

Regular Council

January 10, 2008

1
2 Presiding Officer, Mayor Donald Kuchta called the January 10 regular meeting of Macedonia
3 City Council to order at 7:33pm.
4

5 **Present:** Council members' Shane Barker, David Engle, Kenneth Martin, Nicholas
6 Molnar, Peggy Spraggins and Janet Tulley; Assistant Law Director Thomas
7 Hanculak, and Council Clerk Josephine Arceci

8 **Absent:** None
9

10 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Mr. Engle was followed by an invocation led by Mr. Martin.
11 Following Mr. Martin's invocation Mayor Kuchta announced that Councilor Martin's son,
12 Kenny, has been deployed to Iraq. This is Mr. Martin and wife Katherine's second son to serve
13 in the Middle East the mayor stated. As a gesture of appreciation of Mr. Martin's sons and the
14 Martin Family the Mayor Kuchta gestured thank you in sign language. This is a national
15 expression of appreciation Americans are encouraged to extend to those serving in the all
16 branches of the military and their families.
17

18 **MINUTES** Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Barker seconded, to approve the minutes of the regular
19 meeting of December 20, 2007, as submitted by the clerk of council.
20

21 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Spraggins, Tulley
22 Nays: None
23 Abstention: Molnar
24 The motion carried
25

26 **FINANCIAL REPORT** Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Engle seconded, acknowledging receipt of the
27 December 31, 2007 financial report as prepared by the finance department.
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29 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
30 Nays: None
31 The motion carried
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33 ηηη **ELECTION OF COUNCIL OFFICERS** ηηη

34 **Council President**
35

36 Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Martin seconded, to **nominate Mr. Engle to the position of council**
37 **president.**
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39 Mr. Barker moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **nominate Mrs. Tulley to the position of council**
40 **president.** Council Barker stated that Mrs. Tulley has demonstrated exceptional leadership
41 qualities as council president and he would like that leadership to continue. Electing officers is
42 not a popularity contest, it is about who will do the best job he added. Mrs. Tulley confirmed her
43 ability to lead he added when she was acting mayor for six weeks. Mr. Engle did a good job as
44 council president when he previously held that position but in Mr. Barker's opinion Mrs. Tulley
45 is better suited.
46

47 There being no further nominations, the nominations for council president were closed.
48

49 Roll call on Mrs. Spraggins' motion to **nominate Mr. Engle to position of council president:**
50

51 Ayes: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
52 Nays: Barker, Tulley
53 The motion was carried
54

55 **Mr. Engle elected council president for 2008**

56 Following Mr. Engle's election Mayor Kuchta asked Mr. Engle if he is currently providing legal
57 counsel to anyone that is in conflict with City business to which Mr. Engle answered of course
58 not. Taken aback Mr. Engle asked Mayor Kuchta why he would ask that question to which the
59 mayor answered because it could negatively effect Mr. Engle's position as president. Mr. Engle
60 stated that he has never represented anyone against the City during his tenure as Macedonia's
61 magistrate nor in his current position as a member of Council. In fact Mr. Engle added, he
62 declined when the mayor asked him this year to be one of Macedonia's representatives on the
63 JEDD Board because he does represent an individual in litigation against Northfield Center
64 Township. And while the circumstance is not a conflict of interest he felt that in his best interest
65 and that of his client and the City it would be better not to serve on the JEDD at this time.
66

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67 **Council Vice-President**

68
69 Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Barker seconded, **to nominate Mr. Barker to the position of council**
70 **vice-president.**

71
72 Mr. Engle moved, Mr. Martin seconded to **nominate Mrs. Spraggins to the position of council**
73 **vice-president.**

74
75 There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

76
77 Roll call on Mrs. Tulley's motion to **nominate Mr. Barker to position of council vice-**
78 **president**

79 Ayes: Barker, Tulley
80 Nays: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
81 The motion failed.

82
83 Roll call on Mr. Engle's motion to **nominate Mrs. Spraggins to position of council vice-**
84 **president**

