Mayor Infeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:33p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:  
- Mrs. Susan Pardee  
- Mrs. Pamela Cameron  
- Mr. Phillip Ertel  
- Mr. John Rach  
- Mr. Steven Sims  
- Mr. Mark Wiseman  

Absent:  
- Mrs. Michelle Weiss  

Also Present:  
- Law Director Luke F. McConville  
- Finance Director Larry Heiser  
- Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas  
- Police Chief Steven Hammett  
- Building Commissioner Eric Tuck-Macalla  
- Community Development Patrick Grogan

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to excuse the absence of Mrs. Weiss. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

A moment of silence was held in reflection of the tragedy that occurred in Orlando, Florida.

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting June 6, 2016

There were no corrections to the June 6, 2016 Council minutes.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the Council Meeting Minutes from June 6, 2016 as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Sims, who “passed.”

Comments from Audience

Ms. Win Weizer, 2177 Jackson spoke to the tragedy that occurred in Orlando, Florida, stating that it was an act of terrorism as well as a hate crime against the LGBT community. Ms. Weizer spoke of her experience in living in University Heights for the last 25 years, stating that when she went campaigning for City Council she went door to door and noted that she doesn’t hide her sexuality but is careful about it. Ms. Weizer commented that one of the things that struck her the most after the Orlando tragedy was the number of people who verbally made public horrific comments against those in the LGBT community. Although it had looked like things had changed, unfortunately there is still an undercurrent. Ms. Weizer stated her hope that if not at this Council meeting that at some point this Council and the Mayor would pass a Resolution that clearly says in their community hate and intolerance of those who are of a different sexual orientation will not be tolerated. Ms. Weizer continued to say that everyone lives in the public arena; we do not live in the enclaves that are closed off from one another. It is in that public space that each of us has to be able to interact with one another. That is what the Constitution is about and that’s what the laws are about. If we do not stand up for those laws; and if we do not stand up to protect that public space; then, Ms. Weizer stated she thought we missed what we need to do.

Mayor Infeld thanked Ms. Weizer for coming and sharing her personal reflections. Mayor Infeld spoke to Ms. Weizer’s concerns and comments, noting that there isn’t tolerance everywhere in the Country and that it is important to show that we can be tolerant. But, it is also important to watch how we speak to one another. Rather than accuse, do the exact opposite, assume that everybody is opened to everything and approach people that way. That might be a small way that the elected officials of University Heights can encourage better interaction and discourse within the community members.

Mayor’s Report to Community

- The University Heights Public Library will close on Tuesday, September 6, 2016 and there will be a groundbreaking ceremony for the new library on Sunday, August 28, 2016. The renovation is expected to take 8 to 12 months. Instead of relocation to a temporary site the library will use a mobile vehicle to travel around the community.
New Park is almost complete – with the tentative grand opening in mid-July. Mayor added she will announce the date and types of events for the Grand Opening celebration soon.

The new tennis courts opened with a ribbon cutting on Friday, June 17.

The County Planning Commission is in the process of finishing the City’s Survey and will present the results to Council and community tentatively Monday, July 18 at 7pm, depending on schedules and availability.

Agenda Item:
Mrs. Pardee asked Mayor Infeld if she could request a motion to add an item to the agenda in regards to Ms. Weizer’s comment in the Audience portion of the meeting to discuss supporting gay pride month and the support for the nondiscrimination for the LGBTQ community.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to add the discussion of support for the LGBTQ community and Gay Pride Month to the agenda. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mrs. Pardee noted what needs to be kept in mind, as friendly as anyplace can be there is still discrimination and people who hate. Words have power, we (Council) want to use words with civility and respect. But there are also words that have power when you take a stand and make a statement about something.

Mrs. Pardee read 4 points out of an article from “The Columbus Dispatch Newspaper”.

Author ?. (2016, June 20). Lawmakers reluctant to add LGBT to Ohio’s hate-crime law, pg.?

