Mayor Rothschild called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

Roll Call: Present: Mrs. Adele H. Zucker
Ms. Frankie B. Goldberg
Mr. Steven D. Bullock
Mr. Peter R. Bernardo
Mr. Kevin Patrick Murphy
Mr. Frank Consolo
Mr. Steven Sims

Also Present: Clerk of Council Nancy E. English
Law Director Kenneth Fisher
Finance Director Anthony Ianiro
Chief of Police Gary Stehlik
Fire Chief John Pitchler
Service Director Christopher Vild
Building Commissioner David Menn
Community Coordinator Walter Stinson

Minutes of the regular meeting held on October 19, 2009

There were no corrections or additions to the minutes of October 19, 2009.

MOTION BY MS. GOLDBERG, SECONDED BY MR. BULLOCK to approve the minutes of the October 19, 2009 meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Comments from the Audience:

Harvey Morrison, 2424 White Road, stated that he does not consider it an inconvenience to take his garage can to the curb. But, he suggested that officials take the elderly and infirmed into account when considering the rubbish study and how to economize rubbish collection. He expressed concern that the regulations specifying that garbage cans should be stored behind the rear building line of residences and out of site are not being enforced.

Mr. Morrison commented that the postcard mailed to residents by Mayor Rothschild which endorsed one mayoral candidate and disparaging another was inappropriate. It was also his opinion that Mayor Rothschild’s call for a no vote on all proposed charter amendments was out of order.

Charles Perkel, candidate for City Council, commented about Harvey Morrison’s attack on his character. He added that some of the proposed Charter amendments could have been accomplished by ordinance. Mr. Perkel stated that it was inappropriate to attack Mayor Rothschild for expressing her opinion.

Sheila Hubman, 2528 Ashurst Rd., inquired as to the status of property located at 2603 Ashurst Road since the house has been razed. She inquired if the property would be sold or used as a pocket park. She also requested a definition of a pocket park. Law Director Kenneth J. Fisher replied that a pocket park, in this case, is a park surrounded by homes which would be for public use. He added that Council has not decided on what to do with the empty parcel. The only decision made to date has been to demolish the structure.

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

Mayor Rothschild made several announcements: the next meeting of the University Affairs Committee is scheduled for Monday, November 9, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at the John Carroll University’s Green Road Annex; a Community Thanksgiving Ecumenical Services will take place on Wednesday, November 25, 2009 at 7:30 p.m. at Church of the Saviour, 2537 Lee Road; City Hall will be closed on Wednesday, November 11, 2009 in observance of Veterans’ Day; annual flu shots will be administered on Sunday, November 15, 2009 from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at Wiley Middle School; the annual Arbor Day Tree Planting Ceremony will take place on Friday, November 6, 2009 at 11:00 a.m. on Vernon Road at Cedar Road.
Agenda Items:

A. Report on the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 26, 2009 regarding the Rubbish Study

Vice Mayor Adele H. Zucker reported on what was covered at the Committee of the Whole meeting held October 26, 2009. GT Environmental, Inc. performed the solid waste collection analysis. They included 4,113 households in the study. They examined the routes and the drivers’ times as they followed the scooter drivers and trucks. Some observations included that the scooter drivers had to go into every driveway because they were unable to see the rubbish from the street. If a car is in the driveway or the gate is closed, the garbage could not be picked up and they would have go back to this home. Many times the scooter drivers had to drive against traffic and make U-turns in order to dump their loads into the large garbage trucks. Rubbish spills onto the driveway and streets from overloaded scooters, which are not picked up by the collectors can present problems. Many driveways are long and steep which also can cause problems as do busy streets such as Cedar Road, Warrensville Center Road and Belvoir Boulevard.

GT selected eleven (11) cities in Cuyahoga County to compare with University Heights (nine had curb side pick-up and two had side or back door pick-up). Of the eleven cities, Brook Park, Independence, Lakewood, Lyndhurst, Pepper Pike and Shaker Heights submitted useable survey data. Brook Park, Independence, and Lyndhurst use curbside pick-up. Lakewood had backyard pick-up through 2008, but has switched to curbside pick-up. Pepper Pike, Shaker Heights and University Heights are the only remaining cities with back or side door pick-up. Pepper Pike will be purchasing scooters for their pick-up because they find it more efficient.