85 Ayes: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
86 Nays: Barker, Tulley
87 The motion was carried.
88 **Mrs. Spraggins elected council vice-president for**
89 **2008**

90
91 Following Mrs. Spraggins election Mayor Kuchta told her that it is his opinion that Mrs.
92 Spraggins' position as township administrator of Copley is in conflict with her position as vice
93 president of Council. The primary reason he explained is that she is "two heart beats away" from
94 being mayor. The mayor questioned her ability to fulfill that obligation if necessary, and the fact
95 that in her administrative position with Copley she vies for the same Issue 2 money or similar
96 types of governmental funding as Macedonia.

97
98 Mrs. Spraggins questioned why the mayor would make an issue of her employment. There has
99 not been one circumstance she said since her election to Council or since she's been employed
100 with Copley that would warrant his concern. The type of work she performs is really not much
101 different than the professions of the other members of this Council she added. The trustees for
102 whom she works have given their blessing relative to her duties in Macedonia as one its elected
103 officials. She held the position of vice-president of council last year. Why is holding the same
104 position this year now an issue she asked? Mrs. Spraggins told the mayor that he first tried
105 keeping Mr. Molnar off the ballot and now he is trying to keep Mr. Engle and Mrs. Spraggins
106 from holding council positions.

107
108 Councilor Barker questioned Mrs. Spraggins why she's blaming Mayor Kuchta to which she
109 answered because it was the mayor who authorized Mr. Diemert to file an appeal with the Board
110 of Election. Councilor Barker reminded Mrs. Spraggins that the issue was about the Charter.
111 Councilor Barker also reminded Mrs. Spraggins that she like the mayor and every member of this
112 Council took an oath to uphold the Charter but for whatever reason has chosen not to abide by it.

113
114 Councilor Engle told Councilor Barker this is a "silly" argument. If we need to rehash history we
115 will he said. This issue was a matter of interpretation and punitive in nature.

116
117 Councilor Tulley interjected that there is no reason to rehash history. It was Mrs. Spraggins who
118 brought up old history neither Councilor Barker nor the mayor. Mrs. Tulley asked that Mr.
119 Hanculak address the positions that have been elected in light of Mayor's Kuchta's comments.

120
121 Assistant Law Director Hanculak explained that from a procedural standpoint if there is any
122 thought, fact or relative evidence that would indicated that a conflict of interest exists than a
123 complaint can be filed with the Ohio Ethics Commission. Subsequent to issues this evening if it
124 is determined that any member of Council has violated the Charter sanctions against the
125 offending member can be filed with the Ohio Ethics Commission by the majority of the members
126 of Council. Baring no immediate facts he said the elections of Mr. Engle and Mrs. Spraggins
127 stand.

128
129 Councilor Engle asked Mr. Hanculak if in addition to sanctions against members of Council
130 sanctions can be filed against any city employee to which Mr. Hanculak answered yes.

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Council Representative to the Planning Commission

Mr. Engle moved, Mrs. Spraggins seconded, **to nominate Mr. Martin Council's representative to the Planning Commission.**

There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll call on Mr. Engle nomination of Mr. Martin as Council's representative to the Planning Commission.

Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins,
Tulley

Nays: None

The motion was carried.

Mr. Martin elected Council's representative to the Planning Commission for 2008

Council Representative to the Parks & Recreation Commission

Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Molnar seconded, **to nominate Mr. Molnar Council's representative to the Park & Recreation Commission.**

There being no further nominations, nominations were closed.

Roll call on Mrs. Tulley's nomination of Mr. Molnar as Council's representative to the P&RC

Ayes: Barker, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley

Nays: None

The motion was carried

Mr. Molnar elected Council's representative to Parks & Recreation Commission for the year 2008

Committee Assignments

Mayor Kuchta stated that the committee assignments are being deferred until next meeting until he gets an opportunity for additional input from Council.

