

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
JANUARY 5, 2009

Mayor Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:35 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Adele H. Zucker
Mr. Steven D. Bullock
Mr. Frank Consolo
Ms. Frankie B. Goldberg
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy
Mr. Steven Sims

Absent: Mr. Peter R. Bernardo

Also Present: Clerk of Council Nancy E. English
Law Director Kenneth Fisher
Finance Director Arman R. Ochoa
Fire Chief John Pitchler
Deputy Chief of Police James Rohal
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson
Building Commissioner David Menn
Service Director Christopher Vild

MOTION BY MR. CONSOLO, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to excuse the absence of Mr. Bernardo. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

A moment of silence was held in memory of former Mayor Irving Konigsberg, who recently passed away.

Minutes of the regular meeting held on December 15, 2008

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of December 15, 2008.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the minutes of the December 15, 2008 meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Ms. Goldberg who “abstained.”

Comments from the Audience:

Winifred Weizer, 2177 Jackson, spoke of her concern with Resolution No. 2009-01, which authorizes \$25, 000 to conduct a exception analysis study. Her concern is that the organization being considered has not done this type of study before and that there are numerous organizations in the Greater Cleveland area who have. She also expressed that Council did not make a request for proposals (RFP), which would allow Council to have a choice from a wider range of firms/consultants with various degrees of experience. Ms. Weizer stated her appreciation of Councilwoman Goldberg’s actions in trying to obtain other quotes and also to Vice Mayor Zucker for her support in this endeavor.

Agenda Items:

A. Resolution No. 2009-01 Authorizing a contract with NEO|SO to conduct an Exception Analysis Study (2nd Reading)

Resolution No. 2009-01 authorizes the Mayor to enter into a contract with the Northeast Ohio Sourcing Office (NEO/SO) for an exception analysis study in an amount not to exceed \$25,000.

Ms. Goldberg remarked that Council has spoken to Mr. Akers and Ms. Holst numerous times, as well as Cleveland State University. The Council did also obtain additional proposals from the State Auditor’s office and from Claudette Robey and Kevin O’Brien of Cleveland State University. However, she stated it is time to move forward with the study in order to optimize operations.

Mr. Consolo stated that he met personally with Mr. Akers. He noted that the review should be performed by a private sector agency and not a college/university or government agency. Mr. Consolo requested that the Mayor have the City’s Directors submit their recommendations on cutting 5% - 10% from the budget for 2009.

Mr. Sims acknowledged Councilwoman Goldberg for her effort to make sure there was more than one viewpoint to be considered on this matter. He also acknowledged the comments from Ms. Weizer. Mr. Sims stated that based on the documents he received from the State Auditor and Cleveland State University, the NEO/SO proposal relates closer to the work that he would like to see done.

Mr. Murphy was hopeful that the NEO/SO work will put the City in the position to obtain further grants from programs supported by Advance Northeast Ohio. Mr. Murphy stated that time is an issue and he believes this is the right time to do the study.

Vice Mayor Zucker explained her reason for voting “no.” She felt Council was rushing the approval because there had not been ample time to go through the other proposals. She noted that NEO/SO is a marvelous company, but since they have never done such a study, the Council would not see the desired results. Vice Mayor Zucker further thanked Ms. Goldberg.

MOTION BY MR. MURPHY, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2008-69. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Vice Mayor Zucker, who voted “nay.”

B. Ordinance No. 2009-02 Authorizing a contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of road salt

Ordinance No. 2009-02 authorizes the City to enter into contract with the Ohio Department of Transportation for the purchase of road salt.

Service Director Christopher Vild stated that the Ohio Department of Transportation has identified excess salt in their supply and is willing to sell the salt to cities that do not have a contract for the 2008/2009 winter season. Originally it was thought that the salt would be coming from several counties away, but it was determined that the City’s salt would be coming from ODOT’s Warrensville Heights salt facility which will save on trucking costs. University Heights’ order would consist of 1,100 tons at a cost of \$75 per ton. If the purchase is approved, the deadline to obtain the salt is February 1, 2009.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2009-02 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted “aye.” On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”

C. Resolution No. 2009-03 Amending Section 618.14(c) of the Codified Ordinances by increasing the impounding fee

Resolution No. 2009-03 amends Section 618.14(c) of the Codified Ordinances to increase the impounding fee for dogs from \$10.50 to \$20.00 and \$50.00 for subsequent impounding of the same dog.

Deputy Chief of Police Rohal explained that the City entered into a joint agreement with South Euclid and Richmond Heights for animal control services. The increase in fees brings the City in line with South Euclid’s fees.

MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. MURPHY to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2009-03 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted “aye.” On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”

D. Motion to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation and real estate matters

An executive session was not required.

Directors’ Reports:

Mayor Rothschild stated that during 2008 all of the City’s directors have been working on reducing costs in their departments.

Committee Reports:

University Affairs Committee Chairman Frank Consolo reported that the committee met on December 29, 2008 at the John Carroll University Green Road Annex. There were approximately 65 residents in attendance with 21 residents speaking. The next meeting was scheduled for Monday, January 12, 2009 at 7:00pm at the Annex location. The meeting will begin with comments from residents who did not have an opportunity to speak at the last meeting. The remainder of the meeting will be a work session of the committee.

Finance Committee Chairman Steven Sims did not have a committee report. But, he expressed his appreciation to his colleagues for their passion and concern for the City's business over the past year. He noted that there is a true desire to move the City forward in a positive manner. He also acknowledged Councilman Consolo for being recognized for his work on Council.

Recreation Committee Chairman Frankie Goldberg stated that minutes from the November 19, 2008 and December 3, 2008 Recreation Committee meetings have been distributed. A Recreation Advisory Meeting will be scheduled for January or February.

Safety Committee Chairman Steven Bullock reported that the committee meeting scheduled for December had to be cancelled. A meeting will be scheduled in January to meet jointly with the Finance Committee and Fire Chief Pitchler, who will make a presentation.

Service & Utilities Committee Chairman Adele H. Zucker stated the next meeting of the committee is scheduled for Wednesday, January 7, 2009 at 7:00pm in the conference room.

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild

Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council