

City of Seven Hills

Record of Minutes of

COUNCIL MEETING HELD October 26, 2015

This Regular Council Meeting was called to order by Council President Michele K. Ernst at 7:30 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 Barth, Councilwoman-at-Large Lecznar, Councilman-at-Large Trafis, Ward 1 Councilman Leech, Ward 2 Councilman Fraundorf, Ward 3 Councilman Snitzky, Ward 4 Councilwoman Ernst, Director of Public Service and Properties Moga, and Community Services Director Terry. Absentee was Building Commissioner Moro.

READING AND DISPOSAL OF JOURNAL

MOTION by Mrs. Lecznar, seconded by Mr. Fraundorf, to accept the Minutes of the Regular Council meeting held October 13, 2015, as printed.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

CONSENT AGENDA

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to amend Consent Agenda No. 1 of October 26, 2015, by **removing** Motion No. 4:

“4. **MOTION** to authorize an expenditure, in the total amount of \$3,383.70, payable to Petitti Garden Centers, for the purchase of thirty (30) 10-Gallon Cleveland Select Pear Trees at \$55.00/each (\$1,649.85), ten (10) Plant Tone Planting Kits at \$25.97/each (\$259.70), and Installation Fee for thirty (30) Trees at \$50.00/each (\$1,500.00), less \$25.85 additional discount, said trees to be planted in new City Developments (Ruth, Rachel, Kristin Court). Payment to be made from funds at the discretion of the Director of Finance”

in its entirety.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Mr. Fraundorf, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Amended Consent Agenda No. 1** of October 26, 2015, as revised, if there is no division of the question.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

MOTION by Mr. Barth, seconded by Mrs. Lecznar, to accept **Consent Agenda No. 2** of October 26, 2015, as printed.

Mr. Trafis stated:

“I am going to recuse myself from this item because it relates to the City paying for my prosecution.”

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Roll Call: Barth, yea; Ernst, yea; Fraundorf, yea; Lecznar, yea; Leech, yea;
Snitzky, yea; Trafis (recused)
6 yea, 0 nay (Trafis recused) **MOTION CARRIED**

RESOLUTIONS OF COMMENDATION

There were no Resolutions of Commendation.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development

Planning, Zoning, and Economic Development Committee Chairman Snitzky stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, October 19, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mr. Snitzky stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 16, 2015.

Public Works

Public Works Committee Chairman Leech stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 2, 2015, at 6:00 p.m. (Mr. Leech's 70th Birthday).

Community Services

Community Services Committee Chairman Fraundorf stated that the Committee last met in Special Session on Monday evening, October 19, 2015. Mr. Fraundorf stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 2, 2015.

Police and Fire

Police and Fire Committee Chairman Trafis stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, October 19, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are forthcoming. Mr. Trafis stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 16, 2015.

Parks and Recreation

Parks and Recreation Committee Chairperson Lecznar stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, October 19, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Lecznar stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening November 16, 2015.

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics

Rules, Ordinances, and Ethics Committee Chairperson Ernst stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, October 5, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are on file with the Clerk of Council. Mrs. Ernst stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 2, 2015.

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Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel

Finance, Civil Service, and Personnel Committee Chairman Barth stated that the Committee last met on Monday evening, October 19, 2015, and the minutes from that meeting are forthcoming. Mr. Barth stated that the Committee will hold its next regular meeting on Monday evening, November 2, 2015.

APPOINTMENTS AND CONFIRMATIONS

There were no appointments or confirmations.

COMMUNICATIONS, PETITIONS, AND CLAIMS

The Clerk of Council stated she received an email this afternoon, October 26, 2015, with the request that the subject letter be entered into the record and read on Council Floor as soon as possible. Mrs. Sekerak said she would read the letter in its entirety.

"To Whom It May Concern,

It has recently come to my attention through printed material in our community that part of a budget plan that council will be voting on would include the elimination of the director of health and senior services. The plan would be to instead fill this complex role with volunteers. I am writing to express why I feel that decision would be a huge detriment to our city and it's residents.