- “Ohioans can still be discriminated against in employment, housing, and public accommodation based on their sexual orientation and gender identity, and in many parts of Ohio, they lack the ability to charge suspects with hate crimes, as was done in Conley’s case”
- “Besides Ohio. 13 other states, including Pennsylvania and West Virginia, lack a hate-crime law that covers both sexual orientation and gender identity. Ohio also is one of 28 states that do not provide protection in employment, housing and public accommodation.”
- LGBT people are more likely than any other minority group in the country to be the victim of a violent hate crime, according to a 2011 study by the Southern Poverty Law Center, a civil-rights advocacy group.”
- “In most parts of Ohio, individuals can legally be fired, face eviction or be denied service at businesses if they identify or are perceived to identify as LGBT.”

Mrs. Pardee continued to say that that was just some of the discrimination that’s ongoing because that protection isn’t very clear in the law. In light of what occurred in Orlando; in light of the University Heights community being so welcoming and in light of June being Gay Pride Month Mrs. Pardee asked her colleagues to discuss making a motion or some other method of making a strong statement that allows the community to know where the city stands.

Mayor Infeld informed everyone that in 2012 the City expanded its protective classes in terms of fair housing.

Mr. Rach noted that importance of June being Gay Pride Month, noting the historical fight the LGBT community has in not being a protected class and their struggle to feel safe. Mr. Rach noted that is still a lot of work to be done in terms of discrimination in employment and housing, persons can be kick out of restaurants and hotels because it is not a protected class. There is a lot of misunderstandings and it up to the leaders to be a strong voice.

Mr. Sims stated he had no objection with any step that would be taken to speaking against discrimination in any form against any person. Mr. Sims noted that he was surprised that under Ohio Law those protections don’t already exist.

Mrs. Pardee commented that she would also work with the Law Director to draft a Resolution.

Mr. McConville replied that passage of a Resolution would be most conventional. But in noting the month was coming to an end Mr. McConville suggested that Council recognize and note their support of Gay Pride Month.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON that the University Heights City Council recognizes and supports June as Gay Pride Month. On roll call, all voted “aye.”
A. Ordinance 2016-23 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to Street Fund (201), Street Lighting (204), Capital Projects (401), Police Pension (601), and Fire Pension (602) (on passage)

Mr. Heiser noted that this was the seconded reading for Ordinance 2016-23 which authorizes the transfer of funds from the General Fund to the Street Fund (201), Street Lighting Fund (204), Capital Projects Fund (401), Police Pension Fund (601) and Fire Pension Fund (602).

There was no other discussion.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving Ordinance 2016-23 Authorizing the Transfer of Funds from the General Fund to Street Fund (201), Street Lighting Fund (204), Capital Projects Fund (401), Police Pension Fund (601), and Fire Pension Fund (602). On roll call, all voted “aye.”

B. Resolution 2016-24 Adopting the 2017 Tax Budget (on passage)

Ordinance 2016-23 was presented on second reading with no further discussion.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving Resolution 2016-24 Adopting the 2017 Tax Budget. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C. Ordinance 2016-25 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 220.01(A) Entitled “Regular Meetings by Changing the Starting Time for Regular Meetings (on emergency)

Mrs. Pardee stated that this Ordinance stems from work the Councilman Ertel did in polling all members of Council to see if they would be willing/able to meet at an earlier time. Mrs. Pardee noted that surrounding City Councils meet at 7pm although there are others who meeting at various times from 6:30pm to as late as 8pm. Mrs. Pardee added that there are times when the University Heights Council agendas are long with a lot of topics for discussion, so by beginning the Council meetings at 7pm instead of 7:30pm those longer meetings to be finished at a decent time. Beginning meetings at an earlier time is also thoughtful for city directors, employees, persons who stay late and those who don’t reside in the community and have a long ride home. The 7pm start time will begin in September 2016 if this ordinance passes.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN for the passage of Ordinance 2016-25 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 220.01(A) Entitled “Regular Meetings by Changing the Starting Time for Regular Meetings. Roll Call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye,” and Roll Call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

