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

Roll Call:

Present:  Mr. Mark Wiseman  
Mrs. Adele Zucker  
Ms. Nancy E. English  
Mrs. Pamela Cameron

Absent:  Mrs. Susan Pardee (7:30pm)  
Mr. Steven Sims (7:39pm)  
Mr. Phillip Ertel (7:38pm)

Also Present:  Law Director Luke McConville  
Finance Director Larry Heiser  
Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas  
Police Chief Steven Hammett  
Fire Chief Douglas Zook  
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni  
Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny  
Community Development Coordinator Patrick Grogan

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to excuse the absence of Mrs. Pardee, Mr. Sims and Mr. Ertel. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from Council meeting August 17, 2015

Besides the corrections and additions previously provided by Councilman Sims and Mayor Infeld, there were no other corrections to the August 17, 2015 Council minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. ZUCKER, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve the Council minutes of August 17, 2015 as amended. On roll call all voted “aye,” except Mr. Ertel and Mr. Wiseman who voted “nay,” and Mrs. Pardee, who “passed.”

Mr. McConville, Law Director stated that the motion passed.

Minutes from Council meeting November 2, 2015

There were no corrections to the November 2, 2015 Council minutes.

MOTION BY MS. ENGLISH, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to approve the Council minutes of November 2, 2015 as presented. On roll call all voted “aye,” except Mrs. Pardee, who “passed.”

Comments from Audience

Ms. Gaye Louis, 3861 Washington Blvd. voiced her concern about the houses being torn down by the Cedar Road Public Library. Ms. Newman stated that she was thrilled that the library is being remodeled but was upset that they are building back into the neighborhood to create more parking spaces. Ms. Newman stated that a survey was conducted by neighbors for the previous month and it was discovered that the current parking lot remains empty much of the time. Ms. Newman concluded in saying that she hoped that City Council doesn’t approve the library tearing down the houses.

Ms. Charlotte Kaminski, 3845 Washington Blvd. suggested to Council that the City receives some sort of guarantee from the library that landscaping will be done to disguised the parking lot because nothing has ever been done with the landscaping. There was supposed to be a guaranteed 10ft barrier between the parking lot and the houses, which didn’t occur. Ms. Kaminski asked that there is sufficient lighting.

Ms. Kathy Adams Case, 3505 Tullamore Road stated that she understood the concerns of residents regarding the library but her concern was the vacant home next door to her. Ms. Adams-Case noted that the house has been vacant since 2010/2011 and begged the City to do something with it and added that
since the City is not guaranteed funding from the County to tear down the house, she hoped that the City has a plan “b” as well as work on addressing the blighted properties.

**Mayor’s Report to Community**

- The Public Library will hold a public meeting on December 3 regarding the planned library renovation. Mayor Infeld also noted that she will advertise this meeting to the community.
- That she (Mayor Infeld) has been appointed to the Ohio Municipal League Board (OML). The OML acts as a lobbying group with the State Legislature and the Governor’s Office to try to influence state policy. Mayor Infeld stated her focus will be on Northeast Ohio and the needs of the first ring communities.

**Agenda Item:**

A. Resolution 2015-43 Approving the Appointment of University Heights Residents Michael Bohan and Frank Navratil to the City of University Heights Tax Board of Review for Two Year Terms (second reading)

Mr. Heiser stated that both Mr. Bohan and Mr. Navratil are members of the Finance Advisory Committee. Their names were recommended for the appointment by the Finance Advisory Committee. It was noted that this is also a result of House Bill 5.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving Resolution 2015-43 for the Appointment of University Heights Residents Michael Bohan and Frank Navratil to the City of University Heights Tax Board of Review for Two Year Terms. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

B. Ordinance 2015-44 Closing the Following Special Revenue Funds: Fund 207 Sick Leave Benefits Fund, Fund 219 Municipal Energy Program Fund, And Fund 220 County MEP Energy Audit Fund (second reading)