Councilor Spraggins stated that she does not believe that the mayor, regardless of whom is in that position should determine committees of Council. Speaking for herself there have been committees she has wanted to serve on but has never been appointed to she said. While she would not object to input by the mayor she strongly feels assignments should be at Council's discretion.

Mayor Kuchta interjected that the point of waiting was to extend an olive branch and to allow more time for Council's input.

Councilor Barker asked Mrs. Spraggins why this is an issue now to which Mrs. Tulley interjected that in fairness to Mrs. Spraggins she has asked for a chance in this procedure on numerous occasions. .

Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Engle seconded authorizing the law department to prepare legislation relative to amending the Codified Ordinances regarding the assignment of committees by Council, with the mayor's input.

Roll Call: Ayes: Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins
Nays: Barker, Tulley (Both councilors stated neither felt the amendment was warranted)

The motion was carried

INTRODUCTION, READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION

ORD. NO. 138-2007

AN ORDINANCE CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF PATRICIA KURCSAK TO THE POSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT IN THE BUILDING DEPARTMENT was **offered** by Mr. Barker and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for its second and third reading readings.** Second by Mr. Engle.

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199 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
200 Nays: None
201 The motion carried
202

203 Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Engle seconded to **amend Section 1 of Ordinance No. 138-2007** to read
204 as follows, “...effective upon final appointment by the Mayor.”
205

206 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
207 Nays: None
208 The motion carried
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210 Mr. Barker moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 138-2007, as amended**, and post
211 same according to law.
212

213 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley
214 Nays: None
215 The motion carried, **ORD. NO. 138-2007 adopted, as amended.**
216

217 **ORD. NO. 1-2008**

218 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO
219 ENTER INTO A CONTRACT WITH CTI ENVIRONMENTAL, INC., TO PERFORM A
220 COMPUTERIZED MODELING OF INDIAN CREEK RELATING TO THE STORM WATER
221 DRAINAGE AND SEWER STUDY was **offered** by Mrs. Tulley for its **first reading by title**
222 **only**. Second not required.

223 **ORD. NO. 2-2008**

224 AN ORDINANCE PROVIDING FOR THE 2008 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS, AND
225 DECLARING AN EMERGENCY was **offered** by Mrs. Tulley for its **first reading by title only**.
226 Second not required.
227

228 **MOTIONS AND OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTION:** None
229

230 **CORRESPONDENCE:** None.
231

232 **PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Mike Kronjak of N. Bedford Road questioned why the nursing home is no
233 longer a part of the senior citizen project to which Councilor Barker answered that the developer
234 eliminated it when the State of Ohio did not award him the required certificate of need. Mr.
235 Barker further explained to Mr. Kronjak that Council was advised when the developer applied for
236 the TIF that the nursing home was predicated on state approval, the certificate. With regards to
237 another matter, Mr. Kronjak questioned whether it was true what he heard that the license bureau
238 is moving out of Macedonia because the Planning Commission would not approve their building
239 addition plans.
240

241 Mayor Kuchta explained to Mr. Kronjak that the license bureau move and the expansion are two
242 different issues. First, the license bureau is an independent agency leasing space from Summit
243 County who owns the building. The bureau supposedly has found cheaper rent in Northfield
244 Village. The County decided not to expand well before the license bureau decided to move the
245 mayor said. Several years back the mayor explained the City approved the expansion plans that
246 Summit County submitted. The City had very strict requirements relative to the expansion which
247 initially the County was willing to adhere. In the end however the County chose otherwise and
248 decided not to expand. The mayor mentioned that he has contacted Summit County Executive
249 Russ Pry about the license bureau. Macedonia would like it to remain were it is. Macedonia has
250 a good relationship with Mr. Pry and hopefully the new executive will have an influence on the
251 bureau remaining at its present location.
252

253 Councilor Barker reiterated that the license bureau is a privately owned service totally independent
254 of the County. It is not even a state owned agency, but an independent agency working for the
255 state. Macedonia is the most logical location for the bureau Mr. Barker stated because of its easy
256 accessibility to the freeway. The bottom line for those who own these types of agencies however
257 the cost of rent is.
258

