

## Regular Council

May 22, 2008

1 Presiding Officer, Mayor Donald Kuchta, called the May 22 regular meeting of Macedonia City  
2 Council to order at 7:35pm.

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4 **Present:** Council members' Shane Barker, David Engle, Kenneth Martin, Nicholas  
5 Molnar, Peggy Spraggins and Janet Tulley; Law Director Joseph W. Diemert, Jr.  
6 and Council Clerk Josephine Arceci

7 **Absent:** None

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9 **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** led by Council President Dave Engle was followed by an invocation  
10 led by Councilor Jan Tulley.

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12 **MINUTES** Mr. Barker moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to approve the minutes of the March  
13 27 public hearing and the regular meeting of March 27, the special meetings of April 3 and April  
14 22 and regular meetings of April 10, April 24 and May 8 as submitted by the clerk of council.

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16 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
17 Nays: None  
18 Abstentions: Martin (relative to March 27 public hearing)  
19 Spraggins (relative to April 24 & May 8 meetings)  
20 The motion carried

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22 **FINANCIAL REPORT** Mrs. Tulley moved, Mr. Barker seconded, and acknowledging receipt  
23 of the Financial Report dated April 30, 2008, as submitted by the finance director.

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25 **FIRE DEPARTMENT 30-YEAR PIN RECOGNITION** Chief Black presented 30-year pins  
26 to Captain Dan Gagliardi, Paula Fowles, Ed Mrak Jr., and Frank Posar.

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28 **PROCLAMATION/RETIREMENT** Mayor Kuchta presented Engineer Fred Tufts a  
29 proclamation in recognition of his retirement and nearly 30 years of service to the City of  
30 Macedonia.

### **INTRODUCTION, READINGS & ADOPTION OF LEGISLATION**

#### **RES. NO. 49-2008**

31  
32 A RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT BY THE MAYOR OF JASON  
33 HETRICK TO POSITION OF FULL-TIME POLICE OFFICER was **offered** by Mr. Barker and  
34 moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing  
35 the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mrs. Tulley.

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39 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
40 Nays: None  
41 The motion carried

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43 Mr. Barker moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt RES. NO. 49-2008**, and post same according  
44 to law.

45 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
46 Nays: None  
47 The motion carried. **RES. NO. 49-2008, adopted.**

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49 Relative to Res. No. 49-2008, Chief Golden explained that Officer Hetrick is a replacement  
50 appointment for Officer Joe Kammer who retired on April 19. Officer Hetrick was previously  
51 employed by the Cleveland Heights Police Department.

#### **ORD. NO. 50 -2008**

52  
53 AN ORDINANCE DETERMINING TO PROCEED WITH THE IMPROVEMENT OF SOUTH  
54 FREEWAY DRIVE BETWEEN CERTAIN TERMINI BY GRADING, DRAINING, PAVING,  
55 CONSTRUCTING DRIVEWAY APRONS, REPLACING GUARDRAILS WHERE  
56 NECESSARY, REHABILITATING THE RELATED STORM SEWERS, CATCH BASINS,  
57 MANHOLES, JUNCTION CHAMBERS AND A CONCRETE HEADWALL, AND ACQUIRE  
58 ANY NECESSARY REAL ESTATE AND INTEREST THEREIN, ALL TOGETHER WITH  
59 THE NECESSARY APPURTENANCES THERETO, AND DECLARING AN EMERGENCY  
60 was **offered** by Mrs. Spraggins and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by  
61 title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**.  
62 Second by Mr. Molnar.

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65 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
66 Nays: None  
67 The motion carried  
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69 Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Molnar seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 50-2008**, and post same  
70 according to law.

71  
72 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
73 Nays: None  
74 The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 50-2008, adopted.**  
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76 Relative to ORD. NO. 50-2008, Mayor Kuchta added repair of this road is long overdue. The  
77 mayor added that the last time any major improvement was performed was when Jack Kennedy  
78 was president..  
79

80 **ORD. NO. 51-2008**

81 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING AND DIRECTING THE MAYOR TO  
82 PURCHASE A 2008 NEW HOLLAND T5050 TRACTOR WITH SIDE-MOUNT AND REAR-  
83 MOUNT FLAIL MOVING DECKS FROM WEST SHORE NEW HOLLAND, INC., FOR USE  
84 BY THE MACEDONIA SERVICE DEPARTMENT THROUGH THE STATE'S  
85 COOPERATIVE PURCHASING PROGRAM was **offered** by Mr. Martin and moved Council to  
86 waive the requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read  
87 it by **title only for all three readings**. Second by Mrs. Tulley.  
88

