

**SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES  
MARCH 18, 2020**

The Safety Committee meeting was held on March 18, 2020, at North Royalton City Hall, 14600 State Road. The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m.

**PRESENT: Committee Members:** Chair Dan Langshaw, Vice Chair Mike Vos, Jeremy Dietrich; **Council:** President of Council Paul Marnecheck, Vincent Weimer; **Administration:** Mayor Larry Antoskiewicz, Law Director Thomas Kelly, Fire Chief Robert Chegan, Police Chief Ken Bilinovich, Finance Director Eric Dean; **Other:** Greg Gurka, Scott Kriska. Mike McDonald, Frank Ortega

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Moved by Mr. Vos, seconded by Mr. Dietrich to **approve the minutes for the February 18, 2020 Safety Committee meeting**. Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**1. Police Dash & Body Cameras**

Mr. Langshaw states at this point, I really don't think we need updates, how about we just table it and keep moving along with the agenda. That okay with the committee?

Mr. Dietrich states that is fine.

Mr. Langshaw said we are just going to table it and keep it on the agenda. To the Council President do we need to make a motion or can we just say we are tabling it?

Council President Marnecheck states it just remains on the agenda.

**2. Intersection of York Road & Albion Road Traffic Signal Upgrade**

Council President Marnecheck states I am sorry, Mr. Chair, do you mind if we go a little bit out of order for our guests?

Mr. Langshaw states, oh god, yes, sorry. I am just going to skip ahead.

Council President Marnecheck sorry about that.

Mr. Langshaw states thank you. I promise that I am not sick, if anyone is wondering, my wife is a nurse and on top of that I have seasonal allergies so for everyone's protection. Moving along to new business. Do you just want to table it and just move on? What does the committee want to do?

Mr. Dietrich states, I suggest we table it.

Mr. Langshaw states, we are just going to table it and keep it on the agenda. Let's get to the more important stuff.

Council President Marnecheck states so that sounds like no update, right?

Mr. Langshaw states no update. We need to focus on more important things. The only item left under new business is the coronavirus local response.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Amending 432.30 Stopping for school bus; actuating visual signals; discharging children  
Increasing fine**

Mr. Langshaw states amending section 432.30 stopping for school buses; actuating visual signals; discharging children; increasing fine and I see that we have some guests here, I don't know if you guys would like to speak, one at a time with proper distances.

**Greg Gurka, Superintendent of North Royalton City Schools**

Mr. Gurka is before Council and states good evening, thank you for your time tonight to address the Safety Committee. My name is Greg Gurka, I am the superintendent of the North Royalton City School District and with me is Jim Presot. The safety and wellbeing of our students is always at the forefront of our daily lives and schools whether it is creating our safety and security plans or practicing our various safety drills, or simply working with our youngest students on the proper way to walk down a hallway. We are always aware and

concentrating on how we can keep our students safe, but our students are coming to school and going home from school, safety is critical. Our bus drivers receive extensive training and testing before they are issued their commercial driver's license with passenger endorsement. Once they receive their CDL, they still receive training and relicensing requirements. Our bus drivers work with our students to teach the rules of riding in a school bus including the proper way of getting on a bus and the proper way to exit the bus. This includes weighing the proper distance from the curb and if needing to cross the street, pay close attention to the driver and understand the proper hand signals, the bus driver will give the student when it is safe to cross. This is where all of our concerns come in, while our drivers are vigilant and continue to scan the roads to make sure safe conditions exist, they and our students are at the mercy of our citizens of doing the correct thing and following our traffic laws and regulations. These regulations state very simply in Ohio that on a road with fewer than four lanes all traffic approaching a stopped school bus from either direction must stop at least 10 feet from the front or rear of the bus and remains stopped until the bus begins to move or the bus driver signals motorist to proceed. If the bus is stopped on a street with four or more lanes only traffic proceeding in the same direction must stop. So, what does this mean for our District? Our school district is fortunate to be made up of two great cities North Royalton and Broadview Heights. On the roads that buses travel in both of these cities all of our bus stops are on roads with fewer than four lanes. Let me repeat that, all of our bus stops are on roads with fewer than four lanes that means anywhere that someone sees a North Royalton school bus stopped with its yellow or red lights flashing, motorists need to stop. We have been in conversations with both Mayor Antoskiewicz and Mayor Ali to discuss how we can work together to increase the traffic safety in our cities around our school buses. I am pleased to hear that both cities are looking into raising the penalty for violators of this. In an effort to assist with that effort, we are in the process of purchasing nine new school buses for the 2020/2021 school year, the nine buses will all have the latest safety features including cameras that will be mounted on the stop sign arms that can record traffic passing a school bus on either side, it is my hope that we work together and use this data to help make our students safer than they currently are. However, as a long time principal and an educator, I know that consequences alone are not a deterrent to all misbehavior that is why I want to commit to both the cities of North Royalton and Broadview Heights that we will work to educate our communities about safety practices when it comes to not only passing a school bus, but also the importance of slowing down in a school zone. Beginning in August, which is designated as school bus safety month, we will implement a campaign using both traditional methods and school media complete with educational messages and materials on the importance of following the laws around schools and school vehicles. This will include messages on Facebook, Twitter, articles that are printed in digital newsletters, utilizing our electronic calling system prior to the start of school and working with our students to design messages that we can send out via email and social media. In addition, we will work with both of our Chamber of Commerce to post educational messages and posters in our area of businesses so visitors from outside communities can also learn and be reinforced as to the laws and regulations. Once again, I want to thank you for not only your time but also your commitment to working in partnership with our schools to make our students and our communities safe, neither of us can do it alone, but together I feel we can make a tremendous impact on our community. Can I answer any questions that you may have?

Mr. Dietrich states I had some through the process, but you hit them. That was pretty well prepared. Thank you.

Mr. Langshaw states thank you foremost for what you are doing to keep our kids safe, I think everyone in the room for the most part has kids. As silly as it may be, my wife is a nurse and we all need to take this very seriously. This legislation is also serious legislation because we are increasing the fine from five hundred dollars. Most importantly, hopefully we won't have to use it, the education piece is so important and that is why Superintendent Gurka had said, we are working all together, this will be consistent among all three of our communities, North Royalton, Broadview Heights and Brecksville. It will be a thousand dollars. So, there will be no, not understanding what the fine is, but right now we have more immediate things and still important, we look forward to working with you when things get a little bit more normal and safer for everybody. Thank you.

Mr. Weimer states Mr. Gurka thank you for coming tonight, I just want to let you know that it is my pleasure to work with Mr. Langshaw to bring this legislation forward, I think it is very important for our community as a bus driver, an ex-bus driver myself, I have witnessed people run reds and as a bus driver you care about your kids and you want to see them home safe, you have a student ready to cross the road and a car going around you and it is one of the sickest feelings that you can feel in your stomach. I am glad that we are going to do that. I also wanted to let you know that one of the things that I want to continue to look at as City Council is as a bus driver, also know that a lot of the times that sort of the rumor or the mis-rumor that nothing is done if they run stop signs in North Royalton. I want to continue to work with the District and the City to make sure that the bus driver knows that there is accountability within the city for that. We will continue to look at that as well.

Mr. Langshaw states I want to thank my colleague Mr. Weimer as well. His experience as a bus driver and I have a child and luckily, he does not have to cross, but we are all parents and we want to keep the kids safe. Most importantly, out of all this is communication.

