

MINUTES OF THE MEETING MARCH 25, 2024

(Recording begins with Member Morris giving the Invocation)

The regular meeting of Canton City Council was held on March 25, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the Canton City Council Chamber. The roll call was taken (see above) by Clerk of Council, Jill M. Wood. The invocation was given by Ward 9 Council Member, Frank Morris. The Pledge of Allegiance was led by President Bates Aylward.

AGENDA CORRECTIONS AND CHANGES

PRESIDENT BATES-AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Morris. We are now under Agenda Corrections and Changes. Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we suspend Rule 22A to add second readings Ordinances #21 to this evening's Agenda.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to suspend Rule 22A to add second readings to Ordinance number... is it 21 or 20?

MEMBER BABCOCK: Twenty-two A.

MEMBER MARIOL: Twenty.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Twenty... to this evening's agenda...

MEMBER MARIOL: Twenty-one.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Is it 20? That's what I was thinking... it is 21.

CLERK WOOD: Twenty-one.

MEMBER MARIOL: Twenty-one, yes.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yep, 21... to this evening's agenda. Are there any remarks? ...Hearing none, roll call, please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. The motion carries and Ordinance 21 is a legal part of your agenda.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under Public Hearings, and we have none for this evening.

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PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under Old Business, and there is no Old Business.

INFORMAL RESOLUTIONS

Um... we will be doing Informal Resolutions before Public Speaks because we have a wonderful group of young people here that we would like to recognize, and then if they wish to leave our presence and... and go about their business and go do homework, they can... they can do that. So, we... we are now under Informal Resolutions and we have two for this evening. Madam Clerk, would you please read Informal Resolution #1 by title.

1. COUNCIL-AS-A-WHOLE: COMMENDING MCKINLEY 8TH GRADE BOYS BLACK TEAM ON WINNING THE FEDERAL LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIP. - ADOPTED

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Informal Resolution #1.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Informal Resolution #1. Are there any remarks?

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Yes, could we have that read in its entirety, so they would know exactly what...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We will... happily will as soon as we pass it.

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Oh, okay.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Other than that and having it read, which we will do... uh, are there any other remarks? It's been moved and seconded. Hearing no other remarks, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Those opposed.

NO REMARKS

RESOLUTION #1 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The ayes have it and the motion carries. And now, Madam Clerk, would you please read it in its entirety.

CLERK WOOD: An Informal Resolution respectfully submitted by Council-as-a-Whole on this 25th day of March, 2024. **Whereas**, The 2023-2024 Canton McKinley 8th Grade Black finished their year as the Undefeated Federal League Champions, with a record of 19 – 0. **Whereas**, The team plays out of the historic Hartford Jr. High/Middle School, where they have produced at least 1 of the championship teams since the 2020 – 2021 season, either in the 7th grade or the 8th grade, and twice taking both Federal League titles; giving them 6 championships out of a possible 8! **Whereas**, This is Coach Franco Jamerson's second basketball Federal League Championship, he also has 7 football championships under his belt; and **Whereas**, The team finished their regular season with a record of 16 – 0, giving up a total of 588 points and coming in just shy of 1000 points, at 989, leading the entire league in points scored and points allowed; and **Whereas**, This is a special group of young men and the first basketball team to go undefeated since the 2021-2022 season. **Now, therefore**

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be it resolved that we, the Members of Canton City Council, do hereby go on public record congratulating **Canton McKinley's 8th Grade Black** Coach Franco Jamerson, Asst. Coach Carlos Parish and players: Mejour Cheek, Legacy Lee, Zahmir Torrence, Jaylen Elder, Jaylonn Carter, Derrick Gordon III, Carlo Virola, J'Qann Green and Javier Longshore on winning the 2023 – 2024 Federal League Basketball Championship!!!

(Applause)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: And this will be presented... *(Applause continues)*. This Resolution will be presented by Member Smith and please, anyone who like to approach and share in this... Coach, any of your players, come on up.

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: And if there's some parents that want to take pictures, you can come down to the front cause I won't... *(inaudible)*. Okay? Okay, I... I... I'm always proud to do this cause I'm always proud of the young people, and especially in our community, and I always like for them to be congratulated, especially for all of these young people and the old people *(laughter)*... and whoever is sitting in that horseshoe. I thank you all so very much for supporting them and on this day we just want to congratulate... congratulate you. And you all know what I'm doing, right? You know Hartford is located in Ward 4. *(Laughter) (Applause)*

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Thank you.

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: We also have Principal Thompson in the house? Come on down. *(Brief pause)*

COACH JAMERSON: Just so everybody knows that it's underneath the leadership of Coach Thompson here. Uh... all those championships have been won underneath his banner.

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Alright! *(Applause) (Brief pause, background voices)*

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Let's have another round of applause for these wonderful young people. *(Applause)* Go right ahead, if you'd like to say something.

COACH THOMPSON: Just real quick... um, cause the Councilwoman asked me to... to speak and she also helped me get married so... *(laughter)*... when she asks me to do something, I have to... have to abide by it, but... I just want to thank you all... um, thank Canton City Schools, the Board of Education and Superintendent Talbert for all the support that they give.... uh, these young people in the school. And really this... this team exemplified the three core values in Canton City Schools. One is evident with excellence, because they were undefeated. Um... two, the leadership they show on and off the court is unmatched, and three, community. And the reason why I bring up community and I'm so thankful that you all did this, say to honor them is because one of the fathers of a young man has pictures all the way back from when his son was in the second grade...

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Wow!

COACH THOMPSON: ...and played with my son, and without him... his name is Tony Lee. Um... he's the one that started this all really. Um... we didn't have a youth team for awhile, and he one time, I think, was coaching five or six teams by himself. So he helped build this. Um... it's important for him... for his son to be a Canton McKinley Bulldog and all these families also, so it really is about community. Thank you all. God Bless. *(Applause)*

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MEMBER MORRIS: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

MEMBER MORRIS: If I may? Gentlemen, you have set the bar very high. We expect a State Championship here in the next few years. *(Laughter) (Applause)*

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: I just want to say thank you so much for coming, and if you would like to make your way again home to do homework and chores, that's perfectly fine. *(Laughter)*

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: They're on Spring break.

MEMBER HAWK: They're on Spring break.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: I'm trying to give them an out here. *(Laughter)* But yes, thank you so much for coming. We really appreciate you and I love to see young citizens coming and... and seeing us here at City Council. Now, we are under Informal Resolution #2. Madam Clerk, if you would read it by title.

2. PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: CONFIRMING REAPPOINTMENT OF MR. JAMES REINHARD TO STARK AREA REGIONAL TRANSIT AUTHORITY (SARTA) BOARD COMMENCING 1/1/24 TO 3/31/27. - ADOPTED

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam... Madam President, I move we adopt Informal Resolution #2.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Informal Resolution #2. Are there any remarks under this Resolution regarding Mr. Reinhard? ...Hearing none, by voice vote, all those in favor signify by saying aye. All opposed no.

NO REMARKS

RESOLUTION #2 PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The ayes have it, the motion carries and Informal Resolution #2 is adopted.

