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

Roll Call: Present: Ms. Frankie B. Goldberg
Mr. Steven Sims
Mrs. Susan D. Pardee
Mrs. Pamela Cameron
Mrs. Adele Zucker
Mr. Thomas Cozzens

Absent: Mr. Philip Ertel

Also Present: Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas
Acting Law Director Dennis Nevar
Finance Director Larry Heiser
Chief of Police Steven Hammett
Fire Chief David Rodney
Service Director Jeffery Pokorny
City Engineer Joseph R. Ciuni

MOTION BY MR. COZZENS , SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to excuse the absence of Councilman Ertel. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Pledge of Allegiance

Minutes of the meeting held on September 4, 2012

Typed corrections to the minutes of September 4, 2012 were given to the Clerk.

MOTION BY MR. COZZENS , SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the minutes as presented with the noted changes and corrections of the meeting held on September 4, 2012. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Comments from the Audience

There were no comments from the audience.

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

Mayor Infeld informed Council that the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Services is holding a job fair for veterans on November 5, 2012 between the hours of 10am and 2pm at Quicken Loan Arena. The notice will be placed on the City’s website and posted on the bulletin board in the lobby of City Hall. Additional information can be found on the Ohio Department of Jobs and Family Service’s website.

Mayor Infeld read a thank you card from Susan Black, who retired from her longtime position as the Children’s Librarian at the University Heights Public Library. The City had previously given Mrs. Black a Proclamation in honor of her years of service.

Mayor Infeld received notice from the County that the preliminary commercial property rates for University Heights appear to be even with last year’s rate.
Agenda Items:

A. Motion to consider Planning Commission Recommendation regarding preliminary development plan and survey plat for lot split submitted by John Carroll University for renovation of Murphy Hall student residence.

Ms. Maria Alfaro-Lopez, General Counsel for John Carroll University and Mr. Richard Bretz, Construction Project Manager for John Carroll University were present to explain the project.

Mrs. Lopez gave a general overview of the project. The project will make the Historic Murphy Hall a greener and more accessible dormitory. The renovations will partially consist of making the entire dormitory ADA compliant with energy efficient lighting. Ninety percent of the dorm rooms will be ADA compliant and six (6) will be special needs resident rooms. The Chapel will be also be fully accessible. There will be passenger elevators and ramps. Murphy Hall will be brought up to fire safety code. Mrs. Lopez stated that were renovation plans which placed the elevators in the front of the building (more cost effective), but the University wanted to preserve the dormitory’s Gothic Architectural look and maintain the historical preservation.

Mr. Bretz explained that because the University wanted to maintain the Gothic look the decision was made to place the elevators on the interior of the building. Having the elevator on the interior and having to meet ADA compliance requirements, it necessitated the need for the two bump outs on the back of the building. The bump outs will extend beyond the existing gable end roof by approximately 18’. Both the lower and first floor levels of the building have stairs on each end. These stairs prohibit anyone entering the building full access to the first and ground floors. The project removes those elevations and replaces them with ramps allowing for an flat transition throughout the entire building. All of the interior doors will be changed from the current 2’8” to the ADA required 36” wide doors and the building will be fully sprinklered. The University would like the construction to begin after Commencement, May 2013 and continue through the entire 2013 - 2014 school year and reopen Fall 2014.

Mrs. Zucker asked where the University intends to house the students who will be displaced? Mr. Bretz stated the Department of Resident Life is studying the existing resident halls and is working on that issue. Mrs. Lopez informed the City that there will not be any changes in respect to the two (2) year campus residency requirement for Freshmen and Sophomores. The University will also try to keep as many Juniors and Seniors on campus as possible. Mrs. Lopez also made note that Murphy Hall has been an predominantly freshman dormitory.

Mayor Infeld stated that the project went before the Planning Commission because of the required setback of 75’ and that the bump-outs would encroach on that setback.

Mr. Menn stated the Planning Commission approved the additional 13’7” setback and that the Building Department supports the project.

Fire Chief Rodney added that this will be a major improvement to Murphy Hall and contribute to the safety of the occupants.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to accept the Planning Commission Recommendation regarding the preliminary development plan and survey plat for lot split submitted by John Carroll University for renovation of Murphy Hall student residence. On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”

B. Resolution No. 2012-53 accepting the amounts and rates as determined by the Cuyahoga County Budget Commission and authorizing the necessary tax levies and certifying them to the Cuyahoga County Fiscal Officer.

Finance Director, Larry Heiser stated this is the second reading of this Ordinance. The rates are based on the Tax Budget the City sent to the County. The rates are the same as they are for the current year and will be reflected on next year’s tax bills. The only foreseeable change in the rates will be when the debt for the swimming pool is completed in 2014.
MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MR. COZZENS to approve the passage of Resolution No. 2012-53 on Second Reading. On roll call, on passage, all voted “aye.”

C. Resolution No. 2012-60 Adopting the Solid Waste Management Plan for the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste Management District (first reading).

Mayor Infeld explained that all communities in Cuyahoga County are required to approve the update to the Solid Waste Management Plan. The update is offered by the County every five (5) years to the communities. Ms. Diane Bickett, Executive Director from the Cuyahoga County Solid Waste District will speak and answer any questions at the Council Meeting on Monday, October 1, 2012.

D. 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 to discuss personnel matters.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. GOLDBERG to enter into executive session for the purposes of real estate and personnel matters. On roll call all voted “aye.”