259 Councilor Spraggins asked if in fact Planning approved the expansion plans and if the financial
260 comprise relative to the sales transaction came to fruition.
261

262 Mr. Tufts answered that the first set of interior and exterior plans were approved. However the
263 second set of exterior plans was nothing like the first nor was anything like what the County had
264 originally agreed upon. The financial compromise was met he added thru an adjustment to the
265 sale price of the building.
266

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267 Chuck Loparo of Bradford Lane interjected that the County chose not to move forward because the
268 City was requiring that the entire exterior, not just the addition be renovated in Western Reserve
269 architecture.

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270
271 Councilor Martin asked Mr. Brunot if the license bureau generates revenue for Macedonia to
272 which he answered an insignificant amount from income tax. The majority of the revenue the City
273 receives from the bureau (the state) is from license plate tax which the City would receive
274 regardless of where the license bureau is located because it's based on residence.
275

276 **MAYOR'S REPORT** Attached. See end of document
277

COMMITTEE REPORTS

278
279 **Planning Commission** Mr. Martin announced that Planning's next meeting is January 14 at
280 5:30pm.
281

282
283 **Finance Committee** Mrs. Tulley announced that the Committee's next meeting is Tuesday,
284 January 29 at 6:30pm. Discussion will focus on the 2008 budget, large budget items and the fire
285 levy.
286

287 **Drainage and Sewer Control Committee** Mrs. Tulley announced that the Committee will be
288 meeting Wednesday, January 16 at 7pm.
289

290 **Brandywine Creek Watershed** Mrs. Tulley announced that there is a free one-day interactive
291 work shop being held at the Cuyahoga Valley National Park Happy Days Visitor Center on
292 Saturday, January 19 between the hours of 8:30am-4pm. The workshop is meant to promote
293 stewardship of the Brandywine watershed. The event will demonstrate the effect each of the four
294 communities, Macedonia Northfield Center, Hudson and Boston Height has on the watershed and
295 what effect the watershed has on each of the communities. Participants will also learn what areas
296 of the watershed must be conserved to keep the system working as well as to identify those areas
297 to be least impacted negatively by development. Mayor Currin of Hudson is the chairman of the
298 Watershed Mrs. Tulley added.
299

300 **Park & Recreation Committee** Ms. Gmerek announced that the Committee has decided to meet
301 Monday, January 21 at 7pm even though it is Martin Luther King, Jr. Day and a public holiday.
302

DEPARTMENT REPORTS

303
304
305 **Service Department** Mr. Crevar reported that the leaf collection program ended December 28.
306 Although three passes through each neighborhood were promised, four were actually completed he
307 said. Mr. Crevar advised residents who are still able to rake their yards because of warmer than
308 normal weather must bag their leaves and place them with their regular trash. Regarding other
309 service activities, Mr. Crevar mentioned crews have begun trimming street trees on Crow Drive.
310 Mr. Crevar also reported that for 2007 the City received \$1,685 from Abitibi-Consolidated relative
311 to recycled newspapers.
312

313 **Building Department** Mr. Tufts thanked the mayor and Council for the appointment of Patty
314 Kurczak to the position of building department assistant. In his attached report (see end of this
315 document Mr. Tufts addressed Council's amendment to Ordinance No. 96-2007, relative to
316 precluding retired Macedonia employees from being able to be re-employed by the City.
317

318 Councilor Barker mentioned to Mr. Tufts that he personally opposed the amendment. However he
319 felt a compromise was reached in that the retired employee could be rehired in a different capacity
320 than their previously held position. Unfortunately Mr. Barker stated rehiring conjures double
321 dipping and though this is a misnomer it is a socially taboo subject. The state even looking into
322 adopting a similar amendment he added.
323

324 Mayor Kuchta interjected that this amendment hand-caps the administrative. The mayor added
325 that there may be times on a short term bases, or for specific events that the expertise of qualified,
326 knowledgeable personnel such as Mr. Tufts who is in fact planning to retire this year may be
327 needed.
328