PUBLIC SPEAKS

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Okay. Now, thank you for your patience. We are now under Public Speaks. We have twelve speakers this evening. Some of you have been with us before, but for those who have not, you have three minutes to speak, and please... uh, watch the clock so that, you know, you don't run out of time. And... uh, with that said, our first speaker is Miss Kimberly Bell. Miss Bell, if you could approach the podium and give us your name and residential address.

KIMBERLY BELL: Yes, Kimberly Bell, 1733 Morris Avenue. Um... I want to... I feel honored to be in the room with all the Muslims and how your supporting... supporting your relation and your people. I feel honored. I gave you guys pictures of the... um, plaza where I want the boutique to go. I was way hoping Chris

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was here, but he's off sick. Uh... but yesterday I got off work and I'm coming down Tusc by McDonald's on Cherry and Tusc... I didn't get the pictures made up, I didn't make it to Lou's office, but right across the street is the Golden Pheasant, right next to Stark Metropolitan Housing, you got homeless people sleeping up under there. When you all go home to your hundred thousand dollar homes, think of those people that's underneath the Golden Pheasant sleeping with blankets and trying to stay warm. That... that... that... that's not acceptable. And we got... and... and so I stopped and talked with them. The one said they don't care about us, but they care about the Hall of Fame. They put that... that... uh, Centennial Plaza up there, and a lot of us... uh, sneak in that area to go use the bathroom outside. I said, what? He say yeah, they won't even allow us in to use the restroom. So, that area is... that property is used... being used for a public restroom for the homeless. And I knew it was gonna happen. They go... it... it's go... it's not gonna be long, they gonna be sleeping up there too. But the Hall of Fame was more important than making sure those homeless... you could have put something inside the Ho... Golden Pheasant building for them to sleep. But no, you'd rather put the money in the Centennial Plaza. The Golden Pheasant been empty... I used to go to the Golden Pheasant when I stirred... first started running the streets in the '80's, and the building is still standing. And you got homeless people sitting it up... sleeping up under it when you can make it useful and open it up as a... uh, a homeless shelter for the... for those people. I'll more next week. I have... uh, things to talk about, but my time is up.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you very much, Miss Bell. Our next speaker is Rami...

KIMBERLY BELL: I have to go folks. I can't stay tonight.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: ...is Rami Hamdan, and again if you would approach and give us your name and residential address for the record.

RAMI HAMDAN; Uh... my name is Rami Hamdan, 7692 Peachmont Avenue NW. Um... we are here today to ask for a ceasefire and to stop the ethnic cleansing and the use of starvation as a weapon, the stopping of women and children and innocent men being wholesale slaughtered and an end to the raping of women and children. It's becoming extremely clear, and history will not be favorable to weak leaders, especially in critical moments like this. Um... I'm sorry I have to tell you guys this, you know, what I'm about to tell you is happening right now, and your dollars, all of your tax dollars and lack of... uh, oversight over Israel has allowed things like this to happen. And this isn't a one-off instance, this has been happening for 75 years right under the watchful eye of America, right? Sexual assault, according to testimonies from Al-Shifa Hospital. A husband and wife, along with their young children who were displaced, sho... sought shelter at Al-Shifa Hospital. The pregnant wife was forcibly undressed by Israeli forces despite informing them of her pregnancy. They continued to kick her, then they assaulted her and raped her in front of her family and other men, threatening to shoot her husband and other men if they closed their eyes. Another instance, and this is recently, Dr. (*sounds like* "Alya-Can") reported from her colleague at Al-Kheir Hospital that paramedics informed the physician that a woman was raped for two days until she lost her ability to speak. Ninety-four children are held in the Ma... Megiddo Prison including 24 children from Gaza. The administration of the occupations prisons continues to impose punitive measures against child prisoners, which are no less severe than the retaliatorial measures imposed against the adult prisoners since October 7th. They are held in cells, stripped of anything, doubly isolated and deprived of family visits. In the light of ongoing deprivation of thousands of prison... you guys get it... you guys get what's going on, right? So we're just asking you to call for a ceasefire and stop sending money to these people. I mean, if I have a guy here named Steve, right, and he's addicted to heroine, alright? I'm not gonna give heroine... or I'm not gonna give Steve more money to keep buying heroine, right? It's clear Israel is a criminal. They're all criminals. This is what they've been doing for 75 years. That's the only reason I'm in this country is because of Israel, because they stole our land and they killed our women, killed our children nonstop, and for some reason it's complicated. It's not complicated. Just call for a ceasefire,

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call to... for a cessation of fire. Even the Vice President, the President, their breaking ties with Israel. Now is the time. Now is the time to break relationships with people who just stab us in the back. If you guys watch international news... news, I advise you, watch international news...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Nine seconds.

RAMI HAMDAN: Don't just look at CNN and Fox News. Look at what the rest of the world is saying. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you very much. (*Buzzer sounds*) (*Applause*) Our next speaker is James Trolio Yaccob? Yuccob? (*pronounced "Ya-coob"*) I'm sorry. I'm... I'm... And if you'll please approach, and if someone would assist him with the microphone, I'd appreciate it. And if you would give us your name and residential address, sir.

JAMES TROLIO YACCOB: (*Taps the microphone*)... Can you hear me?

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

JAMES TROLIO YACCOB: Okay. I'm James Trolio, Brother Yaccob. I'm a proud Muslim American, and I say enough is enough to all the Council Members up there. You are our friends and neighbors. We live here in Canton, Ohio and I'm a proud person to be a Cantonian, and I'm proud of them young men. But I'm ashamed of my country. This... I'm... I'm ashamed. This is tearing me apart. I... I see what's happening on this (*inaudible*). We... this is not America. America stood up for freedom, for justice, for what is right, and we gotta stand up for what is right. This is our whole nation, built upon doing the right thing, and doing the right thing is calling for a ceasefire and ending that horrible war over there. And I say world peace, world peace now. This world peace has to come about, cause it's gonna go far beyond Israel. It's gonna go far beyond the Middle East. It's gonna go far beyond the Ukraine. It's gonna go worldwide if we keep this madness up. I say enough is enough. Let's send a signal to that White House and to that corporate hill... that Capital Hill, excuse me... Capital Hill that we do not want these wars no more. And what is going on in the Gaza, that's totally inhumane and dehumanizing. They're dehumanizing people. This is not America. This is not Americans. Americans are good people, and our legacy should be for humanity, not for greed and insanity. Enough is enough. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. (*Applause*) Thank you for your assistance. Our next speaker is David Keresties... Kerestes, thank you. David Kerestes, and if you would please give us your name and residential address for the record, sir.

