Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the regular meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present:  Mr. John Rach
Mrs. Pamela Cameron (8:25 pm)
Mr. Phillip Ertel
Mr. Steven Sims
Mr. Mark Wiseman

Absent:  Mrs. Susan Pardee
Mrs. Michele Weiss

Also Present:  Law Director Luke McConville
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas
Finance Director James Goffe
Fire Chief Robert Perko
Police Chief Dustin Rogers
Building Commissioner James McReynolds
Communications and Civic Engagement Mike Cook
Economic Development Susan Drucker
Community Development and Housing Patrick Grogan-Myers

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to excuse the absence of Mrs. Pardee, Mrs. Cameron and Mrs. Weiss. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Minutes from February 4, 2019

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to approve the Council minutes from February 4, 2019. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Sims who “passed.”

The minutes from February 4, 2019 did not pass due to the lack of a quorum.

Mr. Sims passed because he was not present at the February 4, 2019 meeting.

Mr. Wiseman removed his motion and Mr. Rach removed his second.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to table and take the approve of the Council minutes from February 4, 2019 out of order until another council person was present. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Comments from Audience

South Euclid Councilwoman Jane Goodman was present in her capacity as Director of the Cuyahoga River Restoration. Mrs. Goodman stated that the Cuyahoga River Restoration not only includes the river but also 10 miles of the Lake Erie shoreline, which includes: Dun Brook, Dugway Brook, Nine-Mile Creek and Euclid Creek. The Nine-Mile Creek is located in front of the Walmart (the green shopping center) on Warrensville Center Road in South Euclid. Each of those have to meet the 10 requirements and levels of (water) health as listed in the provided brochure (1) restrictions on fish consumption; (2) degradation of fish populations; (3) fish tumors or other deformities; (4) degradation of benthos; (5) restrictions on navigational dredging; (6) eutrophication or undesirable algae status; (7) beach closing/recreational contact status; (8) loss of fish habitat; (9) lack of public access; and (10) degradation of aesthetics. As part of the area of concern the Cuyahoga River Restoration is working in the watersheds to meet the requirements. Mrs. Goodman was happy to report that three of the impairments have been removed off our list; there is no problem with aesthetics, public access and now the fish that are caught along the lakefront and especially in the Cuyahoga River are safe to eat.
Paul Nickerson, 2407 South Belvoir Blvd. spoke about the Meals on Wheels program. Mr. Nickerson has been involved with Meals on Wheels for eight years. Meals on Wheels is an independent non-profit organization that was established in University Heights in 1982 and is not directly affiliated with the Nation Meals America organization. Meals on Wheels encompasses University Heights, Beachwood and Shaker Heights. The purpose of Meals on Wheels is to provide nutritional food to those in the community who are disabled, homebound or otherwise unable to shop for food or cook their own meals. The program is funded by individual donors, sponsorships, fundraisers and the clients their selves and there is no Federal subsidy assistance. The clients are bill $7 for a hot and cold meal. The goal of the program is to also maintain a sufficient number of volunteers to prepare and deliver the food. The organization is always looking for people to join the Board or volunteer.

Mr. Sims asked if the meals were delivered daily or weekly.

Mr. Nickerson replied that the meals are delivered on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays. Each of those days’ food is provided for that day and the next day.

Sheri Duerr, 4024 Washington Blvd. reported that the rentals in her neighborhood as well as the apartment building next door to her house were still in bad shape, not being good neighbors and there is trash all over. Ms. Duerr commented that the way the City notifies the absentee landlords about violations is not working and needs to be changed.

**Mayor’s Report**

Reported that there is a joint Finance/Finance Advisory Committee meeting on Thursday, February 21 at 7pm in the School Board’s Conference room with respect to working towards a proposed 2019 City Budget.

Mayor Brennan also reported that he provided the State of the City address on February 13 to the community in the Jardine Room on the campus of John Carroll University. Mayor Brennan incorporated the written copy of the State of the City to these minutes.

Thank you, this concludes my report.

**Agenda Items:**

Note due to the need of a quorum for agenda item “D” Ordinance 2019-07 was taken out of order and moved to the end of the agenda to allow time for Councilwoman Cameron arrival. But for the purposes of these minutes the items are displayed in order.

**A. Appointment of Harvey L. Schabes to the City’s Board of Zoning Appeals Commission for a term period of 2 years.**

Mayor Brennan stated that appointments to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) are made by the Mayor and confirmed by City Council.

Mayor Brennan added that as an engineer by profession Mr. Schabes will add a different perspective as well as complement to the BZA. Mayor Brennan introduced Mr. Harvey Schabes.