First, a little about myself. I am a resident of Oakwood Drive in Seven Hills. I have lived on Oakwood with my husband for over ten years. We have three children and plan on raising our children in our current home and living here the rest of our life. We are young, have college degrees, work full time in healthcare, and otherwise are pretty upstanding normal citizens. We have always been able to take care of ourselves without any assistance from anyone. That all changed last summer when my husband injured his back. Very soon our medical bills grew to an outrageous level that we felt like we were drowning. We tried keeping up with everything and soon found ourselves in some serious debt. Because we work full time and have good jobs we were unable to get any assistance from anywhere. Ours is probably a predicament that many in the middle class could find themselves in with just one health related emergency.

We cut what we could for many months. I found myself eventually cutting our food budget because it was the only thing I had left to cut. Soon shopping trips got leaner and leaner and spread further apart until we were really in a tight place. Last winter I came across an ad in the city newsletter. It was advertising the food pantry in Seven Hills and listed Tony Terry as a contact. I was very hesitant to even reach out as I felt ashamed and nervous. I figured he would turn us away anyways, so I went ahead and sent an email not really thinking anything would come of it.

I was totally wrong.

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Tony got right back to me. He was warm and welcoming from the first moment we spoke. He seemed to genuinely care about me and my family and helping us in any way possible. He made time to meet with me one on one and go through my bills, contacting utilities and seeking out other services that were available to me to provide some relief. He opened up avenues for me to get assistance within the community that I would have never known about or been able to find on my own. Not only did he provide me with emergency food, he provided me a dozen other ways to get the help we needed to get through the hardest time we've ever been through financially.

While we are getting by now, we are far from being on solid ground financially.

However, because of the help Tony gave me that day, the near future for us is not so bleak. Tony still takes the time to reach out to me every so often just to ask how we are doing. Over the last year he has taken the time to collect diapers and clothing for our two younger girls. He has provided us with help beyond emergency food and has done so with a surprising level of honest to goodness caring for us as people and residents of this fine community. I know he is busy with so many other facets of his position and to take the time to remember us and offer help really speaks to his person and character.

Below is the mission statement for the office of health and senior services.

Mission Statement

To provide assistance to the residents of Seven Hills through city, county and state programs while offering a personal, caring experience no matter what the request and to develop and maintain programs and services for the residents of Seven Hills that increase quality of life, sense of purpose and community involvement.

Tony embodies this statement. He was all of these things to me: personal, caring, and very helpful. As the mission statement says, the whole purpose of this office and this role is to increase quality of life, sense of purpose, and community involvement. A community is only as strong as it's residents. When residents are unable to meet their basic needs and government assistance is non-existent or limited, then that is a problem. It is a problem for the whole community. I am only one person with a small family. There are hundreds within Seven Hills like me. Regardless of age, race, or ethnicity, we are the residents that make up this fine city. Tony is the gateway person to getting people help. To eliminate his position to save a few bucks would be to dismantle one of the programs that Seven Hills is doing RIGHT. His is a role that directly helps the citizens in our city and provides them with assistance when many need it the most.

I urge you to find another way to trim the fat from the budget and make things work. To think that volunteers could in some capacity effectively perform the duties this position requires is delusional. I urge you to keep this position and this department intact. I urge you to keep Tony as he is the backbone to this department and runs it with his heart.

He cares genuinely about people and helping people in a time of need. Our city could use more like him in it's rosters, not fewer.

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Thank you for taking the time to read this and consider my plea to you.

Sincerely,

A resident who loves her city! ”

The Clerk of Council stated, for obvious reasons, the resident submitting the subject letter requested of her that her name and email address be kept confidential. Mrs. Sekerak said that the writer's wish for anonymity will be honored by the Clerk's office.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE ON LEGISLATION ONLY

There were no questions or comments from the audience.

ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

Ordinance No. 101-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROVE, ADOPT, AND ENACT THE 2015 REPLACEMENT PAGES TO THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; TO REPEAL ORDINANCES IN CONFLICT THEREWITH; AND TO PUBLISH THE ENACTMENT OF NEW MATTER.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Barth, to read Ordinance No. 101-2015 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 101-2015 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Trafis, seconded by Mr. Barth, to pass Ordinance No. 101-2015.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 101-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 102-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN ANNUAL PROFESSIONAL SERVICE CONTRACT WITH LYNN A. JOHNSON FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING ‘INSANITY CLASSES’ AT THE RECREATION CENTER FROM JANUARY 1, 2015 THROUGH DECEMBER 31, 2015, AND AUTHORIZING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$500.00 FOR PAYMENT OF SAID PROFESSIONAL SERVICES.