Mayor states I just wanted to say that I know that we have had some discussion and I think one of the other important things that have not come out of this thing yet is this is really paper legislation that just basically talks about the fine, but I know the school is very serious and the City is as well. I think we have identified the problem, a lot of it is being education. A lot of people, I know sometimes I get confused, when can you pass

one, when can't you. The three lanes, the four lanes, what side of the road you are on and everything else. I think the school has taken the right approach for sure and we want to help them, and that education process for all the residents, and I think that we determined very quickly that basically in North Royalton you just cannot pass a school bus, there is no place in our city that school buses go that legally you should be passing them. I think that message will be easy because it is very simplistic, but we still have a job to do to make sure that everybody understands that you just cannot pass a school bus in North Royalton. There are no roads that they go on that allow it.

Mr. Gurka states one of the things that we do every year, at the end of the year our bus drivers turn in suggestions for their routes for the year, so we will do that again at the end of this year depending on when that actually is. But one of the things that we are looking at is can we limit students crossing in front of the bus? In developments that is probably impossible just because we do not have a lot of buses, but we are identifying some of ours, I don't want to say major roads, but more traveled roads to say can we limit those crossings also. We are trying to make sure our routes are as safe as they can be.

Council President Marnecheck states question to the Law Director because we talked about in essence the treasure, what someone has to give up if they do break the law, and pass a school bus. Can the Law Director just clarify when it comes to time what it means that it is nonwaiverable?

Mr. Kelly states any nonwaiverable offense requires an appearance by the Defendant by either a Judge or a Magistrate.

Council President Marnecheck states so they just cannot write a check and be done with this.

Mr. Kelly states no.

Council President Marnecheck states they physically have to give up their time as well.

Mr. Kelly states they have to appear.

Council President Marnecheck states you can look at it as thirty seconds or so, they would have waited behind a bus or the more than the thirty seconds they will have to give up due to a impatience, if you are doing a cost benefit analysis. A thousand dollars giving up more than thirty seconds or holding tight for thirty seconds. Right?

Mr. Langshaw states it is going to hurt a little more, I am assuming there is some court costs too, we cannot put a price on a human life, especially your child. I know there is a member in the audience, do you still want to speak sir? If so, you will have to step to the mic, keep appropriate distance, we are trying to keep everyone safe unfortunately with everything going on. Just state your name and address for the record.

### **Frank Ortega, 17874 Bennett Road**

Mr. Ortega states as far as safety for the kids goes, is there possibly any idea to give the driver, a microphone and some kind of outside speaker where you can direct the children to stop crossing, if he sees someone is passing.

Council President Marnecheck states I think a bus driver may.

Mr. Weimer states I can speak a little to that. The buses themselves typically are not equipped with that type of speaker system, a lot of that is dictated by state law as a bus driver, so there is not a school district can go off and do on their own. The State does mandate very rigid script that we as bus drivers are supposed to follow, we need to give each student as they are leaving the bus, so regardless whether that student has been riding the bus for eight years with us, we still have to give them that script of here is what you are going to do when you get off the bus. Part of that includes them stopping at the front of the bus checking traffic both ways on their own and looking back to the driver for final approval to cross and if at any time they hear that bus driver yell stop or honk the horn they are supposed to get out of the way. There are safety measures in place to make sure that the bus driver and the student have good communication with each other. Great idea, I understand where the idea came from.

Mr. Dietrich states quick question for you Mr. Weimer. Say a student does not comply, maybe he has repeatedly not done what he is instructed to do, is there any kind of communication that you can forward to a parent, is there any kind of set up like that?

Mr. Weimer states, absolutely in North Royalton, on the way that is handled, the bus drivers have the ability through their supervisor to raise that concern to the principals at the buildings. Then, the principals follow up with disciplinary action.

Mr. Dietrich states, I figured, I am glad. Thanks.

Mr. Langshaw states I apologize, when I came in, I didn't grab the agenda, but does anyone know what the ordinance number is?

Council President Marnecheck states 20-63.

Mr. Langshaw states I will make a motion to recommend to Council for approval on Ordinance 20-63. Moved by Mr. Langshaw, seconded by Mr. Dietrich Yeas: 3. Nays: 0. **Motion carried.**

## 2. COVID-19 Local Response

Mr. Langshaw states who would like to start first, the Chief?

Chief Chegan states I didn't have much time during the day to work on this. Obviously, this is the most pressing need. First of all, I would like to say this on behalf of Mayor Antoskiewicz and the Administration of our City, I would first like to thank our department heads and employees for complying and going with the guidance that we already offered them. These changes are basically very significant in the day to day operations of not only the City but the government as a whole. This coronavirus has brought upon us. We are working on this, I won't even say daily, but encumbrance the majority of my time, I know the Mayor and I are on the home plate frequently through out the day. The Mayor has been extremely supportive of our employees and has made extra measures for their health and safety. I will let him spread the measures that are taking place throughout the past couple of weeks. We have been on the forefront and sometimes even ahead of the curve with some of the measures that we have put in place. The message to the residents is that we have been and we are prepared to handle what has come and what is in our way right now presently. Unfortunately, we still don't know the magnitude of what this will be or the future effects of moving forward. There is a lot of unknowns right now that we are dealing with literally every day. Every meeting that I have to go to is also virtual now. What we do now, and stress that one must adhere to the orders, guidelines and information that is being seminated through the proper agencies which includes the orders by the federal government, the orders by our Governor from the State of Ohio, the CDC, the Ohio Department of Health, Cuyahoga County Board of Health, those are our main focus points, our main agencies that we are dealing with on a day to day basis. We are also dealing with the Cuyahoga County Office of Emergency Management and also set up the EOC, the Emergency Operations Center that has been opened now since last Monday. That facility that houses all the local and county officials physically or virtually including the OEMA staff, the Board of Health and the fire service. Most everyone else is now virtual partners with that, our staffing used to be a lot higher there and we dwindled it from last week. Our basic message is of course, the same messages you are seeing; stay home if you can, social distancing is the main objectives right now. There isn't nothing you have seen already. Social distancing is important to limit exposure, this way you are less likely to contract the spread of the virus. Limiting exposure also helps protecting vulnerable population such as seniors, those with compromised immune systems. Flattening the curve is another term you have heard a lot from our Governor. Working to flatten the curve means taking public health measures and developing strategies to decrease the potential number of people who contracted the virus so public health services are not overwhelmed. All the measures that you see that have come back from the federal government, the State of Ohio, the CDC, and the Board of Health are all working to do those two things. Those are our main objectives right now. The other messages if you have mild symptoms, call your physician. Nothing is really an emergency just because you have a fever, you don't want to overload the EMS services as well as the hospitals. A lot of these are not emergencies, we understand the severity, we understand the potential emergencies. We are monitoring everything. For example, the latest initiative which you saw from the Governor's office was monitoring temperatures before they go to work. We already started that for our city employees, the ones that are required to come in. The Mayor and I confer multiple times throughout the day to make the best decisions for our residents and our employees too. Some of these decisions are fairly easy to make because they come from orders from the federal government, the Governor or the guidelines from the CDC. The other ones are little more difficult when we are dealing with our employees and their health and welfare, most of these come from best practice. I believe we have been ahead of the curve throughout this whole thing. We are in information overload right now; we can turn on every news channel and that is all they are talking about and you are getting it from all kinds of directions. I digest hours of information daily, documents, guidelines, data, and other resources. At the local level, the Emergency Operations Center has been open since last Monday, we have been working on putting reports together and funnel information from their reliable sources. Situation reports are prepared and sent daily to myself and emergency coordinators so other emergency coordinators throughout the cities and the Mayors, information that directly affects the safety and well being of our residents and employees are corrected to the proper stake holders at the proper time. We have continually posted these agencies websites on our webpage and put out information. We need to make sure that the proper message is sent and the information is proper. This is the Incident Command System working at its greatest level, we have the federal, the state, the county and the local governments working together, and that message has to be clear. It is no different than the fire service. We have a structure fire or a major incident, I am the ultimate person in charge, my officers are section officers, the guys in boots are doing the work. We have strategies and we have tasks. The guys on the ground do the tasks, the strategies are given up higher. So, when you see the Governor on t.v. you see the strategies being in place. The local levels you see the tactics being completed. With that being said, I highly caution and stress that getting information from other sources other than these is detrimental to the message being delivered, we want clear concise messages to we are familiar with the webpages where the administration has been putting out, it is very clear, I don't want to oversimplify but it is very simple, we have the CDC, the federal government, the state government giving us the guidelines. You can watch the news, you can watch the media, and again some of this may be biased, and we don't want that. We want exactly what the message is being portrayed. This is an unprecedented event by all means. We are all worried about it and we are all concerned. We will continue as a City to update our residents and encourage all to obtain proper