D. Motion to Approve Contract with Postage Meter Company

Mr. Heiser reported that the current postage meter agreement with Pitney Bowes expired on June 1 and that there have been problems in trying to communicate billing and payment issues with them. Mr. Heiser stated that he contacted Neopost, AMSS (Automation mailing and shipping solutions) and Pitney Bowes for price quotes but only received price quotes from Pitney Bowes and AMSS. Noting that AMSS has been a Cleveland based business for over 50 years Mr. Heiser recommended that the City enters into a 5 year agreement with them for a saving of about $4 to $5 a month.

Mr. Wiseman asked if any City employee was related to anyone at AMSS and why is it a 5 year agreement.

Mr. Heiser replied that he was aware and that 5 year agreements are customatory with postage machine companies.

Mr. Rach asked if there was an opt out option if the City was satisfied.

Mr. Heiser answered that there is a 60 day notification opt out option.

Mayor Infeld also suggested that Council legislate some type of nepotism policy so that it would be a question that becomes part of a quote request.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL authorizing the City to enter into a 5 year agreement with AMSS (Automation mailing and shipping solutions) for the City’s postage meter system. On roll call, all voted “aye.”
E. Motion to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing legal, personnel and real estate matters

There was no need for an Executive Session.

Directors’ Reports

Community Development ~ Patrick Grogan reported that the City received the NOCCA grant for the mid-block crosswalk on Warrensville Center Road. The grant is for approximately $100,000. Mr. Grogan stated that Mayor Infeld will inform Council of additional details as they become known.

Mr. Rach asked if the grant included the median, trees, etc.

Mr. Grogan replied yes; and noted that the median will be on Warrensville between Meadowbrook and Fairmount with bump-outs between Traymore and Hillbrook.

Mrs. Pardee asked if it would be possible for the work to be finished before the kids begin school in the Fall.

Mayor Infeld replied no and that this project will have to be bid out and will be for next year’s construction season. The grant is for $100,000 and the City will contribute $50,000 towards the project.

Mrs. Cameron asked Mr. Pokorny if the new tennis courts surfaces required any type of precautionary measures.

Mr. Pokorny replied no; the tennis court surfaces don’t require any type of maintenance until either a crack or other issue develops. Mr. Pokorny added that he looked at similar courts with the same construction specification and they were 7 years old and didn’t show any form of wear and tear.

Mayor Infeld added that the paving of the parking lot for the new park has been completed. When Purvis Pool closes for the season, sometime in September (also being mindful of the holidays that will be celebrated by the Heights Jewish Center) that parking lot will also be repaved.

There were no other Director reports.

Standing Committee Reports:

Mrs. Pardee noted that she would have loved to attend the ribbon cutting for the new tennis courts but it was at 9am on a work morning and asked Mayor Infeld when the City has ribbon cutting like that which may not have to be during the work day if they could be at night, on a Saturday/Sunday morning?

Mayor Infeld responded that the tennis court ribbon cutting couldn’t wait because the project ran a little bit behind schedule so the summer classes had been crammed onto half the courts.

Mrs. Pardee stated she appreciated that and noted that she had seen many instances where organizations open things up for use and have the formal ribbon cutting at a later more convenient date; perhaps the City can do that in the future.

Mayor Infeld offered to have another ribbon cutting for the tennis courts.

Service and Utilities Committee: Mr. Sims reported that the committee met to discuss the issue of paying for special pickup on-line. The committee felt that there would be a good chance of having the option of on-line payments, it would be a great service to the community and that there may be other services that could be made available to residents on-line. Mr. Sims noted that the committee would be bringing their recommendations to the entire Council for consideration.

Mayor Infeld said that when Council makes that recommendation the Administration can supply the information as to how the process of special pickups currently work.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm.

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

Susan K. Infeld, Mayor