

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: With a quorum being present, the Chair calls this meeting of Canton City Council to order. Roll call please.

ROLL CALL TAKEN BY CLERK VANCKUNAS:

11 COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: (DONALD E. CASAR, JOE CARBENIA, MARY M. BABCOCK, THOMAS BERNABEI, GREG HAWK, THOMAS E. WEST, JAMES GRIFFIN, KELLY ZACHARY, TERRY PRATER, DAVID R. DOUGHERTY, & ROSEMARY DIAMOND)

1 COUNCILMEMBER ABSENT (RICHARD D. HART)

The regular meeting of Canton City Council was held on Monday, December 12, 2005, at 7:30 P.M. in the Canton City Council Chamber. The roll call was taken (see above) by Clerk of Council Debra Vanckunas. The invocation was given by Councilmember-at-Large Donald E. Casar followed by the Pledge of Allegiance led by President of Council Denczak.

AGENDA CORRECTIONS & CHANGES

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Agenda Corrections & Changes, Members of Council, you're being asked to suspend Rule 22A to add the second reading of Ordinances 3 through and including #9. Member Casar, the Chair will recognize that motion at this time.

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we suspend Rule 22A and add Ordinances 3 through and including #9 to tonight's agenda; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded to suspend Rule 22A. Are there any remarks?... If not, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Rule 22A is suspended and Ordinances 3 to and including #9 are a legal part of your agenda. You're being asked to suspend Rule 24B to add Resolutions 107 and 108 to your agenda. The Chair will recognize that motion, Member Casar.

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we suspend Rule 24B and add Resolutions #107 and 108 to this evening's agenda; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded to suspend Rule 24B to add Resolutions 107 and 108 to the agenda. Are there any remarks?.... If not, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL VOTE: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Rule 24B is suspended and Resolutions 107 and 108 are a legal part of your agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: There are no public hearings scheduled at this time.

PUBLIC SPEAKS (ORDINANCE OR RESOLUTIONS FOR ADOPTION ONLY):

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: No one has signed up for Public Speaks under Ordinances & Resolutions For Adoption.

INFORMAL RESOLUTIONS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Informal Resolutions. Excusing members, Member Casar.

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move that Member Hart be excused from this evening's meeting; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that Member Hart be excused; are there any remarks?... If not, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Let the journal show that Member Hart has been excused.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK CALLED UPON CLERK VANCKUNAS TO READ RESOLUTIONS #104 and 107-108 BY AGENDA TITLE AS SHOWN BELOW. THE RESOLUTIONS ARE ON FILE IN THEIR ENTIRETY IN THE COUNCIL OFFICE WITH THE AGENDA ITEMS DATED DECEMBER 12, 2005.

INFORMAL RESOLUTIONS - POSTPONED MATTER RESOLUTION #104:

104. BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: CONFIRMING THE MAYOR'S APPOINTMENT OF ANGENITA DANIELS TO THE 5-YEAR 9/1/2005-8/31/2010 TERM ON THE FAIR HOUSING COMMISSION. - POSTPONED AGAIN TO 12/19/05

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Resolution 104; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Resolution 104; are there any remarks under this resolution?...

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, once again I move we postpone Resolution 104 until 12/19/05; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded to postpone this matter until 12/19/05; are there any remarks on this postponement?... If not, by voice vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no.

NO REMARKS

MOTION APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Resolution #104 is postponed until 12/19 year '05.

RULE 24B WAS SUSPENDED TO ADD RE#107 & 108:

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

107. BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF STEVE COON TO SERVE THE 4-YEAR 1/1/06-12/31/09 TERM ON THE ARCHITECTURAL REVIEW BOARD. - ADOPTED

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Resolution 107; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Resolution 107; are there any remarks under this resolution?... Very well, by voice vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no.

NO REMARKS

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Resolution #107 is adopted.

