

**COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
CITY OF UNIVERSITY HEIGHTS, OHIO  
MEETING HELD VIA ZOOM | 822 6410 7192  
MONDAY, APRIL 19, 2021**

Mayor Michael Dylan Brennan called the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Roll Call:

Present: Mrs. Michele Weiss  
Mrs. Sandra Berry  
Mrs. Barbara Blankfeld  
Mr. Phillip Ertel  
Mr. Justin Gould  
Mr. John Rach

Absent: Mrs. Susan Pardee

Also Present: Law Director Luke McConville  
Finance Director Dennis Kennedy  
Clerk of Council Kelly Thomas  
Fire Chief Robert Perko  
Police Chief Dustin Rogers  
Service Superintendent Jeffrey Pokorny  
City Engineer Joseph Ciuni  
Building Representative Fred White (SAFEbuilt)  
Communications / Civic Engagement Michael Cook

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MR. RACH to accept the absence of Mrs. Pardee. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**Council Meeting April 5, 2021**

There were no corrections or additions to the April 5, 2021 Council minutes.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. BERRY to approval of the April 5, 2021 Council Minutes. On roll call, all voted “aye,” except Mr. Rach, who “passed.”**

**Comments from Audience**

Mr. Jeffrey Porter, 2355 Miramar Blvd. was present to inform Council of the unprofessional manner and the use of unsavory words in which Mayor had spoken to him during a phone call concerning a neighbor on going issue. Mr. Porter added that he had a recording of his conversation.

Mrs. Weiss apologized for the way Mr. Porter was spoken to adding that no matter what their position is no one should ever speak to another resident like that.

Mr. Rach stated that Mr. Porter’s had made a pretty big accusations which he was hearing about for the first time and asked Mr. Porter if he could provide his recording to City Council. Mrs. Porter said that she also had written notes from the conversation. Mr. Porter replied yes, but that he would want to confer with his legal counsel first.

Mrs. Blankfeld stated she was sorry that Mr. Porter had to inform Council about his conversation with the Mayor and said that having the transcript and recording would be helpful.

Mr. Gould thanked Mr. Porter for speaking with Council and also noted that this was the first time he heard about this encounter and was only hearing what Mr. Porter had to say. Mr. Gould added that the Mayor was a colleague and he would want to hear the Mayor’s point of view as well. Mr. Gould informed Mr. Porter that while the Council can censure, the Council can say what it wants to say, but Mayor Brennan is not their employee. As a citizen of University Heights, Mr. Porter has the capacity to recall Mayor Brennan or any elected official of the City and there is a process by which that can be done according to the City’s Charter Section 3, Article 4 and the Clerk of Council can be contacted for additional information regarding that. Any citizen of University Heights can petition for the removal of any University Heights elected official, that power is vested in the citizens of the City and not the Members of Council.

Mayor Brennan stated that he had said many things to Mr. Porter and that he stood by everything he said and if Council even began to know what he put the city and city employees through with reporting to himself and the Police Dept. all hours of the night the happenings that he sees at Mr. Grand’s house from his cameras and the exceeding patience they had with Mr. Porter and his wasting the City’s time and resources. In full

transparency; sometimes things are said that are not pleasant but they are honest.

Mrs. Sherri Sax, 14447 Summerfield stated that she did not know Mr. Porter but that she did know that people should not use that type of language, especially in the office of Mayor, Council and to one another. There are ways to handle challenging situations. Mrs. Sax said that she was appalled, saddened and had seen this type of behavior at other meetings with the Mayor against Council. There are challenging situations in life, both personally and professionally in which case Mrs. Sax stated that she hoped the Mayor would seek assistance in dealing with such issues. Mrs. Sax asked Mayor Brennan to control himself from using such language whether in public or private settings.