89 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
90 Nays: None  
91 The motion carried  
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93 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **amend ORD. NO. 51-2008** to read "... authorizing  
94 and directing the Mayor to enter into a lease purchase agreement with West Shore New Holland  
95 Inc., for the 2008 New Holland T5050 Tractor.....in the amount of ~~\$68,535.89~~ \$64,655.65, and  
96 certain optional accessories not covered under the State Purchasing Program in the additional  
97 amount of \$3,870.24. The total cost of the tractor, mowing implements and accessories is  
98 \$68,535.89."  
99

100 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
101 Nays: None  
102 The motion carried  
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104 Mr. Martin moved, Mr. Tulley seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 51-2008 as amended**, and post  
105 same according to law.

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107 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Martin, Molnar, Tulley  
108 Nays: Engle, Spraggins  
109 The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 51-2008, adopted as amended.**  
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111 Relative to ORD. NO. 51-2008, Service Director Crevar explained that the new T5050 replaces a  
112 1990 Kut-Kwik that is in very poor condition. The T5050 is a Five-Year Plan item and cost less  
113 that what had been budgeted.  
114

115 **ORD. NO. 52-2008**

116 AN EMERGENCY ORDINANCE AMENDING SECTION 909.04 OF THE CODIFIED  
117 ORDINANCES OF THE CITY OF MACEDONIA REGARDING NOXIOUS WEEDS was  
118 **offered** by Mr. Martin and moved Council to waive the requirement that it be read by title on  
119 three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title only for all three readings**. Second  
120 by Mrs. Tulley.  
121

122 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
123 Nays: None  
124 The motion carried  
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126 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **amend ORD. NO. 52-2008, Exhibit A** Paragraph  
127 (c) to read "The County ~~Auditor~~ Fiscal Office."  
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131 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt ORD. NO. 52-2008 as amended**, and post  
132 same according to law.

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134 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
135 Nays: None  
136 The motion carried. **ORD. NO. 52-2008, adopted as amended.**  
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138 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **add to the agenda ORD. NO. 53-2008:**  
139 **ACCEPTING AND DEDICATING A PORTION OF EAST SKYLAND DRIVE**

140  
141 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
142 Nays: None  
143 The motion carried  
144

145 Mr. Martin **offered ORD. NO. 53-2008** and moved Council to waive the **48-hour rule** and the  
146 requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title**  
147 **only for all three readings.** Second by Mrs. Tulley.

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149 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
150 Nays: None  
151 The motion carried  
152

153 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded to **adopt ORD. NO. 53-2008** and post same according  
154 to law.

155 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
156 Nays: None  
157 The motion carried, **ORD. NO. 53-2008 adopted**  
158

159 Relative to ORD. NO. 53-2008, Mayor Kuchta explained that East Skyland was built many years  
160 ago but for whatever reason was never dedicated. The fact that it was not was discovered only  
161 recently because of the construction of a new home.

162  
163 Mr. Molnar moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **add to the agenda RES. NO. 54-2008: A**  
164 **RESOLUTION CONFIRMING THE APPOINTMENT OF DANIEL GALLAGHER TO THE**  
165 **PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION**

166  
167 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
168 Nays: None  
169 The motion carried  
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171 Mr. Molnar **offered RES. NO. 54-2008** and moved Council to **waive the 48-hour rule** and the  
172 requirement that it be read by title on three different days, instructing the Clerk to read it by **title**  
173 **only for all three readings.** Second by Mrs. Tulley.

174  
175 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
176 Nays: None  
177 The motion carried  
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179 Mr. Martin moved, Mrs. Tulley seconded, to **adopt RES. NO. 54-2008** and post same according  
180 to law.

181 Roll call: Ayes: Barker, Engle, Martin, Molnar, Spraggins, Tulley  
182 Nays: None  
183 The motion carried, **RES. NO. 54-2008 adopted**  
184

185 Relative to RES. NO. 54-2008, Recreation Director Angela Gmerek explained that Mr. Gallagher  
186 is a two year resident of Macedonia. He and his family are members of the Recreation Center and  
187 his three children participate in a wide range of recreational programs. Mr. & Mrs. Gallagher are  
188 volunteer coaches for Macedonia's youth soccer program. Mr. Gallagher is excited to be a  
189 member of the Commission as is the Commission.