108. BY THE PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: APPROVING THE MAYOR'S RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAMES LINDESMITH TO SERVE THE 5-YEAR 1/1/06-12/31/10 TERM ON THE CANTON RECREATION BOARD. - ADOPTED

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Resolution 108; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Resolution 108; are there any remarks under this resolution?... Very well, by voice vote, all those in favor, signify by saying aye; those opposed, no.

NO REMARKS

APPROVED BY UNANIMOUS VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Resolution #108 is adopted.

COMMUNICATIONS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: All communications are received as read, filed and properly referred.

NOTE: ALL COMMUNICATIONS WHICH FOLLOW, LISTED BY AGENDA TITLE, ARE ON FILE IN THEIR ENTIRETY IN THE COUNCIL OFFICE WITH THE AGENDA ITEMS FILE DATED DECEMBER 12, 2005.

582. AUDITOR RICHARD A. MALLONN II, CITY OF CANTON: CERTIFICATE OF THE TOTAL AMOUNT FROM ALL SOURCES FOR 2005 DATED 12/2/05. - CLERK OF COUNCIL
583. CHIEF OF STAFF/FINANCE DIRECTOR D. WILLIAM ALLEN, CITY OF CANTON: REQUEST FOR VARIOUS SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS, TRANSFERS & ADVANCES AS A RESULT OF CERTIFICATE CHANGES. - FINANCE CMTE
584. LIQUOR CONTROL DIVISION (STATE OF OHIO DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE), 6606 TUSSING ROAD, PO BOX 4005, REYNOLDSBURG OH 43068-9005: THE 12/20/05 HEARING HAS BEEN CONTINUED RE: NEW C-1-2,D-6 LIQUOR PERMIT REQUESTED BY SPEE-D-FOODS @ 1735 CLEVELAND AVENUE NW. - INTERGOVERNMENTAL & PUBLIC SERVICE CMTE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

585. MAYOR JANET CREIGHTON, CITY OF CANTON: REQUESTING APPROVAL OF RE-APPOINTMENT OF JAMES LINDESMITH TO THE CANTON RECREATION BOARD FOR 5 YR TERM FROM 1/1/06 TO 12/31/10. - PERSONNEL COMMITTEE (See RE#108)
586. OHIO DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION, CENTRAL OFFICE, PO BOX 899, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43216-0899: SUBMITTING DUPLICATE COPY OF THE EXECUTED COOPERATIVE CONTRACT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CANTON & ODOT RE: IMPROVEMENT OF IR 77, FEDERAL PROJECT #G020(647). - SERVICE DIRECTOR
587. SERVICE DIRECTOR JOSEPH CONCATTO, CITY OF CANTON: ADVISING THAT CITY OF CANTON WATER RATES WILL BE INCREASED 5% EFFECTIVE 1/1/06. - RECEIVED & FILED
588. SERVICE DIRECTOR JOSEPH J. CONCATTO, CITY OF CANTON: REQUEST COUNCIL APPROVE A WATER MAIN EXTENSION TO WILLOWBROOK ESTATES LOCATED EAST OF MARKET & SOUTH OF MT. PLEASANT STREET IN PLAIN TOWNSHIP TO SERVE APPROXIMATELY 107 NEW HOMES. - ENVIRONMENTAL & PUBLIC UTILITIES CMTE
589. SERVICE DIRECTOR JOSEPH J. CONCATTO, CITY OF CANTON: REQUESTING THE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE NO LONGER CONSIDER THE ORDINANCE RETAINED IN COMMITTEE RE: AMENDING CITY CODE CHAPTER 947 TO IMPLEMENT A STANDARDIZED SEWER RATE FOR INDUSTRIAL ACCOUNTS. - RECEIVED & FILED
590. TREASURER ROBERT C. SCHIRACK, CITY OF CANTON: COMPARATIVE REPORT OF INCOME TAX RECEIPTS AS OF 11/30/05. - RECEIVED & FILED
591. TREASURER ROBERT C. SCHIRACK, CITY OF CANTON: COMPARATIVE REPORT OF PARKING METER REVENUE FOR MONTH OF NOVEMBER 2005. - RECEIVED & FILED
592. TREASURER ROBERT C. SCHIRACK, CITY OF CANTON: COMPARATIVE REPORT OF DEPOSITS & PAY-INS TO AMBULANCE LOCK BOX ACCOUNT FOR MONTH OF NOV 2005. - RECEIVED & FILED

ORDINANCES & FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinances and Formal Resolutions for their first reading. Let the journal show that all ordinances are being given their reading as required by State law. Ordinance number 1 please.