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MOTION by Mr. Leech, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to read Ordinance No. 102-2015 by title only for its third and final reading.
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**
Ordinance No. 102-2015 was read by full title only for its third and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Leech, seconded by Mr. Trafis, to pass Ordinance No. 102-2015. **Mr. Leech** stated, "Just one comment. I think it's appropriate, at Election time, that we pass an Insanity Class ordinance."
Roll Call: all yea **MOTION CARRIED**

ORDINANCE NO. 102-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 105-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SUBSECTION 159.01, COURT COSTS, OF CHAPTER 159, MAYOR'S COURT, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE SEVEN, JUDICIAL, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF ADDING NEW SUBSECTION 159.01(i), HOUSING MAINTENANCE CODE FINES.

Ordinance No. 105-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 106-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND SECTION 1143.42, HOUSING MAINTENANCE CODE PROGRAM FUND, AS CONTAINED IN CHAPTER 1143, EXTERIOR MINIMUM MAINTENANCE CODE, OF TITLE THREE, LOCAL BUILDING PROVISIONS, OF PART ELEVEN, BUILDING CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF CLARIFYING THE DEPOSIT OF HOUSING MAINTENANCE CODE FINES INTO THE HOUSING MAINTENANCE CODE PROGRAM FUND.

Ordinance No. 106-2015 was read by full title only for its second reading.

Ordinance No. 107-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND AMENDED ORDINANCE NO. 102-2013, PASSED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS ON SEPTEMBER 23, 2013, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EXTENDING THE TERM OF THE COMMUNITY NOTIFICATION SERVICES IN THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS FROM A THREE-YEAR TERM, AT \$1675.00 EACH YEAR INCLUDING 50,000 MINUTES, TO A FIVE-YEAR TERM, FROM OCTOBER 25, 2013 THROUGH OCTOBER 25, 2018 AT \$1,487.50 EACH YEAR FOR THE ADDITIONAL TWO YEARS; AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY.

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MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Leech, to read Ordinance No. 107-2015 by title only for its first and final reading.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

Ordinance No. 107-2015 was read by full title only for its first and final reading.

MOTION by Mr. Snitzky, seconded by Mr. Leech, to pass Ordinance No. 107-2015 as an emergency measure.

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

ORDINANCE NO. 107-2015 IS DECLARED PASSED.

Ordinance No. 108-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH TAC COMPUTER OF OAKWOOD, OHIO, TO PROVIDE ONE (1) SERVER, FIREWALL, AND NETWORK SWITCH, INCLUDING INSTALLATION AND APPURTENANCES, FOR THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS POLICE DEPARTMENT, AND APPROPRIATING THE SUM NOT TO EXCEED ELEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED NINETY-SEVEN DOLLARS (\$11,397.00) FOR SAID PURCHASE.

Ordinance No. 108-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Ordinance No. 109-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH THE DISTRICT ADVISORY COUNCIL OF THE CUYAHOGA COUNTY GENERAL HEALTH DISTRICT FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROVIDING PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES TO THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO.

Ordinance No. 109-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Ordinance No. 110-2015 – AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, WITH BRILLIANT ELECTRIC SIGN CO., LTD, OF CLEVELAND, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPLACING THE MARQUEE SIGN AT CIVIC DRIVE AND BROADVIEW ROAD WITH ONE (1) DOUBLE-FACE LED ELECTRONIC MESSAGE CENTER WITH A FABRICATED FRAME, AND APPROPRIATING AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$19,825.00, WHICH WILL INCLUDE INSTALLATION FEES AND APPURTENANCES FOR SAID REPLACEMENT.