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191 **MOTIONS OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE ACTIONS:**  
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193 ~~Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Engle seconded, authorizing the City Engineer to advertise for  
194 construction bids relative to the improvement of South Freeway Drive.

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

~Mrs. Spraggins moved, Mr. Barker seconded, to cancel Council's regular meetings of July 24 and August 14 for the purpose of summer recess.

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

**CORRESPONDENCE:** ~ Letter of appreciation from Sgt. Dann M. Nivens, Commander, Summit Metro Crash Response Team, relative to Macedonia Police Officer Michael Burda's outstanding professionalism and dedication.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** Resident Jay Taylor of 445 Partridge Court representing Summit Highlands II Homeowners Association ("SHII"), presented a formal petition signed by 59 property owners requesting that the City accept street maintenance and snow removal responsibilities relative to their subdivision. Mr. Taylor stated Gross Builders is no longer responsible for any of these duties that the Homeowner's Association has taken over all responsibilities. The property owners feel Mr. Taylor stated that it is not fair that there is no property tax relief at the local, state or federal level for residences in cluster home developments like SHII. The residents of SHII question why they are responsible for maintenance and snow removal since the City maintains the roads and removes the snow in later cluster type developments like Woodland Point, Arbor Trails, Greystone, Valley Creek and Gardens of Highland. Mr. Taylor stated the City uses gasoline tax dollars collected from the Federal, State and County government as well as City assessments to pay for street care and maintenance. The homeowner's of SHII contribute to all of these income sources and for that reason Mr. Taylor stated, wants relief from the financial burden of street repair and snow removal and is asking the City to take over these responsibilities.

Engineer Tufts informed Mr. Taylor and other residents of SHII who were in attendance that with the exception of Woodland Pointe whose streets were built to R-1 standards the City does not maintain the streets in the private developments Mr. Taylor mentioned. Planned unit developments, private subdivisions like SHII are different than single family R-1 zoning in part because of density. The design and specifications of roads in PUD's are different than those for roads in zoning relative to single family residences and for that reason cannot be dedicated for public use he added.

Councilor Spraggins mentioned that in the early 1980's PUD's became the craze as property owners began looking for smaller homes and freer lifestyles. They wanted to downsize with maintenance free yards. Residents of PUD's were willing to pay a monthly fee to live in private areas with no through traffic. Many PUD homeowner associations however were left with little money for maintenance purposes. While it is true that property owners of cluster homes or condominiums pay property tax it is also true that they have chosen to live in private developments. The City cannot afford to take over the roads in all the private subdivisions in Macedonia she said. It may be that homeowner associations were not fully apprised from the beginning of their financial responsibility relative to their common areas and the maintenance of their roads. While that is shameful she added, the responsibility cannot be the City's.

Councilor Martin interjected that it has always been a concern of his that homeowners associations have not been given a good understanding of what is required of them. In Macedonia there are over 1000 units on private streets in planned unit developments. The City couldn't possibly afford to take responsibility for these areas after the fact he added. Mr. Martin mentioned that several years ago he proposed total elimination of PUD's in Macedonia because they do not meet the same standards of R-1 zoning and because the future upkeep problems that result homeowners associations fall apart. Mr. Martin also mentioned that when Valley Creek Estates came before the Planning Commission recently, the Commission required verification that property owner's were apprised that the City would not be responsible for street maintenance or snow removal. This verification was mandated he stated because Planning wanted to know with complete certainty that property owners were not blind sided thinking the City would be responsible.

Mayor Kuchta explained to Mr. Taylor that the Planning Commission has been concerned about the very issue Mr. Taylor raises. While the code relative to road specifications within PUD's has not changed since SHII and other PUD's were created many developers like that of Woodland Pointe chose to build their roads to R-1 standards so the roads could in fact be dedicated for public use.

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263 **MAYOR'S REPORT:** Attached

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### **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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**Planning Commission** Mr. Martin reported that Planning reviewed an electronic sign approximately 14'x48' proposed for along Route 8. In an area that is technically part of the land conservancy adjacent to the JEDD he added. Planning obviously was not pleased with the proposal Mr. Martin stated and for that reason a new design and placement was requested. Planning also reviewed a proposal to rezone certain portions within the area designated as the Town Center.

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**Western Reserve Cable Consortium** Mrs. Tulley reported that there is a new channel line-up in which like programming has been bundled or categorized. She mentioned there have been numerous complaints about the lack of service provided by the local office particularly with regards to the amount of the time subscribers have to wait for service. The Consortium has expressed concern with regards to Time Warner's pricing structure and has asked that there be reconsider.