Mr. Heiser reported that this item came out of the joint Finance Committee and Financial Advisory Committee meeting that was held on October 16, 2015 where the joint committee suggested that the accounts with zero balances be closed out to give the cash position report a clean presentation.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL approving Ordinance 2015-44 for the closing the following Special Revenue Funds: Fund 207 Sick Leave Benefits Fund, Fund 219 Municipal Energy Program Fund, And Fund 220 County MEP Energy Audit Fund. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C. Ordinance 2015-45 Amending Ordinance 2014-54 for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio, for the Period Commencing January 1, 2015 and Ending December 31, 2015 (second reading)

Mr. Heiser stated this because of the debt service for the new park, the first payment will occur in December 2015.

Mr. Sims asked Mr. Heiser to explain the various funds.

Mr. Heiser reviewed each of the accounts.

Mr. Sims asked about the TIF and if the $5 million will be recouped or expected to come from where.

Mr. Heiser stated that that is yet to be determined.

Mayor Infeld added regarding the TIF there is currently foreclosure action on the property which was brought forward by the bond holders who own the bonds that were used to finance the construction of the parking garage and the City.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH approving Ordinance 2015-45 Amending Ordinance 2014-54 for Current Expenses and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio, for the Period Commencing January 1, 2015 and Ending December 31, 2015. On roll call, all voted “aye.”
D. Motion to Declare 3478 Raymont Boulevard parcel #722-01-040 a Nuisance.

Building Commissioner, Eric Tuck-Macalla reported that the house was abandoned by the owner.

Mr. Sims stated that he didn’t want to tear down a house that is salvageable and asked if the house is demolished does the City have a plan for the land and if the City has a contractor. Mr. Sims noted that as a part of the process in demolishing properties he would like the City have a program where it is actively seeking/contracted persons to come in and build homes so that there aren’t pocket park and a lot of vacant lots.

Mayor Infeld replied that University Heights doesn’t have a land bank so it is required that the City uses the services of the County’s Land Bank when properties are declared nuisances and ask for demolition funding. The County Land Bank reviews and decides whether or not a house can be salvaged or if it needs torn down. If the land bank doesn’t agree with the City that the property is a public nuisance the property will then be renovated and advertised for sale. Mayor Infeld added that policy wise the Administration plans with the six (6) properties that are being submitted for demolition funding along with various vacant lots to advertise them to create a listing of blocks of homes to get a developer to purchase them to develop housing.

Mrs. Pardee stated she hoped that the property was not becoming an area where people are dumping materials.

Mr. Wiseman questioned why the City had not picked up the debris since the Service Department issues abatement for the pickup of rubbish. Mr. Wiseman noted he was in favor of demolishing houses down if it has been empty of 10 years, especially if it will cost more to fix it than to sell the house. It would be safer for the residents.

Mr. Tuck-Macalla replied that the Service Department doesn’t remove construction debris and that they have to have access to the rubbish. The city will have to contract someone from the outside to clean up the yard.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN declaring 3478 Raymont Boulevard parcel #722-01-040 a Nuisance. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

E. Motion to Declare 3509 Raymont Boulevard parcel #722-01-029 a Nuisance.

Mr. Tuck-Macalla stated that 3509 Raymont had gone through several different owners. The last owner appealed the violations to the Board of Zoning. But the owner was not at the meeting so the violations stand. Mr. Tuck-Macalla added that he has not been able to get the owner to Court regarding the violations and the lack of compliance.

Mr. Sims noted his agreement with declaring this property a nuisance but again reiterated his opinion that just because a property sits empty for a period of time doesn’t mean that it can’t be rehabbed. The City should work with the Land Bank in creating a standard to follow when looking at these houses. Mr. Sims also asked about the requirement that monies be placed in escrow when ownership of properties is transferred and there’s still point of sale violations to be corrected.