information from the agencies I spoke of. Tomorrow morning, we will be putting another block on the website that has all those listed that we have already listed before on the main page. As far as the departments, I will let the Mayor speak regarding the employees and the departments in the City. As far as my department the organization and first responders are very profound. The mission remains the same though, with just extra ordinary precautions. We took an oath of office to protect the public and that is what we are still going to do. We are providing service through with many new precautions and procedures in place to protect our members. Many of these changes occur daily sometimes at lunchtime I have to say this has changed. That goes back to our presence at the county, EOC, fire service has a seat at the table, there is about 12 seats there and that is manned by the Cuyahoga County Fire Chiefs and I spent time down there twice already. It also helps us to make sure that we have a pulse on everything that is going on within this region. Parts of the country you probably saw this on the news too, some fire departments who have been decimated by being quarantined and some of them actually being sick and tracking the disease. We have implemented best practice guidelines and procedures starting with call takers and dispatch and how our members function on the calls. Patient quality of care is not sacrificed at all. What we do in the field is not changing. Sometimes how we do it or how we present ourselves with our personal protective equipment that is a little different. We do not need any more distractions or any more visitors to our stations.

We work in a field where quite honestly take care of sick people anyway. This is a little different. Taking back after we care for our patient, we take that back to what we call our home. That is a 24/7 operation. So is the Police Department. We have dealt with this before, we dealt with this with the H1N1 and the swine flu. This is no different in how we have prepared and what we have present for this. We discontinued all of our external training except our in-house training programs that we have, we use teleconferencing between stations. We have used that platform for many years just for our morning roll calls. We have cancelled all clinical rotations for our paramedic students that are under our med control. We postponed all regular fire inspections; we will conduct inspections for our residents and business who are opening and need that immediately. All others have been put aside. At this time, we have the proper personal protective equipment for our personnel. We are waiting on the supply chain from the state and federal governments to assist in resupplying not only our needs, but the needs of the county, and the needs of the State and the country. There is a shortage, we are in conservation mode. There is guidance on us on how, when and where we are to use personal protective equipment. Even with the supplies limited we are hoping that those supply chains open up before the departments, the first responders or anyone in the healthcare field. I also directed all department heads through the Mayor to start tracking costs associated with this since this was a nationally declared emergency. It could possibly open up potential funding in the future and as long as we look how long this may go, we want to be prepared for that, this could be months of work that we are going to do on a day to day basis. We already started that in our department and all the department heads through the Mayor will initiate that as well. He is going to make sure that they are tracking all of our assets. We have been for the fire department been in contact with our senior care facilities because we know that is high risk population and I talked to all these administrators, they are all aware of the CMS guidelines and the CVC guidelines that are for senior healthcare facilities. As of today, there are 88 Ohioans that tested positive and 26 of those are hospitalized and there are 38 cases in our county. If you look at this nationally there is 7300 case and 115 deaths. That information is obtainable through your media sources. That being said, again, I stress that if you have any residents in your ward, for Council people that you do your due diligence to focus that through our city channels until we can focus that message. The website has not changed since the last one and the first one that the Mayor initiated last Friday. It is the same websites, a lot more different information. One more thing, I did forget to mention and Police Chief Bilinovich is on top of this as well. There are a lot of scams going on, unfortunately, dealing with a lot of the largest epidemics that we have ever faced unfortunately, the police have to deal with this as well. If there are any issues regarding that I am sure he will take your phone calls anytime.

Mayor states a few things, and the Chief covered a lot of what has been going on. I do want to reiterate again that I am very proud of both of our Chiefs, our department heads and our employees. It is not easy for them either and one of the things that we first started out was is that we offered people the opportunity that if they didn't feel comfortable at work they can take sick time, we would not question it, whether they can or not so they can continue to get paid. We talked about if they needed to flex their hours, we would be willing to do that and look at that. So, we have worked right from day one for our employees because as we all know, unfortunately government must still function and we are doing that. Make no mistake, the virus is on our minds 24 hours a day, but during the day we are also trying to continue to bring services to the City, continue to get things done and I will commend all of our workers because of all of those options we have given them, they have all stuck around, I think that is a big cheer to them. It shows what kind of employees we have in the city, and I think it also adheres to what we talked about, is the measure that we have taken, I believe they feel as safe as they can working here because we made those accommodations and again, some people are working from home, we have given that option as well. So, we have given people just about every option that we can and still be able to function because we all know the waste water plant still has to work especially with all the people that are home. That is not going to stop, we still have to do other functions. The Building Department has made adjustments, we got a department head meeting again tomorrow where we every day, we talk about making adjustments. Today the service workers are now going to go on split shifts so we don't have all fourteen of them at the same time at the same shift sharing the same lunch room and everything else, they are going to go on split shifts so we can minimize any affect that might happen. Like I said, we are doing, everything I tell you today, if we had another Council meeting tomorrow, it might be a different message. It changes constantly, all the time. That is where we are at. It is difficult sometimes to keep up but through the administration, believe me we are working on it all the time. In constant contact because things have to

change, and that is what we are doing, that is what we will continue to do, continue to change as we need to change as the situation changes and we have done a great job at doing that. I will say that probably the only other couple things that really outside the administration, obviously when they closed the rec department garages, the rec centers and everything, they did close Memorial Park and a lot of that has to do with there is no way we can keep up with the cleaning. If you get five or six kids there to go play because they are home, you have to clean that every day, every day you have to keep cleaning all that equipment, all the bathrooms and everything else, it just was not practical to keep it open. As of Saturday, we will be putting out the service yard will be closed as well, we are no longer going to do that for a while. Again, we keep making adjustments as we go and we will continue to try to keep everybody up to date, but I will reiterate again, you can always call me, I got my phone 24/7, those that haven't been on Council that long, if you call me, I am either going to answer or I am going to call you right back that communication can always be there, if you do have a question about something, or you are curious about what this is or what that is or what that department is doing, all you have to do is pick up the phone and call me; I will be more than happy to answer that question for you. I would hope down the road that is the way you continue to communicate, I am not going to sit here and say that I always got time to give you an email about this or that, but I am always available to answer any questions that you may have.