DAVID KERESTES: David Kerestes, 626 Walnut NE. I guess I'm kinda here, same thing they're all about. I'm here standing as a conscientious objector to what America has become today. Um... my father was a Green Barret, and he thought that there was nothing better than to die for the good of others. Maybe get a silver star. Then he seen you people fly out and leave your own behind in Saigon, and.. uh, changed the whole course of the military. I have no idea how Bill Clinton can avoid the draft, go to Canada, come back, become a president and never be charged with avoiding the draft when others have. So you... you quite frankly have selective law, but really I'm here to speak of maybe the word... uh, and they don't understand... totalitarian society is subservient to the states. That's what we are, that's what we were. I don't believe we're that anymore. This word has more than one definition. The willingness to obey others without question, that doesn't seem like anything I would want to do. Uh... and then we get into law, inclined or willing to submit to others. In other words, when I got ramrodded by the bus garage and the FBI for something I didn't do... um, I never got to

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court. I never met my accuser. And then on top of that... um, I had an inadequate counsel. So, you know, as I went around, people are telling me well, you plead guilty, you did this, you did that. Well, what about the great Writ of Habeas Corpus, where I go back and I say that you're all subservient to the FBI and their criminal conduct in this area. Because quite frankly I've ran into multiple businesses that are in violation of Troyer versus T. John E., which was mandated under McCullum versus Sylvester, and they're tax evaders. These are our elected and employed officials. These are our veterans of this country who are quite insubordinate... uh, to the protocol behind their enlistment and the fact that they have tax evasion going on right now. So, I'm here to tell you that I will be writing up a Writ of Habeas Corpus, I will be accusing you of what I just said, and... uh, on top of all that, I just want to let you know that I did contact the White House, and I cannot understand for the life of me how Portman tells me to get ahold of Mr. Herring of the FBI and the Department of Justice.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Ten seconds, sir.

DAVID KERESTES: And then Mr. Portman says he can't do a thing, it's a separation between church and state, and I'm tired of your (*buzzer sounds, remainder of sentence inaudible*).

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Abdallah Masri. If you could approach and give us your name and residential address, sir.

ABDALLAH MASRI: Aassalamu alaikum. My name is Abdallah Masri. Residential address 3892 Mt. Pleasant Street, Apartment B, North Canton. And I work at Aultman Hospital and I'm a member of Al Rahman Mosque in Canton City. Um... I ask you... I ask you to hear... to hear me through my accent and nationality and religion. I ask you to hear me as a brother in humanity. We are clearly asking for an Informal Resolution demanding an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza and for Informal Resolution recommending to the White House immediate effort to put an end to this war unconditionally. Um... I know that most people here... some of the people here are expecting that we're gonna put this to vote today, which is not the case because nobody put this forth as an Informal Resolution. All they did was put it as in Communication, which per City law, anybody can do that. It doesn't need a Councilman to do that. Now, I respect and appreciate your help at putting this forward and allowing this venue for us to speak. I do really respect and appreciate that. Let me tell you something about this crowd behind me. Most of these people had nothing to eat or drink since sun... sun... uh, since dawn because it's Ramadan... it's the 15th day of Ramadan. And it's our holy month of fasting and worship. And all of them are coming here sacrificing and knowing that sunset, which is time to break our fast, is gonna happen while we are sitting here, sacrificing their time and effort to support this humane cause. We're not making things up. Fifty... more than 50% of Americans don't know if more Palestinians or Israelis were killed through this recent conflict. Whereas, the facts, that are undisputed facts are more than hundred thousand casualty... uh, Palestinians have been... 33,000 killed and more than 70,000 under the rubble and injured and missed... and... uh, lost. Um... this is your factually a genocide, and I want this to be described as genocide, if you want to put it in quote in the report of this meeting. This is an ongoing genocide, and we have to put an end to this. Um... we have been nothing but active and... uh, good citizens and good members of this community, and we ask that we're represented well in this matter. Please, I'm gonna end my speech with Duha and prayer. I ask Allah, I ask God, the god of many beautiful names, the god of all, to lift the siege, oppression, destruction and killing upon our brothers and sisters in Gaza, and send a long lasting justice and peace to all.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Buzzer sounds*) (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Uneeza Haque. If you would approach and please give us your name and residential address.

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UNEEZA HAQUE: My name is Uneeza Haque. I live at 5155 Foxchase Avenue NW in the city of Canton. There are less and less words to describe the horror upon horror... (*inaudible*).

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: The mic's not on... (*inaudible*).

UNEEZA HAQUE: There are...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: There you go.

UNEEZA HAQUE: ...less and less words to describe the horrors upon horrors that we see now. The most recent allegations, it's beyond comprehension. Three hospitals now under siege. Al-Shifa Hospital in the north is seven days without food and water. Stories of kidnappings, execution by firing squad, the rape of a pregnant woman who was then murdered. The past 170 days were unbearable enough, and now it's just baffling. We move through life on death time now. I went shopping at Kosco earlier. Seven woman died in that time. I stopped for a quick lunch, two children died, and the ones remaining are wounded and broken. Doctors Without Borders reported that children as young as five are suicidal. The worst part is that these atrocities get zero coverage. The past few weeks have been incredibly important religiously for Muslims and Christians. Ramadan has always increased violence for... against Muslims in... in Israel. In the past few years there has been increased violence against Christians and Christian sites as well. Most recently Palestinian Christians were banded from entering the west bank in occupied Jerusalem on west... on Palm Sunday. Where's the outrage? Why did this not get reported? How can all this despair be happening, and why is everybody all the time not talking about it? All these crimes and violations of international law. The silence is suffocating. I've been taught my entire education that if I see something wrong or an abnormality, it's my responsibility to... uh, to advocate for the patient, they follow up with the right people, get the right testing. And now, our... our community and myself, we cannot stay silent when so many of innocent civilians, half of whom are women and children, are being killed in real time, not across the... half way across the world, but on our phones on our bedside table, it's happening. How can we remain silent? Who will speak for us when our rights are threatened and taken away if we can't even stand for a Palestinian's right to just exist. The U.N. Security Council today approved a temporary ceasefire for the remainder of Ramadan, but only because the U.S. abstained from voting. This is not enough. This is not even the bare minimum. Ramadan is only two weeks left, and then what happens after that? We must demand an immediate and permanent ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian aid to the region. Of course, a resolution here is only symbolic, but it acknowledges the anguish of your community and constituents. It affirms a truth that are basic knowledge to us. Palestinians are humans and they reserve... deserve basic rights and freedoms.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Ten seconds.

UNEEZA HAQUE: Muslims and Christians and Jews should be allowed to practice their faith side by side in peace. We would advocate for the foundations we were built on. We must speak out. (*Buzzer sounds*) We must not be complacent. Ceasefire now.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Ahmed Cheema, and sir, if you would approach, and again for the record give us your name and residential address.

AHMED CHEEMA: Ahmed Cheema, 5155 Foxchase Avenue NW, Canton. Respected Council Members, residents of Canton, aassalamu alaikum, peace be with you. I'm here to request the Honorable Council to consider the horrific conditions of genocide and forced famine in Gaza and vote on a Resolution for a sustained and immediate ceasefire. We have all witnessed how Palestinians were driven out from north of Gaza,

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promised safety corridors falsely, relentlessly and indiscriminately bombed on the way. The genocidal regime of Netanyahu plans to continue this despicable plan of slaughtering countless more in Rafah, which is south of Gaza. This is a systematic campaign that meets the legal definition of genocide. The 1948 Convention on the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide defines genocide as acts committed with intent to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. The evidence is overwhelmingly compelling, documented reports by human rights organizations, eyewitness reports, testimonies, media, investigations that point... that point to a deliberate and ongoing campaign targeting the Palestinian population in Gaza and occupied West Bank. Several international human rights organizations like Amnesty International have documentation on mass killings, forced displacements, cultural destruction and the list goes on. The IDF soldiers are also doing a great job incriminating themselves by posting videos of their barbaric activities. These acts are not isolated incidents. They represent a calculated strategy to eliminate the very existence of the Palestinian people. The intent is clear, to dismantle their communities, erase their culture and ultimately extinguish their presence. I understand that I'm not presenting my case in front of a criminal court here, but the evidence is undeniable. I'm presenting this plea to my fellow residents of Canton. Let us be on the right side of morality and history. Let us call this ongoing mass murder what it is, genocide. We appreciate the Communication published by the Council, and we stand by our demand for a ceasefire. (*Buzzer sounds*)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Erick Freeman. Mr. Freeman, if you would approach and give us your name and residential address.