Some of GT’s recommendations included: updating the City’s website; enhancing the trash collection and recycling brochure; perform a resident survey; all drivers should wear approved safety vests (has been initiated); change to a 3-day route; reduce missed pick-ups; expand the recycling program to collect cardboard and paper board; modify scooters to accommodate recyclables; review yard waste program; and expand collection of paper products.

Various options were presented for curbside collection, including: manual, semi-automated, and automated systems. Manual collection requires 1 driver and 1-2 collectors to manually empty the trash cans. Semi-automated collection requires 1 driver and 1-2 collectors to roll wheeled cans to the truck where a mechanism lifts the can and dumps it in the truck. Automated collection requires 1 employee to drive the truck and operate the automated lift arm to dump the can. The semi-automated and a automated systems requires the purchase of wheeled carts which the City cannot provide.

Vice Mayor Zucker noted that there was an inaccuracy in the economic analysis because of the dollar amounts provided by City’s two different finance directors and because they were not carried through properly in the report. Therefore, GT was asked to reexamine the financial aspect of the report and resubmit. However, University Heights’ cost per household per month for backyard pick-up is $21. The average cost for public sector side/back door pick-up is $25 per household per month. The average cost for public sector curbside pick-up is $16 per household per month. The average cost for private sector curbside pick-up is $13.72 per household per month. The potential savings to the City will be reexamined.

Vice Mayor Zucker stated that the City should not rush to make a decision, but rather encourage hearing from the residents. She mentioned that she received an email and two calls already.

B. Ordinance No. 2009-63 Amending Ord. No. 2004-04 to update the fee schedule for emergency medical services in accordance with the National Fee Schedule (1st Reading)

Ordinance No. 2009-63 amends Ordinance No. 2004-04 to update the fee schedule for emergency medical services in accordance with the National Fee Schedule. The fees charged for each person receiving emergency medical services from the City were amended as follows:

- Basic Life Support (BLS) Emergency Transport One Way to be increased from $350 to $450
- Advanced Life Support (ALS) Emergency Transport One Way to be increased from $350 to $450
- Advanced Life Support (ALS-2) Emergency Transport One Way to be increased from $500 to $700
- Plus, BLS/ALS per mile transport one way (per mile) to be increased from $6.00 to $10.00

Chief Pitchler noted that Life Force Management, Inc. requested the increase in order to charge what other communities are charging.
Mr. Fisher stated that Life Force Management, Inc. informed the city that its rates were substantially less that the national averages. Therefore, the ordinance was drafted to be consistent with national averages and placed on Council’s agenda for first reading.

Mayor Rothschild noted that the fee is paid by the insurance company, but if there is a financial hardship there is method for the finance director to determine if the person is indigent.

Mr. Bernardo inquired if the costs have to be raised in order to cover the City’s costs or if the City is covering its costs with the current fees. Mr. Fisher recommended the matter be referred to committee for further study. Mayor Rothschild referred the matter to the Finance and Safety Committees.

Mr. Murphy inquired if there are other companies that do similar billing. Finance Director Anthony Ianiro reported that Life Force Management, Inc. is one of two companies that do most of the billing in Cuyahoga County. He added that both companies receive a percentage of net collections.

Mr. Bernardo suggested that funds from the fees be placed in escrow for the purchase of a new ambulance every 10 years.

**Ordinance No. 2009-63 was placed on first reading. There were no objections.**

C. **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:**

**Finance Director** Anthony L. Ianiro reported that $200,000 was collected by the City in 2008 from the ambulance billing fees and $185,000 has been projected for 2009.

**Law Director** Kenneth J. Fisher reported that the Salt Storage Agreement has been renewed by the City of Cleveland Heights for another year at the same costs.

**Building Commissioner** David Menn reported that the construction of Dollar Tree is moving forward at Cedar Center.

**Community Coordinator** Walter Stinson reported that the City Community Development Block Grant application in the amount of $325,000 is being prepared for the rehabilitation of the tennis courts at Purvis Park.

**Committee Reports:**

**Building Committee** Chairman Peter R. Bernardo announced that he will schedule a meeting soon.

**Finance Committee** Chairman Steven Sims announced that a meeting will be scheduled to consider the referred matters.

**Safety Committee** Chairman Steven D. Bullock reported that the committee will meet jointly with the Finance Committee and Service and Utilities Committee as well.

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

Mayor Beryl E. Rothschild

Nancy E. English, Clerk of Council