



Detective Sergeant Dale Orians, Juvenile Diversion Program spoke on how Mr. Walton volunteers his time on Wednesday evenings to hold hearings for first-time juvenile offenders and their parents/guardians. Mr. Walton is innovative in some of his punishments, for example having the offender bring in their grades for the semester, write an essay on why people shouldn't steal, how to become a better person, etc. In the last few years there has not been one repeat offender.

Police Chief Hammett reiterated the importance of having a Juvenile Diversion Program.

**MOTION BY MS. ENGLISH, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve Resolution No. 2013-60 honoring Robert Walton as Citizen of the Year. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**B. Resolution No. 2013-61 A Resolution honoring Vice Mayor Goldberg as Public Servant of the Year.**

Each member of City Council and Mayor Infeld read a portion of Resolution 2013-61 honoring Vice Mayor Goldberg.

Mayor Infeld read a Proclamation from the City of University Heights.

Mayor Infeld presented the Resolution and Proclamation to Vice Mayor Goldberg.

Vice Mayor Goldberg's fellow Council members offered their personal comments.

Councilwoman Pardee noted her respect for Vice Mayor Goldberg's dedication to University Heights and that she was honored to serve with her. Councilwoman Pardee saw Vice Mayor Goldberg as an independent thinker who is persistent and passionate about University Heights. Councilwoman Pardee continued to say that Vice Mayor Goldberg has been a calming voice in problematic situations and that her humor has carried Council through many things.

Councilman Sims stated that Vice Mayor Goldberg is a special person and has served the community in a very, very special way. Councilman Sims noted that during his term of 6 years thus far Vice Mayor Goldberg has been one of the brightest lights, a calming voice which allowed Council to reach different levels in items of consideration and stated his appreciation for the examples Vice Mayor Goldberg has set. Councilman Sims thanked and wished Vice Mayor Goldberg the best.

Councilwoman English thanked Vice Mayor Goldberg for her 12 years of service to the City and stated that the City was fortunate to have her as a member of Council.

Councilwoman Zucker wished Vice Mayor Goldberg well and noted it has been a pleasure to serve with her.

Councilman Ertel stated it had been a pleasure to serve with Vice Mayor Goldberg.

Councilwoman Cameron cited her appreciation of Vice Mayor Goldberg's support and encouragement.

Mr. Mark Wiseman (Councilman Wiseman) read and presented a plaque on the behalf of City Council and Mayor Infeld.

Mayor Infeld noted other present local elected officials; Cuyahoga County Councilwoman Sunny Simon, Newburgh Heights Mayor Trevor Elkins, City of South Euclid Councilman Marty Gelfand, Cuyahoga County Tim Boyle and others and invited them to say a few words.

Vice Mayor Goldberg congratulated Mr. Walton on being named University Heights Citizen of the Year. Vice Mayor Goldberg spoke on what some of the news headlines were when she took office in 2001. Vice Mayor Goldberg stated it had been an honor and privilege to be the voice and represent the citizens of University Heights on City Council as well as representing University Heights throughout Cuyahoga County.

Vice Mayor Goldberg stated that elected official are only as good as the people who surround and support them. Vice Mayor Goldberg thanked current and previous city officials as well as all of the council members she had the honor of working with. Vice Mayor Goldberg thanked Mayor Infeld as well as the previous Mayor Beryl Rothschild.

Vice Mayor Goldberg introduced and thanked her family for their support noting her husband, David is the glue and rock to the entire family. Vice Mayor Goldberg thanked everyone for giving her a wonderful opportunity to try to make a difference to make the world and University Heights a little bit better each day. In closing Vice Mayor stated, one does not have to do great things or do mind grabbing deeds to matter to the world, anyone who does an honest day's work, everyone who goes out of their way to help a neighbor, everyone who makes a child laugh changes the world for better.

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve Resolution No. 2013-61 honoring Vice Mayor Goldberg as Public Servant of the Year. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**C. Approval of Planning Commission recommendation for lot consolidation at 2472 Charney Road, property owner Kristine Bryan**

Mayor Infeld thanked Ms. Bryan was coming.

City Engineer Joseph Ciuni reported that Ms. Bryan is adding an addition to her home and the addition as proposed would violate one the side setbacks, so Ms. Bryan would like to consolidate the two lots. Mr. Ciuni recommended approval of the consolidation.