Mayor Brennan thanked and appreciated Mrs. Sax comments and stated that he expected very high standards from all employees and would not tolerate that type of language from any employee but at the same time he would always go to bat for them. When there is someone like Mr. Porter who comports himself and treats the city employees like he does there is one person who will stand up for the employees. And, although he would not tolerate employees using that type of language with Mr. Porter or any other resident of the city there is one exception he would make and that was himself. Mayor Brennan said he would stand up for the employees, tell people when they are acting out, when their behavior is inappropriate and that he will use language that is blunt and to the point to do so. The city will handle things regarding Mr. Porter's neighbor as appropriate, when it comes to any violations that may have or are still occurring at the Miramar property for the safety of the entire community.

Mrs. Katie Holzheimer, 2365 Fenwick commented that the way Mayor Brennan handled the Planning Commission meetings regarding variance request from the house on Miramar was very professional and thorough. Mrs. Holzheimer noted that the Mayor's final comment during that meeting was if you see anything that is not what it is supposed to be to please let him know.

### **Mayor's Report**

Mayor's Report 4-19-2021 as prepared

At the public comment period at our last meeting, we had a resident express his concerns with the Dollar Tree store at Cedar Center and its then current conditions.

Going back to late in 2020 (11/30 and 12/14), the Fire Prevention Bureau shut down the Dollar Tree due to conditions, including obstructions in aisles, blocked exits and blocked fire equipment, conditions in their storage room. Prior to that citizen complaint, our Fire Inspector had visited the store three times since the first of the year. Since that citizen complaint two weeks ago, our Fire Inspector has been out again and observed conditions that required further remedying. At the same time, some issues that the citizen may not have been aware of have been improved. It does appear this store has had high turnover in management. It appears our inquiries may have resulted in a part time manager being promoted to full time in an effort to bring the store into compliance. The County Health Department also went out last week. We are continuing to monitor the Dollar Tree store. We will continue to promote safety there for both shoppers and the employees working on site.

May has been Bike Month in the City of University Heights. With the first meeting of May, we can expect to have a resolution incorporating Heights Bicycle Coalition events, including May 19 "Ride of Silence" (which locally starts from JCU campus) and "Bike to Work" day on May 21. Here's a date you might want to get on your calendar now, before our May 3rd meeting:

On 5/4, Heights Bicycle Coalition will be hosting a Town Hall on Zoom on Tuesday, May 4th, at 7 PM. This event is an excellent opportunity to ask questions, make comments, and express ideas regarding cycling in the Heights Area. You can sign up for the HBC Townhall on Facebook, and get the Zoom login information there.

Today FutureHeights announced the recipients Spring 2021 Neighborhood mini-grants for Cleveland Heights and University Heights. Including among them were the Friends of the Walt volunteer group, who has been weeding and cleaning Walter Stinson Community Park numerous weekends since August 2020. They are planning a spring planting in mid-May, and proceeds from the mini-grant will be used to help defray their costs. Thanks to Eran Shiloh and the rest of the folks in Friends of the Walt for their ongoing efforts, and thank you to FutureHeights for recognizing this community effort in our community park.

Also receiving a mini-grant here in University Heights is the University Heights Symphonic Band for their 50th anniversary celebration. Be sure to catch the UHSB at a free concert on July 1 at 7pm outside at John Carroll University's Hamlin Quad, kicking off our "Return of Summer" concert series.

Last Tuesday, I made public comment at the April meeting of the State School Board in support of a resolution they are considering in support of HB 1.

HB 1 addresses at long last the DeRolph decision finding unconstitutional the funding disparities between districts with high property values versus those with low property values.

HB 1 will improve the balance between state and local contributions to school funding. The Bill's strength in the new way of calculating the local capacity, together with improving the balance between state and local contributions to school funding.

In addition. HB 1 calls for direct state funding school vouchers, rather than deducting the amount from public school districts. All of this combined would greatly improve funding to our local school district, and would put off for some time the need for another school levy.