Mr. Langshaw states let's wait for the Law Department because I know that people got questions. I guess, I will first start, because I know that everyone has questions. First off, thank you for our first responders, I think that I can speak for everyone that is here, and that includes our nurses, I am wearing this because my wife is a nurse, there are 8 cases at Southwest General that they are investigating and other places and out of respect for their first responders and I have seasonal allergies. We have to take this seriously. Literally, our first responders are risking their lives and this is a very serious matter and most important, historic, hopefully this will never happen at least in never in our lifetimes or in our great grandchildren's lifetime, so we really need to increase what we can do locally and the buck stops here with us. I know, I guess to the Chief, I don't know if you want to go back to the mic because we are recording, and I have a few questions for you since you are the one in charge. Thank you and I know how hard you are working, especially the strain on both the police and fire. I guess first and foremost is communication, and the one thing that I wrote down, you said clear and concise communication, I guess this is something, my hope is today that we get more internally more clear concise communication, I know the Mayor mentioned that he cannot send a whole a bunch of stuff, but he just told us three different things that would be beneficial for the public to know and I didn't see it on the City's website, so what I am asking is it possible at least from a communication stand point at least working with the Council President, and I know how busy it is, but maybe, it is a very ever changing, at least a daily kind of something in writing to Council, again, subject to change, but at least some basic kind of local, we know, you explained all the specifics that we need to be checking and there are reliable sources and that is a really good point. My first point is that is it something that you guys can look at when you have a department head meeting and figure out some kind of system that we can get this straightened out and we are all on the same page.

Chief Chegan states yes we can send updates.

Mr. Langshaw states if you are that person or if you can designate someone.

Chief Chegan states I will tell you that most of the information that you heard tonight you should have already heard.

Mr. Langshaw states just for the service workers for the split shifts, maybe that has just been done now, but I am just saying.

Law Director Kelly states, Mr. Chairman, while the Chief is right on the front line and taking all of the heat for everything that is going on and in terms of the day to day operations. I am going to suggest to you and to the City Council that it would be inappropriate for him to be the person to whom you direct your questions. You direct your questions to the Mayor who represents the administration, and if the Mayor wants to call upon the Chief to respond to those questions that he will do that.

Chief Chegan states also the ones that you are inquiring about is administrative.

Mr. Langshaw states either way, I think, again, I will open up to Council we deserve updates and if the Mayor is the person, and again, I understand your job, and I totally respect it and I think Council does as well, but we need internal communication.

Chief Chegan states it comes down to the federal government and the State of Ohio, and what our residents need to know that is usually posted via the webpages. But with that being said, I will duplicate that.

Mr. Langshaw states that would be very helpful. Then, the other point, communication, I know we are on Facebook and the website, but we do have a very large elderly population and as we all know, 65 and older they are the at risk population, they are the ones that we are doing everything that we can, of course, everyone as well, they are the ones most at risk out of all this. God forbid, there has been no reverse 911, the Ready Notify and I have had residents contact me that maybe a helpful way, I know we have the website but some people don't do that, so what I am proposing, I have heard it from other residents and even some members of Council, maybe they have already told you this, if it is possible, use it sparingly but we haven't done anything,

I know other communities put out stuff, but the social distancing is important thing to put out to help prevent, but also as you recommend reliable sources like you mentioned the CDC.

Mr. Weimer states, Mr. Chairman if I could real quick, I would like you to refrain from including members of Council in your statements, and just frame them calling them your statements.

Mr. Langshaw states that is fine Mr. Weimer.

Chief Chegan states first of all, we have a small percentage of Ready Notify, so when we go out and we look at our mass communication models, we are doing that, we have a small amount of Ready Notify, plus the information we have is a lot of visual information and that is best to put on the messages that we are putting out. We could use Ready Notify to say hey look at your thing, but for the most part we got positive feedback on what we have been doing and what we have been putting out.

Mr. Langshaw states okay, I trust your judgment, you know what you are doing.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states maybe it is an example to paraphrase Mark Walhberg if you see something online and you think your mother might be interested, call your mother. Call your relatives.

Chief Chegan states as far as your question regarding the elderly, like I said, if there are any issues with any of those residents that would go through that department and we would be notified and there are ways that we can help those residents and those are set up internally and always have been. We are not going to be driving around knocking on doors, that is against what we are trying to do.

Mr. Langshaw states yes that is going to put you all at risk.

Mayor states let me say this, we are all aware of our elderly population and we know a lot of them do not have all of the technological advances that we have. I do believe that most of them do purse to their televisions and they are getting the information. And again, don't know if they are all getting, but I would hope family and friends were also keeping them informed, but I can say through this whole thing our phones call about the virus have been practically mill. I don't know about the actual Fire Department but City Hall, we have not had phone calls about the virus which tells me that the information is out there, people are getting the information. For the most part, the way things have been closing, the information right from the get go has been very consistent and what you should be doing. So, I think a lot of people are, but we have not, it is not like City Hall is getting hit with all kinds of phone calls. The most calls we had was the Monday before the election, everybody wanted to know about what they were doing for voting. We got inundated with a ton of calls until late at night when they finally decided to cancel voting. But as far as the virus itself, we are not getting any phone calls at City Hall about it, asking about it, asking about what they should do or anything else.

Mr. Langshaw states I have another question for the Chief, but I will let you go next. My other question was Chief, I know the Mayor mentioned it was a good move with the service workers going on split shifts. I know some places looking to do like an A, B shift for police or fire. Is that something you, I know there is an example in Columbus, there is an entire fire house that was kind of taken out because they had one person, unfortunately did not know that they were exposed because they were fine until they were tested. So is there any kind of plan to potentially look at something like that to protect. I know you have done stuff with the station, but is that something...

Chief Chegan states we have done stuff within the station. We have taken it to the 10<sup>th</sup> level, to the top level or whatever you want to say. Being a small city like most of them in Cuyahoga County there is not much to go around, if we split them even more, there is really no magical method for splitting the guys that we already have. I can't speak for the Police Department, but I know the Fire Department we have to maintain our staffing as is, now you rotate every third day, so they are there 23 hours and make them 12 hours would be exposing them even more. At home and coming back, at this point there is not anything that I have seen that has been best practiced and the department you spoke of, Columbus, also has 1500...

Mr. Langshaw states I know, it is a massive department.

Chief Chegan continues so a department like that or the one in Georgia gets exposed and they can shut down a fire house and have little impact if at all.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states they have more flexibility.

Chief Chegan states now how we do things, I am not going to get specific on what we have done, but we have measures to protect our guys, but like I said, patient care has not been compromised on any calls that we go on. Have we had to use PPE? Absolutely. But as far as our staffing at this point there is nothing with no surprise. Like I said, I put myself through the EOC, I am one of the few that rotate down there, I do that for a couple of reasons, the group of people that we have down there in the County for the fire chiefs, we have a good group of people that make sure that we are up on all the top regulations and standards. I have another meeting tomorrow regarding policies on transport. We have been changing them and tweaking them for the last 10 days. I will tell you anything that we can or should have done, we have or will do.

