MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
MARCH 16, 2015

Mayor Infeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:34 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Ms. Nancy E. English
         Mr. Mark Wiseman
         Mrs. Adele Zucker
         Mrs. Susan Pardee
         Mr. Phillip Ertel
         Mr. Steven Sims
         Ms. Pamela Cameron

Also Present: Law Director Luke McConville
              Finance Director Larry Heiser
              Police Chief Steve Hammett
              Fire Chief Douglas Zook
              Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny
              City Engineer Joseph Ciuni
              Building Commission Eric Tuck-Macalla
              Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas
              Labor Consul James Budzik

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes from Council Meeting February 17, 2015

Mrs. Zucker corrected the last sentence of the motion for item “F.” on page 6 to read “The motion passed with a 5 to 2 vote.”

There were no additional corrections besides Mr. Wiseman request that his entire comment be added to paragraph 9 on page 4 starting with Mr. Wiseman statement “I sat through the meeting with Braun & Steidl and I have no doubt… before we voted on the bond.” be added to item F be added to the meeting minutes from February 17, 2015.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve the minutes of February 17, 2015 as amended. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Minutes from Council Meeting March 2, 2015

On page 2 under item A, Ms. English corrected the square footage from 45,000 sq. ft. to 4,500 sq. ft. in paragraph 3 and on page 3 under the second bullet point change the % sign to acres.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH to approve the minutes of March 2, 2015 as corrected. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Comments from Audience

Mr. Harvey Morrison, 2424 White Road and resident for almost 49 years stated that he and his wife have a vested interest in the community. Mr. Morrison added that he had no objections to the Kollel staying in University Heights but questioned the submitted traffic study that was presented to the various City bodies who reviewed the project, including City Council. Mr. Morrison asked how many people were truly familiar with the intersection with the school busses and vans dropping children off blocking traffic; this has been a problem that the community has put up with for years, then add in the traffic going to and from John Carroll University. Traffic will back up all along the Milton/Green area. Mr. Morrison suggested parking be banned on the south side of East Carroll (from Milton to Green Road) and that a traffic signal be placed at the Green Road and University Pkwy. to give residents an alternative exit. Mr. Morrison also suggested that Council reconsiders the scope of the requested variances and the impact on
residents who don’t plan on attending the Kollel. Mr. Morrison commented that there would only be a small amount of taxes generated from the project for the City and the pedestrian and vehicle traffic will increase. In closing Mr. Morrison remarked that the Kollel project is a major development in the City with major variances, that’s what upsetting.

Mayor Infeld informed Mr. Morrison that the project will again be reviewed by the Planning Commission and the Board of Zoning Appeals once the City receives complete project plans. The project has been approved by City Council for the variances.

Mr. Jimmy Daniels, 3674 Silsby since 1984 spoke about his concerns about two different areas (1) the barrels located at Silsby and Cranston where it appears street repair work is being done on the sink hole. Mr. Daniels asked what the direction for the resurfacing, etc. on Silsby Road in general. Mr. Daniels noted the problem is the his neighbor legally parks his truck in from of Mr. Daniels home so with the barrels that as well a vehicular blind spot is created and a accident did occur. (2) the population and diversity of the community – over the years things have changed regarding the youth in the city. Mr. Daniels noted is concern that something need to be addressed in how to positively direct the youthful energy. Mr. Daniels stated that he would be interested in volunteering to help promote or develop youth programming because he hasn’t heard about the recreation department as it used to be.

Mayor Infeld spoke regarding the condition of Silsby Road, stating that through the City Engineer’s office the City applied for county funding this year for Silsby Road resurfacing with the intent that the street would be resurfaced, new curbs be put in. The City received a letter from the County in agreement with the need for the road to be resurfaced. Mayor Infeld noted that Silsby Road is a County Road and the county is responsible for the repaving; but, many other Cities also submitted streets although University Heights ranked high on the list, University Heights didn’t make the cut for 2015 but is hopeful for next year. Regarding the community youth servicing programming that was done in previous years was funded through the School District but approximately 10 years ago the programs were cut and the City then encouraged people to Shaker Heights, Beachwood, South Euclid, Lyndhurst or Cleveland Heights for summer recreation leagues. Mayor Infeld added that that is not to say that there may not be other opportunities to determine how to engage children. Currently the City focuses on the pool and swimming programs.

Mrs. Cameron invited Mr. Daniels to attend the Recreation/Recreation Advisory Committee meetings when his schedule allows it and reminded Mr. Daniels about the City’s new park is in progress of being developed and noted that other activities are also forth coming through the Recreation Committee. Mrs. Cameron asked Mr. Daniels to also thing about the changes that are coming to the schools with Wiley becoming the High School during the remodeling of the existing high school, noting Mr. Daniels enthusiasm and support of children would be welcomed in terms of whatever time he is able to volunteer in the City’s effort towards welcoming those children to University Heights. Currently the Recreation Committee is working on a bike program with the City of Cleveland Heights, Canterbury Elementary School and various bike clubs to develop a family bike day on May 16 the event will be called “All Geared Up” more details will be coming and it is hoped that this becomes a annual event.

