

**MINUTES COUNCIL MEETING
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO
FEBRUARY 21, 2017**

Mayor Infeld called the regular meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Susan Pardee
Mrs. Pamela Cameron (7:21pm)
Mr. Phillip Ertel
Mr. John Rach
Mr. Mark Wiseman

Absent: Mr. Steve Sims
Mrs. Michele Weiss

Also, Present: Law Director Luke McConville
Clerk of Council Kelly M. Thomas
Police Chief Steven Hammett
Service Superintendent Jeffrey Pokorny
Community Development Patrick Grogan

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to excuse the absence the absence of Mr. Sims, Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Weiss. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Approval of Minutes from Regular Meeting February 6, 2017

Mr. Rach added his following comment to the discussion for agenda item A - "Mr. Rach added that he felt that where the parking was proposed was a good fit in terms of distance from the street. Because the neighboring condo development (Villas on the Green) had parking within the same area of where the Mikvah proposed with their project."

There were other corrections or additions to the February 6, 2017 Council minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to approve the Council minutes from February 6, 2017 as presented. On roll call, all voted "aye."

Comments from Audience

- ❖ Mrs. Shelia Hubman, 2528 Ashurst Road. Thanked the Fire Department for all their services to the community. Mrs. Hubman noted the nice attention and care the Fire Dept. used in helping her get upstairs to Council Chambers using the chairlift, and asked the City to look into having an elevator placed in City Hall for those who can't use the steps to have easier access to all the floors of City Hall another solution would be to move Council Chambers off site to the lower level of University Square or even have a stationary camera in Council Chambers to live feed the meetings, similar to what the school board does.

Mayor Infeld stated that the Administration did look into installing an elevator, the structural integrity of the building and where an elevator could be placed. But the cost was approx. \$1 million dollars along with the loss of office space. Mayor Infeld noted that the City of Beachwood uses video their meeting and said she would look into the idea for University Heights.

- ❖ Ms. Cathy Adams-Case, 3497 Tullamore thank everyone for supporting the demolition of 3505 Tullamore and informed the Land Bank informed her that the roof had taken on water and the ceilings on the second and first floor had collapsed, bad electrical and water system. The Landbank estimated the restoration cost and to bring the house up to the standard for living would be approx. \$100,000. Ms. Adams-Case said she felt it was important for Council to know how much for is for doing nothing to a house that sits vacant for 6 years not to mention the toll on the neighborhood.
- ❖ Mr. Mike Bishop, Student John Carroll University Student Union for Community Outreach was present to introduce himself.

Mayor's Report to Community

Mayor Infeld provided the following report.

- Dominion East Ohio Gas will be starting replacement of gas lines on Green Road in the near future. The city sent letters out to Green Road and the adjoining. The project is expected to take 5 to 6 months.

Mr. Wiseman spoke about the issues from the waterline replacement project on Churchill and the issues some residents had with their aprons being removed and not fitted to afford the residents to have access to their driveway for days. Mr. Wiseman asked that the City be pro-active with the aprons that the gas company takes out.

Mr. Pokorny replied that that will be looked into, but past practice has been if the apron was removed, tapped in place stone was used and if that settle a cast iron steel plate was used.

- Congresswoman Marcia Fudge is holding a town hall meeting to hear people's concerns and thoughts regarding the new Federal Administration on Saturday, February 25; 10am at Corporate College East, 4400 Richmond Road, Warrensville Heights. There is an opportunity for people to speak directly to Congresswoman Fudge.

Agenda Items:**A. State of the City Address**

Mayor Infeld read the State of the City Address. Report attached.

B. Resolution 2017-07 in Support of an Application for a Grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Community Cost-Share Program in support of Stormwater Management and Street Beautification on Warrensville Center, Bushnell, and Lansdale Roads

Mr. Grogan explained that the grant which is part of the execution of the 2015 NOACA plan for Cedar and Warrensville Center Road. Part of the plan was to plant vacant tree pits along Warrensville Center in front of McDonalds as well as take up the concrete tree blocks in front of City Hall and replant them with grass and trees where possible. The project is storm water management because those areas are currently impervious surfaces; where the water runs off into the sewer drains and also because an indication to have a softer more inviting surface.

Mayor Infeld added that the sidewalks on Warrensville from City Hall going north are extra wide so this would remove some of those concrete blocks and add plantings where those blocks were to create a barrier. These plantings will not be continuous but strategically placed.

Mr. Wiseman stated that he understood that the Sewer District wants this because the more trees and soil the less run-off there would be. Mr. Wiseman asked if there were any programs that encourage residents or business owners to do the same thing so that they create less run-off.

