

RECORD OF PROCEEDINGS

Minutes of COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF NORTH CANTON

PUBLIC HEARING

Meeting

DAYTON LEGAL BLANK, INC., FORM NO. 10148

Held Monday, August 18, 6:45 p.m. 20 03

The public hearing was called to order Monday, August 18, 2003 at 6:45 p.m., by President of Council Jon Snyder.

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held by the Council of the City of North Canton on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 6:45 p.m. in the Council Chamber at North Canton City Hall.

The hearing is with regard to the proposed renaming of Easton Street to East Maple Street within the corporate limits of the City of North Canton.

Final action thereon, according to law, will be taken by the Council of the City of North Canton subsequent to the date of said public hearing.

Mr. Snyder: In regard to the proposed renaming of Easton Street to East Maple Street within the corporate limits of the City of North Canton. Pursuant the final action will be taken by the council on a subsequent date of the public hearing. Chairman Magel.

Mrs. Magel: Yes. For those of you who came in on - didn't hear the instructions, again I will speak as quickly as I can. We have 15 minutes to discuss this. I will try to give seven and a half minutes for the pros - seven and a half for the against, the proposed changing of East Maple in the city limit - Easton in the city limits to East Maple. At this time I would ask any from - is anyone from the audience going to speak for this? I see no one. Okay, is anyone from the audience going to speak against the renaming? Yes sir or yes. Doug you're going to have - I'm sorry I couldn't see you.

Unidentified: That's okay.

Mrs. Magel: I just kind of saw some fingers. Would you please come to the microphone, state your name and address and your remarks please.

Helen Dratwa: Okay. Good evening. My name is Helen Dratwa. I'm the owner of the UPS store in Washington Square, 1967 Easton Street. It's going on three years that my store opened. In the very beginning I had a challenge with the city with the street being closed off and on because they were building the soccer field - the road going - the tunnel...

Mrs. Magel: The tunnel.

Ms. Dratwa: The tunnel.

Mrs. Magel: Right.

Ms. Dratwa: So what happened to my business when it was starting up, it actually slowed down and closed you know my day. When the street reopened the traffic was flowing. So I'm pleading my case because I don't know if all of you or any of you know what my business really is about. Do you know that I'm not just a shipping and packaging center, but I'm a full copy service. But most importantly what am I going to do and how am I going to address my mailbox customers who have a private street address, 1967 Easton Street? It took me days, months and almost three years to develop and retain my customer base. Customers are coming to me and asking what's going to happen. Mr. Customer, Mrs. Customer don't worry, the post office knows that we're here and I grant you your mail will come to my store. Now I'm a little disheartened with the city as far as our council representation got us. And if I'm out of line please correct me. But certainly with the renaming of the street wouldn't it of been great if someone from our ward would of contacted each and every merchant to let he or she know that you know there's going to be a transition. We're trying to go ahead and change the name and why? Rather than here say, I learned it from Walsh Jesuit, from one of the faculty members who came to my store. What are we going to do about it? This is really a concern and I'm asking to find an answer. Okay. And you know tell me, you know why do we need to change the name of the street when it's been Easton for so long? I mean I really would like to know. I hear that it's because of EMS. But that is and I can understand that is one part of this puzzle. That's only one entity. How many entities do you have within Washington Square and across the way that will need to change all their stationery? What about the phone books? Do you know how costly it is to advertise in a phone book? And do you know how long it's taken me as a small business owner to develop - to tell people hey we're Washington Square, you know on the corner of Easton and Market down from the Hoover Company, which is West Maple. And when you're giving directions to someone - okay, you're saying well you go down West Maple, which West Maple turns into Easton. Okay.

Mrs. Magel: East Maple.

Mr. Foltz: East Maple.

Ms. Dratwa: East Maple. Okay. And we've got a street that has two names. I was befuddled when I was coming here and moving in. And there again, DeHoff Development, who was responsible for giving us this address. And why is it being changed? And who's going to compensate the small business owner for all the changes?

Mr. Osborne: If I could...

