A reception was held in Council Chambers at 7:00 p.m. prior to the Council meeting which was attended by friends and family of the newly elected officials: Mayor Susan K. Infeld and Council members Phillip P. Ertel, Frankie B. Goldberg and Susan D. Pardee.


At this time, the roll call was taken to officially open the Council meeting of January 4, 2010.

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
Secretary Kelly M. Thomas
Finance Director Anthony L. Ianiro
Police Chief Gary Stehlik
Deputy Police Chief James Rohal
Fire Chief John Pitchler
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson
Service Director Christopher Vild
Building Commissioner David Menn
Prosecutor William T. Doyle
Aquatic Director Evan Luzar
Parks Director Melissa Canowitz
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni

Minutes of the Regular Meeting of December 21, 2009

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of the regular meeting of December 21, 2009.

MOTION BY MR. BULLOCK, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to approve the minutes of December 21, 2009. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Murphy, Mr. Consolo, and Mrs. Pardee, who “passed.”

Comments from Audience

Senior students from Cleveland Heights High School were in attendance to bring greetings. Ashley Johnson congratulated and thanked the newly elected Mayor and Council members for their future hard work on behalf of the community. Emory Polley thanked newly elected Council member Susan Pardee, who is the parent of three Heights High alumni, for being an avid supporter of the school system. Erin Jackson stated that she is a member of the District’s Seniors to Sophomore Program, which allows students to take courses at a local college and earn college credit during their senior year of high school. These young adults, all of whom are residents of University Heights, congratulated the Mayor and Council members and thanked them for the opportunity to comment at the meeting.

Judge K.J. Montgomery of Shaker Heights Municipal Court shared the charge which is given to a hung jury when it cannot reach a decision. By doing this, she impressed upon the Mayor and Council the significance of their positions because they are here to do a job for the voters. She relayed that there have been issues in the past between the Mayor and Council; but the voters have placed their trust in each of them and there is no reason to believe that there is anyone better suited than those who the voters have elected to sit in their seats. Judge Montgomery stated this is a new day and as the Mayor and Council moves forward they should listen, not be afraid to change their position if they feel they are in error, but not to alter their opinion just to please others. She pointed out that occasionally, their decisions will not make everyone happy. She hoped they would bear in mind that they represent the voters and as elected officials both Council’s and the Mayor’s sole responsibility is to the voters.
Judge Montgomery wished the Mayor and Council the best as they move the City, the School District, the Court District and the County forward into the future.

Mayor Infeld thanked both Judge Montgomery and Judge Donnelly for their attendance.

7. Installation

(a) Election of Vice Mayor and Oath of Office

MOTION BY MR. CONSOLO, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to elect Councilwoman Frankie D. Goldberg to the position of Vice Mayor. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Ms. Goldberg, who “passed.”

Mayor Infeld administered the oath of office to Vice Mayor Goldberg.

Vice Mayor Goldberg quoted the opening theme song from Mister Rogers’ Neighborhood, “Won’t You Be My Neighbor,” written by Fred Rodgers, and thanked her colleagues for their confidence and trust in her to be the Vice Mayor. Ms. Goldberg stated that the Council wants to work with the Mayor to take the City to the next step to grow and move forward. She also remarked that the Council and the Mayor have a sense of purpose to the best interest of the residents of University Heights and the region of Northeast Ohio.

(b) Reappointments by Council and Oaths of Office

Clerk of Council Nancy E. English

The reappointment of Nancy E. English as Clerk of Council was carried over to the next Council meeting on January 19, 2010 due to her absence.

Acting Law Director Dennis Nevar

Judge Donnelly administered the oath of office to Mr. Nevar.

Assistant Law Director/Prosecutor William T. Doyle

Judge Montgomery administered the oath of office to Mr. Doyle.

8. Reports and Communications from the Mayor and taking of action thereon:

In lieu of a “State of the City” report, Mayor Infeld presented her mayoral report, which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “A” and made part of this permanent record, which addresses the City’s strengths, its challenges, and her plans for the future.

(a) Announcement of Reappointments by Mayor and Oaths of Office

Mayor Infeld announced the following reappointments: Director of Finance Anthony L. Ianiro, Chief of Police Gary H. Stehlik, Fire Chief John L. Pitchler, Community Coordinator Walter Stinson, Building Commissioner David Menn, Aquatic Director Evan A. Luzar, Parks Director Melissa Canowitz, and Service Director Christopher Vild.

