

**MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
DECEMBER 15, 2014**

Mayor Infeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:31 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Susan Pardee
Ms. Nancy E. English
Mr. Mark Wiseman
Mrs. Adele Zucker
Mr. Steven Sims
Ms. Pamela Cameron

Absent: Mr. Phillip Ertel

Also Present: Law Director Anthony J. Coyne
Finance Director Larry Heiser
Police Chief Steve Hammett
Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny
Building Commissioner Eric Tuck-Macalla
Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas

Pledge of Allegiance

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to excuse the absence of Councilman Phillip Ertel. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Approval of Minutes from Council Meeting December 1, 2014

Mrs. Pardee noted that Mr. Zannoni name was misspelled in item A.

There were no other additions or corrections to the Council Minutes of December 1, 2014.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the minutes of December 1, 2014 as presented and with the correction of the spelling of Mr. Zannoni's name. On roll call, all voted "aye," except Mr. Sims who "passed."

Comments from Audience

There were no comments from the Audience.

Mayor's Comments

Mayor Infeld pointed out the rendering drawing of the new city park that will be installed on the former Northwood School and Fuchs Mizrahi School property off Fenwick Road. Mayor Infeld stated that the City will be issuing request for qualifications from landscape architects who will complete the detailed designed drawings for the park. Soon the City will advertise for architects to work with the citizen's committee and the drawings that were created from the conceptual designs from Braun and Steidl.

Mayor Infeld also reported:

- Rainbow Babies and Children Foundation is holding their annual "grand rounds" on Thursday, December 18 from noon to 1pm at Rainbow Babies and Children Hospital in the auditorium. The speaker will be Dr. Mary Applegate. Dr. Applegate is the director of the Ohio Department of Medicaid and the topic is Infant Mortality in Ohio Family.
- Discussions have been held between Mayor Infeld, Mayor of East Cleveland, City Manager of Cleveland Heights, Mayor of Shaker Heights and the Mayor of South Euclid as well as Cuyahoga County. The discussions pertained to how all the Cities could best assist the City of East Cleveland deliver EMS service to its residents with its financial difficulties.

A. Presentation of Proclamation to University Heights 2014 Citizen of the Year ~ Rick Jackson

Mayor Infeld introduced Mr. Jackson as the 2014 Citizen of the Year and noted that Mr. Jackson's son Brandon has been the only youth to ever be awarded the Citizen of the Year. Brandon was named the 2008 University Heights Youth Citizen of the Year. Some of Mr. Jackson highlights include producer, reporter and host for television and radio. Mr. Jackson has also interviewed 11 Presidents of the United States.

Mayor Infeld read and presented Mr. Jackson with the 2014 Citizen of the Year Proclamation.

B. Presentation of Certificates to the Gesu Boys Cross Country Team for winning the 2014 CYO City Championship Tournament

Mayor Infeld read and presented the certificates to the Gesu Boys Cross Country Team and Coaches.

C. Resolution 2014-59 Supporting the Application of Fairmount Cleaners to the Cuyahoga County Brownfield Redevelopment Fund Community Assessment Initiative in the City of University Heights, Ohio and Declaring an Emergency

Mayor Infeld stated that Mr. Steve Grace, Fairmount Cleaners approached the City with his desire to expand his business by owning his own building and not continue renting his current space at University Corners. Mayor Infeld noted that in working with the City's Community Coordinator, Elizabeth Ellis, Mr. Grace contacted local members of the Small Business Administration all of which led to this initiative for funding.

Mr. Grace informed Council that this initiative will provide the funding for an environmental study on the property because the site has served as an automotive repair facility since the 1930's when the building was constructed. This would be considered phase 1 of the process; a historical study of the property. Mr. Grace noted that Cuyahoga County is also willing to help by awarding the project with possibility other various grants providing he obtains a resolution of support from University Heights for the project.

Mr. Grace stated that the study of the property would not only serve his business well but because of the size of the building and construction of the building it would benefit the community for other possible retail uses. Mr. Grace also stated that if he purchases the building he has no intentions of demolishing the existing building but rehab it so that it would have a more flexible use.