Ordinance No. 110-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

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Ordinance No. 111-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO APPROPRIATE THE SUM OF \$4,190,944.41 FOR THE FURNISHING OF ALL LABOR AND PERFORMING ALL WORK FOR THE FIVE YEAR (1/1/16 – 12/31/20) RESIDENTIAL REFUSE COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL, RECYCLING SERVICES, AND DISPOSAL OF SOLID WASTE CONTRACT (TWO-DAY COLLECTION – NO YARD WASTE) IN THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO; DETERMINING AND ACCEPTING THE BID OF WASTE MANAGEMENT OF GLENWILLOW, OHIO, TO BE THE LOWEST AND BEST BID THEREFORE; AND AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A FIVE-YEAR CONTRACT FOR SAID SERVICES.

Ordinance No. 111-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Ordinance No. 112-2015 – AN ORDINANCE TO AMEND CHAPTER 121, COUNCIL, AS CONTAINED IN TITLE THREE, LEGISLATIVE, OF PART ONE, ADMINISTRATIVE CODE, OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF SEVEN HILLS, OHIO, FOR THE PURPOSE OF REPEALING SECTION 121.011, COMPENSATION OF COUNCILPERSONS.

Ordinance No. 112-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

Resolution No. 19-2015 – A RESOLUTION APPROVING A LOT SPLIT AND CONSOLIDATION PURSUANT TO SEVEN HILLS ORDINANCE NO. 911.002 (Permanent Parcel No. 552-20-018 and Permanent Parcel No. 552-20-013) FRONTING ON LUDWIN DRIVE.

Resolution No. 19-2015 was read by full title only for its first reading.

COUNCIL OPEN TO THE AUDIENCE

Jerry Rieman, 1044 Joy Oval, made the following comments:

“I have a question in regard to Ordinance No. 111-2015. There is a statement here that says ‘no yard waste’. What is that meant to imply?”

Council President Ernst replied:

“We had asked for prices—and I said that we wouldn’t answer at this time – but, I’ll go ahead and answer this. We had asked for prices to do a separate yard waste collection for composting, and it added \$800,000.00 to each of the bids, so Council decided not to do that. You will continue to be able to put yard waste into your regular trash.”

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Mr. Rieman said “All right. That’s fine. Thank you.”

Council President Ernst added, “We wanted to have it composted, but it was too expensive.”

Mr. Rieman concluded, “That’s worth \$800,000.00. Got you – thank you.”

Carol Zupancic, 2725 Chestnut Road, made the following comments:

“Just to compliment Jack and Precision Landscaping. I went to John Glenn Park yesterday. They have taken down – I would say – the majority of the trees. They still have more to do. It is fabulous – absolutely fabulous. Getting rid of the dead, the diseased, the dying, and the dangerous has made such a difference in John Glenn Park. My compliments, Jack. Thank you.”

Service Director Moga replied, “My pleasure to do that – thank you!”

Jerry Rieman, 1044 Joy Oval, returned to the podium:

“May I make one more comment, please? With regard to Ordinance No. 102-2015. It talks about the contract with Lynn Johnson providing ‘Insanity Classes’. Would you be kind enough to clarify what Insanity Classes are?”

Council President Ernst replied, “It’s an exercise class.”

Mrs. Lecznar added, “It’s high impact exercise.”

Mr. Rieman questioned, “Do we need that for the residents? And does it include Council Members also?”

Council President Ernst answered, “That has been discussed! It is an exercise class.”

Mr. Trafis stated, “We teach them.”

Mr. Rieman continued, “Exercise? Oh, okay. And they are called ‘insanity’? Do you have to be crazy to participate?”

Council President Ernst stated, “They are very high end classes.”

Mrs. Lecznar said, “They work you out a lot!”

Mr. Leech concluded, “I signed us all up for it!”

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Mike Lehet, 1038 Joy Oval, made the following comments:

“I know we finally got our street fixed. Where did you guys get these guys from? I’m not being sarcastic – I’m being real factual here. Did you see the job that they did there? In front of my yard they didn’t even do anything. They never even came across to fix it – it’s still the way it was. The aggregate in that blacktop is so big – when you start plowing it’s going to come right up.”