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Councilor Martin asked Mrs. Tulley if a Time Warner official can to attend a council meeting to which Mrs. Tulley said arrangements are being made for a "town hall" type of meeting to give the public an opportunity to personally vent to a cable official. Mr. Martin said he was personally so dissatisfied with Time Warner that he switched to Direct TV.

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Mrs. Tulley understood she said But unfortunately she added there is no interest for this area by any other cable company area and therefore no competition. Cable subscribers are a captive audience whose complaints more often than not go unnoticed.

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**Parks & Recreation Commission** Mr. Molnar reported that the Commission will be discussing the conditions of baseball fields at Longwood Park at their June 16 meeting which will be held at the Recreation Center at 7pm.

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Mayor Kuchta thanked the Commission for looking into how to improve the fields. This is not an excuse the Mayor stated but the fields were built on fill, they are old, they are settling and there are only three park employees to maintain Macedonia's many acres of park. The Mayor was distressed to hear that a piece of rebar surfaced from one of the fields and struck a youngster's leg. The Parks and Recreation Commission is going to try and resolve this type of problem so that no other injuries occur. Regarding the soccer fields, the Mayor stated he and Mr. Martin inspected them and felt they are coming along.

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Councilor Martin interjected that the complaints about the condition of the baseball fields are not new. But it must be understood that Macedonia stepped up to the plate in a manner of speaking to create fields when the Nordonia school system eliminated some of theirs. If it were not for Macedonia, the volunteer organization Field of Dreams and a contribution from Bart Wolstein there would have been no fields for NHAA youth baseball games to be played on.

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### **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

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**Service Department** Mr. Crevar thanked the Mayor and Council for approving the purchase of the T5050 mower and congratulated Mr. Tufts on his retirement. Mr. Crevar reported: Memorial Park was enhanced for the SR 82 groundbreaking ceremonies; infield grass at Sugarbush and Longwood was sprayed and service crews are restoring the areas relative to N. Bedford Road culvert project by adding grass and stone to the inlet and outlet sides of each pipe.

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**Building Department** Mr. Tufts was present. Letter attached.

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Councilor Barker congratulated Mr. Tufts on his retirement. Mr. Barker said Mr. Tufts' expertise and accomplishments were instrumental in Macedonia growth and improvements.

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Councilor Martin commended Mr. Tufts as well. Many do not know Mr. Martin stated that in addition to Mr. Tufts' professional attributes he was also instrumental in creating youth baseball programs in the Nordonia Hills area. Mr. Tufts built baseball fields with dug-outs and back stops so the young ball players would have a true sense of the game. Mr. Tufts' was a talented baseball player himself in his youth and projected his love of the game to his children as well as to area youngsters.

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**Recreation Department** Ms. Gmerek reported: the Recreation Center will be closed on Memorial Day; registration for summer programming begins May 24; Family Fishing Day is Sunday, June 1st at Longwood Lake from 10am to 2pm. (rain date following week-end). Ms. Gmerek reminded retired residents 62 years or older that their insurance providers may pay their membership fee to the Recreation Center through the partnership program known as Health Ways, the Forever Fit Program. Ms. Gmerek mentioned that as a result of this program 18 members have joined since April.

**Finance Department** Deputy Finance Director Loren Sengstock reported in Mr. Brunot's absence that income tax revenue for the month of April was over \$1M. The \$200,000 increase from April 2007 was due to net profit taxes which should be viewed with cautious optimism Mr. Sengstock stated as typically they are a volatile revenue source. Mr. Sengstock mentioned that RITA officials have advised the City that proposed Federal legislation, H.R.3959 would adversely affect Ohio's municipal corporations' income tax collections. Mr. Sengstock explained that under current Ohio law, a municipal corporation may, with certain limited exceptions, tax the compensation that a nonresident individual earns for working in the municipal corporation only if the nonresident works there for more than 12 days in a calendar year. H.R. 3359 introduced on August 3, 2007, would generally preclude a state or its political subdivisions from taxing the compensation unless the nonresident works in the political subdivision for more than 60 days in a calendar year. If enacted, H.R. 3359's 60-day threshold would supersede the 12-day threshold. Also within the threshold rule, an individual would have to physically work 50% of the day within the subdivision before taxes could be levied. It is difficult to ascertain at this time Mr. Sengstock stated how much the City would be affected if the new law is enacted but it will no doubt be negative. Council was strongly encouraged to oppose it.

