

# City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD December 9, 2013

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This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michael C. Barth at 8:00 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance.

## **ROLL CALL**

Present and accounted for were Mayor Dell' Aquila, Director of Law Pignatiello, Director of Finance Johnson, Councilman-at-Large Snitzky, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 1 Councilman Barth, Ward 2 Councilman Tripi, Ward 3 Councilwoman Lecznar, Ward 4 Councilman Draganic, and Director of Public Service and Properties and Acting City Engineer Lovece. Absentees were Councilman-at-Large Bentkowski and Building Commissioner Moro.

## **READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL**

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Tripi, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council Meeting held November 25, 2013 and the Minutes of the Special Council Meeting held December 2, 2013, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

**Council President Barth** stated there are two Consent Agendas before Council this evening for approval – Consent Agenda No. 1 and Consent Agenda No. 2. Council President Barth said that Councilman Trafis will recuse himself from Consent Agenda No. 2.

**MOTION** by Mr. Tripi, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 1** of December 9, 2013, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**MOTION** by Mr. Tripi, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 2** of December 9, 2013, as printed, if there is no division of the question.

**Mr. Trafis** stated he was going to recuse himself from this vote due to the Bentkowski lawsuit.

Roll Call: Barth, yea; Draganic, yea; Lecznar, yea; Snitzky, yea;  
Trafis (recused); Tripi, yea

5 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused)

**MOTION CARRIED**

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## **RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION**

**Resolution No. 22-2013** – A RESOLUTION OF COMMENDATION TO VICTORIA FLOWERS ON HER 100<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Resolution No. 22-2013 in its entirety for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

### **MOTION CARRIED**

Resolution No. 22-2013 was read in its entirety by the Clerk of Council for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to adopt Resolution No. 22-2013 as an emergency measure.

**Council President Barth** made the following comments:

“Mrs. Flowers – Happy Birthday, and Congratulations! I’d just like to say that you are a walking advertisement for leading an active life. I see you golf, you bowl, you ballroom dance – I think we should all take notice of that. I’d like to just congratulate you, and may God Bless you, Mrs. Flowers. Congratulations!”

**Mrs. Lecznar** made the following comments:

“I would like to wish you a very Happy Birthday – on your 100<sup>th</sup>. You’ve seen more than most of us will ever see. And in Polish I’d just like to say ‘*Sto Lat!*’”

**Mr. Tripi** made the following comments:

“I’d just like to say Happy Birthday. I love playing pinochle, so it’s nice to hear when anybody plays pinochle!”

**Mr. Draganic** made the following comments:

“Mrs. Flowers, first of all, Happy Birthday – you look wonderful! I just want to share with you that my grandmother is, as well, 100 years old. Her birthday comes up in February, so she will be 101. But it always makes me think, and I have this discussion often – more often than I probably should, and I don’t know why – but a person of 100 years today has probably seen more transformation, more changes, more advancements in this 100 years than anybody in any 100 years could have seen in times past or probably in times to come. This last century has really been a remarkable one for advancements and technology. I just wonder how it affects you – how do you perceive the things that have changed in that time period. I know my grandmother, for instance, living in the City of Cleveland, still had outhouses and shared outhouses in the City of Cleveland when she was a girl. And to think of how far we’ve come since then. So, it is very amazing. What area are you from here? Are you from Cleveland originally?”

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**Mrs. Flowers**, from her seat in the audience, answered that she was born in Batavia, New York. Mrs. Flowers said she was just a kid when she moved here to Cleveland, but has spent most of her life here in Cleveland. She stated she was in the St. Clair-East 55<sup>th</sup> Street-East 65<sup>th</sup> Street area.

**Mr. Draganic** concluded his remarks:

“Well, Happy Birthday to you. It has been my pleasure to have met you today.”

**Mr. Trafis** made the following comments:

“Congratulations on the 100 years. It’s a true honor to have you here with us today. I’m very glad that you could spend this time with us. Congratulations and Happy Birthday!”

**Mr. Snitzky** made the following comments:

“I echo what Pete said. My grandfather died in 1970. He was 98. The stories he used to tell about the turn of the century – the 1880’s – were things that you just can’t imagine. So the thoughts of the history that you’ve seen and perhaps personally experienced is just amazing. Congratulations on being here.”