ERICK FREEMAN: Erick Freeman, 1129 7th Street NW. In the absence of influence, society lacked rhythm, artistry and diversity. Without these experiences, everything seemed devoid of life and vibrancy. Music became dull and uninspiring, jazz had no swing, and without soulful melodies, people forgot how to dance. The absence of beats and rhythm and rhyme left people awkward and uncoordinated, and fashion suffered as people dressed without any sense of style. Society was different as if musical expression, dress and art never existed because it was never acknowledged or celebrated. Unique experiences and perspectives were not recognized or understood. The lack of documentation was of significant consequence to this imagined world with no records of history, missing photos or any signs of joy and togetherness. Without the contributions of creatives, even photography failed to preserve the very essence of life as significant voices and experiences of communities were silenced. Poetry didn't have the full power to tell stories of love, resilience, empathy because it never existed. The film industry was rendered irrelevant without the diversity of stories and perspectives. There were limited sources to create anything worth watching. The absence of significant voices meant that important narratives went untold and the richness of the human experience was overlooked. While I was lighting a three wick candle, I saw a world without cultural ingenuity. It was a world stripped of its vibrancy, creativity and artistic richness. It was a world where people struggled to find the meaning and connection. Art, music and storytelling were mere shadows of what they could be, because in this imagined forewarned world, creatives did not exist. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Hasan Muheisen? I don't know if I'm saying that correctly. If you'll pronounce it correctly, sir, and give us your residential address.

HASAN MUHEISEN: My name is Mr. Hasan Muheisen (*pronounced Mu-hay-son*). I live in 615 Rodeo Street, Louisville, Ohio...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you.

HASAN MUHEISEN: ...44641. My original came from Jerusalem.

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PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Speak a little more in the microphone if you would, sir, just so we can hear you better.

HASAN MUHEISEN: Yeah, I lived in Jerusalem, born and lived till 1978. I came to United States 1982, and since then even... I wasn't allowed to go for visit. When my mother and father died, I asked the Israeli Embassy, can I get any kind of permission to go back and visit and just say goodbye for my mother or father. So I born as a Palestinian, but nobody wants to recognize my identity. They said you are maybe Jordanian. They gave us a Jordanian passport, and in Jordan we are not allowed to be Jordanian. We are not allowed to be Israeli citizen. We are not allowed to be and say we are a human being. Everywhere we go, every step we go, they said you are Palestinian, you are not allowed to join any maybe job in Lebanon or in Syria or in any country that look at us as we are refugee, and refugee needs some rights. Do we have rights as even as a refugee? No, as a refugee we don't have a right. We came to United States. We see the justice, the freedom. I wish we had one thing, the freedom of speech. We don't have the freedom of speech where I came from. When I used to be in Jerusalem, the (*inaudible*) used to come to the classes and beat up the students, beat up the teachers. We used to go under a tree when they close the schools... we used to go under the tree and try to learn, try to study. That is the Palestinian people. And I'm asking if I can...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Ten seconds, sir.

HASAN MUHEISEN: ...even buy three more minutes for a few...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: I'm sorry, no. (*Chuckles*)

HASAN MUHEISEN: But... (*chuckles*)... but I can say (*buzzer sounds*)... whatever. I only wish that you recognize us a Palestinian people and order a ceasefire. That would help us spread peace. The peace of United States that believe in...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. I'm sorry your time is up...

HASAN MUHEISEN: And the people in Middle East.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: To be fair to the other speakers, I have to ask you to stop.

HASAN MUHEISEN: Thank you. (*Applause*)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Our next speaker is Josiah Ali. If you could please approach, and for the record again state your name and residential address.

JOSIAH ALI: Josiah Ali, 200 High Avenue SW. Bismillah al-Rahman al-Rahim, and to all of the ummah present, Aassalamu Alaikum. Subhanallah. First I'd like to apologize to the ummah, and secondly the Council for... uh, my dumbfoundedness last time present. Um... with even having to ask for a ceasefire, that being the most realistic gesture that we as a community demand to see, protecting human life being the most political thing we could do. Now going back into history, I was watching... uh, the Kingdom of Heaven the other day with Orlando... Orlando Bloom. I asked the Council to reference that movie to... for a more... uh, colorful depiction of what's still happening to this day. Sala Hadine showed grace and majesty to the Christian and Jewish captives... um, during the Crusades after he had accomplished victory of Palestine and Jerusalem. And to the young men who had won the victory for Canton's Hartford Basketball Team, we congratulate them the same way we congratulate all aspects of this world, Alhamdulillah. And it's ironic that they would be here

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present among their own kinfolk seeing as though we, as Black people of America, are also Palestinian Hebrew Israelites, the children of David Solomon, Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam. Prophet Muhammad Sallallahu 'Alayhi Wasallam tells us that when facing tyranny, there's three things that we can do, and the first thing is what we're doing today, which is speaking with our tongues which is trying to correct this with our mouths. The second thing we will eventually be led to do is correcting it with our hands, whether that is a (*sounds like ja-hot*) of our own with giving hugs, a (*sounds like ja-hot*) of me giving charity or just a (*sounds like ja-hot*) of me shaking hands with shaking... with shakers and movers such as yourselves. Do you see the complicity and the complexity of everything that we... we experience in this world is multi-layered. Also I'd like... uh, say that I'd like to congratulate a member of the Council on our... uh, soon to be shared kin... uh, bondsman with my nephew, and I'd ask that that Councilman take that into consideration as a sign of providence when voting on... on the ceasefire. I'll leave that private for their... for their privacy as well. And then also I would like to say... um, this is the month of Ramadan as the... as the (*sounds like awe-key*) has said, the brother said that we... uh, we're displaying that we don't need food or water and this is our month of Jihad, so when we go to fight, the only thing we need is Allah. And so that's all we will need. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*) Our next speaker is Candice German. If you could please approach the podium and give us your name and residential address.

CANDICE GERMAN: Hello everyone. I'm Candice... uh, and my address is 222 Summit Street. Okay? I'm sorry, this is the first time I've actually spoke up in front of everybody.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Uh... hold on a second. We cannot hear you, so you're gonna have to speak closer into the microphone, and I do have to... um, unfortunately, and I do understand that a lot of people are very hungry, but there's no eating in Council Chambers, so we can't have eating in Chambers. Please feel free, there are tables out in the waiting area. Go and have a snack or... um, some food, but you can't eat in here. That's just our rule. And, ma'am, let's start over and...

CANDICE GERMAN: Okay.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: ...state your name and residential address, and hopefully we can hear you now.