Mayor Infeld noted that this resolution is being presented on an emergency basis because documentation needs to be provided to the County before the end of the calendar year.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH for the passage for Resolution 2014-59 in support of the Application of Fairmount Cleaners to the Cuyahoga County Brownfield Redevelopment Fund Community Assessment Initiative in the City of University Heights, Ohio. On roll call for suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

D. Motion to approve the Lot Split for 2240 Jackson Blvd.; Parcel # 722-04-043

Mayor Infeld stated that previously the lot had a house on it which caught on fire and sat empty for a period of time. At that point the city asked the County Land Bank to asset the property. The County assessed the house as not being able to be rehabilitated and recommended that it be demolished. After the house was demolished the County returned to land to the City. Mayor Infeld noted that the City researched grant funding to turn the land into green space for a park but did not receive any funding for it. Since that time the city's Finance Director was approached by the neighbors on each side of the lot to purchase half the lot each for the expansion of their lots.

Mr. Ciuni remarked that this motion would split the lot into two equal halves of 25 ft. on either side.

Mayor Infeld stated if this motion for splitting the lot is passed; per Ohio Revised Code the property will then publically be advertised for sale for a period of thirty (30) days.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving the lot split for 2240 Jackson Boulevard; parcel #722-04-043. On roll call, all voted "aye."

E. Ordinance 2014-54 Appropriating Funds for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for the Period Commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015 (second reading)

Mayor Infeld stated that Ordinance 2014-54 represent the City's permanent budget for 2015 and has been reviewed by the Council, Financial Advisory Committee along with herself and the Finance Director for the last several months.

Mr. Heiser noted that stemming from the last meeting the budget was amended to reflect \$25,000 of the Council Clerk's salary being moved from Council's budget to the Administration's budget and an additional \$10,000 was added to Council's budget for an possible initiative that Council may undertake.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER for the passage of approving Ordinance 2014-54 Appropriating Funds for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for the Period Commencing January 1, 2015 and ending December 31, 2015. On roll call, all voted "aye."

F. Ordinance 2014-50 Amending Section 220.01 of the Codified Ordinances Providing for the Timing and Distribution of Council Agendas and Supporting Documents (first reading)

Mr. Wiseman stated that this Ordinance as well as the next three legislative agenda items were all discussed, voted on and adopted unanimously by the Governmental Affairs Committee, which met on November 19, 2014. Mr. Wiseman noted that the said legislative items were also discussed at great length in the Committee of the Whole meetings just prior to this meeting.

Mr. Wiseman stated that section (1) which has the provision that information be provided to the Council Clerk before 5pm on the Tuesday that precedes a Council meeting on the subsequent Monday be removed. Mr. Wiseman noted that during the discussion Mayor Infeld suggested that she would be commitment to undertake a pilot where the Council would receive the agenda before 5pm on the Wednesday prior to the Council meeting. If that is the case then Mr. Wiseman noted that it would be Council's desire to table this item to allow for the pilot to take effect.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to table Ordinance 2014-50 Amending Section 220.01 of the Codified Ordinances Providing for the Timing and Distribution of Council Agendas and Supporting Documents. On roll call, all voted "aye."

G. Ordinance 2014-51 Amending Section 220.10(a) of the Codified Ordinances Relative to the Mayor's Authority to Appoint Councilmen to Committees (first reading)

Mr. Wiseman stated that this reflects a small change in the code where section 220.01(a) specifies that in January the Mayor shall appoint members of Council to standing committees. In order to bring this code more in-line with the City Charter which specifies that Council shall organize after the first meeting in January. Mr. Wiseman commented that the Governmental Affairs Committee suggested that the language be changed to read not later than the second regular meeting following the organization of Council, the Vice-Mayor shall appoint members of Council to the following standing committees and then the remainder of the section remains the same.

Ordinance 2014-51 was placed on first reading.

H. Ordinance 2014-52 Repealing Chapter 282 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of University Heights establishing the Communications and Development Commission (first reading)

Mr. Wiseman stated that pursuant to the discussion held at the Council of the Whole meeting just prior to this meeting Ordinance 2014-52 is being withdrawn from the agenda.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH to remove Ordinance 2014-52 Repealing Chapter 282 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of University Heights establishing the Communications and Development Commission from the agenda. On roll call, all voted "aye," except Mrs. Cameron who "passed."