NOTE: PRESIDENT DENCZAK CALLED UPON CLERK VANCKUNAS TO READ THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES #1 & 2 FOR THE FIRST TIME BY TITLE & ANNOUNCED THE COMMITTEE REFERRAL, AS FOLLOWS.

- #1 (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACCEPT A DONATION TO ASSIST IN THE PURCHASE OF WATER RESCUE EQUIPMENT; AMENDING APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 253/2004, AS AMENDED, BY MAKING THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATION HEREIN

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

DESCRIBED; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to the Public Property Capital Improvement Committee

- #2 (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND CONSENTING TO ASPHALT RESURFACING AND PAVEMENT REPAIRS TO US 30 FROM THE WEST CORPORATION LINE TO STATE ROUTE 43S UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE DIRECTOR OF TRANSPORTATION OF THE STATE OF OHIO; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to the Public Safety & Thoroughfares Committee

ORDINANCES & FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinances and Formal Resolutions for their Second Reading.

NOTE: PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL DENCZAK CALLED UPON CLERK VANCKUNAS TO READ THE FOLLOWING ORDINANCES #3 THROUGH & INCLUDING #9 FOR THE SECOND TIME BY TITLE, AS FOLLOWS. ORDINANCES #7 & 9 WERE ADOPTED FOLLOWING THEIR SECOND READINGS.

- #3 (2ND RDG) A RESOLUTION APPROVING AND ADOPTING A NEW CITY OFFICIAL ZONING MAP; AMENDING SECTIONS 1123.79 AND 1125.02 OF THE CODIFIED ORDINANCES; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
- #4 (2ND RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO ESTABLISH THE 2528 MONUMENT PARK FUND; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
- #5 (2ND RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CITY AUDITOR TO PAY A MORAL OBLIGATION IN AN AMOUNT NOT TO EXCEED \$3,240.00 TO LISA GISSENDANER; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
- #6 (2ND RDG) A RESOLUTION OBJECTING TO THE RENEWAL OF ELEVEN LIQUOR PERMITS LOCATED WITHIN THE CITY OF CANTON; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE EMERGENCY
- #7 (2ND RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 259/2005** AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CONTRACT AMENDMENT TO THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF CANTON AND LOCAL 3449 AND OHIO COUNCIL 8, AFSCME; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move that statutory rules be suspended on Ordinance #7; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: There is a move to dispense with the three readings of Ordinance #7; are there any remarks?... If not, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: You've heard the three readings, Member Casar.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Ordinance #7; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance #7; are there any remarks under the ordinance?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinance #7 is adopted.

#7 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 259/2005

#8 (2ND RDG) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 208/2005; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

#9 (2ND RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 260/2005** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 253/2004; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we suspend the statutory rules on Ordinance #9; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: There is a move to dispense with the three readings of Ordinance #9; are there any remarks?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: You've heard the three readings, Member Casar.

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move that we adopt Ordinance #9; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance 9; are there any remarks under this ordinance?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinance #9 is adopted.

#9 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 260/2005

ORDINANCES AND FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD & FINAL READING

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinances and formal resolutions for the third and final reading.

NOTE: PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL DENCZAK CALLED UPON CLERK VANCKUNAS TO READ ORDINANCES #10 THROUGH & INCLUDING #12 FOR THEIR THIRD & FINAL TIME BY TITLE SHOWN AS FOLLOWS. ALL THE ORDINANCES WERE ADOPTED FOLLOWING THEIR THIRD & FINAL READINGS.

