

MINUTES OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
MARCH 23, 2010

Mayor Infeld called the special meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Frankie B. Goldberg
Mr. Steven D. Bullock
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy
Mr. Frank Consolo
Mr. Steven Sims
Mr. Phillip Ertel
Mrs. Susan D. Pardee

Also Present: Acting Law Director Dennis A. Nevar
Clerk of Council Nancy E. English
Chief of Police Gary Stehlik
Deputy Chief of Police James Rohal
Fire Chief John Pitchler
Service Director Christopher Vild

Agenda Items:

A. Ordinance No. 2010-17 Appropriating for current expenses and other expenditures of the City for the period of January 1, 2010 through December 31, 2010

Ordinance No. 2010-17 appropriates for current expenses and other expenditures of the City of University Heights for the period commencing January 1, 2010 and ending December 31, 2010. The ordinance must be submitted to Cuyahoga County by March 31, 2010.

MOTION BY MR. CONSOLO, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2010-17 as an emergency measure.

Councilman Bullock stated that he will vote in favor of the budget because it has to be passed by the end of the month, but he was conflicted because the budget was presented to the Council for approval with a short time line. He hoped that future budgets will be presented in a more timely manner. Mr. Bullock also noted that he will approve the budget in order to give the new Mayor the time she has requested to make necessary changes to the leadership style and management culture of the City. He was hopeful that next year an administrative plan will be in place to ensure that the City is managed within the boundaries of the budget.

Vice Mayor Goldberg commented on an article in the March 21, 2010 edition of The Plain Dealer regarding cities feeling the pinch from falling income tax revenues. She stated that the Council and Mayor can no longer do business as usual, but rather they must take steps to plan for the future. Vice Mayor Goldberg thanked the Directors and non-union employees for freezing their salaries for the 2010 year. She mentioned that there is a commitment to look at long term forecasting and planning and, therefore, the Mayor and Council will make tough decisions over the next 12-month period in order to run the City in the most efficient and effective manner possible. She added that this will ensure that the residents will continue to receive the types of services and safety forces to which they are accustomed. Vice Mayor Goldberg stated that she intended to vote in favor of the 2010 budget.

Councilman Murphy stated that he too was conflicted about the budget because he felt it could have been better. However, he pointed out that Mayor Infeld did not have the opportunity to do better because of the short time frame she had to work with after taking office in January. Mr. Murphy suggested that the Council work the Mayor over the next year on collaborations and innovations to accomplish what needs to be done. He further suggested that the City look at spending its money more efficiently. Mr. Murphy was confident that the unions would work with the administration in upcoming negotiations to do what is best for the City. Mr. Murphy stated that he is looking forward to working with Mayor Infeld and will be voting to pass the budget.

Councilman Sims mentioned that he did not feel conflicted about the passage of the budget. He understood the statutory requirement and did not feel the budget is a commentary on the Mayor, but rather a commentary on the structure of the City and how it operates. Mr. Sims stated that he is most concerned about the ever increasing personnel costs, how to get personnel costs under control, and whether there is a commitment to do so. He was hoping for a commitment and a resolve on the

Mayor's part to address the issues around labor over the course of the coming years. Mr. Sims stated that if the outcome is going to be any different than in past years, then work needs to start on the 2011 budget immediately. He hoped Mayor Infeld was committed to doing that.

Councilman Ertel stated that he was glad the Council will move forward and pass the budget. He mentioned that the process has been extraordinary with a new Mayor in office for three months after 32 years and especially with an interim finance director and an interim law director. Mr. Ertel stated that Council held three public forums on the budget, and he was pleased the measure was going to pass.

Mayor Infeld appreciated the comments from the Council members expressing a true spirit cooperation to work together in the coming year. Mayor Infeld noted that she is studying ways to do things differently. She was willing to accept advise and guidance from the Council. Mayor Infeld stated that times are tight, but she will also be looking for new sources of income. She added that the emphasis is on the employees who deliver the services. Mayor Infeld stated that she is committed to delivering services to the residents while holding down costs. She thanked the Council members for their support and added that she and the Council will work diligently in the coming year for the betterment of the city.

On roll call on the motion, on suspension of rules, all voted "aye." On roll call, on passage of Ordinance No. 2010-17, all voted "aye."

B. Ordinance No. 2010-18 Establishing the rate of compensation for the Director of Finance

Ordinance No. 2010-18 amends the compensation of the Director of Finance as set forth in Ordinance No. 2008-38 to a rate of \$70,000 per year effective as of the date the new permanent Director of Finance takes office.

MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2010-18 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted "aye." On roll call, on passage, all voted "aye."

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

Mayor Susan K. Infeld

Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council