**Mayor Dell’Aquila** made the following comments:

“Mrs. Flowers, I also wish to wish you a Happy 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday. I know that neighborhood. My dad was born in 1911 and was for many years an employee at White Motors at 79<sup>th</sup> and St. Clair. So I know that neighborhood very well. In fact, I was baptized at St. Thomas Aquinas that doesn’t exist in that neighborhood any longer. I know that neighborhood very well. Again, I just want to wish you a Happy Birthday. I also have a Proclamation from the Mayor which I will hand you when we’re completed here. Thank you – thank you for coming.”

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION NO. 22-2013 IS DECLARED ADOPTED.**

**Council President Barth and Mayor Dell’Aquila** left the dais momentarily and proceeded to the audience to directly present Mrs. Flowers with the Resolution of Commendation and Mayor’s Proclamation.

*Mrs. Victoria Flowers received a hearty and lengthy round of applause from the audience and from everyone present.*

*There was a short pause in the meeting while members of the audience exited Council Chambers and while Council President Barth and Mayor Dell’Aquila returned to their seats on the dais.*

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## **REPORTS OF COMMITTEES**

### **Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development**

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Trafis stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, November 18, 2013, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr Trafis said that the Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 16, 2013.

### **Public Works**

Public Works Committee Chairman Bentkowski was not present. Council President Barth stated that there was no Public Works Committee meeting held last week (*December 2, 2013*).

### **Community Services**

Community Services Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 2, 2013, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Snitzky stated that the Community Services Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, January 6, 2014.

### **Police and Fire**

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Draganic stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 16, 2013.

### **Parks and Recreation**

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairman Tripi stated that the Parks Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 16, 2013.

### **Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics**

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Lecznar stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, December 2, 2013, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council.

### **Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel**

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Barth stated that the Committee also last met on Monday evening, December 2, 2013, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Barth stated that the Finance Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, December 16, 2013.

## **APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS**

There were no appointments or confirmations.

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## **COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS**

There were no communications, petitions, or claims.

## **COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY**

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

## **ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS**

**Ordinance No. 16-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH RESOURCE INTERNATIONAL, INC., OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$7,615.00, TO PERFORM A SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION FOR THE PROPOSED PINNACLE PARK AND OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD IMPROVEMENTS IN THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to read Ordinance No. 16-2013 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 16-2013 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Snitzky, to pass Ordinance No. 16-2013.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 16-2013 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 17-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH BURGESS & NIPLE OF PAINESVILLE OHIO, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$18,150.00 FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES TO DESIGN THE INTERSECTION TRAFFIC SIGNAL AT ROCKSIDE ROAD AND PINNACLE PARK (PINNACLE PARK/OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD TIF PROJECT) IN THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS.

**MOTION** by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mr. Draganic, to read Ordinance No. 17-2013 by title only for its third and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 17-2013 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

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**MOTION** by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mr. Draganic, to pass Ordinance No. 17-2013.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 17-2013 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 18-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH EAGLE EYE SURVEYING OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$6,655.00 FOR SERVICES PROVIDED FOR TOPOGRAPHIC SURVEY OF OLD ROCKSIDE ROAD AND PINNACLE PARK DRIVE (TIF PROJECT); DRAFT BASE MAPS; ATTEND MEETINGS AND ASSIST WITH PROJECT PLAN DEVELOPMENT.

**MOTION** by Mr. Draganic, seconded by Mr. Barth, to read Ordinance No. 18-2013 by title only for its third and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 18-2013 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Draganic, seconded by Mr. Barth, to pass Ordinance No. 18-2013.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 18-2013 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 112-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL, CUYAHOGA COUNTY HEALTH DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Ordinance No. 112-2013 by title only for its third and final reading.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**  
Ordinance No. 112-2013 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

**MOTION** by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to pass Ordinance No. 112-2013.  
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 112-2013 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 115-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 121.011, COMPENSATION OF COUNCILPERSONS, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 121, COUNCIL, OF TITLE THREE, LEGISLATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO.

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**Council President Barth** stated:

“Before the second reading of Ordinance No. 115-2013, I would request that the Clerk of Council remove the names of Councilman Bentkowski and Councilman Draganic as sponsors of the subject ordinance.”

**Ordinance No. 115-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 116-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH NICOLE BROBST FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ZUMBA AND AQUA ZUMBA GROUP FITNESS INSTRUCTION CLASSES AT THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR THE PERIOD COVERING JANUARY 1, 2013 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2013.

**Ordinance No. 116-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 117-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH ANTHONY TOTH FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ADULT FITNESS PROGRAMS AT THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR 2013.