#10 (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 261/2005** A RESOLUTION ACCEPTING THE

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

AMOUNTS AND RATES AS DETERMINED BY THE BUDGET COMMISSION AND AUTHORIZING THE NECESSARY TAX LEVIES AND CERTIFYING THEM TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Ordinance #10; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance #10. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinance #10 is adopted. **#10 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 261/2005**

#11 (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 262/2005** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE NO. 253/2004, AS AMENDED, BY MAKING THE SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS HEREIN DESCRIBED; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Ordinance #11; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance #11. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinance #11 is adopted. **#11 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 262/2005**

#12 (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 263/2005** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR TO ENTER INTO A COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA AGREEMENT WITH GREYSTONE LIMITED PARTNERSHIP TO PROVIDE REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS TO RENOVATE A BUILDING IN THE CANTON CENTRAL NEIGHBORHOODS COMMUNITY REINVESTMENT AREA; AUTHORIZING THE GRANTING OF TEN YEAR REAL PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTIONS; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adopt Ordinance #12; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance #12. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance?... Very well, roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ordinance #12 is adopted. **#12 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 263/2005**

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005**ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Announcement of committee meetings, please.

MEMBER DOUGHERTY: Mr. President, Public Property Capital Improvement will meet here at 6:45 December 19th.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Mr. President, Public Safety & Thoroughfares will also meet at 6:45.

PUBLIC SPEAKS (OPEN FORUM--CITY BUSINESS ONLY)

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Public Speaks Open Forum, we have 4 people signed up to speak. The first speaker is Wanda Battle.

MS. BATTLE: My name is Wanda Battle and I live on Sherrick. I got the pictures for the house and the yard.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ma'am, state your address please.

MS. BATTLE: Oh, the address is 908 Sherrick, S-H-E-R-R-I-C-K Road S.E. That's the complaint.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Okay, ma'am, one more thing. The Council Rules requires that you sign the specific subject matter. You simply have complaint. What is the specific subject matter?

MS. BATTLE: The complaint is whoever owns that house; they took all that stuff out of the house and put it in the back yard and left it there. And then they took the aluminum siding, you know they ripped it off to take it somewhere—where, I don't know. But it looks real bad and I've got pictures here to prove it, you know.

MAYOR CREIGHTON: Mr. President. Ma'am, is the address of the house in question 908 Sherrick, or is that your address?

MS. BATTLE: My address is 914.

MAYOR CREIGHTON: So you're at 914, but your complaint's at 908 Sherrick?

MS. BATTLE: Right.

MAYOR CREIGHTON: I'll have somebody, Mr. President, look into it tomorrow and get back...I'll see you afterwards so I can have your phone number.

MS. BATTLE: Okay, all right.

MAYOR CREIGHTON: All right?

MS. BATTLE: Okay, thank you.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: The next speaker is Elaine Schaffran.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