CANDICE GERMAN: Okay. My name is Candice and my address is 222 Summit Street (*inaudible*). I'm here...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: I don't think your mic is on.

CANDICE GERMAN: That's oh... that's okay. I... I just... everything that I wanted to say, it... it pales in comparison to what I've heard from everyone else. Um... so the reason I came tonight is because... um, the housing cri... the housing crisis everyone is aware of, right? Um... and it... it's just really close to home. The main point... um, I don't know where I need to go to get the help and get something started to possibly have, you know, landlords not requiring three... uh, three times, you know, a person's income when... when the in... you know, they want... the rent that they want is already so extremely high. And then they, you know, they want proof that your income is three times that amount. Um... the problem is, I... there's so many people that just simply can't afford that. So... um, I don't know what I need to do as far as a solution, but I thought this would be a good place to start. Um... you know, I don't... I don't know exactly. Maybe I could get pointed in the right direction, that would be great. And... uh, maybe a petition. I'm not really sure, but if the landlords

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could just, you know, have some kind of rules or stipulations placed upon them so that way it wasn't so hard for people... um, with the cost of living being so high already. Um... so that's all I really have to say.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you very much. (*Applause*) And our final speaker tonight... I'm afraid I'm not reading this correct, but I think it says Aadil Ali? And you can correct me. If you'll approach and give us your name and residential address.

AADIL ALI: Hi, Council. My name is Aadil Ali...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Oh, wha... one moment. I... I was just told... um, Candice, if you would stay after, we may try to give you some pointers. Okay. Go ahead, sir, I'm sorry.

AADIL ALI: Hi, Council. My name is Aadil Ali. My residential address is 8172 Sandleford Avenue. Council, my name is Aadil Ali and I'm a native of North Canton. I went to Hoover High School, and many of like your children, I have made great connections with my friends and faculty alike. I worked for a few years in the health care industry and as a public health professional, and working with the Cleveland Clinic, Metro Health System and University Hospital systems that all work to create a healing environment for our very own patients. Our hospital systems have the privilege of extending resources at their disposal to ensure patient health and equity right here, but why should we be just excluding that from individuals on the other side of the world. This being said, I have a commitment directly to the Islamic Society of Northeast Ohio and as an individual of a public health background, my goal is to raise awareness and urge the Council to pass Resolution to declare a ceasefire in Gaza. Medical supplies such as insulin has been banned to be held by Palestinian citizens present in Gaza. At the same time we see countless number of bombings present in the vicinity of medical facilities which has incapacitated... incapacitated brave doctors and medical staff just like the very own we see in our community. If Americans who serve in Doctors Without Borders are risking their very own lives to provide exceptional life changing care, Council, why can't we recognize their sacrifices and continue to make strides to ensure patient health, safety and equity. We cannot let the sacrifices of Gazans, including our own medical professionals, take place. Gazza is currently experiencing a famine, perhaps the greatest public health crisis in the last 70 years. The next time you send your kids or family members to a hospital for medical care, I want you to think of those that are suffering in Gazza through their (*inaudible due to microphone malfunction*)... on top of disembowelment from shrapnel, loss of hearing, vision and the ability to walk, and the lack of access to basic medical supplies, lack of access to basic medical professionals and proper medical care and attention. These individuals that are my age and that would have one day may have walked on the stage to receive their diploma or get married for that matter, they'll never be able to experience this. Council, these are individuals, this is human life. We need to pass this Resolution to ensure that we are on the right side of humanity. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, sir. (*Applause*) Thank you to all of our speakers.

COMMUNICATIONS

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under Communications, and let the journal show that all Communications are received as read.

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 MARCH 18, 2024.

3. ANNUAL REPORT 2023 (POLICE DEPT). – CHIEF GABBARD

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4. REQ FOR REPRIEVE OF VIOLENCE, PROVISION OF AID, AND COMMENCEMENT OF MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION IN THE WAKE OF RECENT CONFLICT. – COUNCIL MEMBERS-AT-LARGE GIAVASIS AND CRYSTAL SMITH, COUNCIL MEMBERS CHRIS SMITH, COOKS, SACCO AND MORRIS
5. REQ TRAFFIC ENGINEERING BUILDING PROJECT DESIGN – GP 1446; EMERGENCY. – SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHMAN
6. REQ AARP 2024 SUMMER CAMPS AND WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAMS; EMERGENCY. – SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHMAN
7. REQ BELDEN AVE NE BRIDGE REHABILITATION PROJECT, GP 1375, PID 118891 RIGHT-OF-WAY ACQUISITION AUTHORIZATIONS; EMERGENCY. – SERVICE DIRECTOR HIGHMAN
8. REQ TREASURERS ADMIN RULING ON EXTENSIONS. – TREASURER PEREZ

ORDINANCES AND FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR FIRST READING

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under First Reading Ordinances. Um... Madam Clerk, would you please read Ordinance #9.

NOTE: PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD CALLED UPON CLERK WOOD TO READ ORDINANCES #9 THROUGH #20 FOR THEIR FIRST READING BY TITLE AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, AS FOLLOWS:

- O#9. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 100/2011, AS AMENDED, TO ESTABLISH THE ATTACHED EXHIBIT AS THE CLASSIFICATION PLAN FOR THE NON-BARGAINING UNIT PERSONNEL IN THE CIVIL SERVICE DEPARTMENT OF THE CITY OF CANTON; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Personnel Committee
- O#10. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE REPLAT OF PART OF LOT 3695 AND ALL OF LOT 3696; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Public Safety & Thoroughfares Committee
- O#11. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE REPLAT OF ALL OF OUTLOT 566; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Public Safety & Thoroughfares Committee
- O#12. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE VACATING A PORTION OF 7TH ST SW; APPROVING AND ACCEPTING THE REPLAT OF LOTS 3806-3810, 3814, 6557, 19564, 38911, 39968-39974; PART OF LOTS 3805, 3811-3813; PART OF OUTLOT 90 AND THE REPLAT OF THE VACATED PORTION OF 7TH ST SW; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Public Safety & Thoroughfares Committee **PUB HRG WAIVED**
- O#13. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACCEPT \$23,914.53 IN GRANT FUNDS FROM THE 2024 OHIO

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AMBULANCE TRANSPORTATION PROGRAM; AMENDING THE 2024 FINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY (\$23, 914.53 SUPP APPROP FR UNAPPROP BAL OF 1001 GENERAL OPERATING FUND TO 1001 103024 2024 ARPA BONUS – PERSONNEL)