Mr. Schabes stated that he has been a University Heights resident for over 30 years. Mr. Schabes commented that he is proud of his City and would like for it to continue to enhance itself and grow.

**MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN** approving the appointment of Harvey L. Schabes to the City’s Board of Zoning Appeals Commission for a two-year term with the expiration date of January 31, 2021. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mr. Wiseman added that Mr. Schabes has a lot of integrity and that he was happy the Mr. Schabes is willing to serve the community and that the City will be able to use his talents.

Mayor Brennan administered the Oath of Office to Mr. Schabes.
B. Ordinance 2019-05 Authorizing the Creation of a Storefront Improvement Program to be Administered by the City’s Economic Development Department

Mrs. Drucker provided highlights of the Storefront Improvement Program and stated that the program serves as an incentive to improve storefront commercial properties. In order to qualify for the program evident transformation is very important to the exterior of the eligible commercial building. The building needs to look different than previous and exhibit curb appeal.

In answer to questions that Mr. Sims had previously provided Mrs. Drucker stated that a deadline wasn’t established for the applications because this will initially be a pilot program. In regard to the process of review for the applications Mrs. Drucker stated that potential applicants would first meet with her to review their proposed project, this would take place before any funds are spent and final approval would come from City Council.

Mrs. Drucker added that Mr. Sims also suggested having a scoring system. Mrs. Drucker said that currently there isn’t a scoring system because the committee reviews the applications in terms of what the investment would be, review is based on the actual improvements and cost as well as checking to see that the project is a real transformation.

Each improvement has a score of 0 – 5 and includes every element on the list. The committee would have to conduct the scoring and create a range for the dollar amounts to be awarded. The proposed budgeted amount is $25,000 to start the program.

Mrs. Drucker stated that she has taken photos of the buildings within University Heights and there are between 7 and 12 possible projects in the city.

Mr. Wiseman asked as for confirmation that franchises are not eligible for this program and asked if businesses who rent space would be eligible. Mr. Wiseman noted that he thought that the program is in effort to help steer business to the local businesses and away from businesses that have national support. Mr. Wiseman suggested that perhaps we may want to accept applications from a franchisee who just rents the building instead of owning the building.

Mrs. Drucker replied that Mr. Wiseman was correct.

Mr. McConville commented that the committee wanted to make sure that the program guidelines would keep the money confined to the local small businesses as supposed to large national corporations. From a legal analysis stand-point it is fine to exclude them because they don’t have any protection rights.

Mr. Rach remarked that he asked a lot of questions that were answered at the previous meeting and noted from personal and professional experiences improvements are contagious where other want to also make improvements. Mr. Rach said that he saw this spurring on other different developments down the road.

Mr. Ertel stated that he was excited about the program and like the idea of having a point system.

Mr. Sims added that he agreed that this was a great concept for a program with the City infrastructure and housing this speaks to the commercial buildings. This is a needed program and if there are 7 properties the potential for the program would be $175,000, if there are 12 properties it would be $300,000. For an investment between $175,000 and $300,00 with the transformation the visual impact that that would have on the City will raise the perception of the City to the community and to persons passing through the City is well worth every penny. Lastly, it is best to handle the presented program options mostly administratively. Procedures are in place to allow the City to manage the program. Mr. Sims said it was his hope that the departments of Economic Development and Community Development will become part of an oversight committee review team along with a specific Council Committee so that it would be convenient for that Council Committee to review deals that surface and make a recommendation to the entire body of Council. The program should be as easy as possible for anyone who is interested in it. Mr. Sims commented that he didn’t think there should be a deadline date, the business/property owners should have as much flexibility as possible.
Mr. McConville added that if the program proves to be popular and the desire is to continue it this would be the type of program that Council could refer to the CIC for consideration. The CIC would already have a built-in Board.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. RACH for the passage of 2019-05 Authorizing the Creation of a Storefront Improvement Program to be Administered by the City’s Economic Development Department. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C. Ordinance 2019-06 Declaring the Structure Located on the Property at 2109 Taylor Road (PPN 722-01-114) to be a Public Nuisance

Mr. Grogan-Myers stated that this was the former Action Pest Company building that the City acquired on January 14, 2019. Mr. Grogan-Myers noted that the roof of the building has holes in it and added that shortly after that the water pipes burst inside the building.

Mr. Wiseman asked why the property needed to be declared a nuisance if the City owns it and whether it could be rehabbed.