Service Director Moga replied, “I looked at that and we addressed it. The company is going to take care of that.”

Mr. Lehet asked, “They’re going to fix it?”

Service Director Moga answered, “Yes.”

Mr. Lehet continued, “One thing about that company – that’s Chagrin Valley Paving?”

Service Director Moga replied, “Yes, Chagrin Valley Paving.”

Mr. Lehet said, “That isn’t Tom Simich’s son-in-law, is it? – That owns it?”

Service Director Moga asked, “Is who?”

Mr. Lehet answered, “Tom Simich’s son-in-law.”

Service Director Moga replied, “No.”

Mr. Lehet asked, “Are you sure about that?”

Service Director Moga said, “Quite sure.”

Mr. Trafis asked, “Why do you ask that?”

Mr. Lehet replied, “Just curious. Because he was one of the guys that I saw at the polls bossing my wife around last year in the Issue 87 deal.....So, I just thought it was kind of coincidental. So I’ll remember you said it. Thank you.”

Service Director Moga concluded, “Okay.”

REPORTS AND COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR-SAFETY DIRECTOR

Mayor Dell’Aquila had no formal report.

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REPORTS FROM THE DIRECTORS OF DEPARTMENTS AND OTHER OFFICIALS

Director of Finance Johnson had no formal report.

Director of Law Pignatiello had no formal report.

Director of Public Service and Properties Moga:

We're going to be starting leaf pick-up pretty soon. We're going to start putting our signs up. We're going to try to do our due diligence as far as making sure the signs are up. We're also going to do robo-calling. The only problem I see is at the beginning, since we have a limited amount of leaves, we might blow through the streets real fast. But we're going to try the sign process, and hopefully that works. We're looking forward to having a better leaf pick-up this year – that's my goal.

Building Commissioner Moro was not present.

Community Services Director Terry:

Good evening everybody. I came tonight because I wanted to cover a couple of quick things that I felt were important to have on the record. I'll cover first the finances of Home Days for 2015.

Our 2015 Home Days revenue was \$28,100.00. The expenses were \$25,671.78. Our labor cost was \$8,712.03, and our Forfeited Opportunity Cost, which would be the time that the workers would be working somewhere else – so they are already on the clock but they would be maybe doing other jobs – this year it's \$7,307.05. Those numbers work out to be \$13,590.86 as the general cost of Home Days. As opposed to the 2014 numbers, the exact same numbers crunched, the revenue is \$28,517.00, expenses were \$30,985.63, the labor cost was \$10,362.12, and the forfeited opportunity cost was \$17,788.43 – last year costing the City \$30,619.18. So I'm very happy to announce that this year's Home Days cost roughly \$17,000.00 less than last year's Home Days.

Council President Ernst asked, "How did you change the numbers of the labor? Could you tell us that?"

Yes. So, a lot of that stems from my commitment to the neighborhood. Some of you may or may not know who I am, but I coach several youth sports in the area. So I reached out to a lot of the different programs. Padua baseball and football was here doing work. Holy Name football was here doing work. People throughout our community were here to help take service hours from our Service Department. The biggest way we were able to save money – we saved approximately \$12,000.00 on forfeited costs – meaning that the only things this year as opposed to the last that we used the Service Department for was to put up the tents and to take down the tents and bring and remove the chairs. So we were able to eliminate a lot of the Service hours.

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Community Services Director Terry (continued):

The other thing is, and some of you know from Caucus Meetings, I was at every Caucus Meeting that I was at asking for volunteers. There were several people who stepped up over the course of that weekend. Not to mention anybody more specific than the other, but Jack Moga was here donating his time – his salary stops at 40 hours – he worked in excess of 70 hours that weekend, or that week with the weekend involved. Kathy Holland as well. Jen Burger as well. Myself as well, and Ursula. Ursula Drinko is the Assistant Recreation Director. We all are salaried employees to my knowledge and, therefore, any hours we work over are, essentially, donated. I donated my time for the month of July.

So I can't speak on how it happened in the past. I can just say that's how I was able to get the numbers to where they were this year.

Council President Ernst said, "Thank you."