Referred to Finance Committee

- O#14. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE CLERK OF COUNCIL TO CERTIFY TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR UNPAID AND DELINQUENT CHARGES FOR SERVICES PERFORMED BY AND/OR ON BEHALF OF THE CITY OF CANTON BUILDING AND CODE DEPARTMENT FOR BOARD UP/CLEAN UP/DEMOLITION CHARGES; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Finance Committee
- O#15. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 55/77, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CANTON ZONING ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY (PARCEL #232763, 2121 4TH ST SE)
Referred to Judiciary Committee **PUB HRG 4/8/24 @ 7:00 PM**
- O#16. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE APPROVING A CANTON CITY WATER MAIN EXTENSION TO 5210 18TH STREET SW IN PERRY TOWNSHIP; AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENTS NECESSARY FOR THE EXTENSION OF SAID WATER MAIN; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Environmental & Public Utilities Committee
- O#17. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 55/77, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CANTON ZONING ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY (PARCEL #8300070, 2234 FAIRCREST ST SW)
Referred to Judiciary Committee **PUB HRG 4/8/24 @ 7:01 PM**
- O#18. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO PAY ALL MORAL OBLIGATIONS NEEDED TO CLOSE OUT THE MARKET AVE WIDENING, GP 1194 PROJECT AND TO ENTER INTO ANY AGREEMENTS NECESSARY TO FINALIZE THIS PROJECT WITH ODOT; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Finance Committee
- O#19. (1ST RDG) AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ORDINANCE NO. 55/77, AS AMENDED, KNOWN AS THE CITY OF CANTON ZONING ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY (CITY WIDE, 1620 MARKET AVE S, 1003 CHERRY AVE NE, 2213 GAGE AVE NE)
Referred to Judiciary Committee **PUB HRG 4/8/24 @ 7:02 PM**
- O#20. (1ST RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 59/2024** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ENTER INTO ANY AND ALL CONTRACTS NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO THE 2318 13TH ST NE

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DEMOLITION; AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO PAY ANY AND ALL MORAL OBLIGATIONS FROM RESPONDING TO THIS EMERGENCY SITUATION; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY
Referred to Finance Committee

CLERK WOOD: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Madam Clerk. At this time, the Chair will declare an in-house recess for the Finance Committee to meet in regard to Ordinance #20 on your agenda this evening. You are now in recess.

(COUNCIL RECESSED AT 7:56 PM FOR THE FINANCE COMMITTEE TO MEET IN REGARDS TO O#20; RECONVENED AT 7:57 PM)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Council is reconvening after the recess, Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we suspend Rule 22A to place Ordinance 20 back on this evening's agenda.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to suspend Rule 22A to place Ordinance #20 back on this evening's or agenda. Are there any remarks? ...Hearing none, roll call vote, please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Madam Clerk. The motion carries and Ordinance #20 is a legal part of your agenda. Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we suspend statutory Rules on Ordinance #20.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to suspend the Statutory Rules on Ordinance #20. Are there any remarks? ...Hearing none, roll call vote, please, Madam Clerk.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. You've heard the three readings, Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #20.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

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PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded that you adopt Ordinance #20. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance? ...Hearing none, roll call vote, please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

#20 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 59/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The motion carries and Ordinance #20 has been adopted.

ORDINANCES & FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR SECOND READING

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under Ordinances and Formal Resolutions for their Second Reading. Madam Clerk, would you please read Ordinance #21.

NOTE: PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD CALLED UPON CLERK WOOD TO READ ORDINANCE #21 FOR ITS SECOND READING BY TITLE AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, AS FOLLOWS:

O#21. (2ND RDG) AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ACCEPT \$150,000 IN DONATED FUNDS FROM THE PARK FOUNDATION; AMENDING THE FINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY (SUPP APPROP TO COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, POLICE ADMIN AND FIRE ADMIN FUNDS)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you.

ORDINANCES & FORMAL RESOLUTIONS FOR THIRD AND FINAL READING

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are now under Ordinances and Formal Resolutions for their Third Final Reading and vote. Madam Clerk, would you please begin with Ordinance #22.

NOTE: PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD CALLED UPON CLERK WOOD TO READ ORDINANCES #22 THROUGH #26 FOR THEIR THIRD READING BY TITLE AS REQUIRED BY STATE LAW, AS FOLLOWS:

O#22. (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 60/2024** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO ADVERTISE, RECEIVE BIDS, AWARD AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASE OF A FORD F-150 LIGHTNING OR OTHER SIMILAR EV TRUCK; OR TO ALTERNATIVELY PURCHASE SAID VEHICLES PURSUANT TO ANY PROCUREMENT PROCESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #22.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

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PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #22. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance?

MEMBER HAWK: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Member Hawk.

MEMBER HAWK: There is not... excuse me. My... my mic's on now, thank you. There is not a \$75 hundred rebate program on this, there is however \$75 hundred in tax incentives that the City is not eligible for. I was on the phone with a dealership today, there will be a \$3,000.00 rebate on these things the government is in fact eligible for. That still holds the cost of this vehicle between \$7,000.00 and \$10,000.00 more than the cost of a normal pickup truck. Uh... you'll end up with some disposal costs at the end of this when it.. it runs down because we don't know how long it's going to last or what's going to happen. But I will be voting no on this because we need to actually... I'd like to see more information on it before I vote yes. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Hawk. Are there any other comments or remarks under this Ordinance?

MEMBER MORRIS: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Member Morris.

MEMBER MORRIS: If I may, to piggyback on what Member Hawk said. There was a lot of comparisons made about the cost of this vehicle being exactly the same as if we bought a conventional gas powered vehicle. That is not the case because we are spending an additional \$28,000.00 in this legislation for tools to service a vehicle that has a three year, 36,000 mile bumper to bumper warranty, taking this to a whole new level of asinine. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Are there any other remarks under this piece of legislation?

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Yes, Madam President, I would just like to make it clear for the record, yes, this vehicle is going to be more expensive than the gas powered vehicle, but when you factor in the maintenance cost over time... um, the type of use this vehicle is going to be used, it's not gonna be used like a regular passenger vehicle that drives around the city every day. A gas powered truck has a larger gas tank, you have lower gas mileage than a car. The average fuel savings on a vehicle like this to the citizens of the city of Canton is gonna be approximately \$45 hundred a year. You multiply that over an eight to ten year span, it's gonna be a considerable savings. We also factor in the reduction in maintenance costs of this vehicle that you don't have to do to a gas powered vehicle. I... I will reiterate what I said in Committee last week... you know, when they came out with gas powered engines back in the days of the horse and buggies, everybody thought that was an experiment also. I think we owe it to our citizens to see if this type of vehicle is gonna work for the City going forward. Um... it's also been put on record that the city of Canton has lost grants in the past because of our failure to address our carbon footprint. I think this is a step in the right direction for the City. It's also gonna enable us to possibly get future grants to... uh, enable us to do other things. Um... I don't look at this as an experiment. I look at this as looking towards the future.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Giavasis. Are there any other remarks under this Ordinance?

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MEMBER MORRIS: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Where... oh... in back?

MEMBER MORRIS: Just a comment.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Member Morris, yes.

MEMBER MORRIS: If we're not really gonna use the vehicle and it's just something for him to drive around town, I suggest we buy the City Engineer a Moped or a bicycle, and a bicycle would really be green. It would definitely lower our carbon footprint and it would save us approximately \$999,500.00. Thank you.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: One further comment, Mis... Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Member Giavasis.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: We all remember sitting on Council two years ago during Covid when we were paying \$20 to \$30 thousand over sticker for gas powered pickup trucks. Nobody on this Council would deny when... that we unanimously passed those ordinances to purchase those vehicles. So, we need to move forward with this. We need to do it in the interests of city... the citizens of the city of Canton. Um... we're not gonna know how well this gonna work until we try. Um... we can stick our hand in the... head in the sand, but that's not gonna avoid the lion.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Alright, thank you. Any other comments?

