

MINUTES OF COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS
FEBRUARY 4, 2013

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

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Frankie Goldberg
Mrs. Adele H. Zucker
Mrs. Susan D. Pardee
Mrs. Pamela Cameron
Mr. Phillip Ertel

Absent: Mr. Steven Sims

Also Present: Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas
Finance Director Larry Heiser
Chief of Police Steven Hammett
Fire Chief Brian Phan
Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni

MOTION BY MRS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to excuse the absence of Mr. Steven Sims. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the meeting held on January 22, 2013

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the minutes from January 22, 2013 as presented. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Comments from the Audience

Win Weizer, 2177 Jackson Boulevard stated that she worked on the passage of Ballot Issue 153 in 2006 which raised the city income tax to allow the city to maintain services. Ms. Weizer asked why the city is rushing to merge with Shaker Heights when there are other options such as using "sinking funds" to save for capital equipment. Ms. Weizer also stated the study showed that the University Heights' fire department has a better response time than that of Shaker's Fire Department. Ms. Weizer's provided a typed copy of her comments for the record.

Dena Goulder, 3798 Claridge Oval stated she doesn't want to live in Shaker Heights, she choose to live in University Heights. Ms. Goulder noted that Council is her elected representative and requested that Council vote against any authorization or action permitting the Mayor's mission to merge the University Heights Fire Department with the Shaker Heights Fire Department. Ms. Goulder further stated that if this was truly about regionalism the Mayor should have invited Cleveland Heights and other surrounding cities to join University Heights in the study for collaboration. Ms. Goulder said that she expects fiscal responsibility in her elected officials and if the merger takes place what options are in place if the tax payers decide they no longer want the merger? Is there a dissolution plan in place and if so what is it?

Mr. Paul Miller, 2370 Charney Road stated that he understood the purpose of the January public meeting was to listen to the people. Mr. Miller noted that he has now been led to understand that there are two more votes, the 17th of February and the 19th of March. Mr. Miller requested that each member of council state how they voted after the January public meeting.

In response to the comments for residents Mayor Infeld noted that her State of the City report contains information that will shed light on the process and fire study. Mayor Infeld stated that the city is continually looking for feedback in regards to the proposal so that any steps moving forward the city would have more information at their disposal. The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is posted on the city's website. The process has been taking place for approx. two (2) years and at that time Mayor Infeld and Mayor Leiken approached the Cleveland Foundation with the idea that perhaps the two cities could consolidate some or all of the fire services to provide a better service product to both communities. Since that time the Cleveland Foundation agreed to fund a study to examine the feasibility of the proposal. Town hall meetings were held both before and after the study was released.

Additionally comments and feedback have been gathered from the community during this entire time period. This process has been widely advertised to the community in multiple newsletters and the state of the city address. The MOU is simple a formalization of the talking process between Mayor Infeld and Mayor Leiken for the past two years. The MOU is not binding, any decision about moving forward with a consolidation would likely involve a Council of Governments agreement. The MOU gives a framework/guideline as to how a consolidation could proceed. The study that was funded by the Cleveland Foundation proposed 4 different models for operating in a consolidated manner. The models are a guideline for operation; they are not absolute. There is no rush, no decisions have been made yet, there is no Council of Governments agreement. The MOU showed a schedule as to how things could work. Within the MOU there is language for control and dissolution. The savings would mainly occur with having just one (1) fire chief over a larger department and having shared responsibility for the purchase of apparatus used by both cities. University Heights is not involved with any employee negotiations. No votes have been taken, nothing can be done with out a public meeting. There is no agreement before council. The council has been supportive of studying the idea of delivering fire service more efficiently and possibly more cost effectively and to deliver a better product and likely a more improved product to residents of both communities. The key is that this is still under consideration, it hasn't happened. And, again both the Mayor and Council welcome resident input by phone or email.

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

No report due to State of the City report being given at this meeting.

Agenda Items:

A. State of the City by Mayor Susan K. Infeld

Mayor Infeld read the State of the City address. Copy of State of the City attached to minutes.

B. Presentation by the Cleveland Restoration Society ~ Heritage Home Program

Mr. Ertel stated that University Heights had previously participated in this program but with budget constraints the program was placed on the back burner. The program is a great program and has been improved. The Heritage Home program gives access to all types of resource for home maintenance but also makes certain that the architectural integrity of the home is maintained.

Kathleen Crowther, President of the Cleveland Restoration Society and Mary Ogle, Heritage Home Preservation Specialist gave a brief presentation about the various services the program provides.

The program can provide a low-interest at the rate of 1.4% for up to a 12 year loan. Previously the concentration on pure preservation projects, now it focuses on rehabilitation of older houses. In addition there several different program available to residents who reside in communities that are enrolled in the program. Some of the programs are free technical assistance, workshops, website with tips and help topics, etc.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to add to the agenda the approval for the city's enrollment in the Cleveland Restoration Society Heritage Home Program.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. GOLDBERG to approve the city's enrollment in the Cleveland Restoration Society Heritage Home Program. On roll call, all voted "aye."