The next meeting of the Citizens Advisory Committee on Policing Policies will be Wednesday April 28 at 6pm. We will have completed legal review of the committee recommendations on use of force policies and be able to go over changes made since last year as a result of public input as well as the department updating practices based upon case law and legislative initiatives. The public input portion of this process began with the murder of George Floyd as a result of an excessive use of force. Today the jury heard closing arguments in the Derek Chauvin trial, and jury deliberations are underway. Meanwhile, the events in Brooklyn Center, with the shooting death of Daunte Wright by police during a traffic stop, and in Chicago, the death of 13 year old Adam Toledo, who was unarmed when he was shot and killed in an alley at the end of a police chase on foot – tell us that we cannot let up. That we must all keep working at this.

Most mornings my wife's parting words to me are "don't be a jerk." After the death of Adam Toledo, her parting words became: you're the safety director. You are in charge of a police department. What will you do to make this better? I've thought about that a lot these last few days. Really, I've thought about it a lot from the moment I got here. From the selection of a chief whose calm demeanor sets the tone from the top, to the ongoing professionalization of the department, including the review of the use of force policies, to emphasizing the guardian role of our police department, and the opening of the office of community policing, through training opportunities, and even our city's first celebration of the National Night Out – we will continue to work towards having our police department be a positive and helpful presence in the community. Our chief, our command, our detective and officers, have my confidence. None of us are perfect, we all keep working at it.

Around the country we hear the calls to "defund the police." I am here to tell you that no public institution ever got better by under-resourcing it.

Simultaneously, I am mindful that across this country it is all too common that the best-funded -- perhaps the only well-funded -- institution in a child's life is the police department. We fail these kids in every other way. We all must do better. We will continue to do our part locally.

The Annex at 2245 Warrensville is up and running again, after nearly a month of no working internet or phones. The switches necessary to restore stable and reliable service at both the Building and Housing building and the 2245 Annex were installed on April 9 under our emergency repairs contract with Starfish. When we had special meetings last November on replacing the firewall, Starfish identified then these switches as needing replacement and recommended it be done. They had not yet failed as of that time, so after much discussion we declined then to do so. Fast forward to a few weeks ago: internet was out for several days as Safebuilt took over at Building, and then out for about a month at the annex, where our Economic Development department would normally work.

This was avoidable. Whether we are talking following equipment replacement schedules (which this council does not), or following the advice of our own consultants (which our council again did not do here), we are here to serve the community. When we wait for things to break before we replace them, then service is disrupted. Sometimes this can't be avoided. Here it was.

We make a lot of demands and have high expectations on our Building and Housing Department, our Economic Development Department, all of our departments. I always say the city's biggest assets are the people that work here and serve the community. With that, they need the tools in order to serve, be that working internet, or working vehicles or equipment, or facilities that work. With our recent work of the strategic planning subcommittee, I am hopeful that we are committed to doing better in these regards. It is a piece of that work that brings us to the first agenda item this evening....

**Agenda Items:****A) Motion to Approve Site Due Diligences Services on the Proposed Redevelopment of the City Center Complex at 2300 Warrensville Center Road by GPD Group in an amount not to exceed \$45,800**

Mr. Ciuni stated that the previous week GPD Group made a presentation at the Strategic Planning Committee meeting regarding the site due diligences for the City Center/City Hall Campus which includes the Police, Fire, Building, Service and other City Hall Departments. The project will include geo technical, environmental, stormwater management studies and interviewing department directors of their department's needs.

Mrs. Weiss voiced her excitement for this project and stated it was a huge step forward in terms of the City's need not to just become complaint with ADA requirements to provide space so that everyone can work to their best ability. Mrs. Weiss thanked Mr. Ciuni and his team for their presentation as well as the Strategic Planning Committee.

Mrs. Blankfeld also thanked Mr. Ciuni and his team for such a comprehensive and thorough presentation. This is not just about meeting the current needs but for something that will be here long after that.