329 **Recreation Department** Ms. Gmerek reported that Macedonia's Annual Indoor Triathlon is
330 being held Sunday, January 13 at 7:40am. The 60 minute event includes 20 minutes of swimming,
331 20 minutes of spin biking and 20 minutes running the treadmill. Registration for this event is
332 required. Ms. Gmerek also reported that the Center is offering a Boater's Safety Course through
333 the Ohio Department of National Resources. All persons born after January 1, 1982 who wish to
334 operate boats over 10HP are now mandated by state law to complete a course in boating education
335 she said. The deadline to register for this course is January 16. The deadline to register for the
336 January 28 Greektown gambling bus trip in January 14. The Greektown bus will be leaving at
337 7:30am from the Recreation Center parking lot and return about 8pm.
338

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339 Council President Engle thanked Ms. Gmerek for orchestrating the swim team's bake sale held in
340 Twinsburg to raise funds for a former Nordonia High School student who gave birth prematurely.
341

342 **Finance Department** Mr. Brunot welcomed Councilor Molnar to Council. Regarding the
343 finance department Mr. Brunot reported that the 2007 books are closed thanks to the Herculean
344 efforts of Deputy Finance Director Loren Sengstock. Mr. Brunot also reported that the Audit
345 Committee met and discussed the creation of a CAFR, that is a comprehension annual financial
346 report. Creating a CAFR is important Mr. Brunot explained because it will not only provide a
347 higher level of reporting accountability it will provide a more receptive accounting vehicle for
348 auditors. It seems Mr. Brunot explained that auditors pay more timely attention to communities
349 with CAFR's than those who do not.
350

351 Councilor Spraggins asked Mr. Brunot if Council will have the cash balances for 2007 before the
352 next finance meeting to which Mr. Brunot answered that information is already included in the
353 December 31, 2007 financial report accepted by Council this evening.
354

355 **Fire Department** Chief Black mentioned that the increase in Ordinance No. 2-2008 relative
356 to in fire prevention and inspections is less than 6%. This means he explained that the department
357 is now in a deficient because union increases were negotiated at 3% and the 2007 retro increases
358 are coming from 2008 budget. This is a "tough pill to swallow" the chief added given that this
359 department has requested needed personnel. The chief feels his department's budget has been
360 severely comprised since call volume in 2007 increased by 12%, from 1182 to 1322. Chief Black
361 encouraged Council to review his budget closely.
362

363 Mayor Kuchta asked Chief Black how Macedonia's call volumes compare to the surrounding
364 communities to which the chief said he did not know. Speaking generally call volumes have gone
365 up throughout the area because of increased growth.
366

367 Councilor Spraggins asked Mr. Brunot if the 2007 retro increases are being taken from 2008
368 budget to which he answered that they are. Mr. Brunot explained that reason has three fold;
369 because the pay ordinance was adopted by Council so late in the year, because the budget is on a
370 cash bases and because there were no more pay periods remaining it was impossible for the retro
371 increases to be administered out of 2007. Mrs. Spraggins asked Mr. Brunot why this wasn't taken
372 into account when the 2008 budget was prepared. Mr. Brunot answered that each department
373 head prepared their department's personnel budget and he doesn't believe they included additional
374 dollars for the retro increases. He added however on a department to department basis the impact
375 is negotiable. The department most effected is recreation. Council will be asked to re-appropriate
376 funds for this department, which he added is unlike the other departments in that it is not supported
377 by the General Fund. It is important to acknowledge Mr. Brunot added that comparatively
378 speaking only a small number of employees were affected by this problem because those
379 employees whose pay grade could support an increase in 2007 received one.
380

