

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
MARCH 31, 2008

Mayor Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Ms. Frankie B. Goldberg  
Mr. Steven D. Bullock  
Mr. Peter R. Bernardo  
Mr. Frank Consolo  
Mr. Steven Sims

Absent: Mrs. Adele H. Zucker  
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy

Also Present: Clerk of Council Nancy E. English  
Law Director Kenneth J. Fisher  
Finance Director Arman R. Ochoa  
Deputy Chief of Police James Rohal  
Fire Chief John Pitchler  
Service Director Christopher Vild  
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson  
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni

**MOTION BY MS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to excuse the absence of Mrs. Zucker and Mr. Murphy. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

Agenda Items:

**A. Ordinance No. 2008-05 Making permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City for the period January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 (2nd Reading)**

Ordinance No. 2008-05, which was placed on first reading on March 3, 2008, makes the permanent appropriations for current expenses and other expenditures of the City for the period of January 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008.

Mr. Sims reported that the Finance Committee met on March 24, 2008. He noted that there was a thorough discussion of various items and questions were raised relative to some specific items. Mr. Sims noted that the Council will continue to monitor and make further decisions on many of the questions raised by Mr. Consolo, Mr. Bernardo and Ms. Goldberg. He added that the questions as well as the responses from the Finance Director were incorporated as part of the public record. Mr. Sims also reported that following the Finance Committee meeting, the Financial Advisory Committee met and gave insight and guidance in reference to the budget. He noted that going forward the matters raised will remain a focus of the Council’s attention.

Mr. Consolo requested that his two emails of March 25, 2008 be included as part of the public record along with the Finance Director’s responses to those emails, which were dated March 26, 2008. Mr. Consolo stated that in his opinion the City has to increase the surplus in the budget and take a serious look at programs and departments.

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2008-05 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted “aye.” On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”**

**B. Planning Commission Recommendation:  
Approval of Lot Split Plat of P.P.N 721-16-001 for Purvis Park**

At its meeting on March 25, 2008, the Planning Commission approved the following motion with respect to the lot split plat for Purvis Park:

*“MOTION BY MR. REICHEK, SECONDED BY MR. O’CONNOR to recommend to Council approval of a lot split plat of P.P.N. 721-16-001 as presented, and also to recommend that the City Quit Claim the Heights Jewish Center’s parcel back to them after the lot split to rectify the mistake in recording the previous Quit Claim Deed, and that the City comply with the agreement between the Heights Jewish Center and the City of University Heights as referred to in the letter of March 20, 2008 from the president of the Heights Jewish Center. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Bolotin and Ms. Goldberg, who ‘abstained.’”*

City Engineer Joseph R. Ciuni reported that approximately a year ago, the Heights Jewish Center, 14270 Cedar Road, quit claimed Parcel "A" as indicated on the lot split plat over to the City of University Heights which includes the four (4) tennis courts abutting the parking lot at Purvis Park. He noted, however, that in the recording process the entire parcel on which the Heights Jewish Center building, parking lot and tennis courts sits was transferred to the City of University Heights, which was not the intention. Mr. Ciuni stated that the lot split will separate the parcel to include the portion of the lot which covers the four tennis courts. Then the City will file a Quit Claim Deed to the Heights Jewish Center for the portion of the parcel which belongs to the Synagogue.

Mr. Bullock inquired if the City will comply with the agreement between the Heights Jewish Center and the City of University Heights as referred to in the letter of March 20, 2008 from Garth Ireland, president of the Heights Jewish Center. Mayor Rothschild responded that it is the City's intention to comply with the agreement. She noted that everything has been completed with the exception of lighting along the sidewalk next to the tennis courts. Mayor Rothschild stated that a review is underway to determine the best way to light the area. She mentioned that the lighting in the parking lot was completed. Mr. Ciuni concurred that several lights were installed in the parking lot since the Quit Claim Deed was filed. He mentioned that he went to the Purvis Park after the Planning Commission meeting and confirmed that the path from the Purvis Park playground to Wrenford Road is dark and he will look into options to light the area. Mr. Bullock inquired as to the parking lot paving. Mayor Rothschild noted that the paving of the parking lot is performed on a regular basis as part of the paving programs.

Law Director Kenneth J. Fisher explained that this came about because a few years ago the City was trying to obtain a grant from the Ohio Department of Natural Resources (ODNR) to reconstruct the tennis courts. However, since the tennis courts were built on property owned by the Cleveland Heights-University Heights City School District and the Heights Jewish Center, the City could not apply for the grant. Therefore, verbal agreements were reached with both institutions to quit claim their property that the tennis courts were built on to the City, which was done. Mr. Fisher stated that under the informal agreement with the Heights Jewish Center, the City was to light the pathway, which is in the process of being reviewed. Mayor Rothschild stated the lights would also illuminate the pool area which would help with for security issues.

Ms. Goldberg stated that she would have to abstain from the vote because she and her husband pay a membership fee to the Heights Jewish Center.

**MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to accept the Planning Commission recommendation for approval of Lot Split Plat of P.P.N. 721-16-001 for Purvis Park. On roll call, all voted "aye," except Ms. Goldberg, who "abstained."**

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

**MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing the possible purchase of real property. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was recessed into executive session. Following the executive session, the meeting was adjourned.

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Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild

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Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council