Mr. Tuck-Macalla replied that a point of sale inspection was not done because it was a bank transfer. But the nuisance violation stemmed from a complaint.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON declaring 3509 Raymont Boulevard parcel #722-01-029 a Nuisance. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

F. Motion to Accept bid and to enter into contract for the Painting of Purvis Pool.

City Engineer, Joseph Ciuni reported that bids were opened on November 12, 2015. Three contractors came to the pre-bid walk thru but only received a bid from Frank Novak & Sons, Inc. The bid consist of the base bid and a alternate bid for the painting of the concrete barrier wall that is located between the baby pool and the regular pool with blue paint. Frank Novak & Sons bid $38,370.00 for the base bid and $2,566.00 for the alternate add-on bid for a total amount of $40,936. Both prices; the base bid and the alternate bid were in line with the estimated cost. Mr. Ciuni noted that Frank Novak & Sons have painted the pool for the last four (4) times; there are very few pool painters. Mr. Ciuni recommended awarding the
contract to Frank Novak & Sons, Inc. and if the budget allows painting the barrier wall as well.

Mr. Sims asked if the proposed cost would be in the budget for 2016.

Mr. Ciuni replied that the work will be done in 2016.

Mayor Infeld noted that the total cost with the base and alternate bid is $40,936.00.

Mr. Wiseman asked when the pool was last painted.

Mr. Ciuni answered the pool was painted a few years ago and that the paint only last at max for 3 years. Mr. Ciuni noted that the City of Beachwood paints their pool every year.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MS. ENGLISH authorizing the acceptance of the bid from Frank Novak & Sons bid $38,370.00 for the base bid and $2,566.00 for the alternate add-on bid for a total amount of $40,936 as the lowest and best bid. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

G. Motion to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing personnel and litigation matters

Mayor Infeld stated there was a need to hold executive session for the discussion of personnel and litigation matters.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. ZUCKER to hold executive session to discuss the personnel and litigation matters. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Directors’ Reports

Finance Director Larry Heiser noted that the 2016 Budget would ready soon.

Service Director Jeffrey Pokorny reported that leaf crews are working on the fifth (5th) sweep of the City for leaf removal from the treelawns.

Mrs. Cameron thanked the Service Director and Administration for their efforts in the funding of improvements in the mini park area of the Jackson Road neighborhood. Soon the area will be undergoing changes in regards to the trees.

City Engineer Joseph Ciuni reported that the City received funding for new waterlines on 2 of the 3 streets that were submitted. The streets are Loyola and Churchill, Groveland did not receive funding.

Dominion East Ohio Gas will be working on pipe replacements in 2016 on 6 streets in University Heights. Mr. Ciuni noted he would provide the City with addition information regarding the Waterline projects as well as Gas line projects.

There were no other Director reports.

Standing Committee Reports:

Building Committee: Mr. Sims stated that the Building Committee meeting that was scheduled for the 23rd will be rescheduled for a later time.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Pardee reported that there would be a Joint Finance/Finance Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday and on the final meeting to review the budget on December 3. Mrs. Pardee also asked that under Standing Committee Reports, page 2 of the Council Agenda the review of street light rates be removed.

Governmental Affairs Committee: Mr. Wiseman had no report. Mrs. Cameron stated that members of Council were approached by the Cleveland Heights/University Heights High School regarding a presentation by 9th grade World History students. Mrs. Cameron added members of City Council as well as Police Chief Hammett and one of the University Heights Detectives. The topics were in regards to bridging the gap between themselves, the police, the community at large and their peers. The students asked for Council to consider some aspect for them to participate in the community and to consider some format so that they can participate in City Council on a regular base.

Safety Committee: Mr. Ertel reported that the Safety Committee will review the vicious dog policy.
There were no other standing committee reports.

Council entered into executive session at 8:56pm.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL to exit executive session and to resume regular Council session. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Council resumed its regular council session at 9:17pm.

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

There being no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned at 9:19pm.

Susan K. Infeld, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council