Directors’ Reports:

Finance Director Larry Heiser reiterated the Mayor’s report on the Commercial Property tax rate. The City’s commercial property tax rate increased by approximately 1.4% where other communities had a decrease in their commercial rates.

Police Chief Steve Hammett reported that the University Heights Police Department was one of a few local police departments to receive an award from the Department of Domestic Violence and Child Advocacy Center. The award thanked University Heights for its commitment to follow the best practices, policies and protocol in keeping domestic violence victims safe.

Fire Department Chief Dave Rodney reported that fire hydrant testing has ended. Next year the Fire Department will rearrange the schedule next year to begin the flushing on the far east side of the city and end on the west. Chief Rodney hopes that this will reduce some of the hardship hydrant testing can have on residents that are preparing for their religious holidays.

Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny reported that an emergency sewer repair was done at 2651 Eaton Rd. The broken section of storm sewer was replaced along with the connections at two neighboring homes. Mr. Pokorny noted that the available funds for emergency sewer repairs are almost depleted. The next scheduled repair is located on Miramar Blvd. at the Cedar Rd. intersection. Once that repair is completed Mr. Pokorny will inform City Council of any further sewers that need repairs and if necessary request additional funds for those repairs.

The City’s contracted work with Creekside Landscaping for stump grinding has begun. There are approximately 50 stumps to be ground up and the work should be completed within two weeks.

Mr. Pokorny also reported that he is currently requesting quotes to install a new garage door for the mechanic’s garage bay. The garage door was budgeted in the 2012 capital budget. Lastly, the Service Department employees received training from the Cuyahoga County Board of Health for storm water management in the prevention and response to spills.

Building Commissioner David Menn reported that the following businesses have opened. A Garber Upholstery moved from Cleveland Heights to University Heights at 2113 South Taylor Road. Remi Hair and Beauty Supply store opened at 2185 South Taylor Rd. Pure ph LLC a Pure Health and Wellness business that specializes in purifying water will be opening in the Silsby Center at 2243 Warrensville Center Road. Pure ph will also offer smoothie drinks and other healthy items. Target will be renovating their cooler section. Family Dollar is taking over the old Rite-Aid store location on Cedar Rd. and should be opening in a few months.

Mr. Menn also reported his department is finished with this year’s program of exterior home inspections.

City Engineer Joe Ciuni reported that Dominion East Ohio Gas will be replacing and installing a new gas main to feed into the new Walmart in South Euclid on Warrensville Center Rd. Construction will
begin in South Euclid and extend into University Heights to Lansdale Rd. Construction will be on the westside of Warrensville Center Rd. with the actual construction occurring in the sidewalk. Both Mr. Ciuni and Police Chief Hammett attended the pre-construction meeting. Dominion is working out the details in regards to traffic because the curb traffic lane on Warrensville will be blocked off. The project plan is to bore under and not to open cut Cedar Rd. Mr. Ciuni informed Dominion that they are to provide the City’s Engineer’s Office, Mayor Infeld, and other City Officials copies of any flyers, communications that Dominion and/or any contractor sends out to public.

Mr. Sims questioned Mr. Ciuni if the Municipal Grant was approved.

Mayor Infeld stated that the CDBG (Community Development Block Grant Program) monies have not been released yet, therefore the status is not known. Mayor Infeld also stated that the City is aware of the poor condition of Lansdale Rd. There are also other underlying issues in regards to the repairing of Lansdale Rd.

Mr. Ciuni remarked that the City will do some asphalting on Lansdale Rd. before winter to smooth the street out and the sewers will be filmed to see why the street has sunk in a little bit. Lansdale Rd. will not be totally repaved because the City anticipates tearing the street out and replacing it next year once the grant monies come in.

Safety Director Mayor Infeld reported that part of the municipal energy grant was used to purchase and install exits signs that are located in City Hall and the Police Department. Mayor Infeld also announced that SELREC no longer exists as it previously did. The Cities of South Euclid and Lyndhurst have turned over the administration aspect of the program to the Hillcrest YMCA. The program remains the same but the previous rates that were available have been affected. Previously University Heights subsidized the cost difference between the resident and University Heights non-resident fees. The YMCA is offering residents the option of becoming a Program Member for $25 per year, after which time they can take classes at a cheaper rate. The classes will still be held in school buildings throughout the cities of South Euclid and Lyndhurst as well as at Wiley Middle School.

Mayor Infeld reminded everyone that University Heights will have a Charter change issue on the ballot this November. The Cuyahoga County Board of Elections requested that University Heights change its time period for the submitting of petitions for any ballot issues to agree with the County’s time period. City Council voted in favor of placing this on the November ballot. Mayor Infeld will make note of this ballot issue in the October bulletin.

Committee Reports:

Civic Information Committee Chairman Susan D. Pardee reported that the committee met just prior to the Council meeting. The committee will continue to review the services and needs of University Heights Seniors. Mrs. Pardee will contact Shaker Heights and Beachwood to find out about the type of services they offer their Seniors. The committee also discussed going paperless and possibly piloting with ipads. The committee decided to activate the Technology Advisory Commission to help guide the committee on going paperless. The Civic Information Committee is asking for names of persons who work in the field of technology or who have technology knowledge be submitted to Mayor Infeld for possible appointment to the Technology Advisory Commission.

Recreation Committee Chairman Pamela Cameron asked if “explore feasibility of a regional community recreation center” on the City Council Agenda under Recreation Standing Committee Reports was still needed or if it could be removed. Mayor Infeld explained the history and stated that it was no longer needed and could be removed.

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