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Ms. Dratwa: And why? Inaudible... I'm sorry sir. And why doesn't council represent the ward? Certainly if you were out there campaigning you'd be knocking on each and every one of our doors to get your vote. Okay, and we need to earn our business, which I go out and I do earn it. We need to earn respect and give respect and consideration. So what do I do with my Mailbox customers at the UPS store at 1967 Easton Street?

Mr. Osborne: May I respond now?

Ms. Dratwa: Okay.

Mr. Osborne: This was a process that was started over two years ago actually. It has to do with the 911 emergency service. Electronically or digitally they cannot locate or pinpoint the address out there.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay, well then how come - this started two years ago, how come they couldn't do it three years ago? Okay, if they - did they have three years ago? Did they have problems four years ago? Gosh I've been in my center now going on three years. I was physically building out back in July and prior to that in March I was told my address was going to be 1967 Easton Street. So if you were developing this two years ago why wasn't I and all the other merchants in the plaza aware of this?

Mr. Osborne: Well I hate to shift the blame. I will say I passed out some flyers, but I didn't get all the way out to the businesses, I went down Easton/Maple.

Ms. Dratwa: Oh, we're not important.

Mr. Osborne: No mam...

Ms. Dratwa: Our tax dollars at work.

Mr. Osborne: No mam, I'm just one person and I was trying to get the word out because this is something that the 911 emergency service wanted done over two years ago and this is languished in this city for this long and it was - it's a safety issue. Now I personally talked to Walsh and I said - as I said earlier, four, five residences along there. It was very cold back in the winter and I - most people seemed to be pretty oblivious and couldn't care. I would almost also have to say that your realtor or your landlord should of been facilitating some of this information.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay, let me go back to you sir. Okay, where was my council person? Who is my council person? Is my council person here sitting at - in the chamber?

Mr. Lindower: I'm right here.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay...

Mr. Lindower: I wasn't here two ago though.

Ms. Dratwa: See, okay. But I've been here going on three years when I opened my door. Doesn't that mean anything to anyone? Doesn't it - I mean physically if you had a mailbox with me and your street address was given to you at 1967 Easton Street and it's changing, do you know much time, effort and dollars it's going to ...inaudible... And I could understand EMS. I am not insensitive to that. But there's some insensitivity and there's being some one sidedness and not looking at the whole picture.

Mr. Osborne: Well the picture is being handled. The post office will recognize two addresses for the same physical location for a year. So in that year's time you will have ample time to use up any of your stationery and to plan your switch over to the new address.

Mrs. Magel: May I ...

Mr. Osborne: So there really shouldn't be any expense as far as wasted stationery or anything like that.

Mrs. Magel: Could I interrupt for one minute?

Ms. Dratwa: Yea.

Mrs. Magel: Excuse me. Is there anyone else in the audience who wanted to speak against East Maple, Easton being changed to East Maple?

Mr. Osborne: Mrs. Magel, I don't think this lady is quite done.

Mrs. Magel: No, she's not. But it's only five minutes.

Ms. Dratwa: That's okay.

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Mrs. Magel: I wanted to give - you have the rest of the time.

Mr. Osborne: Well these are - both of these issues are substantial issues that affect public and 15 minutes obviously is not going to be long enough to address either one of these issues.

Ms. Dratwa: But my question wasn't answered.

Mrs. Magel: It will be on the...

Ms. Dratwa: This gentleman was kind enough of to tell me that two years ago he wasn't involved and he was not a council person elect. Okay. So in between from three years ago whenever this started until now, okay and with due respect sir, okay, why - nobody has answered, why hadn't I been contacted? What is the reason? You indicated sir that you had limited time to go around and pass out. The only communications that I've received in reference to this question about Easton being changed to Maple, was the correspondence regarding this public hearing and I appreciate that. I appreciate it very much and I am grateful for that. But correspondence should of been communicated back and forth. What if one side of the group didn't communicate with the other council members? How would the city be run?

Mr. Osborne: Well that's the way it's running now.

Ms. Dratwa: Inaudible... the City of North Canton...