C. Resolution No. 2013-05 Authorizing City to Enter into a Wire Transfer Agreement with 5/3(Fifth Third) Bank (second reading)

Finance Director Larry Heiser stated that Resolution 2013-05 is for the purpose of wire transfer transactions with 5/3 (Fifth Third) Bank.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2013-05. On roll call, on passage, all voted "aye."

D. Ordinance No. 2013-06 Transfer of Funds (first reading)

Ordinance No. 2013-06 was placed on first reading.

E. Motion to enter into a (1) one-year agreement with Senior Transportation Connection for senior transportation

Mayor Infeld stated that the Civic Information Committee had previously met and recommended that the city move forward and enter into a contract with Senior Transportation Connection (STC). The senior transportation service allows University Heights seniors to obtain transportation/rides at a reduced rate. The rate is typically less expensive than using a taxi or paratransit service.

Mayor Infeld also noted that the contract will remain the same as it was in previous years and will provide 80 rides per month. The city will notify all riders who are registered with STC to take advantage of the ride service.

Mrs. Cameron asked if there is a limit as to the distance that the service will transport.

Mayor Infeld replied that there is a distance limit of (10) ten miles.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER allowing Mayor Infeld to enter into agreement for (1) one-year with Senior Transportation Connection for senior transportation. On roll call, all voted "aye."

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

There was no need to hold executive session.

Directors' Reports:

Finance Director Larry Heiser reported that representatives from the State House reintroduced the municipal income tax bill HB 5. Mayor Infeld remarked that she will be in Columbus, Ohio with other Cuyahoga County Mayors to lobby the legislators to fight against HB 5 on the behalf of their municipalities.

Fire Chief Brian Phan reported that on January 29, 2013 the University Heights Fire Department responded to a house fire on Barrington Road.

Service Director Jeff Pokorny reported that snow and ice operations continue. The public sidewalks have been cleaned twice thus far. In terms of salt usage the city has used 1,150 tons of salt with an estimated salt use of 2,300 tons for the year.

City Engineer Joseph Ciuni reported that the specs for the demolition of Fuchs Mizrachi are ready and will be advertising for bids on February 7 and 14 and the bid opening will occur on Friday, February 22, 2013 at 12noon. Mr. Ciuni also reported that advertising for Catch Basin Cleaning Program Bids during the same week.

Mayor Infeld noted 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:

Civic Information Committee Chairman Susan Pardee reported that the civic information committee met on Monday, January 28 and after much discussion made a recommendation to renew senior transportation at the same rate as previous paid with the following recommendations:

- flyers be provided in the senior apartment buildings by Walter Stinson (Director of Senior Services).
- a postcard reminders be sent out by the Mayor's office to the 173 currently registered seniors.
- within three (3) months Mayor Infeld obtains a response from STC (Senior Transportation Connection) and meet with them to review/monitor usage so Council formulated what to do in the future.

In regards to the Technology Advisory Commission the committee recommended moving forward with four (4) residents who initially applied for the Commission; Haki Flores, Kevin Goodman, William Fudge III and Sandy Cronin. According to Chapter 284 of the city codified ordinances the Technology Advisory Commission members shall be appointed by the Mayor upon recommendation of the Civic Information Committee. Mrs. Pardee also stated that Mayor Infeld agreed to request an appointment from both the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Board of Education and the Heights Library Board.

Governmental Affairs Committee Chairman Phillip Ertel reported that both he and Councilwoman Pamela Cameron were appointed to the Cleveland Heights/University Heights Lay Facilities Committee and at the most recent meeting six (6) different configurations were proposed and Gearity Elementary School was in each of the six (6) configurations. And, in considering the six different configurations there was a powerpoint presentation that laid out three (3) basic considerations. One of which included Gearity Elementary School.

Mrs. Cameron stated that University Heights has a strong core of residents involved with the Lay Facilities Committee.

Safety Committee Chairman Frankie Goldberg reported that the committee met schedule another meeting possibly with the Law Director Anthony Coyne and City Prosecutor William Doyle to further review the penalties in regards to legislation for no cell phone usage while driving.


Vice Mayor Goldberg also reported that council received a number of resumes of interested candidates for the council vacancy and hopes to review them in the next day.

Vice Mayor Goldberg announced that this is Mr. Ed Wittenberg last council meeting. Mr. Wittenberg, reporter for the Sun Press is leaving the Sun Press for the Cleveland Jewish News. Vice Mayor Goldberg stated that Mr. Wittenberg is a dignified, respectful individual that provided such a service to the residents of University Heights by informing them what is happening in their community further more Mrs. Goldberg stated she will miss watching Mr. Wittenberg as the roving photographer as well as the reporter.


Mr. Ertel stated that Mr. Wittenberg is very professional.

Mayor Infeld remarked that Mr. Wittenberg was a delight to work with and that she appreciated his ability to get the story correct and present both sides of the story. Mayor Infeld thanked Mr. Wittenberg for his work.

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



Susan K. Infeld, Mayor



Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council