MS. SCHAFFRAN: My name is Elaine Schaffran, I live at 1340 Arnold Avenue NW and I'm here to speak about gang activity. Just recently I spoke with the Gang Task Force of Canton. There are 5 to 7 known gangs in the City of Canton and we now have our own form of terrorism going on in Canton. Ohio rates 6th in the nation for gang activity, Stark County 4th in the state of Ohio. Our Gang Task Force needs more officers, weapons and man hours devoted to the gang activities. I noticed gang tagging over 4 years ago and requested information from the City of Canton. I was told we didn't have gangs by the head of that department. The northwest Lehman neighborhood residents requested the Gang Task Force because of mobs of 50 to 100 kids in the intersection of 14th & Arnold appearing more than once, drinking, fighting and threatening residents and homeowners. Many were not from the neighborhood, but had been dropped off by carloads and then changed into gang shirts. Gangs fight for turfs around the unlocked Lehman Summit School parking lot. They play craps, tag property, smoke, drink, use drugs and cause disturbances. They walk in the middle of the street, congregate at vacant properties after curfew hours. Police are called but this is a low priority compared to many other emergency situations. The Police in the regular cruisers are put at risk because they are out-manned by gang members and mobs. And the gangs just disperse only to move to other areas until the cruiser leaves. We've lost multiple homeowners who sell their home or let the bank actually take it back. The Gang Task Force has been criticized by many but what residents saw was action. They investigated complaints, knocked on doors, made arrests, found drugs and cash, and instantly dispersed gang activity. Vice followed up by making additional drug busts. Now there's a home with 8 visible bullet holes, 1 in nearly each room in our neighborhood. These people have only lived in our neighborhood for less than a month. A neighbor at the same time had 2 shots fired into his vehicle parked on the street in the opposite direction, meaning that it was a shoot out. This is a very serious situation and matter that the City needs to take as a priority. It may mean the life or death of an innocent child, parent or individual asleep in their home in the early hours of the morning. This behavior is gang-related. The number of officers in the Gang Task Force is undersized in comparison to the 5 gangs with multiple members in each gang, which is in essence initiating a war in Canton. There've been other shootings in our neighborhood—Hoover, Oxford, 14th—shots were fired into a home on Louisiana that's also gang-related. Weapons in the hands of gangs take lives unnecessarily as we've read in the newspaper every night. And I basically want to know when is Canton going to take this seriously and use it as a priority when most of our robberies and everything else, you know, is all around and related to gang violence. That's my question I'm posing to City Council. And I also have a petition to remove the occupants of 1329 Arnold so that we can sleep and get more than 5 hours of sleep without thinking that we're going to not wake up the next morning or find one of our loved ones dead.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ma'am, has the Police Department been notified of this?

MS. SCHAFFRAN: Yes.

MAYOR CREIGHTON: Mr. President, I've also spoken to the school. I think there are some more speakers tonight about Arnold Avenue, and I would propose that I meet with you, along with the Gang Task Force. I want to also have someone there from the schools and also even our other task force that's out in the Newton Zone.

MS. SCHAFFRAN: Well, the Newton zone consists of 1 to 2 officers, you know, who go 1 or 2 days a week, and that's not enough. You need a Gang Task Force that is concentrated in an area that is familiar with the people, who can identify them, by picture, by whatever. And having 1 or 2 officers in an area, 1 or 2 days a week is not going to assist you. And I feel that, you know, having a larger Gang Task Force with you know the weapons that they require and the manpower that they require is what we need to do.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Mayor, you'll address this after the other 2 speakers. ...Thank you, ma'am.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

MS. SCHAFFRAN: Thank you.

MEMBER HAWK: Mr. President, this is in my ward, may I comment?

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Make it brief.

MEMBER HAWK: Yes, I will. Do you want....I'll wait 'til the end.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: All right. Remember, this is Public Speaks. The next speaker is Jennifer James.

MS. JAMES: Good evening, my name is Jennifer James, I'm here to speak about the gang-related activity in my area. I live at 1337 Arnold Avenue NW. Since my family purchased our home in December 2000, I've first-hand seen how a relatively decent and quiet neighborhood can turn into a violent, gang-infested hood. I have witnessed drug deals on Hoover Avenue, prostitutes traipsing through our streets looking for their next meal ticket or bag of drugs. And gang members parading down the street as though they own it. I read the crime reports in the Canton Repository almost daily. The amount of crime that has increased significantly around my home, within a 1-mile radius. My family was also a victim of this increase in crime in December 2004 when my home was robbed and my cherished family mementos were stolen. I don't think I will ever get over the feeling of my home being violated or ever have my feeling of peace at home returned. This trend of violent crime has continued since last year when a riotous mob of approximately 100 teenagers and young adults gathered during the past summer at the corner of Arnold Avenue and 14th Street. When I called the Police, I was told that since no real crime had yet been committed, there was nothing they could do. No real crime I say? Bottles were smashed, cars were damaged, members of the mob were beating upon each other and the residents of the neighborhood were threatened. When I and my neighbors called the Police back to tell them of the continued violence, we were told to call the Sheriff's Office. Of course, this was out of their jurisdiction and they could do nothing either. Our only recourse was to hide in our homes and hope that the mob didn't become more violent and start harming the residents. On other occasions, prostitutes threatened us just by walking down the street, they threatened us with physical harm and told us to get in our houses where we belonged. On this past Wednesday, December 7th, I was awakened at 3 a.m. by the sound of gun shots very close to my home. I know that the shots either came from or were aimed at a home 2 houses down from mine. It is now riddled with bullets. I was too afraid to leave my home to find out the source of the problem. But when I talked to one of my neighbors about it, I found out that she had already called into the Police about the problem. Nothing yet has been done. While I am fairly certain that the shooting was gang-related, I don't have specific proof. But I do live in fear of another drive-by shooting. At this point, I live in fear of the crime in my area and I'm afraid to have any of my relatives or family come to my home. I don't want any of them to be innocent or accidental targets to the next shooting spree. And I am unwilling to die because of a lack of Police funding, budget cuts and reduced Police resources. We ask you as citizens of the City of Canton, please, do something about the gang forces in our area and help the Police have the ability to protect us. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Ma'am, who told you to call the Sheriff's Department?