Mr. Dietrich states, I apologize, I know we want to get out of here with everything going on, but this is one the most important things going on, I just want to relay the messages correctly to my residents. I know the City Hall has not got a lot of calls, but has the North Royalton Fire Department have a lot of calls?

Chief Chegan states we received calls but after evaluating each one of them whether between the secretary or those that comes to my direct line after hours, I have been working quite late every night for the past two weeks, so I have been taking the calls until 9 o'clock at night. It is information that they have already had known. One of them was should I go to this party. I know the Governor said... you know it, and you want me to make that decision for you.

President of Council Paul Marnecheck states kind of makes you feel like a parent, right? You know what is best.

Mr. Dietrich states you aren't getting an **exorbitant** amount of calls, you are just getting random calls?

Chief Chegan states if we do, we screen them and we evaluate every one of them to make sure that the question that the resident had, was there a better way that we could have put that message out and at this point there has not been one of those calls that we have received. Now, if you have any residents then make that known to us.

Mr. Dietrich states I had someone with some questions I directed them towards you, but I didn't know if you had gotten those calls.

Chief Chegan states I want to stress that too, we evaluate the call to make sure that we put out whether it is the Mayor's office or the Fire Department or City as a whole that we put that message out appropriately. If we didn't, then that is the change that we have to make.

Mr. Dietrich states I think you guys are doing a good job, I was just curious. You mentioned the CDC, the Cuyahoga County, the Governor's office, the Emergency Management Systems, all that, are they all consistent in their message and their procedures in what to do, how much and by when?

Chief Chegan states the EOC which I partake in here and there and virtually almost 24/7, the knowledge center that we use which is where we maintain situational awareness on all.

Mr. Dietrich states probably what you have been talking about consistently is the personal protective equipment for you guys. You are saying, I would never question, you have invited me down to station, you run a tight ship, I am not an expert, but it is easy to see for anybody. My concern is what can I do potentially, if anything to help with what you are missing, and what you have talked about earlier, because the state is lacking on some supplies. I was going to ask you, what specific supplies.

Chief Chegan states the supplies that we use, we are using them if the criteria are met. If we are going out on a broken ankle, we are not using masks, we are using gloves. We are not gowning up, we are not using our masks, that is straight from the CDC guidelines.

Mr. Dietrich states you are not using them because you don't have them or they are telling you not to?

Chief Chegan states if there are no signs or symptoms... if they have a fever or one of the four criteria then that changes how we approach the patient, we actually practice social distancing too before we do that, they are questioned by dispatch, they are questioned by our guys before they even get close to the contact and such, as far as the PPE, it is gowns, the N95 masks and surgical masks for the patients.

Mr. Dietrich states is that what you are missing?

Chief Chegan states it is not what I am missing.

Mr. Dietrich states it is what you are short?

Chief Chegan states it is what all the departments are basically maintaining... we are not missing anything; we have the appropriate supplies to get through more than most cities. We started at the County level an inventory of all the departments and what they have, and if any of those supplies could be shared. If somebody had a 1000 N95 masks in the back closet that no one knew about then that is different, and they are only running 400 calls a year, maybe they could disburse those to another department. That right now is what we are doing, most departments, I am not going to speak for another department, but it seems like most departments were set up pretty well. We have the N95 masks, we have the surgical masks, we have the gowns. Are we going to run out if we don't get resupplied? Yes, we will. It is not just us; it is everyone in the country. Now, this goes to the state level, the supplies have been, I actually just got updated just before I came, we are expecting another 500,000 N95 for the state, I don't know if it is going to come to this area, but basically it comes down from the federal government to the locals. The distribution models are usually higher than the Mayors and I paper, if we make the appropriate calls, we make the appropriate requests, at this point, we are little better off than the norm.



Mr. Dietrich states I guess that answers that question, we are not in need of it now, but we can potentially. You mentioned other fireman in other cities getting sick, obviously with the coronavirus and I have seen on the media, the entire state go down, obviously we want to avoid that here. Is there a backup plan, say god forbid that something like that happen with another City with firemen, being short fireman?

Chief Chegan states at the County Fire Chief level we have different staffing models with different cities. Obviously, we have mutual aid agreements, there is potential staffing models where how we respond if we have limited resources here initially until our mutual aid partner could come so that is in place, that has always been in place.

Mr. Dietrich states I figured. Any specific cities that we are partnered with? Or all of them in the county? Is it the whole county? Or all the cities that you are partnered with? Or specific ones adjacent to North Royalton?

Chief Chegan states we have our mutual aid system which is our whole immediate area after that for instance if it goes up another level, then you go through resources at the county level and then they would send them out.

Mr. Langshaw states I have one last question then we will move back to the Mayor. Any cases? Anyone suspected? That you guys deal with? Or reported from North Royalton?

Chief Chegan states one of the things that... obviously is it on our minds as far as we like to know, one of the things that have been put out is the home quarantine form, this form has been utilized for many weeks when the potential could come. Basically, this is a lot of the ports, port authority, the airports when the people were saying yes, we were traveling to these countries. It was one country at one point and then it became multiple countries, that form was filled out and took it home with them and were advised to get with their primary care physician. That put the four criteria on that form, it gives them instructions on what to do, so if they have a confirmed case or if they tested positive or if they traveled to that country, so now it is wide spread, if they were a person under investigation if they were given this, if they were in contact with somebody or close contact with a confirmed case, they are given that. Specifically, it tells them if they need emergency medical care, they need to call a primary physician and if it is a despair case then call 911. In that case, I have explained already we are ready, we have a PPE, the hospitals are ready they have different areas of the hospitals for that. With that being said, there is no list of residents to protect their health information and that comes directly not only from the County Board of Health but from the State Department of Health. So, if that answers your questions, there is no list of people.

Mr. Langshaw asks Mr. Weimer do you have a question for the Mayor?

Mr. Weimer states no I do not have a question, I have a statement in regard to what you stated earlier that I would like to clear up from Council standpoint.

Mr. Langshaw states do you want to say it now? We would like to keep things moving along, this is very serious.

Mr. Weimer states I know this is very serious that is why I would like to speak. I would like to state, Chief I appreciate what you have said tonight and we take this matter very seriously. I do want to make sure that anybody in the room is aware that I have not received any calls from my residents regarding this. I am actually going out to the surrounding cities websites while we have been sitting here, looked at their websites and their websites look very similar to ours with a statement from the Mayor, there is not a lot of other coronavirus information on the websites. I have received emails from the Mayor with updates and I appreciate the Mayor sending those updates as they have been prudent and necessary to be sent. I do believe that as I think Mr. Langshaw said, we trust our Chief of Police and Fire to do the best job that they can do and so at this time, I just want to make sure that it is clear that I am not receiving calls from my residents and I do not have concerns as a member of Council that our City is not actioning appropriately for this very important pandemic that we are dealing with, so I thank you for your efforts and the time that you are putting in.

Mr. Langshaw states thank you Mr. Weimer. Does anybody have any questions for the Mayor? I know the Chief has a lot obviously the Chief is the main person. I guess my question to the Mayor because I look at a lot of websites too, and I know that the City of Lakewood is a phenomenal website as well and a lot of its such is from the CDC and from the state, it is a little bit more easier spelled out. I guess to the Mayor a lot of other cities have already done this as of last week and I know that you have already taken measures which is good, we really need to keep doing what we are doing to minimize exposure. Are you looking at closing all of our at least our local buildings to any non-governmental business or nonmembers of the government? A lot of place where they put it down where it is just government employee only, essential people like City Hall here, the Building Department and some cities have had it where the Building Department has suspended unvital operations or Mayor's Court has been suspended, is there any of that you are look at doing to minimize more of the community spread?

