything, this is all I had in my pocket, but how much space do you think this kind of stuff takes up by itself? The bags really do not take up that much but sure there is a lot of them. The article in the Plain Dealer said that there is a 139 million bags in Cuyahoga County how much do they weigh. Surely not 139 million pounds or even close to that, we are tackling something that probably doesn't have that big of affect on the amount that you guys pay to have it hauled away, or that we pay it have it hauled away through you. Why don't we tackle more this is what the thing that comes around my newspaper, I also have a little blue box that I have had since I moved here for my newspaper too, but the Plain Dealer and the delivery person would rather throw it on the ground with a plastic bag on it. All the plastic bags that you just talked about that are in the store, wait a minute, now you need to put your bananas in a plastic bag, have you done that yet or do you just think you just set them in there. There a lot of other bags that now become more necessary if you want to keep the bacteria out of your reusable bags, you don't want to have to clean those reusable bags. You are going to start bagging up every single produce item. Now what does that cost, what does that do to the environment when you have all those bags?

You talked about taxes, saving all of us taxes, you know what is much as important as the taxes we pay through you guys, the money that is in our wallet that we pay when we go to the store or that we go to the restaurant, or we go anywhere. This isn't just about taxes, if I am paying more, ten cents more for a can of something at Giant Eagle there is probably not enough taxes that you are going to save me or save us to save me that is going to offset that. So, some of the cost that actually come and hit us when we are out shopping, eating or whatever those are real cost and they are not just taxing, you need to consider those sorts of things too. You said that there are other cities you mentioned there are other cities that are doing this. Do you know of one? Do you have a name?

Councilman Langshaw states you are supposed to direct your questions to the chair and you have two minutes and per the rules he has five minutes. We have to follow the rules, there are people waiting out there to speak on other issues.

Fred Schriever, Jr states okay.

Councilwoman Barath states your question?

Fred Schriever, Jr states what city is already doing that before this ban?

Councilwoman Fenos states actually the entire state of California banned single use plastic bags. Chicago. I don't have the list right in front of me. There are lots of them and they are large cities as well and they have been doing it for a very long time.

Fred Schriever, Jr states okay, I don't get excited when you mention California but I am sorry about that. The state is also going bankrupt.

Councilman Langshaw states Madame Chairwoman he has a minute.

Fred Schriever, Jr states where do you see plastic bags flying around in our neighborhoods?

Councilwoman Fenos states at the corner of my street and York Road, I saw it today.

Fred Schriever, Jr states I have not seen them.

Councilman Langshaw states York Road, 82.

Councilman Weimer states we have a duty to more than just our city, we have to look at everybody.

Councilwoman Barath states and that is just the thing, this is a global issue, it is going beyond North Royalton.

Fred Schriever, Jr states isn't your duty more to the residents of the City than it is to the rest of the world.

Councilwoman Barath states it is but we also have to think about the rest of the world.

Councilman Langshaw states Madame Chairwoman I am making a motion to adjourn the gentlemen's time has expired, I think we have been very... Can you wrap it up there is people out there waiting.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states his issue can be as important to him as theirs is to...

Councilman Langshaw states point of order, Madame Chairwoman isn't it per the rules of Council everyone has five minutes.

Councilwoman Barath states right.

Councilman Langshaw states so there is a five-minute rebuttal and I think he has exceeded the time and everyone on Council has...

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states point of order that is not a committee rule.

Councilman Langshaw states it is a rule of Council.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states it is not a rule of Council.

Councilwoman Barath states can you just wrap it up.

Fred Schriever, Jr states your bags that you buy for your dog poop, I don't know what they cost, they have to cost you something.

Councilman Dietrich states not anymore, I shop so much at the store where I buy food, I get the bags for free.

Councilman Langshaw states motion to adjourn.

Tom Jordan states the administration at this time is not offering any legislation on this topic and if we do, we will let you know.

Councilwoman Barath states I was going to say that it doesn't sound like there is any support for it, at this point it is going to be dropped. Thank you for your time, I appreciate you coming in.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Ms. Fenos **to adjourn the February 18, 2020 meeting.** Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 7:05 p.m.**