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the Planning Commission recommendation for lot consolidation at 2472 Charney Road, property owner Kristine Bryan. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**D. Motion to Authorize 2 Change Orders from Noce Enterprises Inc. for the Lansdale and Westwood Waterline Replacement Project.**

Mr. Ciuni reported that Noce Enterprises performed two (2) additional repairs that were not part of the Cleveland Water project. Mr. Ciuni recommend payment to Noce Enterprises in the amount of \$4,800.00 and \$2,400.00.

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the payment of the 2 Change Orders from Noce Enterprises Inc. for the Lansdale and Westwood Waterline Replacement Project in the amounts of \$4,800.00 and \$2,400.00. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**E. Ordinance 2013-56 Amending Ordinance 2013-04, 2013-27, 2013-47 for current expenses and other expenditures (second reading).**

Finance Director Larry Heiser explained that Ordinance 2013-56 relates to the debt service fund and is for book keeping purposes allowing the City to be in alignment with GAP (general accepted accounting principles).

**MOTION BY MS. ENGLISH, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve Ordinance 2013-56 amending Ordinance 2013-04, 2013-27, 2013-47 for current expenses and other expenditures. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**F. Ordinance 2013-58 Temporary Budget Appropriating Funds for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for the period commencing January 1, 2014 and ending March 31, 2014. (on emergency)**

Mr. Heiser stated that Ordinance 2013-58 is a temporary budget that will allow the City to process expenditures and bills for the first two (2) months of the year until the full 2014 budget is approved.

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH to approve Ordinance 2013-58 Temporary Budget Appropriating Funds for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures for the period commencing January 1, 2014 and ending March 31, 2014 on emergency. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted "aye," on passage, all voted "aye."**

**G. Ordinance 2013-59 Authorizing the Mayor to Participate in the County of Cuyahoga County Benefits Regionalization Program (on emergency)**

Mayor Infeld informed Council that the city had received quotes for employee health insurance and those rates were significantly higher than expected, therefore the city's administration thought it was prudent to try to match the same type of insurance that is currently offered to employees but at a better rate. Mayor Infeld stated that by approaching Cuyahoga County the city's administration was able to obtain a match in insurance product, as well as offer two (2) other insurance products to employees.

In order for the City to participate in the Regionalized Health Benefit Program the County requires that Mayor Infeld sign a contract with the County for a three (3) year program to obtain health benefits through the Cuyahoga County's negotiating power.

Mayor Infeld noted that University Heights has an employee group of less than 100 and that the County has well over 8000 members.

Mrs. Cameron asked Mayor Infeld if she had an anticipated savings amount or percentage if the City joined the County's health group.

Mr. Heiser responded that the City could see between a minimum of 4% and a maximum of 11% decrease, depending on the number of employees and which plan they (employees) choose.

Mrs. Pardee questioned if at least one of the plans commensurate with the current employee plan and since the agreement would have a three (3) year contract what would happen if the County rates started to rise and the City wanted to get out of the contract what opportunities would the City have?

Mr. Heiser responded that one of the plans meets all of the designs of the various union contracts. If the City wanted to vacate the contract prior to its expiration the City would have to pay any insurance run-out.

Mrs. Pardee noted that besides the potential insurance run-out payment, there's no downside to signing a three (3) year contract, since there is no penalty if we leave after three (3) years.

Vice Mayor Goldberg asked how many cities are involved with the County for health insurance.

Mr. Heiser answered 8 or 9 cities in addition to other various County agencies.

Mrs. Pardee asked Mayor Infeld, if by signing a contract is the City just signing for a service or if she (Mayor Infeld) would have the opportunity to sit on a committee that does some type of guidance or oversight?

Mayor Infeld stated that this is a County program and the County uses its buying power to negotiate the rates on the behalf of all the lives they insure. University Heights would be allowing the County to perform the rate negotiations on its behalf but not as a separate city. University Heights would be joining a pool of persons the County is insuring.

Mr. Sims asked if the city goes forward would there be any assurance that that program design would be available in the future and if not what would happen? And, more than likely the City will always be able to meet its needs through the County program.

Mr. Heiser responded yes and also that the City's current insurance carrier is trying to work with the County for a program design. In the future there will be more offerings so the City should be able to meet its needs.

Mrs. Cameron asked with the changes in the health care laws and the opportunities for business' to create product could the City be missing out on an opportunity to identify a savings without joining such a pool and if there is any personalization in the process afforded to employees?