MS. JAMES: The Canton City Police dispatcher.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: I'd look into that too, Mayor. Thank you, ma'am. The next speaker is Vickie Frank.

MS. FRANK: Yes, I'm Vickie Frank also from 1337 Arnold NW. I just wanted to reiterate what they have said. And also, and since the shooting that happened from 2 houses down, I now fear to even....I'm afraid to even walk

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

out of my house. I don't know what's going to come around the corner. You know, I don't want my mother coming to visit me. I don't want any relatives. Even coming home today, driving down the street, I'm wondering is somebody going to come down that street and start shooting and am I going to be in the way. I've never had to fear that, out of the hundreds of times I've driven down the street. But now I do. And I also have signed the petition to have this house, or hopefully we can have the people removed from this house. Thank you.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Member Hawk, the Chair suggests that you talk under Miscellaneous Business in response, all right?

MEMBER HAWK: Thank you.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: I realize you and Member Casar had something to say.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: So, we are now under Miscellaneous Business. Is there any miscellaneous business?..

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I'd like to direct a few comments and a few questions to the Service Director in regards to Communication #587. You are going to increase the water rates by 5% effective January 1st, 2006. And for your information, we increased the water....the Service Director increased the water rates in April, 2000 by 15%, September 2000 by 7% and September 3rd, I mean September of 03 by 4%. So this is a grand total of 21% in less than 5 years. Now this Council and Councils before us have been told by this Administration and previous administrations that if we extend water mains outside the City of Canton, it will help keep our water rates down for the residents...the City residents. I have questioned this statement, but to help me understand it and also to help the residents of the City of Canton to understand why their water rates will be increased again and indeed if it is indeed necessary to increase it at this particular time, I have a few questions I'd like to ask the Service Director. Number one, what is the average cost of water inside users in the City of Canton? And that's basically always based on a 1,037 cubic feet. I have rates that I've had back in, since back in '03. And I have a whole file on water, so if you want to ask me any questions you can also. But, and I know what North Canton, Alliance, the State of Ohio average was. I also know what Consumer Water, which is now Aqua Water, what their rates were in '03. I would like to know what our rates are today and you don't have to have this information 'til next week for me if you would—I would appreciate it. What does it cost the City of Canton to provide water and to maintain our lines in the means of pumps, more capacity, for the outside, that we extended water in the past year, in '05. What does that actually cost for one year, '05? If you would be kind enough, I would even like to see it for '04. Because I think that's very important because the increase of electricity, the increase in demand on our system—yes, we're getting 2 ½ times more for our water, but is it really paying for it? What is the City of Canton's tap fee, frontage fee and what are they for other cities, other municipalities...like North Canton, Alliance, the average for the State of Ohio, and Consumer Water, which is now called Aqua? Should we increase our...those fees, the tap and also the frontage...

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Member Casar, bring your remarks to a close, your 3 minutes are up.

MEMBER CASAR: I'll come back after whoever else wants to speak.

