

Council met in **REGULAR SESSION** on Tuesday, May 26, 2020 at 7:38 P.M. in the Council Chambers with President Megyes presiding. Members physically present: Greer, Heitic, and Jaber. Members remotely present: Angeloff, Coburn, Debevec, Frey and Griffin. The Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag was recited and President Megyes gave the Invocation.

It was moved by Mrs. Debevec, seconded by Mr. Heitic, to approve the Minutes of the Regular Legislative Session held on Monday, May 11, 2020, as presented. All Members voted “yea.” Motion carried.

PETITIONS AND CLAIMS

None.

MATTERS REFERRED

Each Council Member, the Mayor and Service Director were given a report prepared by the Council Clerk listing all matters before all committees.

CITIZENS ADDRESSING COUNCIL

None.

The following Minutes are not transcribed verbatim. This meeting has been recorded in its entirety and the tape is catalogued in the Clerk of Council’s office.

FIRST READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 58-2020

ORDINANCE NO. 58-2020. PRESENTED BY: MRS. FREY. TITLE: APPROPRIATION - FIRE DEPARTMENT. AN ORDINANCE APPROPRIATING \$7,185.57 FROM THE UNAPPROPRIATED ITEM OF THE GENERAL FUND TO THE FIRE DEPARTMENT OPERATING BUDGET, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It was moved by Mrs. Frey, seconded by Mrs. Debevec, that the rule as required by Section 5.10 of the Barberton City Charter be suspended. All Members voted “yea.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mrs. Frey, seconded by Mrs. Debevec, that **ORDINANCE NO. 58-2020 BE ADOPTED.** All Members voted “yea.” Motion carried.

SECOND READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

None.

THIRD READING OF ORDINANCES AND RESOLUTIONS

ORDINANCE NO. 46-2020

ORDINANCE NO. 46-2020. PRESENTED BY: MR. GRIFFIN. TITLE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT - ELIMINATION OF PRIMARY ELECTION. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUMMIT COUNTY BOARD

OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BARBERTON, TO ABOLISH THE PRIMARY ELECTION HELD ON THE EIGHTH (8TH) TUESDAY PRIOR TO SUCH GENERAL MUNICIPAL ELECTION, TO REDUCE THE COST OF ELECTIONS FOR THE BARBERTON TAXPAYERS, TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION. It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 46-2020 BE ADOPTED.** Mr. Heitic stated he believes fully that both ordinances should be adopted because it would give the voters a chance to decide when their elections are. He said only doing one would be a disservice to the citizens and rob them of that choice. Griffin, Angeloff, Frey, Coburn and Debevec voted “no.” Heitic, Jaber and Greer voted “yea.” Motion failed.

The clerk stated the following ordinance has been amended to read as follows:

ORDINANCE NO. 47-2020

ORDINANCE NO. 47-2020. PRESENTED BY: MR. GRIFFIN. TITLE: PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT - PRIMARY ELECTION DATE. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE SUMMIT COUNTY BOARD OF ELECTIONS TO SUBMIT A PROPOSED CHARTER AMENDMENT TO THE ELECTORS OF THE CITY OF BARBERTON, TO ESTABLISH A MAY PRIMARY ELECTION DATE FOR MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS IN THE CITY OF BARBERTON, IN ORDER TO REDUCE THE COST OF THE PRIMARY ELECTION FOR THE BARBERTON TAXPAYERS TO BE VOTED UPON AT THE NOVEMBER 3, 2020 GENERAL ELECTION. It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 47-2020 BE AMENDED.** All Members voted “yea.” Motion carried. It was moved by Mr. Griffin, seconded by Mr. Heitic, that **ORDINANCE NO. 47-2020 BE ADOPTED.** Mr. Heitic stated he will be voting yes on this out of principal but thinks council did a huge disservice to the voters by denying them having a choice of when they elect. Mrs. Debevec stated she will also be voting yes on this ordinance and thinks it is very important that they not cause confusion to the voters. She said putting two pieces of legislation regarding the same part of the charter on the ballot would cause confusion. Mrs. Angeloff stated she will be voting no on this piece of legislation because she believes it could create dissention. Coburn, Griffin, Jaber, Debevec, Greer, Heitic and Frey voted “yea.” Angeloff voted “no.” Motion carried.