The most recent activity that we had here was the Fall Festival. The Fall Festival – we had expenses in excess of roughly \$1,500.00. There was \$120.00 for signs, \$315.00 for water, pop, and such. Entertainment – we had the Jungle Island Petting Zoo at \$875.00. We had a DJ for \$250.00. The revenue that we brought in was through the sale of the items there -- \$1,086.00, and \$1,000.00 through a sponsorship, and \$534.00 through the Craft Fair. Once I deducted all of the service hours, and the forfeited hours, to that event, it cost the City \$427.70. So I just wanted those numbers to be on record.

The other very important reason why I'm here today. As I said earlier, I always ask for....I do community events and community services....our most upcoming community service project is going to be Tuesday, December 8th. We will be collecting food and sorting food for the 40-some-odd needy families in the City of Seven Hills that are registered for our Yuletide Hunger Program. I am accepting volunteers to help work. I ask that everybody in the community continue to offer their help and support with that. So I will stay afterward for anybody who is willing to volunteer. It will be at the Oaks Center in Broadview Heights. The hours available to work for volunteers are 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, 12:00 noon to 3:00 p.m., and 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

As I said, I'll gladly stay after in hopes that I can fill my time slots.

Thank you.

Council President Ernst thanked Community Services Director Terry for his report.

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MISCELLANEOUS

Mr. Snitzky:

Just one thing. First off I want to thank Tony for doing such a good job through the community services. It's nice to do those services, and also come out on the good side of the dollars and cents.

Condolences to Mike Barth. I found out that his father-in-law passed away this weekend. Sorry about that for you and Rosanna.

That's all I have at this time.

Mr. Fraundorf:

Nothing other than my condolences to the Barth family.

Mr. Leech:

Likewise for myself.

The speed sign – is it possible that we can put that over on Dartmoor. I've gotten several complaints in that area, especially the stop sign – that stop sign is not even up. Not even a slow down sign. If we could do that, Mayor, I would appreciate that -- or the Service Director. I'm not sure who takes care of that. Do we have a form or something to request that?

Mr. Trafis said, "I've asked two to three times for procedures on how to get the speed sign on different streets, and I'm still waiting to hear from the Administration how we're going to do that.

That would be appreciated, Mayor. If we could do that. Thank you so much.

For our fine Service Director, I know he granted putting a porta-potty on the sidewalk on Rockside Road for the convenience of Biltmore because they had protestors and that sort of thing. It seems to be pretty well built. If they could remove it from the sidewalk. It's rather bad looking. It really is terrible. Does the Service Director take care of that?

Service Director Moga replied, "No, but I can talk to Mark Moro."

I would appreciate that. I think it's time to move it.

Service Director Moga added, "They have an application and a permit to keep it up there."

I understand that, but it's very unsightly at this point. I hope they can do something.

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Mr. Leech (continued):

I will not be at the next Parks Meeting, so Caryl, I had one suggestion that I would like to make, and we talked about the old Recreation Center briefly. It's just sitting there and decaying. We've neglected that for a number of years. I think maybe in the future – and I've talked to the Service Director about this – that maybe we could punch three large holes in the South side and put large doors in and use it for storage of out of season, because that will never be used again for recreation. It's way too far gone.

As far as Parks again, my good friend, Carol Zupancic – I got it right – we've been talking for a number of months actually. Mayor, we want to continue as far as the committee that you appointed, but I think we want to take a new direction as far as the future about recommendations and actually doing things, to include all of the parks eventually. I know the City has limited funds, but Carol and I have had many talks as far as what we could do. We are going to solicit, long after I'm gone from this position, and we already had preliminary talks with the VFW and the Moose Lodge, about running a fund raiser to those ends. That park looks immensely better just clearing it out – and we thought that would happen – and we have some great ideas for plantings and different things.

Some bad news on that is that the walkway around there – the preliminary numbers are very high. We're looking at \$30,000.00 to \$50,000.00. I'm just trying to figure out ways that we could raise that kind of money in the future when the monies do come available. I know they are not there now. Matt, you don't have to jump on me for that. When monies do become available, I think that is paramount to making a decent park – a walkway throughout, meandering through the trees – and that would be great.