Mayor Kuchta encouraged residents to oppose the bill as well. Income tax, not property tax he said is the revenue source that is the life blood of the City. Because of the City's income tax Macedonia can boast having the fourth lowest property taxes in Summit County he added.

**Fire Department** Chief Black thanked Mayor and Council for recognizing the fire department's 30-Year employees. It was only fitting Chief Black stated that the 120 accumulative years of Dan Gagliardi, Paula Fowles, Ed Mrak Jr. and Frank Posar were recognized during EMS week. Chief Black wished Mr. Tufts well in his retirement.

**Police Department** Chief Golden thanked the Mayor and Council for the appointment of Officer Jason Hetrick to the police department. The chief wished Mr. Tufts a fond farewell and good luck in his retirement.

**Law Department** Mr. Diemert had no report.

**Unfinished business** Councilor Tulley thanked Service Director Crevar and his service crew for the senior citizen/disability walkway they recreated. Accessibility to and from the front entrance of the Recreation Center to the parking area for the disabled it is now easier and more convenient due to their expert handi-work. Mrs. Tulley also thanked Recreation Director Gmerek for ensuring that equipment that is inoperable is clearly marked as such. There was a time Mrs. Tulley stated that it was difficult to find management in the Recreation Center to even inform them that equipment was malfunctioning.

With regards to another matter, Councilor Martin mentioned that subsequent to last year's Memorial Day Parade in which Mr. Martin was an invited attendee an article was published in NS7 (blog) chastising him for throwing candies along the parade route to young parade watchers. This action Mr. Martin stated was supposedly an affront to the veterans of this country and diminished the honor that was being given. For years Mr. Martin stated he took his then young sons Hugh and Kenny to Memorial Day parades where they received candy in very much the same way. He and his family have always understood and have been mindful of the meaning, the importance and the reverence of Memorial Day. Events such as the parade are meant to be festive part of that day. They are loud and colorful, and they are meant to bring the community together. As a 27-year resident of Macedonia and the Nordonia Hills areas and having both sons serve in Iraq he felt that the unanimous writer's criticism unwarranted and inappropriate.

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395 With regards to another matter, Councilor Molnar thanked Chiefs Black and Golden and their  
396 respective employees for promptly responding to two serious accidents that occurred at the  
397 Macedonia company for which Mr. Molnar is also employed.  
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399 **New business** None.  
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401 There being no further business before Council, the meeting adjourned at 8:55pm  
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### 403 **Mayor's Report**

404 **May, 22, 2008**  
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406 I'm sorry I missed the last Council meeting but I was in Washington at Congressman  
407 LaTourette's yearly gathering of local elected officials. In the two days I was there I had  
408 a chance to interact with not only my peers but experts and Department Heads of various  
409 Federal Departments. This is the type of interaction that can result in what you see going  
410 on today in Macedonia. As a Mayor, to be able to tie a face to a name and relate to some  
411 casual conversation that can lead to help when the chips are down, is invaluable. It does  
412 cost us some money to have me do this, however if I just use the Route 82 Bridge and  
413 widening job and the MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of dollars that were brought in as an  
414 example of funding obtained, I would say it is a very good deal. That is money that  
415 would be paid by local taxpayers otherwise.  
416

417 It will be bike riding time now so watch for our bikers, especially the young ones. To  
418 encourage our children to wear helmets, our local Wendy's, owned by Bob Bolton, is  
419 donating frosty coupons to our police offers to give to youngsters wearing helmets. Bob  
420 does this every year and is one of our finest business owners. Also watch out for balls  
421 rolling in the street and who may be chasing them.

422 Road construction is going into full swing as we can all see. Once again I urge our  
423 residents to subscribe to our weekly Messenger. It's Free and it's informative. For  
424 instance we will be updating road construction progress and if there are area's to avoid.  
425 You can even find out the day garbage will be picked up. Speaking of garbage, many  
426 communities have haulers that chare residents amounts higher than ours. We also have  
427 one of the best companies as far as service and that's Republic Waste haulers. If  
428 something is not right related to your pickup you need to call Cheri, or Sharon, in our  
429 Service Department.  
430