Mr. Osborne: People - someone should of come out and talked to you. There are a lot of issues and I was hoping to expedite this. This hearing is, I think - or the council action is going to be moot really because the county and Plain Township have already - got tired of waiting and moved ahead with this. So I really don't think this legislation means much. Cause I read this myself in the paper about a month ago where the county commissioners have already ruled on all this. So I think North Canton City Council acting on this is not going to accomplish anything cause it's really - it has already taken place.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay. Let me ask you sir one last question, okay, and I'll end the subject. Turn yourself around, you are me. Okay. Tell me how would you react, how would you feel, what would you do to address it and what would your result be?

Mr. Osborne: I agree with everything you've said. Someone should of met with you and all the other business owners out there. But it just - it didn't happen did it. I'm - there's six others on this council.

Mr. Snyder: Mam, let me explain something that - a point that is sorely missed, the reason that it's being done. First of all the county's action is not ... to the city. We are our own municipality, we're the only people that have the right to change the street inside the municipal corporation. However, the reason it's being changed, your street does extend easterly into the township and when you call 911 as a resident it goes into the 911 center and that's signified by global positioning. That operator has no idea - it reads Easton Street. They'll either dispatch to the City of North Canton or they'll dispatch Plain Township - lives are at stake. Plain Township does not answer calls into the City of North Canton unless it's under mutual aid. So consequently if you need an ambulance at your place of business because someone is having a heart attack, it's a good possibility it could be delayed by as much as 9 or 10 minutes while Plain Township answers the call and they in turn respond and have to call North Canton. To eliminate that confusion, because that operator only sees a screen with a street address, has no idea where that street is at. That is the reason for the change. It is not because unfortunately - and I was at the opening of your business if you remember right - the day you opened I was there...

Ms. Dratwa: That's correct, you were.

Mr. Snyder: And I apologize, because I'm sure, as anybody, when something impacts your business it is frightening. We have the assurance through the Law Director, he's talked to the post office, that they'll give us considerable lead way. Am I right Mr. Batista on that going? And so we will have - make sure that your mail gets to you.

Mrs. Magel: Inaudible... for real?

Mrs. Kiesling: Yes.

Ms. Dratwa: Inaudible... Mr. Snyder, you know I appreciate you being there, but that wasn't the question.

Mr. Snyder: I know mam. But I'm telling you that was the reason - that is the reason - there was you know we just - and I don't mean in this in tongue and cheek, we didn't decide. And we have been - actually it has been slow for the obvious reason, that we don't want to antagonize the people.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay, well...

Mr. Snyder: You know if we just went out and changed it...

Ms. Dratwa: Well let me ask you this. Okay, you mentioned that this has been going on for two years, okay, and you know it's a life and death threatening situation. Well if was such a life and death threatening situation, wouldn't you have acted immediately and said okay we've got to do this boom, boom, boom and have it done? And two years, gosh, I think that's a long time.

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Mr. Snyder: I don't know it's been two years. But we were approached
Mrs. Kiesling: It has been two years.

Mr. Snyder: by the 911 coordinator, Mr. Cox, I think he's the emergency preparedness ...

Mrs. Kiesling: It was two years ago this month.

Mr. Snyder: and they insisted that we change it because we actually - I know Mrs. Magel, through her committee, tried not to do it - talked to the people at the county and they insisted we change it. I mean we have really no choice in the matter.

Mrs. Magel: I was a business owner and I will answer your question how do I - would I of felt if I were you. I have a pretty loud voice and I've been up here against council, I think they all know this, before I was elected. I understand and I hear you loud and clear. And I never even gave it a thought about your - I mean you have a particularly a separate issue that I wouldn't of given it a thought that the mailboxes have - how many - I didn't even catch how many you had.

Ms. Dratwa: I have I think it's 108 or 109.

Mrs. Magel: See I wouldn't of even - that's particularly germane to you and I can see where you're upset. I'm sorry Helen, I didn't catch your last name.

Ms. Dratwa: It's Dratwa - "D" as in David, ratwa.

Mrs. Magel: Okay.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay.

Mrs. Magel: The meeting is over and - but I would like to welcome you to stay, because the renaming of East Maple and Easton Street will be up third on the agenda this evening and that's when council will get to answer some of your questions. You'll notice you were asking questions and we weren't answering.