MEMBER HAWK: Mr. President. Yes, I'd like to comment on the shootings in the Ward 1 area. I'm pretty much disgusted by the whole process; these folks cannot live in safety. There were shots fired into the old

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

Lehman High School. This is out of control. We need to find the manpower to get down there and clean this mess up. I think when you look and you follow through the crimes in the newspaper, you'll see that Saturday morning, very early in the morning, we had another shooting on Harriet Avenue NW. Several weeks ago we had another drive-by shooting on Newton Avenue. Gunfire in this City, especially in Ward 1 is just getting ridiculous. We need to figure out how to solve this problem. I'm certain that the Mayor will work with us, and the Police Chief—we can all sit down and adopt a plan and a program. I was thoroughly impressed by Detective Keener in a neighborhood meeting we had. He was showing pictures of some of these young fellows walking down the street, he knew them by name, he knew their history, he knew all about them. I was very much impressed with Detective Keener's knowledge of the process. This is a gentleman who's resources are invaluable to us. I believe that we need to schedule a time with the Chief to sit down to see what we can do to alleviate this problem down there before somebody is killed.

MEMBER WEST: Mr. President, I would also like to comment on the shootings, but more specifically, when we talk about the gangs in Canton—in Canton, we have nothing to do for young teenagers. And I want to address that again, we have nothing to do for young teenagers. We don't have no jobs for young teenagers, we don't have no recreational activity for young teenagers, and there's nothing else for them to do but get involved in negative, problematic behavior. Until we start addressing those issues in this City, we will continue to have the problems that we are having. I live less than probably a half mile or maybe even 6 blocks from Lehman School, just on the other side of the border of Ward 1 and Ward 2. So I know, we're in that area too, I'm right there with you all. And I'm concerned as well. And I think we're going to have a growing problem if we don't stop it now. We have many young teenagers getting shot and we have to stop this now. We have to come together and come up with some solutions to the problem. And I also mimic what Casar, Don Casar has talked about just briefly ago. About the water rates, sewer water rates. And that I'm supported the extensions based on that fact, that we will not have increased sewer rates. And I'm appalled at the 21% and this will make it 26%, is that correct, Don?

MEMBER CASAR: Water rates, not sewer.

MEMBER WEST: Water rates, excuse me. So that's one of my concerns as well.

SERVICE DIRECTOR CONCATTO: Yes, Mr. President. Member Casar, I didn't write everything down, but I'd be glad to do that if you have a copy of it...

MEMBER CASAR: You can't read my chicken scratch, but I will have a copy for you.

SERVICE DIRECTOR CONCATTO: Okay, just let me say this briefly. You asked the question about 1,037 cubic feet is the average use of a 3-person family. And that cost is \$168.84. The increase that we're putting into place January 1st would cost the average homeowner \$8.44 per year. That's with the 5% increase in the water bill. When you get your bill, understand that that bill is for 2 months and also understand that that bill is for water, sewer and sanitation. The only part of that bill that is going to go up is the 5% for water and that will average about \$8.44 per year. Obviously some of the reasons that we see this need is fuel costs, we all have those. We anticipate a 7% increase in our AEP bill in the City of Canton in 2006. Another 7% possibly in 2007. More importantly, supplying your water is now being antiquated are 3 plants that we have, Northeast, Northwest, Sugar creek, needs an update, needs capital improvement. We have a \$12 million project we'd like to start to improve that in 3 phases, and that part of these increases will pay back that \$12 million to bring our infrastructure and our capital of the Water Department, the buildings and such, into updating. So those are a few of the reasons that we asked for this increase. This increase, again, is \$8, approximately \$8 for a family, and I think that is reasonable based on the fact of the costs that we have coming up.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, Service Director, I'm glad you mention infrastructure because the residents of the City of Canton for many, many years have paid for this, our waterlines, our great commodity, our great water that we have in the Sugarcreek area. But all of a sudden within the last 20 years, I shouldn't say all of a sudden, these new consumers are coming on and they're reaping the harvest. Yes, they're paying 2 ½ times more, but our citizens have paid for this for 75 years. And then you mention it now that because we have to increase...one of the reasons we have to increase is because we're spending it in my opinion. I'll go on with my original remarks. But if our water is, if it is in such demand, we always have brought up, well, if we don't sell it, North Canton will sell it to them, Aqua...and I've always said, well, let them sell it. But if our water is in such demand, I really feel we have to look at a new pricing structure. And I'll continue with my questions. I'll get onto that. What does North Canton charge its outside users...number one? What is the balance in the Water Department, all funds? I mean is it a positive or is it a negative balance? What are the actual figures that we have in fund in that department? And I hope with a new Council coming on board they'll take a hard, long look at the water policy and act responsibly. In acting responsibly, I think everyone in this Council knows what I mean about acting responsibly. We've been told so many times as I said earlier, increase the water lines, send them out, we'll keep our rates down. But as we've done that for the last 20 years or so that I've been around here, we've lost all chance of annexing because we've done that. And now we're slowly dying on the vine. Thank God for Mr. Sliman; we are getting some annexation. But we could have a heck of a lot more if we hadn't extended our water lines. And I guess, I'm going to ask a question of the Law Director, if I may. By law, Law Director Martuccio, are we charging the most we can charge, 2 ½ times water rates, or could we increase that?