Mr. Heiser stated he didn't know in looking forward.

Mayor Infeld stated that the Administration believed that the County pool offers the best savings. It's probably unlikely that a carrier would have better rates for a very small pool, such as University Heights. The City gives personalization by offering insurance to employees and matching the negotiated contracts as best as possible with the insurance products offered. An employee can choose something else as their own personal decision.

**MOTION BY VICE MAYOR GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving Ordinance 2013-59 authorizing the Mayor to participate in the County of Cuyahoga County Benefits Regionalization Program (on emergency). On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted “aye,” on passage, all voted “aye.”**

**H. Motion to Authorize the payment to Ardmore Tree Service for the removal of abated rear yard tree at 3837 Northwood Road in the amount of \$6,500.00.**

Service Director Jeff Pokorny reported that the tree is a very large cotton wood tree with many dead limbs falling off of it and that the adjoining neighbor complained that their garage received damage from the falling limbs. The tree is located squarely in the backyard with the trunk and root system being contained within the property. Mr. Pokorny stated that the City’s Arborist inspected the tree and gave his written findings. After which the homeowner received letter in February of 2013 from Mr. Pokorny stating the tree was found to be a hazard and needed to be removed within 30 days. Since that time the City has contracted the homeowner twice without any resolve or action by the homeowner. The homeowner received a final 3 day letter to correct the violation from the Building Department dated December 3, 2013 with no action or communication from the homeowner.

Mr. Menn stated he tried to work with the homeowner by granting extension of time to remove the tree with no resolve.

Mrs. Zucker asked if the City would recoup the cost of removing the tree by placing the cost on the duplicate property tax bill.

Mr. Menn replied yes.

Mr. Pokorny explained in detail the condition of the tree and the cost of removal.

Vice Mayor Goldberg clarified with Assistant Law Director James Budzik that the City is legally able to remove the tree from private property based on Codified Ordinance 1072.12 (7)(c).

Mr. Sims asked Mr. Budzik to explain how the Ordinance allows the City to go onto private property to remove the tree.

Mr. Budzik explained Codified Ordinance 1072.12 (7)(c) which allows the City the right to remove the hazardous tree from private property. Mr. Budzik further stated that the City has contacted the homeowner many times and since there has not been any legal action questioning the validity of the Ordinance the City has chosen to enforce the Ordinance and charge the homeowner by placing the cost on the duplicate tax bill.

Mr. Sims stated his thoughts that the issue should be between the residents even though it appears to be appropriate for the City to insert itself in the matter. Mr. Sims further asked the city officials to verify that the tree represents a hazard and nuisance.

Mr. Pokorny replied that is why he obtained the profession opinion of the City’s Arborist.

Mrs. Pardee asked Mr. Pokorny to provide more details of the neighbor’s property damage.

Mr. Pokorny stated that the neighbor who originally complained stated that a limb had fallen from the tree and damaged the roof of his garage.

Vice Mayor Goldberg asked if the homeowner, Mr. David Moore of Grafton, Ohio actually received the notices.

Mr. Menn stated that when he spoke with Mr. Moore he had received the notices.

Mayor Infeld noted that the City send these types of notices via certified mail.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY VICE MAYOR GOLDBERG to Authorize the payment to Ardmore Tree Service for the removal of abated rear yard tree at 3837 Northwood Road in the amount of \$6,500.00. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**I. Hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel, litigation or real estate matters.**

There was no need to hold an executive session.

Directors' Reports:

**Finance Director** Larry Heiser only reported that he is waiting for the 2014 committee assignments so that the 2014 Budget can be completed.

**Safety Director** Mayor Infeld reported that the paramedics are receiving their recertification training for pediatric advance life support and that the interviewing process for the position of Fire Chief is moving along.

**Building Commissioner** David Menn thanked Vice Mayor Goldberg for her time as the Chair of the Building Committee and stated it was a pleasure to work with her.


Committee Reports:


**Safety Committee** Chairman Frankie Goldberg thanked everyone and also thanked Mayor Infeld citing that it has been a wonderful honor. Vice Mayor Goldberg continued to say it has been a pleasure and an honor working everyone. Vice Mayor Goldberg also thanked the Police and Fire personnel.

There were no other committee reports.

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

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to adjourn. On roll call, all voted "aye".**

  
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Susan K. Infeld, Mayor

  
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Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council