**Ordinance No. 117-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 118-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A SEASONAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH RONALD ROSE, MEN’S FLAG FOOTBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUE COMMISSIONER, ASSOCIATED WITH THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION COMPLEX FLAG FOOTBALL AND SOFTBALL LEAGUE, SPRING & FALL, 2014.

**Ordinance No. 118-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 119-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH APEX PEST CONTROL OF OAKWOOD VILLAGE, OHIO, TO PROVIDE PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR EACH OF THE CITY’S FACILITIES (CITY HALL AND POLICE DEPARTMENT, FIRE STATION, AND SERVICE GARAGE); AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$940.00.

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**Ordinance No. 119-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 120-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH APEX PEST CONTROL OF OAKWOOD VILLAGE, OHIO, TO PROVIDE PEST CONTROL SERVICES FOR THE COMMUNITY RECREATION COMPLEX; AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$480.00.

**Ordinance No. 120-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 121-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH CONTINENTAL FIRE & SECURITY, INC., OF INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PREVENTATIVE MAINTENANCE FOR THE FIRE AND SPRINKLER ALARM SYSTEMS AT THE COMMUNITY RECREATION CENTER FOR ONE YEAR COMMENCING JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,345.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 121-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 122-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH SYSTEM 4 OF INDEPENDENCE, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING COMMERCIAL CLEANING AND CUSTODIAL SERVICES FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS RECREATION AND FITNESS COMPLEX FROM JANUARY 1, 2014 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2014, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$21,000.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 122-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

**Ordinance No. 123-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO AUTHORIZE THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A ONE-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH REACH MEDIA NETWORK OF EDEN PRAIRIE, MAINE, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CREATING A CUSTOMIZED MOBILE APP SOLUTION FOR THE SEVEN HILLS RECREATION CENTER, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$2,349.00 FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 123-2013 was read by full title only for its second reading.**

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**Ordinance No. 125-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A “BUSINESS POWER SUPPLY COORDINATION SERVICE AGREEMENT” ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH DIRECT ENERGY BUSINESS, LLC, IN ORDER TO RECEIVE ENERGY SUPPLY (ELECTRIC SUPPLY); AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Tripi, to read Ordinance No. 125-2013 by title only for its final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

Ordinance No. 125-2013 was read by full title only for its final reading.

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Tripi, to pass Ordinance No. 125-2013 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**ORDINANCE NO. 125-2013 IS DECLARED PASSED.**

**Ordinance No. 126-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$4,388.00 FOR A ONE-YEAR SILVER PLAN MAINTENANCE SERVICE AGREEMENT (2014) FOR THE TELRAD 400 PHONE SYSTEM USED BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS COMMUNITY COMPLEX (CITY HALL), SAID AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED INTO WITH RAYTEC SYSTEMS OF STOW, OHIO.

**Ordinance No. 126-2013 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 127-2013** – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE A SUM NOT TO EXCEED \$696.00 FOR THE ANNUAL MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT (2014) FOR THE FIRE STATION NORTEL PHONE SYSTEM USED BY THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FIRE DEPARTMENT, SAID AGREEMENT TO BE ENTERED INTO WITH RAYTEC SYSTEMS OF STOW, OHIO.

**Ordinance No. 127-2013 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

**Ordinance No. 128-2013** – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH THE CUYAHOGA SOIL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF WORKING WITH THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FOR EFFECTIVE COLLABORATION IN CARRYING OUT MANDATED RESPONSIBILITIES, ESPECIALLY RELATED TO NATIONAL POLLUTANT DISCHARGE ELIMINATION SYSTEM RULES; AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED FOUR THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$4,000.00) FOR SAID SERVICE.

**Ordinance No. 128-2013 was read by full title only for its first reading.**

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## COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

## MISCELLANEOUS

### Mr. Tripi:

I would just like to mention a few things. First, it has been my honor and very satisfying serving as a Councilman for the City of Seven Hills these past six years. I enjoyed working with my fellow Councilmen -- and yes, that includes you, Caryl -- and also our Council Clerk, Carol Sekerak.

Mr. Mayor, I wish you the very best over the next two years. I hope and trust the new Council will work with you to do what is in the best interests of the City and its residents.

I must also call out at this time a special thank you to Stewart Lovece and Jen Burger for both doing an extraordinary job in your respective positions with severely reduced budgets. You are shining examples of what can be done when called upon to do more with less. Thank you again. You showed that it can be done.