381 **Police Department** Chief Golden reported that the LEADS audit was compliant in all
382 categories. One deficiency however was in the area warrants. There were a greater number of
383 errors issued than in previously years the chief stated. The errors while disappointedly higher
384 increased proportionately with the number of warrants issued. Warrants increased by 25% and
385 the error rate by 12.5%. This rate the chief was told by the auditor is well within normal ranges
386 and therefore Macedonia's audit overall was considered good.
387

388 **Law Department** Mr. Hanculak jokingly advised Mr. Molnar that motion to adjourn supersedes
389 all other motions.
390

391 **Unfinished business** Councilor Tulley asked Mr. Crevar how often the recycle bins are emptied
392 to which he answered once a week, paper bins more often. In light of the holiday, she suggested
393 that they be emptied more often or that people not leave their recyclables strewn outside the bins in
394 fear of drawing critters. With regards to another matter Mrs. Tulley asked when construction of
395 Chick-fil-a will begin to which Mr. Tufts jokingly answered, that's a mystery. The final
396 submissions of their plans were approved after the company abandoned alternate driveway plans
397 he added. Mrs. Tulley thanked Maintenance Supervisor Rob Maye for draining the lake in the
398 parking lot of the Recreation from that resulted storm water intake that was blocked. Mrs. Tulley
399 mentioned how encouraged she is seeing more activity at the Recreation Center particularly with
400 regards to the interest that has been shown in new classes such as the aerobics/dance class called
401 Zumba.
402

403 With regards to another Mrs. Spraggins mentioned to Chief Golden that Sheffield Steel trucks are
404 using Ledge Road to access Northfield Road during daytime hours. She asked the chief to contact
405 Dave Jacobs of Sheffield to advise him again that Ledge Road westbound is off limits and that the
406 steel trucks only have access is to North and South Freeway Drives.
407

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With regards to another topic, Mrs. Spraggins expressed concern that the nursing home is longer being considered in the Summit Point project. One hundred jobs where committed to this project she said and without the nursing home the number is going to be less than the developer promised

Mr. Brunot corrected Mrs. Spraggins explaining to her that the staffing of the nursing home was never factored into computations relative to the project. The jobs that were included relate solely to the assisted living facility that is currently under construction. The economic development package presented to Council clearly stated the nursing home was a possible addition, only if the state granted the certificate of need. Mr. Brunot stressed that Council was made aware early on that the estimated revenue from income and property tax or the TIF never included revenue from the nursing home. Mr. Brunot added that the assisted living facility will also include an Alzheimer wing which was not included in the pro forma.

Mrs. Spraggins asked why Mr. Migliorini chose not to wait for certificate of need, why he decided to built more private homes to which Mr. Brunot responded that only Mr. Migliorini can answer that question. Mr. Brunot informed Mrs. Spraggins that Mr. Engle had questioned whether the additional homes the TIF. The TIF does not change Mr. Brunot explained because the nursing home was never factored in and therefore no valuation was attributed to it. The TIF changes only to the extent that it could be paid down quicker given increased valuation from the construction and sale of the homes.

Mrs. Spraggins feels Council should be provided ongoing information about this project. She feels that Council and Macedonia residents have been mislead by the changes that have already been made. She asked Mayor Kuchta if there have been other changes the project other than the nursing home to which he answered only to the configuration of the road. The road has been redesigned to meander slightly through the project because of the hilliness of the topography.

Engineer Tufts reiterated that the nursing home was never part of the development plan submitted to the Planning. Mr. Migliorini informed Planning at the onset that the nursing home was predicated on the state granting a certificate of need.

Councilor Tulley interjected that as a Planning Commission member when this project was introduced that Mr. Migliorini never once said the nursing home was a certainty. He was very clear to Planning and Council about that fact. The nursing home was a possibility, never anything more. That was made very clear in the documents Council received as well as when he appeared before Council when the TIF was approved.

Councilor Spraggins reminded Council that this is a substantial project and therefore it is incumbent them to be prudent particularly since a TIF was approved.

Mayor Kuchta reminded Mrs. Spraggins that the TIF was approved for the road and infrastructure.

