

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS  
FEBRUARY 19, 2013

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

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Frankie Goldberg  
Mr. Mark N. Wiseman  
Mr. Steven Sims  
Mrs. Adele H. Zucker  
Mrs. Susan D. Pardee  
Mrs. Pamela Cameron  
Mr. Phillip Ertel

Also Present: Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas  
Finance Director Larry Heiser  
Chief of Police Steven Hammett  
Fire Chief Brian Phan

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the meeting held on February 4, 2013

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve the minutes from February 4, 2013 as presented and noted with the correction of the spelling of Ms Goulder's name. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

The agenda items were taken out of order, but for the purpose of these minutes the agenda items are denoted in the proper order.

Comments from the Audience

Sally Martin, 1515 South Belvoir Blvd., South Euclid and housing manager for the City of South Euclid. Ms. Martin served with Mr. Wiseman on the Vacant Abandoned Property Council for many years. Ms. Martin commended Council on their choice of Mr. Wiseman for the University Heights City Council.

Ken Dobbs, 2208 Barrington Road, resident for 35 years. Mr. Dobbs thanked Mayor Infeld for explaining that the city is just exploring the idea of merging with Shaker Heights. Mr. Dobbs is giving his support to the University Heights fire fighters who have served the residents well and will wait for the reports to come from Mayor Infeld and Council hopefully before any final decisions are made.

Bianna Challen, 2547 Saybrook stated she was upset when she read the postcard about the possible merger with Shaker Heights because they did a tremendous job when her car caught on fire in her yard. Ms. Challen hopes that they will be able to continue to do so.

Ms. Muzis, 2572 Warrensville Center Road strongly disagrees with consolidating with Shaker Heights' Fire Department. Mayor Infeld pointed out to Ms. Muzis that University Heights already has consolidated delivery of Fire and EMS services with both Shaker Heights and Cleveland Heights via the joint dispatch center which all three (3) cities jointly support, therefore the delivery of services would not change.

William Stockard, 3602 Raymond Road noted his support of the fire department and ambulance service in University Heights and doesn't want anything that could jeopardize the current service. Mr. Stockard would like the city to look at the service charge Cleveland Heights is charging University Heights residents for water, there is an increase change of 150%.

Mayor Infeld responded that the Northwest quadrant of University Heights is serviced by Cleveland Heights Water Department, the remainder of the city is serviced by the Cleveland Water Department. There are three (3) different tiers which determine the water rates. The highest tier is on the border with the City of Beachwood. Cleveland Water has a seven year plan of increasing rates to enable making repairs to the infrastructure. The sewer district has also instituted large increases to repair infrastructure. Mayor Infeld stated she is working with the City Engineer and the City of Cleveland Heights to see what legal options University Heights has to extricate



from Cleveland Heights because Cleveland Heights owns the waterlines in that Northwest quadrant.

Edith Jaffe, 3602 Raymont Boulevard voiced her concern about Fuchs Mizrachi (old Northwood elementary school) property. The building should be used and not just torn down. The city needs a building that can be opened all year. Ms. Jaffe inquired if the building could be used for community services and city offices? Mayor Infeld asked Ms. Jaffe if she'd like to be on the committee with residents who are deciding the use of that property. Mayor Infeld also noted that the building has been empty for three (3) years and has some water damage. City Council approved the city going out for bids for demolition but demolition can't be done without City Council approval. It would be costly to repair the building and there aren't enough funds in the General Fund to absorb the cost of repairs and cost of staff to run a recreation center.

Michael Brennan, 3814 Washington Boulevard congratulated Mr. Wiseman on his appointment to City Council.

John McMahan, 2556 South Green Road, resident for 51 years. Congratulated the rescue squad for their knowledge and professionalism. Mr. McMahan asked if there is duplication in services with the number of small communities in the area?

On the behalf of city council, Mrs. Goldberg thanked the residents for coming to the meeting. Mrs. Goldberg further stated that she hopes the community will continue to come to meetings to provide their input.

Reports and Communications from the Mayor and the taking of action:

Mayor Infeld made the following report

- ▶ John Carroll University offers regular lecture series to the community. On February 25 at 6pm in the Dolan Science Center the lecture is eating disorders and body image disorders. The lecture will include a screening of the film "America the Beautiful". This coincides with National Eating Disorder Awareness Week. [www.eatingdisorderscleveland.org](http://www.eatingdisorderscleveland.org)
- ▶ Home Repair Resources is offering hands on classes for various repairs, women repair courses, etc. The classes tend to be inexpensive. Their website is: [www.hrrc-ch.org](http://www.hrrc-ch.org)
- ▶ Cleveland Heights/University Heights School District lay facilities committee is analyzing the school buildings and their amount of usage. The committee is seeking community input via a computer based survey. The survey is short and a link to the survey will be sent to residents who are on the Mayor's email distribution list as well as being listed in the city's March newsletter.
- ▶ Mayor Infeld mailed a letter to residents in response to a postcard which was composed and distributed by the University Heights Fire Department. Mayor Infeld had received phone calls from University Heights senior citizens who were concerned that they could not longer call 911 in for emergencies. Mayor Infeld stated that the fire study is a proposal that University Heights and Shaker Heights have been considering for the past two (2) years and nothing has been finalized. The MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) has been the only formal process thus far. The MOU is a agreement between Mayor Leiken, City of Shaker Heights and Mayor Infeld for the continuance of exploring the concept of joining the two (2) fire departments.