431 If you have any concerns or complaints about the Rt82 widening and bridge job you are  
432 to call 330-786-2210 and speak to Justin Chesnic. You can also email him at  
433 [justin.chesnic@dot.state.oh.us](mailto:justin.chesnic@dot.state.oh.us). This man is the Public Information Specialist for ODOT.  
434 ODOT is running this job not the City. The City will not be able to rectify anything as  
435 good as this man will. Once again, 330-786-2210 is the person to call not the City. Our  
436 building Department will be working on creating a link on our web page that will provide  
437 information relative to the route 82railroad and road widening project. Please look for the  
438 construction zone icon and click on that. It should be ready in a week or so.  
439 Once again I was made aware of just how good our Fire Chief Tim Black is. I received a  
440 letter from the Ohio Task Force 1 from the National US&R Response System at the end  
441 of April It praised the commitment and professionalism exhibited by our Chief during an  
442 exercise hosted by the Ohio Task Force 1 on April 11<sup>th</sup> through the 13<sup>th</sup>, 2008.  
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444 While we are talking about our Chief and would like to mention that Fire Regionalization  
445 negotiations are still proceeding. Tim has done a great job of keeping the steering  
446 committee posted on the progress being made on all of the items and goals listed by the  
447 consultant that needed to be done. These recommendations are necessary to proceed  
448 toward joining together with our neighboring Nordonia Hills Communities. Our meeting  
449 on Tuesday concentrated on joining and possibly updating our radio dispatching systems.  
450 These talks cover everything for dispatching from one facility, to changing the band we  
451 operate on. The Federal State and County Government are pushing the 800 megahertz  
452 band. We are presently on the 400 megahertz band. We will fully investigate the pros and  
453 cons of each operation. Why? Tremendous cost differentials. Although the theory is good  
454 to combine all on one band, the practicality will be tested. Not every community can  
455 afford the hundreds of thousands of dollars involved in switching. We happen to be one  
456 of them.  
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459 You may have been reading a lot about the possibility of a quiet zone at the Twinsburg  
460 Road "at grade" crossing because of Hudson resident Greg McNeil. He is doing more  
461 than saying "fix it". He and I are actively involved with getting tools to fix it with. Can I  
462 tell you for sure it will happen? I can't. But I can tell you that this will be our best, and  
463 maybe our only, shot at making it happen. The quiet zone becoming a reality will depend  
464 on cost. Once that is determined by the study that will be performed by Norfolk-  
465 Southern, we will need to find the mechanism to fund it. Within the next two years we  
466 should be starting the building of the ultimate "quiet zone" at the Highland Road  
467 Crossing. A Bridge will be built over the track. A bridge is not an "at grade" crossing, so  
468 the blowing of the whistle is not mandated.

469  
470 The total revenue for the Courts for the Month of April was \$36,238.70  
471 Have a safe Holiday and if you want to double the value of your car...fill it up.  
472

473  
474  
475 **LETTER FROM FRED TUFTS**  
476

477  
478 May 22, 2008  
479

480  
481 The Honorable Donald J. Kuchta, Mayor  
482 City of Macedonia  
483 9691 Valley View Road  
484 Macedonia, Ohio 44056  
485

486  
487 Dear Mayor Kuchta:  
488

489 I wish to express that it has been my pleasure to have had the  
490 opportunity to work in and for the City of Macedonia for over 30 years.  
491 The experience has  
492 been quite rewarding for me, especially as the staff you have assembled  
493 is uniquely professional and productive serving the citizens of  
494 Macedonia.  
495

496 I will miss the cooperative spirit that has developed and the  
497 challenges we have concurred together. With obstacles present that  
498 affects efficiency and employee morale, your leadership has kept the  
499 team together to overcome these hurdles.  
500

501 I wish you well with continued success in spite of those few who don't  
502 want to understand or respect the advantages of a productive and  
503 efficient staff led by dedicated department heads and administration.  
504

505 Next week will be my last week employed by the City of Macedonia. I  
506 hope my last week will encourage Council to reconsider the legislation  
507 passed in December denying basic cost of living increases by red-lining  
508 selected position and black-listing those dedicated City employees who  
509 might return, for good reason, after they retire. Personal issues  
510 shouldn't be used to penalize all dedicated employees and for that  
511 matter, all constituents.  
512

513 Thank you for your confidence in me and for your un-wavered support.  
514 Your leadership and focus on doing what's best for the community has  
515 allowed the team  
516 foresight over others' individual interests and made this City a place  
517 to be proud to serve.  
518

519  
520 Most sincerely,  
521

522  
523  
524 Frederick N. Tufts  
525  
526

Regular Council

May 22, 2008

527