MEMBER KIMBROUGH: Yes. I would just like to say that I think that I need more information on that. I know you got the Ford F-150. That's a Ford. Have we also looked at other trucks, like Dodges? They also have the electric power and they also have a good record as well. And also, the second thing, my concern is if this truck is hit in the front and that battery is damaged, it's almost \$20,000.00 to replace the battery? So I'm just thinking we need maybe more... more thought put into this before I vote on it.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Kimbrough.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: Madam President, over here.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: I know, I'm like, what?

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: Over here.

MEMBER HAWK: There you go.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Oh, that'll work. Uh-huh.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: Um... just so you all know, the Communication states that it's a... uh, a Ford Lightning or electric type vehicle.

MEMBER KIMBROUGH: Oh, okay.

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FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: So it's not necessarily a Ford Lightning. It will be a Ford Lightning or another type of truck that...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Comparable.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: ...that fits the... uh, criteria of the spending limits.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The specs, okay. Thank you.

MEMBER HAWK: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

MEMBER HAWK: I guess... I looked at the piece of legislation. I didn't see any... the... the \$28,000.00 that Member Morris mentioned for tools is very disturbing because at a \$72,000.00 pickup truck, that's 39% the cost of the pickup truck, and you've got one of them. One. If that in fact is the case, are we intending on buying \$28,000.00 worth of tools? That's the question I need to have answered.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Alright, thank you.

MEMBER HAWK: No answer? Can't support it.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Are there any other remarks under this Ordinance before we hold our vote? Okay. Thank you very much. So at this time we are going to have the roll call vote, please, on #22.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 8 YEAS, 4 NAYS

(MEMBERS HAWK, KIMBROUGH, SCAGLIONE AND MORRIS VOTED NO)

CLERK WOOD: Eight yeas, three nays, Madam President.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Four.

CLERK WOOD: Hold it, we're missing (*inaudible*).

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Four nays.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICES: Four nays.

CLERK WOOD: Four nays, Madam President.

#22 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 60/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The motion does carry and Ordinance #22 is adopted. Ordinance #23, please, Madam Clerk.

O#23. (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS AMENDED AS ORDINANCE NO. 61/2024** AN ORDINANCE ADOPTING THE 2024 ANNUAL APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE CITY OF CANTON; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

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PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #23.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #23.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

MEMBER MARIOL: I move we amend Ordinance #23

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Alright, it's been moved and seconded to amend Ordinance #23 per the copy before each of you. Are there any remarks?

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, sir.

MEMBER MARIOL: Um... Finance Director, would you mind giving a very brief summary of this amendment.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: Sure.

MEMBER MARIOL: Thank you.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: The net change on this... uh, Ordinance for the final budget is about \$2.5 million. Um... most of the items that we have adjusted within this budget are Engineering related projects. The majority of the Engineering projects that we are adjusting for this budget is for... um, \$1.1 million for the Federal share of the 9th Street Bridge Project. There are also additions for the 30th Street and Cromer Water Main Replacement Project and the 18th Street NW Reconstruction Project. We've also added... uh, funding for Sanitation to cover their capital items that you appro... approved a couple meetings ago. And then finally... um, HR has hired a training coordinator. We originally had the funds budgeted in the General Fund for that position, and it was decided that we should spread that position's cost over a number of different funds, so there's like five different funds ranging from like \$19 hundred to like \$30,000.00 to cover that person's costs. Um... there is no changes in this amendment to the General Fund. That amount stays the way it was when we originally approved it in the Tempor... Temporary that I originally submitted for this final budget. Sorry.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Are there any questions of the Finance Director?

MEMBER MORRIS: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Member Morris.

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MEMBER MORRIS: Can we have a dollar amount on how much you're moving around here?

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: It's 2.1... no, 2.5-7-8-4-6-1. (*Chuckling and background voices*)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: You asked a finance person. (*Laughter*) Are there any other questions for our Finance Director? So, it has been moved and seconded to amend Ordinance #23, you know, per the copy that's before each of you, and after these remarks, all those in favor signify by saying aye. Any opposed.

NO REMARKS

AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The ayes have it. The motion carries. Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #23, as amended.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

AMENDMENT

Pursuant to Rule 36, I move to amend Agenda Item No. 23 by the substitution of the attached amended exhibits for the original pending exhibits.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #23 as amended. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance as amended? ...Hearing none, roll call vote, please, Madam Clerk.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

#23 ADOPTED AS AMENDED AS ORDINANCE NO. 61/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. The motion carries and Ordinance #23 as amended has been adopted. Madam Clerk, #24 please.

O#24. (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS AMENDED AS ORDINANCE NO. 62/2024** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL(S) TO: PURCHASE AND/OR LEASE VARIOUS TITLED VEHICLES; ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR GOVERNMENTAL LEASES/LOANS TO ASSIST WITH THE PURCHASE OF VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT; ADVERTISE, RECEIVE BIDS, AWARD AND ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THOSE PURCHASES AND ANY PROJECTS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A THAT EXCEED ANY APPLICABLE DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS(S); ALTERNATIVELY ENTER INTO CONTRACT FOR THE PURCHASES AND PROJECTS PURSUANT TO ANY PROCUREMENT PROCESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW; ENTER INTO ALL PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACTS DESCRIBED IN EXHIBIT A; WAIVES THE INFORMAL RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS OF CANTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE 105.09 FOR PURCHASES APPROVED THROUGH THIS ORDINANCE; PAY ALL MORAL OBLIGATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS THAT ARE OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL PURSUANT TO

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CANTON CODIFIED 105.14 WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS; AMENDING THE 2024 FINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #24.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #24.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam Pres...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Are there any remarks?

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, sir.

MEMBER MARIOL: I move we amend Ordinance #24.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to amend Ordinance #24 per the copy before each of you. Are there any remarks?

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Finance Director, will you summarize this amendment also.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: Yes.

MEMBER MARIOL: Thank you.

FINANCE DIRECTOR CROUSE: This Ordinance has two amendments to it and they're both very, very, very minor... minor, and they do not have any money involved in these amend... this amendment. All we're doing, on two of the projects within this list, we are taking them out of the Engineering Org Code or Engineering Budget and moving them into their own... uh, specific org code for that project. And that's all we're doing.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Are there any questions of the Finance Director on these details? Thank you. Well, it's been moved and seconded to amend Ordinance 24 per the copy before each of you. Are there any remarks? ...Hearing none, by voice vote all those in favor of this amendment say aye. All opposed no.

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NO REMARKS

AMENDMENT PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY VOICE VOTE

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: The ayes have it. The motion carries. Leader.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #24, as amended.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

AMENDMENT

Pursuant to Rule 36, I move to amend Agenda Item No. 24 by the substitution of the attached amended exhibit for the original pending exhibit.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's been moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #24 as amended. Are there any remarks under this Ordinance as amended? ...Hearing none, roll call vote please, Madam Clerk.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

#24 ADOPTED AS AMENDED AS ORDINANCE NO. 62/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Motion carries and Ordinance #24 as amended has been adopted.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Madam President

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Point of... point of order. I didn't get a chance to... I was raising my hand before. Is there any specialized tools that's gonna be included with these vehicles?

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: What?