**Mayor’s Comments**

- The City received a letter from the Board of Election stating that Garity Elementary School, one of the polling sites in University Heights will be opened during the May 5th primary election. So employee parking maybe moved from the south side of the building onto the nearby streets. Mayor Infeld added that she would speak with the Police Chief regarding notifying the community so that they are aware. The Election Board requested that John Carroll to move the voting that’s located on their campus from the recreation complex to the Dolan Science Center. Postcards have been sent to affected voters.

- Mayor attended Designation Cleveland annual meeting that was held at the Quicken Center. It was very upbeat and positive with various persons from Cleveland as well as the new County Executive, Mayor Jackson and the Board from Designation Cleveland. The Republican Convention is the catalyst for sprucing/fixing up and making more people aware of Cleveland.

- The Northeast Ohio Public Involvement and Education, as know as NEO PIPE work group is hosting an acclaimed environmental author, Anita Sanchez. Ms. Sanchez will
present “New year – New yard,” alternatives to the perfect green lawn. The event will be held on Tuesday, March 31 at the Beachwood Community from 6:30pm – 8:00pm. The event is free but registration is required.

Agenda Items:

A. Motion Authorizing the City to Accept Bids for a Four Wheel Utility Refuse Collection Vehicle for the Service Department.

Mr. Pokorny commented that one of the refuse collection scooters needs the transmission repaired but the cost to repair would exceed the value of the vehicle. Mr. Pokorny noted that he had planned on purchasing a new refuse vehicle later this year, so the purchase is allocated in the 2015 budget. This purchase will replaced the out of service scooter and allow the department to maintain the fleet of 6 refuse collection vehicles.

Mrs. Cameron asked if this would be a new purchase or used and what the life expectancy was.

Mr. Pokorny responded it would be a new vehicle with an expectancy of 5 to 6 years with heavy use.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH authorizing the City to Accept Bids for a Four Wheel Utility Refuse Collection Vehicle for the Service Department. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

B. Motion Authorizing the Purchase of Swimming Pool Chemicals for 2015 from SAL Chemical, not to exceed $8,500.

Mr. Pokorny stated that this purchase of chemicals is done annually for the pool season. The usage of chemicals is dependent on the weather and the loading of the pool. If there are a lot of events and a lot of people in the pool you will go through more chlorine. This same thing goes for sunny days which tend to burns off the chlorine in the pool.

Mrs. Pardee asked if the chemicals are purchased monthly, weekly, etc.?

Mr. Pokorny replied that the City has one (1) 500 gallon chlorine tank on the premise, if the City uses just the one tank it would need to be filled twice a week. But if the chemical company loans the City an additional tank, which they often do it would only need to be filled once a week.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER Authorizing the Purchase of Swimming Pool Chemicals for 2015 from SAL Chemical, not to exceed $8,500. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C. Motion Authoring the Mayor to enter into contract with Chagrin Valley Paving Company for the 2015 Street Resurfacing Program 2015-05

Mr. Ciuni reported that the City went out for bids with the City of Shaker Heights for the 2015 street resurfacing program and the bids were opened on February 20. Seven (7) bids were received with a range of $726,000 to $850,000 for the University Heights portion. The total bids for University Heights and Shaker Heights together ranged from $2.3 million to $2.8 million. Mr. Ciuni added that each City was bid separate from the other by street. The low bid was submitted by Chagrin Valley Paving Company in the amount of $726,782.25, Mr. Ciuni estimate was $815,000. Mr. Ciuni noted that Chagrin Valley has not worked in University Heights before but have worked in surrounding communities and upon conducting research both Mr. Ciuni and the Public Works Department from Shaker Heights are satisfied that Chagrin Valley can complete the job satisfactorily and recommend that the City enters into contract with Chagrin Valley Paving Company as the lowest and best bid for the 2015 Street Resurfacing Program.

Mayor Infeld added that the plan is to use any remaining money for large street patching.

Mr. Ciuni noted that there are bid prices in the proposal for large area patches and noted that Washington Blvd. has is a restriction on the contractor where the project cannot start in that area until John Carroll students actually move out and graduation is over.

Mr. Sims asked if the street that Council deferred from last year because of a citizen’s request was on the list.
Mr. Ciuni replied that the street was Allison; and, yes it is on the list for this year. The citizen had asked for a one year reprieve so that he could move.

Mr. Wiseman asked if the bidding result were available for Council to review.