**MOTION BY MRS. BERRY, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Approve Site Due Diligences Services on the Proposed Redevelopment of the City Center Complex at 2300 Warrensville Center Road by GPD Group in an amount not to exceed \$45,800. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**B) Motion to Approve the Rewrite of RFP Comprehensive Zoning Code Update and Advertise for Bids**

Building/Housing Committee Chair Mr. Rach stated that the City had originally received RFPs for the Comprehensive Zoning Code Update the previous month. But only one (1) bid was received and the desire was to for more diversity in the bidders and cost. The revised RFP is more concise and abbreviated.

Mayor Brennan added that compared not with another city and that feedback was also received from the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. Mayor Brennan thanked everyone for their work.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS to Approve the Rewrite of the RFP for the Comprehensive Zoning Code Update and to Advertise for Bids. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**C) Ordinance 2021-11 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 1280.10 Entitled "Rental of One-and-Two-Family Dwelling Units in U-1 and U-2 Districts"**

Mrs. Blankfeld stated that this was a solid piece of legislation that stemmed from many committee meetings and research by Law Director McConville.

Mr. McConville provided a summary of the legislation and the context of various legal cases that were used to develop Ordinance 2021-11 to ensure that it would be enforceable and key changes in the legislation. (1) A key legal development that triggered Ordinance 2021-11 was the Yoder verses Bowling Green legal case that related to an Ordinance that the City of Bowling Green has that prohibited more than three (3) unrelated persons living together and was targeted to the students at the University living together in one house that was challenged and found to be unconstitutional under the Ohio Constitution Equal Protection clause which provides more scrutiny for property rights than its Federal counter part (2) in recent years there have been challenges to Point of Sale inspections provisions and Federal Courts have indicated that the 4<sup>th</sup> amendment regarding search and seizer violations in connection to Ordinances that do not afford home owners the right to refuse an inspection causing the city to seek alternative approval via an administrative search warrant; (3) a legal case where the City of Bedford, Ohio had to pay a six-figure settlement; (4) the city was informed by NORMA that if the City were to fail to make changes to the Rental Ordinance regarding the three (3) person unrelated clause that has been deemed unconstitutional under the Yoder verses Bowling Green the city may then be bare on coverage issues if any lawsuits were brought in connection with that type of prevision; and (5) fee structure was altered but not increased.

Mr. McConville reviewed nine (9) key elements of the legislation; (1) rental permits will be renewed annually but the inspections of the property would still be done on a bi-annual cycle; (2) the fee schedule was simplified into a table format for ease of reading; (3) the actual rental application was enhanced were there will now be a requirement that a local authorized person who resides in Cuyahoga County has to be named on the

application; (4) current tenant information has to be provided on the application; (5) proof that property taxes are current or in a payment plan has to be provided; (6) the number of permitted occupants is related/tied to the physical the number of bedrooms. In order to be classified as a bedroom for the health and safety of the occupants by definition a bedroom has to have an attached full bathroom or abut a hallway leading to a bathroom; the bedroom must be a minimum of 80 sq. ft., with no dimension being less than 8ft.; must have a built in closet and at least two means of egress; (7) the definition of family was broadened to include the concept of domestic partnerships; (8) provides the right of appeal to the Board of Zoning Appeals (BZA) as a functional family unit – a functional family unit is a stable unit and not transitory or temporary in nature; and (9) the penalty provisions include specific language that clarifies what owners can and cannot be penalized for. Mr. McConville added at the last Building/Housing committee meeting Mr. Gould made some eloquent comments on the health and safety concerns that the committee rolled their sleeves up on to be addressed in this ordinance. For the record, Mr. McConville stated that the crust of the changes that were made were to be compliant with case law and to ensure the health and safety of the city’s residents.

Mr. Rach thanked Mrs. Blankfeld for her and her committee’s patience and work on the ordinance. Mr. Rach said he was most delighted that the legislation includes language on domestic partnerships because more and more non-traditional couples share dwelling space, forming a family and being a part of the norm.