Mr. Grogan-Myers replied that the City may be able to receive funding for the demolition of the building, but it would first have to be declared a nuisance.

Mayor Brennan added that by acquiring this property, declaring it a nuisance and demolishing it will be an improvement in the Cedar/Taylor district.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN approving the passage of Resolution 2019-06 Declaring the Structure Located on the Property at 2109 Taylor Road (PPN 722-01-114) to be a Public Nuisance. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

D. Ordinance 2019-07 Ordinance Authorizing Supplemental Temporary Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2019 and Ending March 31, 2019

Mr. Goffe stated that Ordinance 2019-07 in regard to the $160,000 – General Capital Improvements fund account number 401.

Present Councilmembers included: Mrs. Cameron, Mr. Ertel, Mr. Rach, Mr. Sims and Mr. Wiseman.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. RACH approving Ordinance 2019-07 Ordinance Authorizing Supplemental Temporary Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2019 and Ending March 31, 2019. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

E. Motion Appropriating $75,000 for the purchase of real estate located at 2307 Saybrook Road

Mayor Brennan noted that this was for the purchase of the real estate property adjacent to the City’s Service Department yard.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL Appropriating $75,000 for the purchase of real estate located at 2307 Saybrook Road. On roll call, all voted “aye.”
F. Motion Appropriating $85,000 for the purchase of real estate located at 3958 Silsby Road

Mayor Brennan stated that this property was adjacent to the City’s Building Department.

Mr. Ertel noted that this was the last house that needed to be purchased to complete the block where that the City would own all the properties on the South side of Silsby from Warrensville to Saybrook Road around to the end of the Service yard.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MR. ERTEL appropriating $85,000 for the purchase of real estate located at 3958 Silsby Road. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

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

Mayor stated that there was a need for an executive session to discuss real estate matters.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to hold an executive session immediately following this regular meeting for the purpose of discussing real estate matters. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Directors’ Reports

Finance Director – Mr. Goffe reported that the Finance Department is working on the 2019 City Budget.

Law Director – Luke McConville reported that he is meeting with the Housing Court on Thursday regarding the City’s Housing Ordinance. Mr. McConville added that Council could expect to see the No Smoking Ordinance on first reading at the next Council meeting.

Police Department – Chief Rodgers provided the following updates. The Lexipol process is continuing forward and that the frontline parking permission program has received positive feedback thus far. The “Coffee with a Cop” was well attended.

Mayor Brennan asked Chief Rodgers if he had any feedback on allowing overnight parking.

Chief Rodgers replied no.

Fire Department – Chief Perko reported that the Department is currently conducting inventory for records management of their fleet and maintenance of the same.

Service Department – Mr. Pokorny reported that tree program is half way done and that the Service and Utilities Committee met just prior to the Council meeting. The City will be collecting hazardous materials on Thursday, March 8 from 8 to 4 and Saturday, March 9 from 9am – 1pm.

City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni reported that the City received that Dominion East Ohio Gas has started the gas line replacement program in Shaker Heights and that he would be meeting with Dominion officials on Wednesday at 9am regarding the University Heights portion of the project. Mr. Ciuni said he will be meeting with officials from the County regarding the Cedar Road Project with the Perk Company. Lastly, the City received funding in the amount of $29,000 from the County for the crack sealing of Warrensville and Cedar Road.

Communications and Civic Engagement – Mike Cook reported that the new City magazine is out to the public and will online soon. Copies of the magazine will also be available around the city. Cleveland Jewish News sold 41 ads for the magazine and the city receives 30% of that revenue for about $3,000. Mr. Cook noted that the $3,000 does not cover the cost of printing and that 26 ads have already been purchased for the next edition.

Economic Development - Susan Drucker had no report for regular session.
Housing and Community Development – Mr. Grogan-Myers reported that the City received a $5,000 grant for recycling awareness, the grant will be used to send out postcards with magnets to encourage residents to properly recycle. NOPEC is awarding the City with $42,000 for projects that will bring energy savings to the community and residents.

There were no other director reports.

Standing Committees

Finance Committee – It was noted that the Finance Committee would be meeting the next day.

Mr. Rach reported that the Council Committee of the Whole met on Sunday, February 17.

Safety Committee – Mr. Rach stated that the committee will meet sometime in March.

Service and Utilities Committee: Mr. Sims reported that the committee met on February 11 and reviewed the 2019 capital expenditures for the Service Department. The committee will have a series of meetings regarding trash pickup.

There were no other committee reports.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to exit Executive Session and resume Regular Session. 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, the meeting was adjourned.

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council