Mayor states well again we look at everything on a day to day basis as we get information as things changes, we have made those adjustments. The Building Department we have adjusted some to the things that we are doing with our inspectors. We are going to be talking tomorrow because the traffic has started to die down as far as building and building permits. We are probably going to look at shortening the hours, but we are still

getting people in here that are, I guess I can use an example, Mr. Jordan had just told me today, here he was busy with permits with St. Albert's who is doing a construction project, so people are still coming in to do business. So, we are probably going to look to shorten the hours if we can at the counter so that it minimizes, but again if you go down there, we are constantly wiping, people come in, we are wiping that counter. We are doing everything that we need to do to be safe, but still try to maintain the government functions that we are here for when people come in, but it has been minimal but people haven't totally stopped doing everything. As far as City Hall, we get very minimal visitors, we have very big glass there in-between and for me at this point because there aren't a lot of people that come in, but we may get that one or two that may need help, I would hate to have it closed. I believe, and again, we are always out there if somebody comes in, we go out there and we wipe. We make sure we take care of safety, but I am also trying to balance that between that taking everything very seriously and still continuing to help our residents that is what we are always striving to do and we will continue to strive to do that, it is no different with the Service Department staggering hours, we are still trying to get stuff done. Wastewater if we get a call for a sewer back up, we have to go out there and address it. We are going to do safely, we are going to do it the way we have to do it, but we still need to do those things. Same thing with some inspections. You get a water heater inspection, what are you going to do tell the person not to have hot water, you still have to go out there and do that function, again, we are doing it safely. Our building inspector has got a mask, he makes sure that before he enters the house, he goes through a protocol with the resident, so we are still doing what we have to do, we are not expanding on that, there are some things that we are not doing because we don't need to right now. We are still functioning; we have to continue to function. Mayor's Court, you asked about that, we are down to fewer than 20 people tomorrow because a lot of people that have waived tickets which we have allowed them to do. People that have asked for continuances we have granted those continuances, and we are down to less than 20 people tomorrow at Mayor's Court and going forward, I believe that Mayor's Court is probably going to lessen on its own. There is nobody out there driving, nobody out there really doing a lot of travel, so that should be minimized.

Law Director Kelly states, Mr. Chairman and the members of the Council, we have also taken the step to, the Mayor and I, and the Magistrate Mr. Marniella discussed the matter and he has cut an Order to effectively close the Mayor's Court until April 14. Then, we will take a look at it and reassess it at that time. So, there will be Mayor's Court tomorrow, and then not again until the 14<sup>th</sup> of April.

Mr. Langshaw states you said the 14<sup>th</sup> of April?

Law Director Kelly states yes.

Mr. Langshaw states again this is communication where at least if it is in writing.

Law Director Kelly states Mr. Chair we are doing these things on a day to day basis, we are adapting to the circumstances as they appear. If you look across the state, you will find that most of the Mayor's Courts are still up in the air, they are all dealing with the same difficulty. Parma Court has taken an unusual step to effectively allow some 2-point offenses to be waived which would otherwise require an appearance and we discussed that and we decided that we don't need to do that here. They draw from seven districts. We only have the one. In terms of how we are proceeding, we are proceeding apace, we are proceeding with deliberateness, the response that this administration is making is a measured response. As you all saw, there was a reporter from Channel 5 here when you came in who had been tipped off by an anonymous tipster that in fact the Mayor was failing in his responsibility to respond to this challenge. I don't know who that person is and I cannot say, whoever they are were defamatory in terms in trying to set up that premise and all that does is fan the flames of anxiety for the public and it has got to stop. You have a responsibility and we all have a responsibility, everybody here took an oath, all that we ask is that everybody to just fulfill their oath.

Mr. Langshaw states information like that is much more reassuring hearing what we are hearing today that is a lot.

Mayor states let me make it clear, I don't have a problem sharing information. It is just that a lot of information and I don't know exactly what information you want, if we are closing a facility and doing something, sure we can get you that information so that you guys have it. The day to day operation that changes like I said day to day based on the way things are doing, those are all administrative duties that we are just running the City, running the departments, I don't think that is something that I need to share. The Service Department isn't shutting down we are just changing shifts; I don't know what importance that is to anyone other than the residents who come in and giving them the service that they need. After this, I don't know, maybe we will switch it again or we will do something else, on a day to day operation. But I agree any information like for instance, if we are making a decision on closing something or doing something like that, absolutely, I have no problem sharing that information with everybody. But to ask you to give you a daily report on everything that I have done, to me is ridiculous and it is almost impossible for me to do. I am sure when I come in tomorrow, before we have a department head meeting at 9:00 a.m. we are probably going to go through something else with this situation that is going to present itself and after the department head meeting after 9 o'clock, after they all leave and go about doing their daily business, we will probably have more discussions and more phone calls because that is how much it changes all the time. I talk to both Chiefs all the time; we are always doing things. Or I am talking to Tom Jordan or I am talking to Eric, because things are changing all the time. All of it relates to the virus, whether it be Eric talking or talking about finances because it is definitely going to be an issue but it is related to the virus. So, everything that we are doing, yeah it relates 24/7 to the virus, we all know that, these things change every day. I have no problem informing

Council on a lot of things, but I cannot inform you on my day to day decisions, every decision I make on a day to day basis.

Mr. Weimer states nor is Council asking you to Mr. Mayor. The majority of Council is not asking you to do that.

Mr. Langshaw states I don't hear the majority of Council, but Mr. Mayor you make a good point and I am glad that you said that. Try what you can....

Mayor states again Dan, I will reiterate this again, there is nothing wrong if you have a specific question, and you say hey, Larry or hey Mayor, what is going on with the Building Department, all you have to do is pick up a phone and call me. I got this phone with me 24/7, all the time. I think everybody knows me well enough, I answer my phone, if I cannot get to it immediately, I will call you back. All you have to do is pick up the phone and say, what is going on with the Building Department, are we changing hours, are we closing, what is your thought. I will let you know what is going on so that communication can be and I think new Council knows that as well, I don't think anyone has ever called me and I haven't responded to their phone call. So that is all you have to do, it is that simple.

Mr. Langshaw states thank you Mayor. Does anyone else have any more questions for the Mayor?

Mr. Wos states I would like to make some comments to the Mayor. I appreciate everyone's comments here tonight, I think, we are definitely in what you would consider unprecedented times, I think I can speak for everybody by saying, I am sick of this virus, I am not sick from it, but I am sick of it and obviously what it is doing here. What is being said about this, that, and the other thing, information the things that are being communicated, nobody really knows what is an effective thing, we see the federal government, the state government taking unprecedented responses across everything, voting. They wiped voting out, so with all that being said, I think we need to dial it back a bit, try to be a little more rational, I understand that everybody has concerns, more people are more concerned about this, that or the other thing. Fine, but just my own thoughts lets work together as a Council and to the Mayor's point he is trying to, the Mayor has been in office for 3 months, and we are in an unprecedented situation, I think we should give everybody the benefit of the doubt and just dial it back a bit and work together. This is the time, the most when people should do that. That is my comment. The other thing that I wanted to say is, Chief I really appreciate you coming here and speaking with us tonight, I don't know you personally, but having met you at the department and seeing how our department operates and those capabilities that we have, I am convinced that we are prepared for anything that comes our way. That being said, since this type of thing changes daily, you are the expert, we are going to defer to you and I think the best thing to do is defer to your judgment when it comes to our safety services, all those measures that are being done are taking place and I appreciate you coming here and keeping us informed. I know there was a remark about providing more information, I don't think – that is fine, if it takes away from your job, administrating the department and everything, obviously you have pressing things that take priority. That is just my thoughts.