I believe we're going to call the committee "Friends of the Parks", and that will include all of the parks – Calvin, Valleywood – and to that end I already have numbers for the ball field. At the last meeting I did say I'm going to donate half my salary to creating a ball field for the mini-kids, the t-ballers and the little guys. I've obtained prices already on fencing, and I thank Jack Moga, again, for getting a price already for us from Roland Brothers. I'm afraid it comes out to about \$3,500.00. We're also talking to another company and the prices are about the same. He is going to look at our fencing there and see what we could possibly use, or if it is usable, not to move it from John Glenn to North Park. So that's down the road. After my term in office, I will be following that up, and we are looking for volunteers for that committee.

We are also looking for donations. Donations! For instance, like a park bench with your name on it for about \$500.00. A shade tree for \$100.00 – that sort of thing. I think we could do this, I really do. There are a lot of people who are interested, and I think it's about time that we looked at our parks because it's been over 35 years since we really have had a comprehensive study of our parks. With limited finances as we have now, with volunteer help we will be planning a lot of things, and we need some support, and we need you people to help us out in that endeavor.

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Mr. Leech (continued):

My last comment, and thank you Madam President for the extended time, is that next Tuesday, of course, is Election Day. I give credit to everyone who puts their name on the dotted line. To me you are all winners. If you win or you lose, I think it's fantastic that you want to serve the City in this capacity, or in some capacity for the City. In my book you guys are all top-notch.

Mr. Trafis:

I have a letter I'd like to read into the record that was written to cleveland.com and posted today, October 26, 2015 at 4:55 p.m. The headline says '*Seven Hills Councilman Trafis wrong to disclose tax information: Parma Sun Post Letter to the Editor*'.

It's election time in Cuyahoga County and once again Seven Hills is in the news. There was an anonymous complaint made to the Bureau of Criminal Investigations after Councilman Matt Trafis disclosed income tax information for one of Seven Hills' largest employers at a January Caucus meeting. The BCI requested an investigation, which was handled by a Special Prosecutor and the Seven Hills Police. The mayor was not involved in the investigation in any way.

First let me say I am disappointed that whoever made the complaint did not have the courage of their convictions to make it openly. The anonymous complaint has garnered sympathy for Councilman Trafis and put suspicion on everyone who has ever disagreed with him politically.

That being said, I have heard a number of residents say what Councilman Trafis did was no big deal. I totally disagree with that statement; it was a very big deal. What Councilman Trafis did was use his position as a councilman to obtain confidential tax information and then disclose it in an open meeting. He didn't use an approximate amount as was announced at the Independence Council meeting welcoming Longbow; he used the exact amount that Longbow paid to Seven Hills the previous year. Everyone, whether business or resident, should be able to expect their confidential information will be protected. It is for the courts to decide whether what Councilman Trafis did was legally wrong, however as a resident who pays taxes to Seven Hills, I think it was morally and ethically wrong.

Michele Ernst,
Seven Hills

Ernst is Seven Hills Council President

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Mr. Trafis (continued):

This letter was written and signed by Seven Hills Council President Michele Ernst.

Well, it's certainly election time here in Seven Hills. Michele, you have said repeatedly that you are not running for office again because you don't like politics in Seven Hills. Yet this letter to the editor, one week before an election, shows your true colors.

Now let's recap a couple of things. Seven Hills Ordinance No. 1523.09, which is the ordinance that I was cited under, states: *'Any information gained as the result of any returns, investigations, hearings, or verifications required or authorized by this Income Tax Ordinance shall be confidential, except for official purposes, or except in accordance with proper judicial order.'* Yes, except for official purposes. So, this ordinance does say that tax information may not be confidential if used for official purposes.

Now we have a Council President who is attempting to influence not just an election, but is now attempting to influence official court proceedings. You, Michele, as Council President, should be very familiar with the laws on legal matters pertaining to the City. Just a few moments ago you even voted in favor of paying the attorney who is prosecuting me. Talk about a conflict of interest and an agenda. Now this is very unfortunate, because the Council President may very well have to hire an attorney due to what could be construed as influencing judicial process. I certainly hope that the City of Seven Hills will not be paying Squire Patton Boggs upwards of \$695.00 an hour, as they have in the past, to represent other City Officials.