**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MR. RACH for the Passage of Ordinance 2021-11 Amending Codified Ordinance Section 1280.10 Entitled “Rental of One-and-Two-Family Dwelling Units in U-1 and U-2 Districts. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**D) Ordinance 2021-12 Amending Ordinance 2021-09 Authorizing Permanent Appropriations Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2021 and Ending December 31, 2021 and Declaring an Emergency**

Mr. Kennedy stated that Ordinance 2021-12 was for the allowance of moving monies from the Building Department General Fund Salary category to the Other Expense category. This change is necessary due to the changes in the operation of the Building Department and to allow a sufficient level of appropriations to pay invoices received from SafeBuilt. Mr. Kennedy added that no change has been made to the overall original budget of the Building Department, General Fund or the 2021 Budget for all funds this serves only as an internal adjustment.

**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. WEISS for the Passage of Ordinance 2021-12 Amending Ordinance 2021-09 Authorizing Permanent Appropriations Current and Other Expenditures of the City of University Heights, Ohio for the Period Commencing January 1, 2021 and Ending December 31, 2021 and Declaring an Emergency. Roll call on Suspension of the Rules, all voted “aye.” Roll call on Passage, all voted “aye.”**

**E) Motion to Accept Bid from NES Corporation for the 2021 Street Improvement Program as the best/lowest bid and the Entering into Contract with the same in an amount not to exceed \$386,643.00**

Mr. Ciuni stated that 8 bids were turned in with NES providing the best and lowest bid for the 2021 Street Improvement Program with a bid amount of \$386,643.00. The estimate for the project was \$400,000 and the project includes resurfacing Glendon (Meadowbrook to Conover), Fenwood (Traymore to Hillbrook), Dysart (Claridge Oval to Meadowbrook); Hillbrook (Warrensville to Meadowbrook) and Charney (Dysart to Edgerton). Cuyahoga County will cover \$45,650.00 of the \$47,068.00 cost to patch and crack sealing Green Road. Mr. Ciuni recommended the approval of NES for the 2021 Street Improvement Program.

**MOTION BY MRS. BLANKFELD, SECONDED BY MRS. BERRY to Accept Bid from NES Corporation for the 2021 Street Improvement Program as the best/lowest bid and the Entering into Contract with the same in an amount not to exceed \$386,643.00. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**F) Motion to Accept Bid from Top Level Lawn Service LLC of Cleveland, Ohio for the 2021 Yard Nuisance Abatement Program with the amounts not to exceed \$35 per house for High Grass; \$25 per hour for Shrub Trimming; \$25 per hour for Leaf Cleanup and \$30 per hour for Debris Removal**

Mr. Pokorny reported that this was for the annual contract for yard nuisance abatements. Three companies requested bid information and of those, one bid came in from Top Level Lawn Service and one came in after the deadline. Mr. Pokorny recommended entering into contract with Top Level Lawn Service for the 2021 Yard Nuisance Abatement Program. The 2020 Yard Abatement contract was also awarded to Top Level Lawn Service.

Mrs. Weiss asked if there were any issues with Top Level Lawn Service last year. Mr. Pokorny replied yes, but they were due to communication issues between the City and Top Level Lawn Service. Mrs. Weiss asked Mr. Pokorny how would things be handled this year to avoid that problem. Mr. Pokorny said he would monitor the communication between the City inspectors and the Contractor.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Accept Bid from Top Level Lawn Service LLC of Cleveland, Ohio for the 2021 Yard Nuisance Abatement Program with the amounts not to exceed \$35 per house for High Grass; \$25 per hour for Shrub Trimming; \$25 per hour for Leaf Cleanup and \$30 per hour for Debris Removal. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**G) Resolution 2021-13 Authorizing Participation in the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation (ODOT) 18-22 Winter Road Salt Contract**

Mr. Pokorny stated that this was to enter into contract with ODOT for the City’s 2021-2022 winter season road salt supply. Mr. Pokorny anticipates that during the 2021-2022 Winter Season the city will need approximately 2,000 tons of road salt and recommended entering into contract. The contract is for the purchase of 2,000 tons of road salt with the requirement that the City purchase between 90% to 110% of the contacted quantity for an amount of between 1,800 to 2,200 tons of road salt at the ODOT awarded bid price.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD to Approve the Passage on Resolution 2021-13 Authorizing Participation in the State of Ohio, Department of Transportation (ODOT) 18-22 Winter Road Salt Contract**

**H) Authorization to Purchase a 5-Ton Dump Truck Cab and Chassis from Cleveland Freightliner Inc. of Parma, Ohio in an amount not to exceed \$88,961.00 with Snow and Ice Control Equipment from Concord Road Equipment Mfg., Painesville, Ohio in an amount not to exceed \$78,164.51. Both purchases are through the ODOT Cooperative Purchase Program with a total truck purchase amount not to exceed \$167,125.51**

Mr. Pokorny reported that this will serve as a replacement of a 1996 International 4900 truck (vehicle # 34-5) that is in poor condition and beyond its useful life. The new truck will be used in the Fall season for leaf and brush collections and in the Winter season it will be converted over for street snow and ice removal. Funds for the purchase of this truck are in the 2021 Budget.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. GOULD to Purchase a 5-Ton Dump Truck Cab and Chassis from Cleveland Freightliner Inc. of Parma, Ohio in an amount not to exceed \$88,961.00 with Snow and Ice Control Equipment from Concord Road Equipment Mfg., Painesville, Ohio in an amount not to exceed \$78,164.51. Both purchases are through the ODOT Cooperative Purchase Program with a total truck purchase amount not to exceed \$167,125.51. On roll call, all voted “aye.”**

**D) Authorization to Purchase a Replacement Leaf Vacuum Trailer from Old Dominion Brush Company, Richmond, VA through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) dba Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative in an amount not to exceed \$26,594.23**

Mr. Pokorny stated that this purchase was for the replacement of a 1989 Giant-Vac Leaf Vacuum Trailer that exceeded its useful life. Mr. Pokorny recommended the purchase of this leaf vacuum trailer from Old Dominion Brush Company and noted that the new unit was on the replacement schedule for 2019 but was not purchased at that time and funds have been budgeted for the purchase.

**MOTION BY MR. ERTEL, SECONDED BY MR. GOULD Authorizing the Purchase of a Replacement Leaf Vacuum Trailer from Old Dominion Brush Company, Richmond, VA through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) dba Sourcewell Purchasing Cooperative in an amount not to exceed \$26,594.23. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**J) Authorization to Purchase a Pickup Truck for the Service Department from Middletown Ford Inc. of Middletown, Ohio through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchase Program in and amount not to exceed \$32,613.00**

Mr. Pokorny reported that this is for the replacement of a 2007 Ford F-250 Pickup Truck (vehicle UH-3) that has over 89,000 miles and in very poor condition where the bed frame is rusted through and not worth repairing. Mr. Pokorny recommend the purchase from Middletown Ford Inc.

Mrs. Weiss asked if there were any benefits in selling the old vehicles and what would be the estimate value. Mr. Pokorny replied that in the past some vehicles in these types of condition have been purchase by people for scrap via gov.deal's bidding process, the possible value of the dump truck would be about \$1,000; the leaf truck approx. \$500 and a few thousand dollars for the pickup truck.

**MOTION BY MRS. WEISS, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD Authorizing the Purchase of a Pickup Truck for the Service Department from Middletown Ford Inc. of Middletown, Ohio through the State of Ohio Cooperative Purchase Program in and amount not to exceed \$32,613.00. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

**K) Authorization to Purchase a Mack LR64 Cab & Chassis with a 25 yard Heil DuraPack 5000 Rear Loader Rubbish Packer from Bell Equipment Company Gahanna, Ohio through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) in an amount not to exceed \$240,783.60**

Mr. Pokorny stated that this would be a replacement for 2000 Mack LE 613 Cab & Chassis 25 yd. rubbish packer that was purchased used in 2012 and is now beyond its useful life. The truck is actually out of service for over a year due to engine problems and being used for parts. Funds for this purchase have been budgeted in the 2021 Capital Improvement Fund 401. Mr. Pokorny recommended this purchase and noted that if the method of rubbish collection is changed in the future this vehicle will not be sold.

Mrs. Weiss asked hypothetically if rubbish collection were to be outsourced this truck would still be needed for other services. Mr. Pokorny replied it will still be needed for other Service Department duties such as brush collections and other types of collection.

Mrs. Weiss asked if consideration was given to leasing a vehicle with the option to purchase because the rubbish study is still up in the air. Mr. Pokorny replied yes and Mr. Kennedy added that he did receive pricing for both installments' payments over time and leasing plans with a buy-out option at the end but he was still waiting for some of those numbers to come in from various banks and lenders. Mr. Kennedy said he would review those figures to determine that best and most efficient way of acquiring equipment, approval of this will get the paperwork going to make the purchase.

Mrs. Blankfeld said she know that a number of cities do lease these types of vehicles. Mrs. Blankfeld said that before authorizing this purchase she would like to see if there is a more economical way and that she would like to see all the possible options.

Mr. Rach stated that he was in favor of moving forward with this purchase as it has been budgeted and is an asset and if it is not needed in the future it could be sold. Mr. Rach said he was very confident the method of rubbish pickup will not be changed anytime soon.

Mayor Brennan commented that whether the City changes or does not change the method of rubbish collection, this is a current need and urged Council to approve the purchase at this Council meeting.

Mr. Ertel stated that there is an immediate need for the purchase and in the worse case of the city changes rubbish pickup and doesn't need this truck it could be sold.

**MOTION BY MR. RACH, SECONDED BY MRS. BLANKFELD Authorizing the Purchase of a Mack LR64 Cab & Chassis with a 25 yard Heil DuraPack 5000 Rear Loader Rubbish Packer from Bell Equipment Company Gahanna, Ohio through the National Joint Powers Alliance (NJPA) in an amount not to exceed \$240,783.60. On roll call, all voted "aye."**

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

An Executive Session was not needed.

**Director's Reports**

**Finance Department – Dennis Kennedy** reported that the department is in the process of closing out the March financials. The preliminary audit report will be emailed to Council members soon and the final report will be made public once the report is released by the auditors.

**Law Department – Luke McConville** reported a few of the items that he was working on; legislation for the Use of Force with Police Chief Rogers, State of the Ohio General regarding use of 2021 COVID monies and the Rental Registration Ordinance.

**Police Department – Chief Rogers** reported that the department's 2020 Annual Report has been uploaded to the City's website.

**Fire Department – Chief Perko** reported that fire hydrant and flow testing on the east side of town would be delayed because of water project being done by Cleveland Water.

**Service Department – Jeffrey Pokorny** reported Spring cleanup of loose leaves from the treelawns, untied brush piles collection has completed one full cycle thus far.

**Engineering Department – Joseph Ciuni** reported Dominion has started its gas line replacement project in the northwestern section of the city in the Washington/Taylor/Wynn area. The project is slated to be completed in mid-July.

**Communications/Civic Engagement – Michael Cook** reported that the Summer Mosaic would be at the printers the following day and that the City's public service promo promoting COVID vaccination is out.

There were no other director reports.

**Standing Council Committees:**

**Finance Committee** – Mrs. Weiss reported that there will be a Strategic Planning Committee would be meeting in May.

**Safety Committee** – Mrs. Berry stated that the Citizen Advisory Committee would be meeting on April 28, 2021.

**Service/Utilities Committee** – Mr. Gould stated that there once there is a draft version of the proposed rubbish survey it will be distributed to Council members, the Mayor and other City Officials for comments.

**Committee of the Whole** – Mrs. Weiss reported that there would be a 7pm Committee of the Whole meeting on April 26, 2021.

There were no other committee reports.



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

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 8:36p.m.

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Michael Dylan Brennan, Mayor

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Kelly M. Thomas, Clerk of Council