Both Judge Donnelly and Judge Montgomery administered the oath of office to the reappointed Directors.

Mayor Infeld announced that Building Commissioner David Menn will be leaving for employment in another municipality, but was reappointed so that the City would have a certified building commissioner on staff in the meantime.

(b) Reappointment of Mayor as Safety Director and Oath of Office

Mayor Infeld read a statement, which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “B” and made part of this permanent record, noting that she received an e-mail from Councilman Bullock, which is attached hereto and marked as Exhibit “C” and made part of this permanent record, requesting that item 8(b) appointing Mayor as Safety Director, be held until a future meeting in order for Council and Mayor to have a discussion regarding the position of Safety Director.
In regard to the Safety Director position, Mayor Infeld cited Article 5 of the City Charter which states, “the Mayor shall appoint all officers and employees of the city.” and Section 236.01 of the Administrative Code which states, “the Director of Public Safety shall be appointed by the Mayor.” Mayor Infeld stated that while she believes it is her duty and obligation according to the Charter and ordinances to appoint all city directors in a timely manner, she agreed to hold item 8 (b) until the next regular Council meeting on Tuesday, January 19, 2010 in the spirit of cooperation.

Mayor Infeld announced that a Special Council meeting will be held on Monday, January 11, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the position of Safety Director.

(c) Announcement of Appointments to Council Standing Committees

Before announcing the committees, Mayor Infeld gave a description of what each standing committee is charged with, as well as the importance of what they do, and how the committees work with the various department directors in making decisions.

Building Committee: Chair - Goldberg, Ertel, and Murphy (alternate: Sims)
Civic Information Committee: Chair - Consolo, Pardee and Ertel (alternate: Bullock)
Finance Committee: Chair - Sims, Consolo and Bullock (alternate: Pardee)
Governmental Affairs Committee: Chair - Pardee, Consolo and Murphy (alternate: Ertel)
Recreation Committee: Chair - Murphy, Goldberg and Sims (alternate: Consolo)
Safety Committee: Chair - Bullock, Goldberg and Pardee (alternate: Murphy)
Services-Utilities Committee: Chair - Ertel, Bullock, and Sims (alternate: Goldberg)

(d) Election of Council Representatives and Liaisons to Boards and Commissions

Planning Commission Liaison Frankie B. Goldberg, alternate Steven Sims
Board of Zoning Appeals Liaison Phillip Ertel, alternate Kevin Patrick Murphy
City Beautiful Commission Liaison Steven D. Bullock, alternate Susan D. Pardee
Cable TV Internet Advisory Commission Liaison Frank Consolo, alternate Frankie B. Goldberg
Financial Advisory Committee Liaison Steven Sims
First Suburbs Consortium Liaison Susan D. Pardee, alternate Steven D. Bullock
Parade Committee Liaison Phillip Ertel, alternate Frank Consolo
Recreation Advisory Committee Liaison Kevin Patrick Murphy

Agenda Items:

(a) Ordinance No. 2010-01 Reappointing Anthony Ianiro as Director of Finance on a part-time basis and to establish the compensation thereof

Ordinance No. 2010-01 reappoints Anthony Ianiro as Director of Finance on a part-time basis and establishes the compensation in an amount not to exceed $35,100 at a bi-weekly rate of $1,350 commencing January 1, 2010 and continuing thereafter until another part-time or permanent Director of Finance is appointed and confirmed by Council. Since the position is on a part-time basis, contributions will be made to the Ohio Public Employees Retirement System, but without other fringe benefits.

Mr. Sims commented on the great job Mr. Ianiro has done, particularly working with Council through a period of transition and stated that he was personally thankful that Mr. Ianiro is willing to continue as the City’s Finance Director on a part-time basis.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to approve the passage of Ordinance No. 2010-01 as an emergency measure. On roll call, on suspension of rules, all voted “aye.” On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”

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

An executive session was not required.

Directors’ Reports

Service Director Christopher Vild reported that the snow plow crews will be on duty continuously maintaining the streets until the storm subsides.
Standing Committee Reports

**Building Committee** Chairman Frankie B. Goldberg did not have a Building Committee report, but announced that John Carroll University is continuing to offer its recreational facilities to the community until January 18, 2010.

**Finance Committee** Chairman Steven Sims reported that there will be a Finance Committee meeting on Thursday, January 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. to discuss the financial auditor’s management letters issued to the City for fiscal years 2005, 2006 and 2007.

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

________________________________________
Mayor Susan K. Infeld

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Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council