Councilor Barker questioned why Mrs. Spraggins is “mudding the waters” and misleading the public regarding this project. The project includes the road, the assisted living facility and the private homes. Construction of a nursing home was conditioned upon receiving state certification and every member of Council was made aware of that though the 32-page documentation Mr. Migliorini provided everyone as well as during his public appearance before Council.

New business: None.

There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 9pm

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Date Approved: February 14, 2008

Mayor: Donald Kuchta

Attest: Josephine Arceci, Clerk of Council

Mayor's Report
1-10-08

Greetings and Happy New Year!

A new community resource database is now available to residents of Summit County. **211Summit.org**, a free, easy to use online database, available 24 hours, 7 days a week. The database contains information about more than 1,000 health and human service agencies in our community. Search by service description, agency name, service categories or location. Visit the site anonymously. Your search is completely confidential. Request more information by sending an email to a specialist directly from the site or call 2-1-1 if you can't find the services you need. Live chat is generally available Monday to Friday from 9am – 4pm.

I met with Congressman LaTourette today at Gambitta's Party Center (formally Anthony's) in Northfield center. Congressman LaTourette is a key figure in all of the big infrastructure work that will be done in our City. It is very clear why I have such tremendous respect for the man who has help make the Route 8e Bridge a reality. He has been instrumental in several venues that have helped our City. The railroad bridge is only one but it is by far the largest.

Just a reminder for you to prepare for the coming road construction. Detours and changes of traffic patterns are eminent. I am meeting with local businesses in an effort to update them. I am assuring them that the people of our community will rally to support them even though it may be inconvenient to do so.

I encourage you to subscribe to our Macedonia Messenger by checking the box on the cities web page. There is much good information there and there will be things posted like suggested detours and other pertinent information. Go to Macedonia.oh.us to subscribe. City hall will be closed January 21st in observance of the holiday. That is Martin Luther King Day.

Mayor Court revenue for December was \$29,439.00.

TO: Josephine Arceci, Clerk of Council
FROM: Fred Tufts, P.E., City Engineer
SUBJECT: ENGINEER'S REPORT FOR THE 1/10/08 COUNCIL MEETING
DATE: January 10, 2008

Pursuant to the above scheduled Council Meeting, I offer the following:

Major Infrastructure Projects:

1. SR 82 widening, Phase 2:

- a. Received confirmation from ODOT District 4 that the fiber materials have been purchased for the fiber optic relocations and surveying necessary to establish the limits of work will be conducted in the near future;

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- b. The purchase of mitigation (wetlands) credits has been completed.
2. **South Freeway Drive:**
Moving forward on this important project requires a decision on the funding parameters. If the project is to be partially financed through assessments, the process requires a Council resolution of necessity (no change).
3. **North Bedford Road:**
We are in the process of evaluation and preparation of the necessary bid document. Also, all culvert (pipe) crossings will be inspected in the next couple of weeks.

Building Dept.:

1. Residential activity is continuing to pick up as several dormant projects are getting some attention.
2. Plans for the Cobra Plastics and the office/warehouse for Highland Rd. Industrial Park are in the review process.
3. Tractor Supply and the Great Escape are progressing well and are close to occupancy.

General:

As a department head that utilizes part-time and contract personnel to great benefit, it disappoints me that Council has chosen to take away an important employment option.

By adding the amendment to Ord. No. 96-2007, establishing a pay range schedule benefitting most City employees, you have chosen to limit their options after retirement.

The amendment, as passed, allows hiring of those who choose to work beyond retirement as long as they retire from another public agency; only City of Macedonia retirees are precluded from returning. In other words, no matter how respected and valued they may be, they can only work elsewhere.

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Everyone knows the recent *Plain Dealer* article chose to criticize public employees for enhancing their retirement years by exercising an option available to them while ignoring that those who retire from Social Security really have the same opportunity.

The City should be looking out for its valued and respected employees, especially when it is also best for the City; not punishing those who chose their careers here.

This concludes my report.

FNT/mtm

cc: Mayor Don Kuchta