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Do we have to purchase any specialized tools along with these vehicles?

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: You're asking the wrong person.

MEMBER MORRIS: Point of order.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Uh... but, yeah. We're... we're not gonna go back at this point in time. We're gonna...

MEMBER MORRIS: Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We're gonna forge ahead.

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UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Please.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We're gonna forge ahead. So... um, #25 please, Madam Clerk.

O#25. (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 63/2024** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO ADVERTISE, RECEIVE BIDS, AWARD AND ENTER INTO ALL CONTRACTS NECESSARY FOR THE HEALTH DEPARTMENT/SEARS BUILDING RENOVATION PROJECT AND TO ENTER INTO ALL CONTRACTS NEEDED FOR THIS PROJECT UTILIZING ANY PROCUREMENT PROCESS AUTHORIZED BY LAW; WAIVES THE INFORMAL RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS OF CANTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE 105.09 FOR PURCHASES APPROVED THROUGH THIS ORDINANCE; AUTHORIZING THE AUDITOR TO PAY ALL MORAL OBLIGATIONS FOR CONTRACT CHANGE ORDERS THAT ARE OTHERWISE APPROVED BY THE BOARD OF CONTROL PURSUANT TO CANTON CODIFIED ORDINANCE 105.14 WITHIN THE ESTABLISHED DOLLAR AMOUNT THRESHOLDS; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #25.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's moved and seconded to adopt Ordinance #25. Are there any remarks? ... Hearing none, roll call vote, please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

#25 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 63/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. The motion carries and Ordinance #25 is adopted. Ordinance #26, please.

O#26. (3RD RDG) **ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 64/2024** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE MAYOR OR DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC SERVICE TO EXECUTE A PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CONTRACT WITH MS CONSULTANTS, INC. FOR CONSTRUCTION OVERSIGHT ENGINEERING SERVICES DURING THE STA-CR-225 PERRY DRIVE NW WIDENING AND WATER MAIN REPLACEMENT PROJECT; AMENDING THE FINAL APPROPRIATION ORDINANCE; AND DECLARING THE SAME TO BE AN EMERGENCY

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Leader Mariol.

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MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adopt Ordinance #26.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: It's moved and seconded to adopt... to adopt Ordinance #26. Are there any remarks? ... Hearing none, roll call vote, please.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

#26 ADOPTED AS ORDINANCE NO. 64/2024

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. Motion carries and Ordinance #26 is adopted.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: We are under Announcement of Committee Meetings. Our next meeting date is April Fools Day, April 1, 2024, and we will all be here together. Um... Committee Meetings will start at 6:15 PM. Uh... Personnel Committee.

MEMBER KIMBROUGH: Yes, Personnel will meet on the... April 1st at 6:15.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Public Safety & Thoroughfares.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Madam President, same time, same place.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Finance Committee.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Madam President, same time, same place.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Judiciary Committee.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Madam President, same time, same place.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: And Environmental & Public Safety Committee.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Environmental & Public...

MEMBER FISHER: Madam President, Environmental & Public Utilities...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Oh, I'm sorry.

MEMBER FISHER: ...will meet Monday, April 1st at 6:15.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Okay. Thank you so much, Member Fisher.

MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Alright, we are now under Miscellaneous Business. Is there any Miscellaneous Business that anyone would like to bring before...

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MEMBER CRYSTAL SMITH: Oh, I do want to say something. I see...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Okay, Crystal Smith.

MEMBER CRYSTAL SMITH: Uh... yes, I see mostly everyone's left, but I did want to say something in, you know, response to a lot of our speakers tonight. Uh... I just want to say that my heart does go out to you. Uh... all life is precious, however now is the time to ensure that the protection of life and... and the swift delivery of aid of... to those affected in Gaza. Uh... I have a desire for lasting peace... uh, to the troubled regions and others like it. Uh... the pursuit of peace cannot be timid or half hearted, but intentional and diligent as we seek the end of this conflict. God bless and thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Crystal Smith. Are there any other... uh, Miscellaneous Business matters? Yes, Mr. Giavasis.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Yes, Madam President. I would like to echo the sentiment of Member Smith... Crystal Smith...

MEMBER CRYSTAL SMITH: Funny, funny.

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Smith one and two.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Smith one and two?

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: Um... I will like to... I wish there was more members present. We do have a Communication that was drafted. It is going to be sent to our Congressional Delegation... um, in regards to what you've spoke about. I believe as Crystal said, you know, now's the time for humanitarian aid, peace... world peace across the board. Um... and um... my heart goes out to every last person in your families. Um... and, you know, I pray every night... um, that there will be a quick resolution to what your asking for because it's time. (*Applause*)

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you, Member Giavasis. Is there anyone else that has a comment under Miscellaneous Business?

MEMBER MORRIS: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Member Morris.

MEMBER MORRIS: Just a brief update for the Council Members, myself and Member Kimbrough have concluded... uh, sorting through and navigating through hiring somebody in the office, and we are down to the last few applicants, and her and I will schedule a face to face interview with the last few. We will keep Council abreast of when that will take place, and you can attend if you choose, however we will limit only to questions to Member Kimbrough and myself to the new applicants. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: And thank you and Member Kimbrough for your diligent efforts. Um... I know there were a lot of applications and I really appreciate everything you've done.

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MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Ma...

MEMBER CHRIS SMITH: I just want to remind everyone about the Easter Egg Hunt that's gonna take place at the Southeast Community Center on this Saturday from 3:00 to 5:00. Thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Now that sounds like fun. Thank you, Member Smith.

MEMBER GIAVASIS: What ward is that in?

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: You know what ward that's in. (*Laughter*) Does anyone else have any Miscellaneous Business comments?

MAYOR SHERER: Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Yes, Mayor.

MAYOR SHERER: I want to thank all the Council Members for coming down to talk about the Neighborhood Plan. I think it's a very, very positive thing. We gotta get started somewhere. Um... I believe that Mr. Angus is looking to do the unveiling here shortly in front of Council.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yes.

MAYOR SHERER: Then we're looking to take our show on the road, which we talked about. And uh... we're not gonna let the cat out of the bag yet, but we have hired a Communications Director.

UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Ms. (*inaudible*).

MAYOR SHERER: Ah... she started... she's starting April 8th, but I'm gonna let... we're gonna let... we're gonna let her... I want her to be here to announce it obviously. So, very, very excited about who we hired. Interviewed... we had 87 people apply for that position, and she stood out above everybody else, and she is one of our own from Canton. She was born and raised right here, and very, very excited for that, so...

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Great news, Mayor. Thank you.

MAYOR SHERER: Yeah, thank you.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Any other Miscellaneous Business to bring before the body? Alright, Leader Mariol.

MEMBER MARIOL: Madam President, I move we adjourn.

MEMBER BABCOCK: Second.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Roll call vote please, Madam Clerk.

NO REMARKS

ROLL CALL 12 YEAS, 0 NAYS

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CLERK WOOD: Twelve yeas, Madam President.

PRESIDENT BATES AYLWARD: Thank you. This meeting is adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT TIME: 8:22 PM

ATTEST: April 1, 2024

APPROVED:

JILL M. WOOD
CLERK OF COUNCIL

KRISTEN BATES AYLWARD
PRESIDENT