Now, let's talk about a few of the facts. First off, in the Michele Ernst letter, she said that Independence Council was 'welcoming Longbow' and announced the amount. There was absolutely no welcoming of Longbow. The public records that Independence provided show that on August 28, 2014 a resolution was created based on a letter of intent specifically saying that there is \$130,000.00 of income tax for the withholding taxes paid by Longbow which represented probably about 100 people. Not a specific, isolated person – but an accumulation of all the employees combined. This resolution was certainly not a welcoming letter. It was an official resolution passed on September 9, 2014 giving Longbow a grant of \$285,000.00 for relocation.

Now let's put this into perspective. And Michele you can play it any way you want. I was told about this five months after the fact. Not five days later, but five months later, and I immediately brought it to the attention of City Council on January 5, 2015. Several hours before bringing it to the Council's attention, I asked the Finance Department if the collections were, in fact, \$130,000.00 which, of course, would be official business, especially since there was an existing abatement in place with the City of Seven Hills at the time for Longbow, and we were also in the beginning of the budgeting process for 2015. Now I think that's official information.

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Mr. Trafis (continued):

As far as that's concerned, Michele, you'll certainly be able to weigh-in in court on that one.

Now for perspective sake, the Finance Department came back to me and rattled off a number, and I didn't demand a number, it came back with the number they gave me, and I suppose I won't give you what that exact number is, because we do have a couple of Police Officers here, and I suppose they would have to probably come over here and cuff me and arrest me again. Thanks, guys – sorry to bring you into this.

But let's just say this. It's within dollars of 2.5%, or roughly \$3,000.00, of the number that I originally had brought to City Council. If we go one step further, I don't think we need to talk about who on this dais threatened criminal charges against me. But I'm sure that's going to be coming out pretty soon in court as well.

Finally, Seven Hills no doubt was asleep at the switch. We lost probably our largest income tax producer to the tune of \$130,000.00 a year, and supposedly nobody knew about it, or if they did they just didn't care. Now if this happens again tomorrow with another company, I will scream and yell at the top of my lungs about why our City is not on top of these businesses in Seven Hills.

I know that the residents in Seven Hills see exactly what is going on here. When a Councilman, such as myself, or Tim Fraundorf, challenges the status quo, the current leaders go to any length to distract from the truth here at City Hall. As I always say, if any resident in this room, or any resident that is listening to these recordings, if they want to know what is really going on here in the City of Seven Hills up at City Hall, please call me – email me. My phone number is 216-410-4062. My email address is matt@trafis.com, and I would be more than happy to tell you what's really happening in your City. Thank you.

Council President Ernst thanked Mr. Trafis for his comments.

Mrs. Lecznar:

My sympathies also go out to the Barth family on the loss of their patriarch.

I just want to remind everybody that this Saturday is going to be Halloween. There will be a lot of little goblins and witches – other than the ones that are out during the day – running the streets, so please be careful. Don't run anyone over. We don't want to have any accidents on Halloween.

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Mr. Barth:

I'd just like to say it was a good night for Tony Terry tonight. We heard the letter written thanking him for the help he gave that family. We also know about the exemplary job he did on our special events. As I've said many times before, Tony's job is one of the most critical in our City because it touches those most in need, including our seniors. So, Tony – congratulations and thank you.

Mr. Terry said, "Thank you."

Council President Ernst thanked Mr. Barth for his comments.

Council President Ernst:

I would like to say that I did write the letter. I have no problem with what I said in the letter. I still stand by that. I think that what he did was morally wrong. You don't give out private information at an open Council Meeting, even for what Matt feels is official business. There were ways to get around using the information without providing it. He wanted to call us to task for not keeping that business – that was certainly appropriate. But what he did was not appropriate in my opinion, and I'm allowed to write a letter as a resident and as a Councilperson. Thank you very much.

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

Roll Call: all yea

MOTION CARRIED

The October 26, 2015 Council Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

Michele K. Ernst, President of Council

Attest: _____
Carol L. Sekerak, Clerk of Council

Date: _____