I. Resolution 2014-53 Establishing a One Year Special Council Committee for the Purposes of Community Engagement (first reading)

Mr. Wiseman stated that the Governmental Affairs Committee recommended that Council create a Special Council Committee just for the calendar year 2015. Whereby Council will have a mechanism in which to foster and enhance community engagement. This special committee will serve to bring as many citizens from the community and engage them about different important issues that are facing the city or community. Mr. Wiseman noted that section 2 which speaks to the goals of the committee will be rewritten, not to change the legislation, but to define the goals of the committee a little finer so not to mirror the goals stated in chapter 282. Mr. Wiseman noted that he would provide such language to the Council Clerk and Law Director for the next Council meeting.

Ordinance 2014-53 was placed on first reading.

J. Ordinance 2014-55 Amending Ordinance 2009-44 and Increasing the Compensation of the Members of Council for the Terms Beginning January 1, 2016 (on emergency)

Mrs. Pardee stated that during the joint Finance and Financial Advisory Committee meeting Council members discussed increases in Council salaries. This legislation is being introduced on emergency because any increase would have to be approved before the end of the 2014 calendar year. Mrs. Pardee noted that this would then be in effect for Council who would be elected and taking office in 2016; this will not affect current Council members who would be continuing their office after 2016. Mrs. Pardee commented that Council members felt that this was fair and reasonable to increase the Council salaries \$200 annually. Mrs. Pardee noted again that this will not take effect until 2016 and would not include Councilman Ertel, Councilman Wiseman and herself and will create a staggered effect.

Mr. Sims added that it's been at least 5 years since there's been any adjustment of Council salaries.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS for the passage of Ordinance 2014-55 Amending Ordinance 2009-44 and Increasing the Compensation of the Members of Council for the Terms Beginning January 1, 2016. On roll call for suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

K. Ordinance 2014-56 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Dispatchers) on emergency

Mr. Heiser stated that the next three agenda items are reference to the contracts for the Police Department Dispatchers, Sergeants & Lieutenants and the Patrol Officers. All three contracts have been signed and are the same regarding the basic 2% increase each year.

Mayor Infeld noted that healthcare will continue and the employee contributory amount will not increase for the first couple of years, the contracts are fair and the back pay will go back to July 1, 2014.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS for the passage of Ordinance 2014-56 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Dispatchers). On roll call for suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

L. Ordinance 2014-57 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Sergeants/Lieutenants) on emergency

Mr. Heiser noted that health care cost for employees are 9%, 10% the next year and may extend to 11% in 2017 if the City crosses a certain threshold with the actual monthly premium, if it's below that threshold it will remain the 10% .

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN for the passage of Ordinance 2014-57 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Sergeants/Lieutenants). On roll call for suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

M. Ordinance 2014-58 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Patrol Officers) on emergency

There were no comments, discussion or remarks for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS for the passage of Ordinance 2014-58 Authorizing a contract between the City of University Heights and the Ohio Patrolmen's Benevolent Association (Patrol Officers). On roll call for suspension of the rules, all voted "aye," roll call on passage, all voted "aye."

N. Discussion of Multi-City Police Dispatch Initiatives in the County

Mayor Infeld commented on the article that appeared in last week's Sun Press newspaper that referenced the initiative involving the cities of Shaker Heights, University Heights, Cleveland Heights, South Euclid and Beachwood. Currently Beachwood is providing police and fire dispatch services for their selves as well as Pepper Pike. Mayor Infeld noted that there has been a directive for 2018 where the County has to minimize the number of public safety answering points in the county from the current numbers. Mayor Infeld added that this initiative involves the same group of cities that the city is involved with for our specialized police swat services (EDGE).

Chief Hammett remarked that in December of 2012 House Bill 360 passed and went into effect. HB 360 placed a mandate on the 45 PSAPs "Public Safety Answering Points" in Cuyahoga County. A PSAP is nothing more than an emergency dispatch center. The mandate requires that by January 1, 2018 Cuyahoga County consolidates its 45 PSAPs to 4. Chief Hammett stated that there are only 4 counties in Ohio that have more than 10 PSAPs. Failure to comply with this directive could mean the loss of 50% of 911 funding and affecting each individual PSAP. The agreement that University Heights would be entering into would bring the University Heights police department into compliance with HB 360. The downside of waiting to merge with other agencies/cities on its own would be that the County would then choose what Cities get merged together.