Mayor Infeld replied that there are various programs and that will be one of the articles for the City's next newsletter. The Sewer District's website that walks people through improvements (rain gardens, rain barrels, bio swales, etc.) that they can make to their own property to capture the maximum storm water fee credit for a reduction in their sewer bill.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to approve Resolution 2017-07 in Support of an Application for a Grant from the Northeast Ohio Regional Sewer District Community Cost-Share Program in support of Storm Water Management and Street Beautification on Warrensville Center, Bushnell, and Lansdale Roads. On roll call, all voted "aye."

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

There was no need to hold an executive session.

Directors' Reports**Finance Department**

Mayor Infeld reported that she is still in the process of interviewing candidates and that the City's former Finance Director Mr. Heiser continues to come in during the evenings and weekends to make sure that all of the City's financial duties are being carried out.

Service Director Jeff Pokorny stated that unfortunately he didn't receive information in time for the Council meeting packets but provided Council with paperwork just prior to the meeting. Mr. Pokorny asked Council to consider adding the request to authorize the purchase of a 2017 Freightliner Cab & Chassis with 25yd Heil Dura Pack 5000 Rear Loader Rubbish Packer to the agenda. The Freightliner would be purchased through the Ohio Department of Transportation Coop Purchase Program for \$92,283 and the Rear Loader Packer from the National Joint Powers Alliance purchasing cooperative \$64,552. Mr. Pokorny stated that at the Service and Utilities Committee meeting they discussed the purchase of a new rubbish truck.

Mrs. Pardee asked how much urgency was the purchase of the rubbish truck.

Mr. Pokorny responded that the purchase will take approximately 3 months and another 2 to 3 months for the rear loader to be constructed. The sooner the process gets started the sooner the city will have the new rubbish truck. Currently the city is using two older rubbish trucks.

Mrs. Pardee stated she knew that the purchase of the rubbish truck was in the budget for 2017 and that the Service/Utilities Committee discussed purchasing the new rubbish truck and asked Mr. Pokorny if the pricing was what he anticipated.

Mr. Pokorny replied the pricing come up less, he estimated \$180,000 and this is \$150,000 - \$160,000.

Mr. Rach noted that as a professional courtesy since Mr. Sims, chair of the Service/Utilities Committee was absent that Council should wait for his input as well; even though it was discussed in committee and placed in the budget for 2017.

Mrs. Pardee asked if the pricing would remain the same until the next couple of weeks.

Mr. Pokorny replied that pricing would remain the same because they are under fixed pricing through cooperative purchasing.

Council said they would wait until the next Council meeting to consider the purchase of the new rubbish truck.

Community Development – Mr. Grogan had no report.

Mrs. Pardee stated that Council had previously asked for the written comments from the Master Plan survey and asked if there was any opportunity them to be made available because Council is very interested in reading them.

Mr. Grogan replied the Master Plan comments had been forwarded it to Council back in August 2016 from the County Planning Commission.

Mrs. Pardee remarked that since Council didn't seem to be aware or in receipt of the email which contained the written comments Mrs. Pardee asked that they be forwarded again to Council.

Mr. Wiseman asked if the County Council was planning to present the findings to City Council in person.

Mayor Infeld replied yes, once she can confirm a date with them.

There were no other Director reports.

Standing Committee Reports:

Civic Information Committee: Mr. Rach informed everyone that the Technology Committee met to discuss technology in Council Chambers. The committee went through the previous finding that had suggested 2 tv monitors for presentations. The committee would like to move forward with this project, get 3 updated quotes from 3 different vendors for the tv monitors, cabling and laptop. The committee will meet again to review the information in March.

Mr. Rach also reported that the Civic Information and Governmental Affairs Committees are working together with the Cedar/Taylor Merchant's Association and submitted a Planning Commission request/application on February 2, 2017 and asked if the meeting was going on the calendar to meet the require 45-day scheduling from date of application requirement, per City Ordinance.

Mayor Infeld replied that that project as well as the Bellefaire project will be heard by the Planning Commission and that she was waiting for Bellefaire final plans.

Mr. Rach also asked about the next Memorial Day Parade Committee meeting.

Mayor Infeld replied not that she was aware, but noted they are looking for people to help plan the parade.

Finance Committee: Mrs. Pardee stated that the Finance Committee of Council was invited to join the Administration for the entrance 2017 Audit meeting in the morning of February 15 conducted by Zupka. Zupka outline what they planned on looking at for example controls, compliance, areas of financial risk. The exit Audit meeting is tentatively scheduled for the end of March. A Finance Committee meeting will be scheduled once there is a new Finance Director.

Governmental Affairs: Mrs. Weiss stated that there was a joint Governmental Affairs/Civic Information and Finance Committee meeting where they brainstormed ways on how to enhance the city. Joint meetings such as this will occur monthly.

There were no other committee reports.

MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to adjourn the meeting. On roll call, all voted "aye."

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned.



Susan K. Infeld, Mayor



Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council