There are 3 components to the exploration. 1) the Financial aspect - currently this involves the University Heights Finance Director and Mayor Infeld talking to the Finance Director and Mayor of Shaker Heights to obtain financial information; 2) talks between the Fire Chiefs from University Heights and Shaker Heights to determine if operationally it makes sense for the cities to consolidate services; and 3) review waiver agreements for the two fire department unions. Mayor Infeld stated that both she and the University Heights City Council agree that in order for a consolidation to make sense University Heights has to be able to maintain and improve services with no increased cost. Mayor Infeld also made note that no decision to consolidate fire services can be made without the approval of City Council.



Agenda Items:**A. Presentation Honoring the Life of Councilman Thomas A. Cozzens**

Mayor Infeld presented Mrs. Cozzens with a plaque from city hall, a proclamation from State Senators Keith Favor and Shirley Smith as well as emails of condolences from the community.

**B. Swearing-in of Councilman Mark N. Wiseman**

Mayor Infeld administered the oath of office to Councilman Wiseman.

Mr. Wiseman introduced his family and friends.

**C. Swearing-in of Fire Lt. Andrew A. Boylan**

Mayor Infeld administered the oath of office to Fire Lt. Boylan.

Lt. Boylan introduced his family and friends.

**D. Ordinance No. 2013-06 Transfer of Funds**

Mr. Heiser explained that Ordinance 2013-06 transfers the monies which were above the amount budgeted for estate tax from the General Fund into the Capital Improvements (401) fund in the amount of \$404,706.00.

**MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2013-06. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**E. Ordinance No. 2013-07 Transfer of Funds**

Ordinance No. 2013-07 was placed on first reading.

**F. Resolution No. 2013-08 Opposing House Bill 5 (on emergency)**

Mayor Infeld stated that House Bill 5 is similar to Resolution 2012-80 which was passed by City Council in opposition to House Bill 601. First Suburbs municipalities and other municipalities throughout the State are in opposition to both of these House Bills. HB 601 was presented as a way to provide uniformity in the collection of municipal income taxes and is being re-introduced in committee as HB 5 with many of the same elements as HB 601.

**MOTION BY MRS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2013-08 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted "aye". On roll call, on passage, all voted "aye".**

**G. Motion to approve the additional cost for traffic signal repairs at Cedar and Warrensville Center Road**

Mayor Infeld noted that this additional cost is due to the accident that occurred last year involving several vehicles and an RTA (Regional Transit Authority) bus. The city will be reimbursed by RTA for incurred cost.

Chief Hammett explained that there were 3 different phases in repairing the traffic signals; (1) temporary repairs that had to occur to allow the intersection to open back up to traffic, (2) order the traffic control box and (3) make permanent repair which includes the traffic control device, the traffic arm and the installation of the traffic control box.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the additional cost for traffic signal repairs at Cedar and Warrensville Center Road in the amount of \$18,432.32. On roll call, all voted "aye" except Mr. Sims who "passed."**



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

Mayor Infeld requested an executive session for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. GOLDBERG to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel and legal matters. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

Directors' Reports:

**Finance Director** Larry Heiser reported that he will present an emergency Ordinance for permanent bonding for a ten (10) year period at the rate of approximately 2.4% at the next council meeting.

**Service Director** in the absence of Mr. Pokorny Mayor Infeld reported that city's annual free shedding and hazardous materials collection event will be occur on Saturday, March 9 (9am - 1pm) and on Friday, March 8 for residents who are unable to participate on Saturday.

**City Engineer** Joseph Ciuni reported that the bid specs for the demolition of Fuchs Mizrachi are ready. The city will advertise for bids on February 7 and February 14. All bids will be opened on Friday, February 22, 2013 at 12noon. Mr. Ciuni also noted that bids will be advertised for the Catch Basin Cleaning Program during the same week.

Mayor Infeld stated that the administration is obtaining bids for the demolition of Fuchs Mizrachi so that the cost will be known for responsible financial planning. No building within the City can be removed without the approval of City Council.

Committee Reports:

**Building Committee** Chairman Mrs. Zucker announced that there will be a building committee meeting on Thursday, February 28, 2013 at 7pm in the conference room.


**Civic Information Committee** Chairman Susan Pardee reported that the civic information committee will set up a meeting in March to continue exploring services offered by neighboring communities for seniors and to discuss a Realtor's meeting to promote the city.


**Governmental Affairs Committee** Chairman Phillip Ertel reiterated the Mayor's comment on the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Lay Facilities Committee survey. It would be very helpful to have input from the residents.

Mrs. Pardee also noted urgency for resident to complete the survey. The survey is anonymous with simple multiple choice questions, there are also a few places where comments can be added if desired. The survey should take less than five (5) minutes to complete.

**Safety Committee** Chairman Frankie Goldberg stated that the committee will hopefully meet either March 12<sup>th</sup> or March 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm to finalize the wireless device legislation.

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

  
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 Susan K. Infeld, Mayor

  
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 Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council