LAW DIRECTOR MARTUCCIO: Mr. President. Member Casar, I'll have to research the local ordinances and the Ohio Revised Code to answer that. I suspect that whatever we charge has to be rationally based and whatever expenditures we made and whatever we hope to recover. But we can, we do have some local rule to assess the fees ourselves.

MEMBER CASAR: But if we looked at what other departments, cities and/or private concerns are charging, and if we are "so much lower", then perhaps our water is in such....not because of our water, it's because of our price. And if 2 ½ times, they still want our water, I think we should look at it, if we are going to continue this policy, to charge more to pay for our infrastructure work that we have to do. And I think that, I feel very, very strong on that as members of Council have known. I've always said that. And I hope that we look at this and we come up with a water policy that'll benefit the residents, the tax-paying residents of the City of Canton first and then if we do sell water, that we charge them a rate that maybe they won't be so apt to want to come to the City of Canton for our water rates. And one final question, I would like to know the status of the Hartville waterline that's been in existence since 2002, how many customers we have, and how much is that costing the City of Canton with our bonds that we have to pay off. And I think we're cheating the taxpayers in that respect also. Because if this was a board of directions and we're only receiving x-number of dollars for all that money we invested, 2.2 million, we'd all be fired.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Is there any other Miscellaneous Business?...

MEMBER ZACHARY: Mr. President, just real quickly here, I know that we as individual councilmembers tend to be very territorial about our wards and we take great pride in them and we work very hard to serve our constituents, but the gang problem that was brought to Council tonight isn't just an individual ward problem. I look at it as a city-wide problem. So I'm asking this Council as a whole, as well as the Mayor's Administration, Safety Director who's not here, but please pass it along, as well as the Chief of Police—help us as a body take care of this problem. I personally have had people die in my ward because of the stupidity. We've got to do something about it. I'm also soliciting anybody who wants to be involved in Building Healthy Communities on

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF DECEMBER 12, 2005

the southeast end of town. This is something that we've definitely been meeting and looking at. Anyone who's in the audience, who lives, works or worships in that part of town, you are more than welcome to participate in this activity. Because we may think we have all the answers sometimes but we don't, we need your help. So I'm asking everyone's help in this problem, because it is a city-wide problem.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Is there any other Miscellaneous Business?... Is there any other Miscellaneous Business?....

MEMBER CASAR: Mr. President, I move we adjourn; seconded.

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: Moved and seconded that you adjourn; roll call vote please.

NO REMARKS PERMITTED ON THE MOTION TO ADJOURN ROLL CALL: 11 YEAS, 0 NAYS

PRESIDENT DENCZAK: This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 8:12 P.M.

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

DEBRA VANCKUNAS
CLERK OF COUNCIL

RAY DENCZAK
PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL