Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the regular meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Susan Pardee
Mrs. Pamela Cameron
Mr. John Rach
Mr. Steven Sims
Mrs. Michele Weiss
Mr. Mark Wiseman

Absent: Mr. Phillip Ertel

Also Present: Law Director Luke McConville
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas
Police Chief Dustin Rogers
Fire Chief Robert Perko
Service Superintendent Jeffrey Pokorny
Building Commissioner James McReynolds
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni
Economic Development Susan Drucker
Housing/Community Development Coordinator Patrick Grogan-Myers
Special Events Coordinator Rachel Mullen

Approval of Minutes from June 17, 2019

There were no corrections to the June 17, 2019 Council Minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to approve the Council minutes from June 17, 2019 as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Minutes from July 1, 2019

There were no corrections to the July 1, 2019 Special Council Minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to approve the Special Council minutes from July 1, 2019 as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Minutes from July 23, 2019

There were no corrections to the July 23, 2019 Special Council Minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to approve the Special Council minutes from July 23, 2019 as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Approval of Minutes from August 1, 2019

There were no corrections to the August 1, 2019 Special Council Minutes.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to approve the Special Council minutes from August 1, 2019 as presented. On roll call, all voted “aye.”
Comments from Audience

There were no audience comments.

Mayor’s Report

So, what did you do over the summer?

We had eight concerts, two movies, Tuesday yoga in the park, and food trucks, all at Walter Stinson Community Park. On of our concerts, Carlos Jones and the PLUS Band, drew a crowd of over a thousand.

We had a full season of activities at Purvis Park, including swimming and swimming lessons and swimming team, tennis and tennis lessons and tennis team, pickle ball, arts and crafts, and touch-a-truck. We participated in Safety Town with Cleveland Heights.

We had community block parties, 16 so far, and 6 to go. It is not too late to sign up your block.

While we’ve been on legislative break, officially, we have continued our work to make University Heights a better place to live, work, play, and raise a family. We had three special meetings over the summer, including the Retreat Meeting to examine the goals we have achieved working together, reassess the remaining goals, as well as set a few new ones.

June 24, we had a joint meeting with Cleveland Heights City Government and the CH-UH School District to discuss issues of common concern, including the issue of the bus depot. I am happy to report that the City of Cleveland Heights approved keeping the busses on Mayfield Road for an additional three years while we sort out this issue in conjunction with working with our school district on the future of the former Wiley Middle School property.

In late June I went to Washington DC for the Empowering Local Leadership Conference organized by the Greater Cleveland Partnership and the NEO Mayors and Managers Association. I met with members of Ohio’s Congressional Delegation, had a White House briefing, and attended keynote and conference sessions scheduled with the Speaker of the House, Director of White House Opportunity and Revitalization Council, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, and the Director of the Office of Wastewater Management of the EPA. I spoke with Wastewater Director Andrew Sawyers about the demands NEORSD and EPA are making on University Heights regarding our aging sewer infrastructure, and emphasized to him that clean water and a clean Lake Erie is a national priority important to us all and not just to our city, and that the cost of infrastructure improvements in our city meant to improve clean water must have federal funding.

As you can see from our agenda tonight, our city has been working tirelessly this entire summer at the special assessment process. This has consumed much of the attention of our Finance Director, Law Director, and Clerk of Council, as well as the attention of all of your elected officials.

Finally, I want extend a welcome to our presumed new council members elect, Barbara Blankfeld and Justin Gould. While others did pull and/or file petitions, four candidates qualified, and absent some disqualifying occurrence or change of heart, we know will be our elected to council come November. With that in mind, absent a reason otherwise, going forward and until their formal swearing in, we will generally be inviting Ms. Blankfeld and Mr. Gould to our executive sessions so that they can begin to get acclimated to city business. I want to congratulate Councilmembers Michele Weiss and John Rach on their presumed reelection, and thank them both for their ongoing dedication and service to our community. Finally, I want to thank our outgoing councilmembers Steve Sims and Pam Cameron for their dedication and service to our community. I will miss your perspectives on this council.

A) Resolution 2019-43 Recognizing Stormwater Week October 20 – October 26, 2019

Mayor Brennan stated that the Cuyahoga County Soil and Water Conservation District asked University Heights as well as other communities to recognize Stormwater Week. The week is to promote awareness of the affect of water quality by runoff and other dumping into the stormwater supply.
MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS approving Resolution 2019-43 Recognizing Stormwater Week October 20 – October 26, 2019. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

B) Resolution 2019-44 Recognizing the National Welcoming Week September 13 – September 22, 2019

Mayor Brennan read Resolution 2019-43 into the record.

Mrs. Pardee commented that she was a witness to the work that Global Cleveland does and that the Cleveland Heights/University Heights school system is home to approximately 70 to 100 refugee students. Mrs. Pardee added that she was proud that University Heights has so many different nationalities.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS approving Resolution 2019-44 Recognizing the National Welcoming Week September 13 – September 22, 2019. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

C) Motion to Authorize the City to seek Bids for the 2019-1 City Wide Fall Tree Planting Contract

Mr. Pokorny stated that this contract would be a continuation of the City’s annual tree planting program. The tree plantings for this contract will occur in the Southwest portion of the City where pruning work had been completed last season. There will be between 123 – 130 trees being planted. The estimated contract cost is approximately $44,000.

Mrs. Pardee noted that Council had previously authorized accepting funds for a grant to help support trees during their growth period and asked if these trees would be a part of that.

Mr. Pokorny replied no, because the trees need to be 2 years old or older.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS authorizing the City to seek Bids for the 2019-1 City Wide Fall Tree Planting Contract. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

D) Resolution 2019-45 Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer

Mr. Goffe stated that Resolution 2019-45 was the next step in the process of approving the property levies for 2020. The rates are recommended by the Cuyahoga County Tax Commission.

Mrs. Pardee asked if there were any changes in the rates.

Mr. Goffe replied no, there were no changes to the tax rates.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS for the Passage of Resolution 2019-45 Accepting the Amounts and Rates as Determined by the Budget Commission and Authorizing the Necessary Tax Levies and Certifying them to the County Fiscal Officer. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

E) Motion to Accept the following Assessment Equalization Board Rulings

(i) Hearing on Objection: Rena Greenfeld; 2549 Lafayette Drive (721-27-084)
(ii) Hearing on Objection: Kim Lisboa (Silsby Center); 2257 – 2261 Warr. Ctr. Rd (721-02-070)
(iii) Hearing on Objection: Kim Lisboa (Silsby Center); 2267 Warrensville Ctr. Road (721-02-071)
(iv) Hearing on Objection: Kim Lisboa (Silsby Center); 2249 Warrensville Ctr. Road (721-02-069)
(v) Hearing on Objection: Kathleen C. Hopkins (Green Road Animal Hospital);
Law Director, Mr. McConville suggested that each objection be treated one at a time. Mr. McConville continued to explain each of the cases.

- Objection for item #1 from Rena Greenfeld related to Ordinance 2019-39 for the Street Lighting assessments. The Ordinance had a typographic error where the rate figures were listed as two (2) different rates. The correct assessment rate is eighty cents ($0.80) and that rate of $0.80 was used in the configuration of the assessment fee. The Equalization Board adopted the eighty cents ($0.80) rate.

- Objection for items #2 – 6 in each case the objective was for 2,000 sq. ft. measurement to be used for the sewer base on commercial properties. In each case the Equalization Board approved the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 being a base of 2,000 sq. ft.

- Objection for item #7 in relation to hearing any objection from John Carroll University an agreement with four (4) components to be served on John Carroll was presented to the Equalization Board members. The agreement indicates that; (1) commercial properties that are owned by John Carroll University will be assessed by the 2,000 sq. ft. measure as other commercial properties would be assessed throughout the city; (2) buildings that are considered campus properties will be assessed at the 6,000 sq. ft. measure that has been historically done; (3) properties that are used as residences will be assessed at the same rate as all other single-family residences within the city and that is a single based unit and (4) lastly, apartment buildings/multi-family units will be assessed at the rates that other multi-family and apartment units are assessed throughout the city. The Equalization Board voted to approve the agreement recommendation.

Mrs. Weiss and Mrs. Pardee each commented how impressed they were with the Assessment Equalization Board members and the manner in which they handled the meeting and all the information.

Mr. McConville offered that each of the objections should be voted on separately.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(i) to adopt the eighty cents ($0.80) rate as stated in Ordinance 2019-39 for the Street Lighting Assessments. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(ii) accepting the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 having a base of 2,000 sq. ft. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(iii) accepting the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 having a base of 2,000 sq. ft. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(iv) accepting the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 having a base of 2,000 sq. ft. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(v) accepting the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 having a base of 2,000 sq. ft. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling regarding agenda item (E)(vi) accepting the assessment as levied in Ordinance 2019-37 having a base of 2,000 sq. ft. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to accept the Assessment Equalization Board’s Ruling in accepting the agreement to be presented to John Carroll University regarding agenda item (E)(vii) objection from John Carroll University. The
agreement indicates that: (1) commercial properties that are owned by John Carroll University will be assessed by the 2,000 sq. ft. measure as other commercial properties would be assessed throughout the city; (2) buildings that are considered campus properties will be assessed at the 6,000 sq. ft. measure that has been historically done; (3) properties that are used as residences will be assessed at the same rate as all other single-family residences within the city and that is a single based unit and (4) lastly, apartment buildings/multi-family units will be assessed at the rates that other multi-family and apartment units are assessed throughout the city. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mr. McConville added that the agreement is attached to the Ordinance and that Council would be approving that Ordinance and agreement later in the agenda.

Mayor Brennan asked for a Motion to take agenda items out of order and to hear agenda item “N” at this time.

MOTION BY MR. SIMS, SECONDED BY MRS. PARDEE to take agenda items out of order and to hear agenda item “N” at this time. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

N) Motion to Accept BWC Safety Intervention Grant of $17,925.75 with a Total Grant Project of $23,901.00 which includes the City’s required match of $5,975.25 for the Purchase of an Updated Turnout Gear Washer Extractor and Dryer

Fire Chief Perko stated that Council approve the department to apply for the grant in June 2019. Chief Perko added that the current 20-year old cloth washer doesn’t meet the standards for laundering the personal protective gear for firefighting in regards to blood born pathogens, etc. and currently there is no dryer for the gear.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS to Accept BWC Safety Intervention Grant of $17,925.75 with a Total Grant Project of $23,901.00 which includes the City’s required match of $5,975.25 for the Purchase of an Updated Turnout Gear Washer Extractor and Dryer. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Mayor Brennan noted one or two members of council were in route to the meeting and that the remaining agenda items were on emergency and requires that 5 council members be present to vote. Mayor Brennan asked for a motion to hear Director and Council Committee reports in the meantime.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to hear Director and Council Committee reports ahead of agenda items F, G, H, I, J, K, L and M. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

But for the reading of these minutes all reports will be listed after the agenda items.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to enter into Executive Session for the discussion of Real Estate and Personnel matters. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Noting a comment made earlier by Mayor Brennan allowing Mrs. Blankfeld and Mr. Gould attend Executive Session because they will be appointed to City Council in January. Mr. Sims said he had no issues with them be present during Executive Sessions as long as personnel matters aren’t being discussed.

Mrs. Pardee stated that she would like the upcoming new members of Council to join in on Executive Sessions; maybe not to participate but to listen.

Mr. Sims replied his objection only related to discussions about personnel and that his rationale was that Mrs. Blankfeld and Mr. Gould won’t assume their official capacity until January and personnel matters raise to a level of confidentially. And unless they are in their official capacity Mr. Sims didn’t feel that they should participate (including being present where they would hear the discussion) in the discussion of personnel matters.

Mayor Brennan stated that real estate matters could be discussed first and the Mrs. Blankfeld and Mr. Gould could be excused from the remaining portion of the executive session.
Council entered Executive Session at 8:33 p.m.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to exit Executive Session and to resume Regular Council Meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Wiseman, who “passed.”

Regular Council meeting resumed at 9:16 p.m.

Mayor Brennan asked that the record indicate that Mr. Wiseman and Mrs. Cameron were present at this point.

F) Ordinance 2019-46 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Constructing, Maintaining, Repairing and Cleaning of the Sanitary Sewer System within the City

Mr. Goffe stated that this was the next step after accepting the Equalization Board’s recommendations.

MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. SIMS for the passage of Ordinance 2019-46 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Constructing, Maintaining, Repairing and Cleaning of the Sanitary Sewer System within the City. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

G) Ordinance 2019-47 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Planting, Maintaining, Trimming and Removing Shade Trees

There was no additional discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN for the passage of Ordinance 2019-47 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Planting, Maintaining, Trimming and Removing Shade Trees. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

H) Ordinance 2019-48 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Street Lighting within the City

There was no additional discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN for the passage of Ordinance 2019-48 Determining Council’s Intent to Proceed with Special Assessments for the Cost of Street Lighting within the City. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

I) Resolution 2019-49 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Constructing, Maintaining, Repairing and Cleaning of the Sanitary Sewer System within the City

Mr. Goffe stated that the parcels in sections 5, 6, and 7 are classified and treated as exempt commercial properties. In reality these are residential parcels; in section 5 there are single family houses, in section 7 there are duplexes. Without making any adjustments for language code the way it is currently listed these parcels would not be treated like other parcels in the city.

Mr. Sims asked how would those parcels be treated

Mr. Goffe replied that they would be treated as commercial properties.

Mr. Sims added because if they are residential they won’t be exempt.
Mr. McConville stated residential parcels are single base units. The language is intended to say all of the parcels listed will be treated as single family homes, even though they are currently listed on the County’s registers as commercial parcels. The City will cooperate with John Carroll in efforts to make sure that we characterize those parcels as residential, and they are in fact residential and are used as residential.

Mr. Sims asked if they were currently exempt.

Mr. Goffe replied that he believed that they are currently exempt from property taxes.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS for the passage of Ordinance 2019-49 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Constructing, Maintaining, Repairing and Cleaning of the Sanitary Sewer System within the City. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

J) Resolution 2019-50 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Cost of Shade Trees within the City

There was no additional discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS for the passage of Resolution 2019-50 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Cost of Shade Trees within the City. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

K) Resolution 2019-51 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Cost of Street Lighting within the City

There was no additional discussion for this item.

MOTION BY MRS. CAMERON, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN for the passage of Resolution 2019-51 Levying Tax Year 2019 Special Assessments for the Cost of Street Lighting within the City. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

L) Ordinance 2019-52 Amending the Authorized Permanent Appropriations for Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2019 and Ending December 31, 2019

Mr. Goffe stated that there were two parts to this legislation. The first part is changing the current year appropriations. Mr. Goffe reviewed each individual appropriation and added that the Mayor requested that funding be made available for a maintenance employee so monies will be moved from the Lands and Buildings Other Expenditures to Lands and Building Personnel Expenditures to for the funding of that additional position with a wage of up to $26.00 per hour for the remainder of 2019.

Mayor Brennan added that years ago City Hall had a part-time maintenance person to take care of certain duties around City Hall.

Mr. Sims asked if the position would be full or part-time.

Mr. Goffe replied that he budgeted as full-time for the remainder of 2019 with medical benefits. But, that does not necessarily mean that the person would be full-time.

Mayor Brennan noted that position has not been posted yet so the details regarding the number of hours has not been decided.

Mrs. Weiss asked what was the benefit of hiring a maintenance person and if it would save money as opposed to contracting out.

Mayor Brennan replied he believed going this route would save money.
Mrs. Weiss stated that she wanted to see a comparison before she would approve this legislation.

Mr. Sims commented and asked, if funds are moved from the “other” fund and if funds where then pulled for a full calendar year would there be enough funds in the “other” fund to cover a full year’s salary? Mr. Sims voiced his concerns that if a partial year transfer was approved now for an additional position what would happen if that new staff person were to go into a full calendar year of employment with the City. Especially being that resources had to be substituted. Would there then be sufficient funding to cover a full-time salary?

Mr. Goffe replied that part of some of the duties is currently being outsourced for example electric work.

Mr. Sims clarified that he was asking if as the City budgets would the category classified as “other” have sufficient resources to cover a full year’s salary for an individual with an annual pay of approx. $54,000 plus benefits.

Mrs. Weiss asked again will this create a savings over outsourcing this.

Mr. Goffe continued to the Finance section of the appropriations in moving funds from non-personnel other to personnel for two positions. (1) information technology manager and (2) human resources manager. The information technology manager with the assumption of a $72,000 annual salary and the human resources manager of $65,000 annual salary.

Mrs. Weiss agreed with the need for IT but personally wanted to see a comparison analysis for this as well. In terms of the position of HR manager, Mrs. Weiss said until she sees and reviews the budget she couldn’t approve any additional positions in the City.

Mr. Wiseman commented that this proposed appropriation essentially adds to next year’s budget between $200,000 to $300,000 of personnel cost. This represents a big change to the 2020 budget. Mr. Wiseman added that he wasn’t willing to take that change in the budget at this point. Council is just entering into the 2020 budget season to ask these types of questions that need to be explored.

Mayor Brennan commented that one of the discussions between the Administration and Council was that the Finance Department had the resources it needed to work more efficiently. There are many things a HR person could do to help the Finance Director, to protect and limit the City’s Human Resources liability. Mayor Brennan stated that having a Human Resource Manager is something that the City needs, this is an essential position.

Mrs. Weiss noted that she was aware that an IT person is needed, but Council needs to see a comparison of having someone in-house or out-source the positions.

Lastly, Mayor Brennan said he would gather information on the cost comparison for each of the additional positions.

Mr. Wiseman asked if the Administration needs Council approval to move monies into and out of the General Fund.

Mr. Goffe replied moving monies into the General Fund is very rare. To move monies out of the General Fund is usually a transfer or advance to another fund. To do either of those actions always requires Council’s authority. Moving monies between departments or between personnel and other for a department. In the general fund when appropriations are passed; the lowest, the least detailed level that the State allows the City to transfer within the General Fund is by department and then within that department personnel cost and non-personnel cost. Line items within those groupings can be moved without Council’s authority unless Council decided it want to pass appropriations that are at a more detailed level.

Mrs. Weiss asked if action needed to be made on this legislation at this meeting?

Mr. Goffe replied no.

Ordinance 2019-52 was placed on first reading.
M) Ordinance 2019-53 Appropriating a Fee Simple Interest and Perpetual Utility Easement in Certain Real Property Necessary for the Purpose of Eliminating Blight on the Land known as 2115 South Taylor Road, University Heights, Ohio 44118, Permanent Parcel No. 722-01-112, as Further Described in “Exhibit A”

Mr. McConville stated that this legislation serves as a statutory requirement and follow up to the Resolution of Necessity that was previously passed by Council. On June 1, 2015 this property was declared a public nuisance after which the City had an appraisal performed on the property and the value was set at zero. This ordinance will allow the Law Department to file an eminent domain lawsuit and its intention to retain the property.

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to adopt Ordinance 2019-53 Appropriating a Fee Simple Interest and Perpetual Utility Easement in Certain Real Property Necessary for the Purpose of Eliminating Blight on the Land known as 2115 South Taylor Road, University Heights, Ohio 44118, Permanent Parcel No. 722-01-112, as Further Described in “Exhibit A”. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

Agenda Item N is listed in the minutes earlier in the meeting.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MR. WISEMAN to add to the agenda item “O” Ordinance 2019-54 Levying Special Assessments for Providing City Services in the Removal of Nuisance Conditions (Lawn Care) at Various Locations throughout the City of University Heights and Declaring an Emergency. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Add on Item) Ordinance 2019-54 Levying Special Assessments for Providing City Services in the Removal of Nuisance Conditions (Lawn Care) at Various Locations throughout the City of University Heights and Declaring an Emergency.

Mr. Goffe explained that per Codified Section 1084.04 Ordinance 2019-54 allows the authorization of the Special Assessments for invoices that the City has this year which have not been paid yet. The listing of addresses and amount of the invoice is attached to the Ordinance.

Mrs. Pardee asked what the grand total was.

Mr. Goffe replied $11,394.84.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS approving Ordinance 2019-54 Levying Special Assessments for Providing City Services in the Removal of Nuisance Conditions (Lawn Care) at Various Locations throughout the City of University Heights. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”

Mayor Brennan stated that the Executive Session that was held earlier in the meeting had not finished its discussion and need to be resumed.

O) Motion to hold an Executive Session immediately following this Regular Meeting for the Purpose of Discussing Personnel, Legal and/or Real Estate Matters

MOTION BY MR. WISEMAN, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to return to executive session for the purpose of discussing real estate and personnel legal matters. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

Directors’ Reports

Finance Director – Mr. Goffe reported that the exit meeting for the 2018 Financial Statement Audit was held and Councilwoman Weiss was in attendance. The report has been submitted to the State of Ohio Auditor’s Office. Once it is approved by the State it should be released to the public. Mr. Goffe
stated he submitted to Council the City’s Financial packages that included financial reports as of August 2019, bank report, revenue reports (budget verses actual) that summarizes the revenue in different categories, the July 2019 Fifth Third Bank securities holdings report (investments), list showing estimated resources of expected revenues, and a brief summary of the first supplement of appropriations. Next week is the quarterly NORMA (risk management for insurance) meeting. The Finance Department will be closed Wed., September 11 – Fri., September 13, 2019 to attend training for the City’s VIP accounting software system.

Police Department – Chief Rogers reported that the process of hiring and promoting was still progressing. The Office of Community Policing is attempting to schedule its first ever “Shop with a Cop” event and Coffee with a Cop will be in the Fall. Information regarding the city’s agreement with the City of Solon for prisoner housing will be provided to Council soon.

Mrs. Weiss asked if the traffic signs around the school board (such as the no turn on red from Miramar to Cedar Road) would be changed since the Wiley building was no longer serving as a school.

Chief Rogers replied that they were waiting for confirmation from the School Board that the building would no longer be used for any type of school service or programs that would require the same type of signage that currently exist.

Mayor Brennan added there is a no turn on red sign on Warrensville Center Road (northbound) and Cedar for the same reason.

Fire Department – Chief Perko reported that the month of September is the month of “Preparedness” and each week has a different topic with information from FEMA. Topics and information will be provided on the City’s social media pages. Chief Perko stated that the department was also moving forward in their hiring process and that three (3) of the four (4) pending new hires are completing their 40-hour orientation. The fourth candidate is in the process of accepting their conditional offer. Hydrant flushing will be taking place during the month of September, information will be on the city’s website and social media.

Service Director – Jeffrey Pokorny reported that the tree trimming project has move to the northeast section of the city between Baintree (Silsby – South Green), Washington (E. Carroll to South Green) area. The Solid Waste report is ready.

Building Commissioner – James McReynolds reported the Bellefaire project with Building G is near completion. Bellefaire expects to have the building inspected in November 2019 and move in residents during December. The Micvah should be completed the beginning of November. Mr. McReynolds informed everyone of the number of permits issued thus far this year.

Mrs. Pardee asked Mr. McReynolds to provide Council with a listing of the permits.

Mr. McReynolds said he would provide the listing which will also be broken down by categories, i.e. building, concrete, electrical, etc.

City Engineer – Joseph Ciuni reported that the mid-block crossing and bike lanes on Warrensville Center Road project is complete except for a few punch items that the contractor needs to finish. Washington Blvd. Some of the catch basins in that same Warrensville Center Road area are being replaced by Fabrizi under a separate contract. The watermain line is in the ground for the Washington Blvd. (Staunton to Wynn Rd.) waterline project and is currently flushing and chlorinating in order to pass the required 2 sampling test. Cleveland Water is in charge of that testing. Once the testing is passed the new main waterline will be hooked up to the houses. The Groveland resurfacing project has started.

Mr. Sims asked in regards to the new bike lanes if there were any state laws that speak to bikers riding in a single file. Especially on Warrensville Center Road would the city be able to put up signage for that and would that require legislation.

Mayor Brennan replied that to consider the requirement for single file biking would be a separate Ordinance that is above and beyond what the Ohio Revised Code requires. The Ohio Revised Code allows bikers to ride two-abreast.
Mr. McConville commented that that was considered a matter of state-wide concern but as a City, we can’t regulate that.

**Communications and Civic Engagement – Report read by Mayor Brennan**

**Voter Purge** – The Ohio Secretary of State is updating the list of registered voters. The goal of the Secretary of State’s effort is to remove voters who have moved, passed away, or who are no longer active voters.

As part of this update, 400 people in University Heights are scheduled to be removed from the voter registration rolls.

City Hall is taking steps to protect the voting rights of anyone who wishes to vote in the future.

First, we posted this list on our website and shared it on social media, so people could be made aware of their voting status. An article on this topic will appear in the October “At Your Service” newsletter.

Next, working with our interns, we reviewed the list to see who was most likely to be on this list in error. We narrowed it down to home owners who vote in most presidential elections, but who chose to skip the 2016 election. We contacted these home owners via mail, to inform them of their status on the voter purge list, and to explain to them how to renew their voter registration.

Hopefully this effort will protect the voting status of those who wish to vote in 2019, 2020 or beyond. Our effort to protect voters has gone above and beyond any outreach effort that I am aware of in any other city in Northeast Ohio.

**Civic Awards Update** – Gabriella Kreuz has agreed to host the 2019 University Heights Civic Awards. Gabriella is a graduate of John Carroll University, and she is the in-park host for the Cleveland Indians. Most importantly, she runs the non-profit organization, “Love Doesn’t Shove.”

We are currently accepting nominations for Civic Awards. If you or anyone wishes to nominate someone who is making University Heights an even better place to live, work, and raise a family, please let me know.

**November Mosaic** – I am currently writing articles for the next issue of University Heights Mosaic. In addition to our usual features, the magazine will include an article on our Symphonic Band, as they start their 50th anniversary season. It will also include a feature on our Census 2020 campaign. It’s not too late for people to suggest additional story ideas, by email. An elaborate photo shoot for cover photo is also being planned.

**Economic Development** - Susan Drucker reported that five new businesses have opened or will be opening. “The Sauce” 13888 Cedar Road (Cedar Center) held its grand opening on August 29; Ella Mae’s Soul Food, Cedar Center is scheduled to open on October 7; Love My Hair wig shop, 2259 Warrensville Center Road opened a few weeks ago and the grand opening will be on Sat. Sept 7 at 11:30 a.m.; The Joint (a chiropractic office) Cedar Center will be opening within the month. Pizza BOGO, 13485 Cedar Road is proceeding with complete interior and exterior renovations, Pizza BOGO is also in the process of consolidating the four lots. Mrs. Drucker informed Council that she would need them to have a motion to have an executive session for the remaining of her report.

Mayor Brennan added that in the case of Pizza BOGO there has been no poaching. University Heights in no way recruited Pizza BOGO to leave Cleveland Heights.

**Housing/Community Development Coordinator – Patrick Grogan-Myers** announced that on Thursday, September 26 / 7 p.m. at the Cleveland Heights City Hall there will be a public meeting related to NOACA’s continuing study of South Taylor Road and the lane stripping to make it more pedestrian, bike and motor vehicle friendly. The Housing Department has created a home repair resource guide for residents, the guide is also on the City’s website.

There were no other director reports.

**Standing Committees**
Finance Committee – Mrs. Pardee stated that the Finance Committee met over the summer to review the financial reports and the current financial office. The committee reviewed the investment report and investment policy. The committee will be requesting policy to amend the investment policy. The committee discussed the status of setting up on-line payments. Lastly the committee set up a schedule for budget 6:30 p.m. meetings, starting Monday, September 9, the week of September 23, October 16, October 28, November 12 and November 27, the Finance Advisory Committee is also invited to these meetings. It is expected that the 2020 City Budget will be ready for reading by City Council after the recommendation from the Finance Committee.

Service Committee – Mr. Sims stated that the Service Committee will be meeting in September to review the rubbish study.

There were no other committee reports.

MOTION BY MRS. PARDEE, SECONDED BY MRS. CAMERON to exit Executive Session and to resume Regular Council Meeting. On roll call, all voted “aye.”

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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:05 p.m.

Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council