It's also been my pleasure working with all the other various Department Heads and their staffs.

As they say, all good things must come to an end. It has been my pleasure.

**Council President Barth** replied, "Thank you, Councilman. It's been our pleasure as well."

### Mr. Draganic:

I think Joe and I both wrote the same paragraph, but I'll press on.

It's been an honor for me and a privilege to have served the residents of Seven Hills over these past six years as the Ward 4 Councilman. I have enjoyed my time on Council, and am very proud of what we have accomplished together. I take exceptional pride in my personal contributions to our successes.

On the personal line of my public service, I appreciate and value the many great relationships I've had the opportunity to build with residents, colleagues, and with so many here at City Hall. In parting, I wish continued success to my colleagues, and a smooth transition to the incoming Council Members. Thank you.

**Council President Barth** replied, "Thank you, Councilman."

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**Mrs. Lecznar:**

I just want to wish our outgoing guys, again, good luck – and don't be strangers. Joe, I need you. You're going to be there to kick me, and I'll kick you. But best wishes to you both. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Trafis:**

Although I've only served on Council with each of these members for the past two years, I want to say, Joe, I appreciate your service and dedication to the City and most especially your professionalism demonstrated during my time on this Council. Best of luck to you in the future.

Mr. Tripi replied, "Thank you!"

Pete, although we haven't always agreed on all the issues, I do want to tell you that I've been appreciative that we've been able to communicate. One thing that we've always been able to do is talk – whether it's phone calls or in the meetings, or aside from City Hall – I think that's been important and it has meant a lot to me. I certainly enjoyed the past two years sitting next to you; in between meetings we'd goof around and joke a little bit. So, regardless of what the future holds, I hope we can continue that part of the relationship. Best of luck to you.

Mr. Draganic replied, "Thank you, Matt!"

**Mr. Snitzky:**

You know I've been in a lot of different business relationships with a lot of different people, but for the most part I have really thoroughly enjoyed this Council and the gentlemen on this Council. Unfortunately, change is inevitable. One of the things I don't like about change is people you like working with and being around having to move on in your life.

Joe, you're a real gentleman. You are one of the classiest individuals I have ever met. You've always been helpful – you've always been respectful. You're a wealth of knowledge. You're going to be missed. Your calm, your intelligence, your presence – I wish you luck on all your future challenges.

Pete, you know, the Committees that I have had to serve with you on, and I specifically remember the recreational vehicle ordinance, the battles that we fought over that, and coming to some type of a reasonable compromise – because one of the things that really gave me insight and how things should be done, and how government should run. It was actually a blast working with you on that. You helped me navigate some very choppy public waters when I initially decided to run for office, which I wouldn't be here if you didn't do that for me. You were consistently a knowledgeable voice on the political realities of what it's like to be in office in Seven Hills. And I'm going to miss your smile, Peter. Good luck to you, and one of these days I expect to turn on Shark Tank and you to be one of the sharks. Take care.

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Mr. Draganic replied, "Thank you, Tom."

## **Council President Barth:**

This is the last meeting that I'll be chairing with this current Council, and the last meeting for two of our Councilmen here up on the dais – Joe Tripi from Ward 2 and Pete Draganic from Ward 4. Both men have served this City for nearly six years and you have served it well. You're not only my colleagues, you are both my friends.

Joe, I did not know you well six years ago before you were appointed, but I learned that you are not only a good Councilman, but more importantly, I learned what kind of man you were – a man who I developed a great deal of respect and admiration for -- first as a Councilman. Because Joe was an owner of a successful business, I asked him to sit on the Finance Committee and to Chair our Parks and Recreation Committee. As Chairman of that Committee, he worked with the Mayor and his staff to implement changes that resulted in elimination of a nearly \$400,000.00 deficit there. As a member of the Finance Committee, Joe was a real watch dog of the taxpayer's money, and as Chairman of that Committee, I often sought out and sought your opinion on budget matters. You are a true professional that was quietly very effective. Joe always put politics aside and did what he thought was best for the City. Joe, your legacy as a Councilman will be your fiscal conservatism at a time when this City needed it the most. Besides being a dedicated public servant, Joe is a wonderful father, grandfather, and a devoted and loving husband. You are a caring man of great faith. Despite a time-consuming family commitment, I cannot recall Joe ever missing a meeting. Joe, you have an inner strength not found in many men. You are an individual that I, and anyone who knows him, hold in very high esteem. Joe, I know you have obligations at home, but I also know this City will miss you. Hopefully some day you will return. The City needs men like you. Thanks for your service, Joe. You served admirably.