Mr. Ciuni responded that he could forward the bid tab results to Council but noted that it was a joint bid and that each City will have their own separate contract.

Ms. English asked if the University Heights contract is ready or will that be compiled once Council authorizes the bid.

Mr. Ciuni replied that Shaker is working on their part of the contract now and ours will be compiled once the approval has been passed by Council.

Mrs. Cameron questioned if everything is bid and priced separate what is the joint part of the bid with Shaker Heights.

Mr. Ciuni stated that in previous years the City’s resurfacing projects were small so it was better to join in with Shaker Heights to receive better price quotes. Now our projects are large enough that we could go out for bids on our own. Mr. Ciuni also noted that with going out for joint bids with Shaker Heights we don’t have the advertising and bid cost because Shaker tends to covers it.

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON** authoring the Mayor to enter into contract with Chagrin Valley Paving Company for the 2015 Street Resurfacing Program 2015-05 in the amount of $726,782.25. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

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

Mayor Infeld stated that there was a need to hold an executive session for personnel matters with the possibility that Council may re-enter the regular session to take additional action.

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

**Directors’ Reports**

**Fire Chief** Douglas Zook reported that the rescue equipment that Council approved at the last meeting has been ordered.

There were no other director reports.

**Standing Committee Reports:**

**Building Committee:** Chairman Steven Sims reported that the Building Committee met just prior to tonight’s Council meeting where the three items were on the agenda was discussed. Mr. Sims stated that the committee will meet again and expressed his appreciation to Commissioner Tuck-Macalla for the information that he shared. Mr. Sims noted that there was no action coming out of the meeting.

**Civic Information Committee:** Chairwoman Nancy English stated that the Technology Advisory Commission met on March 10th and one of the agenda items was to set priorities for the coming year. During the past year the Commission had three (3) priority items that were referred to them from the Civic Information Committee. There were a total of five (5) priority items that were referred and 3 have been taken care of with the exception of the training for iPads which will be worked on once the iPads are received. Ms. English noted that the Civic Information Committee had interest in providing visual information to the general public during presentations made in the Council Chambers; that was one of the items that went before the Technology Advisory in March of 2014. Following the Board of Zoning Appeals meeting, the Planning Commission meeting and the Council meeting regarding the Kollol project members of
Council asked if the Civic Information and the Technology Advisory Commission could reconsider visual aid equipment for Council Chambers. At the March 10 Technology Advisory Commission meeting the item was brought up for the Commission to reconsider, so the Commission is currently looking into and investigating what type of state of the art technology is available that might be able to be utilized in the Council Chambers to allow the audience as well as members of the various boards and commissions to see presentations. The Technology Advisory Commission will have companies look at the Chambers and submit acceptable ideas/findings to Civic Information, who will inform Council who decide if it will go to the Administration for any type of action.

Mayor Infeld asked the Law Director to clarify Ms. English’s statement that the Council’s Civic Information Committee may decide to bring the issue to the Administration for action.

Mr. McConville clarified Ms. English statement would serve more in the terms of a request.

Ms. English added it would be a recommendation to the Administration.

**Finance Committee:** Chairwoman Susan Pardee had no report but reminded everyone that the Community Conversations is starting and the first meeting will be Thursday, March 19 at 7:00pm in Council Chambers. Everyone is invited to attend any of the three (3) conversations. The second meeting will be Thursday, March 26 also in Council Chambers at 7:00pm and the last meeting on Thursday, April 9 at the University Heights Public Library at 7:00pm.

Mayor Infeld stated that the Administration help towards this goal of Council to meet with the community has been to make sure that the information was widely disseminated.

**Recreation Committee:** Chairwoman Pamela Cameron reported that the Recreation/Recreation Advisory Committees met on Wednesday, February 25 and reviewed the 2014 events as it related to the pool and the tennis courts. It was suggested/recommended by the Recreation Commissioner Melissa Canowitz that the recreation fees are slightly increased and that a survey be conducted of the Jewish community to see if there is a need or interest in the City offering segregated swim lessons. Mrs. Cameron stated that a citizen can forward in presenting an idea for a recreation program/activity “All Geared Up”. All Geared Up will be a family activity to spend half the day cycling the city and enjoying the benefits of biking. The activity will be in partnership with Canterbury Elementary School, Canterbury Bike Group, and Cleveland Heights Councilwoman Mary Dunbar and is tentatively scheduled to take place on May 16, 2015.

There were no other standing committee reports.

Council entered into executive session at 8:30pm

**MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH to reenter regular session. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

Council entered regular open session at 8:53pm

**MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to authorize the Mayor to enter into contract with the local 974 International Association of Firefighters Bargaining Unit based on the parties tentative agreements. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

Susan K. Infeld, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council