Ms. Dratwa: I noticed that but...

Mrs. Magel: But this is a public hearing and ...

Ms. Dratwa: right and I understand.

Mrs. Magel: only the public should be speaking.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay, but let me ask you. And I appreciate you inviting me to stay, but it was more or less determined it was a done deal. That there was nothing else that I could interject or expect from anyone. That I was told that hey, this is the way it is, this is the way it's going to be and we're going to move on. So you know, what is the point? I mean what am I going to get out of it? Am I going to get anything else out of it except ...

Mrs. Magel: Get an explanation that maybe we're in the same spot you are. We were told this is what would happen and we didn't have a choice.

Ms. Dratwa: Okay, thank you.

Mr. Osborne: Thank you mam.

Mr. McLaughlin: Mr. President...

Mr. Snyder: Sir...

Mr. McLaughlin: I know that we ...inaudible... on this, but I would like us to open this back up after we close this one and open it back up to why, just for a few more minutes. Because there's - I think there's out in the audience there's two or three other people that wanted to speak. And I do want to - I do want to hear what they have to say. And I appreciate Mrs. Magel, because she does keep our meetings moving. But I do - I do like to hear what some of these other people have to say if you'd be so kind in opening it back up just for a few more minutes, if we could.

Mr. Snyder: Are you - regard to East Maple you speaking?

Mr. McLaughlin: No, after we're done with East Maple back to the "Y".

Mr. Snyder: The "Y".

Mr. McLaughlin: I really would cause there was two people in the audience that did not have a chance to speak and I'd like to hear everybody before we take this to committee.

Mrs. Magel: I apologize Rick, but I had to get on to the next one.

Mr. McLaughlin: No, I know. And yea, I understand that. And I and you know if somebody else wants to talk about the East Maple and the Easton I'm willing to set here and listen too. I mean - but I would like the few people out in that audience who did not have a chance to speak.

Mr. Snyder: If I give you leave till 7:15 would that be sufficient time?

Mr. McLaughlin: That hopefully should be enough.

Mr. Snyder: Is that - council comfortable with that?

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Mr. McLaughlin: I just want to make sure that everybody has a chance to come up and ...

Mrs. Magel: Anyone else on the East Maple? Inaudible... I don't want to go back and forth.

Mr. McLaughlin: That's good.

Mrs. Magel: Anyone else on East Maple for or against? Then I'd like to close the meeting and we will open it back up to further comments on the YMCA.

Mr. Snyder: I will adjourn that public hearing and as a consideration to the 3rd Ward Councilman, Mr. McLaughlin, I will allow ten minutes additional testimony for the "Y" proposed vacation and alley vacation.

Mrs. Magel: Do you want to split five and five, for or against or...

Mr. McLaughlin: That's fine. If anybody...

Mr. Foltz: Inaudible... wants to talk ...inaudible...

Mr. McLaughlin: Yea, let's see who wants to talk...

Mrs. Magel: Okay.

Mr. Snyder: If somebody wants to speak regarding the "Y"...

Mr. McLaughlin: If anybody wants to raise their hand if they want to speak. I just saw - I noticed a lot of faces out there kind of looking and I ...

Unidentified: You guys scared me on 911.

Mr. McLaughlin: Thanks Sammy.

Unidentified: I don't understand ...inaudible...

Mr. McLaughlin: Thank you Sammy. Anybody else wants to speak? Anybody else want to speak on the "Y" raise your hands. I saw a lot of faces out there and some - a couple people look like they wanted to. I want to make sure we got everybody that wanted to speak.

Unidentified: Just say no report.

Mr. McLaughlin: Well that's - I just wanted to know ...inaudible... you know.

Unidentified: Inaudible... you got it.

Mr. McLaughlin: I appreciate that. I just want to make sure everybody has an opportunity.

Mr. Snyder: Alright thank you. And seeing none then I will close that and I will call to order the Council of the Whole meeting for Monday, August 18, 2003...

Public hearing adjourned.

PRESIDENT OF COUNCIL

ATTEST:

DIRECTOR OF FINANCE