ORDINANCE NO. 50-2020

ORDINANCE NO. 50-2020. PRESENTED BY: MRS. ANGELOFF. TITLE: FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION. AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE FORMATION OF A COMMUNITY IMPROVEMENT CORPORATION FOR THE CITY OF BARBERTON, AND APPROVING ITS ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY. It was moved by Mrs. Angeloff, seconded by Mrs. Coburn, that **ORDINANCE NO. 50-2020 BE ADOPTED.** Mr. Heitic stated while he thinks this could be a great tool, he will be voting no. He said with the current form and not the extra layers of transparency and accountability to the City, he cannot bring himself to approve this. Mr. Greer stated he will also be voting no. He said he believes the CIC could be a good tool and he doesn't believe that it was put forth and has enough transparency for the residents and it also deletes the funds affecting all departments and non-profits they have in the City of Barberton that basically

do the same thing. He stated this will create competition between non-profits for funding and an additional layer with the City on the hook as far as if we could give them money. He said this was done in the time of the pandemic and it could have been at a better time. Mr. Jaber stated he will also be voting no. He said he believes for the last 8 years with the administration we have now it has failed them and this will give them more power and from past experience they have not done the correct job. He said this will give more power for the administration and would cause more failure. Mrs. Debevec stated she will also be voting no on this ordinance. She said Mrs. Miller, for her, solidified her thoughts that this is the time that council had the opportunity to offer input into what they would like to see, as far as a change. She said she believes Mr. Heitic offered some phenomenal suggestions and they had discussion about it but none of them were incorporated. Greer, Heitic, Jaber and Debevec voted “no.” Frey, Angeloff, Griffin and Coburn voted “yea.” Motion failed.

APPOINTMENTS

None.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE MAYOR

Mayor Judge asked for clarification if the last piece of legislation passed. The clerk stated it did not. He stated he received no feedback from council over the past two weeks after Mr. Heitic submitted his suggestions. He said and the term “too much power” kept coming up. He said this would really help the city with some programs that are anticipated to come out. He said this does not create any competition but it is going to be a great loss and other communities around us are going to continue to move forward because they have things like this.

Mayor Judge reiterated that if you have questions or you have feedback, you have to contact him because coming to council every two weeks and playing the gotcha game isn’t working. He said this is a detriment to the city.

Mayor Judge said there is a lot of things going down with COVID. He said a lot of things going on operationally.

Mayor Judge said there is over 200 years of experience retire or resign over the last year. He said they have been very busy with everything that’s been going on and he applauds the HR Department, Civil Service and Planning Commission for all their efforts and painstaking steps, at times, to fulfill positions. He said his hat goes off to them.

Mayor Judge stated he has not received any comments or feedback from council over the last two weeks so he has nothing there. He said when the council members that have reached out to him, he has responded to them concerning their questions and issues. He stated they are going to continue to monitor finances and continue to monitor the Coronavirus and everything that is coming out of the Federal Government, State and County. He said it is imperative to ask questions because coming in and saying Norton should pay their fair share. He said they are already pay higher per month, all the users, and it is Barberton’s line. He said those are the

things that are great questions and they have two weeks to ask questions and there is nothing wrong with asking questions, they want the feedback.

MISCELLANEOUS AND UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Mr. Heitic stated regarding Ordinance No. 50-2020, he is not against the creation of a CIC, what he wants is to see is the bar raised and not the bare minimum that is required by the ORC. He said if the articles would come in front of them that increase transparency and increase accountability and basically put things in records, he would be very willing to entertain it. He said as it stood in the current form, that is why he voted no.

Mr. Jaber stated the Mayor said the phrase “I gotcha game.” He said it is not the gotcha game. He said communication works both ways and it doesn’t hurt to pick up the phone and call his councilmembers instead of waiting for an email. He said as a head coach you are reach out to the team players and see what they think not always wait for the team players to call you. He said it is not a gotcha game, like an eighth-grade cheerleader would say but more of being a team effort, communication. He said to once in a while pick up the phone and call them to see what they think instead of waiting for an email. He stated sometimes they are waiting for him to tell them the right path to take or to give them more advice.

President Megyes announced that starting on June 8th, in two weeks, Council will be meeting at the Active Adult Center. He said they will meet every other Monday in June. He said starting in July they will meet weekly. He said they will go back to the old schedule but all meetings will run consecutive starting at 6:00pm.

Mr. Griffin asked what is the proper procedure for turning in pot holes. Mr. Greer stated if someone has an issue - pothole, high grass or any general concern they can go to CityofBarberton.com where there is a link on the main page, midway down, that says report a concern. He said it will ask them to create an account, if they don’t have one already, and there will be a list of things that they can report. He said once that information is submitted it goes directly to the department head that is responsible for dispatching.

It was moved by Mrs. Debevec, seconded by Mr. Heitic, to adjourn.

Adjourned: 8:04 P.M.

Craig Megyes
President of Council

Renee Fox
Clerk of Council