Pete, I want to thank you for your contributions you made to the City. Not only in this building, but also behind the scenes, for the work you did in helping Lisa prepare for our many community events. Also let's not forget about the city-owned house you demolished at your expense on Rockside in my ward. I remember shaking my head when you made that unprecedented offer, but then I realized Pete wants to help Seven Hills in any way he could. As a colleague, I'm going to miss you, Pete. There's no question in my mind that all you ever wanted was what was best for the people of Seven Hills. You were not afraid to ask the hard questions of anything that came before Council. You were always very thorough in looking at the pros and cons of every issue and you were never afraid to speak your mind. Like Joe, Pete was always very effective. Unlike Joe, he was not very quiet. I would often joke with him that he was being too long winded. But I knew that was a good thing, because when you were finished, there was no question the issue was properly vetted because of your due diligence.

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**Council President Barth** (continued):

Pete's most notable achievement was personally negotiating changes in our trash contract that resulted in an annual savings of \$146,000.00 annually. Pete has been a small business owner for over twenty years in Seven Hills and recently received a patent on a fluid control device that is now in production. Best of luck in your new venture, Pete, and don't forget Seven Hills after you make that first million on your invention.

I will certainly miss the two of you because you were not only my friends, but you brought certain strengths to the table. Unfortunately, I cannot say the same about the other departing Councilman who only brought chaos to the table, and I'm going to leave it at that. The departure of these two Councilmen means that two new Councilpersons will be taking their place. Tim Fraundorf is the new Councilman in Ward 2, and Michele Ernst is the new Councilwoman in Ward 4. Tim and Michele, we certainly have some challenges ahead of us, and I look very much forward to working with both of you along with our other new Councilman from Ward 1, Jeff Bryda, to meet those challenges and to continue the progress of the last two years. Welcome!

Mr. Draganic replied, "Thank you, Mike. I appreciate that."

Mr. Tripi added, "Thank you!"

## **REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS**

**Director of Finance Johnson** had no formal report.

**Director of Law Pignatiello:**

I would just like to add my best wishes to Joe and Pete. I wish you both nothing but the best.

**Director of Public Service and Properties and Acting City Engineer Lovece:**

Likewise, all the best to Pete Draganic and Joe Tripi – two very dedicated Council people that the City will miss, no doubt.

Talking about cost savings, currently the Service Department is saving the City about \$770,000.00 each year. That is, we have eleven less full-time workers, nine drivers, one custodian, and one secretary – and we're still getting the job done with a smaller staff. The average wage is about \$22.50 per hour, 50% for taxes and fringes – full-time hours, it comes out to about \$770,000.00 – that's without any other things that we saved – that is just the cost of labor.

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**Building Commissioner Moro** was not present.

## **REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR**

### **Mayor Dell'Aquila:**

I would certainly repeat if I could without delaying matters further everything that was said about Councilman Joe Tripi and Councilman Pete Draganic. Transition is always difficult, and in this case it is particularly so, in that we are losing two very capable and competent representatives for the City, persons for whom we have all grown in our respect and in our fondness. It will be very difficult to see these two gentlemen no longer on the dais. I expect, though, that we will be hearing more from both of them in the future. This body, my Administration, our employees, have come through some particularly difficult times in the last few years. When we all came in we understood the challenges that we were facing, and as I've expressed many times, this has been a team effort in turning around the fortunes of our wonderful community. Pete Draganic and Joe Tripi were at the head of the line in the members of Council who pushed through the many challenges that we made in the last couple of years to get us back in the position where we are now, where we've had balanced budgets, we've turned around the Recreation Center, and as Stewart just indicated we made some substantial cuts in our overhead. We could not have accomplished the things that we accomplished without Joe Tripi and Pete Draganic. This has truly been a team effort. The whole City owes these two fine Council people a debt of gratitude. I will certainly miss all of your input on Council, but I hope that we will remain in touch and in friendship with each other. I wish you Godspeed and thank you for your efforts on behalf of our City. Thank you, gentlemen.

Mr. Tripi replied, "Thank you!"

Mr. Draganic replied, "Thank you!"

**MOTION** by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Tripi, to adjourn the meeting.

Roll Call: all yea

**MOTION CARRIED**

**The December 9, 2013 Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m.**

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Michael C. Barth, President of Council

Attest: \_\_\_\_\_  
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: \_\_\_\_\_