Mr. Dietrich states if you need anything, I don't know what we can do to help, but if you need something from Safety Committee, the community is ready to help, we just donated a whole bunch of stuff to the Police Department. Hand sanitizers, wipes for the vehicles, for their cruisers, bleach bottles, the whole bit, just to make sure, it is genuine, I am not up here, not in political mode at all, I have two years. My point is, I don't know what we can do, if there is anything at all, that we can do that you can think of, let us know. I want to reiterate what Mr. Wos said, thank you again, we feel that we are in great hands.

Chief Chegan states thank you, I appreciate the comments. I have been here in the City longer than anyone working and I am not going to throw Chief Bilinovich under the table. I have been part of the City for a long time, I have been the emergency coordinator longer than I have been Chief and to be honest with you, if there are questions out there, I don't mind answering them. I have been in front of the camera numerous times, I am not afraid to talk to whoever is there, but when they are questioning something that we know that we have done under this administration that bothers me. We are doing everything that we can, should and we have been ahead of the curve. Mr. Kelly's remarks, there is already a post, I am not on Facebook, but my best employee in my department don't tell my guys that but my administrative assistant advises me that there is a post on Facebook posting that our safety forces need supplies. Again, that is just another example of the tipster or whoever Mr. Kelly spoke of and all of a sudden it is causing a little rift that we may not be prepared. To be honest with you that is the part that really disturbs me, because I am the emergency coordinator, I am responsible for 34,000 or whatever the exact number of people in the City. If I am acting a little uptight about this, the reasons that Ken's guys and my guys are doing everything that they can each and every day, even without the coronavirus and say that we are not prepared, even just one little thing does hurt the respect and the pride of our guys, and you guys can tell anything for the next four years or however long you are up there, you can throw whatever you want, but when you are going to throw crap, then I am going to fight back and I don't mean that in a negative way, and I don't want to take this meeting that way, and Mayor, I apologize if you didn't want me to go this way but I take this very seriously. Chief Bilinovich and I have been here thirty years as well. Again, we are ready and prepared to move forward and as the Mayor said, if you have any questions, please feel free to direct them to him. We have the same process in place moving forward the action forms, the Mayor and the police use those, as many times as you want during this. We understand how important this is, we get that and he will give it to me, trust me. By 7 o'clock in the morning, I will be on the phone I will get those forms. So any questions or anything, the processes that we have already in the City lets

keep those, it is kind of business as normal, just a little bit abnormal. We do have processes in place, so keep that communication going, direct them through the action reports and he sends them down to all of the department heads so please keep that place so this way the continuity of the internal communications can then get back to you through the Mayor's office. So as far as communication, let's use our normal processes.

Mr. Dietrich states, thanks Chief, I want to make a quick statement. I want to make it very clear to everyone in the audience and anyone here on Council, I asked to be on safety, I asked Mr. Marnecheck because he communicated with us where we would like serve and put our time, and he asked me why. I have several family members that are in law enforcement, I have several family members that are in the fire departments. I am not going to make this a big speech, I am very passionate, so I had to sell him on why I wanted to be on safety. Not once did I question where we were headed, I want to make that very clear, I think that we are prepared. I am just trying, and all of this is complimentary, I want to make sure, again I told you he runs a tight ship, I want to make sure there is nothing else that I can do and there is nothing negative in that, I know there is a negative vibe here. I get what happened, I get the media being here, everybody is in a stir, this has nothing to do with me. I genuinely care about our first responders, that is why I ran around, drove out to Elyria yesterday, because I don't know if you have those things or not, in the back of my mind I know that they are scarce nobody was prepared for this, I am just trying to do my part. If I was good at baking cookies, I would bring cookies and bring them up. My point to you is, if there is anything that I can do, maybe it is not a big impact just to let you know, I just would like to try and help and that is it. It is a positive thing; I get the negative vibes and I don't want it to be spun into something that it wasn't. I get that we are prepared, it was just a heartfelt thing, it was genuine and hopefully it helped, if you guys need something to just let us know.

Chief Bilinovich states Councilman I appreciate and all my guys appreciate the cleaner, the wipes and everything that you dropped off because we go through a lot of stuff quick.

Mr. Dietrich states, I just don't want you guys getting sick. You guys are out there on the lines.

Chief Chegan states between the Chief and I, our comments were not directed to any individual. I just want to make it clear that it was directed towards the situation at hand. We want to make sure that we communicate the information appropriately and I think we have done that.

Mr. Dietrich states yes you did. And thank you for doing it that is all I got.

Mr. Langshaw states we all want you safe because if you are not safe then it is hard for us to all be safe. I know that Councilman Wos has said it best this is unprecedented and I think today, if anything, we are all on the same page. You made it very clear that you have everything and the personal protective equipment. My wife is a nurse, there is very specific things that you need, I think this level of communication and understanding of what we are supposed to do is very helpful. What Mike said there is fear, there is a lot of intimidation, I am afraid for my children just as most as my wife, just as much as the Chief, both Chiefs, all of your personnel. I think we all agree that we don't want anything happening to them, we don't want anything happening to anybody. The media whatever, we are prepared, everyone in this room, I think I can speak that everyone wants to get through this and do what we can. Does anybody else have any questions, I know Councilman Marnecheck do you want to have the Law Director speak regarding the legal stuff that we were requesting and I know we communicated some requests to the Law Department.

President of Council Marnecheck states, I think the question was to the Law Director if he would like to speak to any of the questions that were directed to his department.

Law Director Kelly states sure, I would be happy to. It is a civics lesson, the State of Ohio is the sovereign, we the City of North Royalton are an arm of the sovereign, in that sense therefore, we respond to what the Governor says. We have obligations at different levels, but the Legislature determines what the laws are. The Constitution of the State of Ohio, Article 18 provides for home rule. We are a home rule City. We got a Charter in 1952; that charter has been amended repeatedly since then. The first question was, under an urgent emergency such as COVID-19 can City Council temporarily change its rules to require less of the membership necessary for a quorum down to 4 or 5? Well a quorum is 4, but I am not quite sure what that meant. But, if I am to assume that in fact what the suggestion was, we would be able to have a quorum of less than that number, the answer is no. It cannot be done. Our Charter calls for a 7-member Council, quorum is 4 members, and we follow the Charter in that respect. Number 2, an urgent emergency situation such as COVID-19, can City Council also temporarily change its rules to just needing a minimum of three votes to waive the required three readings? No, no you can't. The Charter says, and by the way that is Article 3, subsection J, Ordinances, Resolutions shall be introduced into Council only in written and printed form and the adoption, rejection or amendment time in taking affect in signing thereof shall be in the manner provided by laws in the State of Ohio except as otherwise provided in the Charter. Well, there is no other exception, in this instance we follow State law in regard to the adoption and effectiveness of our Ordinances, so that answer is no. You can find it in Ohio Revised Code § 731.17. Three, what is the Law Department's interpretation of the Ohio Attorney General's letter of March 13, 2020? It was a mess, if Dave Yost wrote that letter, he outa be flayed, the fact of the matter is, we have competing balancing problems with regard to COVID-19. The Director of the Department of Health, Dr. Acton has issued an Order and it has applications statewide and it doesn't exempt the cities, it doesn't exempt any gathering of human beings for a Council meeting. We also have, and by the way, the argument was you should not have these meetings. We got an obligation under the Charter to have Council meetings, in addition that, we have to follow the Open Meetings Act. The Open

