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## Regular Council Meeting

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Agency: Akron City Council

Date: Dec. 2, 2024

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**Notes to reader:** *Unless quotation marks are used, all text is paraphrased. If you believe anything in these notes is inaccurate, contact us at [documenters@signalakron.org](mailto:documenters@signalakron.org) with "Correction Request" in the subject line.*

### Summary

- Residents say no new businesses on the Vernon Odom Corridor get support from the city in Ward 3. Businesses have participated in [The Great Street Program](#), but they had to apply for funding.
- Akron City Council President Margo Sommerville said she is aware that the city needs to do more work supporting new businesses; they know the challenges businesses face, especially minority businesses. She also pointed out that several businesses have received city support.
- Ward 5 residents complained to Council about Uncle Mike's Lounge which recently opened on Seiberling Street in East Akron. Owners told the council that they have followed all the rules for their establishment, including hiring security to patrol outside on the weekends, but people keep calling the police. See this [19 News report](#) for more information.

### Follow-Up Questions

- What else can Uncle Mike's do regarding complaints being made.
- Why hasn't the city supported new businesses in Ward 3? Is it just because The Great Streets Program is offering funding?

### Notes

- The Akron City Council meeting came to order at 6:30 p.m.

- The following members were present
  - Jeff Fusco- At-large/ vice president
  - Linda Omobien- At-large
  - Eric Garrett- At-large
  - Samuel DeShazior- Ward 1
  - Phil Lombardo- Ward 2
  - Margo Sommerville- Ward 3/ president of council
  - Jan Davis- Ward 4
  - Johnnie Hannah- Ward 5
  - Brad McKittrick- Ward 6/president pro-tem
  - Donnie Kammer- Ward 7
  - Bruce Bolden- Ward 8
  - Tina Boyes- Ward 9
  - Sharon Connor- Ward 10
  
- [Motion to approve minutes from previous meeting passed 13 to 0](#)
  
- **PUBLIC COMMENT**
  - Each person is allowed three minutes to speak.
    - A resident of Ward 5 spoke about issues at [Uncle Mike's](#). She frequents the establishment and fully supports the business and disagrees with the local residents' complaints of loud music and shots fired.
    - The co-owner of Uncle Mike's is looking for answers from council on what to do next regarding the local complaints against his establishment. He said Uncle Mike's has done everything they can to ensure there is more help by hiring security guards.
    - A resident from Ward 3 said the area is being "redlined and discriminated against." He said Ward 3 has not had a new minority business with the assistance of the city for over 30 years. He called out Ward 3 Council Member Margo Sommerville for being on council for roughly 10 years and not providing any assistance.
    - An Akron resident spoke about the police shooting death of [15-year-old Jazmir Tucker](#).

- [CONSENT AGENDA](#)
  - Passed 13 to 0
- **NEW LEGISLATION**
  - Budget & Finance
    - Time was granted for an ordinance amending [ordinance number 110-2024](#) passed March 25, 2024, to establish the annual appropriation for the current expenses, other expenditures and the capital outlays of the City of Akron for the fiscal year ending Dec. 31, 2024.
    - [Item 1](#) and [Item 2](#) were both placed on the consent agenda.
  - Planning & Economic Development
    - Time was granted for [Item 3](#)
    - [Item 4](#) was placed on the consent agenda
    - [Item 5](#) was referred to the regular agenda for the next committee and council meetings.
    - [Items 6-9](#) were also placed on the consent agenda
- Garrett applauded the owners of Uncle Mike's for putting together and implementing a business plan. He said they have his support and the support of their ward council member. "You are going to have haters... You have our full support, I just want you to know that, and continue to do what you are doing," he said to the co-owner in the audience.
- Sommerville said minority businesses in Ward 3 are not the only businesses in the ward not receiving support from the city. She said there are businesses that participated in The Great Street Program to receive funding, such as [Roush's Market](#) and [LJ Audio](#). "Just for the record, there are businesses that have received support from the city." She acknowledged the challenges and pointed out the creation of the Black Chamber of Commerce.
- Meeting adjourned at 7:02 p.m.