Mayor Infeld interjected that nothing formal has been decided at this point. However the EDGE group under the sponsorship of the South Euclid Police Department did apply for county funding. The County has not decided how those monies would be allocated. Mayor Infeld stated that this started with a grant request that paid for a study from Cleveland State which showed how this process could work. Initially University Heights was looking at police dispatch services because the city currently have a joint dispatch for fire with Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights. But the surveys showed that it would be more efficient for the police dispatch to be separated out and create a multi city group and to include the fire department. Initially the group of cities did not include Cleveland Heights because they aren't part of the EDGE swat team group, but it became clear that it makes sense to include Cleveland Heights also. This idea is in the very early stages of discussions, but the idea is to have one city serve as the host city and have all the dispatch equipment in that host city to service all the other cities. These discussions have placed Beachwood as the host city because of their equipment and the required frequencies necessitates the tower being at a high point topographically and Beachwood is at the highest point compared to the other cities.

Mr. Wiseman asked about the dollar figure of \$3.8mil being the cost and that University Heights had committed \$300,000 and something was listed in the Sun Press.

Mayor Infeld remarked that she believed that those figures came from the Cleveland State study which talked about the police dispatch with a group of cities. This grouping has now slightly changed. The group of cities that approached Cleveland State with the study included all the cities mention except for Cleveland Heights and with the addition of the City of Euclid. In the meantime Euclid has made their own arrangement to join another municipality. So the numbers that have been cited aren't totally valid because it is a different grouping now. There haven't been enough meetings to talk about cost and governance. In summary all the cities believe that the residents are currently receiving good services and expect that to continue and be even better.

Mrs. Pardee commented that if the County is looking at 44 communities being reduced down to 4 for an average of between 10 to 11 communities in each district and currently we have 4 or 5; Mrs. Pardee asked if there had been any discussion about adding additional communities and if so who would those other communities be.

Chief Hammett replied that he believed that additional communities will be added down the line but that the plan needs to start with small numbers for the endeavor to work well.

Mrs. Cameron asked if this would require a MOU between the cities be established.

Mayor Infeld stated that this is too primary. Governance structure hasn't been discussed yet, talks have only be conceptual conversations pertaining to shared belief and concern that the cities will have to figure out how to achieve this before it is imposed on us from the outside.

Mrs. Cameron asked which cities are currently part of the 5 communities.

Chief Hammett answered the 5 communities include Shaker Heights, Beachwood, South Euclid, Cleveland Heights and University Heights and additionally Pepper Pike because they are already joined with Beachwood.

O. Motion to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing litigation

Mayor Infeld remarked that there was a need to discuss three different issues regarding litigation in executive session.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to hold an executive session for the purpose of discussing litigation matters. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Directors' Reports

Fire Department: There was no report from the Fire Department but Mayor Infeld noted that the ladder truck is back in service.

Service Department: Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny provided members of Council his report from the July 27, 2014 rain storm where the city received approx. 3" of rain within one hour. Mr. Pokorny noted that with level of rain it caused a few houses to experience short durations of flooding through their basement floor drains and the receding out fairly quickly afterwards. Mr. Pokorny stated that for several weeks after the storm the city took request from residents to have their sewers checked. From those request 162 houses were checked and those results are entered into a data base and printed out. In checking those homes in most cases not a lot of blockage was found and the city cleaned the lines where a blockage was found. The city also used its catch basin cleaning program to inspect those lines and cleaned 366 catch basins. Mr. Pokorny was happy to report that no major defects were found the city's sewer system. Mr. Pokorny ended his report and stated that curbside cleanup will end on December 20, 2014.

Engineer Department: City Engineer Joseph Ciuni reported that the Dominion East Ohio Gas Cedar Road gas line project is complete, all sidewalks and aprons have been restored.

There were no other director reports.

Standing Committee Reports:

Finance Committee Chairwoman/Vice Mayor Susan Pardee reported that the Joint Finance/Financial Advisory Committee met on Thursday, December 4, 2014 for the final review of the 2015 City Budget and voted unanimously to recommend the budget to Council for passage. The next meeting will occur either in late January or February. Mrs. Pardee thanked Mr. Heiser for providing Council with the monthly financial reports.


Recreation Committee Chairwoman Pamela Cameron will schedule a Recreation Committee meeting in the early part of January, 2015.

There were no other standing committee reports.


MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to exit executive session. On roll call, all voted "aye."

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 10:04pm.

**MOTION BY MS. ENGLISH, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to adjourn the meeting.
On roll call, all voted "aye."**



Susan K. Infeld, Mayor



Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council