Meetings Act requires that you appear, each of you appear here in person, now Mr. Yost in his letter, by the way as an Attorney General he is not supposed to write letters, he is supposed to write opinions and if he writes an opinion, we might have something maybe to rely upon, he didn't do that, he took the easy way out and wrote a three page letter which I have, I am happy to share with you, and we went over this the day it came out. The letter basically says, at the end, you can do what I am saying in here, but don't rely on the fact that I told you, you can do it, you have to see your own Law Department. Well, I can tell you, I read the Open Meetings Act and I understand the nature of the doctor's order, and the truth of the matter is, you cannot herborize them, it is impossible. Many Law Directors reached out to the Ohio Municipal League and our Chief Counsel down there, there is man named Hunter, Gary Hunter, Mr. Hunter has reached out Larry Householder and to the State Senate and within the next week to 10 days, we hope they will have a fix, this is the legislature's issue if you will. We have to follow the law, Mr. Yost's suggestions don't help, they just added confusion to an already difficult circumstance. We hope to have a fix very shortly on the question of whether or not we can take advantage of the existing technology which was not in effect which did not exist at the time when the Open Meetings Act was created, so that people could appear remotely, but it poses a great deal of difficulty in terms of seeing to it, therefore we also at the same time adjust and try to meet the obligations that we have to have open meetings for the public. To Mr. Yost's letter, it was worthless. Four, do you know of any section of the current City's Charter that provide a special power for action to protect the community during this COVID emergency? No, there aren't any, we don't need any. The fact of the matter is, the emergency problems are being handled by the Chief of the Fire Department and the Chief of the Police Department, and all of their good people who are out there 24/7 keeping the business of government going, providing the services that the people have the right to expect whether there is an emergency or not. Does the Mayor have the authority to suspend the Mayor's Court? Well we talked about that and it was a combined decision, but the Magistrate of the Mayor's Court is the one who was empowered effectively to do what he did by cutting the Order that we all agreed upon. But our Charter is a strong Mayor form of government and to that end, the Mayor is the Chief Law Enforcement Officer, and he is personally responsible for all 34,000 lives. Now he knows that he has rely upon Chief Chegan and Chief Bilinovich, and all the good people that work for him to take care of this community and we are doing that to the best of our ability and he is doing that 24/7. I guess the bottom line is in terms of civics, we have a Charter, we are following the Charter. I do have a recommendation for you though in terms of your meetings going forward. If the business of legislation can be paired to a bare minimum and I have talked this over with President of Council Marnecheck, if the business of legislation can be paired to a bare minimum, I feel comfortable in giving you an opinion that you could go down to one meeting a month as opposed to two and that you could, and you probably should terminate committee meetings, so you can get in here do what business has to be done and get out. If something comes up in the interim between the monthly meetings until the COVID experience is over with, the Mayor has the right and the Council President and three members of Council has the right to call a special meeting.

President of Council Marnecheck states, one thing I will say to the Law Director's final point is be flexible, we will get through this. It might not be the succinctness of manners but we will get through it, there are options and ways, if we all kind of remember that we are on the same team here. My second point is, I think to the Law Director's third point regarding any activity by the General Assembly is again, be patient, I know some of us, many of us, all of us have read things that are densely legalese and done what I have done, called the Law Director or the Assistant Law Director and say in English please, what does this actually mean. Whatever they come up with, lets try to be patient and let the Law Department reflect on it, digest it and kind of guide us. As I have mentioned to everybody today, my concern is that lets make sure that any activity that this body takes is rock solid, any decision we make is rock solid, whatever the decision is so that it cannot be questioned because if it is questioned the Law Department is the one that has to answer. I think I am correct on that.

Law Director Kelly states you are.

President of Council Marnecheck states so lets kind of defer to those that have to defend us, that is all.

Councilman Langshaw states or as the Council President says that is why we pay the Law Department the big bucks, jokingly of course.

President of Council Marnecheck states in all honesty that is also why, we are kind of blessed having the Chiefs we do, who have a lot of training, that is kind of again, listen to those who... the Mayor is not new to these types of things either. Kind of let the people that defend us, lead us on these things.

Councilman Langshaw states good point. Two things for our Law Director, I guess the first point, the General Assembly, I thought about what Councilman Dietrich says, what can we do to help, we are here, do you believe it to be helpful if we engage, at least our representatives as Council folks and say hey this would help us and kind of explain from our standpoint why this is necessary, given the concerns are here on the ground, do you believe that would be helpful?

Law Director Kelly states it would not hurt.

President of Council Marnecheck states we are pretty connected to those of the General Assembly that represent us.

Mayor states I have already during this whole thing, I have already had discussions with Senator Dolan, I have had discussions with Representative Patton, we have talked already about not only the virus and other things.

Obviously we would like to, it would even be better if they actually came out and made a decision, but as we know the State, no matter what they seem to do, always seem to just generalize everything and lay it right back on us to kind of clean it up and do whatever. I have no problem making those phone calls to those individuals, I just talked to them a couple days ago.

Council Langshaw states if shot them an email or something, again, that would at least be helpful to explain a little bit from our perspective and obviously they have leadership to deal with down in Columbus they can at least share with our story is, this is a challenge.

Law Director Kelly states Mr. Chairman, I think the Ohio Municipal League is actually doing a pretty good job on that, they know what the problem is, the conflict is what as I said to you between the Open Meetings Act and the efficacy of Dr. Acton's Order, you can't harmonize those two things they are completely apposite, and as a result the Legislatures got to make a fix.

Council Langshaw states one last thing to the Law Director, I think Council President Marnecheck was looking, was kind of thinking the same, smart people think alike and there is probably others to that are thinking the same thing to with your recommendation to cut down business if at all possible, I guess to the Council President and to the Law Director would we; a) require at least a good lawyer we have here to do some kind of legal opinion to give us some background.

Law Director Kelly states I am giving you the opinion now, if during the course of this meeting tonight, somebody wishes to make a motion with an appropriate second to effectively schedule but one meeting per month for City Council through the end of the COVID-19 experience, you may do so and that alone will be sufficient to meet the challenge.

Council Langshaw states that was my second question, so that was helpful.

President of Council Marnecheck states in the in-between meetings, there is a Latin term for it which I don't remember, let me talk to the Director of Legislative Service just to make sure and the Law Director to make sure we have the wording of such a motion correct.

Council Langshaw states does anyone else have any questions. I know this was very thorough and was really good and I think we are all on the same page and again, this is very scary, fear gets the best of us. We are all here to do a job and keep people safe. Thank you all for what you continue to do.

#### **ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Mr. Dietrich seconded by Mr. Wos **to adjourn the March 18, 2020 meeting.** Yeas: 3 Nays: 0.  
**Motion carried.**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.**